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The American Flag

The Border Sentinel

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THE AMERICAN FLAG



Admit Me Free Flag

kansasmemory.org, Kansas State Historical Society

The following explanation of the colors and symbolic meaning of the “Stars and Stripes” was written by a member of the Constitutional Congress to whom, with others, was committed the duty of selecting a flag for the infant Republic:

The stars of the new flag represent the new constellation of states rising in the West. The idea was taken from the constellation Lyra, which signifies harmony.

The blue in the field was taken from the edges of the Covenanters’ banner in Scotland, significant of the league and covenant of the United Colonies against oppression, involving the virtues of vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The stars were in a circle, symbolizing the perpetuity of the Union: the ring, like the circling serpent of the Egyptians, signifying eternity.

The thirteen stripes, with the stars, showed the number of the United Colonies and denoted the business organization of the States of the Union, as well as equality among themselves.

The whole was a blending of the various flags previous to the Union flag, viz: The red flag of the armies, and the white of the floating batteries. The red color, which in the Roman day was the signal of defiance, denotes daring; the blue, fidelity; and the white, purity.

The Border Sentinel, (Mound City, Kansas) 6 May 1864.