

**Topic:**

Celebrate Old Glory

**Time:**

1-2 days

**Grade:**

1-6

**Core:**1: 6010-0502 2: 6020-0203  
3: 6030-0401 4: 6040-0402  
5: 6050-0503 6: 6060-0404**Objectives:** Students will:

1. See that the U.S. flag developed or evolved in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Identify at least one example of our early U.S. flag.
3. Know that the use and display of the flag has its basis in law.

**Procedure:**

This lesson is more a group of various activities on the United States flags than a lesson plan to present in a linear fashion. The following handouts are included:

HANDOUTS 1: Early American flags to color.

HANDOUT 2: A quiz on various developmental American flags.

HANDOUT 3: “The Mini Page” from the Herald Journal which gives general information on our flags. Using this as a springboard, students could be assigned projects or oral reports on various aspects of the flag:

- a. Parts of a flag.
- b. Flag resolutions and acts.
- c. The history of our flag’s final design.
- d. Stars for which states in what order were added? How did the star design change? Which “star” is Utah’s?
- e. Where can we find rules governing the use and display of our flag? What are some of the more important rules?
- f. Folding the flag.

HANDOUT 4: (for older children) A news article from the Deseret News, “Who Really Wrote The Pledge of Allegiance?”

ASSIGNMENT: If students were assigned to write two (2) sentences in honor of our country and our flag, what would they write?

**Additional Resources:****Author:**

Carol Lear



## INTRODUCTION

The flag of the United States, sometimes called the “Stars and Stripes” or “Old Glory,” is a significant symbol of citizenship and the United States of America.

The details concerning this historical development and usage of the United States flag are firmly based in law. This also is true regarding the Pledge of Allegiance and the ceremonial playing of our national anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner.” Most Americans are unaware of the legal foundations supporting the use of the flag. An introduction to these laws in their historical context helps students understand and appreciate Old Glory’s evolution and symbolism to us today.

This lesson is less linear than some. We have provided a variety of activities to discuss the flag at several grade levels. The teacher can choose which seem appropriate for his/her class. You may choose activities as just grabbers or review exercises from previous discussions or grades.

### **Original Flag Resolution**

Resolved: That the Flag of the thirteen United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation.

Journal of the Continental Congress  
June 14, 1777

The design described appears sufficiently detailed to our modern eyes since we have a fairly good mental image of what this “first American flag” looked like. However, a careful reading of the resolution reveals that the description was in fact ambiguous. It does not specify whether the stripes were horizontal or vertical. Were there to be seven red stripes and six white ones or vice versa? How many points were the stars to have? Five, six, seven, or more? How were the stars to be placed in the blue union? A circle of thirteen stars is what we normally see in illustrations. Were other designs used? The ambiguity of the flag resolution led to a wide variety of flag designs. This was sometimes confusing to foreign nations. As late as 1848, the Dutch government asked, through diplomatic channels, for an official description of the flag’s design. The request was in vain since exact specifications for the flag were not officially adopted until 1912.

