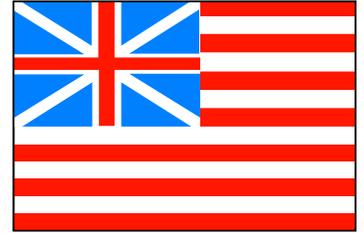




THE RAPPAHANNOCK GAZETTE



Newsletter of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society, Inc.

Volume 4 Number 3

May/June 2001



Flags of Colonial America

by Trip Wiggins

Today we have THE flag of the United States of America.

One.....Rarely does it change.

But... it wasn't always so.

Flags have been an integral part of governments and militaries since Roman times. In 1607 when our first fellow British citizens landed on the banks of the James River, the flag they probably had was the newly adopted "Union" flag. It was a banner of blue with the white cross of St. Andrew and the red cross of St. George - the patron saints of Scotland and England, respectively. Prior to its adoption in 1603, the flag of England was the "St. George" flag. Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603, and the ascension to the throne of James VI (I), the two countries were brought together, a Union. Following 1603, all British ships would fly the Union and either the St. George or St. Andrew's flag. This would be THE British flag until it was modified slightly in 1801 to honor the Irish with the addition of the red cross of St. Patrick.

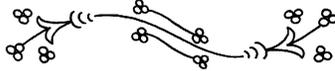
In 1707 was the the formal Act of Union creating Great Britain. Ships still flew the flag. In fact they flew it much more than any "landlubbers". Over the course of time the sea variant of the Union flag evolved to become the "Meteor" flag, a red flag with the Union flag as its canton. Often the flag was flown on the "jack" or bowsprit of the ship, hence the "Union Jack". These two flags were then the flags of the colonies until rebellion erupted in the 1770's.

At the first major engagement of the war, Battle of Bunker Hill, three flags were noted as being flown by the Americans. One was simply a solid red flag. (Later this flag would take on a sinister name when flown by the British in the south, and by Santa Anna in Texas as the flag of "No Quarter" - no prisoners are to be taken. Luckily, in '75 it had not adopted that moniker.) The second flag was a red flag with a white canton and a green pine tree in the canton. The last was a flag of blue, canton of white, and within the canton a red cross of St. George and in the upper left quadrant a green pine tree.

Why the differences? The troops wanted a flag to call their own, to rally round, for unit cohesion. The design of the flag was not determined by some Congressional subcommittee, but by men in the unit. Pretty simple. From then until the end of the

con't on page 6

The purpose of the Rappahannock Colonial Heritage Society is to bring together persons interested in preserving & perpetuating the heritage and culture of the colonial era in & around the Rappahannock River Valley of Virginia; to conduct historical research of persons, places & events relating to the Rappahannock River Valley in Colonial times, and to organize activities related to the Colonial era in an effort to educate the public about the way of life of our forebears in this area.



2001 RCHS OFFICERS

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THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

As May passes into June, active members of RCHS look back to a very, very busy spring.

In April, His Honor, Mayor Beck, visited our monthly meeting and shared with us his thoughts about the many levels of history represented in Fredericksburg. He pointed out the various places in town where historic events took place in the 18th century and at other turbulent times. He felt it is important to preserve the uniqueness of Fredericksburg. He was presented with a Resolution noting his many areas of service to the community and passion for history. He was also given an Honorary Membership to RCHS.

At the invitation of Hans and Donna Wauer, RCHS members enjoyed a delightful dinner and evening at their home on April 22nd. They took us on a tour of their farm and introduced us to all of their special animals. They own the Fibre Connection and both of them are fiber arts specialists, Hans a weaver and Donna a spinner. Afterward the gentlemen were engaged in conversation and games, the ladies retired to visit and sew.

On April 28th, RCHS, the Scottish Society, and the James Monroe Museum sponsored the James Monroe Block Party. The weather was lovely and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to all RCHS members who worked so hard to plan and prepare for the Block Party. It would not be possible without the dedication of our members.

If you missed the May meeting, you missed a wonderful program given by Mike Steen and Keith Southall from RTI Heritage Tours, Inc.. They introduced us to the Virginia Navy of 1781. In appropriate period naval attire, they talked about the Battle of Osborn's Landing and sang several rousing sailor songs.

Several RCHS members performed a delightful vignette at Salem Branch Library on May 6th as part of the library's educational

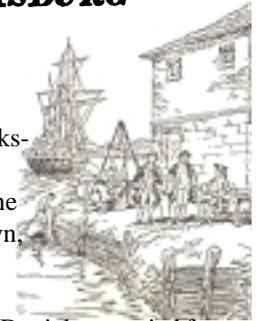
offerings. Written by our Educational Programs Director, Catherine Bell, visitors were able to catch a glimpse of the social life of an 18th century community as the new minister was introduced and pertinent matters of the day were discussed.

