

# Flag of 1781 and 1812 Holds Honor Spot in State House

By Helen F. van Walt Free-Lance Writer and Historian

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The only American flag known to have been carried in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 is shown in the State House flag room at Annapolis by Mary Jane Wilsman,

By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post  
17-year-old Annapolis High School student. Note how age has greyed the flag, which was carried into battle as the banner of the "13 rebellious Colonies." (Story, Sec. II, Page 2B.)

# Flag of 1781 and 1812 Hold Honor Spot in State House

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THE PLACE OF HONOR in the State House flag room at Annapolis, Md., is given to a faded and fraying banner with 13 stripes and 13 stars—the only American flag known to have been carried in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

This emblem owes its long and eventful life to one William Bachelor, a Maryland standard-bearer who fell in love with the flag in 1781.

Invalided out of the Revolutionary Army, with serious wounds, Bachelor could not part with the flag to which he had pledged his life, his fortune and his honor. For 31 years, Bachelor cared tenderly for the flag he had carried into battle as the banner of the "13 rebellious Colonies."

In the War of 1812, the Revolutionary Old Glory was called back into service. This time it was borne by William Bachelor's son at the Battle of North Point September 12, 1814.

Honorably discharged now, the old flag lives out its years of retirement in the Annapolis flag room.

IN THREE MASSIVE, tight cases in the same room with other banners—some torn and tattered—tell the story of Stars and Stripes and the Nation as they grew to full stature.

Flags of both the Union and the Confederacy are enshrined there. Among them is only one Confederate flag, which emerged unscathed from the Battle of Gettysburg. There also is the "Gosnell flag," because of the conflicting loyalties of Marylanders during the Civil War.

On April 19, 1861, during a riot in Baltimore between Union sympathizers of the North and South, not a single Union flag could be found in all the city. A veteran of the War of 1812, Lemuel W. Gosnell, bought some bunting and took it home to his wife and daughter. Sewing through the night, the two women produced the "Gosnell flag" in the early hours of the morning.

A special niche in the State House flag room is reserved for standards carried by Marylanders in World War I.