### **Flag Act of 1794**

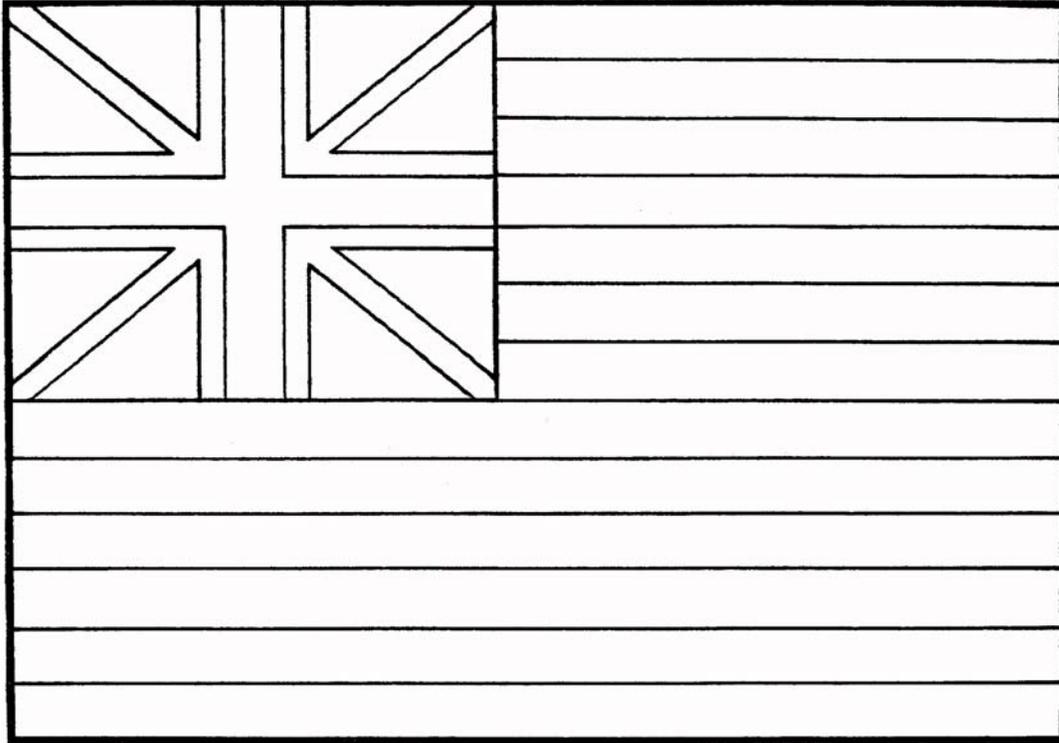
. . . that the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white; and that the union be fifteen stars, white in a blue field.

Signed into law by President  
Washington on Jan. 12, 1794

The adoption of the second national flag was more controversial than we would expect. By 1792, Vermont and Kentucky had joined the Union, and it seems logical in 1793 for the Congress to amend the flag to include representation of these states. The Senate passed the resolution swiftly. However, the House debated the measure hotly. Representative Thatcher of Massachusetts called the measure “a consummate piece of frivolity.” The cost of replacing flags was cited as a drawback. The resolution was finally passed and signed into law by President Washington on January 13, 1794. The fifteen star and fifteen stripe flag was used during the War of 1812. It was immortalized as “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

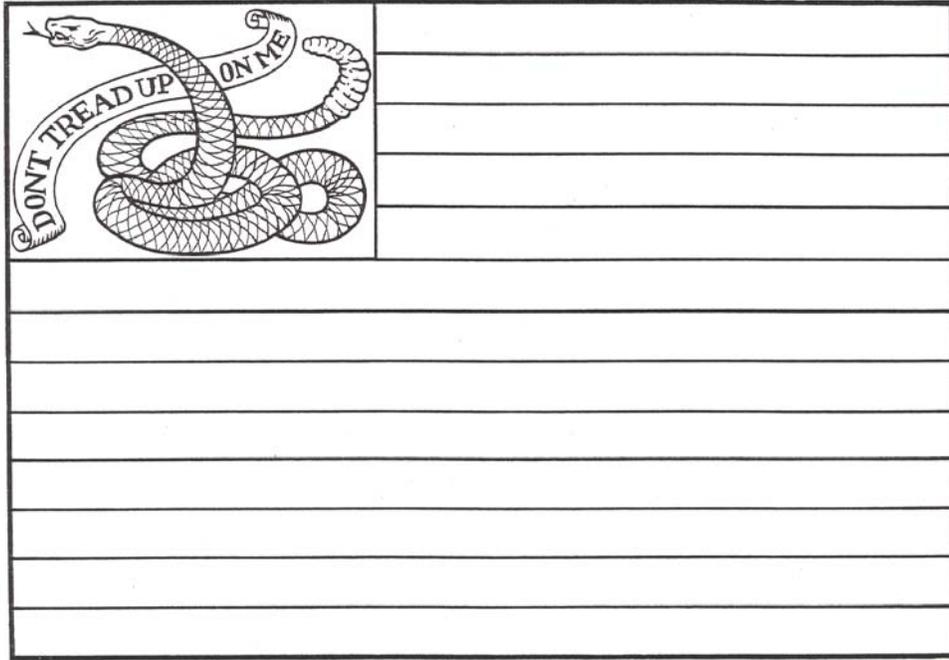
As new states entered the Union, it became apparent that the flag needed to be modified again. Some felt that the original flag should be re-adopted. Others felt the fifteen star and fifteen stripe flag should be made permanent. Captain Samuel Reid suggested to Representative Peter Wendover of New York that the flag have thirteen stripes to represent the original states and that there should be stars in the canton equal to the total number of states. Fighting sometimes strong opposition, Representative Wendover pushed the measure through Congress, and it was signed by President Monroe. This measure continued in force until 1947. At that time, Congress repealed many old laws and passed new laws to fill the same functions. The new flag law used the same logic and provisions.

