

How Jack Boyer Saved the Powder Mill, July 4, '77.

WAY they went with drum and horn, down the quiet street of that sleepy old town, "To-day!" "To-day!" "To-day!" The noise would have startled the peaceful slumber on any day except the glorious Fourth. But every youngster in it had been awake since day break, and the boom, boom of the drum and the rattle, rattle of the brass band had roused every inhabitant long before the usual breakfast hour.

Bob and Dick and Jack Boyer had had a glorious time, and before breakfast were really half-waked so much so that the powder mill was gone.

After breakfast the first thing in the programme was a procession. There were only three of them, to be sure, but they were as big as a brigade. Bob had a new drum, and he thought he could play "Yankee Doodle" in great style. Dick had the horn and carried the flag while Dick marched along carrying his sword as he imagined his father did at the head of the regiment when he was in the war.

With swelling hearts the little boys marched till they thought it was nearly time to get ready for the fight, then they filed in through the big front gate and drew up in front of grandpa and gave him a military salute.

"Well, my little soldiers," said grandpa, smiling, as he laid down his paper, "do you know what day you are celebrating?"

"Fourth of July," they shouted in chorus.

"Well, what is the Fourth of July," asked grandpa.

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"I don't believe a word of it, you lying little rebel. I've a notion to kill you."

"I'm not lying," and Jack looked the British officer unquaking in the eye.

The officers consulted earnestly together and finally concluded that their small detachment of cavalry didn't stand much of a chance in a conflict with a regiment of Greene's patriots and four cannon.

"The officer who had first spoken to Jack held up the flag, thrust his sabre through it in half a dozen places and then threw it at Jack, saying, 'Here, take your rag, you are a plucky little rebel, anyway.'"

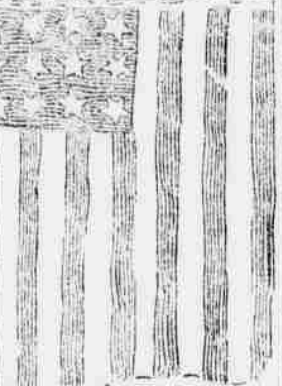
Jack snatched the flag and fairly flew toward home, while the British lieutenant wheeled about and hastened down the road to Newcastle.

That's the way my boys, my grandpa, Jack Boyer, saved the powder mill July 4, 1777.

"But here's the carriage. Let's be off to our barbecue."

THE FIRST STARS AND STRIPES.

Paul Jones's Flag From the Bon Homme Richard, New Government Property.



The origin of the Bon Homme Richard, Paul Jones's famous frigate, which was presented to the Government recently for permanent exhibition in the National Museum, is believed to be the first American flag bearing the stars and stripes, as it is undoubtedly the first national color ever hoisted over the American war vessel and the first that was established by a foreign naval power, says the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune. This flag was received by President McKinley and

Secretary Long from Mrs. Harriet M. Stafford, of that city, Mass., to whom it had descended from her ancestor, James Bayard Stafford, and with it she gave the Government convincing evidence of its authenticity.

The flag is of English making, about two and a half yard long and two yards wide. It was originally about fifteen feet long, but in the century of its existence two yards have been appropriated piecemeal by patriotic ship hunters.

It is sewed with the thread and contains twelve stars in a blue union, and thirteen stripes, alternately red and white. The stars are arranged in four horizontal lines, three on each line. The position of the thirteenth star is explained by the fact that Georgia had not joined the confederation at the time it was made.

The emblem shows that the flag was made by the Misses Mary and Sarah Austin, under the supervision of General Washington and Captain John Paul Jones, secretary of the United States marine, the design being taken chiefly from General Washington's family escutcheon. These women presented it to Captain John Paul Jones, who raised it on a small vessel, and sailed up and down the Schuylkill River to show it to the assembled thousands of Philadelphia. Then he placed it on the Bon Homme Richard and went out parading. In the English Channel, off Flamborough Head, 200 years ago, he was assisted by the British ship Serapis, and in that memorable conflict the flag, which was floating at the masthead, was shot away and fell into the sea.

Then a young lieutenant on the Bon Homme Richard, plunged overboard, recovered the flag and carried it to the masthead. After the Battle Paul Jones transferred the flag to the Serapis and subsequently took it with him to the Alliance. When the Alliance was sold in 1784 the naval authorities presented "Paul Jones's Starry Flag," as well as a boarding party and a "musquet captured from the Serapis," to Stafford in recognition of his meritorious services during the war.

PAYING THE PENALTY



CHAPTER III.—Continued.

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The father looked at the boy with a stern expression. He raised his hand and said, "You must be a good boy, or you will be in the institution."

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LITTLE COLUMBIA'S FOURTH OF JULY SPEECH



Little Columbia's Fourth of July Speech.

arrangement. My feet were cramped, and a great deal was anticipated. But just as the Boyer family were at supper, a terror-stricken old colored man burst into the room, his eyes staring from his head, and his teeth chattering with fear.

"Oh, Massa Boyer, der's comin' days again."

"Who's comin'?" asked grandpa, starting from the table.



"On to the front."