

## Betsy Ross

Have you ever wondered who made the country's first American flag? Betsy Ross, a seamstress and flag maker from Philadelphia, is said to have made the first American flag. She was born on January 1, 1752, and as a child she attended Quaker Schools. However, they kicked her out of the Quaker group when she married John Ross in 1773. Soon afterward, Betsy and her husband opened an upholstery and sewing shop on Arch street. After John was killed in an explosion while guarding an ammunition dump, Betsy remarried twice and had seven children. Later on January 30, 1836, Betsy Ross died. Betsy Ross influenced our country by making the first American flag, and by being a great example of what many women found to be reality in the time of a war.

Although there is very little evidence to support this story, many people believe that Betsy Ross made the first American flag. This story was first told by Betsy's grandson, William Canby, in the March of 1870. In fact, he told the story at a meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The eleven year old boy claimed that his grandmother, on her death bed, told him the story of how she made the

first American flag. She said that George Washington, George Ross, and Robert Morris journeyed to her house to request that she make a flag for America, a new country on the verge of declaring independence. She willingly made suggestions and Washington made a sketch. Soon afterward, using the sketch, she made the flag. The only change she made was to make the six pointed stars five pointed stars because she could make them with one easy cut. Although not everybody believes this popular story, it has become a legend.

Did you know that Betsy Ross influenced our country a lot? In fact, when we were planning to declare our independence, she agreed to help make a flag for us. She helped Washington design the flag, then she made the flag. She also suggested the five-pointed star that is on the flag. Besides making the first flag, Betsy was an extremely independent woman. Even though she was a widow, a single mother, and she was living in the time of a war, she still ran a sewing and upholstery shop, and she was a mother to seven children. Clearly, Betsy Ross was a very strong woman.

Betsy Ross was a well respected person. Being in her shoes I would be honored, proud, flattered, and also sad or stressed at times. I

would feel honored to have made the first flag and very proud for that same reason. I would be flattered that Washington and Ross and Morris, wanted me to make the flag. Although it may seem like being Betsy Ross would be very exciting, I think that part of her life would be very difficult. Because she was a single mother and widow, living an extremely busy life must have been tiring. Running an upholstery shop while mothering seven children, and trying to get by during a war would definitely wear me out! Betsy's life would have been fun, honorable, and demanding simultaneously!

Living a busy life during the war must have been very stressful, but well worth it. Betsy Ross was a strong and successful woman, who never gave up. Interestingly enough, she was a good example of what many families went through during a war. She helped our country, and juggled a household and upholstery shop. Betsy Ross was a well respected, hardworking, strong, and very independent woman.

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