



JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE & MUSEUM

Summer 2021

Marching Together in 2021

With great pleasure we welcomed guests back to the JVH's first event since the onset of the COVID Pandemic! With our Field of Honor proudly on display, our 2021 Reopening Community event was held on July 10th. On a perfect July day, we were honored and thrilled to have visitors return to attend our reopening with many visitors taking tours of our house. The day featured a series of demonstrations, colonial era lacemaking by Mayra Petretti, and colonial era weaving by Lois Macknik who both added authenticity to their work by appearing in colonial dress. These were complimented by a modern demonstration of blacksmith skills by Billy Barret who constructed artistic iron work pieces using techniques akin to those used by farriers to shoe horses. The highlight was the Whitehouse Wind Symphony's performance of a combination of patriotic and American popular music against the backdrop of our Field of Honor. Like us, they had been sidelined by the pandemic and we were most excited for us to share our first post-pandemic event together!

A special thanks to our event sponsors, Investors Bank, the Law Firm of Borteck and Czapek, Mr. and Mrs. Craig Sutherland, and Artisan Advisory Group, whose kind generosity was essential to the event's success.

New Additions

JVH is pleased to announce the addition of two new Trustees who will be joining us in September: Stephanie Daugherty and Walter Wheelock. Stephanie Daugherty is certified member of the International Society of Appraisers, with a specialization in jewelry where she is GIA certified. She holds an undergraduate degree from Gettysburg College and a master's degree in Museum Studies from Seton Hall University. She brings significant experience as a museum curator and a collections management specialist for historic sites including Morristown National Historical Park and the President Woodrow Wilson House in Washington D.C. Stephanie has been a speaker at Gettysburg College and at the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington D.C.

Our second new trustee, Walt Wheelock joins us from Stockholm, NJ. Although semi-retired, he still works as an inspector of commercial fire systems and is a minister serving in associate capacities at the Rockaway Assembly of God. Walt has been active in his community serving as a police chaplain and as a member of his community's First Aid Squad. He has a longstanding interest in American History and historical sites.

We welcome Stephanie and Walt to our board and look forward to having them join us as we work to preserve JVH and the important Colonial American History associated with our museum.

Upcoming Events

On October 9th and 10th, JVH will participate in the Somerset County Journey Through the Past. The museum will be open for our very own Harvest Hoedown on Saturday from 10 AM- 5 PM and on Sunday from 12 PM-4 PM. On Saturday, we will host a live musical performance by the Long Hill String Band for two sets: one from 11:30-12:30 and one from 1-2 PM. On Sunday, we will feature author Robert Mayers who will discuss his most recent historic publication 'Middlebrook, The Revolutionary War Campground That Saved America', offer his books for sale and signing. Both days will feature live historic demonstrations, house tours, crafts, a scavenger hunt, and a raffle. We look forward to having you join us.

Mark your calendars for Veteran's Day, November 11th, 2021 to join us at a special fundraising event, the opening night preview of our new Pluckemin Cantonment Model! A generous donation made by JVH trustee Yolanda Cillo, has allowed for this new permanent exhibition to be displayed at the museum. The model maker, Stephen Schwab, will be in attendance. More information to come...

Sponsorships

The JVH house is seeking corporate partners to sponsor our Harvest Hoedown and Cantonment Model Opening Night Preview! As we strive to create awareness of the importance of the Jacobus Vanderveer House in the victory of the American Revolutionary War, we remind you of the American tradition of generosity, asking for your partnership and support to continue our important work. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House depends on donations and fundraising to enable us to run our programs and events, as well as to maintain and add to the historic collections within the house. Donations and sponsorships are tax deductible.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for either event, please go to our website www.jvanderveerhouse.org for more information or email info@jvanderveerhouse.org.

Linking our past to our present

JVH has displayed 200 Flags as a participant in the 'Field of Honor' program for the past six years. Our flags are in place from Memorial Day, a holiday that honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country, extending over Flag Day which falls on June 14th, remaining in place over Independence Day, July 4th with breakdown of the display in mid-July. The American Flag is a symbol that is recognized throughout the world and has been planted at the North Pole, Mount Everest and even been planted on the moon—but many of us may not recall how the 'Stars and Stripes' became our flag, why there are 13 stripes and 50 stars, when we first called it the 'Star Spangled Banner' or why we sometimes call our flag, 'Old Glory'.

