



THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY

GEORGE WASHINGTON

President 1789-1797

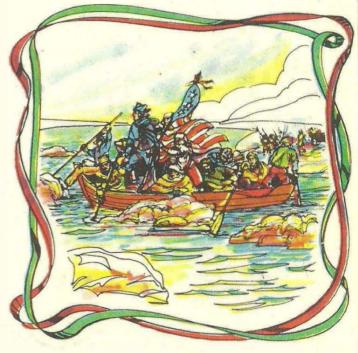


At 20 years old he was made an officer in the Virginia militia and just three years later was put in command of the entire colony's armies.

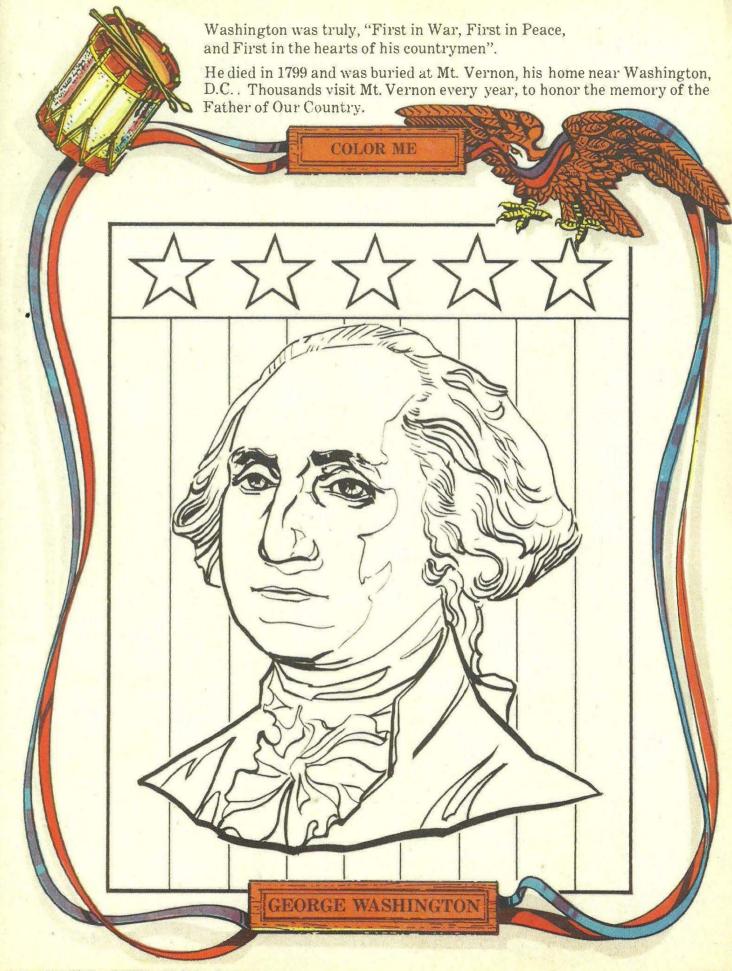
He endured hardships and led his illequipped troops to great victories in
the Revolutionary War. The most
famous of the victories was the Battle
of Trenton after his crossing of the
Delaware River and his hard winter at
Valley Forge.

George Washington was our first president, he was a natural leader and a wise man.

As a young lad of sixteen, he got his first job as a surveyor's helper. He did so well that he was appointed the official county surveyor a year later.



As President, he was devoted to a strong union of the new states and his devotion to the new Constitution stands as a great achievement during his two terms of office.









FLAGS OF THE REVOLUTION

During these times, there were colonial or regimental flags by the score. Popular symbols were pine trees, rattlesnakes and appropriate slogans.

Flown by the American Naval Forces During the Revolution. A famous theme of Revolutionary Flags.



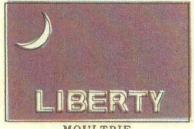
RATTLESNAKE FLAG



WASHINGTON'S CRUISERS

This flag was popular on cruisers commissioned by George Washington.

> The Moultrie Flag was the first distinctive American flag and flew over the Fort on Sullivan Island and in Charleston.



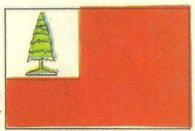
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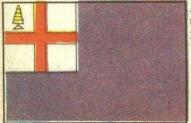
RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island's own flag carried at Brandywine, Trenton and Yorktown.

> This flag along with the Bunker Hill flag has been pictured present at the battle of June 17, 1775.



