

Flags of Our Southern Nation



Landmark Baptist Church
Archer, Florida, CSA

Foreword

- These flags are displayed on special occasions at Landmark Baptist Church, Archer, Florida.
- You may use this booklet as an aid in educating yourself concerning some of those symbols that our forebears held dear.
- May the devotion and courage of our forebears be a source of inspiration unto us.

Deo Vindice,
Pastor Wilson

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St. Andrew's Cross Flag

St. Andrew's Cross is the earliest flag of Scotland and one of the oldest national banners. The diagonal cross is representative of the martyrdom of the apostle Andrew.



Sir William Wallace (known as "Braveheart") is believed to have carried this flag into battle against King Edward and the English.

St. Andrew's Cross was incorporated into the flags of the Confederate States of America, reflecting their Celtic heritage.

Gadsden Flag

When fighting broke out during the American War for Independence, the rattlesnake, with and without the defiant slogan, appeared on money, uniforms and a variety of military and naval flags, reflecting the change among the American



people from an era of disunity to one of resolve. As part of a committee of the Continental Congress, Christopher Gadsden was directing the preparation of ships for the American defense. To provide a striking standard for the flagship of the first Commodore of the American Navy, Gadsden chose the rattlesnake for his design. Later he presented the design to South Carolina's Provincial Congress, who ordered the elegant standard hung in their meeting hall.

Culpeper Flag

This flag represented a group of about one hundred minutemen from Culpeper, Virginia. The group formed part of Colonel Patrick Henry's First Virginia Regiment of 1775. In October-November 1775 three hundred such minutemen, led by Colonel Stevens, assembled at Culpeper Court House and marched for Williamsburg. Their unusual dress alarmed the people as they marched through the country. The word "LIBERTY OR DEATH" were in large white letters on the breast of their hunting shirts. They had bucks' tails in their hats and in their belts, tomahawks and scalping knives.



Fort Moultrie Flag

This flag was carried by Colonel William Moultrie's South Carolina Militia on Sullivan Island in Charleston Harbor on June 28, 1776. The British were defeated that day which saved the south from British occupation for another two years.



The South Carolina state flag still contains the crescent moon from this Revolutionary flag.

Original US Flag

This flag was adopted June 14, 1777. The Continental Congress on this day resolved, "That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternating red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation". The circular design was by George Washington of Virginia. The Congress however did not specify an arrangement for the stars in the canton, as a result there are many variations in the flags that followed until 1912.



Continental Navy Jack

This flag is believed to have flown aboard the Continental Fleet's flagship Alfred, in January, 1776. Commodore Esek Hopkins raised this flag to signal his fleet to attack the enemy.

A variation of this flag was used by the South Carolina Navy in 1776 as well.



The Star-Spangled Banner

This flag was the only official US flag to have more than thirteen stripes. It was flying above Ft. McHenry when it was attacked by the British on September 13, 1814.



Francis Scott Key, a Maryland lawyer had gone aboard a British ship seeking the release of a friend held prisoner. He was detained throughout the night. The sight of the American flag still flying over the fortress the next morning inspired Key to write *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Key was a Southerner. Interestingly, one of his descendants was imprisoned by Abraham Lincoln at Ft. McHenry as a result of his support for the Confederate cause.

Alamo Flag

The Mexican constitution of 1824 gave the people of Texas rights similar to those enjoyed at the time by the citizens of the United States, but every new Mexican government attempted to increase control over Texas. To call attention to this, Texans removed the coat of arms from the center of a Mexican flag, and replaced it with the date of the constitution. It was this banner that flew from the walls of the Alamo.



The Alamo fell on March 6, 1836. In addition to the 182 Texans who died, approximately 1500 of the best Mexican soldiers were killed and another 1500 seriously wounded. The Texans in the Alamo were fighting to protect the rights outlined in the Mexican constitution of 1824.

Bonnie Blue Flag

A troop of West Florida dragoons set out for the provincial capitol at Baton Rouge under this flag. They captured Baton Rouge, imprisoned the Governor and on September 23, 1810 raised their Bonnie Blue flag over the Fort of Baton Rouge. Three days later the president of the West Florida Convention, signed a Declaration of Independence and the flag became the emblem of a new republic.



With this rebellion in mind, this flag was used by the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1839.

On January 9, 1861 the convention of the People of Mississippi adopted an Ordinance of Secession. With this announcement the Bonnie Blue flag was raised over the capitol building in Jackson. Harry McCarthy was so inspired that he wrote a song entitled "The Bonnie Blue Flag" which became the second most popular patriotic song of the Confederacy.

