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JOINT RESOLUTION

No.

Recommending to the Congress of the United States that the "Star Spangled Banner" be declared to be the National Anthem of the United States of America.

WHEREAS the "Star Spangled Banner" has by acclaim of the people of our Country and by general consent of the civilized governments of the World, been recognized as the National Anthem of the United States of American, and

WHEREAS under the leadership of The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, supported by the patriotic societies of the Country generally, the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner, namely - Fort McHenry, was dedicated as a National Shrine on September 12 1928, be it

RESOLVED by the General Assembly of Maryland

That the Congress of the United States be earnestly requested to take appropriate action whereby the "Star Spangled Banner" may be declared to be the National Anthem of the United States of America; and be it further

RESOLVED That the Secretary of the State of Maryland be and he is hereby requested to transmit under the Great Seal of this State, a copy of the foregoing resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the Representatives from Maryland, in both Houses of Congress.

Enclosure

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY  
IN CHARGE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

March 17, 1925.

Mr. Richard W. Worthington,  
Assistant Secretary, Fidelity and  
Deposit Company of Maryland,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:-

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 6, and in reply Mr. T. T. Belote, our Curator of History, furnishes the following information:

"The present dimensions of the Star Spangled Banner are about 28' on the hoist and 34' on the fly. It is difficult to arrive at the exact dimensions because the edges are very uneven and I presume the flag was previously much longer on the fly than it is at present, although the Museum has no data as to its original length. The flag is designed with fifteen alternate red and white stripes about  $22\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, the top and bottom stripe being red. The stars, fifteen in number, five pointed, and varying in width from 25" to 27", are arranged in six vertical rows, the first row containing three stars, the next row two stars, and so on. From the last row of two stars the lower star is missing. The dimensions of the union are about 15' on the hoist and  $19\frac{1}{2}$ ' on the fly. Perhaps it would be worth while to send a print of our picture of the flag to insure a satisfactory reproduction."

A photograph of the original Star Spangled Banner is forwarded herewith.

Very truly yours,

*W. deC. Ravenel*  
W. deC. Ravenel,  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Secretary.

October 24, 1959

Mr. C. Elliott Baldwin, President  
Society of the War of 1812 in Md.  
"Rusty Rocks", 7 Club Road  
Baltimore 10, Md.

Dear President Baldwin,

While our Society has the 15-star and 15-bar flag known as the "Star-Spangled Banner", the Maryland Society has never possessed the official flag of the Society of the War of 1812. This flag shows the General Society medal on a white field with an outer circle of fifteen gold stars. This white field is surrounded by four bands of color, one red, one black and one white, with a wide border of royal blue. Under the medal may be inscribed "Maryland Society".

We can acquire this flag in a 4 1/3 x 5 1/2 foot size complete with all fixtures including a 25 pound stand for about \$175.00. I propose that we ask our Board members to contribute to the purchase of this flag, and if it be necessary, draw the remainder out of our treasury. To this purpose I wish to open the contributions with my check for \$10.00.

If each of our members of the Board will contribute a like amount we will be able to buy this flag and a 50-star one also.

Respectfully submitted,

William Henry Pitcher,  
President General

WHP/v

Archived : suggest adding to 1812  
So. archives.

C.C. Davis  
14. iii. 75

Friend & Beloved,

Bath 9<sup>th</sup> 12. 1814. — 12 o'clock noon

Yesterday no mail closed for Wilmington — therefore  
I necessarily left you to be surprised by Rumour; no doubt in a hidden  
our form. The truth is, however, bad enough. The British fleet  
say about 40 sail of all sizes, are in full view of this city. Whether  
they have more troops than were at Washington is conjecture  
only; a report much believed in, that 13 vessels have joined the  
old fleet. They are actually landings men at and about North  
Point, the mouth of this river, 14 miles from town — 3 frigates are  
now at Sparrow Point, that is 3 miles up this river, 3 from Bal-  
timore — thus vanishes the hope that frigates of 40 guns could  
not pass our bar! Bear Creek is 2 miles higher; where 2 sloops  
of war and a number of Barges now are. The enemy landed  
and pushed a small column, supposed 2 to 300 men, across a  
piece of wood, under the treespring of some Poplars from  
here, & succeeded in cutting off 3 Cavalry men, belonging  
to James Stewart's troop; one of these being men in the son of  
Genl. A. Buchanan (General Smith's partner)

Invasion Force, (one o'clock p. m.) 47 sail, 6000  
men, unknown. They are landing in  
Baltimore — their ships to come up to the dock, or city, if they  
can.

