

# Home of Revolutionary Patriot



The historic Page home in Danvers, Mass., from which Page, the first Revolutionary colonel of an Essex regiment, and a captain of the American army, started forth with the Minute Men of Danvers for the Battle of Lexington. It was in this house, also, that Page organized the Minute Men of the town.

The house is also known as the "Tea Party House." Forbidden by her husband to serve the tabooed English tea in the house, Mrs. Page served it to a party of friends on the roof, thus keeping the letter if not the spirit of her husband's orders.

## Glorious Stars and Stripes



The flag is the emblem of our unity, our power, our purpose as a nation. It speaks to us of the past. It has witnessed a great history. Since its official adoption on June 14, 1777, it has been associated with whatever patriotic idea we worship and is the symbol of the great faith to which we are born.

"As long as men are men that flag chosen on June 14, 1777, is well chosen. It has a meaning, a message, a command," says Rev. William Norman Guthrie, who has written a book, "The Religion of Old Glory," to explain the meaning and message of America's flag to the nations of the world.

The flag of the United States came into being more deliberately and consciously than other flags, such as that of England, or France, or Spain. It was chosen after many popular experiments had been made, officially and unofficially, on sea and land.

**Inception of the Flag.**  
The story of the actual making of the first American flag as we know it is not touched on by Mr. Guthrie. Omitting all minor particulars, the main points are these:

Washington, accompanied by two gentlemen, called one day in 1776 at the little upholstery shop in Arch street, Philadelphia, where Mrs. Betsy Ross was carrying on business, and asked her if she could make a flag. She said that she had never made one, but that she could try. They thereupon produced a design rather roughly drawn. She examined the design and, noticing that the stars were six-pointed, suggested that they be made with five points, showing them how a five-pointed star could be made with a single clip of the scissors.

**Design Approved by Congress.**  
General Washington then and there changed the sketch, and soon after a colored design by a painter named William Barrett was sent to Mrs. Ross as

a sample, whereupon she set to work and completed a flag which was approved. This was the flag that was finally adopted by congress, and on June 14, 1777, congress entered on its journal an official indorsement of the Stars and Stripes in a resolution worded as follows:

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

The resolution says nothing about the arrangement of the stars in the field.

The ensign of the United States remained the same as fixed by the resolution of June 14, 1777, until 1795, when Vermont and Kentucky had been admitted to the Union, and on January 13, 1794, congress passed the following act:

"That from and after the first day of May, 1795, the flag of the United States be 15 stripes alternate red and white; that the union be 15 stars white in a blue field."

In 1818, at the suggestion of Samuel C. Reid, the original 13 stripes were restored and congress voted to add a new star on the Fourth of July succeeding the admission of each new state.

**Significance of Symbols.**

"When a white flag staff or pole is set up on a village green," says Mr. Guthrie, "it will doubtless show at the top on a golden ball the American eagle, also golden, flapping his wide wings, as if just alighting or about to exult in heavenward flight. This eagle is the very prime symbol of our defensive and aspiring Union. It is the bird or angel of our peace, our winged Victory, our Phoenix, the point of contact and the vehicle of grace in our intercourse with heaven. Embroidered on a blue field, star strewn, it is the emblem of the executive head of the nation."

In his right talon our eagle clutches the olive branch, with 13 green leaves and 13 berries, the leaves that are the show of life and the berries that are the fruit—that symbol itself carrying us back to the olive twig borne by the dove of Noah. This olive branch proclaims our constant purpose—a positive creative peace.

Now, in the left talon of our heraldic eagle are clutched the 13 arrows which signify the threatening thunderbolts. As Mr. Guthrie explains it,

the 13 lightning bolts are ready to be shot out of the heaven and to establish with whatever violence may be needed against the tiger and ape, stampeding herds or howling wolf packs, the peace of perfect athletic humanity.

"Flag and eagle they are ours; they are historically one," says Mr. Guthrie.

"Our flag flies to the winds, as we lift our eyes to it reverently we can and do swear fealty to it with whatever abides vitally innocent in us, white hot for the strife unto a better world."



Lord God of land and sea,  
An ancient faith renew,  
That still our stand may be  
The trust our fathers knew;  
We of the Legion pray, Lord God,  
To follow in the way they trod.  
What Freedom gave they shared—  
The shores that made them free—  
With true men brave who dared  
The seas for Liberty;  
We of the Legion, Lord, would share  
Our heritage with them who dare.  
In duty done, they wrought  
That peace might still abide;  
In fear of none, they fought  
With right upon their side;  
We of the Legion plead for light,  
So we be upright in Thy sight.  
Not theirs with gyve and chain  
To bind the vanquished foe;  
Not theirs to strive for gain  
From out a people's woe:  
We of the Legion under Thee  
Would champion Democracy.  
One Flag alone they flew,  
Nor vain to them its call,  
That we might own it true,  
The bravest flag of all;  
We of the Legion swear to hold  
The Flag unsullied, fold and fold.  
—Thomas G. Devine, in Kansas City Star.

