

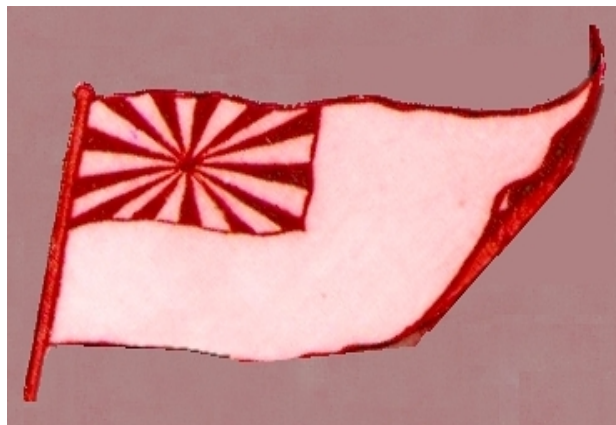


The Mysterious John Hewson – Martha Washington Flag

Christopher Maddish

Abstract

A handkerchief made in the early days of the American Revolution features George Washington on horseback. Of vexillological interest, it contains four flags: a 25-striped rebel flag (13 red and 12 white), a rattlesnake flag, a pine tree flag, and a final mystery flag. The final flag has been repeatedly misidentified as a British Ensign, but evidence to the contrary shows that it is, rather, a completely different flag. Furthermore, this article retells the story and people associated with the genesis of this mysterious handkerchief. This includes the wife of George Washington—Martha Washington—and the printer responsible for it, John Hewson. A recent colonial immigrant from England, Hewson proudly carried republican views, had connections with Benjamin Franklin, fought for American Independence, and was a descendant of another John Hewson who signed the death warrant of King Charles I in 1649.



The mystery flag

The Mysterious John Hewson – Martha Washington Flag



Figure 1 – Photograph of the Handkerchief

INTRODUCTION

The earliest of American-made political textiles is shrouded in mystery (Figure 1). No document clearly links it to an individual designer. But several clues point to a particular place, person, and time. Professional opinion is that it was printed in America.¹ The prime candidate is John Hewson—a recent immigrant from England. Additionally the genesis of this handkerchief is thought to involve the wife of George Washington, Martha Washington.

The purpose of this handkerchief was to honor George Washington. But for vexillology, of profound importance are four flags from the early stage of the American Revolution. Nearly all flags from the revolution are colored with a shade of mystery. The authentication process depends on verbal testimonies, contemporary paintings, less than perfect drawings, and fuzzy memories. But “America’s First Political Textile” to commemorate George Washington offers a unique snapshot into the vexillological atmosphere of that early chaotic and foggy period of American History.²

The four flags that appear on the handkerchief are the Gadsden rattlesnake flag, the thirteen-striped rebel/Son’s of Liberty flag, the pine tree flag, and finally a rather mysterious flag that has been miscategorized as a colonial British Ensign.³ There is another flag in the frame, intermingled with military ordinance, but is it nearly impossible to discern any detail. It may be some kind of striped flag, or the appearance of stripes may be an illusion of shading.

THE FOUR FLAGS



Figure 2 – Close-up of the Gadsden Flag

Perhaps the most popular flag of the four is the Gadsden Flag (Figure 2). On the handkerchief, the rattlesnake is coiled ‘in an American manner’ but its head is facing towards the fly.⁴ The motto below differs by one word—‘UPON’ rather than ‘ON.’ Instead of ‘DON’T TREAD ON ME’ it reads ‘DON’T TREAD UPON ME.’

The position of the rattlesnake’s head and the prepositional difference between ‘ON’ and ‘UPON’ seem like insignificant variants. The difference wouldn’t alarm a person making a Gadsden Flag or detailing it for printing purposes.⁵ Early versions of the “official” American Flag after the flag resolution of 14 June 1777 did not necessarily result in instant total conformity either.⁶ Flags continued

to vary for years, as did the number of points on a star, positions of the stars, placement of the canton, and the red-and-white stripe pattern—which sometimes included blue.⁷

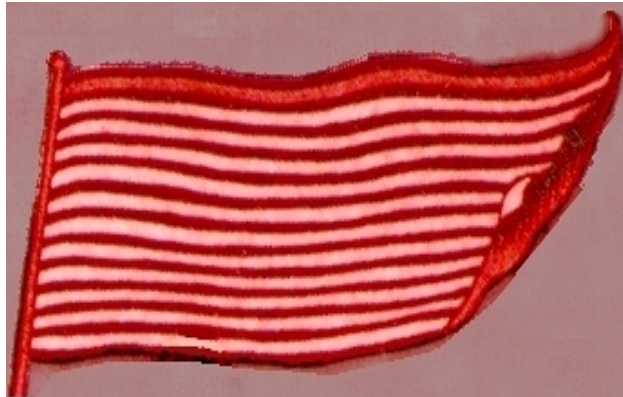


Figure 3 – Close-up of 13-red-striped rebel flag, with 12 white spaces

The next flag is a variant of the rebel stripes, or the US Navy Jack (Figure 3). This flag could be considered either one, since Ansoff logically states that, “The Americans could not follow the British practice of using the ensign’s canton for the jack, because it would have resulted in their using the same jack as their putative enemies. The logical course, therefore, would have been to use the other portion of their ensign design, the red and white stripes...” therefore the first US Navy Jack...“was simply a red-and-white striped flag.”⁸

On close examination of the handkerchief’s ‘thirteen striped flag’, however, it shows a total of twenty-five rebel stripes—thirteen red and twelve white. This is explained by an alternative interpretation of making a flag with ‘thirteen stripes.’ The ambiguity arises because of the expression ‘thirteen stripes.’ This expression is not explicit as to the total number of stripes. Does it mean thirteen red stripes on a field of white, ignoring the twelve white stripes as spaces? Or does this mean a total of thirteen stripes, including the white stripes for a total of only thirteen stripes? If the maker decides to count the white stripes, it can lead to two versions of a flag: with either seven red and six white stripes or *vice versa*.⁹ An example of a thirteen-striped flag with twelve spaces is a privately minted coin, dated to 1785 (Figure 4).¹⁰



