

The Tennessee Flag.

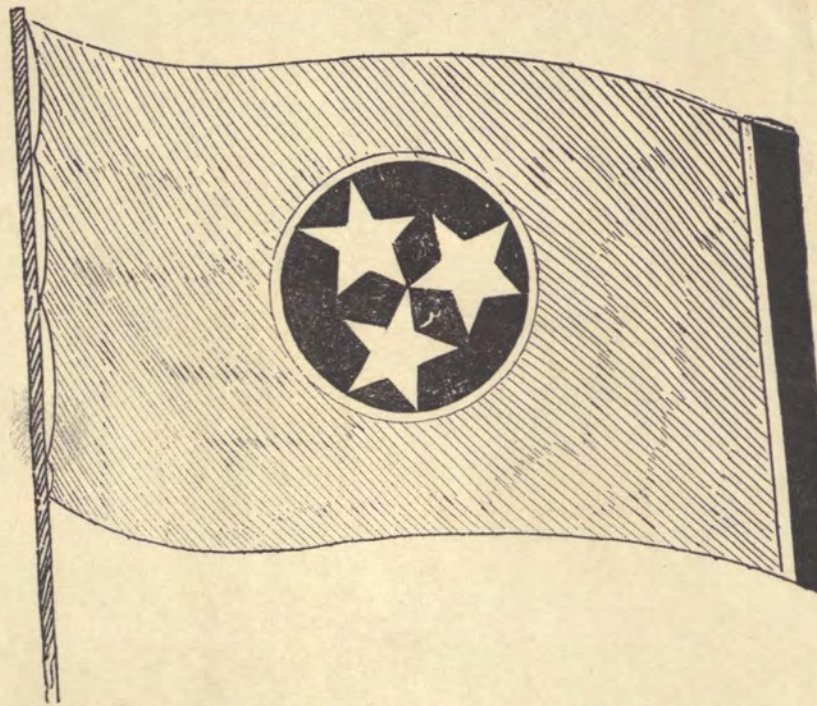


THE above, which, on April 17, 1905, was adopted as the official flag of the State of Tennessee, was originated and designed by Mr. LeRoy Reeves, an alumnus of the Johnson City High School, now a lawyer and Captain of National Guard at Johnson City.

The three stars are of pure white, representing the three grand divisions of the State. They are bound together by the endless circle of the blue field, the symbol being three bound together in one—an indissoluble trinity. The large field is crimson. The final blue bar relieves the sameness of the crimson field and prevents the flag from showing too much crimson when hanging limp. The white edgings contrast more strongly the other colors.

THE TENNESSEE FLAG.

DESIGN BY LeROY REEVES



BILL covering same introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Faw, and in the senate by Senators R. H. McLaurine and Douglas Wikle.

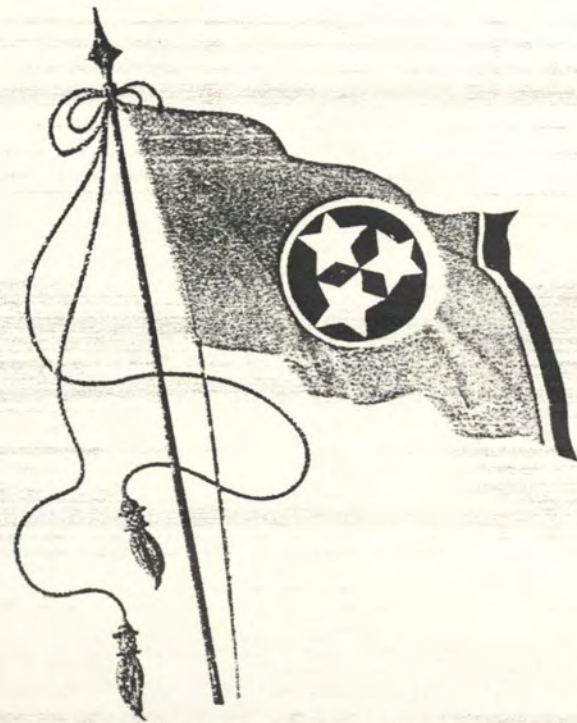
Colors: Large field, red, (crimson); circular field and bar, blue; stars and edgings, white.

