## 13 Star United States Flag

**Date:** 1870 – 1880

#### Medium: Wool bunting

**Comment:** In 1790 Alexander Hamilton formed the Revenue Cutter Service for the express purpose of enforcing the customs laws. The ensign was designed in 1799 by Secretary of the Treasury Oliver Wolcott who used 16 alternating red and white vertical stripes on the flag, with a bald eagle in the canton holding 3 arrows in his sinister (left) claw and an olive branch in his dexter (right) claw. The thirteen stars from an arc above the eagle. The use of vertical stripes and reversing the colors in the canton was both intentional and functional because it allowed for the quick identification of U.S. Customs vessels by foreign captains when entering a U.S. port.

When the Revenue Service flag was adopted, sixteen states comprised the Union (Tennessee having been admitted in January of 1796.) Although Ohio became the seventeenth state in 1803, no change was made in the Revenue Service flags. Nevertheless, the utilization of sixteen stripes reflects the pervading concept that the number of stripes be increased with every addition of a new state.

The flag was used jointly by the Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Customs Service, until the services were separated in 1915. It was the longest unchanged flag in U.S. history, 116 years. To this day both the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Coast Guard continue to use vertically striped flags, the only such use of vertical stripes in U.S. history.

**Provenance:** Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0671) from the Mastai Collection in October 2002.

# 13-Star United States Flag

Date: Circa 1870s

Media: Wool bunting, cotton sheeting stars

**Comment:** This thirteen star flag bears a unique canton. It is the only known example of a United States flag with ten stars in a circle and three in the center. The flag is machine stitched and is believed to date from the Centennial in 1876.

Although the thirteen star flag was official only from 1777 to 1795, it has been in continuous use in honor of the thirteen original colonies that created the Union. The symbolism of this particular canton has never been explained. It has been variously described as a symbolic reference to the unfinished pyramid on the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States, or perhaps a religious reference to the Holy Trinity.

One jocular wag offered that it might have been the first "Peace Symbol" because of the star pattern's resemblance to the nuclear disarmament symbol crafted by Bertrand Russell in the 1950s.

**Provenance:** Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0605) from the Mastai Collection in October 2002

## **Continental Colors, Reproduction**

Date: Circa 1976

Medium: 200 denier Oxford weave nylon bunting

**Comment:** The Continental Colors was the first national flag of the United States. Its canton – the upper hoist quarter of the flag – bears a union of the crosses of St. George, symbolizing England, and St. Andrew, symbolizing Scotland. The presence of the British Union Jack in the canton reflects the conflicted feelings many Americans felt as they strove for independence while still harboring some loyalty to King and Country. The field of alternating red and white horizontal stripes, a design possibly borrowed from the flag of the Sons of Liberty, expressed the unity of the 13 colonies seeking redress of their grievances against Parliament.

The Continental Colors is first known to have been raised on Prospect Hill during the siege of Boston on January 2, 1776. Meant to signal colonial defiance of British authority, the flag was initially mistaken by the British as a sign of submission. The Continental Colors served the United States as a naval ensign and as a garrison flag throughout 1776 and at least until September 1777, three months after the Stars and Stripes was adopted. It received the first salute to the American flag when the ship Andrea Doria was honored by Dutch authorities in the Caribbean in November 1776.

This flag is also referred to as the "Grand Union" flag.

**Provenance:** This flag was acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0112) from the Star Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore, MD in 2000.

#### New York Herald Newspaper, Issue: Vol. XXX No. 104

Date: April 15, 1865

Medium: Newsprint

**Comment:** The death of President Abraham Lincoln at the hands of Southern conspirators, led by the famous thespian John Wilkes Booth, plunged the nation into mourning. This manifested itself in many ways; among the most common of them were banner headlines and numerous "extra" editions of daily newspapers in cities across America and around the world.

The New York Herald, published from 1835 to 1924, was one of New York City's premier dailies, and the arch rival of Harpers Magazine. This copy of the paper is indicative of the nation's deep sense of loss and the people's need to know the details of the assassination.

