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18th International Congress of Vexillology

The North American Vexillological Association (NAVA), in conjunction with the Canadian Flag Association, is hosting the 18th International Congress of Vexillology in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada this summer. The dates are 28 July through 2 August 1999. The Congress is a unique opportunity for you to meet flag industry professionals, hobbyists and vexillologists from around the world!

The Congress is being organized under the auspices of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV) and it marks the eighteenth time in 34 years that

delegates have convened for the purposes of making and renewing friendships, contacts and camaraderie on a global basis. Papers will be presented on a wide variety of flag topics, trade information will be available, and an opportunity to purchase books, flags and related materials will exist. This year, we are expecting the International Association of Flag Manufacturers (IAFM) to convene at the same time and place.

Registration packets are cur-

NEVA Bylaws to be Reviewed

At the next meeting, to be held on Sunday, 18 April 1999 in Colrain, Massachusetts, NEVA Members will be reviewing and reaffirming the organization's bylaws. These bylaws, originally drawn up at the founding of the organization but since lost, have been reconstructed through the memories of several founding members. Our Secretary has rewritten them and they can be found on page 7 of this *Journal*. Please attend the Colrain meeting.

rently being assembled for delivery to interested persons and we would like to make sure you are invited. Please send an email or a letter to the NAVA President with your name, address and phone numbers if you would like to be included in this mailing. Mail to Dave Martucci, NAVA President, 240 Calderwood Rd, Washington ME 04574-3440 or email to pres@nava.org.

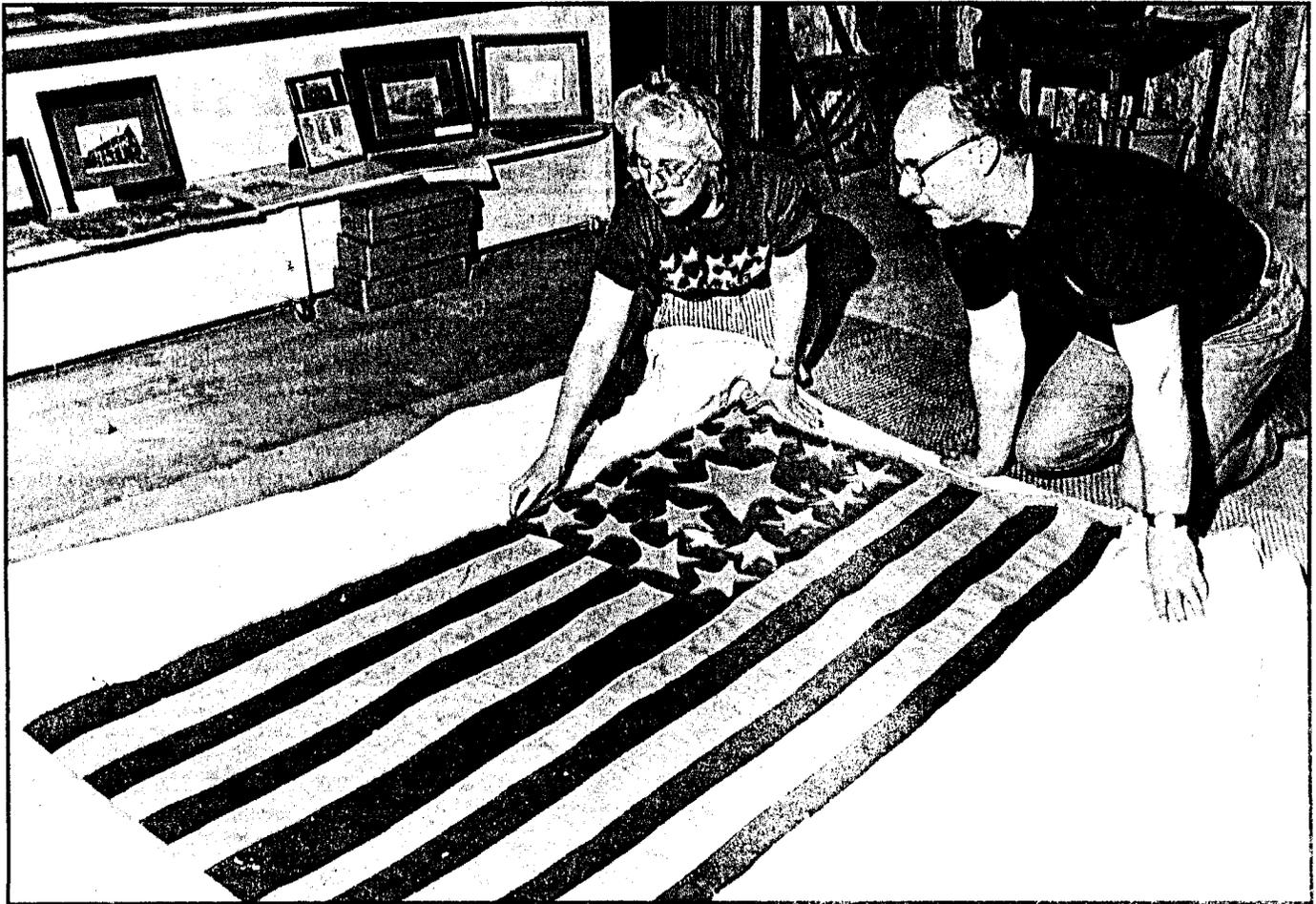
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The views of individual authors are their own and do not reflect the views of NEVA.