## Lafayette's Last Visit to America



Lafayette's last visit to this country was in 1824-25. When the time which he had allotted for his tour had expired, after he had visited every one of the 24 states of the Union, Lafayette repaired to Washington to pay his parting respects to the chief magistrate of the nation, John Quincy Adams. This took place at the Presidential mansion September 6, 1825, 98 years ago, and on the sixty-eighth anniversary of Lafayette's birth.

The farewell address of President Adams in behalf of the whole American people was a most affecting tribute to the lofty character and patriotic services of Lafayette during his long and eventful career, and closed with the following words:

"You are ours by that unshaken sentiment of gratitude for your services which is a precious portion of our



Lafayette in 1824.

inheritance; ours by that tie of love and stronger than death which has linked your name for the endless ages of time with the name of Washington.

"At the painful moment of parting with you we take comfort in the thought that, wherever you may be, to the last pulsation of your heart, our country will ever be present to your affections; and a cheerful consolation assured us that we are not called to sorrow; most of all, that we shall see your face no more, for we shall indulge the pleasing anticipation of beholding our friend again."

"In the name of the whole people of the United States I bid you a reluctant and affectionate farewell."

To this parting address from President Adams, Lafayette replied in a strain of patriotic and impassioned eloquence.

On the same day Lafayette embarked for France on board the Brandywine, a new frigate named in compliment to him, who on the banks of that river was wounded in his first battle for American freedom.

These were the main incidents of New York's reception to Lafayette:

Aquatic procession from Staten island to the Battery. General Lafayette on board the Chancellor Livingston.

Marching salute of troops before City hall.

Formally received by the mayor and common council.

Escorted to the portrait room in City hall, which had been fitted up as his



Lafayette's Second Visit to America. From an Old Engraving.

reception quarters during his stay in New York.

Reception by his old comrades-in-arms of the Revolution.

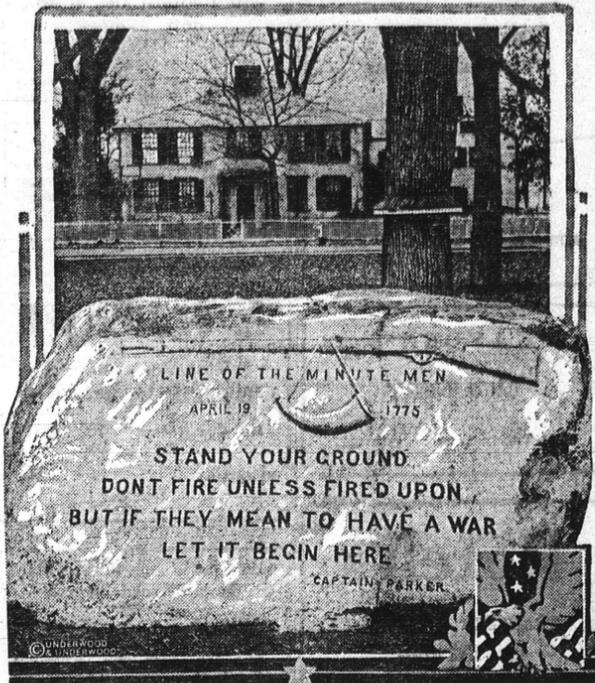
Special theatrical performance at the Park theater as a compliment to the general.

Ball at the Park theater.

**American Spirit.**

The spirit of 1776 is the spirit of men who are willing to look forward. It is the spirit of men who realize that human institutions must change with changing times. It is the spirit of those men today who dare to devise new methods to remedy the failures of the present social and economic order. They are the proof that the spirit of America still lives. They are the true descendants of the experimenters of 1776.—Wisconsin Agriculturist.

## Line of Minute Men



## Honor Patriots of Concord

British and American veterans, in accordance with their annual custom, on Sunday last, joined in paying tribute to those of both sides who fell at Concord, Massachusetts, in 1775, the Christian Science Monitor relates.

After exercises in honor of the British soldiers on the east side of the bridge, similar tribute was paid at the American Minute Men's monument across the river where Lieut.-Col. George W. Bentley, commander of the British Naval and Military Veterans association of Boston, pronounced this invocation: "With this tribute to the immortal heroes of the United States of America, we British veterans join in fervent prayer to Almighty God that the sacred ties that now bind our nations in friendship may never again be broken, but ever grow stronger in unity of purpose for the preservation



of true liberty, humanity, law and order!"

A detachment of Lexington Minute Men, a company of state guard, the Old Concord post of the G. A. R., and Spanish War Veterans and the British veterans unite in all these exercises, which include also a decorating of the monuments of the other organizations. At the conclusion, all joined in the singing of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" and "God Save the King." A number of the Twenty-sixth division veterans present in service uniforms were sons or relatives of the British veterans.

