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## **Pledge of Allegiance I**

**Lead: In September 1892, Baptist minister Francis Bellamy published his simple flag salute for school children. Designed to recognize Columbus' voyage, today it is known as the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Francis Bellamy, cousin of American novelist Edward Bellamy, was part of the Christian Socialist movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Born in Mount Morris, New York, in 1855, he was educated at the**

**University of Rochester and Rochester Theological Seminary and entered the Baptist ministry in 1879. Twelve years later, Bellamy became an editor for a popular and widely circulated Boston magazine—*The Youth's Companion*.**

**The following year, Bellamy chaired a committee to plan a national public school celebration to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1492 discovery voyage of Columbus. It would coincide with the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. Part of the celebration included a flag raising ceremony and salute to be recited by school children. Copies of the salute were distributed to public schools across**

**America and on Columbus Day, October 12<sup>th</sup>, millions of students across America recited it for the first time:**

**“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”**

**The so-called pledge did not require the right hand over the heart. It was recited using the “Bellamy salute” - right arm bent at the elbow with the hand at the heart, palm facing down toward the ground. At the word “flag” the arm was extended forward at head level with the palm up (as if to lift the flag). Next Time: Changes and Controversy.**

**Research assistance by Ann Johnson, at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

**Baer, John. *The Pledge of Allegiance, A Revised History and Analysis*, 2007. Annapolis, MD: Free State Press, Inc., 2007.**

**Ellis, Richard J. *To the Flag: The Unlikely History of the Pledge of Allegiance*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2005.**

**University of Rochester, Department of Rare Books, Special Collections and Preservation. “Francis Julius Bellamy Papers” 3 September 2007, <http://www.library.rochester.edu/index.cfm>.**

**<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt/educators/print/lp3-org6.html>**

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