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THE SEVEN CITY FLAGS OF CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

by Dave Martucci

The Hunting of the Flag

On April, 25, 2002, my wife Janet and I travelled to three New England cities for the purpose of flag research. The North American Vexillological Association is working on compiling data on the top 100 US cities by population plus all of the State capital cities for a special issue of RAVEN, our annual book/journal. We had decided every state would have at least two flags in the book, it's capital and largest city (or second largest if the capital is the largest).

Our mission was to visit the cities of Concord, capital of New Hampshire; Montpelier, capital of Vermont; and Burlington, Vermont's largest city. Concord proved to be the most interesting city of these and although we had come searching for only one flag that we knew existed from written documents on the web, we found not one but seven flags!

I had done some research online and had located Section 1-2-3 of the Concord City Code that reads:

City Flag . The City flag shall be of the design indicated below with or without the words "Concord" and "New Hampshire" as they appear thereon. The official design and color scheme of the flag will be on file with the City Clerk.

The date of adoption given in the Code is 10 December 1979. Unfortunately, no illustration is provided with the online code.

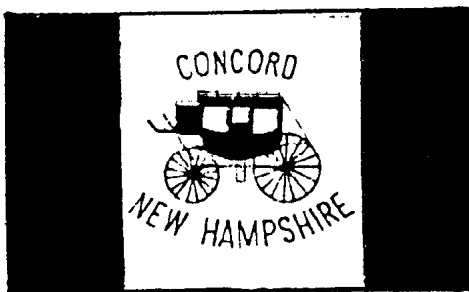
In case you're counting, that makes two flags, one with the inscription and one without. Both are official.

At City Hall

So we began our in-person search at City Hall, 41 Green Street, in the office of the City Clerk, Janice Bonenfant, who is named in the code as custodian of the information. Her assistant had



been doing some searching in advance of our visit because we had emailed them but so far had not received a reply. All she had come up with for us was a crude black-and-white photocopy of a page out of the City Codes that at least had a sketch. It shows a flag of



dark-light-dark vertical stripes, with a Concord Coach and the inscription "CONCORD" arched over the top and "NEW HAMPSHIRE" arched below. Concord was long famous for the Concord Coach manufactory that made

stage coaches and other horse drawn vehicles in the 19th Century.

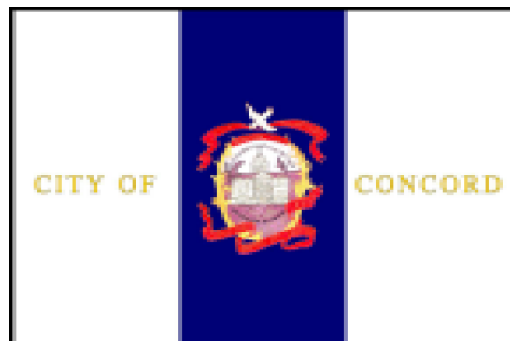
The assistant was sure the color of the stripes were probably black and white but as for the other details, nothing had been found. The Clerk's Assistant who helped us said she had been meaning to go up to the Council Chambers and see there is a flag there. Unfortunately a meeting was in progress and we wouldn't be allowed to enter. She promised to look into that and let us know.

The Clerk's Office also provided us with an illustration of the City Seal also taken from the City Code, Article 1-2-1. (Article 1-2-2 provides for a temporary seal.) It reads:

The seal of the City shall be in the form of a scroll, with the following device and inscription: A field encompassed with a scroll; on the field a view of the State House, as existing previous to the 1909 enlargement; above, the inscription on, "Penacook, 1725," with the motto, "The wilderness was glad for them"; below, the inscription in scroll, "Concord Adopted City Charter, 1853" the motto, "Law, Education, Religion." The whole shall be arranged according to the impression of said seal hereunto annexed.

It was also adopted on 10 December 1979 and no illustration is available on the web site.

After gathering that rather sparse information, we decided to look



City Flag prior to 1950 (defacto).

I should also note the reverse of the flag in use is a mirror image except that the inscriptions are not.