Figure 4 – 25-striped coin

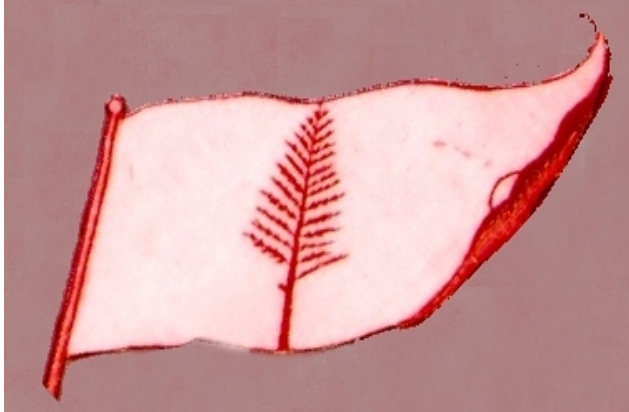


Figure 5 – Close-up of Pine Tree Flag

The third flag on the handkerchief is the aptly labeled Pine Tree Flag (Figure 5). The most popular rendering of this flag has the motto ‘An Appeal to Heaven’ written upon it. But the handkerchief version is missing this motto. However there were “numerous records of the flag being used in the Revolutionary War without a motto.”¹¹

The Pine Tree Flag can trace its roots to the seal of Colonial Massachusetts (Figure 6).¹² Upon the original seal is a Native American standing in between two trees. A pine tree is on the left and an oak on the right. The differing trees represent a balanced dichotomy, like yin and yang. The dichotomy is that of the *Old World British Newcomer* and *Native New World aboriginal*. The oak tree is a symbol of Great Britain while the pine tree represents Native Americans—especially the Iroquois and Pennacook.¹³



Figure 6 – Seal of Massachusetts Bay Colony

The oak tree has long been a symbol of Great Britain, as shown in the famous anti-Cromwell print that shows the destruction of the “ROYALL OAKE OF BRITTAYNE” (Figure 7).¹⁴ Another example of the association of the oak with Great Britain is the flag of Prince Edward Island. This flag has three oak trees next to the Oak of England (Figure 8).¹⁵



Figure 7 – Print: the Royal Oake of Brittainye

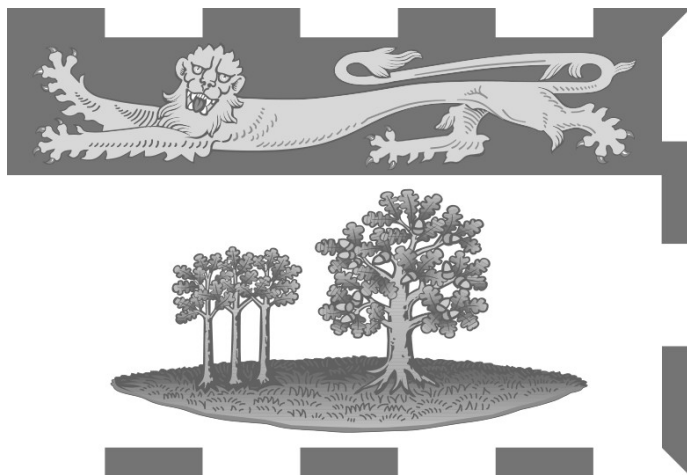


Figure 8 – Flag of Prince Edward Island

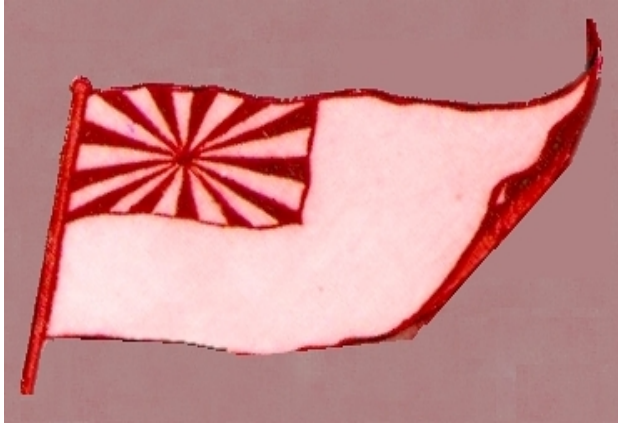


Figure 9 – Close-up of the mystery flag

The final flag depicted on the handkerchief is a startling design. With a quick glance, it may appear to be a British Colonial Ensign. However, it is an entirely new design (Figure 9). One may argue it is a simplified or sluggish drawing of British Flag. But the exquisite detail of the military munitions along the border show that it was well within the capacity of the maker to have made a British Colonial Ensign. If it had been meant to be colonial ensign it would have looked like one.

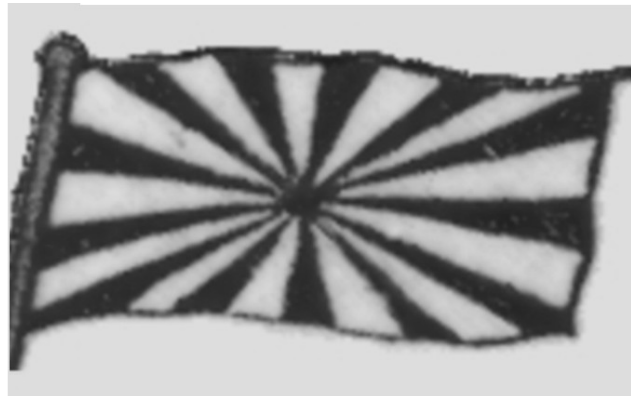
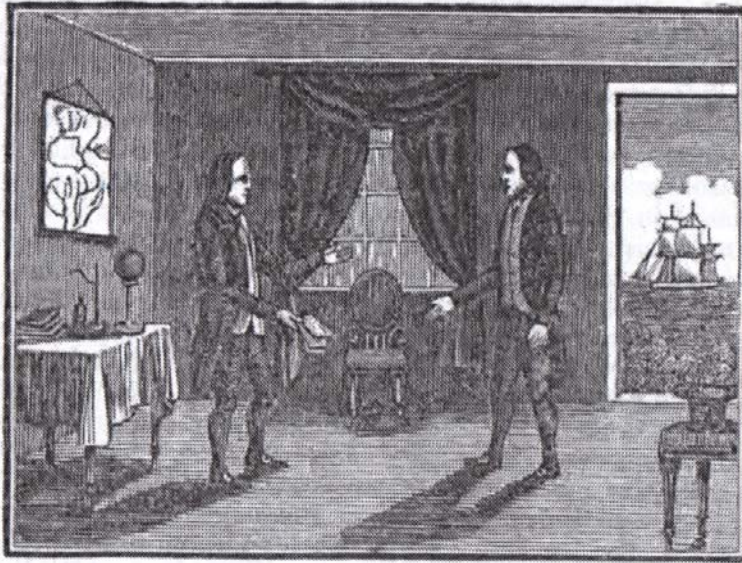


Figure 10 – The Japanese Imperial Naval Flag compared to the canton of the ‘pinwheel flag’

The design of the canton is similar to a Japanese Rising Sun Flag, minus the central disc and with three fewer spokes (Figure 10). In the object report at Winterthur, it is described as “A white field with a pinwheel of dark and white stripes in the canton.”¹⁶ More specifically, this flag has a plain white field, its canton is a pinwheel of light and dark rays emanating from the center, with a total of twenty-six rays—thirteen red and thirteen white. The important feature is the number of red rays—*thirteen*—reflecting the thirteen rebellious colonies.

