



# PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

*Hello Cousins,*

*I hope you enjoy this fascinating information about our extraordinary family. Thanks to my sister, Susan Provenzano, for research. We are descendants of Eva and Hendrick's son Jacob. Morton is my soulmate as an "amateur" historian.*

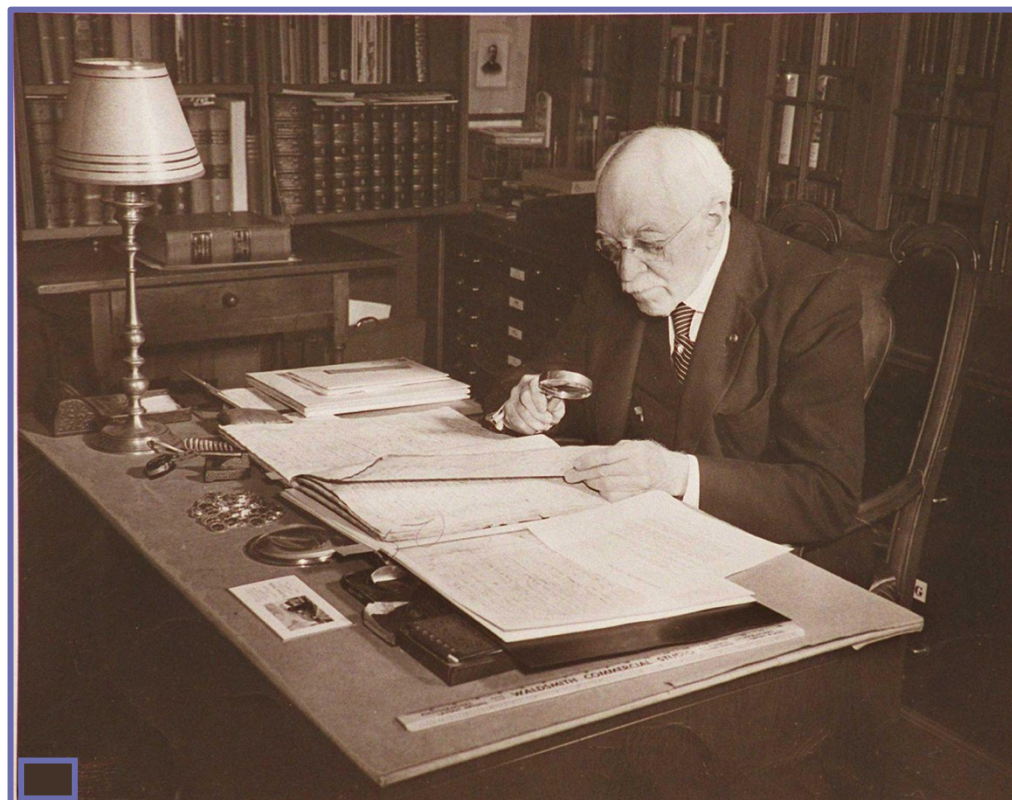
*Mary Bullock*

## Frank Knox Morton Pennypacker (1872–1956)

ADVENTURES IN THE LOVE OF HISTORY I

### FIRST DISCOVERY/FIRST FLAG

Scholarly and unassuming as seen in his photos, Morton Pennypacker was nonetheless an adventurer -- the quiet Indiana Jones of Long Island. Author, printer, collector, antiquarian, and godfather of AMC's hit Revolutionary War historical drama *Turn?*, he discovered previously unknown history by attention to detail, dogged focus, looking closely at what has been sitting in plain sight all along, and rushing to examine any dusty relic discovered in local attics and archives. The intellect of a detective, the heart of an explorer, the quiet determination of a librarian. What started out as a hobby became his legacy. He was at the center of so many important discussions that The New York Times published 13 extensive articles about him from 1927 to his obit in 1956 at age 84.



Cousin  
Morton  
Ca 1950



Cousin  
Samuel  
1895

Cousin Morton began collecting historical material when he was a little more than five years old under the guidance of his [and our] Cousin, Samuel W. Pennypacker, former Governor of Pennsylvania and a well-known collector of Pennsylvania's historical works.

– *New York Times Feb 14, 1950.*

Born in Pennsylvania, Morton moved to New York City (Kew Gardens, Queens) just after the turn of the 20th century before moving to Southampton, on Long Island.

