

16 April 1990

Governor Schaefer is pleased that you wrote about the contributions of Maryland soldiers during the War for Independence. He has asked us to respond to your specific inquiry about replicas of the Cowpens flag, since this agency has physical custody of that flag and other historic Maryland flags.

The thirteen-star flag known as the "Cowpens Flag" was presented to the State in 1907. It allegedly was carried by William Batchelor at the Battle of Cowpens, and later by his son at the Battle of North Point during the War of 1812.

If the facts concerning the "Cowpens Flag" could be corroborated, it would be a singularly valuable and important relic. Research on the flag undertaken in the 1960s by Grace Rogers Cooper of the Smithsonian, as well as an investigation of the military career of William Batchelor, have shown, however, that the "Cowpens Flag" is of nineteenth-century origin, and that William Batchelor could not have carried this flag, or any flag, at the Battle of Cowpens, because he was not there.

Because the authenticity of the "Cowpens Flag" has been discredited, the State has not been involved in any project to produce replicas. I therefore am unable to provide you with the name of a supplier of a replica "Cowpens Flag."

For your information, I am enclosing an article on the "Cowpens Flag" that you may find of interest.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Stiverson  
Assistant State Archivist

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