JOHN HEWSON



Dr. Benjamin Franklin, in the month of July, 1773, who was then in the city of London, presenting to Captain John Hewson letters of address to General Roberdeau and several other gentlemen of the cities of Philadelphia and New York.

Figure 11 – Image of Benjamin Franklin meeting John Hewson, from Sarah Alcock’s book

John Hewson’s destiny with America seems to have been written in the stars. Hewson arrived in America in September 1773, two months before the Boston Tea Party.¹⁷ Being an outspoken supporter of a radical republican government and a London printer put him on natural path to rendezvous with Benjamin Franklin. Franklin first met Hewson in England in 1772 and again in 1773 (Figure 11).¹⁸ During Franklin’s second meeting, Franklin gave Hewson letters to deliver to “General Roberdeau and several other gentlemen of the cities of Philadelphia and New York.”¹⁹

As the revolution unfolded in America, Hewson eagerly volunteered for military service for his newly adopted nation, “In the spring of 1775 he enrolled himself in the first republican grenadier company, of Philadelphia.”²⁰ Sometime in the summer of 1775 “he was presented with a commission as an officer in the country militia of Philadelphia.”²¹

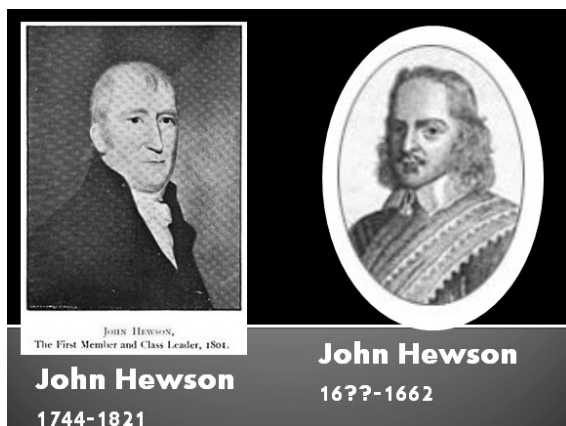


Figure 12 – The younger Captain John Hewson and his ancestor, Colonel John Hewson

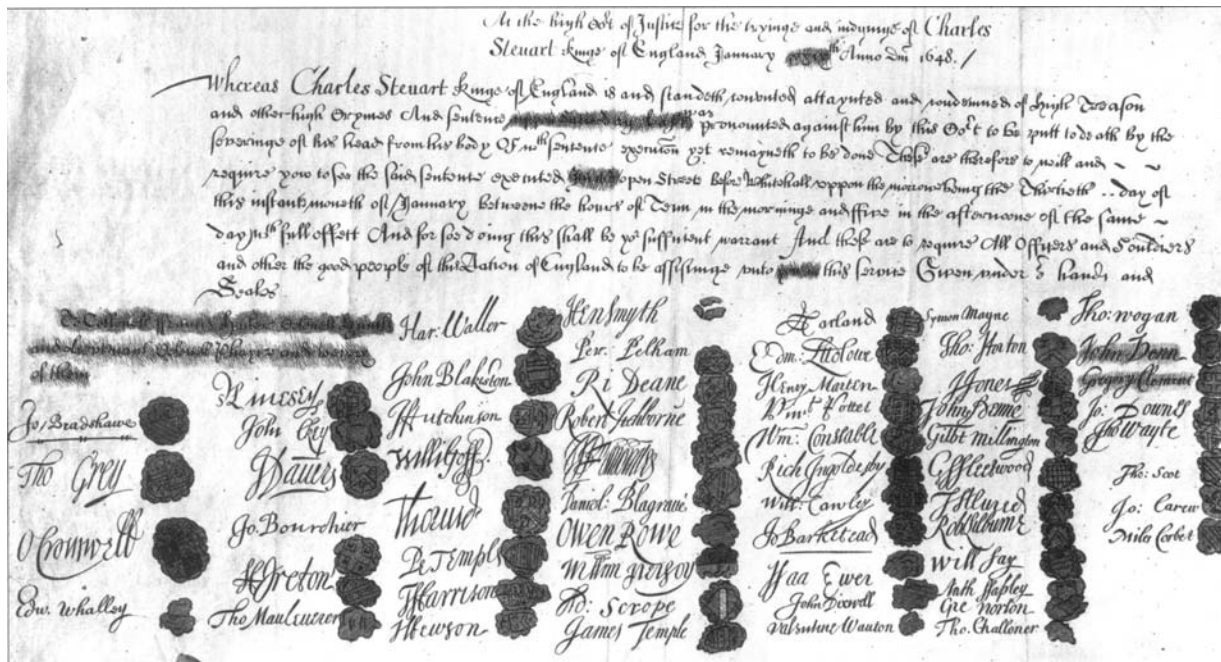


Figure 13 – Death Warrant of King Charles I

The zeal of Hewson’s attraction for colonial rights and issues may have stemmed from his intimate and personal connection to the English Civil War.²² Captain John Hewson was the descendant of Colonel John Hewson (Figure 12).²³ Hewson’s distant ancestor—coincidentally of the same name—was one of 59 men to sign and put their seal on the death warrant of King Charles I in 1649 (Figure 13).²⁴ Due to Hewson’s prestigious family history and seemingly genetic disposition against despots, plus a keen talent in calico printing, no doubt Benjamin Franklin would have been delighted help this man of special character get established in Philadelphia. When using Hewson as his personal courier in 1773, Franklin wrote to Richard Bach:

This will be delivered to you by Messrs. John Hewson and Nathaniel Norgrove, who are recommended to me as sober industrious young Men, and very ingenious in their Business of Calico or Linen Printing: I wish they may meet with Encouragement to carry it on among us, as there is a great deal of Linen worn in our Country, and a great deal of printed goes from hence. I therefore recommend them to your Civilities and Advice, as they will be quite Strangers there. I imagine some of the neighboring Villages will suit best for them to work in, perhaps Germantown, or Derby. I am Your affectionate Father.²⁵

When Philadelphia was occupied by the British in the autumn of 1777, Hewson’s Kensington workshop was destroyed.²⁶ In 1778 Hewson was captured by a band of loyalists and transferred to New York.²⁷ After facing charges that he was attempting escape, the authorities overlooked the reissue of his parole.²⁸ Hewson was then properly motivated to escape imprisonment, while to conserving his “military honor”.²⁹ He and four comrades made a midnight dash by boat from Long Island to Sandy Hook New Jersey (Figure 14).³⁰