In May, the RCHS Dance Team performed at the Annual Port Royal Tavern Night held at the Fox Tavern and also at the HFFI Market Fair. The Dance Team enjoys sharing this small part of 18th century social life with others.

RCHS is growing in so many ways. Won't you join us and join in the fun of learning about this formative time in the history of our nation and sharing it with others.

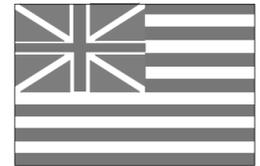
Diane

COLONIAL FREDERICKSBURG FACTS



1741 - Robert Jackson arrived in Fredericksburg and was accorded the title of Gentleman in the court records. In 1742, he was named one of the trustees of the town, and he bought property from Lawrence Washington on Princess Anne Street.

1751, Summer - Ann Carroll & Mary McDaniel were tried for robbing the clothes of George Washington "when he was washing in the river." Carroll was acquitted, McDaniel given 15 lashes.



AMERICAN HISTORY TIDBITS

1781 - Publication of *Plocacosmos or the Whole Art of Hair Dressing* exercised great influence on American hair styles. It was a practical book with many rules for all classes of persons, interspersed with homilies.

May 1784 - First magazine to appeal to women, *Gentlemen and Ladies' Town and Country Magazine*, appeared in Boston. It included fiction and advice to young ladies; but even so it only issued 8 numbers.

July 6 1785 - Thomas Jefferson proposed in Congress the establishment of a coinage system based on the Spanish milled dollar. He proposed a gold piece of value \$10; a dollar in silver, a tenth of a dollar in silver; and a hundredth of a dollar in copper. This proposal was adopted by Congress, and on Aug. 8, 1786, a full plan of coinage was enacted.

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 30, July 1 - Rev War Encampment. George Washington Birthplace National Monument Demos of camp life, drill & musket fire. 9-5. \$

June 1-30 - Canoe, Capstan & Cargo. Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center. Maritime activities of 17th & 18th century Virginians. 12:30pm, 2pm, 3:30pm.

July 1 & 15; August 5 & 19; Sept 2 & 16. Slave-Life Tours. Gunston Hall Plantation. A tour guide will lead you through the museum, outbuildings, and slave quarter site.

July 4 - Independence Day Celebration. Stratford Hall.

July 4 - Colonial Independence Day Celebration. Historic Port Royal, Inc. Free.

July 4 - Independence Day Celebration. George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Fee Free

July 7 - In the cool of the day. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. Help the farm family complete their day of work before settling down for a bit of amusement.

July 7&8 - Revolutionary War Living History Weekend. Stratford Hall.

July 8, August 12, Sep 9 - Women on the Plantation Tours. Gunston Hall Plantation. Tour participants will consider what it was like to be a woman - gentry or enslaved-on Virginia and Maryland plantations in the 1700's.

July 11, 18, 25 - Summer Stories. Gunston Hall Plantation. Bring your children to Gunston Hall for 30 minutes of storytelling by historic interpreters and a special tour which emphasizes what life was like for children on the plantation over 200 years ago.

July 21 & 22 - Summer Market Fair. Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23 - Farm Walks. Gunston Hall Plantation. See Gunston Hall's award-winning historic live-stock, help out with farm chores, learn about 18th-century crops, and use reproduction 18th-century tools to work the fields.

August 1-30 - Wear What They Wore. Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center. Try on garments like those worn by 17th century English sailors and settlers, 18th century Virginia farmers.

August 4 - Pickling Produce. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. Help prepare vegetables for pickling as the farm wife shows you how she combines salt, water, and homemade vinegar to preserve her summer crops.

August 11 - African-American Slavery. George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate the life and culture of enslaved African-Americans.

August 19 - Tobacco Harvest. Claude Moore Colonial Farm. Help the farmer clean the leaves, and watch how he cuts and splits the stems. Gather the cut plants and hang them on tobacco sticks to cure.

August 25 - Founder's Day. George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Honoring founding of the National Park Service.

Sept. 16 - Constitution Commemoration. George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Special park ranger programs will be offered. Visitors invited to sign a parchment replica of the constitution as part of a nationwide observance.

