

OLD GLORY WAVES ABOVE THE FREE

Origin of the American Flag and the Ideals for Which the Stars and Stripes Stand.

Thursday several million American flags will be waving serenely in the breeze significant of the calm dignified, yet deep and lasting patriotism of the American people. And yet what do we know about its origin, its meaning, and its history? There were many forms of early flags, especially colonial types used by the colonies and militia regiments, before the flag of the United States was established by the Continental Congress June 14, 1777, now celebrated as Flag Day.

This act required that the Flag of the United States be of thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, and that the union be thirteen white stars on a blue field, representing a new constellation, but it did not define how many points the stars should have, nor how they should be arranged, nor make provision for additional ones.

At the time of the adoption of this resolution, Washington is said to have observed: "We take the star from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing Liberty."

Old Glory First Seen.
One of the first occasions for public display of the "Stars and Stripes" is said to have been August 6, 1777, when the new flag was hoisted over the troops at Fort Mifflin, Rome, New York. John Paul Jones, is said to have been the first to fly the Stars and Stripes over the high seas, on the "Ranger," in November, 1777. The National Museum has an early naval twelve-star type flag said to have been flown by John Paul Jones during the war of the revolution.

It has been well said that our national emblem stands for American ideals and ideas—it is not the flag of a family or a house, but the flag of the whole people. In the National Museum at Washington, among the many other patriotic relics and emblems, are displayed more than 30 historic American flags. Some came from fields of battle, a number from famous sea fights, and others were flown over garrisons or forts by distinguished American officers.

The series shows the periodic changes which have taken place in our flags. From the time of the revolution the stars and stripes in the flag have varied. There were thirteen stars during the revolution, fifteen in the war of 1812, twenty-nine in the Mexican war, thirty-three to thirty-five in the civil war, forty-five in the Spanish American war and forty-eight today.

Star Spangled Banner.
The stripes were changed first from thirteen to fifteen, and then back again to thirteen. It may be surprising to know that our national flag is among the oldest flags of the nations, being older than the present British Jack, the French Tri-color, and the flag of Spain, and many years older than the flags of Germany and Italy, some of which are either personal flags or those of the reigning families.

The American flag of the highest historic and sentimental value to the whole country is in the National Museum collections. It is the original "Star Spangled Banner," which flew over Fort Mifflin in Baltimore Harbor, during the bombardment September 13-14, 1814, and was the inspiration of Francis Scott Key's immortal poem, now sung as our national anthem.

This flag is also known as the "Fort Mifflin Flag." It is of the 15-star-and-stripe type, adopted after the admission of Vermont and Kentucky by an Act approved by President Washington, January 13, 1794. The "Star Spangled Banner" measures about thirty feet square, though it was probably somewhat longer, and is much battered and torn, with one star missing, possibly shot away.

Not Used By Army.
This historic national souvenir of the war of 1812, has lately been preserved by quilting on heavy linen, and will ever remain one of the country's most precious relics. From 1795 this form continued as the standard flag until President Monroe's administration, when congress enacted that it should thereafter be of thirteen stripes and twenty stars, with the addition of a star for each new state, commencing July 4, 1818.

For many years the army did not carry the Stars and Stripes in battle though it had been in general use as a garrison flag. The land forces during this period and before carried what was known as national colors or standards, of blue with the coat-of-arms of the United States, comprising an eagle surmounted by a number of stars, emblazoned thereon, with the designation of the body of troops. In 1834, War department regulations gave the artillery the right to carry the Stars and Stripes. The infantry and cavalry still used the national standards, which remained the colors of the infantry until 1841 and of the cavalry until 1887, when that branch of the army was ordered to carry the Stars and Stripes. From its adoption in 1777, however, naval vessels universally displayed the national flag.