We thanked them and went back to the Clerk's Office where we showed the photo to the Assistant. She wondered why it was obviously different and suggested we go to the Concord Public Library, located right next door, and ask there.

To the Library

At the library, we met Sandi Lee, Reference Librarian. After explaining our quest, she immediately stated there was a City Flag downstairs in the Auditorium. She thought it was pretty old. We made a bee line down to see it. It was different than any of the other flags we had un-

covered earlier. A fourth flag!

This flag is made of a synthetic fabric, probably Nylon, three vertical

Back to City Hall

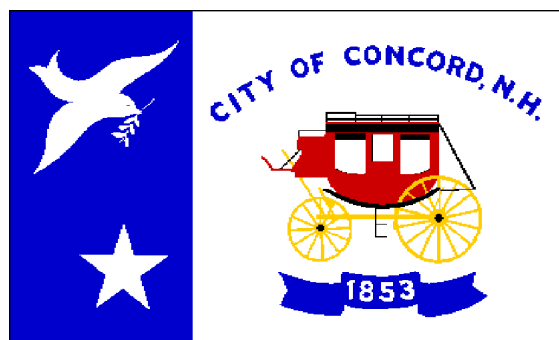
Back in the Clerk's Office, the Assistant handed me the clipping. It was published in the Concord Monitor on 22 October 1979. The cover illustration was in full color and showed yet another flag (that's five!) that was being proposed to the City Council. It shows two unequal vertical stripes of blue-white and has a white dove and star on the blue and the Concord Coach and two inscriptions, "CITY OF CONCORD, N.H." arched over the top in blue and "1853" in white on a blue scroll below.

The article, entitled "Coach, Dove And Star Highlight Flag Committee's Offering," by Randall Keith, Monitor Staff Writer, was printed on page



City Flag design of 1951 by a local high school student (defacto, reconstructed).

Editor's note: NEVA encourages you to go on down to your local city hall or town office and see if there's a municipal flag (and seal). Send us your results and photos or other illustrations for publication. If there's no flag, we'd be glad to consult with your municipality about adopting one.



City Flag Proposal of 1979.

around City Hall and maybe go to the City Manager's Office. In the hallway, we chanced upon a framed set of photos of each of the City Councillors and Mayor. Each of them was photographed next to a City Flag! The photos, however, show the flag hanging from a pole and it was hard to make out any details. We quickly realized this flag was not the one in the City Code. A third flag!

We dragged the assistant out of the Clerk's Office and she looked over the photos. "That's the Council Chambers," she said. Again she promised to look there for us when there was no meeting.

We proceeded to go upstairs to the office of City Manager Duncan Ballantyne. Just inside the door stands a City Flag! We found it! It is indeed different than the one pictured in the Code, having only two (unequal) vertical stripes instead of three and the Concord Coach and inscription, all letters in blue, in the fly stripe. The Manager's Assistant allowed us to photograph the flag. I found the details of the coach interesting.

stripes of white-blue-white, with the City Seal appliquéd and embroidered in the center, with a dove holding a red scroll inscribed "NEW HAMPSHIRE" in gold over the top and the words "CITY OF" in gold on the hoist stripe and "CONCORD" in gold on the fly stripe. The flag is in pretty poor condition and I made some recommendations for preserving this treasure. My examination leads me to believe the flag was probably made

around 1950, which seems about right given the further information we uncovered.

- 2. It explained the symbols as follows:
 - ✦ a dove holding an olive brach for peace, which in Latin is "concord".
 - ✦ a star showing Concord is the State Capital.
 - ✦ the blue is the color of New Hampshire.
 - ✦ the Concord Coach represents Concord.
 - ✦ 1853 is the year the City was incorporated.

