

Flag Facts:

- The flag flown by the confederate army during the civil war **IS NOT** the same flag we know today as the “confederate flag”
- The “confederate flag” was a battle flag used during the civil war & originated in Virginia
- The confederacy stood for the states that believe slavery was a state right & not a crime against humanity. As they lost the war the battle flag should have been retired & been allowed to become a part of history.
- Within a decade of the war, for those still bitter over the loss, the confederate flag became a symbol for “fallen heroes” of the defeated confederate army.
- In the 1940’s it began to symbolize protest **AGAINST CIVIL RIGHTS** and in support of Jim Crow. It was adopted by the Dixiecrat, political party, in direct response to the civil rights platform presented by other parties. *Strom Thurmond of SC ran for president under the Dixiecrat party in 1948.*
- Black newspapers across the US decried the flag’s unprecedented popularity within the Armed Forces as a source of dangerous division and we continue to see it’s use not widely condemned by authority.
- It was at this time that the KKK began adopting the use of the confederate flag as well as many other white supremacist groups.

State flag history:

- *In 1894 Mississippi adopted its current state flag which has a full confederate states of America battle flag.*
- *In 1895, Alabama adopted a state flag with a reference to the confederate battle flags. It still flies today, as does Florida’s adopted in 1900 with the same symbolic representation.*
- *In 1913 Arkansas adopted their current state flag which includes a star for the Confederate States of America.*
- *In 1956 in direct response to the Civil Rights Movement, the state of GA added the confederate battle flag to their state flag and removed it again in 2002.*
- *In 2015, SC removed the flag from its state house grounds in direct response to the murder of nine people attending a bible study in a prominent black church.*