



*Correct Use of the
Flags of the Confederacy
for the
Cowskin Prairie Chapter
United Daughters of the Confederacy
Baxter Springs, Kansas
Organized April 16, 2014*

By
Fredrea Gregath Cook
Organizing President

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Cowskin Prairie 2702, CWND

Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy have long striven to hold the heritage represented by these Southern flags close to their hearts. An accurate depiction of the history of the flags is necessary to educate the public. Daughters everywhere show their respect and seek to share this with others. To that end, this booklet has been prepared for use by our membership. Please continue to educate yourself and share your knowledge and respect with others.

The Code for the Correct Use of the Confederate Flags

The original brochure, *Traditions and Code for the Correct Use of the Confederate Flags*, was compiled in 1961 by Mrs. J.W. Rouselle of Mobile, Alabama

The First National Flag is the Official Flag of the United Daughters of the Confederacy®. The Second National Flag is the Official Flag of the Children of the Confederacy®. They are to be used in all ceremonies of the respective organizations. The four Confederate flags (First National or Stars and Bars, Second National or Stainless Banner, Third National, and Battle Flag) should be used whenever possible by the UDC and the CofC so the flags will become familiar to everyone and inspire devotion for their use on all days commemorating the heroes and events of the Confederacy.

HOW TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

When the Confederate Flag is displayed, the Flag of the United States of America must always be displayed with it; this includes use on platforms and in parades. The U.S. Flag must be to its own right (the observer's left). The Confederate Flag must be to the U.S. Flag's left (the observer's right).

When the flag is displayed at Annual General or Division Conventions, Chapter meetings, or other observances, or when displayed from a staff in a church or auditorium, the U.S. Flag must be placed to the right of the speaker (that is, to the left of the audience). The U.S. Flag holds the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as he or she faces the audience. The Confederate Flag and all other flags (e.g., Christian and State Flags) must be placed to the left of the speaker (that is, to the right of the audience). If a Christian Flag is used, it should never be in the procession, and it should stand alone (that is, separated from other flags by a few feet).

The U.S. and Confederate Flags must be on separate staffs with the staff of the U.S. Flag higher than the staff of the Confederate Flag. An eagle should be used as the standard on the staff of the U.S. Flag. A spear should be used as the standard on the staff of the Confederate and State Flag.

When used on a table, the U.S. Flag should be in the center and at the highest point in the group, the Confederate Flag on the left, and the State Flag on

the right. When used with floral arrangements or other decoration, the flag must not be obscured at any time.

For use on a car or float, the flag must be on a staff and firmly affixed only to the front of the vehicle, with the U.S. Flag on the right front and the Confederate Flag on the left front. The flag should never be draped over the hood, top, or sides of a vehicle and should not be flown from the back of a car, parade float or other vehicle. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

When the U.S. and Confederate Flags are displayed against a wall from crossed staffs, the U.S. Flag should be on its own right (that is, the observer's left), and staff of the Confederate Flag should be behind the staff of the U.S. Flag.

When the U.S. or Confederate Flags is displayed flat on a wall or in a window, the union (canton) should be at the top and to the observer's left. The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling or as a drapery. It should not be festooned, drawn back nor up in folds, but should always be allowed to fall free. When the flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat or suspended so that its folds fall free. The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. It should never be draped over the front of the platform, the speaker's desk, or a lectern. It should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

The Confederate Flag should be used at the dedication or unveiling for a Confederate marker or monument. It should never be used as the covering for the marker or monument.

RETIREMENT

When the flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

FOLDING

To fold the flag, two persons face each other and hold the flag waist high and horizontally between them. They fold the lower half of the flag lengthwise over the upper half; then fold it again in the same manner. The person holding the fly end folds the lower right corner to the upper edge to form a triangle, folds the outer point inward to form a second triangle, and continues to fold the flag in triangles until the entire length of the flag is folded, ending with the hoist end to the outside.

WHEN TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

Like the U.S. Flag, the Confederate Flag may be displayed every day, except in inclement weather. It should be displayed especially on days of special Confederate commemoration and observance. The flag may be displayed at night if properly illuminated.

It is customary to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. On Memorial Day, the flag should be at half staff until noon and at the peak of the staff from noon until sunset.

SALUTING THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

The Salute to the Confederate Flag

“I salute the Confederate Flag with affection, reverence and undying remembrance.”

The Salute to the Confederate Flag, as adopted by the United Daughters of the Confederacy®, should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, with the ungloved right hand over the heart.