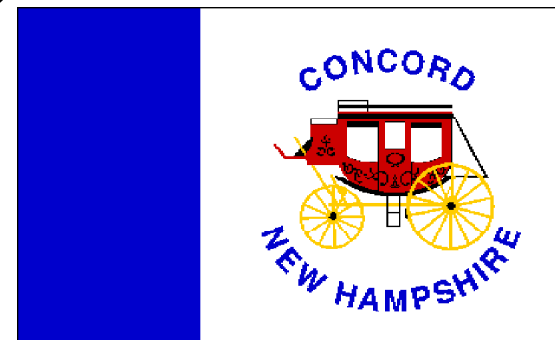
The article also gave some of the background of the design. It was the result of an eight-month search by a Council Committee. The committee, headed by Councillor John F. Upton, reviewed "five or six designs submitted by residents and decided that instead of picking one, they would use the best features of each." The committee "tried out different combinations and placements" of the symbols.

The article also states Wendell and Ralph Holt, who were owners of "a flag and home furnishings shop on South Street" helped with the design and gathered information on production costs. At the point it was

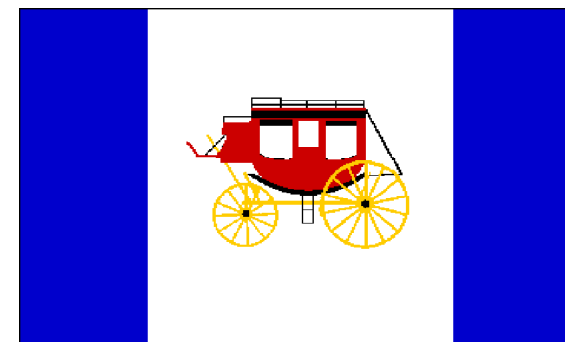
written, the next step was to present the design at a public hearing that was scheduled for 13 November 1979 and then a Council vote. As previously stated, the official flag was adopted less than two months later, on 10 December 1979.

The article also states there were two existing City Flags and the description of neither of them matches the flags discovered so far! That makes flags number six and seven!!

According to Keith, the City Code as it existed in October 1979 described an official flag as having "three equal-sized stripes — white, blue and white — with the city seal in the upper left



Obverse of the City Flag presently in use in City Hall (defacto).



Alternate City Flag adopted 10 December 1979 (dejure, reconstructed).

Further Research Needed

We were only able to devote about two hours to this research (and look how much we found!). More needs to be done. Here are some suggestions for anyone who wishes to follow up on this:

- ✦ Search through the Concord Monitor for 1951 and for January-March and November-December 1979 for more news articles on the flag search.
- ✦ Try to contact the participants of the 1979 project, if they are still alive (Randall Keith, John F. Upton, Wendell Holt, and Ralph Holt).
- ✦ Look through the City Codes before 1979 and immediately afterwards.
- ✦ See if there are any Council Records from 1979 (and 1951) still available.
- ✦ Contact the local Historical Society.

This article, with the photos taken in Concord and links to the City Officials, is online at <<http://www.vexman.net/vtnh/concrdnh.html>>.

hand corner and a white dove in the middle of the blue stripe."

Another flag was also described. "The second design was produced in 1951 by a local high school student. It has three vertical bars — blue, white and blue — with the city seal in the middle of the white stripe. The words 'City of Concord' run across the bottom of the flag."

MINUTES of the NEVA Meeting held 11/10/01 **NE14JV** at Carl Gurtman's house in York, Maine

ATTENDING

President Carl Gurtman, Secretary/Treasurer Dave Martucci, Jim Croft, Doug Bingham, Bob Koeller and Robert Lloyd Wheelock.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m. by President Gurtman.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

MOTION by Wheelock, SECONDED by Gurtman to accept the minutes of the 6/16/01 meeting as written and ACCEPTED by vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer reported there we had \$134.54 in the checking account as of 6/16/01 and that income totalled \$0.00 and expenses \$6.72 leaving a balance of \$127.82 as of 11/10/01. On a MOTION by Gurtman, SECONDED by Bingham, the Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by vote.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary handed out an updated membership list. Current membership stands at 39 members.

OLD BUSINESS

President Gurtman began a discussion of future meetings. The possibility of

meeting in Boston for a tour of the State House flags and the Old State house was discussed. Doug Bingham will look into a meeting place. If it can be arranged, the meeting may be held on Saturday, April 20. Exact meeting date, time and place will be announced by the President.