CONTINENTAL FLAG



BUNKER HILL FLAG

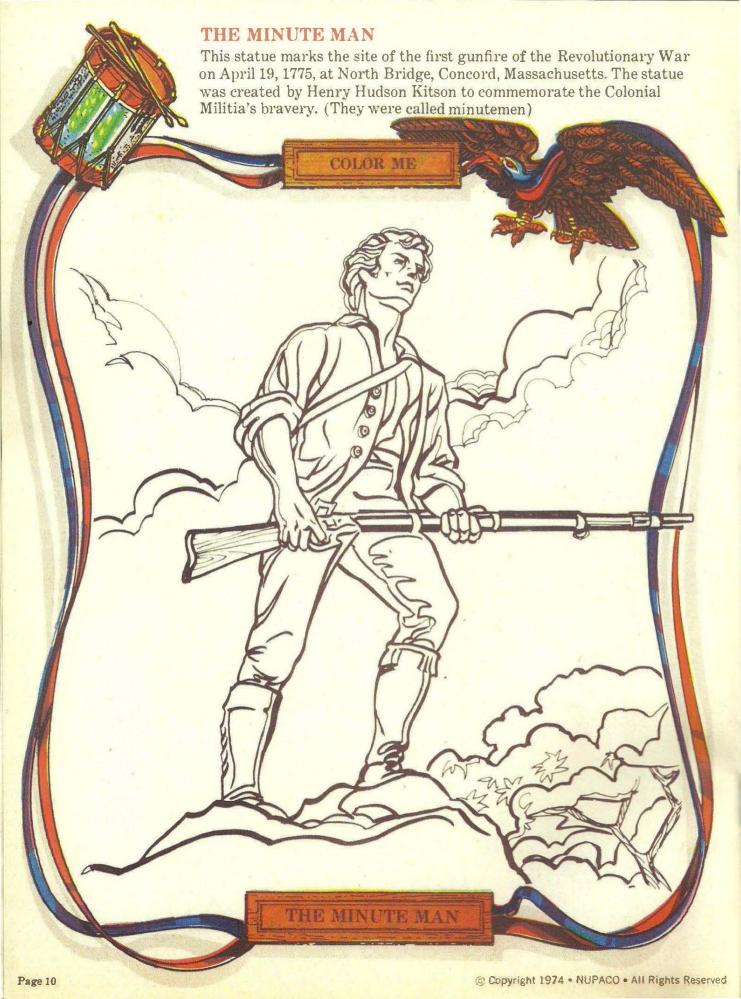
A type of flag that may have been used at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

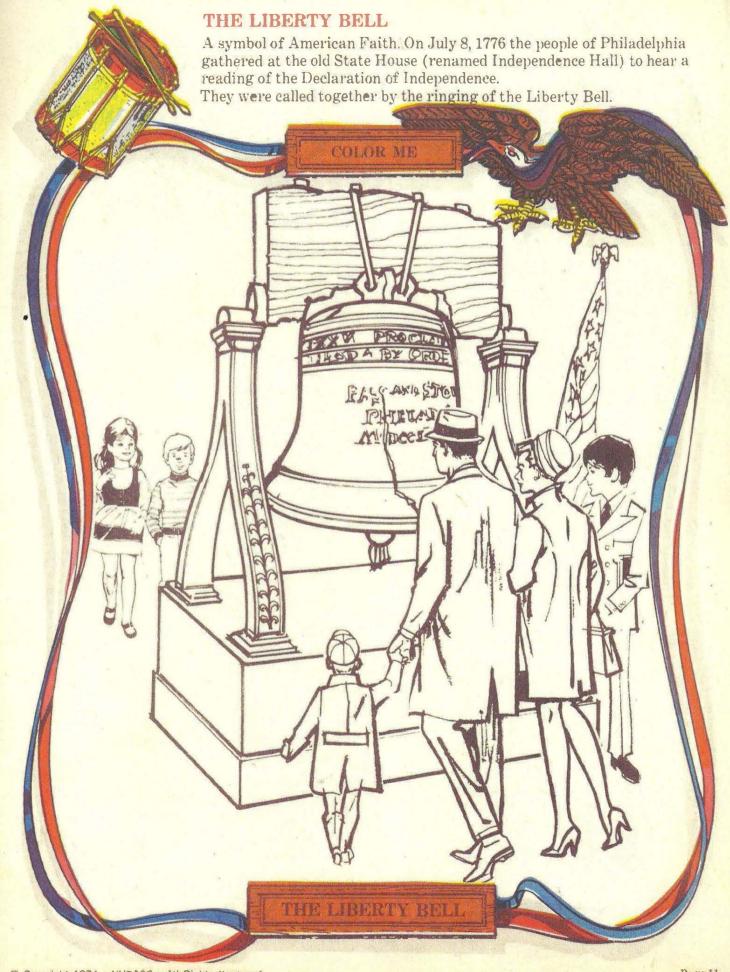
> Carried by the Green Mountain Boys at the Battle of Bennington August 16, 1777.