The order for Pledges and Salutes: Salute to the Christian Flag (if used), Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, Salute to the State Flag, and Salute to the Confederate Flag.

As each Pledge and Salute is recited, the ungloved right hand is placed over the heart when reciting it and dropped to the person’s side as each is concluded. The right hand is then raised and again placed over the heart for the next Salute.

Provided by the United Daughters of the Confederacy
Richmond, Virginia

ADOPTION OF THE "STARS & BARS"

The original flag of the Confederate States of America, commonly known as the "STARS AND BARS", was approved by the Congress of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States, and first hoisted over the capitol building in Montgomery, Alabama, on the afternoon of the 4th day of March, 1861. Congress did not adopt a formal Act codifying this flag, but it is described in the Report of the Committee on Flag and Seal.

ADOPTION OF THE SECOND CONFEDERATE NATIONAL FLAG

The second flag of the Confederate States of America, commonly known as the "STAINLESS BANNER", was created by an Act of the Congress of the Confederate States (Statutes at Large, First Congress, Session III, Chapter 88), approved by the President on the 1st day of May, 1863.

FINAL EDITION

THE THIRD CONFEDERATE NATIONAL FLAG

The third and final flag of the Confederate States of America, was created by an Act of the Congress of the Confederate States (Second Congress, Session II), approved by the President on the 4th day of March, 1865, four years to the day after the first raising of the STARS AND BARS in Montgomery.

Three successive designs served as the official national **Flag of the Confederate States of America** from 1861 to 1865.

Since the end of the War Between the States, private and official use of these flags has continued in the United States.

First National Flag: the "Stars and Bars" (1861-1863)

Portions excerpted from Wikipedia.com

The first official national flag of the Confederacy, often called the "Stars and Bars", was flown from March 4, 1861, to May 1, 1863. It was designed by German/Prussian artist Nicola Marschall in Marion, Alabama, and resembled the flag of the Austrian Empire (later Austria-Hungary, now the Republic of Austria), with which Marschall would have been familiar. The "Stars and Bars" flag was adopted March 4, 1861, in the first temporary national capital of Montgomery, Alabama, and raised over the dome of that first Confederate capitol. Marschall also designed the Confederate army uniform.

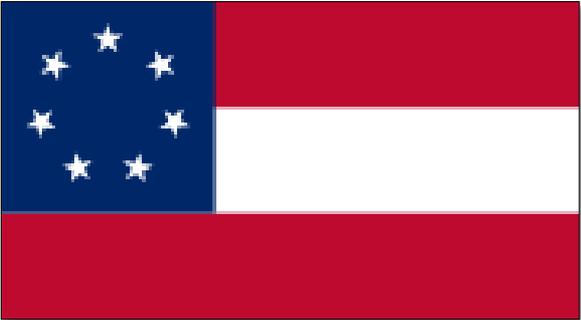
One of the first acts of the Provisional Confederate Congress was to create the

"Committee on the Flag and Seal", chaired by William Porcher Miles of South Carolina. The committee asked the public to submit thoughts and ideas on the topic and was, as historian John M. Coski puts it, "overwhelmed by requests not to abandon the 'old flag' of the United States." Miles had already designed a flag that would later become known as the Confederate "Battle Flag", and he favored his flag over the "Stars and Bars" proposal. But given the popular support for a flag similar to the U.S. flag ("the Stars and Stripes" – originally established and designed in June 1777 during the Revolutionary War), the "Stars and Bars" design was approved by the committee.

When the War Between the States broke out, the "Stars and Bars" caused confusion on the battlefield at the First Battle of Bull Run because of its similarity to the U.S. flag, especially when it was hanging limp, down on the flagstaff. The "Stars and Bars" was also criticized on ideological grounds for its resemblance to the U.S. flag. Many Confederates disliked the Stars and Bars, seeing it as symbolic of a centralized federal power the Confederate states were seceding from in order to preserve the institution of slavery. As early as April 1861, a month