A discussion of NEVA's status vis-a-vis the article published in *The Flag Bulletin* #200 by Peter Orenski ensued. Also discussed was vexillology (flag studies) vs. vexilligraphy (flag design). NAVA's State and Provincial Flag Survey and *Good Flag, Bad Flag* were also discussed.

REFRESHMENTS

Thanks to Carl Gurtman.

ROUND TABLE

Carl Gurtman raised the issue of flag usage changes in the USA. He has had US Navy Flag Manual A and now has B. He wants to know how to get the US Army manual.

Bob Koeller showed some of the recent flags he acquired and photos of other interesting flags.

Jim Croft passed around a book on the Arms of the United Kingdom and told us about other materials he has acquired.

Dave Martucci showed some of the stuff he collected in Scotland and England, especially books and pamphlets. He also recounted his hunt in Edinburgh for Lord Lyon's Court and what he found there.

Doug Bingham showed the 1910-1939 Lighthouse Station Flag of the US Lighthouse Service. It is a white pennant bordered red with a blue lighthouse in the white.

Robert Lloyd Wheelock updated us on the status of his proposals for a new St. Eustatius flag.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a short discussion about the Red Cross and Red Crescent flags and their usage in other parts of the world. North Quincy Massachusetts has the largest Flag Day Parade in the USA and there are lots of flags.

NEXT MEETING

Exact date and location to be determined by President Carl Gurtman.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Martucci

Secretary/Treasurer

NEXT MEETING AT FORT INDEPENDENCE

The next meeting of NEVA will be held at **4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 1st, 2002** at **Fort Independence, Castle Island** at the end of Broadway in South Boston, Massachusetts. See directions.

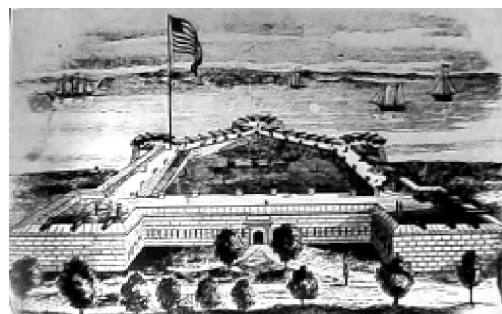
The *New England Journal of Vexillology* is published irregularly by the New England Vexillological Association, Dave Martucci, Editor. Annual membership dues in NEVA is \$10 for a single class of membership and this fee includes a subscription to the *Journal*. In addition to the print version, there is an online edition of the *Journal* found at URL <http://www.midcoast.com/~martucci/neva/nejv.html>. The editor can be contacted by writing to:

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or by email to:
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The views of individual authors are their own and do not reflect the views of NEVA.

Fort Independence, formerly Castle William before the American Revolution, is the site of the first salute rendered to the US Flag by a British Man O' War after the Revolution. A display of U.S. State flags will be flying there.

Call Dave at 845-2857 (or email vex@vexman.net) if you need a ride.



DIRECTIONS TO CASTLE ISLAND

From the West

- Take route I-90 (Mass Pike) to the end
- Stay to the left and take the I-93 exit
- Go to the right on the exit ramp
- Follow signs for I-93 South
- Follow I-93 south to Exit 15, Columbia Road exit
- Stay to the left on the exit ramp
- Take a left onto Columbia Road
- Drive .2 mi to the rotary
- Follow directions from the Rotary.

From the South

- Follow route I-93 (Southeast Expressway) towards Boston
- Take Exit 15, Columbia Road exit
- Take a right onto Columbia Road
- Drive .1 mi to the rotary
- Follow directions from the Rotary.

From the North

- Take route I-93 into Boston
- Drive through downtown Boston on I-93
- Take Exit 15, Columbia Road exit
- Stay to the left on the exit ramp
- Take a left onto Columbia Road
- Drive .2 mi to the rotary
- Follow directions from the Rotary.

From the East

- Swim west!

From the Rotary

- Take 2nd exit off rotary onto William J. Day Blvd.
- Follow William J. Day Blvd. to the end at Castle Island. The water (Old Harbor) will be on your right all the way to Castle I. It is about 2.5 miles from Exit 15 to Castle Island