BENNINGTON FLAG







THE STORY OF THE LIBERTY BELL



More than two hundred years ago, when our country was still a part of England, a big State House was built in Philadelphia.

They decided that a great bell was needed for the steeple. The bell was ordered in 1751 from England. It was to be a 2,000 pound bell inscribed "Proclaim Liberty Throughout all the Land, to all Inhabitants Thereof".

The big bell arrived on the ship Matilda in the year 1752 and it was hung on a wooden frame on the State House lawn for all to see before it was raised to the steeple.

There, on the third ring of the clapper on the great copper and tin bell, the bell cracked.





A year later, two men who owned an Iron Foundry in Philadelphia said they would try to recast it. Charles Stow and John Pass melted down the Bell, and made a new mold and in 1753 the bell was recast. The new casters added their names, "Pass & Stow", the year MDCCLIII and the city to the side of the new cast bell. It was hung in the steeple of the State House. The sound of the bell was high and unpleasant and it had to be recast a second time.

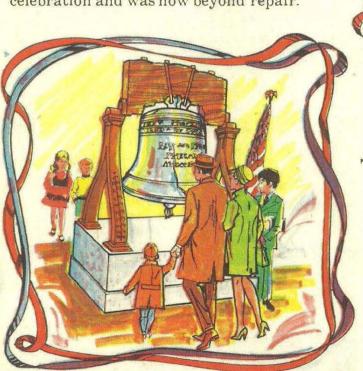


As the leaders of the 13 colonies met in the State House in Philadelphia during the Continental Congress the bell rang each day to summon them to the meetings.

On July 8, 1776 it rang far into the night as the people of Philadelphia celebrated the reading of the Declaration of Independence in that city.

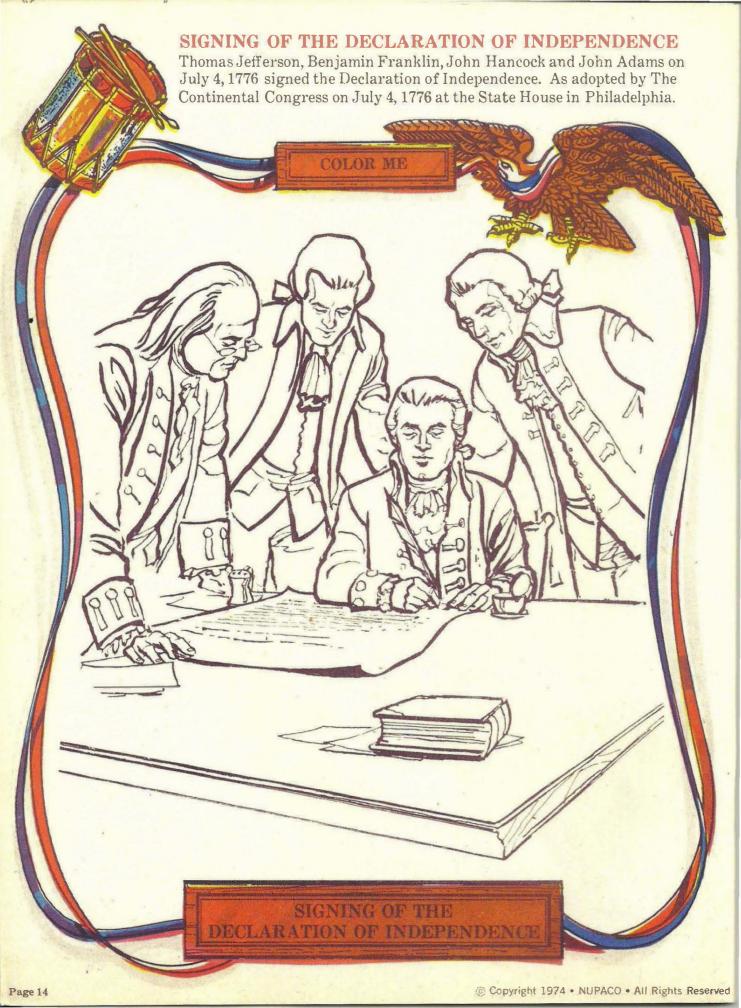
The bell was taken down and hidden when the British captured Philadelphia. After the war it was returned to the State House (Independence Hall).

On July 8, 1835 the bell once more cracked as it tolled the death of Chief Justice John Marshall. It was repaired 10 years later for a celebration of George Washington's Birthday... It cracked again at that celebration and was now beyond repair.





To celebrate our First Hundred years in 1876, the bell was put on display in Philadelphia and sent throughout the country by truck and train for all to see. It now stands in Independence Hall in Philadelphia.





IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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