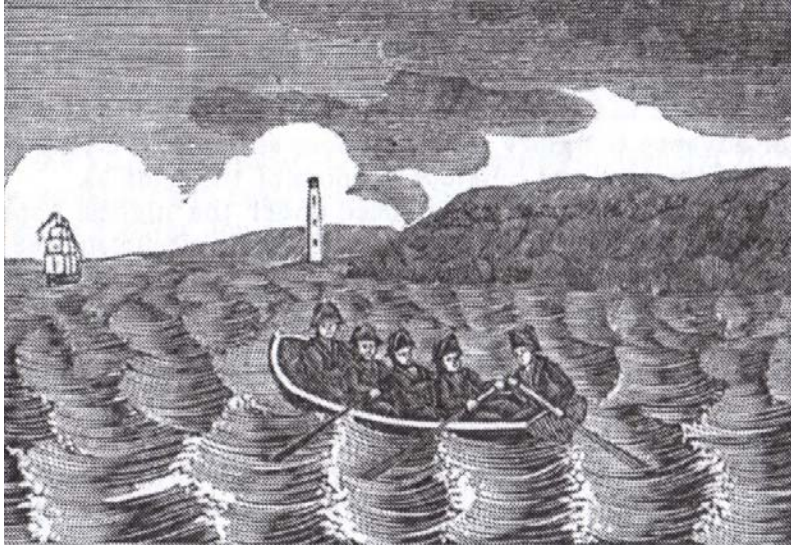


Figure 14 – Illustration of John Hewson’s escape from New York from Long Island to Sandy Hook, New Jersey—the light house still stands today

After the war Hewson became a local hero. On Friday 4 July 1788 the people and business community of Philadelphia celebrated the Declaration of Independence and the establishment of the US government under the Constitution with a grand parade.³¹ Additionally, ten ships were positioned along the Philadelphia waterfront representing the 10 official states in Union.³² Each ship had a “broad white flag at the masthead, inscribed with the names of the States respectively in broad gold letters.”³³ The three missing states were New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island, those which had not yet ratified the Constitution.³⁴

Respected voices in American History compare John Hewson to Paul Revere.³⁵ Both men were artisans and dedicated to the patriot cause. Revere, of French origin, was among the first American patriots to take action against the Royal Establishment, before the battle of Lexington and Concord. Hewson, of English origin, became a revered patriot after the smoke had cleared.

WHEN WAS THE HANDKERCHIEF MADE?

Since the stars and stripes motif does not appear on any of the handkerchief flags, it is logical to assume it was produced before the flag resolution of 14 June 1777. Another clue for its timing is hidden in the text of the circle. It states that Washington is the “Protector of America’s Liberty and Independency.” The word ‘Independency’ implies its production after the Declaration of Independence. Thus, an educated guess for its creation is sometime between 4 July 1776 and 14 June 1777.

Martha Washington made four trips to Philadelphia before the stars and stripes flag resolution and destruction of Hewson’s workshop. Her first trip to Philadelphia was in the fall of 1775.³⁶ It was also her first taste of national fame. She arrived in Philadelphia on 21 November and stayed for seven days.³⁷ On 28 November she continued north to Massachusetts join her husband at winter camp in Cambridge, Massachusetts.³⁸ Upon leaving Philadelphia she was quoted, “I left in as great pomp as if I had been a very great somebody.”³⁹ Martha Washington’s second trip to Philadelphia occurred in June 1776.⁴⁰ George had been summoned by Congress and he brought Martha with him.⁴¹ They arrived in

Philadelphia on 23 May 1776.⁴² While in Philadelphia Martha underwent the dreadful smallpox inoculation, and it took her about three weeks to recover.⁴³ In mid-June she returned to New York but when the British Armada appeared off of Staten Island, General Washington sent her back to Philadelphia, and “she was in Philadelphia when Congress voted for independence on July 2.”⁴⁴ Ironically, Martha heard about the Declaration of Independence before George did.⁴⁵ General Washington received the official notice on 9 July 1776.⁴⁶ Martha’s last journey to Philadelphia before its occupation and the destruction of John Hewson’s workshop was in mid-June, 1777.⁴⁷ She apparently stayed for three or four days with Charles Pettit, the assistant quartermaster of the Continental Army.⁴⁸

Martha Washington witnessed the jubilant celebration and birth of her nation. She was no ordinary citizen; she was the proud mother of a new nation. This is a one of these inexplicable alignments of fate and destiny. The father of United States was “in waiting” and on duty. Martha was on proverbial maternity leave for nearly two months. Martha spent July and August of 1776 in Philadelphia in good cheer.⁴⁹ When the news of Washington’s New York defeat on 28 August 1776 reached Martha in Philadelphia, she returned home to Virginia as soon as possible.⁵⁰ She probably left Philadelphia sometime in early September 1776. Martha might have crossed paths with John Hewson at any time during her four visits to Philadelphia, perhaps to update her order or make an alteration.



Figure 15 – Author’s depiction of Martha Washington meeting John Hewson, made from a speculative Betsy Ross painting and authentic portraits of Washington and Hewson

Martha Washington was linked to John Hewson by his daughter, Sarah Alcock, in her book, *A Brief History of the Revolution: With a Sketch of the Life of Captain John Hewson*. Alcock’s account of Martha’s meeting with her father is plausible, but there are some incongruities. Her testimony, paradoxically, is a source that links the handkerchief to Hewson while also casting doubt on it (Figure 15). Sarah wrote that Martha left the “General’s Likeness in miniature” with Captain Hewson.⁵¹ The miniature “had his excellency General George Washington represented in his full military dress on horseback, with a truncheon in his left hand...The handkerchiefs took a great run until the British army got possession of Philadelphia and destroyed his works.”⁵² However, the miniature described by Sarah does not match the image on the handkerchief. The image was obviously made from the C. Sheppard

Mezzotint that describes itself as “Done from an original Drawn from the Life of Alexr. Campbell, of Williamsburg in Virginia. Published as the Act directs, 9 Septr. 1775, by C. Sheppard.”⁵³ Further, the C. Sheppard false Washington print was likely based upon a previous mezzotint of Oliver Cromwell, on horseback in a similar pose, to honor his overthrow of King Charles I (Figures 16 & 17). Oliver’s horseback image was in a pamphlet called “A Perfect Table of One Hundred Forty and Five Victories obtained by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.”⁵⁴ It was made in 1650 and printed by Robert Ibbitson and sold by William Ley, but the original artist is unknown.⁵⁵



