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Birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag



"The Star-Spangled Banner"

Victory Flag of Fort McHenry, 29x36 ft., which inspired Key's Song, Sept. 14, 1814. Restored 1914, and on exhibition at the U. S. National Museum, Washington.



The Baltimore Flag House,
1793-1928

844 E. Pratt St. Cor. Albemarle

The Home of Mary Young Pickersgill, 1776-1857, where she made the flag which after 24 hours bombardment of Fort McHenry proclaimed deliverance for Baltimore, and a century of peace and prosperity for the Nation.



Francis Scott Key
1780-1845

Author of the National Anthem,
September 14, 1814

Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association

INCORPORATED 1927

Office, 1219 Fidelity Building

Baltimore, Md., July 10, 1928.

PHONE, PLAZA 1533

OFFICERS

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Dr. James D. Iglehart

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. Arthur B. Bibbins

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Miss Elizabeth Guy Davis

CORRESPONDING SEC'Y

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Mrs. Frank Onion
Mrs. Henry Stockbridge

Dr. James D. Iglehart, Pres't,
Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, Inc.,
211 W. Lanvale Street,
City.

Dear Dr. Iglehart:-

In accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting of our Directorate I have opened a checking account at the Fidelity Trust Company and it is necessary that your signature be placed on the card for their files and would thank you to stop in the Fidelity Trust Company and Mr. Beatson will understand that your signature is required.

This may be done at your convenience.

Trusting you are keeping comfortable this hot weather, and with kind personal regards, I remain,

Yours truly,

Walter W. Beers
Treas.

WWB/GK

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING
of the
STAR-SPANGLED BANNER FLAG HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Monday, April 2, 1928, at 3:30 P. M.

War Memorial Building, Baltimore

Dr. James D. Iglehart, Presiding

BUGLE CALL - "Attention".

INVOCATION - Rev. Dr. Edward L. Watson, Chaplin.

PLACING OF THE FLAG - Charles and Lee Peace, Children of the American Revolution.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG. - By Entire Assembly.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - "The Star-Spangled Banner", by Entire Assembly.
Mrs. Peace at the Piano.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Address of Welcome by the President.

REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY Miss Elizabeth Guy Davis.

REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Miss Florence P. Sadtler.

REPORT OF TREASURER Walter W. Beers.

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE Miss Davis, Chairman

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

REPORT OF HOUSE COMMITTEE Dr. A. B. Bibbins, Chairman,

REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Mr. Beers, Chairman.

REPORT OF MEMORIAL GIFT AND LOAN COMMITTEE Mrs. A. B. Bibbins, Chairman.

REPORT OF FLAG HOUSE CAMPAIGN FUND COMMITTEE Mrs. Reuben Ross Holloway, Chairman.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE Mrs. Frank Onion, Chairman

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS.

"AMERICA" - Sung by the Assembly.

BENEDICTION - Rev. Dr. Edward L. Watson, Chaplin.

October 7, 1982

Mr. Dennis F. Blizzard
805 Kellogg Road
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

Dear Dennis,

Enclosed is the story promised by me on the Flag House story. I hope you find that it is what you wanted. However, do not hesitate to exercise your editorial genius to make any changes you may deem appropriate therein.

Also enclosed are several pictures, including a color print of the Flag House and a line drawing print of the Flag House. If these are not sufficient, let me know and I will try to run down other pictures.

Cordially,

S. Vannort Chapman

SVC/fmg

encl.



The Society of The War of 1812 in The State of Maryland

June 9, 1989

Herbert E. Witz, Esq.
President
The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum
844 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Witz:

President Wilson King Barnes, Jr. and the members of The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland are pleased to present you with this check enclosed for \$200.00. The amount represents \$100.00 for the calendar year 1989 and \$100.00 represents our inadvertently missed year of 1988.

With it go our best wishes for a successful Flag House year.

Sincerely yours,

THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

By

Stanley Lewis Howard
Corresponding Secretary

xc: Mr. Wilson King Barnes, Jr. President
Mr. Willis Clayton Tull, Jr. Treasurer

HISTORY MADE IN MARY'S ROOM

"O! Say can you see" wrote an anxious Francis Scott Key on the morning of September 14, 1814, as he searched through the smoke of battle in the dawn's early light, hoping that the flag was still flying, in defiance, above the parapets of Fort McHenry.

For what flag was he searching with his weary, sleepless eyes? It was a fifteen star, fifteen stripe ensign that had been made by Mrs. Mary Young Pickersgill in her second floor bedroom in a narrow row house, overlooking Baltimore Harbor, located on the southwest corner of Pratt and Albemarle Streets.

The British fleet, manned by "Wellington's Invincibles" had been marauding the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, and the Eastern Shore tributaries during the summer of 1813. Landings were made on Poplar and Tilghmans Islands; Havre de Grace and Georgetown in the upper Bay were put to the torch; Hampton, Virginia, had been seized and a base established on Kent Island. Parts of the British fleet had ascended the Potomac River and taken Leonardtown. An invasion pattern had been established. There was no doubt that an attack on Baltimore would soon be mounted.

Our flag of fifteen Stars and Stripes had been designated by an Act of Congress in 1794 as the ensign of our Country upon the admission of Vermont and Kentucky making the two additional stars and stripes. This was the ensign that would fly, in defiance, over the "Star Fort" should an attack be launched.

In June, 1813, Major George Armistead reported to his superior, General Sam Smith - "Sir, we are ready at Fort McHenry to defend Baltimore....That is to say, we are ready except that we have no suitable ensign to display over the Star Fort, and it is my desire to have a flag so large that the British will have no

difficulty in seeing it from a distance."

In compliance with Major Armistead's request, Commodore Joshua Barney and Brigadiere General Stricker called upon Mrs. Mary Pickersgill, an experienced flag maker, whose mother, Rebecca Young, at the request of George Washington, had manufactured in 1776 our ensign known as "The First Flag of the Revolution", with thirteen stars, arranged in a circle, and thirteen stripes. A "suitable ensign" was arranged for.

Mary, her daughter Caroline, and niece Eliza, worked for six weeks - often till midnight- in that second floor bedroom to have the ensign ready when the need should arise. A flag, thirty feet on the hoist and forty-two feet on the fly, was the result of their labors, large enough to be seen from a distance, and so huge that it was necessary to stretch it out on a floor of the nearby malt house in Brown's Brewery to assemble it.

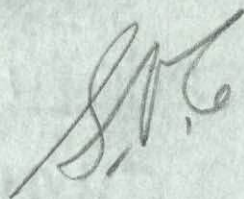
It was this "suitable ensign" that flew over Fort McHenry on September 13th and 14th, 1814. It was the flag which Key joyfully saw by the dawn's early light. Today a replica flies over the Fort twenty-four hours a day for all to see and revere as the symbol of our country - "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Mary Pickersgill's modest home, built by Brian Philpot, is now a National Historic Landmark, restored to its original character and maintained by The Star Spangled Banner Flag House Association, Inc. The house is furnished with the proper period furnishings so that one may see it as it appeared in Mary's day.

A Military Museum has been established adjacent to and in the rear of the house, surrounded by a garden from which rises a flag pole upon which the Star Spangled Banner flies daily. Of outstanding beauty and interest is a map of the United States, laid out with the stones of each State of the Union arranged in proper

perspective. A walking tour of the United States may be taken
in a few minutes.

The Flag House and the 1812 Military Museum are open daily
from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Members of the Society of the War of 1812
are urged to visit this historic shrine and refresh their
recollection of the history of our country there displayed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. M. C.', is written in the center-right of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.