

A close-up, low-angle shot of the American flag waving. The flag is positioned diagonally, with the stars and stripes clearly visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset with warm orange and yellow light. The flag's colors are vibrant, and the stars are a mix of white and light blue.

***JOHN
H. FOW***

***THE HISTORY
OF THE AMERICAN
FLAG***

John H. Fow

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EAN 8596547402480

DigiCat, 2022

Contact: DigiCat@okpublishing.info



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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 Betsy 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.

History is the best incentive to make men love their country; it encourages that patriotism which never falters, even at the cannon's mouth. The sight of a flag or the music of a band merely enthuses as long as one is in sight or the other can be heard; but history and its knowledge are lasting and a source of pride. So, therefore, let it be true in all its details, no matter who may fall from the high pedestals upon which they have been placed by vain-glorious descendants.

John H. Fow.