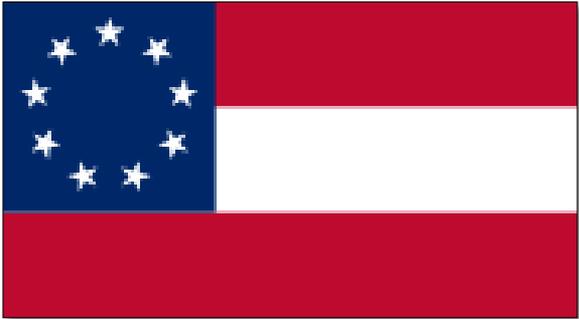
after the flag's adoption, some were already criticizing the flag, calling it a "servile imitation" and a "detested parody" of the U.S. flag. In January 1862, George William Bagby, writing for the *Southern Literary Messenger*, wrote that many Confederates disliked the flag. "Everybody wants a new Confederate flag," Bagby wrote, also stating that "The present one is universally hated. It resembles the Yankee flag and that is enough to make it unutterably detestable." The editor of the *Charleston Mercury* expressed a similar view, stating that "It seems to be generally agreed that the 'Stars and Bars' will never do for us. They resemble too closely the dishonored 'Flag of Yankee Doodle' ... we imagine that the 'Battle Flag' will become the Southern Flag by popular acclaim." In addition, William T. Thompson, the editor of the Savannah-based *Daily Morning News* also objected to the flag, due to its aesthetic similarity to the U.S. flag, which some Confederates negatively associated with emancipation and abolitionism. Thompson stated in April 1863 that he disliked the adopted flag "on account of its resemblance to that of the abolition despotism against which we are fighting."

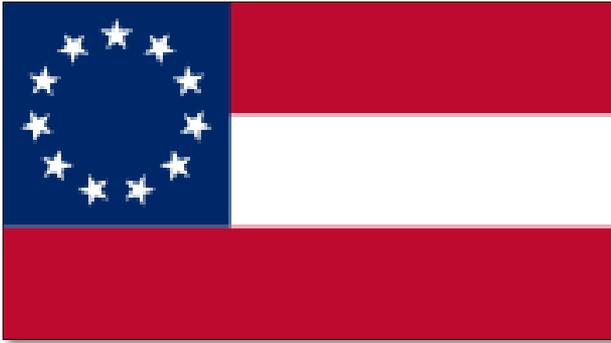
Over the course of the flag's use by the Confederacy, additional stars were added to the flag's canton, eventually bringing the total number of stars on the flag to thirteen. This reflected the Confederacy's claims of having admitted Kentucky and Missouri into the Confederacy. Although they were represented in the Confederate Congress, neither state was ever fully controlled or administered by the Confederacy. The first showing of the 13-star flag was outside the Ben Johnson House in Bardstown, Kentucky; the 13-star design was also in use as the Confederate navy's battle ensign.



7 Star Flag

9 Star Flag





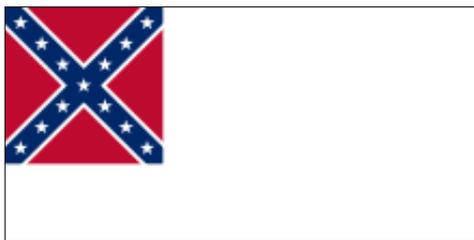
11 Star Flag



13 Star Flag

Second Flag: the "Stainless Banner" (1863-1865)

During the solicitation for a second national flag, of the Confederacy there were many



different types of designs proposed, nearly all making use of the battle flag, which by 1863 had become well-known and

popular among those living in the Confederacy. The new design was specified by the Confederate Congress to be a white field "with the union (now used as the battle flag) to be a square of two-thirds the width of the flag, having the ground red; thereupon a broad saltire of blue, bordered with white, and emblazoned with mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States."

The flag is also known as "the Stainless Banner" and was designed according to the suggestion of General P. G. T. Beauregard "whose earlier penchant for practicality had established the precedent for visual distinctiveness on the battlefield, proposed that 'a good design for the national flag would be the present battle-flag as Union Jack, and the rest all white or all blue....The final version of the second national flag, adopted May 1, 1863, did just this: it set the St. Andrew's Cross of stars in the Union Jack with the rest of the civilian banner entirely white."

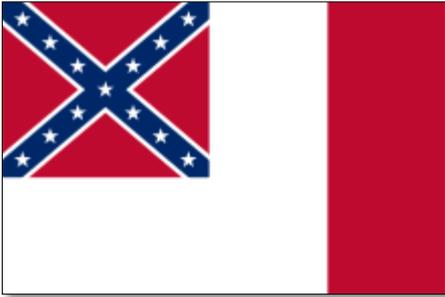
The Confederate Congress debated whether the white field should have a blue stripe and whether it should be bordered in red. William Miles delivered a speech supporting the

simple white design that was eventually approved. He argued that the battle flag must be used, but for a national flag it was necessary to emblazon it, but as simply as possible, with a plain white field.

