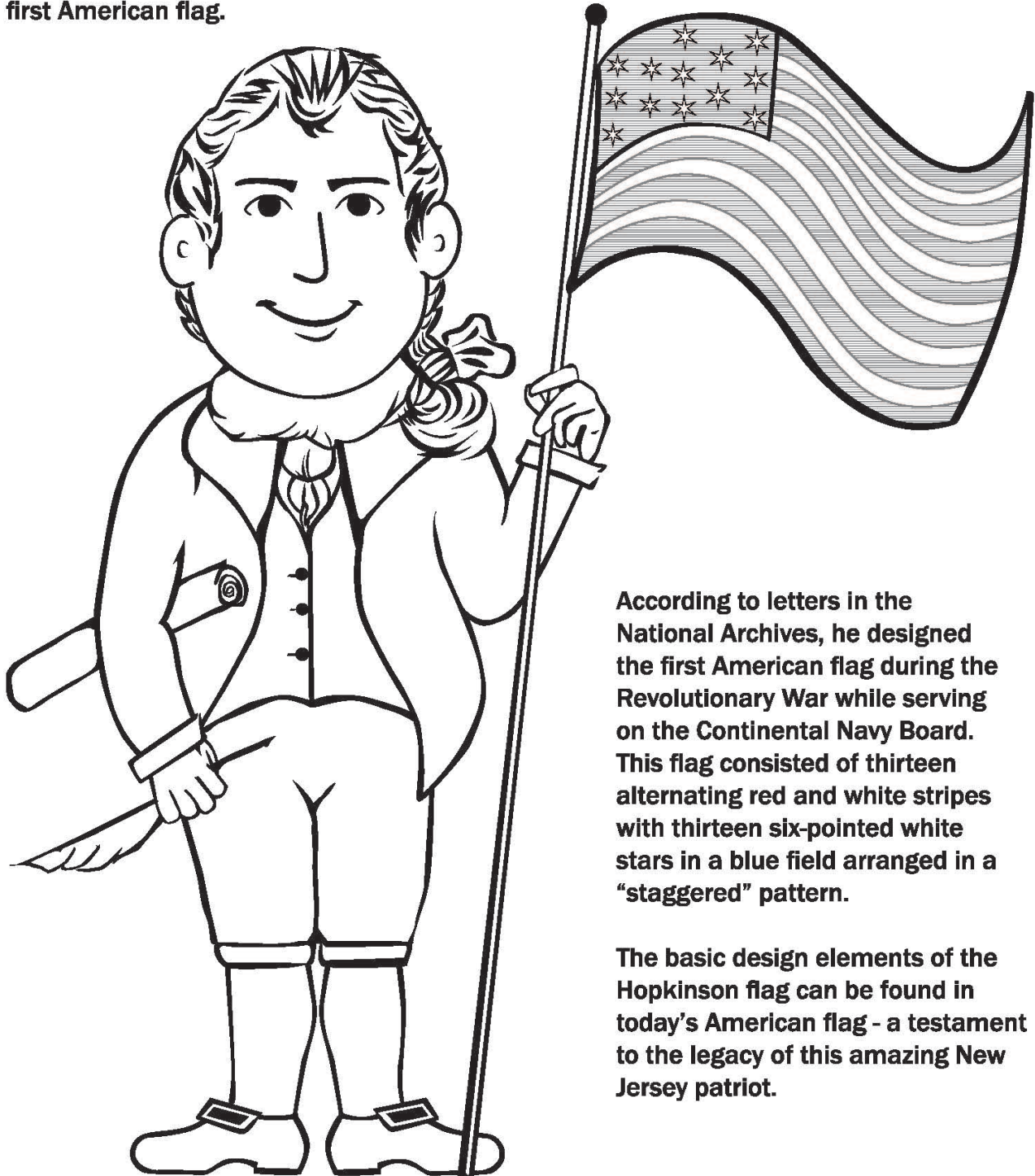


# Meet Francis Hopkinson

This Bordentown, NJ resident was a man of extraordinary talent and charm. In 1776, he was elected as a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress and was one of five New Jerseyans to sign the Declaration of Independence. Not only was Francis Hopkinson a lawyer, musician, and author; historical evidence shows he was the true originator of the first American flag.



According to letters in the National Archives, he designed the first American flag during the Revolutionary War while serving on the Continental Navy Board. This flag consisted of thirteen alternating red and white stripes with thirteen six-pointed white stars in a blue field arranged in a “staggered” pattern.

The basic design elements of the Hopkinson flag can be found in today’s American flag - a testament to the legacy of this amazing New Jersey patriot.