Description: The three white stars represent the three divisions of the State. They are bound together by the endless circle of the blue field, the symbol being three making one, or three bound together in one—an indissoluble unit. The crimson field of statehood suggests still further the idea of unity, as well as of the common protection. The final bar of blue relieves the sameness of the crimson field and prevents the flag from showing too much crimson when hanging limp. The white margins contrast more strongly the other colors.



TENNESSEE STATE FLAG.

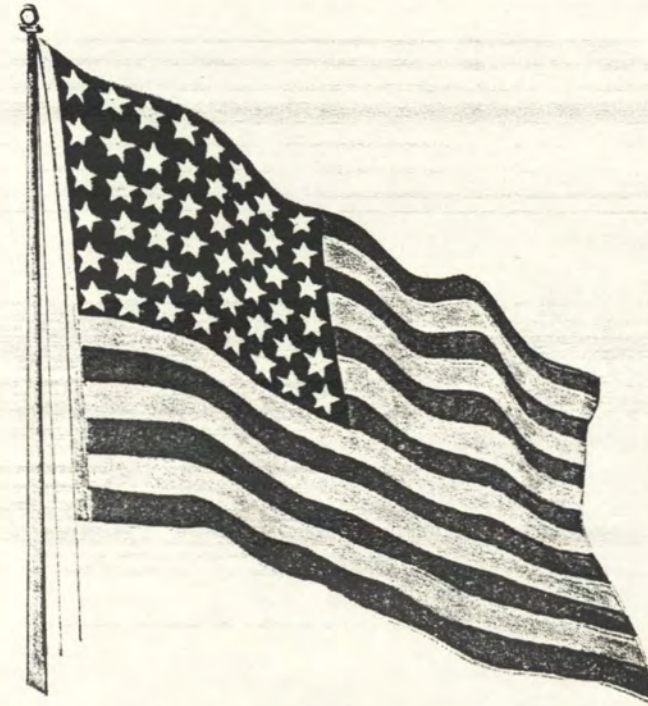
Adopted April 17, 1905.



TENNESSEE STATE FLAG.

Adopted April 17, 1905.

Symbols of Statehood



FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

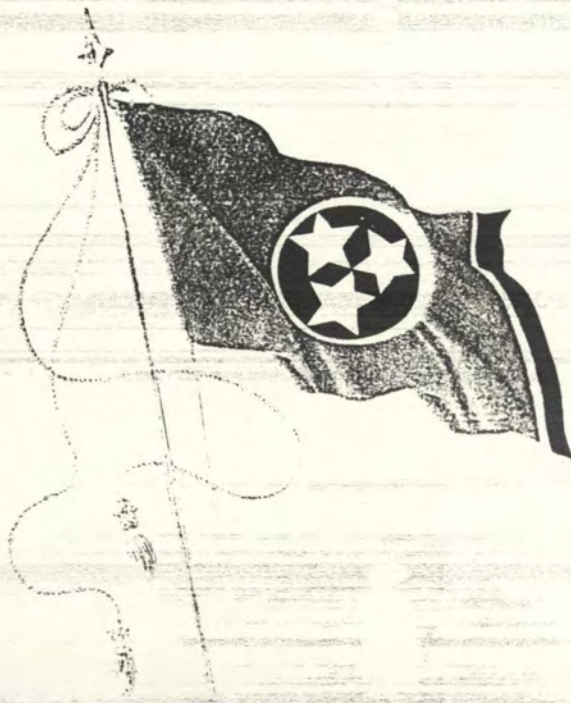
Pledge to the Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Old Glory

William Driver, master mariner, a native of Salem, Massachusetts, was born March 17, 1803. At the age of twelve he went to sea as a cabin boy. In 1831, he was master of the brig *Charles Daggett*, about to sail on a voyage around the world. His townsmen presented him with a large bunting flag in commendation of his services upon the sea and his well-known love for his country's emblem.