Initial reaction to the second national flag was favorable, but over time it became criticized for being "too white." The Columbia-based *Daily South Carolinian* observed that it was essentially a battle flag upon a flag of truce and might send a mixed message. Military officers also voiced complaints about the flag being too white, for various reasons, such as the danger of being mistaken for a flag of truce, especially on naval ships, and that it was too easily soiled. Due to the flag's resemblance to one of truce, some Confederates cut off the white portion of the flag, leaving only the canton.

The first official use of the "Stainless Banner" was to drape the coffin of General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson as it lay in state in the Virginia capitol, May 12, 1863.

Third flag: the "Blood-Stained Banner" (1865)



The third national flag (also called the "Blood Stained Banner") was adopted March 4, 1865. The red vertical bar was proposed by Major

Arthur L. Rogers, who argued that the pure white field of the Second National flag could be mistaken as a flag of truce: when hanging limp in no wind, the flag's "Southern Cross" canton could accidentally stay hidden, so the flag could mistakenly appear all white.

Rogers lobbied successfully to have this alteration introduced in the Confederate Senate. He defended his redesign as having "as little as possible of the Yankee blue", and described it as symbolizing the primary origins of the people of the Confederacy, with the saltire of the Scottish flag and the red bar from the flag of France.

The Flag Act of 1865, passed by the Confederate congress near the very end of the War, describes the flag in the following language:

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the flag of the Confederate States shall be as follows: The width two-thirds of its length, with the union (now used as the battle flag) to be in width three-fifths of the width of the flag, and so proportioned as to leave the length of the field on the side of the union twice the width of the field below it; to have the ground red and a broad blue saltire thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with mullets or five pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States; the field to be white, except the outer half from the union to be a red bar extending the width of the flag.

Despite the passage of the Flag Act of 1865, very few of these third national flags were actually manufactured and put into use in the field, with many Confederates never seeing the flag. Moreover, the ones made by the Richmond Clothing Depot used the square canton of the second national flag rather than the slightly rectangular one that was specified by the law.

Battle Flag



Despite **never** having historically represented the Confederate States of America as a country, and **never** officially recognized as one of its national flags, the rectangular Battle Flag of Northern Virginia is commonly referred to as the Confederate Flag by uninformed individuals. It is also sometimes called the "Rebel flag" or "Dixie Flag", and is often incorrectly referred to as *the Stars and Bars*.

The **true** Flag of the Confederacy is the First National Flag, NOT the Battle Flag. As Daughters it is our duty to know the history of our flags and the correct use of those flags.

The removal of the Battle Flag, usually **misidentified** as the Flag of the Confederacy, is an affront to us and to American History. This applies to the removal and/or destruction of monuments, graves, and historical markers, as well.

THE "FLAG FLAP"

Address to the Cowskin Prairie Chapter 2702, UDC
Annual Meeting 2015

By
Steve Cottrell

As the end of the War Between the States Sesquicentennial draws to a close, we can reflect upon the rich heritage of America with its legacy of bravery and determination. It was that toughness and grit that brought our ancestors through the worst crisis in our history. The story and lessons of that war can be a great inspiration to us today as we strive to overcome our own problems and challenges in our modern time. This is the great lesson to be learned (or it should have been learned) during the 150th Anniversary of the War Between the States (WBTS). Its memory should have drawn all Americans closer together.



Yet, in this last year, of the 150th observance, the insanely evil act of a young, homicidal maniac in a Charleston church led to an avalanche of renewed regional division. Demons that had lain dormant for years were suddenly awakened. Immediately, all the mortal souls of old Dixie have been condemned to the fires of Hades, itself, by a host of self-appointed moral judges. Historic flags are pulled down, monuments are vandalized, even some gravestones have been defaced. At least, one man has been killed after a Mississippi flag rally when his

vehicle was run off the road. Yet whenever a dark cloud hovers over our land, heaven provides a silver lining somewhere on the edge of that cloud. You just have to look for it. As those who misunderstand history and its symbolic banners carelessly attempt to disrespect and defile sacred emblems under which our ancestors served, there are tenfold as many citizens who raise up those glorious standards and now fly them at their homes. There is the silver lining! Suddenly, countless citizens have become more aware of our heritage and more Saint Andrew's cross battle flags (that famous Dixie battle banner) fly from porches across our land than ever before! Americans don't like to be told what they can and cannot do on their own property!

