

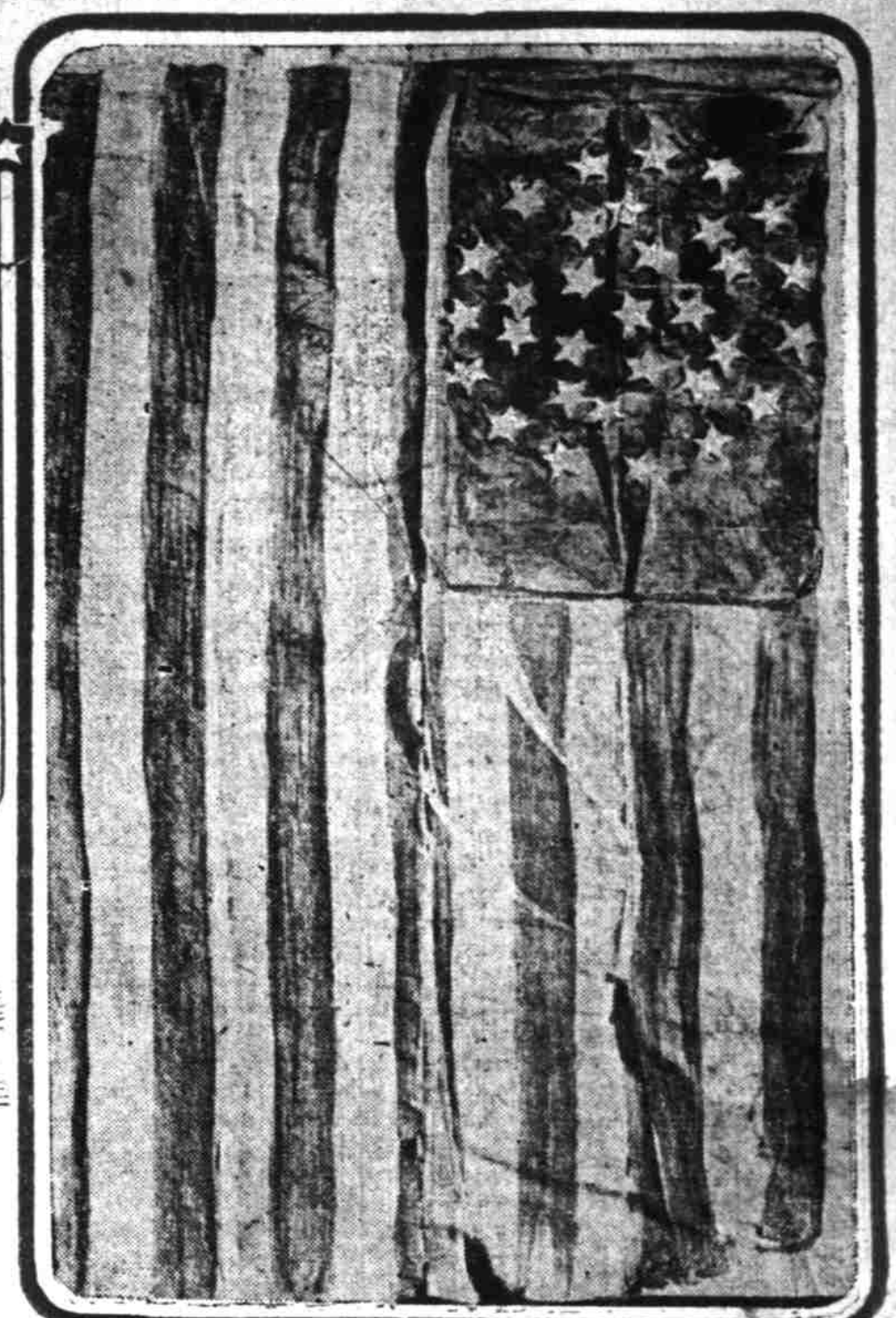
# PORTLAND'S HISTORIC FLAGS PRESERVE SPIRIT OF FLAG DAY



FLAG THAT FIGURED IN SLAVERY AGITATION IN MOLALLA IN 1861.



FLAG MADE BY MRS ANNA E. BILLS OF PORTLAND IN 1861 (PHOTO BY COURTESY OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY)



FLAG MADE IN 1855 BY WOMEN OF PORTLAND FOR SERVICE IN YAKIMA INDIAN WAR

## Three Emblems in Possession of Oregon Historical Society Recall the Stirring Days of Over 50 Years Ago When Loyalty to the Union or Secession Constituted the Paramount Issue.

