

10/24/16

Dear Governor Haley,

I have mailed copies of the enclosed to local radio stations, to television stations, and to the local newspaper. None have responded.

Did you know the crescent is not the moon? It is a gonglet. I first learned this fact from a grandson studying South Carolina history in middle school. Later a relative was told when he was applying for a state job. Some Citadel graduates know.

Do you think this misinformation should be corrected?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Eddie Ellison
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The Crescent

Smith (1975a) dates the crescent to 1775 but gives no reason.
Al Kirsch, 13 June 2002

I have heard, but can't remember the source, that the crescent originated from a remnant of a knight's armor. British officers wore a metal crescent, often silver or gold plated on their chests, left over from a protective piece of armor over the heart area. General Cornwallis can be seen wearing this in the movie "The Patriot" and I have seen actual pieces in the national park museums at forts in South Carolina and Georgia. It has been reported that their appearance is from a cap device worn by South Carolina troops in the revolutionary war, but the origin of the cap device is probably from the uniform decoration.

Michael P. Smuda, 19 June 2002

I believe the metal crescent you refer to is called a gorget. However, a number of websites say the 1775 South Carolina flag designed by Moultrie was preceded by a 1765 blue flag with 3 crescents used during the protests against the Stamp Act. I could not find an explanation of why that was chosen. For example, see home.freeuk.com/gazkhay/blank_state.htm and www.enchantedlearning.com/usaf/states/southcarolina/ and www.palmnettoppages.com/sc/facts/flag.html.

Ned Smith, 19 June 2002

From the Admiral Preble book, "History and Origin of the American Flag, Volume One."

"In 1765, when the stamp paper reached Charleston, it was deposited at Fort Johnson. A volunteer force took the fort and captured the paper. Whilst they held the fort, they displayed a flag showing a blue field with three white crescents, which seems to have been improvised by the volunteers, of whom there were three companies." [pp. 194]

This flag is also described here: www.ncstate.com/states/symbols/flags/sc_flag.htm.

John Evusevic, 8 November 2002

That design [of the crescent] isn't really a crescent moon, but an adaptation of the gorget - an item of personal protection for early soldiers - reduced to a symbol and used in the early times of defense in South Carolina history. The depiction on the flag of today is a derivation resulting from the age-old tradition of designing and using flags without benefit of guidance in that the mints of this crescent have pointed in several directions through the