

**THE TRUE STORY OF  
THE  
AMERICAN FLAG**

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The True Story of the American Flag by John H. Fow

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ERRATA

Fig. 9 should be the Flag of the Westmoreland Battalion, page 26, and not the Flag carried by the First Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line, at page 40.

Page 40, line 1. Page 104 should be page 164.

Page 53, line 16. 1776 should be 1766.



Fig. 8

FLAG CARRIED BY THE FIRST CITY TROOP OF PHILADELPHIA IN ESCORTING  
WASHINGTON ACROSS THE JERSEYS ON HIS WAY TO  
TAKE COMMAND AT CAMBRIDGE

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PHILADELPHIA  
WILLIAM J. CAMPBELL  
1908

*"I have gathered these facts as one would  
flowers for a bouquet, and have tied them to-  
gether with a string of my own."*

J. H. F.



DEDICATED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



“Thou hast given a Banner to  
Them that fear thee, that it  
May be displayed because of the truth.”  
*Psalms lx, 4.*



WASHINGTON'S BOOK PLATE.

## INTRODUCTION

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I was induced to make this research by the late William H. Egle, Librarian of the State Library at Harrisburg, whose knowledge of the early history of Pennsylvania was of valuable assistance to me in preparing the data for a history of the country along the Delaware river prior to 1682 (yet unfinished). Mr. Egle agreed with me that the claim of Mr. Canby that BERSY Ross designed and made the first flag was legendary and without that foundation which is so necessary to uphold claims of this character. Statements of such a character, when allowed to go unrefuted, do harm to the history of any people, inasmuch as they encourage others to build "air castles" and purchase old portraits to be palmed off on others as *our* "grandfather" who "fit" in the Revolution, or *our* "grandmother" who carried supplies to the troops at Valley Forge.