Figure 16 – Oliver Cromwell on horseback, circa 1650

Figure 17 – C. Sheppard image of General Washington on horseback, circa 1775

What interest would Martha have in visiting a calico printer in the first place? First of all, the Washingtons had their own fabric-making business.⁵⁶ In 1770 they produced a great number of textiles with a variety of fabrics.⁵⁵ 1768 was a fabulous year during which “her team” produced 144 yards of homespun linsey-woolsey and 40 yards of cotton cloth.⁵⁸ “At times there were as many as sixteen spinning wheels operating simultaneously in the spinning house.”⁵⁹ John Hewson was a calico printer, which was an advanced type of cloth printing hitherto unknown to the colonies.⁶⁰

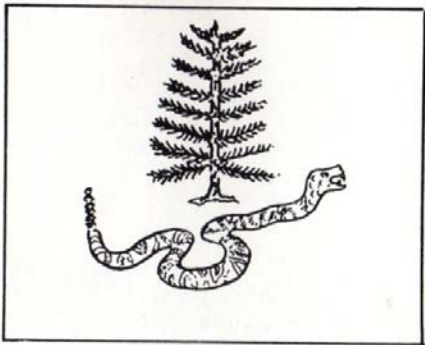
John Hewson and the Washingtons had more than a common political point of view, they were cohorts in the business of making fabric. In addition, Washington was an advocate of domestic manufacturing.⁶¹ Certainly Hewson’s refined printing technologies would have drawn the interest of the commander in chief’s wife.

John Hewson was a firebrand English-American patriot, no doubt with a thick London accent. He was born in England in 1744, so he was about 30 years old when he arrived in the colonies.⁶² Hewson’s passionate outlook on life and the universe pulled him into the company of Benjamin Franklin. Once in America, Hewson zealously took to arms for an experimental and unproven notion of a republic,

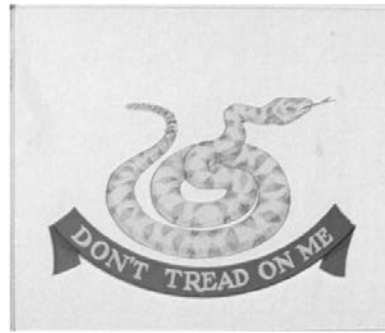
as did his forefather nearly 180 years before. It makes sense that Hewson would have had a burning heartfelt desire to express his profound allegiance to the “Founder, and Protector of America’s Liberty, and Independency” in a medium he knew well.

When Mrs. Alcock’s father supposedly met Martha, Sarah was six or seven years old.⁶³ She would have been in first or second grade by today’s reckoning—young enough to have solid memories, but not old enough to value the adult reality of such a situation. Her father died in 1821, so there is no doubt her father’s war stories were passed on by word of mouth.⁶⁴ She wrote her book nearly 70 years after Martha left the “General’s likeness” in her father’s care. There is good reason to believe that some of her memories may have been misplaced or she didn’t get the whole story. Nonetheless, she would have had clear memories of the Revolution. The inaccuracy of her account can be attributed to the natural error of memory that accumulates with time.

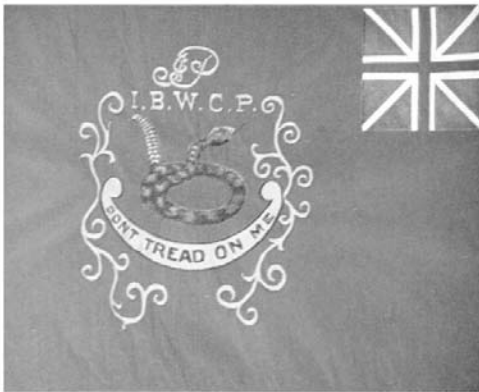
Three familiar flags are found on the handkerchief in question—the Gadsden, Pine Tree, and thirteen-red-striped flag. They were established as revolutionary flags early in American flag lore and are well known to any flag enthusiast and student of American history. The Gadsden Flag was officially the standard of the Commander in Chief of the Continental Navy. However the popularity of the rattlesnake image led to its adoption by various state militias (Figure 18).⁶⁵ The Pine Tree Flag was originally a symbol of New England and before that, a symbol for Native Americans. When revolutionary fever swept the colonies, all regions—north, middle, and south—took on the symbol of the pine tree as their own (Figure 19).⁶⁶ The thirteen-red-striped flag is likely simply a variant of the “thirteen rebel stripes” which came in a variety of patterns and colors.⁶⁷



**North Carolina
Bladen & Brunswick Counties**



**Pennsylvania
PA 2nd Continental Regiment**



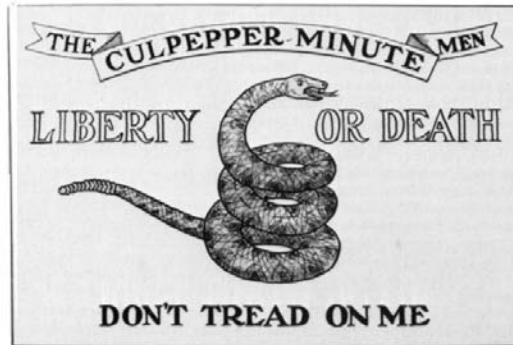
**Pennsylvania
Independence Battalion
Westmoreland County**



**Rhode Island
Artillery Unit**



**Rhode Island
General Sullivan's Guard**

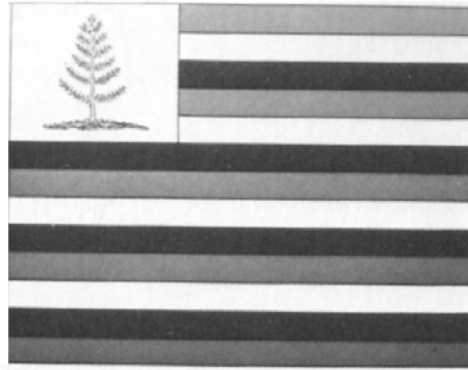


**Virginia
1st VA Regiment of 1775**

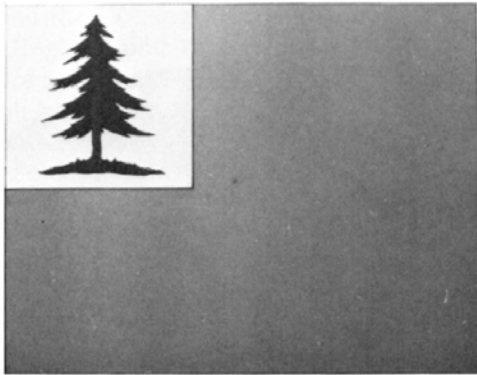
Figure 18 – Revolutionary-era flags that used the rattlesnake as a symbol of rebellion



