

“Flags of the Florida”

March 3, 1845 – FLORIDA FIRST BECOMES A STATE



Florida became the 27th state in the Union. The new Governor, William D. Moseley was presented with a flag that flew at his inauguration. The insert of the US flag had 27 stars in it canton. However, and maybe ironically, there was a controversy over the motto and it was never adopted as the official state flag.

January 11, 1861 – CIVIL WAR

Florida had no state flag in 1861. They had tried to adopt one in 1845, but it was deemed too political and it the idea was dropped.



In January of 1861, “The Ladies of Broward’s Neck” of Duvall county presented this flag to Governor Perry. It was displayed in the capitol when the Ordinance of Secession was signed and probably hung there throughout the war. The

original is in the History Museum in Tallahassee, but not displayed. This particular flag was hand crafted by Sue Wooley. The original was 53” x 84”. Notice 3 stars for the states that had seceded to that point and 12 smaller stars for the other states that might join.

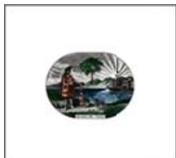


This flag was used at at Pensacola Navy Yard in January of 1861. Served for 8 months, till September 1861. It was not used by troops when they left Pennsacola and generally was not used elsewhere in the state. Probably made out of old US flags.



The Florida legislature passed an act in the spring of 1861 directing that the Governor adopt an “appropriate state Flag” . Six months later the lame duck Governor Perry had this flag made. Only a detailed description still exists. It is not know if more than one were made or just where it might have flown.

January 20, 1868 – POST CIVIL WAR



The Constitutional Convention of 1868 provided Florida with its second official state flag. It declared that the legislature should, as soon as convenient, "adopt a State Emblem having the design of the Great Seal of the State impressed upon a white ground of six feet six inches fly and six feet deep."

1900



Because the flag when furled lacked color, the Legislature in 1899 submitted to the electorate for ratification in 1900 an amendment to the Constitution adding diagonal red bars. The red solitaire is reminiscent of the Spanish Burgundian flag used during the Spanish rule in Florida (1565-1763) and represents the X-shaped cross upon which St. Andrew, patron saint of Burgundy was crucified.

1968



In the rewriting of the Constitution in 1968, the nearly square dimensions were dropped. The flag is described in these words: "The seal of the state, of diameter one half the hoist, in the center of a white ground. Red bars in width one fifth the hoist extending from each corner toward the center, to the outer rim of the seal."