<----- WEB SITES FOR LISTED EVENTS:

George Washington Birthplace National Monument

www.nps.gov/gewa

Jamestown Settlement

www.historyisfun.org

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

www.history.org

Gunston Hall

www.gunstonhall.org/events

Claude Moore Colonial Farm

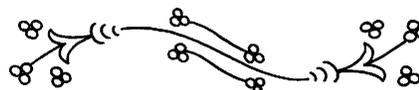
www.1771.org

Stratford Hall

www.stratfordhall.org

Historic Port Royal

www.geocities.com/portroyalus



RAPPAHANNOCK COLONIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY DANCERS



We are looking for people who will be dedicated to coming to rehearsal, getting the proper attire together and be available when we have a commitment to do a demonstration. This will be a team striving to develop a level of expertise in this type of dance over time. For anyone who wants to be on the demo team, contact Elaine Sturgeon, coordinator 540-785-2168 or Diane Nolan 540-373-7651. Upcoming demonstrations are:

July 4 - Historic Port Royal

July 18 - Weems Botts Museum Day Camp

Sept 8 - Hospicetality

RCHS ACTIVITIES

In addition to the dancers the group has several other activities lined up in the near future. Come join us for some fun:

June 30 - Dance workshop with Lou Vosteen. 6:30pm

\$5 if you plan to participate in dance.

July 4 - Picnic at Al's house.

August 11 - Tentative- Workshop with Sally Queen. (see pg 7 in this newsletter. More in next newsletter.

James Duncanson

Fredericksburg Scottish merchant

The Fredericksburg area was settled primarily as a tobacco warehouse and inspection station. With the coming of the inspection station came the town, and with the town came the merchants to support the business activities of the area. Many of the colonial merchants in the Northern Neck came from Scotland (the English preferring the Tidewater region). The area was awash in Scotsmen and their various mercantile establishments. One such successful and notable Scottish merchant was Mr. James Duncanson.

James Duncanson was born in Scotland on February 11, 1735. His older brother, Robert, was an established merchant in Fredericksburg (arriving before 1749) when in 1751 he induced his brother to join him in the business here in the colonies. James arrived in Fredericksburg in July of 1752. As they say, timing is everything, and just a month after his arrival, the Masonic Lodge #4 (Scottish Rite) was founded in Fredericksburg. Local Scots were, of course, members and Robert and his 17-year old brother James were at the first meeting held on September 1st of that year. Later members of the lodge were George Washington, Hugh Mercer, George Weedon, Charles Dick, and Fielding Lewis – to name but a few. From 1767 to 1771 James was the Lodge treasurer. (James' will stipulated that his Lodge bills be paid promptly.)

Initially the brothers managed the store of Buchanan & Hamilton before setting out on their own. Robert and James apparently did well in the merchant business. Their store was located approximately where the Unitarian Church stands today on Caroline street between Amelia and Lewis. (The building was purchased from fellow Scot John Allan.) It was situated between Julian's ordinary (the location of most of the Lodge meetings – corner of Caroline and Amelia) and John Mitchell's home at the other end of the block.

The 1750s brought war to the region with the beginning of the French & Indian War. In 1754 Washington raised the Virginia Regiment and in 1756, 21-year old James joined the regiment as an ensign, with fellow junior officers George Weedon and William Woodford (both of whom would command brigades in the next war). James and his fellow Virginians served faithfully until their unit was disbanded in 1761 following the end of hostilities and James returned to the life of a merchant with his brother.

He married Mary "Molly" McAuley and they had 9 children (5 of whom died in infancy and are buried in unmarked graves in St George's cemetery). In town James had purchased from Dr William Lynn lots 21 and 22 (north side of George street between Sophia and Caroline) and established his residence where the current Goolrick's pharmacy is located. The other property was rented out.

He and his brother, like many of the other Scottish merchants, tried expanding their business by opening up shops in the Shenandoah valley in the 1760s. This was turning into the migration path for Scots leaving Pennsylvania and journeying into the interior and the Duncansons along with such merchants as Issac Hislop, Fraser & Wright, & George McCall were there to meet the new arrivals' needs.

James was the more sedate of the brothers. Robert had a more colorful career in town- ending up in jail at least once.

Of interest, the sheriff (Charles Dick) and several other Scots, threw Robert a party while he was incarcerated – much to the chagrin of Benjamin Grymes – the man who pressed the original charges! (Grymes was just never part of the Scottish group!)

About 1764 Robert died (also buried at St George's) and part of his estate eventually ended up with James (lots 133/134 – north side of Amelia street between Charles & Prince Edward). James was moving up in the world. He was also a frequent visitor at his old comrade-in-arms (G. Weedon) establishment – Weedon's Tavern where he enjoyed cards, backgammon, and billiards along with an occasional drink of rum.

With the 1770s, James partnered with James Marye. Marye spent most of his time running the Great Britain side of the business living in Liverpool, and James ran the Fredericksburg side. He was now selling cloth and other household necessities and shipping grain to Great Britain.

