

The  
*Glorious*



a colorful presentation of the  
fascinating stories behind our  
**FIFTY STATE FLAGS**



ALABAMA



ARKANSAS



CALIFORNIA



DELAWARE



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



HAWAII



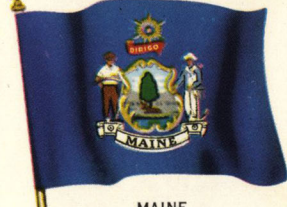
IDAHO



IOWA



KANSAS



MAINE



MARYLAND



MINNESOTA



MISSISSIPPI



ALASKA



ARIZONA



COLORADO



CONNECTICUT



FLORIDA



GEORGIA



ILLINOIS



INDIANA



KENTUCKY



LOUISIANA



MASSACHUSETTS



MICHIGAN



MISSOURI



MONTANA



NEBRASKA



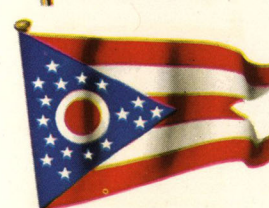
NEVADA



NEW MEXICO



NEW YORK



OHIO



OKLAHOMA



RHODE ISLAND



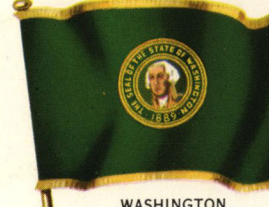
SOUTH CAROLINA



TEXAS



UTAH



WASHINGTON



WEST VIRGINIA



NEW HAMPSHIRE



NEW JERSEY



NORTH CAROLINA



NORTH DAKOTA



OREGON



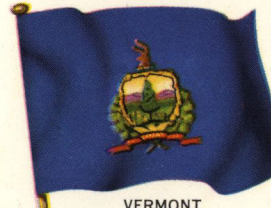
PENNSYLVANIA



SOUTH DAKOTA



TENNESSEE



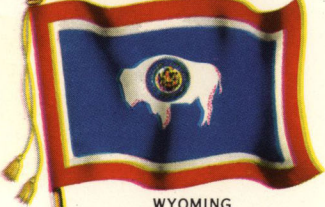
VERMONT



VIRGINIA



WISCONSIN



WYOMING

We are indebted to the F. E. Compton Company, publishers of Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, for use of their illustrations of the 51 flags shown here.

Additional copies of this pamphlet may be obtained by writing to: Public Relations Branch, State Mutual of America, Worcester 5, Massachusetts.

**I**N THE FOLLOWING TEXT the states are arranged in the order in which they were admitted to the Union. The date after the name of each state refers to the official adoption of its present flag. The 51st flag is, of course, that of the District of Columbia. It appears at the end of the text.

**DELAWARE**—1913—"December 7, 1787" on this flag is the day on which Delaware ratified the Federal Constitution. Because it was the first state to do so, it is given the first position in such national events as presidential inaugurations.

**PENNSYLVANIA**—1907—The Keystone State's coat of arms, carried by its flag, shows a sailing ship, a plow and three sheaves of grain over the motto, "Virtue, Liberty and Independence." The emblem on the flag dates from the latter part of the 18th century.

**NEW JERSEY**—1896—The buff background of this banner was derived from the buff facings on the Revolutionary War uniforms of the New Jersey Continental Regiments, specified by orders from General Washington. The flag was displayed at the surrender of Cornwallis' army at Yorktown.

**GEORGIA**—1956—The Georgia flag, one of the newest of all, combines the Battle Flag of the Confederacy and the state seal. Its thirteen stars correspond in number to the states recognized by the Confederate States Congress.

**CONNECTICUT**—1897—The three grape vines displayed on the state seal which decorates the Connecticut flag represent the three original settlements of the Nutmeg State—Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield.

**MASSACHUSETTS**—1915—With an Indian warrior on one side and a green pine tree (not shown) on a blue shield upon the other, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has one of the few state flags with two distinctly different sides. The Latin motto is translated, "With the sword she seeks peace under liberty."

**MARYLAND**—1904—One of the oldest flags in the world, the Maryland standard bears the arms of the Calvert and Crossland families. Calvert was the family name of the Lords of Baltimore who founded the state, while Crossland was the family of the mother of the first Lord Baltimore.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**—1861—The Palmetto State adopted its banner when it withdrew from the Union in 1861. It is the second oldest unchanged official state flag in existence.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**—1931—This flag, first adopted in 1909, carried the Granite State's seal, in use since 1784. The seal was redrawn and the flag with the new seal approved in 1931.