The Gonzales Banner

In late September, 1835, Colonel Ugartechea, the commander of the Mexican garrison at San Antonio, sent a few men to Gonzales to recover a cannon that had been given to the town to fight off Indian attacks. The citizens of Gonzales realized that the intent of the move was to disarm possible rebels, and so the request was denied. Ugartechea then sent dragoons under Captain Francisco Castaneda to demand the cannon unconditionally. As word of the conflict spread, the Texan force grew to over 200 armed men and the town was fortified. Two ladies of the town, Cynthia Burns and Evaline DeWitt, painted a flag on cotton cloth, depicting the cannon, the lone star of Texas and a clear challenge to the enemy.



The battle that followed was brief; when the Texans opened fire, the Mexicans withdrew, abandoning their supplies.

First National Flag — "Stars and Bars"

When this flag was first raised over the capitol building in Montgomery, it contained seven stars, representing the Confederate States of South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. By the third week of May two more stars were added representing Virginia and Arkansas. In July the addition of North Carolina and Tennessee increased the number to eleven and finally the admission of Kentucky and Missouri in December brought the circle of stars to thirteen. During battle this flag was sometimes confused with the Union Stars and Stripes, therefore it was replaced by the 2nd National flag in 1863.



The Citadel's Battle Flag

South Carolinians displayed flags showing the Palmetto tree even before seceding. The tree's importance dates back to The Revolution. The crescent moon had been South Carolina's symbol when still a colony. Her sons wore it on their hats and fought for American independence under flags which pictured it. "Big Red" is a variant of the current day blue state flag. "Big Red" was carried by the men of The Citadel when firing the war's first shots at the Federal ship Star of the West months before the attack on Ft. Sumter. It remains her flag today.



Second National Flag — "Stainless Banner"

Not more than a year after the adoption of the Stars and Bars the issue of designing a new flag for the Confederate States was raised with the intention to create a flag that was in no way similar to the Union's Stars and Stripes.



Adopted on May 1, 1863 this flag displayed the Battle Flag in the canton on a field of pure white, giving it its name the "Stainless Banner". The white field is symbolic for the purity of the Cause which it represented. One of the first uses for this flag was to drape the coffin of General Thomas J. Jackson. "Stonewall" Jackson died on May 10, 1863 from pneumonia he contracted in the treatment of his injuries received on May 2nd. On May 12th, his body lay in state in the Confederate House of Representatives, by order of the President, the first new flag manufactured draped his coffin.

The 10th Tennessee Infantry Battle Flag

One of the most fascinating Irish regiments in the war was the Confederate 10th Tennessee – “The Rebel Sons of Erin.” The regiment was organized at Fort Henry just a few weeks after the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter.



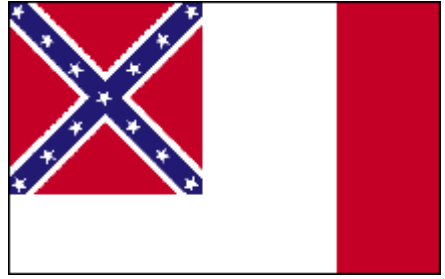
They fought at Ft. Donelson and many other campaigns during the war.

The 10th Tennessee carried 328 men into action at Chickamauga and lost 224 killed and wounded.

They were surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina, on April 26, 1865. There were less than 100 men left in the 10th Tennessee Infantry at the closing scene of the war, and every one of them had been wounded, many numerous times.

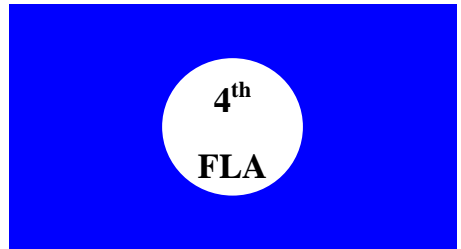
Third National Flag

Due to the fact that the 2nd National's pure white field could be mistaken for a flag of surrender, on March 4, 1865 this last flag of the Confederacy was adopted. This design added a red bar to the end of the "Stainless" flag. This flag flew for thirty six days in 1865 until the South surrendered on April 9th. [And it still flies today in the hearts and upon the property of Confederate patriots.] This is the current flag of our Southern Nation.