With the 70s came also the war. In 1775 with the closure of the Port of Boston, the colonies were determined to assist those in Boston and to keep abreast of all matters concerning the British actions. Committees of Correspondence were formed throughout the colonies to keep all informed of the latest developments. In Fredericksburg such a committee was formed in June of the leading citizens of the day. They included: Fielding Lewis, Chair, and as members Charles Dick, Dr. Charles Mortimer, James Mercer, Charles Washington, William Woodford, William Porter, George Thornton, Charles Yates and James Duncanson. He had become a member of the ruling class (the Gentry) of the little town.

During the war James was elected as a Justice of the Peace for Spotsylvania county (today he would be called a County Commissioner). Following the war and with the creation of the Town of Fredericksburg in 1782 he continued to have the itch to serve his community and in 1783 was elected for his first of four consecutive terms as a councilman for the town.

In the 1770s he also purchased land in Culpeper county and built a home in current Stevensburg. In fact, when Culpeper county established Stevensburg in 1782, James was appointed as one of four trustees to oversee the sales of this "up and coming" town leading to the frontier. Although it appears that James enjoyed living on his 300 acre estate, the lot sales never took off, and Stevensburg remains today much as it was in James' time. His property was at Clover Hill and Norman's Mill.

He must have finally received bounty land from his service in the French & Indian war for in the 1770s he sold 1000 acres to his old friend Dr Hugh Mercer (located on the Ohio river above the Miami river). He was also named an executor in Mercer's will. In the late 1770s he rented out his Fredericksburg home (lot 22) to General George Weedon, his old friend. Unfortunately he also had to evict the general for getting behind in the rent. It doesn't appear that this soured their cordial relationship over the years, though. (At this time James and his family were living both in Fredericksburg and in Stevensburg.)

Duncanson (con't)

In October of 1790 his beloved wife Mary died and was buried at St George's. James wrote a codicil to his will leaving his estate to his four surviving children (James, Polly, Ann and Finella [who married a Scot named Charles Urquhart], and his dear mother-in-law, Hannah McAuley. James died the following spring on March 3, 1791 at the age of 56, and lies beside his family at St George's. His obituary ends with, "In all relations of life his character was respectable; his temper was mild and cheerful, and his friendly disposition endeared him to a large acquaintance, who will long lament his death." His was a LONG obituary for the time. He was also identified as Colonel Duncanson, probably for his service on the Committee of Correspondence and not for active military service.

And of his standing in the community? Of interest, in the 1790 city taxes, James is listed as having paid more taxes that year than all but one other person in town. One of the people renting his lot on George street that year was Robert Patton, who married Hugh Mercer's daughter and would become the g-g-g-grandfather of General George S. Patton. Indeed, James had risen to the top of the financial ladder and was also highly respected by the community. I do believe that he WAS truly missed.

Outstanding citizens come in all shapes and forms. They need not all be Generals or politicians to make their mark on society. James Duncanson started as a simple merchant and immigrant and rose to the top of his community. He and his fellow merchants made the area, and they are still reshaping the area to this day.

Sources:

Felder, Paula. "Fielding Lewis and the Washington Family: A Chronicle of 18th Century Fredericksburg." American History Co., Fredericksburg, 1999

—. "Forgotten Companions: The First Settlers of Spotsylvania County and Fredericksburg Town." American History Co., Fredericksburg, 2000

Ward, Harry. "Duty, Honor or Country: General George Weedon and the American Revolution." American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1979

Will of James Duncanson, Fredericksburg Circuit Court, 1791
Various deeds of J. Duncanson recorded in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Co.

Land Tax records for Fredericksburg, 1782, 1790 from Central Rappahannock Regional Library



**TAVERN NIGHT
HISTORIC PORT ROYAL
MAY 12, 2001**

SUGAR'S ADVENTURES

Written by John Hardia as dictated by Sugar the Parrott

Sugar and the Militia



It is early in the morning and my Master is eating breakfast and I can tell it is militia day because he has his militia clothes on with lots of cowskin and even a cow's horn. I am running around on the table checking everything on the table when all of a sudden the lady that helps us drops a basket of dirty clothes and scares me so much I jumped in the air and landed in my Master's porridge. YUCK!, he said and yuck I felt. There is nothing worse than landing in porridge except for maybe flour. Well, my Master threw the rest of the porridge away and got ready to leave. He gave me a long hard stare but he took me with him. Whew, I lucked out on that one. Pretty soon we got to where the rest of the militia was gathering.

