

last, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."¹

The official announcement of the passage of the resolution appeared in different newspapers several months later; the *Boston Gazette* printing it at the head of the first column of its second page, on the fifth of September.

From the city of Albany, it seems, a newspaper containing the resolution was carried to Fort Schuyler, either in the package of dispatches delivered there on Thursday, the thirty-first of July, or by one of the officers or men forming the convoy of the five bateaux, which arrived there on Saturday evening, the second of August. The last assumption is probably the more exact, and consequently affords good ground for the inference that as soon as the action of congress became known to the garrison, an eager desire was manifested by the officers and men to have the established flag displayed above the walls of the isolated post. So wishful were they to see the tri-colored emblem of the independence of the united colonies streaming in sight of the investing forces of the enemy, that a quest was made early in the following morning, Sunday, the third of August, for the requisite material with which to fabricate it.

An ample quantity of homespun linen and red cloth² for the stars and stripes was readily found, but nothing suitable in color for the field seemed obtainable. Disconcerted by their inability to find stuff of the proper dye for the canton, the searchers were finally gladdened by the generous tender made by Captain Abraham Swartwout of his blue-cloth cloak for the material of the field. The unsolicited contribution of the unostentatious officer, whose services in Cuba as a volunteer from the province of New York, in 1762, had won for him the high esteem of his comrades-in-arms, when learned by Colonel Peter Gansevoort, elicited from the pleased commandant the promise of a gift of broadcloth of the quantity and value of that of the serviceable and costly mantle.

The order of the thirteen stripes being defined as "alternate red and white," the making of the flag was begun with a red horizontal stripe. The space to be given to the union and the arrangement of the stars were less easy to determine. The expression of opinion regarding the manner in which the thirteen stars should be displayed may have consumed considerable time.

¹ Military journal during the American Revolutionary war, from 1775 to 1783. By James Thacher, M.D. Boston, 1823, p. 104.

² "My aged grandmother, a daughter of Major-General Philip Schuyler, informed me the red stripes were furnished by the scarlet cloak of one of the women of the beleaguered garrison. Such cloaks were much worn at that time in this country." *Vide*: Our national flag, the stars and stripes. By Schuyler Hamilton. Magazine of American History, vol. i., No. 7, July, 1877, p. 420.