**VIRGINIA**—1930—The flag adopted by Virginia in 1930 has been essentially unchanged since 1831 when it was first raised by Governor John Floyd at the head of a militia force called to quell the Nat Turner insurrection in Southampton County.

**NEW YORK**—1901—The Great Seal of New York, which decorates its banner, has changed little since its original design in 1777, though there have existed at least six slightly modified official versions since that date.

**NORTH CAROLINA**—1885—Because of its two dates, this flag carries special interest. The uppermost refers to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, while the lower one commemorates the Halifax Resolves which empowered delegates from North Carolina “to concur with the delegates of the other Colonies in declaring Independency. . . .”

**RHODE ISLAND**—1897—The anchor was first used as a Colony symbol on the official seal adopted in 1647, and the motto “Hope” was added in 1664 when the government was organized under a charter from King Charles II.

**VERMONT**—1923—The 14th state in the Union, Vermont has had three state banners since 1803. The first two were originally patterned after the national emblem with alternating red and white stripes. The present flag carries the state’s coat of arms.

**KENTUCKY**—1918—Though authorized in 1918, an actual Blue Grass State banner was not made until some ten years later by an art teacher in the Frankfort schools. The lower portion of the seal is encircled by goldenrod, the state flower.

**TENNESSEE**—1905—Tennessee’s three stars denote the fact that it was the third state to enter the Union after the first thirteen colonies. They also represent the three political divisions of the state which were organized at different times in its history.

**OHIO**—1902—Ohio is the only state with a pennant-shaped flag, or “burgee,” as it is correctly called. The Buckeye banner was originally designed to fly over the Ohio building at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York in 1901.

**LOUISIANA**—1912—The Louisiana flag with its group of pelicans has been used since the War of 1812, though not officially adopted until 100 years later. At least ten different flags have flown over the territory.

**INDIANA**—1917—A prize-winning design in D.A.R. contest, the Indiana flag was adopted as part of the state’s Centennial celebration. The outer circle of thirteen stars represents the original states; the inner semi-circle of five stars, the next five states admitted to the Union. Indiana was the nineteenth state.

**MISSISSIPPI**—1894—The Mississippi banner is one of six state flags that use only the red, white and blue of the national emblem. Its thirteen stars stand for the original states of the Union.

**ILLINOIS**—1915—The Illinois flag was the winning design selected from 35 entries submitted in a contest by various D.A.R. chapters within the state.

**ALABAMA**—1895—The Cross of St. Andrew appears on Alabama’s present flag. An earlier version carried a cotton plant in flower with a rattlesnake at its roots about to spring into action. Beneath the plant were the Latin words, “Noli Me Tangere”—“Don’t Tread on Me.”

**MAINE**—1909—The Maine flag is unusual in at least one respect. Though not shown in this illustration, the law prescribed a fringe for the flag to be two and one-half inches wide. “Dirigo” means “I direct.”

**MISSOURI**—1913—A flag, of the design finally adopted, was made and submitted to the state legislature in 1909, but failed to gain immediate approval. Although this first flag was destroyed in a fire at the capitol in 1911, its features were accepted two years later.

**ARKANSAS**—1913—The three blue stars below the name “Arkansas” represent the three nations, Spain, France and the United States, to whom Arkansas has successively belonged.

**MICHIGAN**—1911—The first official flag of Michigan, similar to the present emblem, was adopted in 1865 and unfurled for the first time at the laying of the cornerstone of the monument in the Soldiers’ National Cemetery, Gettysburg, on July 4, 1865.

**FLORIDA**—1900—The state seal in the center of Florida’s banner pictures a cocoa tree, a steamboat, and an Indian maiden scattering flowers. The seal was adopted in 1868.

**TEXAS**—1839—The Lone Star banner is the oldest of the official state flags, adopted in the first half of the 19th century and unchanged since then.

**IOWA**—1921—“Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain,” reads the motto on Iowa’s flag, an adaptation of a design made during the First World War for use by state regiments.

**WISCONSIN**—1913—The Wisconsin legislature in 1863 adopted a state flag with the Badger State coat of arms on one side and the U.S. coat of arms on the other. After the Civil War the Wisconsin National Guard used a different flag, and the legislature in 1887 inadvertently repealed the 1863 law. The present standard was made official 26 years later.

**CALIFORNIA**—1911—The Californian flag was born from the “Bear Flag Revolt” of settlers against the Mexican government at the Cosumnes River in 1846. The early flag, similar to its modern cousin, first replaced the Mexican standard at the pueblo of Sonoma.

