A Short History of Our Flag.
The Star Spangled Banner.

THE English flag was the flag of our country for more than one hundred and fifty years. The Colonies (now states) often used devices of their own inasmuch however, as the symbols of the colonies, regiments and ships were so different. Washington, in 1775 wrote, "Please fix on some flag, by which our vessels may know each other." The first striped flag was raised at Washington's headquarters, Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 2nd 1776, and saluted with thirteen guns.

In 1777 Congress appointed a committee consisting of Genl. Washington, Robt. Morris and Col. Ross, "to designate a suitable flag for the nation." This committee, on whose recommendation was bestowed a flag of 13 stars and 13 stripes, was designated as the "Star Spangled Banner." The American flag was first adopted as the nation's flag in 1777.

On June 14th, 1777, in old Independence Hall, Phila., Congress adopted the following resolution: "Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation, the stars to be arranged in a circle."

The stars and stripes first used in actual military service were at Fort Stanwix, 1777, on August 9th. The flag was first used in battle at the skirmish at a bridge near Washington, Delaware, Sept. 3rd 1777. The flag was first used in battle at the bridge near Washington, Delaware, Sept. 3rd 1777. On Feb. 14th, 1778, Captain Paul Jones had the satisfaction of seeing the Stars and Stripes "recognised for the first time by the flag of France," by a salute in the "Ranger" and later to the "Independence" of James Iredell.

The flag was not changed until 1795, when two stripes and two stars were added for Vermont and Kentucky. By 1814 four more states, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana and Illinois were in the family. Realizing that there must be a limit to the stars, a committee was appointed and made the recommendation, which was adopted April 4th, 1818, that the flag be permanently thirteen stripes, representing the original thirteen states, and that a new star be added for each state as admitted.

The plan of arranging the stars to form a large star was abandoned at that time and the method of placing them in rows was adopted, since then a star has been added to the flag on the Fourth of July following the admission of a state to the Union. The flag of the United States at the time of the Revolution had thirteen stars: in the War of 1812 fifteen stars: in the Mexican War twenty-nine: in the Civil War thirty-five: and in the Spanish-American War forty-two, the number to-day, with Oklahoma getting ready for her reception as star number forty-six.

The Star Spangled Banner.
The history of the "Star Spangled Banner," is practically as follows:

In 1814, during the War with Great Britain, Admiral Cockburn with his fleet entered the Chesapeake Bay and announced that he proposed to annihilate the "wanton destruction" committed by the American Army in upper Canada. He landed a force of 5000 men commanded by Genl. Ross, entered Washington and burned the Capitol, White House and other public buildings. When the inhabitants of Baltimore heard the news about Washington, they immediately fortified Fort McHenry, and prepared to make a stubborn resistance. On their way back from Washington, the British soldiers arrested Dr. William Beanes, an old and prominent resident of Upper Marlborough, Francis Scott Key who had gained fame as an attorney and statesman, and had a prominent part in the affair of his state. (Maryland) was an intimate friend of Dr. Beanes, and hearing of his arrest, obtained permission from President Madison to attempt his release. He hastened to Baltimore, and in company with John Skinner on a small vessel, under a flag of truce, visited Admiral Cockburn, whose fleet was then in the Chesapeake. Admiral Cockburn having learned that Dr. Beanes at one time had been a prisoner and only to be freed to several wounded British officers, announced he would release Dr. Beanes, but that he would have to obtain Key and Skinner a little while as a certain important event was pending, which soon transpired to be, the contemplated destruction of Fort McHenry, which guarded the city. On Tuesday morning Sept. 13th 1814, the fleet moved up the Chesapeake, and anchored itself in a semi-circular form, and made ready to demolish the little Fort. When all things were ready, Key, Skinner and Dr. Beanes were put aboard their own vessel, but were kept under a guard of sailors and marines. Then the bombardment began. All day long shot and shell rained on the fort, and its brave defenders. The British were surprised at the resistance, and at sunset they determined to keep it right up through the night. At midnight the fleet moved nearer and redoubled its fire, the little fort answered back gun for gun. So the long dreadful night passed away, and in the morning, "by the dawn's early light," the anxious eyes of the three Americans soared towards the fort saw that "the flag was still there." It was there! It was there! Thank God, it was still there! Francis Scott Key, on the back of an envelope, then and there, in a burst of patriotic fervor, wrote the song, "The Star Spangled Banner" which tells its own story, and which has become as deathless as the flag itself. While the flag is known, as the Star Spangled Banner, it may well be known also, as THE TRUMAN TANNER, as the song which has never known defeat.

Very Respectfully,
E. T. PAULL.

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March Two Step.

"And the star-spangled banner
In triumph shall wave,
Our land of the free
And the home of the brave."

Con Spirito.

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