As the flag was hoisted to the masthead of his ship, and the colors unfurled to the breeze, Captain William Driver shouted, "I'll call her Old Glory, boys, Old Glory." Thus, the United States flag was named Old Glory.



TENNESSEE STATE FLAG.

Adopted April 17, 1905.

Tennessee State Flag

(Designed by Capt. LeRoy Reeves, Johnson City, Tenn.)

An oblong flag or banner in length one and two-thirds its width, the large or principal field of the same to be of red color, but said flag or banner ending at its free end in a perpendicular bar of blue of uniform width, running from side to side—that is to say, from the top to the bottom of said flag or banner—and separated from the red field by a narrow stripe or margin of white of uniform width, the width of the white stripe to be one-fifth that of the blue bar, and the total width of the bar and stripe together to be one-eighth of the width of the flag. In the center of the red field shall be a smaller circular field of blue, separated from the surrounding red field by a circular margin or stripe of white of a uniform width and of the same width as the straight margin or stripe first mentioned. The breadth or diameter of the circular blue field, exclusive of the white margin, shall be equal to one-half of the width of the flag.

Inside the circular blue field shall be three five-pointed stars of white distributed at equal intervals around a point, the center of the blue field, and of such size and arrangement that one point of each star shall approach as nearly as practicable without actually touching one point of each of the other two around the center point of the blue field, and the two outer points of each star shall approach as nearly as possible without actually touching the periphery of the blue field. The arrangement of the three stars shall be such that the centers of no two stars shall be in a line parallel with either the end or the side of the flag, but intermediate between the same, and the highest star shall be the one nearest the upper confined corner of the flag. (Chapter 498, Acts of 1905.)

MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG

As provided by Tenn. Acts of 1905, Ch. 496.

*An oblong flag or banner in length one and two-thirds times its width, the large or principal field of same to be of color red, but said flag or banner ending at its free or outer end in a perpendicular bar of blue, of uniform width, running from side to side - that is to say, from top to bottom of said flag or banner - and separated from the red field by a narrow margin or stripe of white of uniform width; the width of the white stripe to be one-fifth that of the blue bar; and the total width of the bar and stripe together to be equal to one-eighth of the width of the flag. In the center of the red field shall be a smaller circular field of blue, separated from the surrounding red field by a circular margin or stripe of white of uniform width and of the same width as the straight margin or stripe first mentioned. The breadth or diameter of the circular blue field, exclusive of the white margin, shall be equal to one-half of the width of the flag.

Inside the circular blue field shall be three five-pointed stars of white distributed at equal intervals around a point, the center of the blue field, and of such size and arrangement that one point of each star shall approach as closely as practicable without actually touching* the periphery of the blue field. The arrangement of the three stars shall be such that the centers of no two stars shall be in a line parallel to either the side or end of the flag, but intermediate between same; and the highest star shall be the one nearest the upper confined corner of the flag.*

* one point of each of the other two around the center point of the field; and the two outer points of each star shall approach as nearly as practicable without actually touching

Explanations.

Colors:

- White
- Blue - of shade as in U.S. flag and Confederate flag.
- Red - the deep red, or crimson, of the old Confederate flag.

Some measurements.

Size (inches)	Width circ. blue field	Width white edgings	Width blue bar.
9 x 15	4 1/3	5/16	15/16
12 x 20	6	1/4	1 1/4
36 x 60	18	3/4	3 3/4
60 x 100	30	1 1/4	6 1/4
144 x 240	72	3	16.

12 x 16

An act to designate, adopt and declare a flag, or banner, for the State of Tennessee.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee: That a flag, or banner, is hereby designated and adopted, and declared to be the flag, or banner, of the State of Tennessee, which flag or banner shall be of the following design, colors and proportions, to-wit:

An oblong flag or banner, in length one and two-thirds times its width, the large or principal field of same to be of color red, but said flag or banner ending at its free or outer end, in a perpendicular bar of blue, of uniform width, running from side to side, that is to say, from top to bottom of said flag or banner, and separated from the red field by a narrow margin or stripe of white, of uniform width; the width of the white stripe to be one-fifth that of the blue bar; and the total width of the bar and stripe together to be equal to one-eighth of the width of the flag.