The Hardee Battle Flag

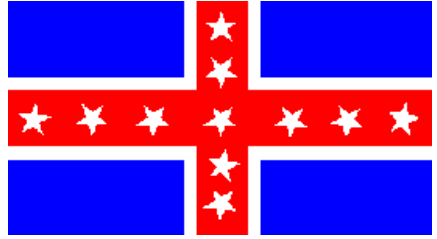
Used extensively by the Western Armies of the Confederacy under General William J. Hardee, seeing action in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, etc. Often the regimental designation was painted upon the central white disk. Such as the “4th FLA” (Infantry Regiment).



Such flags also saw extensive action in General Patrick Cleburne's Division of the Army of Tennessee during the Atlanta Campaign.

The Polk Battle Flag

This flag, containing the red cross of St. George upon a blue field was designed by General Leonidas Polk, commander of a Corps of the Army of the Mississippi. Polk had been an Episcopalian bishop prior to the war and his flag shows the influence of that pre-war office. These flags saw extensive action with the Western Armies in Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi.



Polk was killed in the valiant fight to protect Atlanta from the northern invaders under Sherman.

Confederate Battle Flag — "The Southern Cross"

Confusion was caused by the commanders not being able to distinguish their troops from those of the enemy and adding to these difficulties was the fact that the "Stars and Bars" was so similar to the "Stars and Stripes." General Beauregard was determined to remedy the flag problem, he attempted to have the Confederate flag changed but Congressman



William Porcher Miles suggested that the army adopt its own distinctive battle flag, and recommended the design he had presented to the Congress as the Confederate Flag on March 4, 1861. This flag was agreed upon but it was recommended that it would be more convenient and lighter as well as less likely to be tore by bayonets or tree branches if made square. This flag was issued in different sizes; 48 inches square for the infantry, 36 inches for the artillery, and 30 inches for the cavalry. Other flags such as State regimental colors were used by the Confederacy on the battlefield, but the Battle Flag, although it was never officially recognized by the Confederate government, came to represent the Southern "cause" to most people.

A rectangular version was used by the C. S. Navy and by troops in the Western theatre of the war.

The Forrest Battle Flag

There is speculation on exactly why only 12 stars were used on Forrest's Battle Flags. Many speculate that the missing star represents Kentucky. General Polk also used these 12-star flags and he had been given a rather cold reception when his forces occupied Columbus, Kentucky early in the war. Forrest continued to use the 12-star flag, even after being instructed to adopt the 13-star version.



This flag has come to be uniquely associated with General Forrest and his magnificent Cavalry forces.

The Florida State Flag

The red diagonal cross was inspired by the Battle flag of the Confederate States of America. The Indian women scattering flowers represents the states first inhabitants, the Seminoles. The seal also represents the many characteristics of the state, the land of sunshine, flowers, palm trees, river and lakes. The state motto - *In God We Trust* - is prominent on the flag. This present state flag was adopted in 1899.



Cherokee Braves Battle Flag

In 1861 the Confederate States of America signed defense treaties with The Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole nations. This flag is given to Cherokee chief John Ross upon the signing. Thousands from these tribes serve in the Confederate army. In fact the last Confederate general to surrender was Cherokee Stand Waite. The five red stars within the circle of stars represent the 5 “civilized” Indian nations mentioned above.



Quantrill's Battle Flag

William Quantill and his partisans have been associated with the most savage of warfare and his famous “Black Flag” would do nothing to mitigate this reputation.



The war in Missouri and Kansas was primarily a bloody guerilla affair, though Quantrill attempted to adhere to the rules of civilized warfare as much as he was permitted to do so by his enemy.

In 1863 his unionist opponent began to arrest and imprison women suspected of aiding the Confederate cause. Mothers, sisters, and wives of the partisans were jailed in a dilapidated three story building in Kansas City. On August 14, the building collapsed (or was demolished by explosives). Several women were killed and many others were seriously wounded.

In revenge for this incident Quantrill conducted his infamous raid on Lawrence, Kansas where no quarter was given to any adult male within the city. No women or children were physically harmed, but on his departure he left behind him 80 new widows and 250 orphans.

The Taylor Battle Flag

Several units serving in the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy used flags that follow the basic design of the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia but wherein the color of the field and the color of the St. Andrew's Cross are reversed. It is believed that the flags emanated from Havana, Cuba, where a Confederate expatriate may have misunderstood the proper coloration of the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag.