Generally, if we give the matter any thought at all, we — adults and children alike — presume that Betsy Ross designed the original United States’ flag and that there was never any controversy about her original home-stitched design. Part of the purpose of these simple coloring exercises is to show children that the design of our flag, the familiar symbol of our country, evolved over many years.

**FIRST FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

This was the first flag of the United States raised January 1, 1776, on Prospect Hill, by Cambridge, as the standard of the Continental Army assembled there under Washington. It had just been unfurled December 3, 1775, on the *Alfred*, flagship of the new Continental Navy, by John Paul Jones himself. Congress passed no resolution adopting it, yet it was our national flag until the adoption of the Stars and Stripes, June 14, 1777. The English red cross of St. George, used since 1275, and the Scottish white cross of St. Andrew from the 8<sup>th</sup> century, became united about 1606 after James I (James VI of Scotland) became King of England. Great Britain was formed in 1707 when the parliaments of the two countries united. A red ensign, with the union in the canton, was used; the American flag here is just this, but with six white ribbons across the red field, making thirteen stripes. The British union was kept, for at this date, while protesting, we had not yet decided to sever from the mother country.

### THE NEWPORT FLAG

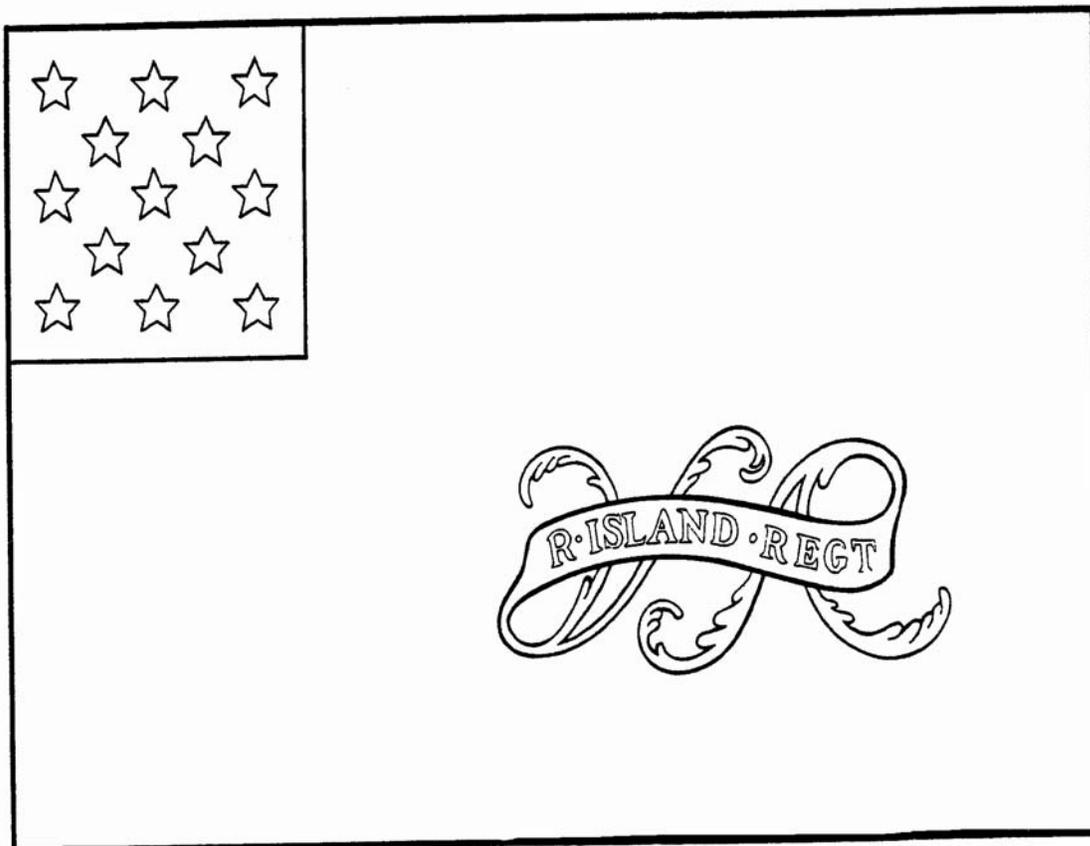


Colors: Stripes  
alternating (from the top down) red, blue, white, etc. The canton is yellow, the ribbon light blue with the inscription in black lettering, and the rattlesnake is in natural shades of brown and black. The rattlesnake seems to have been a popular symbol in Rhode Island, as this flag from the siege of Newport in October, 1778 suggests. The design may have originated with Esek Hopkins, from his personal flag as Commander in Chief of the Navy. The device goes back to the French and Indian War in this form:



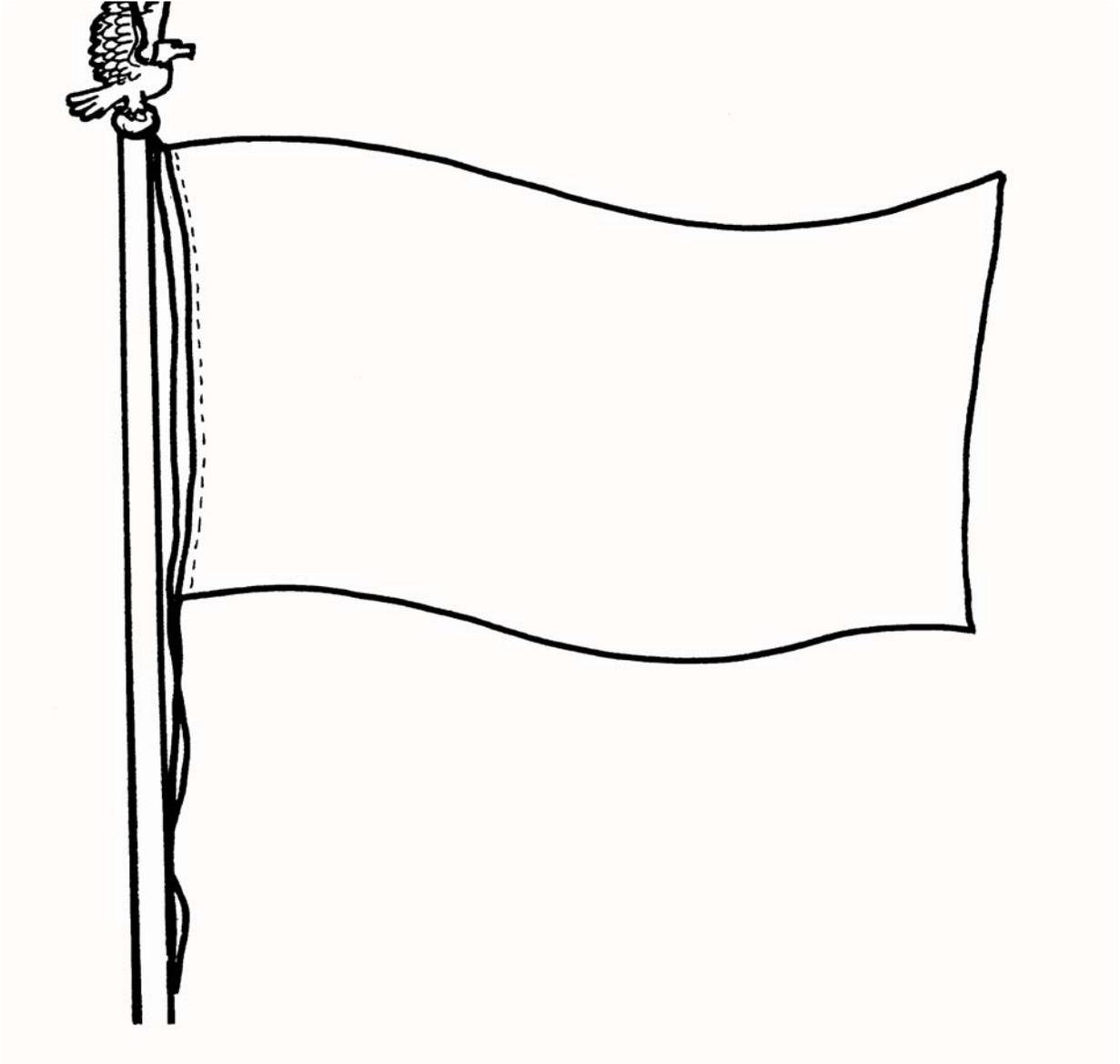
**FIRST RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT, CONTINENTAL LINE FLAG**