Interestingly, this issue also contains stories and reports on the health of Secretary Seward, General Grant, and waning days of the Civil War.

**Provenance:** This newspaper was acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0324) from an antique dealer in the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1972.

## 39-Star U.S. Flag (The Flag That Never Was)

**Date:** 1875 – 1890

Medium: Printed silk flag

**Comment:** There never was an "official" 39-star U.S. flag. However, flag manufacturers betting on early sales misjudged by believing the two Dakotas would be admitted as one state and the others would be delayed until after the 4th of July, 1876.

Dakotas, Montana and Washington were admitted as states in November, 1889 and Idaho was admitted on July 3, 1890. Thus, any 39-star flags in existence were made in anticipation of any of several Western territories being admitted into the Union between 1875 and 1890.

The order to admission of North and South Dakota is unknown because President Benjamin Harrison intentionally shuffled the acts admitting the Dakotas in order to deprive one or the other of the bragging rights as to which state had been admitted first.

39-star flags are an especially popular anomaly among serious flag collectors because they represent a United States that existed only for a few seconds!

**Provenance:** Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0666) from the Mastai Collection, 2002.

# 33-Star, 10-Stripe U.S. Flag

**Date:** 1859 – 1861

#### Medium: Sewn cotton bunting

**Comment:** Oregon was admitted as the 33rd state on February 14, 1859. The flag, which was supposed to have 13 stripes, became official later that year on July 4. The two Presidents to serve under this flag were James Buchanan (1857-1861) and Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865).

This striking flag has an association with the largest peace time human migration in history, the settlement of the American West. It was made by a family named Dodge, either before or during their westward trek on the Oregon Trail.

So important was a flag to hoist on the 4th of July, one of the few days the wagon trains would actually stop and rest, that they used whatever fabric that was at hand. This explains the use of teal blue canton and the crimson for the ten stripes. The use of less than the official thirteen stripes has never been explained, but it is likely due to a scarcity of crimson and white cloth

The flag's extraordinary beauty is enhanced by the use of small and large stars in the canton, a common feature in 19th century flags, but unknown since 1900.

The large size indicates that this was probably a camp flag used by the entire wagon train, and it is not hard to imagine it flying from the upraised tongue of a pioneer wagon while they celebrated the 4th of July on the prairie.

**Provenance:** Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0629) in 2002 from the Mastai Collection through auction at Sotheby's of New York City.

## 37 Star U.S. Flag (Abraham Lincoln's funeral)

**Date:** 1863 – 1865

#### Medium: Printed silk flag

**Comment:** In April of 1865 President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by Southern malcontents in revenge for the Northern triumph over the South. The shocked and stunned country embraced their martyred President as never before.

The funeral of Abraham Lincoln was a process rather than an event, and crowds flocked to railroad stations along the route from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, Illinois. Mementos of the funeral became quite popular with mourners. One practice was to have a personal flag placed briefly on the coffin. This 37-star U.S. flag is believed to be such a memorial piece related to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

The hand written label under flag reads: "Washington DC November 2 1922. This is to certify that this silk flag 16X25.5 with 2 = 1iX16i = Red, White + Blue streamers. Now in possession of Daten Heitneuller was draped on the coffin of the President Abraham Lincoln in Philadelphia, Pa. in Independence Hall, April 21, 1865 and was presented to my mother, Mrs. Caughter by Joe Stevy, the Guard."

Although the 37 star flag would not become official until 1867, it was common practice in 19th century America to add stars to the flag prior to the official date of entry, July 4th. Congressional action would be before that date and even anticipated before Congress officially acted. At the time of Lincoln's death in 1865 there were 35, 36 and 37 star flags in circulation.

**Provenance:** Acquired the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0276) from Greg Martin Auctions of San Francisco, California in 1996.

## 13-Star United States Bible Flag

**Date:** 1861 – 1865

Medium: Hand sewn silk

**Comment:** This flag presumably belonged to the unknown Union sergeant depicted on the accompanying full plate tintype, or perhaps it belonged to his or his family.