By Fred Lockley

IN THE collection of the Oregon Historical society are three flags which played their parts in the history of Portland and vicinity of an earlier day, and of which are of especial interest on this Flag day. All three emblems are of different sizes, and in different states of preservation, and to each one attaches a story all its own.

One of the flags, the oldest of the three, and now faded and worn, was made in Portland in the fall of 1855 by a number of young women, headed by Miss Mary Dryer, and including the Misses Harriet and Mary Millard, the latter of whom was the mother of Ralph Hoyt.

This flag was presented to Captain A. V. Wilson, of Company A, Oregon Mounted Volunteers, and was used by him in the Yakima Indian wars. The martial spirit then prevalent inspired the young women to do something by way of displaying their patriotism, and this emblem was the result. It is made of red and white silk ribbon, with stars of white silk sewn on a field of blue silk. So delicate is it now that it looks about ready to fall to pieces.

### Story of the Bills Flag

Another of the flags was made by Mrs. Annie Bills, and was the first flag made in Portland after the outbreak

of the Civil War. For a long time this was the largest flag in town, and was pressed into service on many occasions. Mrs. Bills still is a resident of Portland, and tells an interesting story concerning the flag.

Mrs. Bills lives at the corner of Planders and Sixteenth streets, and, in spite of her 85 years, she is alert and keen and ready to talk about days gone and their happenings.

"My husband, Cincinnati Bills, was anxious to have a flag at our home, Mrs. Bills said. 'We lived on Second street, between B and C, or Burnside and Couch streets, as they call them now.'

"He erected a tall flagpole in our front yard, and then tried to buy a flag, but Portland was a small place, and there were no flag stores. I had it ready for the Fourth of July, 1861.

"Our flag was used in Portland all during the Civil war period whenever there was a procession.

"I bought some all wool red colored goods for the red stripes. I couldn't get white cloth, so I got cream delaine cloth and a square yard of blue merino for the blue field. An Irishman named Tom Stafford, an oldtime sailor, but out the stars for me. I had it ready for the Fourth of July, 1861.

"It was used one Fourth of July at the corner of Fourth and Couch streets for which Herman L. Leonard and Henry Green were the sponsors.

"I recall that celebration very well. There was a big barbecue at which the guests all sat down at a big table. My, it was a fine spread. I couldn't

stay to eat; I had to go home and cook dinner for some visitors whom we had at our house and I tell you, I was pretty mad."

The third flag in the Oregon Historical society's collection which harks back to war times is what is known as the Molalla flag. It was the property of W. T. Eastham and was unfurled for the first time from a tall flagstaff at his home near Molalla on July 4, 1861. Upon the blue field in the center of the stars is an eagle with wings outspread and on the lower white stripe is written "the whole republic" below it. The story connected with the flag had to do with the bitter sectional feeling that pervaded all parts of the country in Civil war days.

Eastham was a Union enthusiast and his reputation for kindness and square dealing made him a respected member of the community. Shortly before he died he related the circumstances of this flag raising to George H. Himes of the Oregon Historical society, who tells the story as follows:

### Sectional Bitterness Rife

"Eastham came from his home in Molalla to Oregon City one day in company with a neighbor who was a Democrat and a secessionist. Eastham had made up his mind to erect a union flag on his premises on July 4 and he accordingly bought the material for the flag on this trip to Oregon City. His friend suspected his intentions, queried him about it and learned in no uncertain terms of the plans under way.

"Word spread rapidly about the community what Eastham contemplated. The younger and more hot headed southern sympathizers declared that they would never allow him to raise the flag. Eastham had selected the slender pole for use as a flag pole, while his wife was busily engaged in making the flag. In the first place he had planned to place a snake in the mouth of the eagle that occupied the center of the blue field, symbolic of the "copperheads," but ultimately he concluded that would be unwise.

"As the Fourth drew near Eastham continued his preparations for his flag raising; his opponents muttered their threats. Finally the older heads in the community recalled to their mind the story of a good citizen and neighbor and had in their past befriended them all and had provided food for many, and they counseled that since Oregon was Union territory Eastham should not be molested in his attempt to hoist the Union flag.

"Accordingly when the Fourth dawned, Eastham's flag flew on high, and the flag was made to disturb it nor its owner."

### A Revered Emblem

The American flag represents an ideal and to one born beneath its folds it appeals with all the hallowed associations of its glorious past.