Colors: White field, stars, letters; light blue canton, scroll. The stars, probably based upon the starry seals of Portsmouth, 1676, and Providence, 1680, may in turn have inspired the new constellation adopted June 14, 1777. The flag now surviving in Rhode Island is 36 x 23" in size, however, smaller than the normal regimental flag.

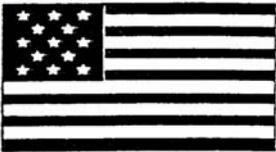
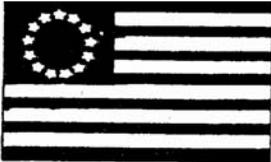
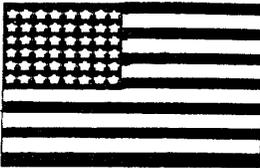


# BETSY ROSS AND HER FLAG

Betsy Ross told her grandson that she made the first flag for the United States of America. Color what you think this flag looked like.



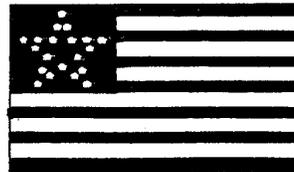
# Can You Name These Stars and Stripes??

<p>1.  _____</p>	<p>4.  _____</p>
<p>2.  _____</p>	<p>5.  _____</p>
<p>3.  _____</p>	<p>6.  _____</p>

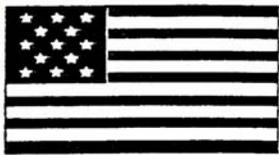
# Can You Name These Stars and Stripes??



1. \_\_\_\_\_ The  
Grand Union \_\_\_\_\_



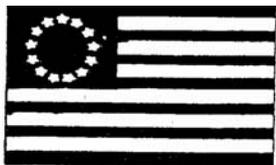
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Great Star Flag \_\_\_\_\_



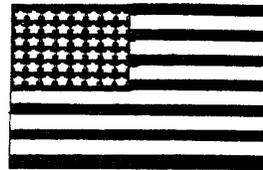
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The  
Flag of 1777 \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_ The  
Star Spangled Banner \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Betsy Ross Flag \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_ The 48-Star Flag \_\_\_\_\_

Especially for young readers

# The Mini Page

Member of EXPRESS

By BETTY DEBNAM

from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam

Flag Day Is June 14

## Great American Flags



OH SAY, CAN YOU SEE . . .