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Recorder/Paul Franz

JoAnne Sherburne of the Colrain Historical Society and Prentice Crosier of the Catamount Hill Association check out the condition of the twice-lost, 16-star flag raised over Catamount Hill schoolhouse in 1812, the first flag to fly over an American school.

Rallying for the flag

Efforts under way to preserve 1812 flag

By VIRGINIA RAY
Recorder Staff

COLRAIN — "Holy mackerel," JoAnne Sherburne says she recalls saying when, during a cleaning of the barns in back of the William Pitt House, she came across a flag, "wadded up in a plastic bag, crammed in a corner."

It wasn't just any flag, but the first flag to ever fly over an American schoolhouse — the Catamount Hill schoolhouse.

Sherburne's discovery of its presence at the Colrain Historical Society's Museum wasn't the first

■ **Full-time flag wavers:** Since 1937, more than 2.4 million flags have been briefly flown over the Capitol and then sold or given away as souvenirs. See story Page 10.

time the unique flag, made in 1812, had been rediscovered.

The previous discovery was by Florence Davenport Reynolds of Shelburne Falls, whose family had lived on Catamount Hill for generations. Reynolds came up with it

in her Aunt Louise's home among belongings she inherited in 1983.

In 1994 she donated it to the society.

Apparently, the flag had been sought for years by her father, Elmer Davenport, who died in 1969

and didn't know it was in his sister's home all that time.

By the time Sherburne, whose husband Phillips is the Historical Society's president, came upon the flag it had actually been a recent acquisition for the museum, and therefore had not been in the barn "languishing for very long."

The flag, said to have been made by Rhoda Shippee, Lois Shippee, Sophia Willis and Mrs. Stephen Hale, doesn't look like the traditional U.S. flag.

The women sewed what they thought the flag looked like, using See FLAG Page 10



Flag

From Page 1

strips of cloth from their various sewing bags, and the result was an approximation of the actual flag, with just 15 small stars arranged around a larger central star.

"People were not used to seeing a flag, it was only a military banner," said Catamount Hill Association President Prentice Crosier. "We did not fly flags over schools then, schools weren't public. The school up there was supported by the community and the teachers were housed by the community."

The Colrain version was raised on a rough pine flagpole on May 12, 1812.

Not until about three years later would the rest of the country begin to look at the U.S. flag as a symbol of patriotism in this way, said Crosier.