In the center of the red field shall be a smaller circular field of blue, separated from the surrounding red field by a circular margin or stripe of white of uniform width and of the same width as the straight margin or stripe, ~~not~~^{first} mentioned. The breadth or diameter of the circular blue field, exclusive of the white margin, shall be equal to one-half of the width of the flag.

Inside the circular blue field shall be three five-pointed stars of white, distributed at equal intervals around a point, the center of the blue field, and of such size and arrangement that one point of each star shall approach as closely as practicable without actually touching one point of each of the other two, around the center point of the field; and the two outer points of each star shall approach as nearly as practicable without actually touching the periphery of the blue field. The arrangement of the three stars shall be such that the centers of no two stars shall be in a line parallel to either the side or end of the flag, but intermediate between same; and the highest star shall be the one nearest the upper confined corner of the flag.

Section 2. Be it further enacted that this act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

MEMORANDA FOR TWO TENNESSEE STATE FLAGS.

Colors:

Red - the deep red, or crimson, of old Confederate flag.
White
Blue - of shade as in U. S. and old Confederate flags.

Dimensions:

Length,	-	-	-	-	240	inches.
Width	-	-	-	-	144	"
Width final blue bar	-	-	-	-	15	"
Width circular blue field	-	-	-	-	72	"
Width of white edgings	-	-	-	-	3	"

Other specifications:

"Of the best quality double warp bunting, first class workmanship and reinforced."

(See letter M.C. Lilley & Co. to LeRoy Reeves, Nashville, Tenn., of date Feb. 10, 1909)

Take care that blue center field and blue bar net the given dimensions, exclusive of seams.

Acts of Tennessee, 1905, Ch. 498, provide:

"An oblong flag or banner in length one and two-thirds times its width, the large or principal field of same to be of color red, but said flag or banner ending at its free or outer end in a perpendicular bar of blue, of uniform width, running from side to side - that is to say, from top to bottom of said flag or banner - and separated from the red field by a narrow margin or stripe of white of uniform width; the width of the white stripe to be one-fifth that of the blue bar; and the total width of the bar and stripe together to be equal to one-eighth of the width of the flag. In the center of the red field shall be a smaller circular field of blue, separated from the surrounding red field by a circular margin or stripe of white of uniform width and of the same width as the straight margin or stripe first mentioned. The breadth or diameter of the circular blue field, exclusive of the white margin, shall be equal to one-half of the width of the flag."

Inside the circular blue field shall be three five-pointed stars of white distributed at equal intervals around a point, the center of the blue field, and of such size and arrangement that one point of each star shall approach as closely as practicable without actually touching one point of each of the other two around the center point of the field; and the two outer points of each star shall approach as nearly as practicable without actually touching the periphery of the blue field. The arrangement of the three stars shall be such that the centers of no two stars shall be in a line parallel to either the side or end of the flag, but intermediate between same; and the highest star shall be the one nearest the upper confined corner of the flag."

Note arrangement of stars.

House Jan 26
1899

WHEREAS a State flag or banner has been duly provided by law for the State of Tennessee:

And whereas various sister states display on proper occasions their state flags, and Tennessee should do likewise:

And whereas there is now in the State Library at the Capitol a flag presented for this purpose:

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee

That the Superintendent of the Capitol be, and he is hereby directed to cause the State flag to be flown from the flag-staff upon the dome of the Capitol, during fair weather, on all days during which the Legislature is in session and on all State holidays.

Be it further resolved

That the aforesaid Superintendent of the Capitol be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to purchase, as early as practicable, two regulation Tennessee flags of size 6 feet by 10 feet, for use as aforesaid, at a total cost of not exceeding thirteen dollars, and that said amount expended be included in the general appropriation bill; and that in the meantime he use the flag now in the Library as before mentioned.

