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INFORMATION AND MISINFORMATION

By Dave Martucci

It never ceases to amaze me the volume of information available of the Internet. The real problem is determining how much of that is accurate and how much is fake. Take the flag of the "Second Vermont Republic" for example.

Shown on many web sites and listed with apparent authority in Wikipedia, the flag is variously described as that of the so-called Second Vermont Republic, the original Vermont Republic or of the Green Mountain Boys. Problem is that, in reality, it isn't any of those.

The Second Vermont Republic has never existed except as a concept in the minds of a few secessionists and separatists, although those few recognize the flag as a "restoration" of the flag of the original Vermont Republic (whose official name was "State of Vermont") of 1777 to 1791, when Vermont was admitted as the 14th state of the United States of America.

During that period, Vermont considered itself the 14th State and agitated for inclusion in the Congress. Symbols used on their currency refer





The flag of the so-called "Second Vermont Republic" as illustrated in Wikipedia.

to the 14th State and to the US. Whatever flag they flew, if any and some would argue that given the 14th State desire there wasn't one, we have no information about it.

Like many legends, the design does have a grain of truth in it in that it is a hypothetical reconstruction of the flag fragment held by the Bennington Museum known as the Stark Flag after General John Stark, commander of the New Hampshire forces that were successful at the Battle of Bennington in Vermont in 1777. For some reason over the years it has been said Stark's command in-



Far left, the Stark fragment as pictured in "Standards and Colors of the American Revolution." Above, the Color captured by Banastre Tarleton at Waxhaws, North Carolina in 1778.

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cluded the local militia led by the Allen brothers known as the Green Mountain Boys and that obviously this was their flag. Stark never commanded the "Boys".

Actually there is no reason to believe this flag had any actual Vermont associations. The accession papers only refer to it as that handed down in the Stark family and believed by them to be a piece of Stark's command flag as leader of the New Hampshire troops.

The fragment consists of a blue canton bearing 13 painted on white stars and remnants of green silk on three sides of the canton. The story goes that pieces of the flag were cut off as souveniers over the years by Stark and his descendants and handed out until only the canton remains. Actually, the Bennington Museum has another piece of this flag that bears a gold and black flourish on the (discolored) green silk. This proves that the common interpretation of this flag is wrong and that it had some other design painted on it, likely in the center of the main field as was the custom of the day.

Actually, when the Tarleton colors surfaced in 2006, I was struck with the similarity of the two cantons. That plus the green fabric remnants on three sides makes me think the Stark fragment may have belonged to another Gostelowe Return listed flag. Looking over that document, dated August 1778, the only flag listed with a green field was the first



The Headman Color as illustrated in "Standards and Colors of the American Revolution."

one listed bearing "A Pillow on the Top of which is the Cap of Liberty Supported by thirteen Hands" and whose motto was "This we will defend or Die."

Surprisingly about half of that flag still exists; it is known as the Headman Color and is in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution. The surviving part consists of the fly end and the flourish on the other piece of the Stark flag seems to match. Unfortunately the only photos of the Stark Canton and the Headman Color are the scans provided here from Richardson's "Standards and Colors of the American Revolution". More research into this needs to be done.



The Bennington Museum's other fragment of the Stark Flag.

RED SOX NATION DISPLAYS NEW



In 2007, the Boston Red Sox added two new players from Japan, Daisuki "Dice-K" Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima. These new additions to the team sparked a new flag based on the Japanese Ensign with the Red Sox Logo in the center. This flag could be seen waving at Fenway Park in 2008.

Although no longer available on the Red Sox Network web site, the flag can still be found on eBay.



TOWN SEAL AND FLAG OF EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Following the 1877 Connecticut Statute requiring each town to adopt a seal, East Hartford Town Council voted, on October 22, 1929, "That until otherwise ordered by the Council the seal of the Town shall be circular in form containing in the center the word 'seal' surrounded in circular form the words, 'Town of East Hartford, Connecticut'."

