



Horse & Plow

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Clerk's Corner

I am fortunate to have had parents who loved and honored our country and passed that respect on to me. I have vivid memories of being at Riverview Cemetery every year to participate and watch the memorial tribute to the fallen veterans buried there. There was always a parade which stirred patriotism in everyone. My parents were naturalized citizens who flew the American flag with great pride.

As County Clerk, I have the privilege of providing tributes to all the veterans in Salem County. There have been many times when a veteran has commented that he or she has never been thanked for their military service. Unfortunately, all young men were subject to the draft in times of war and had no choice, except to leave the country. Let us continue to express our appreciation.

Accordingly, the County Clerk office is planning to establish a walk of honor for all of our fallen heroes of Salem County. We have a list of those who died in combat during past wars and their names will be engraved on bricks in front of the new county facility. We are also producing a book of living and deceased veterans which will be distributed at a special event on Veterans Day 2013. GOD BLESS THE USA!!

Gilda T. Gill
Salem County Clerk

Patriotic Summer in Salem



Left to Right: Ed Crispen, Earl Moore, Ty Ayars, Lester Emery, Sandy Wentzell, Roland Davis, Dave Drummond, Earl Graham & Donald Hyson.

Clerk's Office Honors WWII Vets

On June 14, 2013, the Salem County Clerk's Office had the distinct privilege of hosting a luncheon for nine residents of our county who selflessly served our country during WWII.

Each gentleman had the opportunity to introduce himself and give an account of his own personal experience of WWII.

Those of us in attendance had the opportunity to listen to their remarkable stories and hear first-hand how they each contributed to the war effort. We were then given the opportunity to shake their hands and

thank them for their service to our country. Kelly Strong:

As a first-hand witness, I can certainly tell you how moving it was for me to spend Flag Day with the men who defended our freedoms and our American flag. Someone in the crowd referred to these men as heroes; upon hearing those words, one of those fine gentlemen was quick to reply, "No, the one's who never came home are the real heroes."

Having heard their stories, I was quickly reminded of an excerpt

*He'd stand out in
any crowd.
I thought how many
men like him
Had fallen through
the years.
How many died on
foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots'
planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes
were soldiers' graves?
No, freedom isn't free.*



The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July is traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'.



In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

Stony Hill School, in Waubeka, Wisconsin, the site of the first formal observance of Flag Day

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**.

Are the Flags on the Moon Still There?

American flags are iconic and mark special moments in history, particularly the landing on the moon. Over forty years have passed since that unforgettable moment in U.S. History when on July 20, 1969 our flag was planted on the moon. So one can only wonder, is our flag still there?

Flags on the Moon...Continued

Dennis Lacarrubba, whose New Jersey-based company, Annin, made the flag and sold it to NASA for \$5.50 in 1969 (\$33 in 2013 dollars), stated that an ordinary nylon flag left outside for over 40 years on Earth would be almost completely faded. On the Moon, with no atmospheric protection whatsoever, that process happens a lot faster. Experts have confirmed that the stars and stripes disappeared from our Moon flags quite some time ago and the flags are now completely white.



Incredibly, **all six flags** are standing up *except* the one left by Armstrong and Aldrin, the first two men on the Moon. The Apollo 11 lunar module crew placed the flag too close to their spacecraft and, according to Buzz Aldrin himself, it was blown away as they blasted off to rendezvous with Michael Collins, on board Columbia, their Command and Service Module orbiting the Moon.

Betsy Who?

For scholars, the story of how Betsy Ross made the first American flag is about as credible as the fable about how little George Washington cut down the cherry tree. Yet for more than a century, it has been an established part of American education. The Betsy Ross story began in 1870 (34 years *after* her death) when her grandson, William J. Canby wrote a paper stating that he heard the story from his grandmother that George Washington visited her in 1776 and asked her to sew a flag. There is absolutely **no** contemporary evidence to support that family legend. We do know that Ms. Ross sewed flags, and most likely did sew some of the first American flags, but there were many other flag makers in Philadelphia at the time that could have made it. "The Star-Spangled Banner", The Flag that Inspired the National Anthem is well-documented and was sewn by Mary Pickersgill.



The Betsy Ross House

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