Morton is best known as collector of Long Island, New York historical material. A writer and publicist by trade, he made a private hobby of collecting historical materials related to Long Island which eventually amounted to what is today called the Long Island Collection (formerly known as the Morton Pennypacker Long Island Collection). It contains some 20,000 odd books, papers, manuscripts, pictures, his photographs documenting historic buildings, sites and art work (some of which are the only images remaining), and other documents pertaining to the history of Long Island. The collection is housed in the East Hampton Library.



# PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS



## LOVE OF COLLECTING LED MORTON TO THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE

In this undated photograph, Ettie Hedges Pennypacker (1879-1970) stands in a farmyard in a long pale dress. The dress is anachronistic, a simple Empire style popular into the 1820s but out of fashion during her lifetime. Perhaps she is in costume for a party, such as the ones she attended at Home, Sweet Home historical residence in East Hampton or the state historians conference.

In 1936, when Ettie was 57 and Morton was 64, they married. Most of the community had assumed neither would ever marry, and for many years the union remained a popular topic for old-timers to remark about.

Ettie retired as librarian when Morton grew ill and did not return to the job following his death in 1956. They had no children.

Newsday  
undated



To this day, portraits of Ettie and Morton hang in the Long Island Collection, keeping watch over the library that brought them together. An honorary organization established in their names, the Pennypacker Society, continues to benefit the library.

- Moriah Moore, librarian and archivist in the Long Island Collection at the East Hampton Library

From the **THE EAST HAMPTON STAR**  
SHINES FOR ALL

Morton's most well known discovery is that "Samuel Culper, Junior," the head spy of the Culper Ring, was in fact Robert Townsend, a member of the renowned New York Townsend family. He did so by identifying an exact match in penmanship between the Culper letters attributed to Culper Junior and letters written by Robert Townsend. Pennypacker's findings were confirmed by a forensic handwriting expert. He wrote about this in his book, *George Washington's Spies*. More on this in our April Newsletter.



LET'S START HERE IN 1927 WITH MORTON'S FIRST DISCOVERY

---- AMERICA'S FIRST FLAG ----

## SETS 1775 AS DATE OF OUR FIRST FLAG

**Morton Pennypacker Says Old  
Banner Found in Attic Pre-  
ceded Betsy Ross's.**

**STARS IN FORM OF CROSS**

**And Are Six-Pointed — Collector  
Thinks Ensign Was Carried to  
Ticonderoga at Start of War.**

The discovery of a tattered American flag of thirteen stars, one of few still existent, was made known on Flag Day last Tuesday, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the flag resolution by the Continental Congress.

The banner was found among the effects of a descendant of an old Long Island family and is now in the possession of William D. Halsey, a Sag Harbor banker.

Morton Pennypacker of Kew Gardens, a private collector of early Americana and a historian of the Revolutionary epoch, expressed the opinion in a letter written by him to Mr. Halsey that the flag is the first star-spangled banner, antedating the disputed creation of Betsy Ross and giving the almost complete idea for the finally accepted design whose origin has always been a mystery.

Mr. Pennypacker bases his opinion on authentic documents found stored away with the flag and on the design of the stars and the local history of the time. Although the documents do not mention the flag, they record the trip of a Long Island company to Ticonderoga in the Fall of 1775 at the outbreak of the war and its return with prisoners to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The collector assumes that the banner was a company flag and its exhibition in Philadelphia gave the idea to others. Ground for his assumption is also found, according to Mr. Pennypacker, in the fact that Lieut. Commander Byron McCandless, an authority on the history of the flag, is known to be working on information that the Stars and Stripes may have appeared at Ticonderoga early in the Revolution.

The arrangement of the stars which are in a sort of cross, one at the top and bottom, three in the second and fourth rows and five in a centre row, add confirmation to his theory. According to Mr. Pennypacker, they resemble a St. George cross, a wholly British symbol, which, after the early part of 1776, was never incorporated in any form of American flag. George Washington, in January of that year, had a combination of a St. George and a St. Andrew cross with the red and white stripes of his "Union Flag," and he remarked in a letter that the British thought the banner was a friendly overture. The cross in this flag was not of stars, however. Soon afterward, when reconciliation with England was no longer considered, the St. George cross was definitely dropped.

The newly discovered flag, Mr. Halsey explained at his home at Bridge Hampton, L. I., was found in the attic of the former home of the late Dr. John L. Gardiner, whose father and mother's families went back to Revolutionary times on Long Island.

