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# OUR HERITAGE

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Published by the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation, Inc., 27 Market Square, Manheim, PA 17545

July 2017

## *Old Glory - The American Flag*



With all the problems facing our nation and the lack of appreciation for what the Stars & Stripes really represent, I thought that a history of the flag would be a very appropriate story for our July newsletter.

The Continental Congress, on June 14, 1777, passed an act establishing the official flag for our new nation. The flag was to have thirteen alternating red and white stripes and that the union was to be thirteen white stars on a blue field, representing a new constellation. Legend is that Francis Hopkinson, the person who signed most of the existing Stiegel deeds, designed the flag. It's also legend that Betsy Ross did the needlework to create the first flag. A Betsy Ross flag is the one we display at HMPF.

The flag evolved over the years in response to the growth of the country. From 1777 on, Congress passed acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag, allowing stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

The following information and changes to the flag have been taken from many different sources:

1795 - Flag became 15 stars, admittance of Vermont and Kentucky

1818 - Flag became 20 stars, admittance of Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana and Mississippi

1819 - Flag became 21 stars, admittance of Illinois

1820 - Flag became 23 stars, admittance of Alabama and Maine

1822 - Flag became 24 stars, admittance of Missouri

1836 - Flag became 25 stars, admittance of Arkansas

1837 - Flag became 26 stars, admittance of Michigan

1845 - Flag became 27 stars, admittance of Florida

1846 - Flag became 28 stars, admittance of Texas

1847 - Flag became 29 stars, admittance of Iowa

1848 - Flag became 30 stars, admittance of Wisconsin

1851 - Flag became 31 stars, admittance of California

1858 - Flag became 32 stars, admittance of Minnesota

1859 - Flag became 33 stars, admittance of Oregon

1861 - Flag became 34 stars, admittance of Kansas

1863 - Flag became 35 stars, admittance of West Virginia

1865 - Flag became 36 stars, admittance of Nevada

1867 - Flag became 37 stars, admittance of Nebraska

1877 - Flag became 38 stars, admittance of Colorado

1890 - Flag became 43 stars, admittance of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington and Idaho

1891 - Flag became 44 stars, admittance of Wyoming

1896 - Flag became 45 stars, admittance of Utah

1908 - Flag became 46 stars, admittance of Oklahoma

1912 - Flag became 48 stars, admittance of New Mexico and Arizona

1959 - Flag became 49 stars, admittance of Alaska

1960 - Flag became 50 stars, admittance of Hawaii

In today's American Flag, the thirteen horizontal (13) stripes represent the original American Colonies and the stars represent the 50 states in the Union. The red color represent hardiness and valor, the white represents purity and innocence, and the blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The Flag has been reverently referred to as **Old Glory** for many years. William Driver of Salem, Massachusetts, who was born in 1803, gave the name to the flag. William Driver had a career as a merchant seaman, starting as a cabin boy and rising to become the captain of ship "Charles Doggett".

His mother and several young female admirers from Salem sewed an American flag and presented it to

him as a gift when he was the ship's captain. He flew the flag over his ship starting in 1824. It was William Driver's deep affection for the flag that brought about his expression: "*It has ever been my staunch companion and protection. Savages and heathens, lowly and oppressed, hailed and welcomed it at the far end of the wide world. Then, why should it not be called Old Glory?*"

William Driver retired from seafaring in 1837, at age 34.

**On Aug. 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman officially declared June 14 as Flag Day.**

**Footnote: Search *Old Glory* on the internet for more complete and wonderful information on our flag. Who would have ever believed that our nation would permit the burning and desecration of *Old Glory*, the American Flag that patriotic Americans fought and died for. SHAMEFUL!**



**Acquisitions:**

The stock certificate book from The Manheim, Petersburg and Lancaster Plank Road Company (1851-1909). The book surfaced at the 1991 estate sale for Sylvia Rupp. - loan

Scarce genealogy: **The Hasler Families and Where They Came From**, by Helen Hassler Dempsey (it includes the many Hosler/Hossler Families of Pennsylvania.), 382 pages, published 1947. - gift

Several more books for the Americana section of our library. - gifts

The Ensminger Library also added items that will help with security and the care of library material.

We now have a nice work area (table and chair) adjacent to the library room.

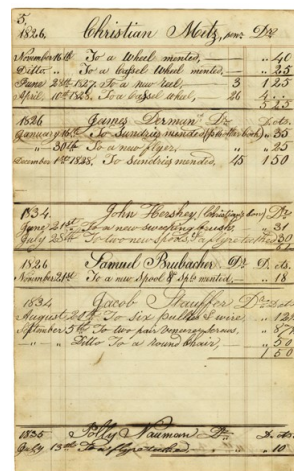


The fourth publication in the Manheim "series" by Henry Deemer is on sale at Longenecker's True Value, Sloan's Pharmacy and HMPF. Titled "Historic and Notable Buildings of Manheim" it contains 50+ properties of "Yesterday and Today" photos and information. Also included are 40+pages "Reminiscence In Advertising" of what really is a small portion of local businesses advertising up to 1976. (100) numbered copies have been issued at \$15.00 per copy.

**Additional Good Fortune**

With help from a person who supports the goals of HMPF, we were placed in touch with Jennifer Swope and Denise Webb at the American Textile History Museum, Lowell, Massachusetts. Unfortunately, ATHM found that they had to close their museum and transfer their collections. Jennifer and Denise were given the responsibility of trying to place the items with another not-for-profit organization (501C3) where the items will be preserved and be available for research and viewing by the public. Since ATHM's collections contained a Daniel Danner castle spinning wheel, Danner yarn winder and a Danner ledger, the three important items were placed with HMPF as gifts. ATHM also placed items with Auburn University; Boston Public Library; Cornell University; National Museum of American History, D.C. and the Peabody Museum, just to mention a few of the many other institutions that have received important items from ATHM. HMPF is honored to be among those considered.

The acquisition of the three items verifies the trust that HMPF is receiving from other organizations.  
**We are grateful!**



The transfer of the items from Lowell, Mass. to our museum was made easier by Larry McFarland and his sister Nancy Zimmerman. Larry and Nancy drove to Lowell, Mass. to receive the items for HMPF.