

The Story of the Flag
(Katherine Carrington)

When the war broke out in 1861 the Republicans of Colebrook collected money among themselves, bought a flag and raised it on a flagpole on the church green.

The Democrats of Colebrook, equally loyal and patriotic, resented their exclusion and collected money also, and bought the flag whose story I am writing, and raised it upon a hickory pole set by the roadside just at the head of the Center Hill. For two seasons both flags flew daily, the flag of our story being in custody of Edwin Carrington.

One autumn evening Mr. Carrington came home after dark from a day's drive and forgot to take in the flag. For a day or two thereafter it was raining and he did not have occasion to put it out. When a pleasant day came, he looked for the flag and it was not to be found; and then he remembered the evening when he forgot to take it in. He kept silence.

That autumn, Miss Louise Wright, afterwards Mrs. John Seymour, opened a private school in the room over the post office, occupied by Mr. Reuben Rockwell, the postmaster and Republican political leader, who employed as storekeeper Mr. John de Wolf, a Democrat.

Mr. Carrington's sisters, Sarah and Katherine, were among the pupils and one morning Sarah went up into the attic at recess to struggle with a geography lesson. As she sat on the top stair, intent on studying, her eyes wandered around the attic and came to rest on a bit of red bunting hanging out of a covered basket. She investigated. It was the flag! When she went home at noon, she returned wearing a long cloak. At the close of school she went up into the attic, wound the flag around her body, put on the cloak and walked home.

The Carringtons kept silence and so did the thief.

Sixty years after, Sarah Carrington presented the flag to the Ladies' Church Aid Society.

Flag account, October 1, 1861:

Cost of flag.....	\$25.00
Refreshment for military.....	3.00
Powder.....	1.50

Receipts

H. W. Pinney.....	\$1.00	Richard Stanwood.....	\$1.00
J. Pinney.....	1.00	E. A. Phelps.....	2.00
E. Carrington.....	1.00	E. A. Phelps Jr.....	1.00
E. Carrington Jr.	1.00	J. H. Stanwood.....	1.00
E, T. Carrington.....	1.00	Clark H. Roberts.....	1.00
L. M. Terrell.....	1.00	Harvey Deming.....	1.00
Henry Terrell.....	1.00	Wolcott Deming.....	1.00
L. H. Benham.....	1.00	Dan'l DeWolf.....	1.00
T. Hart.....	1.00	J. DeWolf.....	1.00
L. Barnard.....	1.00	Charles Decker.....	.50
Harvey L. Coy.....	1.00	Coll. of Geo. Austin.....	2.00
Harry Smith.....	.50	Erastus Simons.....	.50
Wm. H. Smith.....	.50	James Stillman.....	.50
O. S. Hill.....	.50		