It not only tells of Valley Forge, Fort McHenry, Buena Vista, Gettysburg and Malabar and all of the historic battlefields over which, shot, shell-rant and blood-stained, it has triumphantly waved and which endear it to our memory, but it calls us to a sense of present duty and speaks of the days to come, bidding us to hand it down unscathed to later generations.

On the banners of the Israelites—the sacred standard of the Maccabees—were the initials in Hebrew of the text, "Who is like unto thee, O God amongst the Gods." The Romans dedicated their eagle standards to Jove, and in the days of the Crusades the knights received their standards at the foot of the altar.

Territory constituting the United States has been under many and various flags. The first flag raised on American shores was the flag of Leon

## ORIGIN OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

Stars and Stripes Evolved by Betsy Ross From Crude Design Suggested by General Washington and Others and Accepted as the Nation's Flag 137 Years Ago Today.

By F. L.

ON June 14, 1777, just 137 years ago today, in Independence hall, Philadelphia—the birthplace of our nation and the cradle of our liberty—congress adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. The stars to be arranged in a circle."

Prior to this the flag of the colonies had been the blue flag with the red cross of St. George of England upright upon the blue field, across which was the symbol of Scotland, the white cross of St. Andrew. Though the English flag was the official emblem of the colonies for more than 150 years, the colonies had fallen into the way of using individual flags. The fact that almost every colony, every regiment and every ship had an individual flag and owed allegiance to their own flag caused George Washington to write to the authorities in 1776: "Please fix on some flag by which our vessels may know each other." Congress appointed General George Washington, Robert Morris and Colonel Ross to select and "designate a suitable flag for the nation."

### KING OF SNIPERS

THIS is the story of Martinez, so-called "king of the snipers," one of the underhand fighters who picked off good American sailors and marines for two days after the Americans had seized Vera Cruz.

Martinez was a Mexican who had fled before Villa from his vast cotton plantations in the Torreón district and had gone to Vera Cruz with his American wife. All through the winter they were frequently guests aboard United States warships in the harbor.

His house was on the same street as the United States consulate, where fighting was hot the first day. On the second day, when the Americans advanced through the entire town and held it, sniping continued in many sections, especially in the block in which Martinez' house was situated. Owing to the fact that the snipers used smokeless powder and kept themselves well hidden, it was next to impossible to discover them.

During the afternoon of Wednesday Martinez came along the block, where a party of marines had been stationed in an effort to locate the snipers. He was wearing a pair of binoculars and the marine corps not to go into his house, as it was strongly suspected that snipers were located there.

Martinez professed his regret at such newspaper, asserting his strong admiration and friendship for the Americans, and said he was sure no one could be using his house for such a purpose. He was finally allowed to enter his house.

Subsequently it was noted that every time Colonel Neville exposed himself in the street a shot would come from near by. It was obvious someone was trying to "get" the marine officer.

Colonel Neville finally mounted the balcony of the American consulate and began watching the roofs and windows of the houses up the street through a pair of field glasses. He saw Martinez sitting on his balcony with a newspaper spread out on his lap and smoking a cigarette, apparently idly watching the proceedings.

As he watched him the colonel saw to his amazement Martinez quickly pull an automatic revolver from under his coat and fire a shot through a window, restoring the weapon to its hiding place under the newspaper with lightning speed. Calling a marine, Colonel Neville pointed out the man on the balcony and said bluntly: "Get him."

The marine fired and Martinez fell off his chair. He was wounded in the stomach. He was removed to another house by a Mexican doctor and his wound dressed. The next day, apparently not satisfied with what the Mexican surgeon had done for him, he sent for Dr. M. S. Elliott, U. S. N., a personal friend, who has been in charge of the shore hospital. Dr. Elliott dressed the wound again, but Martinez died.

His American wife was at the time on board the American refugee ship Esperanza. She was told that her husband had been forced upon the balcony by snipers and shot by them.

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the government's flags. At her death her daughter, Mrs. Clarissa Wilson, continued the contract until 1857.

The new flag was first used in military service on August 6, 1777, at what was then Fort Stanwix, but later was called Fort Schuyler, and is now known as the battle flag of the American Revolution. It was captured by fire at Cooch's Bridge, near Washington, Del., on September 3, 1777.

On June 14, 1777, the day congress adopted the Betsy Ross flag as the flag of the new nation, John Paul Jones received his appointment to the command of the Ranger. He said: "The flag and I are twins. We cannot be parted in life or in death. So long as we can float, we shall float together; if we must sink we shall go down as one."