"Before the War of 1812 was declared, people on the Hill were concerned over the war in Europe where the English were fighting Napoleon and France," explained Crosier. "The United States was neutral, and Jefferson had this law about no foreign trade and it was totally unworkable. Then President Madison had a law saying we could trade with anybody except the British and the French. That was also unworkable."

"At this time, the British needed everybody they could get to be in their Navy and they were stopping American ships and impressing anyone they could get into service, and this is what annoyed the Catamount Hill people because they were all veterans, or children of veterans, of the American Revolution."

Crosier says that most of our region was Federalist, and generally more concerned with the trade issue than the impressment issue.

When President Madison asked for troops to be sent from Massachusetts, Gov. Caleb Strong refused.

"It wasn't until two years later when Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo that the British were able to turn their attention to us and they attacked the United States," Crosier said. "In 1815, after the War of 1812 was over, patriotism began to become an attitude in the public consciousness and people started to use the flag as a national symbol. But we were using it two years before on Catamount Hill, so basically we were ahead of the country in the

way that we thought about the flag and its use."

Sherburne, after finding the flag, did some research and the society agreed to have it evaluated for preservation.

An inventory of its condition as an historical object and prognosis of what it would take to preserve it and display it occasionally was performed by the American Museum of Textile History in Lowell. Since permanent display was deemed to perhaps be too harsh on the old cloth, the group agreed, said Sherburne, "the prudent thing to do is to have the object stabilized and treated to have it displayed occasionally."

Exposure to light, especially the ultra-violet part of the light spectrum, speeds chemical processes in objects like the flag, causing the dyes used to color it to fade, and the cloth itself to deteriorate.

Since the initial assessment in the fall of 1996, the group has been trying to raise the nearly \$2,500 needed.

"We discovered that fund raising is not for the faint of heart," said Sherburne with a laugh.

Noting that a great part of successful fund raising is "awareness," Sherburne credits society member Muriel Russell for making a fortuitous contact with Yankee magazine.

Now the Historical Society, Catamount Hill Association and Yankee are partners in the magazine's Community Partners Program to raise money to restore the historic flag.

The way it works is that the society is selling subscriptions to Yankee for \$20 each. Subscribers receive 12 monthly issues as well as the bonus of Yankee's classic Church Supper Cookbook. For every \$20 subscription, the Society receives \$10 to their flag restoration fund.

The flag will be on display today at the Society's Strawberry Social fund-raiser. T-shirts designed by Sherburne will also be sold at the society and the nearby Must Stop Gallery to support the preservation effort.

"It is another thing that puts Colrain on the map, and I'm hoping it's a rallying point," said Sherburne. "There are passions about Catamount Hill and to have what we believe is the first flag, and that it was raised there, is really a point of pride in the community."

What is Portland's Flag?

by David B. Martucci

While researching material on the symbols and emblems of Maine, I had occasion to ask the City Clerk of Portland, Maine "What is the Flag of Portland?" A packet of material arrived, giving much information on the Seal of the city and its meaning. The clerk stated that Portland "has no flag," yet flying over the Portland International Jetport (and also at City Hall) can be found a flag of navy blue with the Seal of Portland in the center and inscriptions.

The seal contains a shield bearing a ship with two dolphins as supporters. The shield is set on top of an anchor and a bird, supposed to represent a phoenix, holding a wreath is standing on the top of the anchor. The phoenix as an emblem for Portland was used early on a militia color, as recorded in The Cumberland Gazette October 25, 1790:

"... Amongst others, that of a Standard gave great satisfaction. The ground of It is a bright buff, and the device (referring to the rapid recovery of this town from the disasters of its conflagration) is happily designed. It represents a Phoenix rising from its ashes."