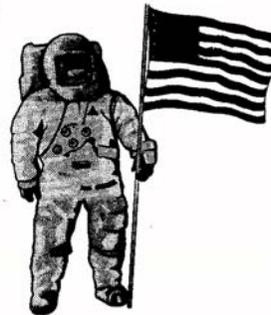
The Star-Spangled Banner is the flag that flew over Fort MCHenry on Sept. 13, 1814. It inspired Francis Scott Key to write the famous poem that later became our national anthem. This flag now hangs in the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. It has 15 stripes and 15 stars.

Flag Day is June 14. It was on that day in 1777 that the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as our flag. No one really knows who designed this flag.



Betsy Ross

Some say that Betsy Ross, a seamstress from Philadelphia, made it.



OH SAY, CAN YOU SEE . . .



On July 20, 1969, astronaut Buzz Aldrin planted the American flag on the moon. It was stiffened with wire to make it stand out since the moon is airless. The astronauts were not claiming the moon for the United States. The flag was a symbol of our pride in being the first country to put a man there. The flag had 50 stars.

Others say it was Francis Hopkinson, a delegate to the Congress from New Jersey.



Francis Hopkinson

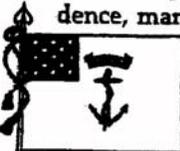
Our first flag had 13 stripes and 13 stars for each of the original colonies.



There were no set rules on how to arrange the stars.

The colors, red, white and blue, were based on those found in the British flag.

Before we had this flag, and during the fight for independence, many states designed their own flags.



Troops from Rhode Island carried this flag.



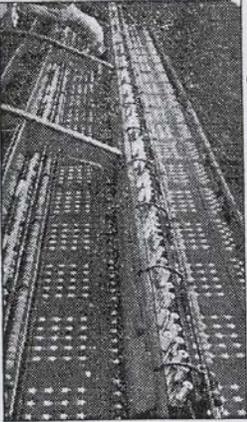
On Feb. 23, 1945, U.S. Marines raised our flag on Iwo Jima, a Pacific island where thousands lost their lives. A photographer took a stirring picture. A statue based on the photo now stands near Arlington Cemetery, overlooking Washington, D.C. The Iwo Jima flag had 48 stars.



Many of us will be flying our own great American flags on Flag Day.

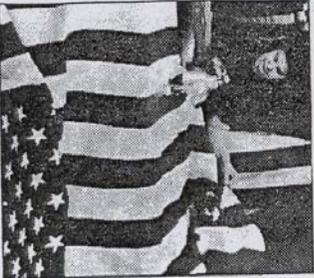
## How Flags Are Made

This is how Ammin & Co., the largest flag-making company in the world, makes its flags.



Machines embroider stars on both sides of a blue field at the same time.

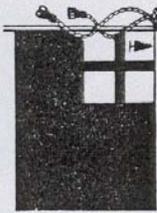
After automatic machines stitch miles of stripes together, other machines join the stars with the stripes.



Flags are carefully checked before they are shipped.

## Flags From History

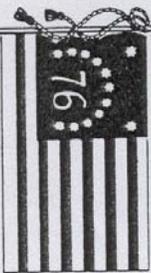
During our fight for independence, many states designed their own flags for their troops and navies.



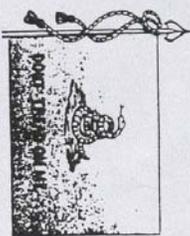
This flag might have been used in the Battle of Bunker Hill, in 1775.



George Washington flew the Grand Union Flag in 1776 when he commanded the Continental Army.



Troops from Vermont carried the Bennington Flag in 1777.



"Don't Tread on Me" was the theme of many Revolutionary War flags.

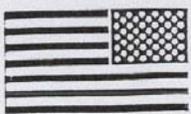
## Respect Your Flag

The U.S. Congress has set up guidelines on how our flag should be treated.



