

The purpose of the Archives is to collect, preserve, and provide access to the permanent records generated by the various departments of the Town of Huntington, as well as ensure that these records will be available for future generations. The archival activities we implement enrich education, improve access to historical records and serve as a source of information for residents, teachers, students, community groups and a range of researchers. In addition, our activities help in highlighting the Town's historical organizations and sites.

The Archives is open for research on weekdays, except holidays, by appointment only.

Hours: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

For additional information contact:
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Archival handouts are developed by Antonia S. Mattheou, Town Archivist. They are printed on recycled paper and are free of charge.

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HUNTINGTON
TOWN CLERK'S ARCHIVES
Jo-Ann Raia, RMC, Town Clerk/RMO



LIBERTY

The Liberty Flag

The flag that was originally introduced to this country had, on one side, the British Red Ensign with the King's Colors (Union Jack) in the upper left hand corner, and the word "Liberty" written on the bottom. The King's name, George III, occupied the other side of the flag. This flag was waving on a liberty-pole on July 22, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence was first read in the Town of Huntington. The people of this Town became overjoyed and excited with the news. It was under this state of mind that they publicly ripped off the Union Jack and the letters "George III". What remained was a plain red piece of cloth with the word LIBERTY in white on the front.

An effigy of George III, represented by the ripped letters, was fabricated out of base materials, its head stuck with feathers and adorned with a wooden crown, and its body wrapped in the Union Jack and lined with gunpowder. This effigy was hung on a gallows, exploded and burnt to ashes.

The new flag, The Liberty Flag, was carried into the Battle of Long Island a month later, on August 27, and captured by the British forces. Since then, it has been known as *The Huntington Liberty Flag*.

In 1975, after petitions to the Town from the Office of the Historian, the *Liberty Flag* was designated as the official flag of the Town of Huntington and it has remained as that since then.

Activity: *To color the flag on this flyer, first color the letters white and then fill in the background with red.*

Ask for copies of all our handouts.

Historical Facts

- In the evening of July 22, 1776, the Town Military Committee and many inhabitants sat around the "genial board" and drank 13 patriotic toasts, among which were, *The free and independent States of America; The General Congress; The Convention of the 13 States; Our principal military Commanders, and Success and enlargement to the American Navy.*
- The Declaration of Independence of the Colonies had been proclaimed on the 4th of July 1776 and read to 20,000 militia in New York. The city had celebrated the event by overthrowing the statue of George III.

Never...

- Show disrespect to a flag.
- Place anything on a flag.
- Carry a flag horizontally; it should always be aloft and free.
- Dip a flag to any person or thing.
- Allow a flag to touch anything beneath it -- the ground, floor, water, or merchandise.

Always...

- Display a flag in a position of honor.
- Hoist a flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.

Activity: *Plan a class trip or ask your students to visit the Huntington Town Clerk's Archives to view manuscripts relating to the Revolutionary War.*