The ship has been referred to as possibly being a Roman galley or a ship upon the stocks. On October 8, 1841 at the Triennial Festival of the Charitable Mechanic's Association, a member of the Shipbuilders, Ship Joiners, Boatbuilders and Caulkers department of the Association offered the following toast, with subtle reference to the panic of 1837:

"Our City - Though rather *disabled* by the *Storms*, so prevalent in the *sea* of speculation, and consequently now on the *stocks* to be *repaired*; may she soon be launched on the *Ocean* of prosperity, and under her present *commander* bring good freights to *Port-land*." [Eastern Argus, October 9, 1841.]

The Seal on the flag is the City Seal, without the encircling inscriptions and outer band. The shield, dolphins, phoenix, anchor and ship are white with blue details. The sea under the ship is blue with white details. The inscription arched over the top of the seal is "CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE" and arched below is "RESURGAM." The inscriptions and the disc the seal is placed on are gold. The flag is navy blue and would appear to be approximately 3:5. The seal diameter is approximately one-half the hoist dimension and the letters approximately one-twelfth of the hoist.

One can also find a "simplified" version of the seal on City vehicles showing a plain white shield and the supporters and crest in white silhouette, all on a light blue ground, with the anchor and the encircling ring without inscription in dark blue.



**SYMBOLISM of the FLAG FOR THE
18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
VEXILLOLOGY**

28 July - 2 August 1999

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

The flag incorporates a maple leaf similar in design to that of the flag of Canada, modified in the style of the CFA. The "V" represents both the word "vexillology" and the name "Victoria," host city of the ICV 18 Congress. It is represented in three stripes of blue-white-red, in the style of the NAVA Flag and also in the colours of the USA Flag. The stylized blue waves incorporate an element of the flag of British Columbia and are especially appropriate due to Victoria's (and Vancouver Island's) relationship to the Pacific Ocean. The colors red, white, blue and yellow represent the colors of the flags of Canada, USA, British Columbia, FIAV, CFA and NAVA.

Designer: Truman Pope of Muncie, Indiana, USA



Flag Report 10

Jaume Ollé, a correspondent from Catalonia has sent a copy of his *Flag Report 10* in trade for this *Journal*. It is on disk, in an internet format (html) which can be read by any internet browser. Members may send a disk and 55¢ postage to the Secretary for a copy of the report. Contents:

Articles

History of the Flag in the Catalan Countries
Puntland - Flags of the Somali Nation

News

Chile: Regions of Aysen, Magallanes y Antartica, Atacama; City of Tuyapel; Supporters of Augusto Pinochet
Venezuela: Air Force; States of Tachira, Bolivar, Falcon, Guarico, Barinas
Nunavut
Spain: Liberal Independent Group; Noain Town; Flags & arms approved by Biscay's Juntas Generales; Flag of Reus; History of the Senyera in the Catalan Countries
Central America: Flag of the Mayans, Mexican Coats of Arms
Flags on TV; Iranian Army; Elections in Germany
Euskadi: Toward the National Sovereignty; Basque Trade Union ELA-STV (Solidarity of Basque Workers)
The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies Revives in the Heart of the Neapolitans



Whitney Smith

Dr. Smith, NEVA Founding Member, is shown holding a unique United States Flag of 34 stars, showing 13 large stars and 21 small stars. This flag, a recent acquisition of the Flag Research Center, is a good example of the large variety of folk interpretations of the Stars and Stripes by the people of the US, especially during the 19th Century.



Above, Bob Koeller's house in Gloucester, Massachusetts all decked out with flags from his collection for the NEVA Meeting.



Above, a photo of a 47 Star US Flag as shown on the internet. Another 47 Star Flag was found in New Mexico. It is supposed these flags were made for the admission of Arizona, the 47th State.



Photos from the November 1998 NEVA Meeting. Above, the flag cookies baked by member Robert Lloyd Wheelock. Left, President Carl Gurtman talks shop.



Flag of the City of Portland, Maine as currently used at the Jetport (which is actually in the City of South Portland) and at Portland City Hall.



Simplified Arms of the City of Portland as used on City vehicles.

