

# 13 Star United States Bible Flag & U.S. Soldier Tintype

**Date:** 1861–1865

**Media:** Hand sewn silk, photographic tin.

**Comment:** This flag of the unknown Union sergeant depicted on the accompanying full plate tintype, presumably belonged to his wife and family.

These small flags are often referred to as “bible flags.” They were common to both the North and the South during the American Civil War. Often made for a soldier by a mother, wife, sweetheart or sister, smaller flags were often carried by soldiers in pocket bibles as a reminder of loved ones at home. Slightly larger flags were used as bookmarks for passages of scripture in family bibles as a way to remember those serving at the front.

Religion was a factor on both sides, especially after 1863, when the Union and the Confederacy each began to equate their cause with a crusade. In the North the fight to free the slaves was added to the campaign to save the Union, while in the South it became a fight to defend hearths and altars.

**Provenance:** Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0253) in 1998 from Cowan’s Auctions, Cincinnati, OH. [www.FlagCollection.com](http://www.FlagCollection.com)

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