General Richard Taylor (only son of US President Zachary Taylor) used this odd flag, as did many of his units. Regardless of the possible confused origin of the flag, the troops beneath it gained scored impressive victories over the invaders of their land.

General Lee's Headquarters Flag

This flag was made for the General by his wife, Mary Custis Lee.

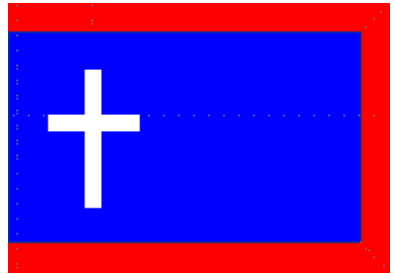
This flag was used to mark the General's headquarters at any given time. Obviously the unusual star pattern would readily identify the headquarters as those of General Lee.

It is said that Mrs. Lee used that pattern to represent the biblical Ark of the Covenant.



Missouri Brigade Battle Flag

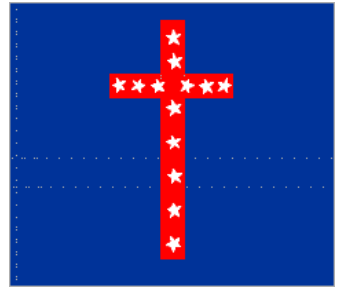
Prior to the Vicksburg Campaign, Missouri units of the "Army of the West" received presents of new battle flags that they carried into the siege with them. These flags were rectangular, consisting of a dark blue bunting field with a red bunting border on three sides and a white cotton



"Latin" cross standing near the staff edge. At some time in 1863 or 1864 similar flags were presented to the five units of Burns' Missouri Brigade serving in the Trans-Mississippi Department. According to surviving documents many of these flags were made in occupied New Orleans by ladies loyal to the Confederacy and smuggled through the lines to give to General Sterling Price.

Orphan Brigade Battle Flag

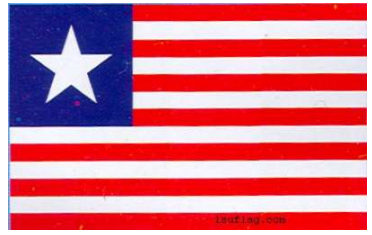
Units of the "Orphan Brigade" carried this pattern battle flag beginning in 1862. Little information is available on these flags, although at least three originals survive. They were issued to the regiments of Gen. Breckinridge's division in May 1862, when the army was at Corinth, Mississippi.



This style of flag is a large banner of dark blue bunting, with a red Latin cross bearing thirteen white stars on each side. One of the surviving originals is identified as belonging to the 4th Kentucky Infantry. Another original flag of this pattern probably belonged to the 6th Kentucky Infantry, and another is tentatively identified to the 3rd Kentucky Infantry. How long these flags continued to be carried by regiments of the Orphan Brigade is not precisely known, but they were likely replaced sometime in 1863.

Florida Secession Flag

This, so-called “Lone Star Flag” or “Chase flag” was first raised at the Pensacola Navy Yard on January 12, 1861 after the flag of the United States was hauled down. Colonel William H. Chase, commanding the Florida troops, prescribed a secession flag to serve until another could be established by the lawmakers at Tallahassee. This flag had thirteen stripes; alternate red and white, and a blue field with a single large star in the center.



This flag served for eight months, from January 13, 1861 to September 13, 1861. Interestingly, Colonel Chase's lone star flag was the same design as the flag used by the Republic of Texas navy in 1836-1845.

Irish Volunteers Flag

Flags of this basic design, a First National with the addition of an Irish harp, may have been used by various Irish volunteers such as the 24th Georgia Infantry Regiment which was part of Cobb's Brigade.



Choctaw Braves Flag

The Choctaw contingent of the Confederate Army flew this distinct banner which features the native weapons of the Choctaw tribe.



Terry's Texas Rangers Flag

When Texas went to war in 1861, the citizenry was called to defend her. A regiment organized by B. F. Terry answered that call. Terry's Texas Rangers distinguished themselves throughout the war by their skill and willingness to fight. Because of their abilities, and the arms they carried, they were frequently called upon to act as shock troops. They led the way when General Forrest, by sheer audacity, took Murfreesboro from a superior enemy force. At Bardstown, it was the Rangers who led Wharton's Brigade into the mass of Yankee cavalry to carry the day. They fought from horseback and on foot.