Montague considers design for flag

Millers Falls resident Thomas W. Hutcheson presented a design for a town flag to selectmen last month.

By BETSY CALVERT

Staff writer

MONTAGUE — It takes a national flag to inspire such lyricism as “what so proudly we hail, by the twilight’s last gleaming,” but a municipal flag can be stirring as well, especially to a group of vexillologists.

Last month, Millers Falls resident Thomas W. Hutcheson, amateur vexillologist, or flag specialist, presented a design for a town flag to selectmen for their consideration. He also recommended that they solicit other design ideas, a plan they say they will pursue.

Over several months, a few hours at a time, Hutcheson worked on what he calls a modern design for this town. In his geometric design, the blue bands represent the bend in the Connecticut River at Turners Falls and also the intersection with the Saw Mill River. From the town seal, he took the five-pointed star, which is the symbol of the town’s five villages.

Whatever design is picked, Hutcheson said, he wants to see a flag that school children can make in their classrooms with paper and paste.

Already, however, Hutcheson’s design may be heading for the same fate as the flag he originally designed for his hometown of Sandwich. Officials there rejected his initial geometric design in favor of the 17th century town seal, which contains the British lion and other medieval leanings.

Montague Selectman Edward Voudren said last week that he personally would rather see a flag with the town seal thereby reflecting the town’s colonial heritage.

Montague’s seal is not medieval, but contains five separate drawings of each village landscape. Voudren also recommended some modern influence as a balance.

“I would like to see a flag that’s diverse, but represents our heritage and our time here,” he said.

Flag designers warn against using municipal seals, which dominate state and local flags.

“It’s terrible,” said James Croft, a flag designer from Northampton who came close to creating the flag for Montana. “Seals are used for documents, close up,” he said. From a distance, he said, “the problem is it looks like a big blob on a field.”

Logo on Bedsheet or LOB is the shorthand, Hutcheson said and vexillology newsletters bear out.

Flags with the line drawings of municipal seals are expensive to make, Croft said. Flags cannot be silk screened. They must be sewn to be visible from both sides.

In 1987, Croft helped initiate a Northampton flag committee that conducted a seven-month contest. The committee picked three designs and combined them into one naturalistic flag with the ox-bow of the Connecticut River and a feather quill pen representing among other things, resident Caleb Strong who signed the Declaration of Independence.

It was a flag that inspired Hutcheson in his Montague project.

Northampton’s flag, however, suffered the fate of complete obscurity. Asked about it last week, staff in Mayor Mary Ford’s office said simply that Northampton did not have a flag. They say they recently passed on this mistaken piece of information to the Boston Statehouse when staff there called

asking for a city flag for the Statehouse’s Hall of Flags. Northampton staff are now trying to find the one flag made, reportedly somewhere in City Hall.

Croft blames the disappearance of Northampton’s flag on lack of sponsorship by a business or club. The city did not have money back then to make many copies of the flag, he said. He noted that a local souvenir maker had great success selling mugs and T-shirts with the flag design.

Repetition is necessary for flags, Croft said. Like the ubiquitous Golden Arches of McDonald’s, people need to see the symbol frequently to develop that instant recognition.

For powerful symbols more moving than fast food, look at national flags, Croft said. Like the rising sun of Japan or the maple leaf of Canada, they are simple to accommodate many people.

Lorna Blake of Leeds was not an official flag fanatic when she took on the task of surveying national flags some years ago for Smith College. Now retired, the Belfast native was director of admissions when she noticed to her dismay that Smith staff and students were ignoring the flags of their countries flying in the school gym. So she found a book and wrote a short review of national flags for the school as a form of reference.

Of the countries she studied, she said, “It’s fascinating how some of them came up with their flags.”

For countries with relatively recent flags, she said, some selected designs from a single submission of an ordinary person. “Others had professionals come up with designs, and debated it for ages,” she said.

She said she most admired the beauty of some African flags, such as the crossed spears of the Maasai on Kenya’s flag.

