

ATA article for August 2019.

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

Since this article will be included in the Grand American edition of Trap and Field, I thought readers may enjoy a brief history of the national flags of three countries – the U.S.A., Canada and Brazil. U.S.A. and Canada have long constituted the core of our ATA members and ATA structures. Our five ATA zones include states and provinces. In our Easter Zone, for instance, there are 14 states and provinces – 11 states and three provinces. The reason why I have included Brazil in this article is that there are increasingly larger numbers of Brazilian shooters participating at the Grand, so much so that their flag has flown and their anthem has been played at the Grand. We welcome shooters world-wide and often get participants from countries like Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and elsewhere but the three countries I have selected are the most significant.

National Flag of United State of America [

Original Flag:

The Betsy Ross Flag (see picture enclosed)



The Betsy Ross Flag (May 1776)

Legend has it that this was the very first American flag sewn together by Betsy Ross from a pencil sketch drawn by George Washington who requested that she create this flag. There is however, no evidence to support this except for claims by her descendants.

The first official American flag (see picture) was by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. It had 13 stripes, alternated red and white, and 13 white stars in a blue field representing a new Constellation.



The Original 13 Star American Flag (1777-1795)

Americans celebrate “Flag Day” each June 14. Of these original 13 states, I am proud to say that in our ATA Eastern zone, we have eight of these original states (Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York and Rhode Island). The remaining four states are in the ATA Southern Zone – Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and North Carolina. “Old Glory” is an icon of America and has been modified at least 26 times for various reasons.

The current 50 star American flag (see picture).



50 Star American Flag (1960-Present)

This version of “Old Glory” has been in existence since July 4, 1960 and recognized the state of Hawaii which became recognized as a state on August 21, 1959.

This flag will proudly fly during our Grand American.

Source: [www.usflagstore.com/American_flag_history_1776_to_present_s/2205.htm]

History of the National Flag of Canada

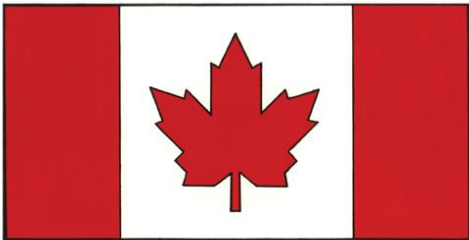
For over 400 years, various flags were used for various purposes. When Canada formally became an independent nation on July 1, 1867 the flag at that time was the Royal Union Flag (see picture).



Royal Union Flag (1801-1965)

This flag was used in fact from 1801 to 1965. Following the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland in 1801 the diagonal Cross of St. Patrick was incorporated with England's Cross of St. George and Scotland's Cross of St. Andrew. This gave the Royal Union Flag its present configuration. This flag was used across British North America and in Canada even after Confederation from 1867 to 1965.

The Current Canadian Maple Leaf Flag (see picture)



In 1919 Major General (later the Honourable) Sir Eugene Fiset had recommended the single red leaf on a white field as Canada's emblem. This device had been worn by all Canadian Olympic athletes since 1904. The same design was again proposed for the national flag in 1964 by Dr. George Stanley. Red and white have been the official national colours since proclaimed as such by King George V in 1921. Obviously it took many decades and much debate and negotiations leading up to the current National Flag of Canada proclaimed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on January 28, 1965 and raised for the first time in an inauguration ceremony on Parliament Hill on February 15, 1965.

The Canadian "Maple Leaf" flag will be proudly flown at the Grand American.

Source: [www.canada.ca/en/Canadian-heritage/services/flag-canada-history.html]

History of the National Flag of Brazil

The author has been unable to find a picture of original flags of Brazil but there are verbal descriptions. During the Napoleonic Wars, the Portuguese royal family resided in Brazil which was elevated in status from a Portuguese colony to a Kingdom co-equal with Portugal. On September 7, 1822 Brazil was proclaimed as an independent nation. At that time the Brazilian national flag consisted of a green background with a yellow diamond and the imperial coat of arms in the centre incorporating a star for

each of the Brazilian states. The imperial colours were black and yellow, whereas the royal house of Bragança was symbolized by green. Green and yellow were selected as the Brazilian colours and were also associated with the verdure of the land and with its great mineral wealth, especially gold. In 1889 a republic was proclaimed.

Brazil's modifications to the National flag were modest. The green and yellow were retained but the imperial coat of arms was replaced by a blue disc bearing a white band and white stars for each of the states. The blue and white colours were a reflection of the Portuguese origins of the nation. The Positivist motto on the band, "Ordem e progresso," translates to "Order and progress". The original flag of the republic (November 24, 1889) has had several modifications until settling in its current form on May 12, 1992. (See picture.)



The 27 stars of the flag symbolize Brazil's 26 states and its federal district. The stars are of different sizes and are arranged to correspond to constellations visible in the Southern Hemisphere.

I anticipate that the Brazilian flag will be proudly flown on Grand American Monday as it was last year. As you may know, Brazil is now part of our ATA Southern Zone. At the Grand, the New Zealand and Australian flags will be flown for one day as well.

Source: [www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-Brazil]

Language Commentary

In Canada, one is bilingual if he or she speaks French and English. In the United States bilingualism is generally one who speaks Spanish and English. Brazil is the only country in the Western Hemisphere that has Portuguese as its official language.

Enjoy the Grand and when you see the National flags of U.S.A., Canada, and Brazil, you will know a little history of each. At some point I may provide information on other participating Nations.

Good shooting.

Paul Shaw,
Ontario Delegate