American Force. Gen Smith Com'r in Chief.

Gen. Winthrop <sup>is in command</sup> in the 5000 men, of whom 200 are Regulars, on the  
neck of land opposite the city & back of the Fort; in the fort Major  
Demistead with 60 Regulars & several hundred militia.

Generals Stricker & others, with 5000 men, comprising all  
the City Brigade, the advance army near Sparrow Point, 5 miles  
under <sup>General</sup> Brigadier General Semple (with a great deal of Artillery  
within the trenches on the heights about a mile in advance  
of the city, 7 or 8 miles in the rear of the advance. Thus are  
things now circumstanced, many moved and moving — and  
the conflict hourly expected. We are all in the country except  
myself — I may stay here, they are nearer, but not at night. I have some  
doubts of being in town to-morrow.

Affectionately, &c.

A.L.S. from John Hewes dated Sept. 12, 1814 telling of approach of  
British Fleet off Baltimore.

## COLLECTORS AND COLLECTIONS

By Richard J. Cox \*

"THE TRUTH IS, HOWEVER, BAD ENOUGH:" A REDISCOVERED LETTER  
RELATING TO THE ORIGINS OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM



Reading the words of our National Anthem leaves the impression that there really was no doubt of victory for the American defenders of Baltimore in September 1814. They were products of no less than the "land of the free & home of the brave" and what else could be expected? This, of course, is all part of the legend of the Battle of Baltimore, of Francis Scott Key, and the flag with the "broad stripes & bright stars."

It was not at all certain that Fort McHenry would not surrender and Baltimore fall to the same fate as her sister city, Washington, D. C. The defenders had doubts. One participant, Lieutenant John Harris, a naval officer, wrote that "when we got to Baltimore, the Citizens had not determined to defend the town[.] I believe had not Commodore Rogers and his crew arrived there as soon as the[y] did the[y] would have capitulated."<sup>1</sup> This was the opinion of the professional soldier viewing the clumsy (at least to him) antics of the non-professional citizen-soldier. But what of the citizens not actively engaged in the town's defense? Historians examining the Battle of Baltimore have nearly always concentrated on the military stratagems or on the romantic figure of the young Georgetown lawyer and neglected the thoughts and actions of the ordinary people whose futures depended on the performance, good or bad, of their neighbors in arms.<sup>2</sup>

This is not referring to the "inarticulate," the great masses who rarely left records behind and which the modern historian equipped with new demographic techniques is now painstakingly bringing to life. Not all the literate citizens manned the

\* Richard J. Cox is Curator of Manuscripts at the Maryland Historical Society, wherein the letter about the Battle for Baltimore reposes.

1 John Harris to Dr. William Harris, 27 September 1814, War of 1812 Papers, MS. 1846, Maryland Historical Society.

2 Walter Lord, *The Dawn's Early Light* (New York, 1972), is the best attempt at this. (See MANUSCRIPTS (Winter 1973), p. 45.)

barricades of Baltimore and those who did not would certainly have written descriptions of the battle. How could they ignore something that shattered the daily routine of their lives and threatened their futures? Yet, few letters of this sort have survived or turned up. One exception is the letter of John Hewes.