John Paul Jones on February 14, 1778, had the great pleasure of seeing the first time the American flag recognized by a foreign power. France saluted the colors by firing a salute to the Ranger and also to the Independence. The frigates of the French fleet, Admiral Cocksburn informed Mr. Key and Mr. Skinner he would have to detain them for a short while, and he had them placed aboard the ship Surprise. The frigates of the French fleet, Admiral Cocksburn informed Mr. Key and Mr. Skinner he would have to detain them for a short while, and he had them placed aboard the ship Surprise. The frigates of the French fleet, Admiral Cocksburn informed Mr. Key and Mr. Skinner he would have to detain them for a short while, and he had them placed aboard the ship Surprise.

### The Stars Increase

The flag that originated with 13 stars in the Revolutionary war had 15 stars at the time of the war of 1812.

The battle flag that was torn by shot and shell and pierced by the lances of the Mexicans at Buena Vista had 23 stars.

A flag with 35 stars opposed the stars and bars on many a hard fought and bloody battle ground during the Civil war. When Roosevelt and his Rough Riders charged up the hill at San Juan and when Dewey sailed into Manila harbor our flag had 48 stars. Today we have 48 stars, the two newest stars representing New Mexico and Arizona, which were admitted to the union in 1912.

To speak of Old Glory brings to mind that sturdy old sea dog, Captain Stephen Driver, who was born in Salem, Mass., on March 17, 1803. When at the age of 28, he sailed from Salem in command of a brig he was presented with a flag. As it was hoisted aloft the wind caught it and as its rippling folds straightened out in the breeze Captain Driver, looking aloft at our beautiful national emblem, said: "There floats Old Glory." Today this same flag, the first to be christened "Old Glory," is to be seen in the museum of the Essex institute at Salem, Mass., having been returned to the port where it first was flung to the breeze, and where it received its name.

Until recently there stood at Georgetown, near Washington, D. C., an old style house known as the Key mansion. Here it was that Francis Scott Key lived when he wrote the immortal song "The Star Spangled Banner." Key was the son of an officer in the Revolutionary war. He was born in Maryland, Aug. 3, 1780. He was appointed district attorney by General Andrew Jackson and moved from Frederick, Md., to Georgetown in 1801.

During the war of 1812 Admiral Cocksburn brought his fleet into the Chesapeake and sent word to Secretary of State James Monroe that he intended to retake the waton destruction of property by the American soldiers in Canada. General Ross with 5000 men were landed from the fleet and marched on Washington, where the capitol, the White House and other buildings were burned. The news of the destruction of the public buildings in the national capital was received with dismay in Baltimore. Word was brought that the British troops were on their way to Baltimore to burn that city. The citizens of Baltimore at once fortified Fort McHenry.

### The Betsy Ross House

The house was old even when Betsy Ross lived in it, as it was built in the days of William Penn, and was built in England and brought as ballast in the hold of the "Welcome." The house has two low ceilinged stories and an attic. The roof slopes sharply and is broken midway by a small dormer window set with small old fashioned window panes. As I stood there I tried to picture the scene when General Washington and his two fellow committeemen talked with the pretty young widow, Betsy Ross, about making the flag. Betsy Ross, at that, was a mere girl, being but 25 years old. She lived to see many stars added to the 13 she first sewed on. She died in 1836 at the age of 84, in her birthplace in Philadelphia.

Can you picture the scene as Betsy Ross put aside her work to examine the crudely penciled sketch which General Washington had drawn for her guidance? He showed her the proposed flag, consisting of 13 alternate stripes of red and blue with 13 stars on a field of blue. "But the stars are six pointed," said Betsy Ross. "Why not have them five pointed?" General Washington explained that he had purposely made them six pointed, so as not to imitate his own coat of arms, which consisted of red and white stripes with three five pointed stars. Five pointed stars were drawn and compared with the six pointed ones and the committee decided in favor of the five pointed star and asked Betsy Ross to prepare a flag in accordance with General Washington's sketch.