**Flag of Lexington and Concord.**

The farmers of Lexington carried the cornet or standard of the three county troop. This banner was devised for a local company of cavalry raised in the counties of Essex, Suffolk and Middlesex, Mass., in 1659. The office of color bearer of this troop was a sort of inheritance in the Page family. The standard was carried in King Phillip's war in 1676. When the Minute Men were organized Nathaniel Page 3d of Bedford took the old flag for use at drill. At the midnight alarm Captain Page snatched up the standard and carried it with him to Concord, where it "waved above the smoke of that battle."

**Flag Carefully Preserved.**

The flag is now preserved under glass in a fireproof safe at the public library at Bedford, Mass., and can be

seen by arrangement with the librarian, according to Peleg D. Harrison, in whose volume, "The Stars and Stripes and Other American Flags," the history of the banner is related.

The ground is maroon or crimson colored satin damask emblazoned with an outstretched arm, in the hand of which is an uplifted sword. This representation is the color of silver, as are three circular figures that are probably intended to represent cannon balls. Upon a gold colored scroll are the words, "Vince aut Moriture" ("Conquer or Die").

## AMERICA'S DEBT TO FRANCE

Other Considerations Aside, That Country's Outlay of Actual Cash Was Enormous.

It cost France at least \$50,000,000 for the military forces she sent to America to help the struggling republic win its independence from Great Britain.

For this great outlay, a tremendous sum of money in those days, the French king, Louis XVI, received no substantial repayment and France has never asked the United States to repay it.

It is estimated that the cash outlay of France in behalf of the United States in the Revolutionary war was greater than the entire wealth, in coin, possessed by the Colonies during the entire contest.

France sent to America an army of 12,680 officers and men, in 38 transports, the crews of which aggregated 2,700 officers and men. She dispatched to America in 63 warships 32,600 officers and men, making a total of land and sea forces of 45,280 fighting men.

Her warships engaged in co-operating with the American land forces mounted 3,668 guns.

## THE DECLARATION

The men who wrote the solemn Declaration

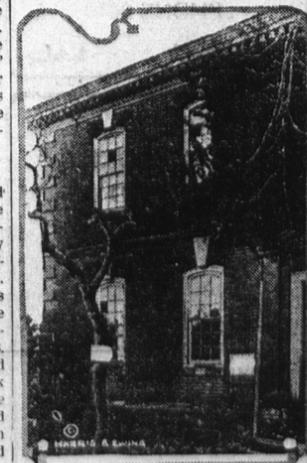
That told the world our nation must be free  
Were men of brains for thoughtful contemplation,  
Such men as patriots ever ought to be.  
It was a document whose simple diction  
Revealed the beauty of its honest thought.

No elegance of fable or of fiction  
Was ever with such wondrous meaning fraught.

If in that day when hot July was glowing  
The telegraph had waited for the news,  
With journalists assembled to be knowing,  
The action taken, with no time to lose;  
If telephones had rung out to the nation  
Each step of progress that the work disclosed,  
I wonder if that splendid Declaration  
Could possibly have been so well composed.

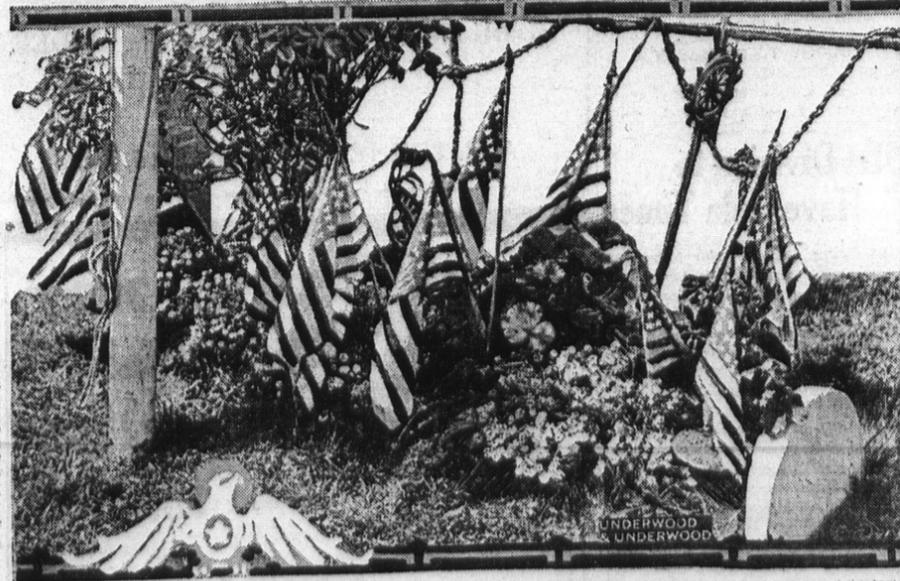
—Washington Star.

## PATRIOTIC SHRINE



It was from this house at historic Yorktown that Washington directed the movements of the forces that crushed Cornwallis.

## Betsy Ross' Grave Needs Care



Few Americans would think that this was the grave of one of the nation's most famous women—a great historic character. It is the resting place of Betsy Ross, who made the first "Star-Spangled Banner," used in the Continental army. No appropriation ever has been made for the care of the grave. The patriotic order, Sons of America, has taken the matter up.