The name of John Hewes can be found listed in *The Baltimore Directory and Register, For 1814-15* as living on Sharp Street and pursuing the occupation of "printer."<sup>3</sup> Hewes had been born in Wilmington, Delaware on August 27, 1781, the fifth generation of this family. His ancestor, William, had come with the first group of emigrants under the leadership of William Penn in 1684. A cousin, Joseph, had been one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence representing North Carolina. John Hewes had come to Baltimore in 1800. In 1807 he bought the *Federal Gazette and Baltimore Advertiser*, the successor of Baltimore's first daily paper, the *Daily Repository*. On December 31, 1812 he sold his interest in the *Gazette*,<sup>4</sup> entered into the hardware business, and later became the President of the Fireman's Insurance Company of Baltimore. He died in mid-1830.<sup>5</sup>

As a newspaperman, Hewes was undoubtedly trained to be observant and his letter to his father, Edward, reflects this. Written on September 12, 1814 in the early afternoon, the letter carefully unfolds the troop movements that had taken place since the British landing that morning at North Point. The bulk of the letter describes the logistics of the two opposing forces and for a non-combatant are remarkably accurate. For example, Hewes estimated the British as having 6000 troops. Although the actual figure was closer to 4000, General Samuel Smith, Commander-in-Chief of the Americans, had estimated their strength as between 7000 and 8000. Hewes also guessed the Americans to have between 15,000 and 16,000, while in reality they had slightly less than 15,000.<sup>6</sup> The most impor-

3 (Baltimore, 1814), p. 104. There is a brief sketch of Hewes written in 1882 in Filing Case A, Maryland Historical Society.

4 John Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County* (Philadelphia, 1881), pp. 608-609.

5 *Baltimore American*, August 3, 1830.

6 The best description of the battle and the one I consulted is Franklin R. Mullaly, "The Battle of Baltimore," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, LIV (March 1959), 61-103.

tant aspect of this letter is not the description of the military action, but rather the attitude that Hewes displayed concerning the impending defense of the city.

The letter started with the comment that he could not have written to his father the day before because no mail went to Wilmington. His father's only source of information were rumors "no doubt in a hideous form." Yet Hewes remarked that "the truth is, however, bad enough." In "full view" of the city lay the menacing British fleet which did not at all inspire Hewes' confidence in the defenders. At the close of his epistle he comforted his father that the family was safely in the country and that he would only remain through the day. "I have some doubts," he wrote, "of being in town tomorrow."

The very next day the bombardment of the fort occurred ending in success for the Americans which inspired Key to write his poem. But that honest doubts and fears existed even in the "land of the free & home of the brave" is evident by Hewes' letter.

The letter was recently rediscovered at the Maryland Historical Society. It had been given to the Society in 1938 by a member of the Hewes family but of its whereabouts since then nothing is known. The letter is an additional jewel in the Society's collection of manuscripts and published material on the National Anthem that boasts the earliest extant manuscript of Key's poem.<sup>7</sup>

Below is a transcript of the letter.

Balt. 9 mo 12, 1814. — 12 o'clock noon.

Hon'd & Beloved,

Yesterday no mail closed for Wilmington. Therefore I necessarily left you to be assailed by *Rumour*; no doubt in a hideous form. The truth is, however, bad enough. The British fleet, say about 40 sail of all sizes, are in full view of this city. Whether they have more troops than were at Washington is conjecture only; a report much believed is, that 13 vessels have joined the old fleet. They are actually landing men at and about North Point, the mouth of this river, 14 miles from town — 3 frigates are now at *Sparrow's Point*, that is 5 miles up this river, 9 from Baltimore — thus vanishes the hope that frigates of 40 guns

<sup>7</sup> The Society mounted an exhibit on the National Anthem in 1969 and in 1972 published a work based on that exhibit; P. W. Filby and Edward G. Howard, comps., *Star-Spangled Books: Books, Sheet Music, Newspapers, Manuscripts, and Persons Associated With "The Star-Spangled Banner."*

could not pass our Bar! Bear Creek is 2 miles higher; where 2 sloops of war and a number of Barges now are. The Enemy landed and pushed a small column, supposed 2 to 300 men, across a piece of wood, under the free-firing of some Riflemen from here, & succeeded in cutting off 3 Cavalry men, belonging to James Sterett's troop; one of the Young men is the son of Jas. A. Buchanan (General Smith's partner.)