*Drawn up by me (Rivers)
Introduced in "House" Jan 26, '09 by Reps. W.R. Rivers + G.E. Burbage, and passed same day.
Passed Senate Jan'y. 29, '09, on motion of Senator S.R. Sells.
Signed by Governor*

WHEREAS, heretofore, by House Joint Resolution No. 13 of this present General Assembly, the Superintendent of the Capitol was instructed to purchase for use upon the Capitol, as therein set out, two regulation Tennessee State flags of size 6 feet ^{by} 10 feet, at a total cost of not exceeding thirteen dollars, said expenditure to be included in the general appropriation bill:

And whereas the said Superintendent of the Capitol is of opinion that the flags provided are too small for the purpose mentioned:

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee

That the aforesaid Superintendent of the Capitol be, and he is hereby authorized and instructed to purchase said two flags of a size 12 feet by 20 feet, and at a cost of not exceeding fifty dollars for both; and that said authorized expenditure be included in the general appropriation bill.

*Introduced in House July 11, 09, by Hon W. R. Lewis. On Motion Hon ^{Ch.} Burdage, passed under
suspense rules.
Went to Senate July 12th + referred to Finance W. & M. Committee.
Reported for non-concurrence
Re-referred.
Reported for concurrence
Passed.
Signed by Governor.*

MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAGS.
Memorandum for manufacturer.

Best quality double warp bunting, first class workmanship and reinforced.

Length entire flag	- - - - -	240	inches.
Width	" " - - - - -	144	"
Width circular blue field	- - - - -	72	"
Width white margins	- - - - -	3	"
Width final blue bar	- - - - -	16	"

Colors:

Red - the deep red of old Confederate battle-flag (see appended sample marked "colors").

White

Blue - of shade as in U. S. and old Confederate flags.

Make blue field and final blue bar not given dimensions.

Care should be taken to make arrangement and size of stars conform to the printed description enclosed herewith. The cut, in colors, of the flag which accompanies said description will give a general idea of the flag, but is not accurate in dimensions, or in the shade of red.

(Extract from letter of date Feb. 10, 1909, M. C. Lilley & Co., per Haller, to LeRoy Reeves, Vanderbilt Bldg., Nashville, Tenn.)

"We will furnish two Tennessee State Flags, for the Capitol, size 12 X 20 feet, made of the best quality double warp bunting, first class workmanship and reinforced, \$20.00 net each."

TENNESSEE'S STATE FLAG

ORIGIN

Tennessee's State Flag has had a comparatively brief but interesting history. Not until 1905 was a legal step taken to adopt a flag of distinctive design, although prior to that time, according to unofficial recollections, numerous makeshifts were more or less prevalent on unusual occasions. These varied from the design of the Stars and Stripes, but plainly were copied therefrom. However, no record of any particular design is to be found.

In April, 1905, the Tennessee Legislature enacted a bill drafted by Capt. LeRoy Reeves of Johnson City, in which it was provided that the State adopt a flag "or banner" wearing red, white, and blue colors, and with a design bearing upon and enhancing the unity of the State's three grand divisions which gradually joined each other for the formation of the whole.

Form of Flag

Captain Reeves, who at that time was a member of the Third Regiment, Tennessee Infantry, made a profound contribution to the patriotic life of his state in the design he made. He proposed a red field tipped by bars of blue and white, and upon the center of the field to be described a circle of blue and white into which three white stars are imposed. The stars represent the three political divisions -- East, Middle, and West--the circle represents unity. Captain Reeves' intent in making the stars white was to show purity; the blue, its "lofty aims", and the red field representative of the fame of

Tennessee as a whole.

Sponsors

Two Senators, both of whom, incidentally, represented Middle Tennessee districts, introduced and secured passage of the bill which did not receive a dissenting vote. The Senators who secured its passage were: Douglas Wikle, representing the twenty-first senatorial district, composed of Hickman, Williamson, and Cheatham Counties; and R.H. McLaurine, representing the twenty-second senatorial district, composed of Giles, Lawrence, and Wayne Counties.