Here are a few:

When the flag is displayed flat against the wall, the stars should be at the top and to the flag's own right.



1. Treat our flag with respect.
2. Do not lower the flag to any person or thing.
3. Do not display the flag with the union down unless as a signal of distress.
4. Do not place any other flag above our flag.
5. The flag should never be used as a piece of clothing.
6. Do not let the flag touch the ground.

From The Main Page by Betty Trevino

## DESERET NEWS

It Man • Dear Abby  
 arth Fisher • Comics  
 television • Features

Living

## Today

# Who really wrote the Pledge of Allegiance?

## BEHIND THE ANSWER IS A DETECTIVE STORY

By Stefani Worthen

*I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands — one Nation indivisible — with liberty and justice for all.*

Marguerite S. Miller was deeply troubled. Throughout her childhood, the words of *The Pledge of Allegiance* had always been special to her. They were 23 words of sheer music, she thought. Now, however, she felt the general populace, who repeated that pledge, should know who wrote it. She wanted to know herself.

In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison conceived the idea of a nationwide celebration to honor the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America. To help plan the festivities, he called on James B. Upham, publisher of *"The Youth's Companion,"* a popular 19th Century magazine for boys and girls. Upham suggested that a pledge to the flag be recited by every American schoolchild on the day of the celebration.

The pledge was written in August, 1892. On the morning of October 12 it was recited simultaneously by 10 million children throughout the United States.

And that month the pledge was published in *"The Youth's Companion"* — without a byline, as all staff-written articles were. No one saw any reason to make an exception in the case of the *Pledge of Allegiance*, because no one ever dreamed it would be used or remembered beyond that one Columbus Day of 1892.

No one except Marguerite S. Miller. Hearing a speech on Armistice Day in 1936, she was startled to hear the speaker bemoan the fact that the public generally had no idea of who had written the pledge. Determining then to unravel the mystery, she approached the speaker and asked who had written it. The speaker was only too happy to comply.

Marguerite was told that the pledge had been written by Frank Bellamy of Cherryvale, Kan., and that he had written it at the age of 12 as his entry in a grade school contest which had been held in 1892.

The child must have been incredible. Marguerite thought. She had always thought the author would turn out to be a man of vision, someone highly educated and a great American patriot, too. But she now saw her mission in life. America must get to know the author of its stirring pledge.

However, during her research over the next few days, she discovered some peculiar discrepancies.

Frank Bellamy was born, said various sources, between 1870 and 1875, which would make him either 21 or 26 at the time he allegedly won the contest. There were other strange items, too. His quoted remarks made him sound like a bragger, a liar, and in general an unsavory

character. Not quite the man to write the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Time passed. The Kansas State Historical Society had long ago discarded the Bellamy authorship theory. He had won the contest — that much was true. And he had submitted the *Pledge of Allegiance* to win it. But in the minds of the Kansas experts there was little doubt that Bellamy had copied the *Pledge* from a copy of *"The Youth's Companion."*

Unearthing all of the back copies of the now-defunct magazine, Marguerite found the name of James B. Upham, publisher, listed as the author of the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

This was a plausible answer. James B. Upham was a distinguished Bostonian, descended from the rugged settlers of Massachusetts Bay. A publisher to morally uplift the youth of America.

Now she was determined that America come to know of this man. She would start a nationwide campaign to bring him recognition. As a beginning, she persuaded the *"Portsmouth Star"* to publish a special headline edition saluting Upham's birthday.

But a strongly-worded letter came in from a group of people in Rome, N.Y., who said it wasn't Upham who wrote it, but a clergyman named Frank Bellamy who used to preach in that part of the country!

Marguerite shook her head wearily. How could that be? Here was that Bellamy claim again, this time dressed up in a minister's suit. In Kansas he was branded a plagiarist, yet in New York a man of the same name was a preacher!