*Invading Force*, (one o'clock p.m.) 47 sail, bringing from 6000 to — men, unknown. They are landing in 3 columns — their ships to come up to the Fort, or city, if they can.

*American Force*. Gen. Smith Comr. in Chief. Gen. Winder, second in command, with 5,000 men, of whom 400 are Regulars, on the neck of land opposite the city & back of the Fort; in the fort Major Armistead with 60 Regulars & several hundred militia.

General Stricker & others, with 5,000 men, comprising all the City Brigade, the advance army near Sparrow Point, 9 miles.

Several Brigadier Generals (with a great deal of Artillery under Commodore Rodgers, Col. Harris, etc..) having 5 or 6,000 country infantry within the trenches on the heights about a mile in advance of the city, 7 or 8 miles in the rear of the advance. Thus are things now circumstanced, many moved and moving — and the conflict hourly expected. We are all in the country except myself — I may stay till they are nearer, but not at night. I have some doubts of being in town to-morrow.

Affectionately,  
[JOHN HEWES] <sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> The letter was apparently written in haste and unsigned. It was addressed on the reverse side to "Edward Hewes, Wilmington, Delaware" and has a September 12 post-mark. The letter has been placed in the War of 1812 Papers, MS. 1846, at the Society.

<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>TYPOGRAPHY</b>
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# MARYLAND HISTORY NOTES

Volume 29

SUMMER, 1971

Number 2

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

During the subject quarter the library accessioned 167 lots of materials. Included were: books, pamphlets and printed papers, 230; manuscript papers and books, 270; graphics, including photographs, maps and genealogical charts, 190; sheet music, 200; miscellaneous, 40.

Among the outstanding items were: two rare pieces of Star-Spangled Banner music (Muller, Nos. 3-a and 6-a) from Mr. James J. Fuld of New York City; *Anacreontic Song*, published by Anne Bland of London, circa 1784-1792; and other rare sheet music items from Mr. Lester Levy; sheet music including Muller, No. 6-b and songbooks from the Misses Rosa and Augusta Klotz; Legaré, *Orta-undis . . .*, 1848, from Mr. Curtis Carroll Davis; 27 volumes of ledgers and other business records of Henry Rieman & Sons, from Mr. Joseph Rieman McIntosh, Monkton; 3 record books, 1866-1884 and 1890-1901, of the St. George's Society of Baltimore from that Society; and Baltimore Steam Packet Company papers from Mr. Donald F. Stewart.

A number of books normally offered for sale by the publishers were generously presented. They included the *Givens-Hall Family History* by Dorothy Hall Givens, Commonwealth Press, Radford, Virginia. Gifts of books pertaining to the following families were also gratefully received: Amelung, Blake, Clarkson, Claypoole, Countess, Haslip, Hendricks, Hess, Johnson, McCurley, McLane, Meade, Mutchner, Parrish, Pennington, Ridgely, Shipley, Smith, Stoner and Townsend.

Other donors included: Mrs. Elizabeth Bingley, Mrs. A. T. Bragonier, Carter Baxter Chapter, D.A.R., Mrs. Isabella Coons, Mrs. J. Crossland Cooper, Jr., Mrs. Margaret M. Davis, Mrs. Carlyle R. Earp, Mrs. Evelyn Ebert, Mr. Albert H. Frankel, Dr. Douglas H. Gordon, Mr. William Green, Dr. Wilton W. Haslip, Mrs. Herman August Hobelmann, Mr. Edward G. Howard, Mr. Winton Hurley, Mrs. Mary L. Iago, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Jamison, Mr. Donald Jenkins, Mr. J. W. McGrain, Governor Theodore R. McKeldin, Maryland Union Room Committee, Mrs. Lloyd Mills III, Mrs. Judith G. Oates, Miss E. Frances Offutt, Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, Jr., Miss Jane deLashmutt Robbins, Mr. Louis E. Schechter, Estate of Mrs. Lucy Ridgely Seymer, Mrs. Winifred D. Sheppard and children of Dr. J. R. L. Diggs, Mrs. Basil Ford Sollers and Mrs. Donald C. Davis, Mrs. George A. Solter, Mr. Richard L. Steiner,