Bylaws of the New England Vexillological Association

Article I. Name

1.1. The name of this organization shall be the New England Vexillological Association, hereinafter referred to as "NEVA."

Article II. Purpose

2.1. Be it resolved that we, the members of NEVA, join together to form this organization to exchange ideas, knowledge, information, trivia, techniques, and technical details related to the hobby, study and science of vexillology.

Article III. Membership

3.1. Membership is open to anyone who pays the dues of \$10.00 per year.

3.2. Voting membership of NEVA shall consist of dues-paying members in good standing in attendance at any meeting where decisions are put to a vote.

Article IV. Officers and Duties

4.1. The Officers shall be President and Secretary/Treasurer.

4.2. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and must be members in good standing. The term of office shall be two years and they shall be staggered such that the President is elected in even numbered years and the Secretary/Treasurer is elected in odd numbered years.

4.3. An officer may be removed from office for cause and with a 30-day notice by a majority vote if members deem it necessary at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

4.4. Should a vacancy of an officer's position occur during a term of office, the position will be filled for the unexpired term by the voting members at a NEVA meeting.

4.5. The duties of the President are to preside at all meetings and to keep order therein, to

call and conduct all meetings, to prepare an agenda for each meeting, to serve as advisor to all committees and to handle all official correspondence.

4.6. The duties of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be to assume the duties of the President in the event of his/her absence, to record minutes of all meetings of NEVA, to notify members of all meetings, to note all attendance, to maintain a list of all paid members, to keep all financial records up to date, to pay approved bills and to establish accounts as directed by the membership.

4.7. The President and Secretary/Treasurer are authorized to sign checks in the name of NEVA.

4.8. The President and Secretary/Treasurer shall constitute the NEVA Executive and shall have the authority to act in the name of NEVA, as directed by vote of the members, between meetings.

Article V. Meetings

5.1. The annual meeting will be held in New England on the Sunday in April closest to Patriot's Day, unless another date is voted on by the members at the previous meeting. The President will set the time and place.

5.2. A regular meeting will be held in New England on the first Sunday in November, unless another date is voted on by the members at the previous meeting. The President will set the time and place.

5.3. Additional meetings shall be held at a time and place in New England deemed appropriate by the members or by the President. The President must call a meeting when a written re-

quest is presented by three or more NEVA members.

5.4. A quorum shall be an attendance of 10% of NEVA membership in good standing. A quorum is deemed to be present unless questioned by two or more members in good standing at the meeting.

5.5. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern the procedure of all meetings.

Article VI. Committees

6.1. Committees of NEVA may be formed at the discretion of the President or the members for the duration of the time deemed necessary to accomplish the goal or goals of the committee. Members of committees do not necessarily have to be members of NEVA but committee chairs must be.

Article VII. Amendments of the Bylaws

7.1. Amendment of these bylaws may be made at any meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of those attending the meeting, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to all members at least thirty days prior to the vote.



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Minutes of the Last Meeting

The November meeting of NEVA was held Sunday, 8 November 1998 at Bob Koeller's house in Gloucester, Mass. Thanks Bob!

Attending the meeting were Carl Gurtman, President; Dave Martucci, Secretary/Treasurer; Jim Croft, Greg Gonzales; Tom Hale; Sandra Joneck; Bob Koeller; Harry Sampson; Jeff Schiff; Whitney Smith; and Robert Lloyd Wheelock.

The meeting was called to order by President Gurtman at 1:30 p.m. All in attendance introduced themselves.

The minutes of the 19 April 1998 meeting were printed in the *New England Journal of Vexillology*, Number 8.

The treasurer's report was presented.

The membership list was distributed and reviewed by the members. Several corrections were received by the Secretary and will be incorporated into the official list.

The combined minutes, treasurer's report and membership list report were accepted on motion by Carl Gurtman, seconded by Jim Croft and passed unanimously.