The militia is always the same. Everybody lines up in a straight line and walks back and forth while a big guy with a long knife on a stick sings. The song is pretty boring with the same 4 words sang over and over and it is not much of a tune either. Sometimes they stop and move their big sticks up and down and some times they rest on their sticks for a while. It looks like they are going to do that now. Up, down, up, down....it's always the same. Wait a minute. They are doing something different now. Everyone is lifting their horns and pouring the powder into their big sticks. Now they are putting marbles in their big sticks and hitting the marble with another stick. Well at least they are doing something a little different! Now the big guy with the long knife on a stick is starting a new song and he ends it with FIRE! And the strange thing is all of the sticks caught fire at once an....BLAM! The loudest sound I ever heard! My ears are still singing which is a good thing since I can't hear anything else. Oh no, they are starting the thing with the horn again. I had no idea cows were so bad to have that powder in their horns. The big guy is starting to sing again and I am getting out of here.BLAM! There it goes again....Oh good, a boy is picking me up. I hope he takes me away from here because I have had enough with the militia!

(Sugar is a parrott living with his master, John,. John and Sugar reside on Water Street in 1790 Virginia. John is a 'factor', an import/export agent that arranges for purchases and sales between the newly independent colonies and England. He visits the waterfront docks daily.)

Flags (con't)

war MANY variations would be seen!

In the fall of 1775, the colonials had floating artillery batteries on the Charles River in Boston. Col. Joseph Reed, Washington's military secretary, requested that American forces fly some sort of recognizable flag so they could determine who was friend and foe. He came up with a design of a white flag with a green tree in its center and under it a banner of "An Appeal to Heaven" - the "Green Tree" flag. Still, the actual decision of the flag fell to a contractor - not Washington or Congress. They had more pressing matters than a flag.

In Nov. 1775, a detailed report was prepared on how to properly equip the units of the Continental Army. Curiously, there is no mention of a flag. This changes a little over a month later.

On Jan. 1, 1776, the Continental Army came into formal existence. By way of celebrating the event, the Commander in Chief (Washington) issued a general pardon to all military offenders AND a flag was raised on a seventy-six foot tall flagpole. That was the "Union Flag in Compliment to the United Colonies". (Grand or Great Union flag) Essentially it was the British Meteor flag with six white stripes added, thus giving 13 alternating red/white stripes for the 13 colonies. The Union was to testify their loyalty to the Constitution of the government against which they fought.

In March, 1776, a Navy fleet took to sea under the command of Esek Hopkins and with each ship, the Great Union flag. We had a flag for our cause! Hopkins also carried two additional flags, a yellow flag with a coiled rattlesnake and the words, "Don't Tread on Me", and a "striped jack" (probably just the 13 red/white stripes). Variations of this flag (with and without a rattlesnake) were prevalent for some years.

While Congress never "approved" the flag, it soon became the "Union Flag," the "Grand Union Flag," the "Congress flag," and the "Colors of the United Colonies". North Carolina even added the design to their paper money. It flew with the Army in Manhattan and on Lake Champlain in the summer of '76 with Benedict Arnold's fleet.

With the Declaration of Independence, the Great Union was out of date for there was no turning back to the crown - no allegiance to the English Constitution. We were now Americans and needed an American flag.

June 14, 1777. Congress is in session in Philadelphia in what would be known as Independence Hall. As most days, the Congress was concerned with a multitude of routine matters while General Burgoyne was launching a new offensive from Canada.

Mr. John Murray was paid for some services. Money was appropriated for several military bills. A resolution was presented:

"Resolved: that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

It passed. That was it. More business. Captain John Roach (commander of the *Ranger*) was asserted to be a person of bad character and he was relieved and replaced by John Paul Jones. Congress adjourned until 10am.

No discussion is recorded about the flag bill's introduction. It was just presented and passed. No drawing was added to the Congressional minutes so we don't really know what it even looked like. What was the shape of the "constellation?" Were the stars even 5-pointed? We honestly don't know.

We do know that the new flag (or a version of it) was carried by the army from Brandywine (Sept. '77) onward.

In May 1779, Mr. Richard Peters, the secretary of the board of War wrote to Washington. He stated that the army was still waiting for what the "standard of the United States" shall be. The General in Chief replied. "the arrangement of the colors" had not yet been made. Congress authorized a flag in '77, but the army had not adopted it two years later! Three years later, in August, 1782, Washington was still awaiting the arrival of "the colors." They were delivered in March, 1783 - 18 months after Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown!

So who IS the father of the flag? Hint: NOT Betsy Ross. The person best able to lay claim to the title is Francis Hopkinson, a former Congressman from New Jersey. He was appointed one of three commissioners of the Continental Navy Board. He served as Chair and Secretary two years. Then he became the Treasurer of Loans and finally became a judge in the Pennsylvania Admiralty Court.