13th Continental Regiment



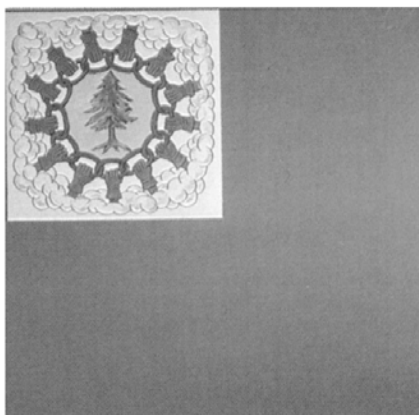
**John Paul Jones
Coat of Arms Flag**



Bunker Hill Flag



**Massachusetts
Bucks of America**



**Massachusetts
Newburyport Company**



Pine Tree Variant

Figure 19 – Revolutionary-era flags that used the pine tree as a symbol of rebellion

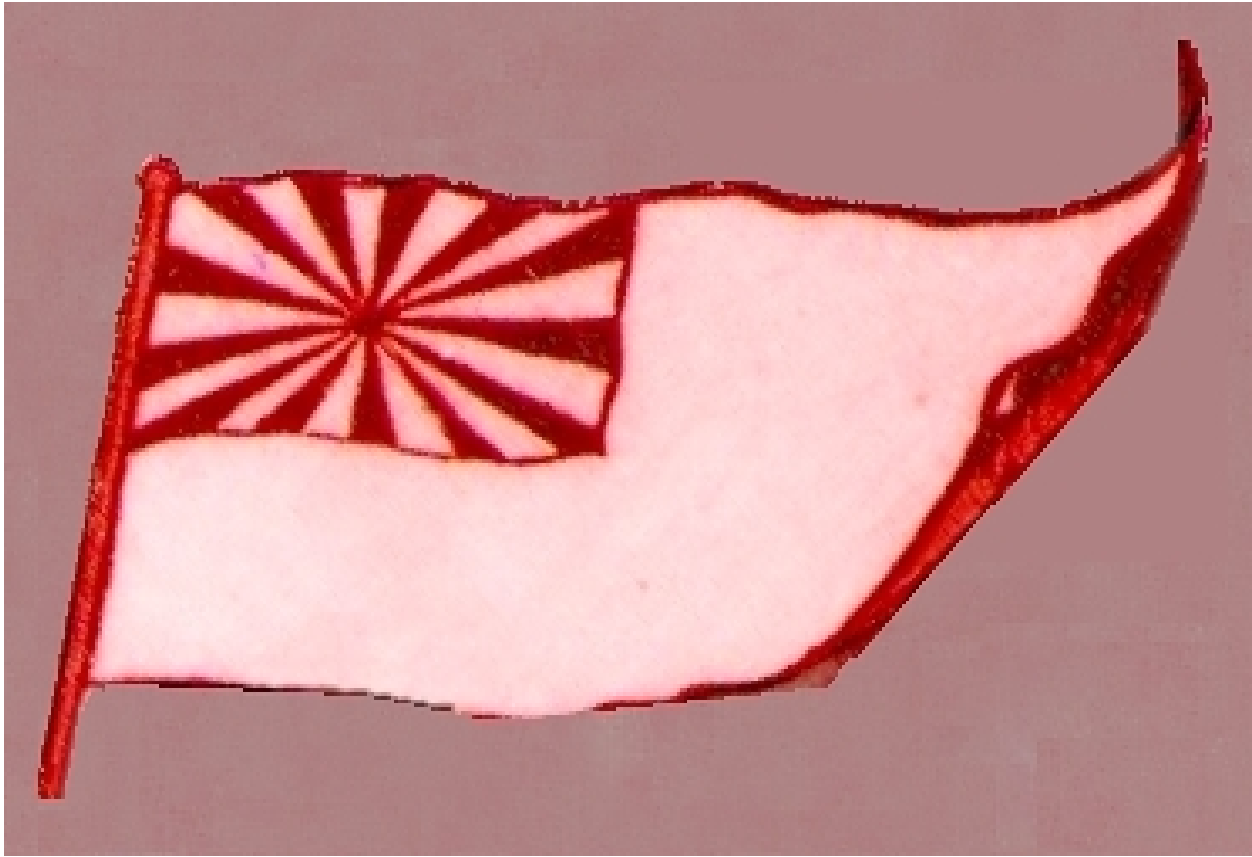


Figure 9' – Close-up of the mystery flag

The last flag is in a league of its own. The design (Figure 9') appears to have been made intentionally to imitate a British Union Flag. The designer of the canton merged the colonial motif of thirteen with the traditional architecture of a British Flag. Another flag that tries to conserve the king's colors with a rebel twist is that of the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment of 1777 (Figure 20).⁶⁸ The canton of that flag is essentially a modified Union Flag. It is missing the red cross of England. Instead, four blue and four red right-angled triangles are positioned in a format that is thematic of a British Flag.⁶⁹

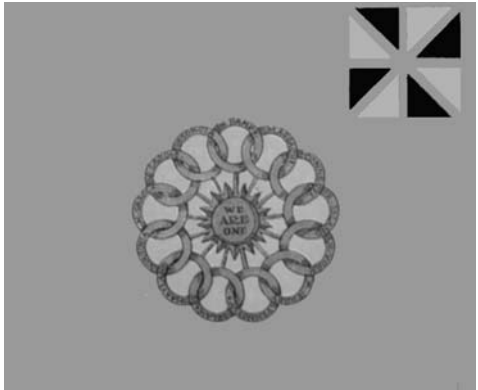


Figure 20 – 2nd New Hampshire Regiment of 1777

CONCLUSION

A flag from the American Revolution has been rediscovered, almost by accident. Part of the reason that this flag has been overlooked is due to the medium recording it, a handkerchief. Knowledge about flags from the Revolutionary Era is based on verbal testimonies, drawings, paintings, powder horn carvings, and the exceptionally rare original flag. This handkerchief is one of those few treasures to survive the tempest of time well into the 21st century.

The thirteen-spoked pinwheel flag was likely intended to be nothing less than a national ensign. The context makes it so, because George Washington is at the center of the handkerchief. When Washington became commander in chief, the patriots needed a leader and icon to replace the sacred and holy center once held by the Crown. Washington became that needed figurehead. He was a real-life action-hero patriot who transcended the various regional and diverse colonial identities. Thus, like Washington, the four flags on the handkerchief are symbols of inter-colony unity. They are *de facto* national ensigns of America from before the advent of the stars and stripes pattern. Three are well known. And for the last flag, its time has come.