A discussion of joining FIAV was held. The Secretary was instructed to locate a copy of the bylaws. A motion by Whitney Smith, seconded by Carl Gurtman, for the Secretary and President to submit an application for membership in FIAV

in time for consideration at the 18th International Congress of Vexillology was made. Passed unanimously.

A motion by Harry Sampson, seconded by Jim Croft was made to join NAVA for the ensuing year. An amendment was made that we ask members to kick in extra money for this as our treasury is not that large, and that we revisit the issue in a year by Carl Gurtman, seconded by Jim Croft. Amendment passed. Motion as amended passed.

The location of the next meeting was discussed. As we have not yet met outside of northern New England, there was support for finding a location in Connecticut for an upcoming meeting. It was suggested that Colrain, Massachusetts, site of the earliest use of flying a US Flag from a schoolhouse (1812) could be a good spot for the next meeting as they have located the flag and have an active historical society. It was agreed that we would look into Colrain and then to explore downtown Boston or Connecticut if that doesn't work out or for future meetings. Dave Martucci volunteered to do a presentation on the flying of US Flags over schools for the meeting.

The date for the next meeting was set for Sunday, 18 April 1999 at 1 p.m., location to be announced.

The *New England Journal of Vexillology* was discussed. Dave Martucci will con-

tinue as editor. Robert Lloyd Wheelock volunteered to assist.

Prompted by a recent editorial in *The Flag Bulletin*, a discussion of vexillology in general was held.

The customary round table "show and tell" was held.

Carl Gurtman reported he was now the President of the Maine Maritime Association and gave an update on the locating of the original Maine Maritime Flag at the Maine Maritime Academy, in the office of the Chief Financial Officer.

Harry Sampson described the work he does with color guards and marching units.

Sandra Joneck brought an original copy of an 1817 *Register* with material in it about the changes to the US Flag that were being proposed in Congress. She also showed a March 1959 paper with a 50 star flag that was the conventional 49 star pattern with one additional star added in the middle row.

Jeff Schiff told of his metal work of heraldic emblems on gates.

Greg Gonzales told of his 4"x6" airbrush work and showed several excellent examples.

Dave Martucci related the news of his election as President of NAVA and the plans for the 18th ICV to be held next year in Victoria, British Columbia. He also told of his Maine Flag project, which he will report on in full at the 18th ICV.

Whitney Smith recently attended a meeting of the Spanish Vexillological Society and viewed two copies of the earliest known flag manuscripts while in Spain. There is a third copy of this manuscript that he is planning on returning to Spain to see. He related other items as well.

Jim Croft showed the Tel Aviv Flag and talked about other interesting flag material and showed photos.

Robert Lloyd Wheelock has recently upgraded his computer and showed some of his work, in particular the arms of Amapa and also his 4"x6" flags. He is still working on his *Flag Handbook*.

Bob Koeller is a collector of American Historical flag replicas; he displays the flags at his house and business. He showed the flags from his collection and photos of how he displays them outdoors. His house was brightly festooned with many interesting flags for the meeting. Thanks, Bob!

Tom Hale showed books he bought (used) from Amazon.com. He also showed photos he took last year in Britain.

Wonderful refreshments were served courtesy of Bob Koeller and his wife as well as the traditional flag cookies made by Robert Lloyd Wheelock.

Jim Croft made a presentation on Canadian Civic Flags.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David B. Martucci, Secretary.

Notice of Next Meeting

1 PM Sunday, 18 April 1999

Brick Meeting House, Colrain Center, Massachusetts

The Brick Meeting House is on Route 112 where it passes through Colrain Center. Colrain is just a small village and you can't miss it. State Route 112 runs between Route 2 (a major artery that runs east west between Boston and Williamstown etc.) from the exit in

Shelburne Falls, northwards to the Vermont line, which is only a matter of minutes from Colrain Center. The meeting house is a handsome Federal period building, brick with a tall white steeple, and is well identified by a new sign out front.