**The New York Times**

Published: June 19, 1927

Copyright © The New York Times



**HULBERT  
1775**



**REBELLIOUS STRIPES  
1767**



## THE TATTERED OLD FLAG FOUND IN THE ATTIC

The Hulbert Flag story begins in July, 1775 when John Hulbert, a cordwainer and magistrate who oversaw business at the Custom House in Sag Harbor, became captain of a company of Long Island Minutemen. Two months later Hulbert's company moved to **Ticonderoga** to assist in the campaign to liberate the Champlain Valley. In November, the Long Islanders escorted a group of British prisoners to Trenton and Hulbert reported to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. After a short term of duty at Fort Constitution (Fort Lee)\*\* on the Hudson River, the company returned to their homes for discharge on January 18, 1776.

In 1926, a banker and historian named William T. Halsey acquired the Hulbert house and barn from his recently deceased friend Dr. John Lyon Gardiner. It was heavy with history even in the twenties, and Mr. Halsey went exploring. While poking around the rafters of the barn he found something. Near the chimney was a parcel covered with dust and yellowed with age. Careful unwrapping revealed a collection of 18th-century military orders and enlistment papers. They were Captain John Hulbert's dispatch, and within was found tattered scraps of worsted wool and homespun fabric — woven fragments of red, white, and blue. When the banner's constituent materials were tested and determined to be authentic, it was heralded as the prototype of the Stars and Stripes.

There was a hum of excitement around this discovery and men of means took note. Morton Pennypacker, historian and collector of Revolutionary War ephemera, was the ambassador of the flag, bringing it to national attention with a story in The New York Times (see Page 3).

One version of the story relates that the flag was made on Long Island before Hilbert's company left for Ticonderoga. Another version says it was made in the Champlain Valley to rival the banner of the British Seventh (Royal Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot, captured at Fort Chambly, October 18, 1775.

Regardless of its origin, the heart of the Hulbert flag claim lies in what is supposed to have taken place in Philadelphia when Hulbert reported to the Congress in November.

**MORTON PENNYPACKER**, and proponents of this account, say that Hulbert brought the flag with him and that Francis Hopkinson, a delegate from New Jersey, may have been asked to make a sketch of it. This sketch supposedly formed the basis of the later Flag Resolution.

*\*\* This author went to high school in this town, Fort Lee NJ*



## MORTON'S FIRST DISCOVERY ---- AMERICA'S FIRST FLAG --- IN AMERICA'S FIRST OFFENSIVE VICTORY --- TICONDEROGA ---

New York | May 10, 1775

The capture of Fort Ticonderoga was the first offensive victory for American forces in the Revolutionary War. It secured the strategic passageway north to Canada and netted the patriots an important cache of artillery.

### How it ended

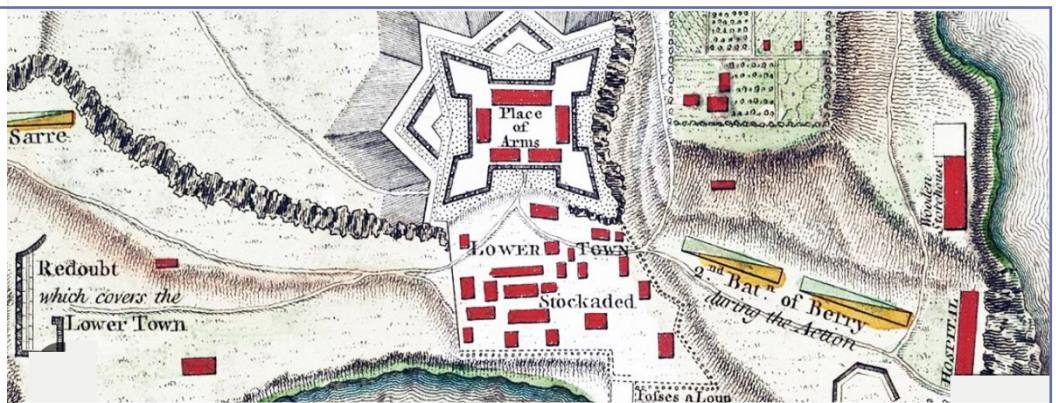
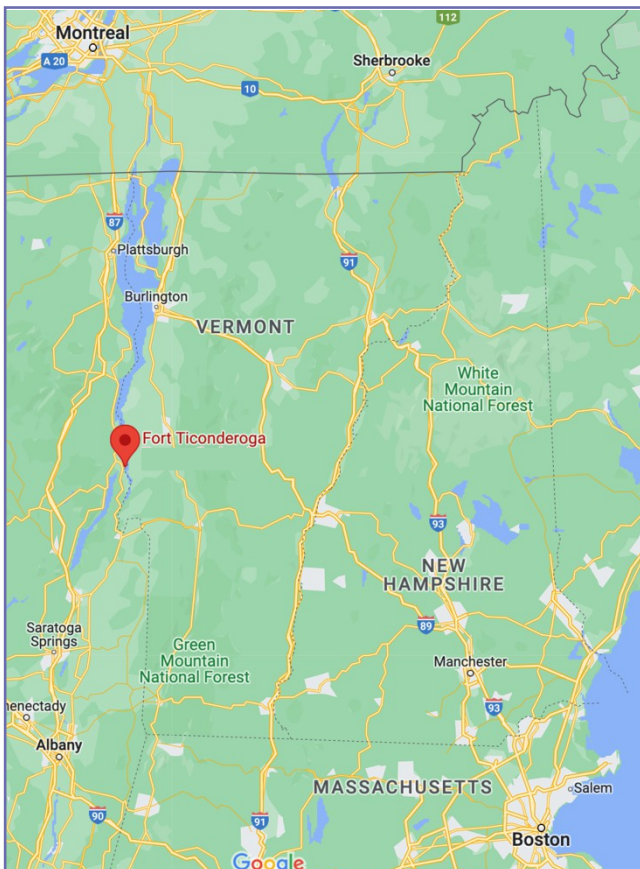
American victory. Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, together with Benedict Arnold, surprised and overtook a small British garrison at the fort, acquiring valuable weapons for the Continental Army. Arnold took command of Ticonderoga until he was relieved in June 1775.