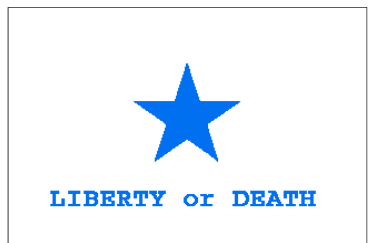


The final charge of Terry's Rangers was at Bentonville, North Carolina, on March 21, 1865. After nearly four years of hard fighting, a shout was raised once again and one hundred and fifty men, all that remained of this gallant regiment, charged into the blue clad infantry and sent them into a panic-stricken retreat.

Goliad Battle Flag

In 1835, Colonel Fannin made an appeal for a Georgia battalion to aid the Texas cause.

The battalion's flag was created by Joanna Troutman, who made the banner from white dress silk with an appliquéd blue five pointed star on each side. "Liberty or Death" was inscribed on one side and the Latin inscription "Ubi, libertas habitat, ibi nostra patria est" ("Where liberty dwells, there is my country") was inscribed on the other. This flag captured the spirit of the Texans, and their willingness to die for the cause.



The flag was carried into battle at Goliad on March 27, 1836.

Palmetto Guards Southern Rights Flag

A group of South Carolinians settled in the pro-Southern town of Atchison, Kansas and formed a military unit called the Palmetto Guards. They carried a red flag with a single white star featuring the words "Southern Rights."



The Guards took this flag into battle when they participated in an attack on the pro-Northern town of Lawrence on May 21, 1856. Their flag briefly flew over both the Herald of Freedom newspaper office and the Free State Hotel, before both buildings were destroyed by the pro-Southern forces.

5th Kentucky Battle Flag

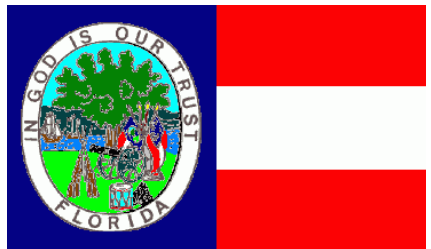
The 5th Kentucky regiment was known as the "Citizen's Guard" and as the Army of Eastern Kentucky. They remained on the offensive in Kentucky for the duration of the war.



It was common for Confederate units to use the Cross on their battle flags symbolizing their Christian heritage and in distinction to the prevalent Northern humanistic beliefs which often fueled hatred for Bible-believing Southerners.

Florida Confederate State Flag

As the question of secession arose the Florida legislature adopted a state flag and state uniform. The Confederate first national flag greatly influenced the design chosen by the Governor Perry.



The flag kept the red, white, and red bars, expanded the blue canton to form the left half of the state flag and replaced the stars with a unique seal representing Florida. The flag bears the inscriptions "In God Is Our Trust" and "Florida."

Florida Marion Light Artillery Battle Flag

The Marion Light Artillery was organized on Amelia Island, Florida, in June 1861. Later it moved to Kentucky and took part in the fights at Perryville and Richmond. The company served in S. C. Williams', M. Smith's, and L. Hoxton's Battalion of Artillery, and participated in the campaigns of the Army of Tennessee from Chickamauga to Nashville. It then was involved in the defense of Mobile and was included in the surrender of the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana. The unit was commanded by Captains John M. Martin and Robert P. McCants.



Pastor Wilson's Great-Great Grandfather, John Cauthen Strickland served as a sergeant in this unit.

The replica flag on display was lovingly made by Lynda Sullivan (J. C. Strickland's Great-Granddaughter and Greg's Second Cousin, Once Removed).

Thank you, Lynda, we love you!

God Bless Our Southern Land!



Forward the Colors

On July 3, 1864, General Lee assembled three divisions. It was to be a grand and glorious assault into the center of Cemetery Ridge at Gettysburg to shatter the heart of the Federal Army.

General Armistead commanded one of brigades stationed on the left flank of Pickett's division. Pickett ordered his huge force of flashing steel to advance, "*Up, men and to your posts! Don't forget today that you are from Old Virginia.*"

Armistead placed himself in front of his men and cried to a colors bearer, "*are you going to put those colors on the enemy's works today?*" The sergeant yelled back, "*I will try, sir, and if mortal man can do it, it shall be done!*"

Armistead's men advanced almost a mile across open ground, through devastating short and long range fire. Despite the rain of lead and steel the lines continued to move forward.

At last, Armistead and the remnant of his command breached the Federal position located behind a stone fence. Immediately a volley from Federal infantry tore into their left flank and Armistead fell, mortally wounded.