This flag should have a proper label—*Revolutionary Pinwheel Flag* will not do. Although General Washington is the centerpiece of the handkerchief, it is redundant and verbose to name it the *General Washington Handkerchief Pinwheel Flag*. Besides, he already has his own personal standard—a blue flag with thirteen long six-pointed stars. But behind every father is a mother. Thus *The Martha Washington Flag* is more than appropriate. Since Martha Washington is the paramount figure associated with genesis of this flag, this connection should have gravity in giving it a name.

END NOTES

1. Eaton, Linda. *Quilts in a Material World*. The Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum, Inc. 2007, p. 93. Eaton writes that since the handkerchief used a block-print technique and is unsophisticated, it was likely made in the British Colonies—specifically Philadelphia.
2. Monsky, John R. “From the Collection—Finding America in Its First Political Textile”, *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 37, No. 4 (Winter 2002), p. 231.
3. Keim, Kevin & Peter Keim. *A Grand Old Flag, a History of the United States through its Flags*. DK Publishing, New York, New York, 2007, p. 37. Keim writes “A printed cotton handkerchief was made for Martha Washington in 1775 and incorporates flags with rattlesnakes, stripes, and Union Jacks.” However there are actually no union flags or union jacks.
4. Ansoff, Peter. “The First Navy Jack”, *Raven*, Vol. 11, 2004, p. 10. Ansoff states that “18th-century British and European illustrators often used the stretched-out ‘crawling rattlesnake’ as a symbol of the American revolutionary cause, whereas there is no other known evidence that it (a stretched out snake) was ever used on American flags.” Since the rattlesnake on the Washington Handkerchief is coiled, it points to a colonial printer.
5. Kidd, Laura. “Wave It or Wear It? The Flag as a Fashion Icon”, *Raven*, Vol. 14, 2007, p. 41. Kidd correctly describes this flag as the Gadsden Flag; she apparently ignores the difference between ON and UPON as simple minutia, as did the maker of this handkerchief.
6. Richardson, Edward. *Standards and Colors of the American Revolution*. Joint Publication of the University of Pennsylvania Press and the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and Its Color Guard, 1982, p. 184.
7. Richardson. *op. cit.*, p. 180.
8. Ansoff. *op. cit.*, p. 4.
9. Richardson. *op. cit.*, p. 184.
10. Keim & Keim. *op. cit.*, p. 37.
11. Monsky. *op. cit.*, p. 246.
12. Martucci, David B. “Flag and Symbol Usage in Early New England”, *Raven*, Vol. 13, 2006, pp. 28-29.
13. *Ibid.*, pp. 28–29.
14. British Library website. Accessed 6/30/2011, 10:31 PM EST.
<http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/uk/cromwell/images/imagesofcromwell.html>.
15. *Symbols of Canada*. Published by the Department of Canadian Heritage—2008 Edition, p. 32.
16. Winterthur Object Report, courtesy of Winterthur Staff. Printed 8/25/2010. Author: Matthew Keagle—WPAMC, University of Delaware. Description Date 12/04/2009. “There are eight flags total meaning that each is repeated once. Counterclockwise from bottom to top right the flags are as follows: A white field with a single pine tree. A coiled rattlesnake with the words, “DON’T TREAD UPON ME” below it. A white field with a pinwheel of dark and white stripes in the canton. And finally twenty five alternating red and white stripes.”
17. Alcock, Sarah. *A Brief History of the Revolution: With a Sketch of the Life of Captain John Hewson*. Printed by Wm. S. Young, Printer. 1843. Reprint by Kessinger Publishing’s Legacy Reprints, 2010.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 3.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 2.
20. *Ibid.*, p. 9.
21. *Ibid.*, p. 9.
22. Somerset Fry, Plantagenet. *The Kings & Queens of England and Scotland*. Dorling Kindersley, 1990. (source for following note)

The American Revolution had deep roots in British culture often ignored in the classroom. The British were no strangers to perceived injustices with royal tyranny. In the 1600s 'British Congress' officially known as Parliament had a king executed and another was laid off. (Somerset 134, 135, 144, 145) In the aftermath of the English Civil War, the British executed their own King—King Charles I (1600-1649). (Somerset 134, 135) The result was a radically experimental ten-year kingless period whereby the United Kingdom was ruled by Oliver Cromwell, who became known as the **Lord Protector** of the Republican Commonwealth. (Somerset 138, 139) Soon after Cromwell's death the royal seat was restored, due to Cromwell's rule being rather tyrannical. Less than 30 years after a Charles' execution, Parliament (British Congress) was dissatisfied with religious-political polarity of the King—James II (1633-1701). (Somerset 144, 145) Parliament then 'outsourced' the royal seal in the rather bloodless glorious revolution of 1688, by inviting a foreign ruler, William of Orange, to sit on the throne with Queen Mary. (Somerset 146, 148, 149) The 'British Congress' essentially fired and hired a more compliant King.

23. Historical Society of Pennsylvania website. <http://www.hsp.org/node/2995>. Accessed 8/20/2011, 12:41 PM EST.
24. *Ibid.* Information on 59 executors of the King Charles I Death Warrant from Wikipedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_regicides_of_Charles_I. Accessed 6/30/2011, 11:01 PM EST.
25. Monsky. *op. cit.*, pp. 252–253. Quoted from William B. Willcox, ed., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976), pp. 320–321.
26. Alcock. *op. cit.*, p. 22.
27. *Ibid.*, p. 25.
28. *Ibid.*, p. 29.
29. *Ibid.*
30. *Ibid.*
31. *Ibid.*, p. 66.
32. *Ibid.*
33. *Ibid.*
34. Alcock. *op. cit.* (source for following note)

There were 88 groups or "floats" participating in Philadelphia's 4 July 1788 celebration of Independence Day and the U.S. Constitution. (Alcock 66) Of the 88 groups there were military veterans, religious groups, government officers, and business guilds. (Alcock 66) Captain John Hewson was a part of company number 29—the Manufacturing Society. (Alcock 73) Its float was decorated with "looms, spinning and carding machines, and flags." (Alcock 73) The carriage measured 30 feet by 30 feet and it was decorated with several flags. (Alcock 73) One flag had "the device of which was a bee-hive, with bees issuing from it, standing in the beams of a rising sun; the field of the flag blue and the motto "in its rays we shall feel new vigour" written in golden characters. (Alcock 73) Hewson was on the float with his wife and four daughters. (Alcock 73) Hewson had his own personal flag, "on a lofty staff, was displayed the calico printers' flag; in the centre, thirteen stars in a blue field, and thirteen red stripes in a white field; round the edges of the flag were printed thirty-seven different prints of various colours" with the motto "May the union government protect the manufacturers of America." (Alcock 73, 74) It was followed by a weavers' flag—a rampant lion in a green field, holding a shuttle in his dexter paw with the motto, "May government protect us." (Alcock 74) Sarah Alcock gives a vivid description of America's first parade in Philadelphia on 4 July 1788, especially of the various flags flown on that occasion.
35. Monsky. *op. cit.*, p. 241.
36. Brady, Patricia. *Martha Washington: An American Life*. The Penguin Group, 2005, p. 101.
37. *Ibid.*, p. 102.
38. *Ibid.*, p. 103.