### In context

Located at the confluence of Lake Champlain and Lake George, Fort Ticonderoga controlled access north and south between Albany and Montreal. This made it a critical battlefield of the French and Indian War. Begun by the French as Fort Carillon in 1755, it was the launching point for the Marquis de Montcalm's famous siege of Fort William Henry in 1757. The British attacked Montcalm's French troops outside Fort Carillon on July 8, 1758, and the resulting battle was one of the largest of the war, and the bloodiest battle fought in North America until the Civil War. The fort was finally captured by the British in 1759.

During the American War for Independence, several engagements were fought at the five-pointed star-shaped Fort Ticonderoga. The most famous of these occurred on May 10, 1775, when **Ethan Allen and his band of Green Mountain Boys**, accompanied by **Benedict Arnold**, who held a commission from Massachusetts, silently rowed across Lake Champlain from present-day Vermont and stormed the fort in a swift, late-night sneak attack. (**Cousin Morton maintains that the flag found in that attic on Long Island was carried into this battle and later to Philadelphia.**)

Months later, George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, sent one of his officers, Colonel Henry Knox\*\*, to gather the artillery left at Ticonderoga and bring it to Boston. Knox organized the transfer of the heavy guns over frozen rivers and the snow-covered Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts. Mounted on Dorchester Heights, **the guns from Ticonderoga compelled the British to evacuate the city of Boston in March of 1776.**



\*\*Morton's second name is Knox

**Officers**

**President:** Ron Pennypacker  
520 Loch Alsh Ave.  
Ambler, PA 19002  
(484) 302-6842  
r.pennypacker@yahoo.com

**Vice President:** Linda Millerick  
751 Monterey Salinas Hwy. Salinas,  
CA 93908-8953 (831) 484-2834  
lgmcealmillerick@yahoo.com

**Secretary:** Marcea P. Kligman  
4170 Summit Way  
Marietta, GA 30066-2346  
(770) 928-9055  
mpklig@bellsouth.net

**Treasurer:** Ed Pennypacker  
271 Hafner Rd.  
Royersford, PA 19468  
ed@jepcosales.com  
Tel 610 948-7867

**Membership/  
Newsletter/WebMaster/  
Genealogy:**

Bruce Pennypacker  
201 Shady Brook Drive Langhorne,  
PA 19047 (215) 380-1748  
throwcoach@gmail.com

**Newsletter**

Mary Bullock  
105 Cassidy Place 2R  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
marybullock@gmail.com

**Board of Directors**

Tom Armstrong, Branchburg, NJ  
Mary Bullock, Staten Island, NY  
Susan Costantini, Royersford, PA  
Bruce Pennypacker, Langhorne, PA  
Ed Pennypacker, Royersford, PA  
Ron Pennypacker, Ambler, PA  
Sandy Pennypacker, Langhorne, PA

## *Pannebakker Family Association*

The Pannebakker Family Association is an outgrowth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699. In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."