These small flags are often referred to as "bible flags". They were common to both North and South during the American Civil War. Often made for a soldier by a mother, wife, sweetheart or sister, smaller flags were often carried by soldiers in pocket bibles as a reminder of loved ones at home. Slightly larger flags were used as bookmarks for passages of scripture in family bibles as a way to remember those serving at the front.

Religion was important on both sides, especially after 1863, when the Union and the Confederacy each began to equate their cause with a crusade. In the North the fight to free the slaves was added to the campaign to save the Union, while in the South it became a fight to defend hearths and altars.

It is regrettable that we do not know the soldier or family with which this flag was associated, but it is representative of the religious fervor with which many Union soldiers "trampled the Grapes of Wrath".

**Provenance:** Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0253) at a Wesley Cowan auction in 1998.

# 13-Star United States Flag

Date: Circa early 1900s

Media: Sewn wool bunting with cotton stars

**Comment:** After the Declaration of Independence was signed on 4 July 1776, American colonists realized they needed one flag to replace the assortment of flags used previously. Thus, on 14 June 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the flag of the 13 United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: That the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Because the resolution was not specific there were a number of variations of the 13 star flag. Legend has it that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag from a design by George Washington, but this has not been substantiated. A strong case can be made that the designer of the first flag was Francis Hopkinson, a delegate from New Jersey to the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He submitted a bill to Congress for "currency designs, design for the great seal of the U.S., a treasury seal, a design for the flag ..."

Among the first documented U.S. flags was the staggered star pattern of 3-2-3-2-3 that you see on this flag. Star patterns like this would remain in use, both among the general public and the U.S. Navy until 1912.

**Provenance:** This flag belonged to Mary Nettie Holland (nee Hall), granddaughter of Nathaniel Hall, a veteran of the War of 1812. It was gifted to the Star Spangled Banner Flag House in 1961 and was acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0074) in 2000.

# 34-Star United States Flag

Date: Official 1861 – 1863

Medium: Printed silk flag

**Comment:** The 34-star flag became official on July 4th, 1861 when a star was added for the admission of Kansas (January 29th, 1861). The only President to serve under this flag was Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865).

The stars are arranged in the pattern of a "Grand Luminary" or Great Star pattern. These were popular versions of national flag used from 1820 until the 1880s. These flags were a reflection of the national motto "e pluribus unum," Latin meaning "from many, one." This variant is quite rare in that it is unusual to see a small parade stick flag with large stars in each corner of the canton.

Small flags like this became popular in the North for parades, recruitment, patriotic displays and electioneering. We do not know the name of the family, but the flag came from an estate in Frederick, Maryland.

Frederick is same town in which the famous confrontation took place between Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson and Barbra Fritchie.

**Provenance:** This flag was given to Mr. Ben Zaricor (ZFC0005) by the Henry Berger family of St. Louis, MO in January 2003. Mr. Berger's father acquired the flag from an estate in Frederick, Maryland in the 1940s.

# 11-Star ConfederateStates of America,First National Bible Flag

Date: 1861 – 1863

#### Medium: Hand Sewn Silk

**Comment:** These small flags are often referred to as "bible flags". They were common to both North and South during the American Civil War. Often made for a soldier by a mother, wife, sweetheart or sister, smaller flags were often carried by soldiers in pocket bibles as a reminder of loved ones at home. Slightly larger flags were used as bookmarks for passages of scripture in family bibles as a way to remember those serving at the front.

Religion was important on both sides, especially after 1863, when the Union and the Confederacy each began to equate their cause with a crusade. In the North the fight to free the slaves was added to the campaign to save the Union, while in the South it became a fight to defend hearths and altars.

It is regrettable that we do not know the soldier or family with which this flag was associated, but it is representative of the religious fervor with which many Southern soldiers embraced the "Lost Cause".

The flag, which is in its original frame, was probably captured by the Union soldier whose army induction papers are framed on the reverse of the flag.

**Provenance:** Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0002) in 1996 from the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Collection of Baltimore, MD.