Town officials later decided to adopt a seal with greater artistic appeal, and on April 21, 1930, "Voted: That the resolution passed on the 22nd day of October, 1929 prescribing a form of seal for the Town of East Hartford is hereby rescinded and from this date the seal of the Town shall be as follows, to wit: It shall be circular in form containing an embossed composite design showing the East Hartford Bridge and the Bridge Road connecting the same with Main Street, with

the Congregational Church at the corner, together with a reproduction of the Meeting House formerly standing on the South Green where its site is now marked by a commemorative monument; containing also the words 'Incorporated 1783', 'Carpe Diem' and the word 'Seal' all surrounded by scroll work enclosing the words 'Town of East Hartford, Connecticut'." In reality, the word "Seal" does not appear on the actual seal or the flag.

The East Hartford Bridge today carries I-84 and is no longer connected directly with what was once known as Bridge Street. The Congregational Church still stands, although in actuality it is about a mile from the bridge.

Surrounded by a gold laurel wreath tied at the bottom with a blue ribbon, the seal is the central figure on the green town flag.





SEALS AND FLAG OF SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND

Smithfield, Rhode Island is a small town north west of Providence. It has an interesting symbol history.

All of the historic symbols incorporate the coat of arms, which is a green shield bearing three blacksmith hammers between a chevron, all in white (left, below). It is speculated that the hammers represent the three villages of Greenville, Georgiaville and Esmond. The original Town Seal incorporated this with an appropriate circle of inscriptions and was used until the year 2000 (second from left, below). The Town Flag incorporates the arms as well (right, below).

A seal-like logo was used around the years 1997-2002 (third from left,

below). The logo incorporates many symbols of Smithfield life including mills, industry, history, apples, town hall, the Smithfield Sentinel, Smith-Appleby House and the coat of arms.

The present seal of the Town of Smithfield (fourth from left, below), designed by a local artist, Neil Salley, Jr., consists of a circular disk, upon the outer edge of which contains the words "Town of Smithfield Rhode Island," and upon the bottom the date of which the Town was incorporated. The year of incorporation is given in both the Julian (1730) and the Gregorian calendar (1731).

In the foreground are a mill and a body of water, representing the foundation the Town was built on; the Town's coat of arms, the shield of the arms but with the white hammers and chevron now depicted incorrectly as yellow; and an apple tree representing the Town's many apple orchards.

Across the center of the disk are a village for the Town's several small villages; the Smithfield Town Hall; the Greenville Baptist Church; the Smith-Appleby House, the Town's oldest structure; and a farmhouse.

In the background stands Wolf Hill with the sun rising over the Town. This seal was first used around 1999













MINUTES OF THE NEVA MEETING HELD OCTOBER 12, 2007 AT NAVA 41, HILTON GARDEN INN, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

ATTENDING

President Carl Gurtman, Secretary/ Treasurer Dave Martucci, members Hugh Brady, Jim Croft, Dick Libby, Peter Orenski, Jon Radel, Whitney Smith, and Robert Lloyd Wheelock. Also attending were a number of NAVA members.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Gurtman.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

MOTION by Wheelock, SECONDED by Radel to accept the minutes of the 8/4/07 meeting as written and

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of NEVA will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13th, 2008 at The Town of York, Maine Library just off the center of town. See directions.

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

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

ACCEPTED by acclamation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer reported there we had \$421.37 in the checking account as of 10/12/07. On a MOTION by Wheelock, SECONDED by Gurtman, the Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

Since we have a large number of guests present and we are at NAVA 41, it was decided to conduct no further business.

ROUND TABLE

Each of the members present were



invited to give a few minutes of explanation as to their present flag activities. Some exhibited books and other treasures recently acquired. A few non-members were recognized as well.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be organized on a date and at a place to be determined by President Gurtman.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Dave Martucci
Secretary/Treasurer



TO YORK LIBRARY

- Take York Exit off I-95 and exit to US 1.
- Turn right at US 1 and immediately get into left lane.
- Turn left towards downtown York.
- In center of the town there is a statue; bear left at that monument.
- The library is immediately on your right.

Above: the obverse and reverse of the Second Battalion of the Second Regiment, Connecticut Militia that saw service at Boston in 1775. This flag was viewed as part of the tour of the Connecticut Historical Society.



NAVA (and NEVA) members gathering for the group photo just prior to the Saturday Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glastonbury, Connecticut on October 13, 2007 as a part of NAVA 41.