Then came an even more disturbing letter. It was from a David Bellamy in Rochester, N.Y., who identified himself as the son of the late Reverend Bellamy. He said he clearly remembered his father writing the *Pledge of Allegiance* after leaving his pulpit in Rome, N.Y., to work on *"The Youth's Companion."*

Now Marguerite was deeply troubled. She pored over the Bellamy file, rereading every detail with intense concentration. There were too many contradicting facts. Then she realized beyond a shadow of a doubt that there were two Francis Bellamys. One was born in Kansas, one in New York. One was the schoolboy who snatched the pledge for his contest; the other was the preacher from Rome, N.Y., who worked on *"The Youth's Companion."* Of course it was the second Bellamy who wrote the pledge, for which his publisher got the credit.

She took her findings to the United States Flag Association in Washington, D.C. The group chose three prominent historians to sift through the evidence she had collected. In May, 1929, she received their final report which corroborated her findings, which were:

The job of writing the pledge went to an editor-writer named Francis Bellamy. One night in August, 1892, he

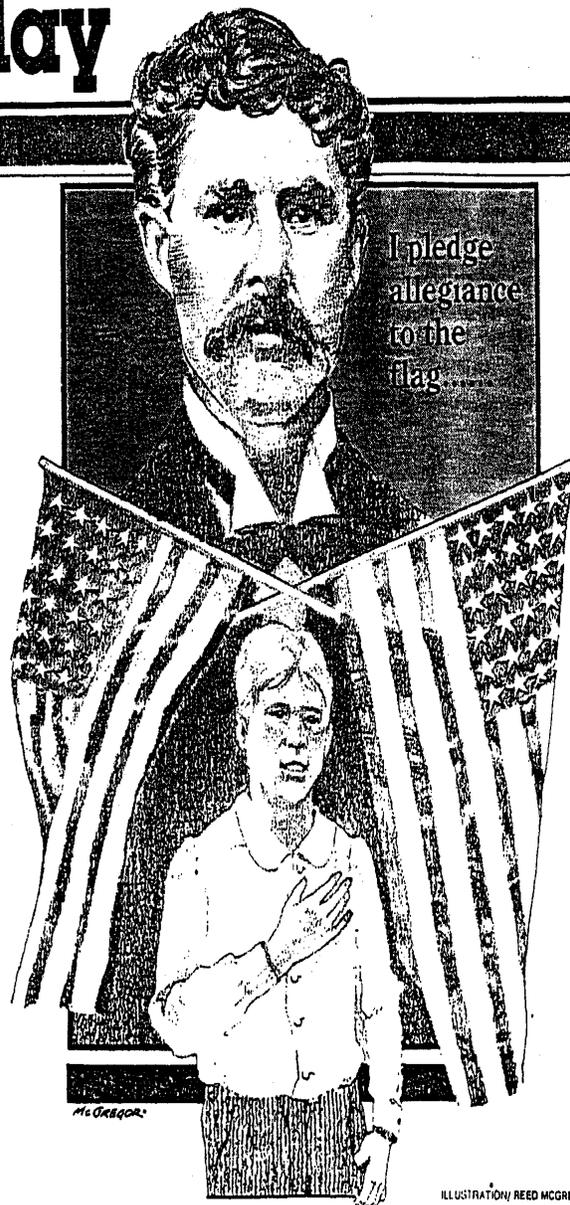


ILLUSTRATION BY REED MCGREGG

wrote the *Pledge of Allegiance* and it was subsequently published.

As a postscript, Marguerite S. Miller was granted an honorary doctorate degree by Upper Iowa University for her part in solving one of America's most interesting publishing mysteries, and for bringing recognition to Francis Bellamy, the author of our *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Two changes have occurred since the original pledge was written. When it was first published in the form shown at the beginning of this article, the pledge con-

tained the phrase, "my flag." This was changed on Flag Day, 1922, to read "the flag of the United States of America."

Another change was made and approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 14, 1954. This amended the wording by adding "under God," so that the pledge now reads, "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Stefani Worthen is a freelance writer who lives in Salt Lake City.