He had a background for designing things. He had designed the seals for the American Philosophical Society (still in existence), the State of New Jersey, and the College of Philadelphia (now the Univ. of Pennsylvania). He wrote on May 25, 1788 to the Board of Admiralty that his "device" of a seal for that Board had met with approval. He followed with his list of devices he had created beginning with the "flag of the United States of America". He also mentioned the seals for the Admiralty, Treasury Board, and the Great Seal of the United States, plus some work on Continental currency. (He also wrote many pieces of popular music). For his flag he requested payment of £9 (cash) or £540 (Continental currency). The Congress did not pay him. A Congressional committee investigating his claim found "that the report relative to the fancy-work of F. Hopkinson ought not to be acted upon." As a result he resigned as Treasurer of Loans.

His biographer, however, concluded after reading first hand accounts from others of the time familiar with the situation that he DID design it. It is believed that his union had 13 white stars arranged in 5 horizontal and centered rows of :3-2-3-2-3 stars, respectively.

John Adams and Ben Franklin described the flag to Italy and France in 1778 as "The flag of the United States of America consists of thirteen stripes, alternating red, white, and blue; a small square in the upper angle, next [to] the flag staff, is a blue field, with thirteen white stars, denoting a new constellation."

Blue stripes? Yes, that's what I said. Here Scotland's and Fredericksburg's own John Paul Jones joins the cast of characters.

In Feb., 1778 he got the French to recognize our new flag (being flown on his warship). It was again with Jones in his first sea victory just two months later when the *Ranger* defeated the *HMS Drake*. A year and a half later, Jones (now on the *Bon Homme Richard*) defeats the *HMS Serapis*. Following the Sept. 23rd Victory, his ships were briefly seized by the Dutch.

(the flag on Jones' ship was not recognized yet by the Dutch.) The Dutch sent an artist to make a careful color drawing of the flag on two of the American ships, *Alliance* and the new flag ship, *Serapis*.

The *Alliance* had 13 stripes alternating white-red (7 white, 6 red) and 13 8-point white stars arranged 3-2-3-2-3. The *Serapis* had 13 strips of: Blue/Red/White/Red/White/Blue/Red /White/Red/Blue/White/Blue/Red. It had three rows of white 8-point stars: 4-5-4.

Back on land...

At the Battle of Bennington, VT, the Bennington '76 flag was flown by Continental troops. In March, 1781 at the battle of Guilford CH in N.C., militia carried a flag with 13 alternating Blue and Red stripes, a field of White and 13 Blue 7-point stars in three rows. Seen in S.C. at Cowpens was a flag of 13 Red/White stripes, Blue field, and 13 stars in a circle.

So this is how the war ended - in confusion over what the flag really looked like. It generally followed the Hopkinson standard with ROWS of stars. All was well until 1791 when Kentucky and Vermont were added as states. No changes were made to the flag, but Congressmen debated what ought to be done. It took till 1794 for Congress to act. (The flag was not of great importance/urgency to the Congress as too many other important matters occupied their attention.) In the Congress, arguments were put forth to keep it [too expensive to change every time we add a state, and besides this flag matter is such a trifling matter]. Others wanted it changed to reflect the new makeup of the country. Finally on Jan. 13, 1794, Congress declared that a new star and a new stripe would be added for each new state.

The next player in the saga is Mary Young Pickersgill of Baltimore. Who was she? She was paid \$405 in 1813 to produce a 15 star/stripe flag for Ft. McHenry in Baltimore. It was commanded by a young Major named George Armistead. This flag, now known as the "Star Spangled Banner" flew above Ft. McHenry during its bombardment and was the subject of the poem/song written by Francis Scott Key of Baltimore. The flag remained in the Armistead family. It was signed by Armistead and has the date of the bombardment. Armistead was the father of General Lewis "Lo" Armistead of Gettysburg fame. Following the death of George Armistead and his wife, the flag was bequeathed to a Mrs. Appleton. Her family bequeathed it to the Smithsonian early in the 20th century.

Enter the Navy.

Captain Samuel C. Reid, USN, who commanded the *General Armstrong* during the War of 1812 suggested to Congress that the stripes be fixed at thirteen to represent the original colonies and that a star be added to the blue field for every state coming into the Union. Again, Congress took its time - over a year. The actual bill was drafted by Peter Wendover, Representative from NY (who had close cooperation with Reid). Finally, on April 4, 1818 the bill was passed. A week later the new flag was hoisted above the capitol dome with 13 stripes and 20 stars. It was made by Mrs. Reid! Later that same year, President James Monroe stipulated that the stars should be arranged in four equal, parallel rows of five each. Still no wording as to the actual size/dimensions of the

stripes, field or stars. It would not be until 1912 that all of those details were formally codified.