The Bill

The following is the Reeves bill, which in itself is a complete and colorful description of the flag.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That a flag or banner is hereby designated and adopted and declared to be the flag or banner of the State of Tennessee, which flag or banner shall be of the following design, color, and proportions, to wit---

A n oblong flag or banner in length one-and-two-thirds times its width, the large or principal field of same to be of color red, but said flag or banner ending at its free or outer end in a perpendicular bar of blue, of uniform width, running from side to side--that is to say, from top to bottom of said flag or banner--and separated from the red field by a narrow margin or stripe of white of uniform width; the width of the white stripe to be one-fifth that of the blue bar; and the total width of the bar and stripe together to be

equal to one-eighth of the width of the flag. In the center of the red field shall be a similar circular field of blue, separated from the surrounding red field by a circular margin or stripe of white of uniform width and of the same width as the straight margin or stripe first mentioned. The breadth or diameter of the circular blue field, exclusive of the white margin, shall be equal to one-half of the width of the flag.

Inside the circular blue field shall be three five-pointed stars of white distributed at equal intervals around a point, the center of the blue field, and of such size and arrangement that one point of each star shall approach as closely as practicable without actually touching one point of each of the other two around the center point of the field; and the two outer points of each star shall approach as near as practicable without actually touching the periphery of the blue field. The arrangement of the three stars shall be such that the centers of no two stars shall be in a line parallel to either the side or end of the flag, but intermediate between same; and the highest star shall be the one nearest the upper confined corner of the flag.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed April 17, 1905.

E. Rice Speaker of the Senate.

W. K. A. Bernathy, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

John I. Cox, Governor.

Poem

Diligent search through records and archives of the State of Tennessee did not reveal any widespread effort to honor the flag in a literary manner, although it is fitting to state here that the flag was promptly made a vital part of the life of the state and since its adoption has shared the devotion it deserves only with the flag of our country. Outstanding among the published works on the flag (indeed, the only work found) was the poem written by the late John Trotwood Moore, state librarian and archivist. It follows:

Three stars upon a sky of blue,
A snow-white circle 'round;
Three grand divisions strong and true
By kinship's circle bound;
And one is East, and one is West,
And one is Middle ground.

Three stars within a circle white
Upon a crimson field,
Three hero-stars that led the fight,
The soul with courage steel'd;
And one was Jackson's, one was Polk's,
And one was Johnson's shield.

The circle is for unity,
The blue, its loft aim;
The white stars are for purity,
The red field is their fame.

They rose above King's Mountain heights,
At New Orleans they led,
From Mexico to Flander's Field
They guard our hero dead.

Three stars upon a field of blue,
God keep them strong and free--
One stands for me, one stands for you,
One stands for Tennessee.

(COPY OF RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND IN THE SENATE
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCES, WAYS AND MEANS.)

WHEREAS, heretofore, by House Joint Resolution No. 13 of this present General Assembly, the Superintendent of the Capitol was instructed to purchase for use upon the Capitol, as therein set out, two regulation Tennessee State flags of size 6 feet by 10 feet, at a total cost of not exceeding thirteen dollars, said expenditure to be included in the general appropriation bill:

And whereas the said Superintendent of the Capitol is of opinion that the flags provided are too small for the purpose mentioned:

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee

That the aforesaid Superintendent of the Capitol be, and he is hereby authorized and instructed to purchase said two flags of a size 12 feet by 20 feet, and at a cost of not exceeding fifty dollars for both; and that said authorized expenditure be included in the general appropriation bill.

*Drawn by me (Revere)
Introduced in House by Rep. W.R. Revere
Passed Senate by assistance of Sen. Ed. Wells, Sen. J.D. Cox, et al on Mar. 5, 09.
Signed by Gov. M.R. Patterson Mar. 5, 1909.
Senator Fisher Chairman of F.W. & M. Committee,*