The American Flag evolved to its current design of a blue field with stars (a 'canton') and alternating red and white stripes with influences on its design beginning before we had even become a country, that is before the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

We often forget that the initial protests that the American Colonists held against Great Britain were not designed to seek independence but to be treated as Englishmen and were primarily protests against unfair taxes put on the colonists. This included the 'Stamp Act' put in place in 1765 which resulted in protests in Boston by the 'Sons of Liberty' who made a red and white striped flag that could be displayed vertically or horizontally. This flag may have influenced the stripes that were later incorporated into the American Flag.



Sons of Liberty Flag 1765

When George Washington left Philadelphia for Boston in 1775—at the beginning of the revolution but before the signing of the Declaration of Independence—he carried a flag that incorporated 13 stripes representing the 13 colonies but instead of having a field of stars on a blue background, it placed a British Union Jack in the upper corner. It was called the 'Grand Union flag' and has been interpreted as meaning 13 colonies united under British rule.



Although independence was declared on July 4, 1776, congress did not pass any acts or give guidance on the flag design until June 14, 1777, at which time direction was given that the flag would have 13 alternating stripes of red and white with 13 stars on a blue field forming a new constellation. But the direction did not give specifics such as where the blue field would be placed, whether the stripes would be vertical or horizontal or how many points would be on the stars.

Most of us believe that Betsy Ross designed and made the first 'American Flag' but there is controversy about this that will likely not ever be resolved. We know that Betsy Ross was an upholsterer and that she had made flags for the Pennsylvania Navy and is said to have known or met George Washington. She likely made the flag but there are some records that suggest that Francis Hopkinson—a signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey—may have designed the flag. This is based on a bill that was submitted to congress by Hopkinson for designing the flag. Some believe that the flag Hopkinson designed assembled the stars in the 3-2-3-2-3 pattern on the blue field not the 'wreath pattern'. Nonetheless, the legend is that the first flag was made by Betsy Ross with the stars in the 'Betsy Ross' or 'Philadelphia' or 'Single Wreath' pattern—a ring of stars on the blue field—with 13 alternating seven red and six white stripes. The flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes.



The Betsy Ross Flag



Possible Hopkinson Flag

Did you know that for a time each new state that joined the union received not just a star but also a stripe on the flag? When Vermont (1791) and Kentucky (1792) became states, the flag was changed to have both 15 stars and 15 stripes. This flag became known as 'the Star Spangled Banner'. This was the flag that flew over Fort McHenry at the edge of Baltimore Harbor during the War of 1812—the flag that Frances Scott Key viewed when he wrote the

poem that would become our National Anthem. It had 15 stars and 15 stripes and is preserved and can be viewed at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

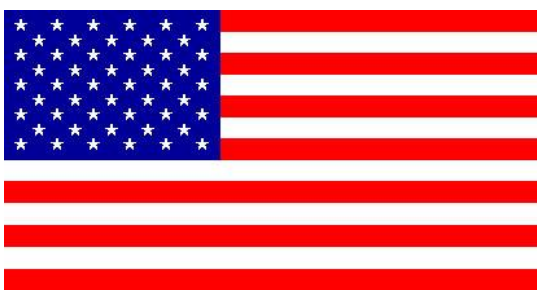


Fort McHenry Flag

When more states were added after the War of 1812, Congress passed another flag act directing that the flag should return to 13 stripes to represent the original 13 colonies and that one star would be added to the blue field for each additional new state that entered the union. It is interesting to note, however, that it wasn't until 1912 that congress actually specified the specific pattern for the stars or whether they should have 5 or 6 points!

We sometimes may hear the American Flag referred to as 'old glory'. This nickname was inspired by a large flag owned by a Massachusetts sea captain, William Driver, whose flag survived many attempts at defacement during the American Civil War. Driver is reported to have flown this flag over the Tennessee Statehouse after the war ended.

The American Flag is important to our history but also throughout the world as a symbol of our democracy, freedom, and as displayed in our Field of Honor, a symbol honoring the memory of those who have sacrificed their lives in defense of the principles the flag represents.



THE FRIENDS OF THE JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE & MUSEUM
P.O. BOX 723, 3055 RIVER ROAD, BEDMINSTER, NJ 07921-0723
WWW.JVANDERVEERHOUSE.ORG • (908) 396-6053