As to the Legend of Betsy Ross

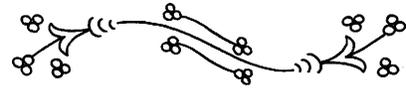
This tale was first presented by her grandson in 1870! Her real name was Elizabeth Griscom Ross. She did live in Philadelphia and did sew some ship's ensigns for the Philadelphia Navy Board. Little else can be proved. Obviously, her grandson was not around during the revolution to see what actually took place.

So, with another Flag Day (June 14) recently behind us, a hearty salute to the many who gave it to us and the countless thousands who fought for it!

Sources:

Quaife, Milo, et al. The History of the United States Flag. Harper & Row (for Eastern National Park and Monument Assn.), New York, 1961

----. Your flag. Boy Scouts of America. 1973



Costume Workshop with Sally Queen

Sally Queen will be conducting a one day workshop in the Fredericksburg area on August 11, 2001 from 9:30am-3:00pm. The workshop is open to the public. Anyone desiring additional information or wishing to attend should contact Susan Bailey at 540-785-9451 or via e-mail - FESCHEK@aol.com.

The information presented below is tentative, pending confirmation of a few things.

Date: August 11, 2001

Time 9:30am-3:00pm

9:30-12:00 - Gentlemen's Attire

12:00-1:00 - Lunch

1:00-3:00 - Ladies' Fashions

Place: To be determined, but in the area

Topic: What Men and Women Were Wearing in Colonial Virginia: The Basics of Dress in 1760-1770

Number of guests: Min. 12, Max. 25-30

Price: \$20/person

JENNY'S JOURNAL

Jenny Washington

May 6th 17--

Dear Journal,

'Twas a fine day! Today we went to Rosewell, home of Mr. John Page. He was holding a very large picnic in honor of his new daughter, Frances Page. She was dressed in a long, sheer white dress with small pink ribbons and bows and had small cap. She was just beautiful laying in that small cradle.

In the morning when we got there it was quite chilly. We set up our picnic table under a big tree. Mr. Page's servants had erected a small tent called a "marquee". I thought 'twas a grand picnic and I was quite delighted that my family and I were all invited. I do believe I shall be the envy of my dear friends because of this. Mr. Page is a very important man in the government of Virginia. Grandmama Bushrod lives near Rosewell at Highgate. Since we were visiting her, we were included in the invitation. Aunt Eliza had come with us and participated in the picnic too. The local rector and his wife were there, as well as Uncle Charles, Mr. Page's father and sisters, and various cousins. I do believe everyone in Virginia is cousin to everyone else!

Papa could not get over the depth and breadth of Mr. Page's icehouse. 'Twas quite large indeed! And very different from ours. Icehouses in Gloucester are round. Mr. Page gave a long speech about the current state of affairs in the colony. Papa seemed to enjoy Mr. Page's remarks. He and Uncle Charles seemed to be in agreement with his sentiments. Papa said "'tis very uncommon to find a gentleman of quiet taste and manner with such well grounded religious convictions". During the dancing, I heard quite a commotion by Mrs. Page's sisters. They were swatting at something on the ground. When I went over to investigate I found 'twas only a small snake. One of the ladies there herded it into the woods. It kept turning around so I picked it up and put it in the woods. The dancing continued with the Reverend as the dance master. Poor Papa and Uncle Charles! The Reverend would not give them time to do anything but dance. I do believe he enjoyed watching. I did not dance but I did watch his expressions and saw that he was quite pleased. Then, while some of the other gentlemen fenced, we went to eat our lunch. Aunt Eliza had so generously packed cold ham biscuits and a plate of white asparagus. There were some fresh strawberries, cheese and a delightful orange cake with marzipan flowers on the top. All was

wonderful. At the end of the day I was terribly worn out but I shall always look forward to the next picnic and more dances, especially the ball at Glen Beau. Mama often teases me about the "young masters" that dance there. We soon shall have a dance party too and hopefully invite them. My dear Friend, Millie Posey, is quite in awe about them also.

Jenny Washington

Dear Journal

May 7th 17--

We stayed at grandmother's house for the night, and had a very nice sleep. The next morning we woke up to a breakfast of warmed ham and warm eggs with goats milk. Then we had to get back into the hot carriage for the journey home. Right now we are in the carriage traveling home. I do not know what we shall find when we get home but I dare say that Corbin has gotten into something.