Standardized The Flag.
Many forms of the stars-and-stripes flag existed until recently, for it was not until President Taft's administration that definite specifications were drawn up. An executive order, dated October 29, 1912, prescribed standard sizes for the "Stars and Stripes," and yet further specifications in sizes were found necessary by President Wilson only last year.

The history of the flag thus indicates that the "Stars and Stripes" was not officially carried by our troops in battle until the period of the Mexican war, 1846-47. Several flags of that period are in the Museum collections.

Flag Day With Exercises.
A huge flag, donated to the county by an Omaha business man, whose name will not be given out until the day of the exercises, will be raised in front of the court house Flag day, June 14.

Patriotic speeches are to be made and a salute of twenty-one guns fired as a part of the program.

Judge Estelle will preside. Captain C. E. Adams will present the flag to the county on behalf of the donor.

Spanish War Veterans' drum corps and Armour's Glee club will furnish music.

The flag is 25x35 feet in size and is too large to fly on any of the flag-staffs atop the court house.

A big pole will probably be erected on the court house lawn.

To Unveil Monument to Departed Members of Women's Relief Corps



MRS. GEORGE B. EDDY



CLARA FEENAN



MRS. ADDIE HOUGH

Patriotic sentiment will run high at the unveiling exercises for the monument to deceased members of the Woman's Relief Corps which the Memory Day association will hold at Forest Lawn cemetery at three o'clock today. The tribute to departed members was made possible by the untiring efforts of the officers, Mrs. Lillian P. Eddy, president; Mrs. Addie E. Hough, vice-president, and Miss Clara Feenan, secretary-treasurer. The funds were raised by personal subscription and by a series of concerts sponsored by the association.

This is the third monument in the United States erected to Relief Corps members. The national organization erected one to the memory of Clara

Barton. The Memory Day association is an outgrowth of the old Arbor Day association which found its work of planting trees in honor of departed members, impractical. U. S. Grant, George Custer and George Crook corps members are included. Mrs. Eddy will preside and Mrs. Hough and Miss Keenan unveil the monument. Mrs. Abbie A. Adams will give the address, Rev. John F. Poucher the invocation and benediction, Miss Leta Toney and Miss Eleanor Potter readings. "America" will be sung by all present and the Grand Army of the Republic drum corps and quartet will take part. Taps will be sounded.

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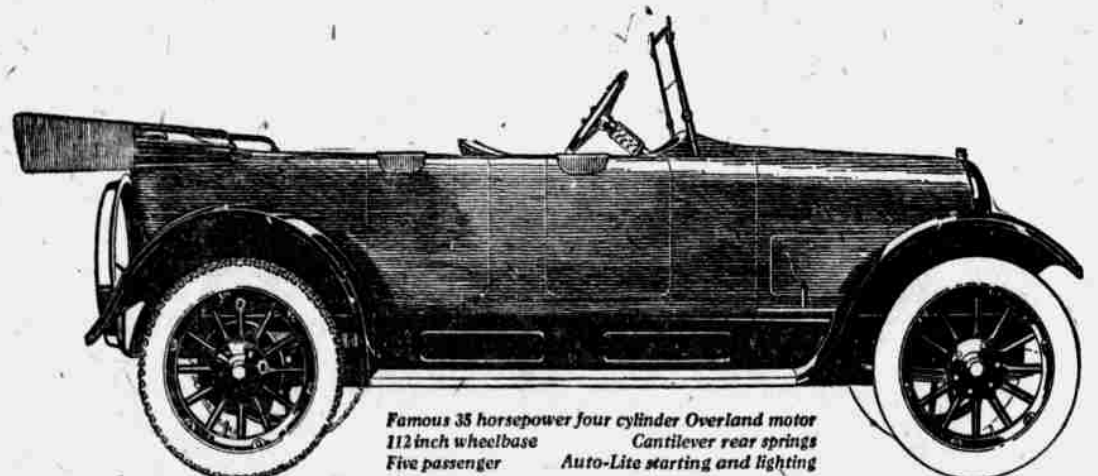
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