**MINNESOTA**—1957—Minnesota boasts the newest design of all the state flags. The 1893 version was discarded because its bulk and two separate sides (each of a different color) made it liable to wind damage and too expensive to manufacture.

**OREGON**—1925—Oregon is another of those few states whose banners have a different design on each side. Not shown here is the reverse side with its Oregon beaver, symbol of the fur trade which opened the great northwest. 1859 is the year Oregon came into the Union.

**KANSAS**—1927—The flower on Kansas’ flag is a sunflower. The motto, “Ad Astra Per Aspera,” means “To the stars through difficulties.” The scene is representative of early Kansas history.

**WEST VIRGINIA**—1929—Typifying the independent spirit that was responsible for forging the state from the chaos of the Civil War, the West Virginia flag carries the motto, “Montani Semper Liberi,” which means “Mountaineers always freemen.”

**NEVADA**—1929—Showing its name in an unusual design around a star, Nevada’s banner displays two sprays of sagebrush. “Battle Born” refers to the state’s entry to the Union during the Civil War.

**NEBRASKA**—1925—The date on the flag of the Cornhusker State, March 1, 1867, is the date Nebraska was admitted to the Union. The motto on its seal is “Equality Before Law.”

**COLORADO**—1911—The present flag of Colorado does not conform exactly to the state laws which authorize it. The law stipulated a “C” of smaller size than that actually in use. “C” stands, not only for Colorado, but also for Centennial State, its nickname due to its admission to the Union in 1876.

**NORTH DAKOTA**—1911—Of unknown origin, this banner was carried through thirty-seven engagements by the First North Dakota Infantry during the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**—1909—South Dakota’s nickname can be read from its flag, which carries the state seal on its reverse side. Design of this flag was started by a Black Hills pioneer, a member of Teddy Roosevelt’s “Rough Riders.”

**MONTANA**—1905—The state seal carried by the Montana flag shows mining equipment, a gold pan and a plow, while the background shows the mountains from which the state derives its name. “Oro y Plata” refers to the gold and silver found in the state.

**WASHINGTON**—1923—The only state flag with a green background, Washington’s flag was designed by that state’s D.A.R. organization eight years before its official adoption.

**IDAHO**—1927—State law forbids all military organizations within the Idaho boundaries from carrying any flag except the national and state banners. The flag shows the state coat of arms.

**WYOMING**—1917—Once monarch of the Great Plains, the bison or buffalo still reigns supreme on the Wyoming banner. The flag design was the result of a D.A.R. contest, and, appropriately enough, was submitted by a woman from Buffalo, Wyoming.

**UTAH**—1913—The state flag of Utah was presented to the battleship *Utah* the year before its official adoption. Its two dates commemorate the year in which the Mormon pioneers entered Salt Lake Valley, 1847 and the year that Utah became a state, 1896.

**OKLAHOMA**—1925—The present Oklahoma flag with its buckskin Indian war shield, peace pipe and olive branch, is the fourteenth emblem to fly over Oklahoma soil.

**NEW MEXICO**—1925—The ancient sun symbol of a forgotten southwestern Indian tribe gives the New Mexican flag a striking appearance. Its colors are the red and yellow of old Spain.

**ARIZONA**—1917—Arizona took its flag from one originally flown by the battleship *Arizona*, sunk at Pearl Harbor in 1941. Ironically, the banner shows the rays of the setting sun, while the *Arizona* was sunk by a nation whose flag represents the rising sun.

**ALASKA**—1927—Resulting from a public school contest conducted by the American Legion, The Alaska flag was designed by a 13-year-old orphan boy. He described the North Star in his design as standing “for the future State of Alaska.”

**HAWAII**—1898—The Hawaiian flag, though not adopted as its Territorial flag until the annexation in 1898, was originally designed for King Kamehameha I in 1816. The stripes stand for the eight major islands, while the British Union Jack is included as a reminder of Captain Vancouver, who on his voyage around the world in 1794, gave Kamehameha a British flag.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**—1938—Until this flag was adopted the District of Columbia had no official flag other than that carried by the District Militia.



*In honor of State Mutual of America's new home office building, Massachusetts' Governor Furcolo in 1957 presented the Bay State emblem and the flags of the forty-seven other states to the company with full permission to display them. Latest additions are the flags of Alaska and Hawaii. State Mutual's flag collection, flown on every holiday, is symbolic of the fact that the insurance firm is one of very few licenced by every state.*

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WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS