

**Bullock Texas State History Museum**

1800 N. Congress Ave.

Austin, TX 78701 | (512) 936-8746 | TheStoryofTexas.com

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Elizabeth Page | (512) 936-4607

[Elizabeth.Page@TheStoryOfTexas.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Page@TheStoryOfTexas.com)

**MEDIA Images and Assets:**

**About the Exhibition**

***American Flags***

Exhibition on view Sept. 30, 2016 - Jan. 16, 2017 at the Bullock Museum in Austin, Texas.

Explore the transformation of the American flag and the historic events that influenced its many variations of red, white, and blue, and its stars and stripes. Discover flags dating to the War of 1812, ensigns used during the Civil War and Battle of Bull Run, and a 35-star pennant flown by the Buffalo Soldiers. Additional artifacts range from original artwork, such as Andy Warhol's *Moonwalk* and Jasper Johns' lithograph of *White Flag*, to rare archival pieces, such as the 1852 first edition of *The History of the National Flag* *of the United States of America* by Schuyler Hamilton—the first book dedicated to the history of the stars and stripes. Learn the nuances of proper flag etiquette, create your own flag design, and experience the growth of the nation through ever-evolving, star-spangled fabric sewn, held, and flown by ordinary and extraordinary Americans.

**Exhibition Credit Line**

Support for the Bullock Museum's exhibitions and education programs provided by the Texas State History Museum Foundation.

**Photo Credits and Cutlines**

1. **13-Star Flag, ca. 1790  
   Courtesy Pete J. Keim M.D., Austin**Completely hand-sewn, this 13-Star Flag is an early version of what would become known as the “Great Luminary Pattern,” where individual stars are arranged to form a single star. While the 13 red and white stripes represented the united colonies, the stripes were also a symbol of provocation and colonial defiance against Great Britain. The stars served as a symbol of the new nation — the radical and revolutionary experiment of “a new constellation.”
2. **14-Star Flag, ca. 1791  
   Courtesy Pete J. Keim M.D., Austin**Though it did not become the 14th state until 1791, Vermont’s colonists favored independence from Britain and took up arms in support of the American Revolution in 1777. Because the First Flag Act of 1777 did not allow for the addition of stars with the addition of new states, authentic period 14-Star Flags like this wool one are rare.
3. **22-Star Flag, 1820  
   Courtesy Pete J. Keim, M.D.**Handmade by an unknown patriot, this 22-Star Flag is an extremely rare “folk” version of the American Flag. With red stars and the hand-stitched eagle on the “fly,” the canton is in the upper right hand corner rather than the customary left. The 22-Star Flag, representing Alabama’s admittance to the U.S. in 1819, was not government-sanctioned and only a few are known to exist.
4. **Free Soil Movement Flag, 1848  
   Courtesy Pete J. Keim, M.D.**The 35 stars on this flag’s blue canton were arranged to spell “FREE” in support of the Free Soil Party, a short-lived U.S. political party whose main purpose was to oppose the expansion of slavery into the western territories.
5. **Know Nothing Flag, ca. 1849  
   Courtesy Pete J. Keim M.D., Austin**Resentment grew in the 1930s and 40s among native-born Protestant Americans who believed immigrants threatened their livelihood and jobs. In an act of protest, an anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic political movement formed in 1849 known as the Order of the Star-Spangled Banner and, by 1855, the order became known as the *Know Nothing Party*. The *Know Nothing Party* adopted George Washington as its inspiration and replaced the stars on the flag with his image.
6. **Grand Union Flag, 1876  
   Courtesy Pete J. Keim M.D., Austin**Also known as the Continental Colours or Great Union Flag, this flag was made in 1876 to commemorate the American Centennial. The Grand Union was used in the early stages of the American Revolution. Many replicas were made that year in an outpouring of patriotic fervor, including one that flew over Independence Hall in Philadelphia on July 4, 1876.
7. **Book, *The History of the National Flag of the United States of America* by Schuyler Hamilton, 1852  
   Courtesy Pete J. Keim M.D., Austin***The History of the National Flag of the United States* is considered the first book solely dedicated to the history of the Stars and Stripes. An American soldier and grandson of Alexander Hamilton, Schuyler Hamilton traced the history of various flags that flew before, during, and after the American Revolution. This was also the last book checked out of the Library of Congress by Jefferson Davis before he quit the U.S. Senate to lead the Confederacy during the Civil War.

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