Much of the problem that led to the dark cloud of the "Flag Flap" stems from what young people (and adults as well) are being taught nowadays: public schools now teach that slavery was the one and only cause of the WBTS. The Federal government itself recently published and distributed thousands of booklets promoting this idea. Those of us here know better... there were social, economic, and cultural differences as well; a "perfect storm" of issues, that brought on the war. And those of us who live west of the Mississippi, along the Missouri-Kansas border, know that a lot depended upon who burnt down your barn, stole all your livestock, and shot your Uncle Fred in the foot!

Radical left wing professors at colleges and universities across the nation influence so many young students nowadays that there are countless young radical culture warriors anxious to tear down

historical symbols and monuments of the Southland. Some well-meaning individuals pointed out that the U.S. flag actually flew over a nation where slavery was legal for far more years than any sort of Confederate banner did. This history lesson has since backfired as even the Federal colors have been desecrated by the same tribe of misguided culture warriors. In a bizarre ritual practiced on several college and university campuses, the U.S. flag was spread upon the ground and students were invited to walk, stomp, and/or dance upon its surface since they despise it for having flown over the nation in rough, old time days when slavery and other bad things occurred in the country's history. Yet I ask, where is there a country or region on earth that is pure and free from any wrongdoing at some point in its historical record? As the Bible says, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

But, once again my friends, there is a noble reaction to such ignoble acts. Now, if you take notice, you see more U.S. flags as well as Dixie battle flags flying from people's homes. Sometimes even both U.S. and C.S. together! American citizens are becoming more aware of their precious freedoms and how those freedoms can be too easily (and suddenly) taken away. So, this is the silver lining to the dark cloud!

We cannot hope to change the radical left wing political and social ideas poisoning so many minds today. It is not necessary for them to side with us and sympathize with those of us, in this room, who choose to honor our Southern ancestors. But they should at least have the common decency to respect

the American boys of the Southland who performed their military duty as required by their government under their bullet-torn battle flags just as other American veterans are respected whether or not all are in agreement with the political and social issues involved in their wars (such as Vietnam and Iraq in our modern era). Respect for American historical symbols, such as military banners and monuments, is just simply civilized, good manners that any decent citizen should have.

You ladies of the Cowskin Prairie Chapter 2702, United Daughters of the Confederacy, have reason to be proud that you are doing your part to honor brave Americans and preserve our heritage. One of the most noble and worthwhile WBTS ceremonies to take place this year was one sponsored by your fine organization, spearheaded by your president, Fredrea Cook: The General Stand Watie Remembrance Ceremony at the general's gravesite in Polson Cemetery across the Oklahoma border just to the west of Southwest City, MO. It commemorated the last surrender of a Confederate general and his command and was sponsored by your UDC chapter. Our Turkey Creek Fusiliers had the high honor of serving as the color guard for this historic ceremony – the last Sesquicentennial event of the war in America! Preserved on film for posterity by the Oklahoma Historical Society! Please continue to persevere in your worthy cause of honoring your brave Southern ancestors. God bless you ladies in your noble work!

Steve Cottrell, prolific author of books dealing with the War Between the States, is a 2015 recipient of the United Daughters of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal.



During a time when there are those who want to destroy American history by doing away with our beloved

Flags of the Confederacy, monuments, graves, street names and much more, it is my hope that you will continue, as ladies, to educate others. We will each do this in our own way, as individuals of Southern grace, and women who hold the history of America dear to our hearts.

Do not fall into that trap of making what is taking place in our country into a Southern thing. It is much greater! It is an attempt, by sadly misguided and uninformed individuals, to alter American history. This is something no American should be a part of, as we should all do our best to preserve our history. We are ALL American!

Let us each step forward, armed with knowledge, and do our best to help preserve our American history. Again, this is an American history issue, not a War Between the States issue.

A Few Words About the Author

Fredrea Cook organized the Cowskin Prairie Chapter Where No Division, on April 6, 2014, in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Previous to that she had served as President of the Cowskin Prairie Chapter, Oklahoma Division and as the 2nd Vice President of that Division. Mrs. Cook has served on numerous UDC Committees.



At the General level of UDC, she served on the Correct Use of the Flags of the Confederacy, 2014-2016. It was during this time that the Confederate Flags and Monuments came under excessive scrutiny, often based on incorrect information.

As a member of that General level committee, the ladies were tasked with a renewed effort to help educate others as to the flags. A symbol of our great Southern heritage, to that end Mrs. Cook assisted in preparation for the special UDC Flag report to the 122nd General Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Fredrea is a published author of numerous historical and genealogical books. A second generation Daughter, she really enjoys writing about things of historical significance.