The flag she made was approved by the committee and General Washington, Colonel Ross and Robert Morris recommended its adoption. Congress accepted the committee's recommendation and the Betsy Ross flag became the flag of the newly born nation and she was given the contract to make all

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rejoining the British army, told of the capture of his two comrades. Soldiers were at once sent back and Dr. Beanes was captured at midnight and taken on board one of the British war vessels, where he was told he would be hanged from the yardarm at daylight. Word of Dr. Beanes' capture was sent to his intimate friend, Francis Scott Key, who at once saw President Madison, who gave him the use of a small vessel used by John S. Skinner, the commissioner who had charge of the exchange of prisoners. Accompanied by Mr. Skinner, he went under a flag of truce to the British fleet and interviewed Admiral Cocksburn who explained that the capture of Dr. Beanes had been postponed, and on account of his having helped some wounded British officers in the past he would probably be released. Admiral Cocksburn informed Mr. Key and Mr. Skinner he would have to detain them for a short while, and he had them placed aboard the ship Surprise. The frigates of the French fleet, Admiral Cocksburn informed Mr. Key and Mr. Skinner he would have to detain them for a short while, and he had them placed aboard the ship Surprise.

### The Message of the Flag

In '98 our boys, from a reunited north and south, sealed their devotion to the flag by marching out at the call of their country, and again today, should the call come, from northern farm and forge, from southern field of corn or cotton, from the looms and shops of the east and from the broad, bounteous western land, our boys will rally to the colors.

Today in our public schools the children, when the flag is brought into the schoolroom, rise, stand at attention, and with hand raised in salute they say together:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic for which it stands. One nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

We do well to teach our children loyalty to the flag which has been stained with the best blood of our country's defenders from Yorktown to Vera Cruz.

"Off with your hat as the flag goes by!"

Uncover the youngster's head; Teach him to hold it holy and high; For the sake of our sacred deed."

## MOVIES REIGN WORLD OVER

AMERICAN consuls in European and other foreign countries have recently been sending reports to Washington on the motion picture industry, these reports showing that east and west, north and south, the "movies" now hold sway and are playing a star role in the amusements of the nations.

From many places comes the consular declaration that the attractions at the film play theatres are not merely one of the chief amusements, but the chief amusement. From Nuremberg, Germany, for instance, Consul George Nicolas Ift writes that the moving picture "has advanced to first place among the people of Bavaria." In Munich there are 32 theatres, with a total seating capacity of 4650, and a yearly sale of 3,000,000 tickets, while in Nuremberg there are 14 theatres, with a seating capacity of 3400. The other large Bavarian cities all have numerous theatres.

Vice Consul Rice K. Evans, writing from Sheffield, says that the plays which are now drawing there are Italian emotional dramas of love and passion, French emotional problem plays with the "eternal triangle," and English productions of old classics, carefully worked out as to detail. Mr. Evans says that educational and industrial films are gaining in popularity.

Consul Homer W. Byington reports from Leeds that the film houses "are enjoying the greatest popularity and are steadily increasing in numbers." With a population of 450,000, Leeds has 61 picture houses, with a seating capacity of 31,000. The average daily attendance is 50,000. Prices are 6, 12 and 24 cents.

**Scotch Like the Movies**

The Scotch like "movies," as much as the English. Consul E. Haldeman Dennison reports from Dundee: "The present prosperity of the cinematograph theatres in Scotland is remarkable. The hold that this form of entertainment has gained upon the people shows no signs of diminishing. Furnishing, as it does, an inexpensive

form of amusement, the cinematograph makes a special appeal to such communities as Dundee, whose population is largely made up of working classes, who are unable to patronize the higher priced forms of entertainment.

The rise of the picture palace in Dundee has been extraordinary. A few years ago there were only two or three of these, today there are 25 licenses issued for buildings, used for cinema entertainments, buildings used only occasionally for this form of amusement being included in their number. There is now under construction here a building with a seating capacity of 1500, which is to be used as a picture palace.

In Aberdeen every motion picture theatre reports phenomenal patronage, and three new ones are to be opened there shortly. Glasgow claims the distinction of having the finest picture palace in the world.

A marked change is taking place in the style of film demanded. All classes of films are growing appreciably more restrained. American wild west scenes and the peculiarly continental "comedies" which have heretofore been so popular, are being superseded by films setting forth the story of some well known novel or play. The short film has almost disappeared, those now shown with 3000 to 6000 feet in length. Most of the films exhibited at the larger houses have their scenes laid in foreign countries and are supplied by American and continental firms.

**American Films Popular**

From Norway comes a similar story of growing popularity. Consul E. M. Rasmussen at Bergen says that the receipts at the motion picture theatres for the past year have much increased and that among all classes film shows are growing in popularity. American films are popular, it is stated, "because they usually portray heroic action and stirring scenes."

Consul Charles S. Winans reports from Seville, Spain, that but few American films are shown there. He says that all classes of society attend the motion picture shows, which are often accompanied by classic or light opera music furnished by military bands. The prices are from 3 to 9 cents.