

Subject: Flag/Md troops at Cowpens
From: Rob Schoeberlein <robs@mdsa.net>
Date: Tue, 21 Apr 2009 10:25:49 -0400
To: edp@mdsa.net
CC: Emily Oland Squires <emilyo@mdsa.net>

Ed,

I had a conversation with Dr. Larry Babits at East Carolina University, author of "A Devil of a Whipping - The Battle of Cowpens" (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1998) [referred to me by Ross Kimmel]:

- 1] No record of any unit with colors at Cowpens (including William Washington's "Seat Cushion" flag);
- 2] He does not believe that the center star of the "Cowpens Flag" represents Maryland;
- 3] Only elements of what had been formerly the Third Maryland (disbanded in August 1780 along with the Maryland Line) were present at Cowpens. They were merged to form a company with members of the former Maryland Fifth;
- 4] National colors only authorized for use by US military unit after 1830 - only unit colors before this time;
- 5] Our "Cowpens Flag" may actually be a flag dating from the Mexican War or else a naval ensign.

the questions to be answered are:

- 1) any blacks serving with Maryland troops at the battle of Long Island

Ross Kimmel believes it to be "highly doubtful".

- 2) who commanded the third? Maryland at the Battle of Cowpens?

John Eager Howard would be the overall commander. The Third was not a "stand alone" unit. It was part of the second company of a regiment made up of portions of what had been the Maryland Line.

- 3) how plausible is the Batchelor story?

Professor Babits believes that Batchelor was dead prior to the Battle of Camden. I am still working on this research..

Rob

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Robert W. Schoeberlein, Ph.D
Director of Special Collections
Maryland State Archives

410.260.6447
410.974.3895 (fax)

Subject: Flag update

From: Rob Schoeberlein <robs@mdsa.net>

Date: Tue, 21 Apr 2009 12:50:00 -0400

To: edp@mdsa.net

CC: Emily Oland Squires <emilyo@mdsa.net>

Ed,

On a US government website I learned that "The Stars and Stripes was officially used in Army artillery units in 1834, and in infantry units in 1842".

I also spoke to a Smithsonian curator/chair Jennifer Jones regarding the Maryland/DC unit Mexican-American War flag on p. 29 of Cooper's book. Unfortunately, its dimensions are not recorded. She is going to get the information and e-mail it to me today.

I said that our "Cowpens Flag" appears to be much longer in its fly. She thought that it was probably a naval ensign and that such ensigns did have one star in the middle of the canton. I will check if the Naval Academy Museum has any examples of 19th c. naval ensigns.

Jones is the Chair of The Division of Military History and Diplomacy. She also gave me other resources to contact on flag issues.

Rob

Subject: [Fwd: Interesting illustrated flag website] with link
From: Rob Schoeberlein <robs@mdsa.net>
Date: Tue, 21 Apr 2009 13:14:34 -0400
To: edp@mdsa.net

<http://cterwilliger.com/flags/flags2.html>

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Interesting illustrated flag website
Date: Tue, 21 Apr 2009 13:13:45 -0400
From: Rob Schoeberlein <robs@mdsa.net>
To: edp@mdsa.net

Contains some Civil War era "Cowpens-like" cantons.

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Subject: Flag update 2
From: Rob Schoeberlein <robs@mdsa.net>
Date: Tue, 21 Apr 2009 14:27:19 -0400
To: edp@mdsa.net
CC: Emily Oland Squires <emilyo@mdsa.net>

Ed,

My conversation with Jim Cheevers was less than satisfactory. They have virtually nothing digitized. When I asked him if they held ensigns with the "Cowpens" configuration he answered in the affirmative. A few moments later he said he had not seen one in their holdings. The museum is still being renovated and he is without most of his resource material.

In any case, one Boleslaw Mastai sold off his extensive US flag collection at Sothby's in 2002. My attached pdf holds pertinent information and images.
Rob

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cowpens_flags_and_variations.pdf	Content-Type: application/pdf Content-Encoding: base64
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Important Americana
Sale N07825

AUCTION DATE
Session 1 10 Oct 02 10:15 AM

LOCATION
New York

LOT 62



**u A 13-STAR AMERICAN
NATIONAL FLAG
MID-19TH CENTURY**

8,000—10,000 USD **Lot Sold.** Hammer Price
with Buyer's Premium: 7,768 USD

MEASUREMENTS
approximate height 45in. by length 60 1/2in. (1.14m. by 1.54m.)

DESCRIPTION
the twelve hand-sewn double-appliqué cotton muslin stars configured in a circle surrounding a larger central star on a two-piece wool bunting canton; the stripes of hand-sewn wool bunting; the canvas sleeve containing a period hemp rope with a wooden toggle, and hand-sewn to the flag. This is the Third Maryland pattern, modeled after a configuration first used during the Revolutionary War by a Maryland regiment.





