

THE NEW STAR FOR OUR FLAG

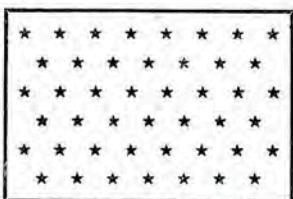
By Frances E. Lanigan

IT WAS in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777, that the American Congress in session 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 "new constellation," or arrangement of the stars, was to be in the form of a circle to represent unity. The thirteen stripes were to represent the thirteen States. It has never been known to whom the credit of designing the "stars and stripes" should be given, but it is quite certain that the first flag to bear the design was made by a Mrs. John Ross, an upholsterer of Philadelphia. Her descendants claim that a committee of Congress, accompanied by General Washington, called upon her at her house on Arch Street in June, 1776, and engaged her to make the flag from a rough drawing, which, at her suggestion, was redrawn by General Washington in her back parlor, and that the flag then designed was the one adopted by Congress.



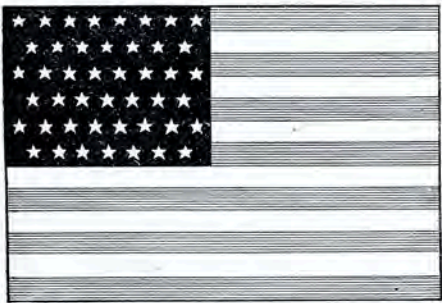
Early in 1794, in consequence of the admission of Vermont in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792, Congress enacted that "on and after the first day of May, 1795, the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes * * * * the union be fifteen stars," etc. This flag was the National banner from 1795 until 1818 (during which time occurred the war of 1812 with Great Britain), when Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana and Mississippi having been admitted to the Union, Congress passed an act which provided "First, That from and after the fourth day of July next the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes * * that the union have twenty stars * * " "Second, That on the admission of every new State into the Union one star be added to the union of the flag, and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July next succeeding such admission." This was intended as a mark of respect for the flag of the Revolution and for the thirteen States whose valor contributed to American independence; and the additional stars to mark the increase of the States since the establishment of the Constitution. In March of this year the following order was issued:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, March 18, 1896.
The field or union of the National Flag in use in the Army will, on and after July 4, 1896, consist of forty-five stars, in six rows, the first, third and fifth rows to have eight stars, and the second, fourth and sixth rows seven stars each, in a blue field, arranged as follows:



DANIEL S. LAMONT,
Secretary of War.
BY COMMAND OF MAJOR-GENERAL MILES.

This contingency is to provide for a star for Utah, which was admitted to the Union in January of this year. Secretary Herbert has agreed to the same arrangement for the Navy. The design given below is a correct representation of the "stars and stripes" as it will appear on and after the fourth of this month.



THE NEW STARS AND STRIPES