



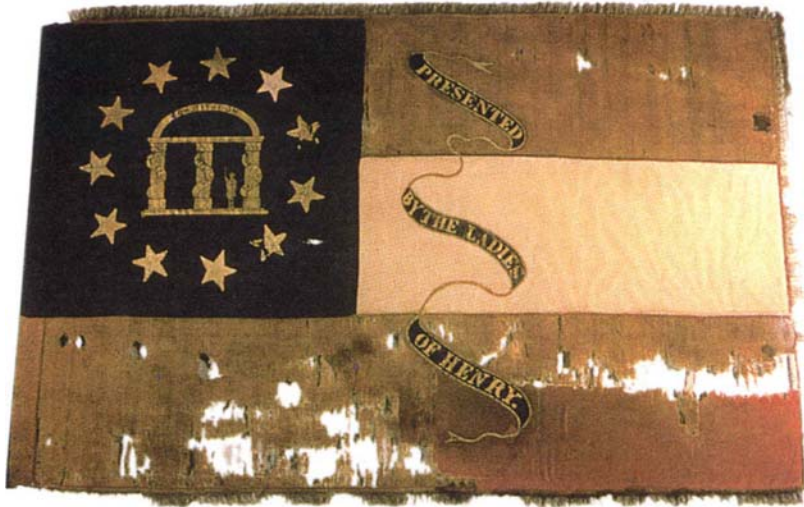
# The Georgia State Flag

**Its little known history and background**

The Museum of Southern History, Jacksonville, FL 32210

Ben H. Willingham (904) 389-6600

The Georgia State flag with the background and history as presented by the State on its official website is on the right below. The text on the left gives the full background to this wonderful example of local enterprise and courage of its people.



The Zachery Rangers were mustered in from Henry Co. as Co. H, 27<sup>th</sup> Georgia which fought first under Gen. James Longstreet and later under Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Zachery rose to the rank of Colonel and served as regimental commander. The unit proved its courage at 45 of the bloodiest engagements in the war, including 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Manassas, the Siege off Yorktown, Gaines Mill, Ceded Mountain and Malvern Hill. At second Manassas, the unit helped turn back the tide when inexperienced recruits fell back. The regiment again displayed its mettle at Olustee, FL on 20 February 1864. BGEN Alfred Colquitt, describing the turning point wrote:



Georgia's new state flag is based on the first national flag of the Confederacy (the "Stars and Bars") and consists of a field of three horizontal bars of equal width, two red separated by a white bar in the center. In the upper left corner is a square blue canton the width of two bars. In the center of the canton is a circle of 13 white stars, symbolizing Georgia and the other 12 original states that formed the United States of America. Within the circle of stars is Georgia's coat of arms (the central design on the state seal) immediately above the words "In God We Trust" -- both in gold.

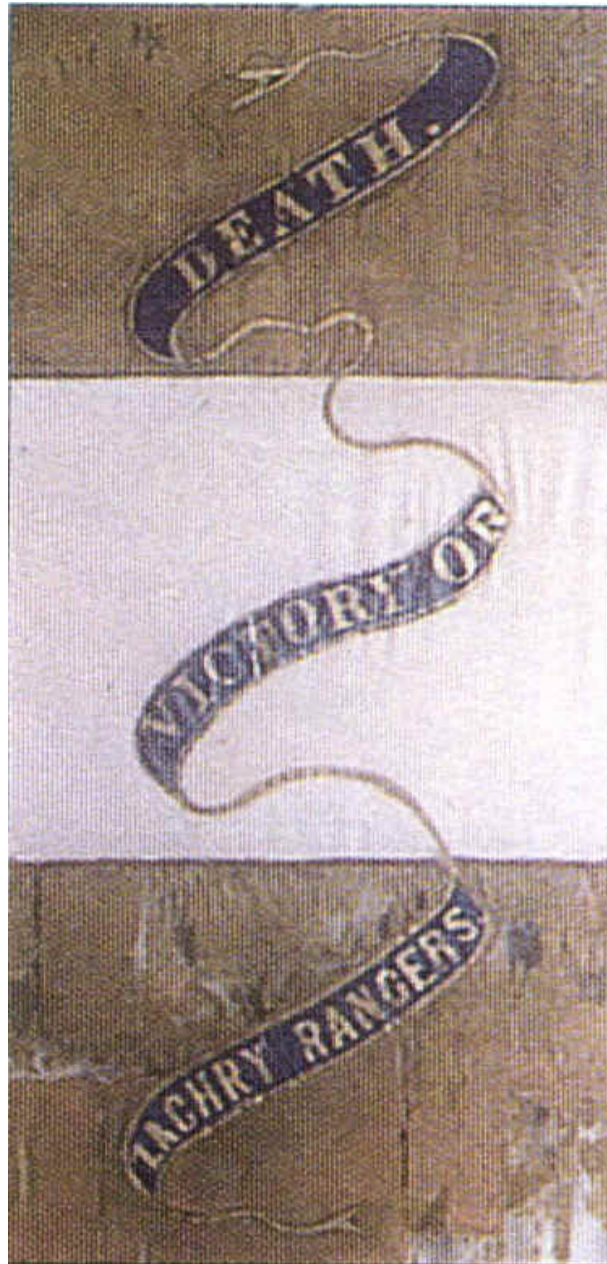
## The history of the Georgia Flag continues:

"After our line had advanced about one quarter of a mile the engagement became general and the ground was stubbornly contested. The twenty-seventh Georgia Regiment, under Colonel Zachry, pushing forward with great vigor upon the center, and the whole line moving as directed, the enemy gave way in confusion."

The 27<sup>th</sup> was with GEN Joseph Johnston's Army of Tennessee at the close of the war. No records are available to document the number of men that surrendered with the 27<sup>th</sup>.

After the war, Colonel Zachry won elections as a state constitutional convention delegate, a state representative, and a state senator. In that last role, he served in the current State Capital.

COL Robert Minty of the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry reported that his command captured this flag (as well as two others) while chasing enemy troops "through woods and fields" during an attack on Macon Railroad 20 August 1864. Years later a grandson of Zachry claimed his ancestor, while serving in Virginia, had sent the flag back to Georgia. According to this source, Union troopers confiscated the flag when they ransacked Zachry's house in Henry County.



A sash was painted on both sides of the flag. The Obverse bears the inscription "Presented by the ladies of Henry" and the reverse "Zachry Rangers Victory or Death.".