Important Americana



Sale: N07825 | **Location:** New York
Auction Dates: Session 1: Thu, 10 Oct 02 10:15 AM

LOT 63 (of 292)

Jump to:

[PREVIOUS LOT](#) | [BROWSE CATALOGUE](#) | [NEXT LOT](#)



LOT 63

u A 13-STAR AMERICAN NATIONAL FLAG MID-19TH CENTURY

3,000—4,000 USD

Lot Sold. Hammer Price with Buyer's Premium: 5,975 USD

- ▶ [READ CONDITION REPORT](#)
- ▶ [EMAIL THIS LOT TO A FRIEND](#)
- ▶ [CONVERT CURRENCY](#)
- ▶ [KEY TO LOT SYMBOLS](#)
- ▶ [EVENT TERMS & CONDITIONS](#)

MEASUREMENTS

approximate height 20 3/4in. by length 24 3/4in. (52.7cm. by 62.9cm.)

DESCRIPTION

the hand-sewn double-appliqué cotton muslin stars configured in the Third Maryland pattern on a two-piece wool bunting canton; the wool bunting stripes and linen sleeve hand-sewn; remnants of three wool twill tape ties on the sleeve. Together with a 13-star hand-sewn double-appliqué American national flag marked on the sleeve *U.S. Ensign No. 7/Navy Yard, NY, April. 1891*, the sleeve with five brass grommets.

The first illustrated in Mastai, the equivalent of pages 42 and 44; the second, the equivalent of pages 182-183.

This lot is sold subject to Sotheby's [Conditions of Sale](#). As stated in the [Conditions](#), all lots are sold on an "AS IS" basis. Prospective bidders should review the [Conditions](#) and [Buying at Auction](#) guide.

[View Zoom/Large Image](#)





Important Americana



Sale: N07825 | **Location:** New York
Auction Dates: Session 1: Thu, 10 Oct 02 10:15 AM

LOT 117 (of 292)

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LOT 117

**u A 17-STAR AMERICAN NATIONAL FLAG
COMMEMORATING OHIO STATEHOOD, FEBRUARY 19,
1803**

18,000—20,000 USD

Lot Sold. Hammer Price with Buyer's Premium: 21,510 USD

- ▶ [READ CONDITION REPORT](#)
- ▶ [EMAIL THIS LOT TO A FRIEND](#)
- ▶ [CONVERT CURRENCY](#)
- ▶ [KEY TO LOT SYMBOLS](#)
- ▶ [EVENT TERMS & CONDITIONS](#)

MEASUREMENTS

approximate height 32in. by length 47in. 81.3cm by 119.4cm

DESCRIPTION

the hand-sewn single-appliqué cotton muslin stars configured in a 16-star wreath encircling a similar-sized central star on a wool bunting canton; the canton and wool bunting stripes are hand-sewn; there are fragmentary remains of a hand-sewn sleeve.

Illustrated in Mastai, the equivalent of page 52.

This lot is sold subject to Sotheby's [Conditions of Sale](#). As stated in the [Conditions](#), all lots are sold on an "AS IS" basis. Prospective bidders should review the [Conditions](#) and [Buying at Auction](#) guide.





Important Americana



Sale: N07825 | **Location:** New York
Auction Dates: Session 1: Thu, 10 Oct 02 10:15 AM

LOT 126 (of 292)

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[View Zoom/Large Image](#)

LOT 126

u A 12-STAR FIRST NATIONAL CONFEDERATE FLAG, CIRCA 1861-1863

60,000—80,000 USD

Lot Sold. Hammer Price with Buyer's Premium: 71,700 USD

- [▶ READ CONDITION REPORT](#)
- [▶ EMAIL THIS LOT TO A FRIEND](#)
- [▶ CONVERT CURRENCY](#)
- [▶ KEY TO LOT SYMBOLS](#)
- [▶ EVENT TERMS & CONDITIONS](#)

MEASUREMENTS

approximate height 34in. by length 66in. 86.4cm by 167.6cm

DESCRIPTION

the twelve cotton muslin stars double-appliquéd on a blue wool canton; embroidered on one side of the canton the phrase *God Armeth the Patriot*. With a red wool sleeve; fringe on the upper and lower borders; the flag is entirely hand-sewn. *Fringe now missing from the fly end.*

This pattern is known as the "Stars and Bars", and was the first adopted by the Confederate Congress in 1860.

Illustrated twice in Mastai, on the cover, and on unnumbered page 139.

This lot is sold subject to Sotheby's [Conditions of Sale](#). As stated in the [Conditions](#), all lots are sold on an "AS IS" basis. Prospective bidders should review the [Conditions](#) and [Buying at Auction](#) guide.



Important Americana
Sale N07825

AUCTION DATE
Session 1 10 Oct 02 10:15 AM

LOCATION
New York

LOT 59



**u A 31-STAR AMERICAN NATIONAL FLAG
COMMEMORATING CALIFORNIA
STATEHOOD, SEPTEMBER 9, 1850**

10,000—15,000 USD **Lot
Sold.** Hammer Price with
Buyer's Premium: 10,158 USD

MEASUREMENTS

approximate height 42 1/4in. by length 67 1/4in. (1.07m. by 1.71m.)

DESCRIPTION

the hand-sewn double-appliqué cotton muslin stars configured in a rare Square-Within-A-Square surrounding a larger central star on a wool-silk canton; the canton and cotton stripes are hand-sewn; there is no sleeve, merely four cotton loops sewn onto the hem on the hoist side of the flag. In addition, there is a cotton tape along the entire fly edge. Illustrated in Mastai, the equivalent of page 74.