39. *Ibid.*
40. *Ibid.*, p. 111.
41. *Ibid.*
42. *Ibid.*
43. *Ibid.*
44. *Ibid.*, p. 112.
45. *Ibid.*
46. *Ibid.*
47. Loane, Nancy K. *Following the Drum: Women at the Valley Forge Encampment*. Potomac Books, 2009, p. 32.
48. *Ibid.* (Martha could have been in Philadelphia for the adoption of the Stars and Stripes flag resolution. She visited Philadelphia several more times but by then the Stars and Stripes were quite a common theme and would have appeared in the handkerchief in question.)
49. Brady. *op. cit.*, p. 112.
50. *Ibid.*
51. Alcock. *op. cit.*, p. 9.
52. *Ibid.*
53. Monsky. *op. cit.*, p. 241.
54. British Library website. Accessed 6/30/2011, 10:31 PM EST.
<http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/uk/cromwell/images/imagesofcromwell.html>
55. *Ibid.*
56. Monsky. *op. cit.*, p. 262.
57. *Ibid.*
58. *Ibid.*
59. *Ibid.*
60. Kiracofe, Roderick & Mary Elizabeth Johnson. *The American Quilt, A history of Cloth and Comfort, 1750–1950*. 1993, p. 12. (source for following note)
The term “calico” in the fabric industry has changed its meaning over the years. Shipping cotton from India was one of the primary activities of the East India Company in the 1600s. The shipping point was primarily Calcutta, thus fabrics from this port were eventually became source of calico fabrics.
61. Monsky. *op. cit.*, p. 262.
62. Historical Society of Pennsylvania website. <http://www.hsp.org/node/2995>. Accessed 7/1/2011, 12:41 AM EST.
63. Copy from John Hewson Bible, courtesy of Winterthur. Gives dates and deaths of family members and last will and testament.
64. Historical Society of Pennsylvania website. <http://www.hsp.org/node/2995>. Accessed 7/1/2011, 12:41 AM EST.
65. Richardson. *op. cit.*, pp. 110, 136, 198, 211, 216, 219, 223.
66. Richardson. *op. cit.*, pp. 41, 70, 93, 204 (Bucks of America: <http://www.fotw.us/flags/us-ma%5Ebkc.html>) (Pine Tree Variant: <http://www.americanflags.net/catalog/bigpine-tree--flagfontbig.htm>).
67. Richardson. *op. cit.*, pp. 180, 182, 184, 187.
68. *Ibid.*, p. 209.
69. *Ibid.*

ILLUSTRATION CREDITS

Figure 1 – Photograph courtesy of Winterthur.

Figure 2 – Close-up of Snake Flag, Winterthur photograph.

Figure 3 – Close-up 13-striped flag, Winterthur photograph.

Figure 4 – Keim & Keim, p. 37.

Figure 5 – Close-up of Pine Tree Flag, Winterthur Photograph.

Figure 6 – *Raven*, Vol. 13, 2006, p. 29. Slightly modified to show a balanced dichotomy.

Figure 7 – British Library website

<http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/uk/cromwell/images/imagesofcromwell.html>.

Figure 8 – *Symbols of Canada*, p. 32.

Figure 9, 9' – Close-up of mystery flag, Winterthur photograph.

Figure 10 – Wikipedia & Winterthur photograph.

Figure 11 – Alcock, p. 2.

Figure 12 – Two websites:

(Image of the younger captain John Hewson): http://books.google.com/books?id=xxwWAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA9&lpg=PA9&dq=annals+of+kensington+episcopal+books+john+hewson&source=bl&ots=ljaY1xKo6d&sig=R0y9GJdiUdCvmFo-XXoyHd0ubbs&hl=en&ei=ghQbTuXIKYSugQf36fkq&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&sqi=2&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

(Image of the older colonel John Hewson): <http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/hewson.htm>

Figure 13 – Death Warrant of King Charles I, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Kings & Queens of Europe*, Hermes House. 2009, p. 148.

Figure 14 – Alcock, p. 31.

Figure 15 – Photoshop of Martha and Hewson from three sources:

- a. Martha Washington, illustration from Patricia Brady – image plates.
- b. Idealized Painting of Betsy Ross meeting Washington & Robert Morris, website:
<http://www.laughingravy21.com/fullView.asp?sf=y&nb=1&id=%27220081666%27&img=http://images.marketworks.com/hi/62/61530/A-G21-A233.jpg>
- c. John Hewson, website:
http://books.google.com/books?id=xxwWAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA9&lpg=PA9&dq=annals+of+kensington+episcopal+books+john+hewson&source=bl&ots=ljaY1xKo6d&sig=R0y9GJdiUdCvmFo-XXoyHd0ubbs&hl=en&ei=ghQbTuXIKYSugQf36fkq&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&sqi=2&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Figure 16 – British Library website: <http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/uk/cromwell/images/imagesofcromwell.html>

Figure 17 – Mezzotint of George Washington, by C. Sheppard, New York Public Library website –
<http://legacy.www.nypl.org/research/chss/spe/art/print/exhibits/revolution/captions/mcalpin29a.html>

Figure 18 – Richardson, pp. 110, 136, 198, 211, 216, 219, 223.

Figure 19 – Richardson, pp. 41, 70, 93, 204. (Bucks of America – <http://www.fotw.us/flags/us-ma%5EbK.html>) (Pine Tree Variant – <http://www.americanflags.net/catalog/bigpine-tree--flagfontbig.htm>)

Figure 20 – Richardson, p. 209.

About the Author



Christopher Maddish is life-long educator and student. He has taught at all grade levels from K-12 to university and privately at the Doylestown Foreign Language Institute. He has also worked in diverse educational environments from the inner city of Philadelphia to the surrounding suburban school districts and in the Far East at a Japanese high school in Fukuoka, Japan. His primary work as a vexillologist deals with meta-vexillology. In his analysis he has surmised that flags of the world typically exhibit a synchronistic phenomenon that he calls ‘flag symmetry’. Learn more flag symmetry on his blog “The Voice of Vexillology” at <http://zebratigerfish.blogspot.com>.