Jenny Washington

May 9th 17--

Again I write but not much. We are home now and Corbin had gotten into something. He got into the kitchen and turned over a bag of flour that spilled and made him as white as a ghost. Mammy had to take him out to the river and dunk him under five times and wash him before she got everything off. She also had to sweep up the mess in the kitchen. Mr. Lowe now has him copying from Papa's old copy book the rules of civility and decent behavior.

The RCHS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September, & November. All members receive a copy. Membership is \$10.00 per year for individuals, \$15.00 per year for families. **RCHS does not maintain an office.** All correspondence should be addressed to RCHS at P.O. Box 7823, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-7823. Items for the newsletter should be addressed to the Editor c/o RCHS or e-mailed to MyraWig@aol.com. Copyright 2001 RCHS. The content of the RCHS Newsletter is the property of RCHS, its members and contributors. RCHS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

LETTERS FROM FRIENDS

Dear Madame Fitzefferie,

Once again I take pen in hand to describe to you last evenings festivities. Many of our number attended a convivial dinner at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Hans Wauer. Their home "Maryton" is quite beautiful with lovely wooden floors. Quite the perfection for dancing! Mrs. Wauer has promised us a dance in the future. The guests were Rev. and Mrs. William Livingston, Mrs. Morag McGonagle (Captain McGonagle being out to sea), Mr. And Mrs. Joseph Steen, Mr. John Hardia, and his betrothed Miss Amelia Ball. I noticed that Rev. Livingston was sat above the salt, as he is the new Shepherd of our Flock. There was much vegetables, fresh breads, and a surfeit of meats. Afterwards we took a tour of the grounds with the men being much interested in their livestock. Mr. Wauer's overseer was off since it was Sunday so he conducted us personally. Us Laydes were more inclined to view the lovely wool that Mrs. Wauer has spun. We then adjourned to the drawing room to stitch and sew, as we desired while the men engaged in a lively game of Whist. It was quite an enjoyable evening as it ever is in the Company of our Friends. I pray that your journey was uneventful and that we may soon see you here at Rollingwood House. May the Lord bless your days and keep you safe.

Yr. Friend,

*Isabella Christina
Rollingwood House*

Future meetings

July - NO MEETING

August - David Kerr speaking on Margaret Brent

Meeting recap

May meeting - discussions are underway for RCHS to host a colonial ball here next year (probably in the fall). Also plans for the tea in October are coming along.

June - Al mentioned that he has talked with someone else who is interested in helping with the boat project, but we still need more people in order to get moving.

Elaine mentioned some of the things the group has been doing lately....an educational program at Salem Church Library, dancing at Historic Port Royal's Tavern Night and HFFI's Market Days. Also, several of us attended the annual ball at Glen Beau in Mineral. There will be a dance workshop on June 30 taught by Lou Vosteen.

There was a discussion and vote regarding honorariums for speakers for our programs. We also discussed RCHS joining other societies as a group. This will allow us to be more "in the know" about things going on in our area and support our sister organizations.

The group is growing and having some "growing pains" as we seek ways to diversify and utilize the many talents we have. Come join us as we continue to grow.

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

In order to produce a good newsletter, accurate and in a timely manner, please try to use these guidelines.

1. Our time period and location is 18th Century Virginia with our area of concentration Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River Valley. The Rappahannock River Valley covers from the ford of the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers down to the Chesapeake Bay. Our particular interests lie in the areas of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George, and Caroline counties.
2. Any member may, and **is encouraged to**, submit article(s) for publication. The newsletter is distributed to and read by people with varying degrees of expertise. Some of us are not as well versed on Colonial life and times as others, so in order to be as accurate as possible, please check your facts prior to submitting an article.
3. Sources/references **must be given** for factual information. This enables the reader to go to the original source for more information, gives credit to the source, and also lets the editor of the newsletter off the hook if the information is challenged. This includes information from the internet. If you write to someone for permission to reprint and receive it, I would appreciate a copy for my files.
4. Opinions of the writer must be clearly identified as such.
5. The newsletter is published every other month in January, March, May, July, September, and November. My target date to have the newsletter published is the 15th of those months. In order to do that I will need any submissions by the 8th of the month. You may mail to the PO Box, or email me at [<MyraWig@aol.com>](mailto:MyraWig@aol.com).
6. The editor has the final say on content, format and deadlines. I try to keep the newsletter to 12 pages for postage. If I receive several articles and we also have a good bit of news to go into the newsletter, it may be necessary for me to edit, publish as a two part article or use it in the following month's publication.
7. If you have an idea for an article but don't have the time, resources, etc. to write it yourself, we have someone who is willing to do the research and write the article.