

Said to have belonged to Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. During the Revolutionary War, Henry was given command of a company of light dragoons. His skills and accomplishments while leading this company in many significant battles earned him the nickname "Light Horse Harry". This fragment is silk that has been painted on both sides with a horse head and the words "U.S. Light Dragoons". It is a tangible reminder of the events that changed the name Henry would be referred to as for the rest of history. This artifact was a significant piece of the standard for the U.S. Light Dragoons. There is some debate over the timeframe that this flag was in use. It is possible that it was created after the Revolutionary War and closer to the War of 1812, in which case it would not have been flown by Light Horse Harry. However, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted "United States of America" on September 9, 1776, so it is possible that they chose to use U.S. for that reason and that the oral history is correct. We may never know. What we do know is that it is the only fragment of this flag known to still be in existence. It is irreplaceable and if future research turns up something that proves it was from the War of 1812 instead of the Revolutionary War, it will still be just as worthy of conservation. It is a unique example of an 18th century military standard. It is actively deteriorating and has been removed from display for several years due to the need for conservation.