OFPA Flag Design Discussed

  A while back the Illinois Society purchased a new Flag of the Order for display at their meeting. When this acquisition was announced to Illinois Associates, Governor James A. Williams (also the Order's Historian General) prepared this interesting story for the Society's newsletter:

  This flag consisting of two intersecting red bars is the flag of the Cross of St. George with the exception that in the upper left-hand corner of a blue canton, 13 stars in a circle will be added.

  The Cross of St. George flag had a very early dating when the Lord High Admiral, Charles Howard of Effingham, flew this royal standard at the foremast of the Royal Arc in 1588 during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The rear admiral of the fleet, Sir Walter Raleigh, few the same flag at his mizzen mast.

  When the Godspeed, Susan Constant and the Discovery arrived off Virginia in 1607 to plant the first permanent English settlement in America, they all carried the Cross of St. George flag.

  The British flag today is a combination of the cross of St. George flag and the Cross of St. Andrew flag.

  After James VI of Scotland took the throne as King James I of England in 1603, it became appropriate to have a flag representing both Scotland and England. The flag of Scotland was the white cross of St. Andrew on a blue field.

  Despite being joined in the person of King James, the kingdoms of Scotland and England each had their own Parliament and national jealousies were strong. Seeking a symbolic manifestation of unity, in 1606 King James issued a proclamation joining the flag of St. George and St. Andrew in a national standard.

  Editor's Comment: This is how the OFPA Handbook describes the OFPA flag.

"SECTION 3. COLORS. The colors of the Order shall consist of the National Colors or Flag as prescribed by an Act of Congress, and the colors of the flag of the Order. The latter shall be cross, GULES, on a field, ARGENT, with canton, AZURE, a constellation of thirteen stars, ARGENT."