**STAR SPANGLED BANNER**  
BALTIMORE, Published and Sold by G.E.O. WILKINSON

*Allegretto*  
O say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes & bright stars thro' the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming, and the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof thro' the night that our flag still was there, O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

On the ocean's deep, see thro' the mist of the deep,  
Where the foe's heavy hulls with steaming engines rears,  
What in their vain, while the foe's vainly their flag flies,  
And their bloody decks with cannon balls and shells,  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full, it reflects new shines in the stream,  
Tis the star-spangled banner, O long may it wave,  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

And where is the land who so sanely is aware,  
"That the lance of war and the battle's confusion,  
A land and a country shall cease as no more,  
Their blood has wash'd out their feet from the pollution,  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave,  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

Other brave men, who freedom shall stand,  
Between their fell horns, and the wars' destruction,  
Blest with victory and peace, may the breeze in our land,  
Praise the Power that hath made and govern'd us a nation,  
Then compare we most, when our cause is a just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Recent gift of the Misses Rosa and Augusta Klotz  
A rare issue of "The Star-Spangled Banner" dated 1843.  
The only other known holder of a copy is the Library of Congress

Mrs. Harold Tschudi, Miss Margaretta Whiting, Mr. Ben R. Womer, and the Estate of Mrs. Adrian H. Onderdonk (formerly Mrs. Benjamin Latrobe Weston), through the courtesy of Miss A. Hester Rich, niece, all of Baltimore.

American Clan Gregory, Bethesda, Miss E. Perry Bracken, Indiana, Pa., Mr. John C. Brennan, Laurel, Md., Mr. and Mrs. Jac E. Countess, Huntsville, Ala., Judge Edward S. Delaplaine, Frederick, Dorchester County Historical Society, Cambridge, Mr. D. K. Este Fisher, Jr., Santa Barbara, Calif., Mr. Paul J. Fitzpatrick, Lancaster, Pa., Mr. Arthur H. Frazier, D.C., Mrs. E. H. Geue, Fort Worth, Mr. R. Hammond Gibson,

Published Quarterly by the Maryland Historical Society

201 W. Monument Street

Baltimore 21201

HOURS: Library, Tues. through Sat. 9 to 4:30; Museum, Tues. through Sat. 11 to 4. 685-3750

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P. W. F.

## MUSEUM NEWS

Two fire engines, dating from early in this century, presented to the Society in 1957 by the Board of Fire Commissioners and on exhibit at the B & O Transportation Museum since then, have been deposited with the new Fire Museum of Maryland, Mr. Stephen G. Heaver, Sr., President. The museum, on the York Road in Lutherville, will open in September.

During the subject quarter the museum has accessioned 218 items. Among these perhaps the most notable was a handsome Agra rug approximately 24' x 14', presented by Dr. and Mrs. Gifford B. Pinchot of Upperco. It is on permanent display in the Thomas and Hugg Memorial Room.

From Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Jamison, Baltimore, have come three family portraits, one in charcoal of James Morrison Harris (1817-1898), signed "F. B. Mayer 1850"; a second in charcoal of Sidney Calhoun Hall Harris [Mrs. James Morrison Harris (1823-1907)], unattributed. The third portrait, in oil, is of William Hall Harris (1852-1938) and is signed "L. Dieterich/1890." The subject was the grandfather of the donor and president of the Society 1920-35.

Mr. John Redwood, Jr., Baltimore, has presented an oil portrait of Francis Tazewell Redwood (1856-1906), signed "Thomas C. Corner 1897." He also has given two sketchbooks containing a number of sketches in watercolor, pen and pencil by the artist Frank T. Redwood. From Mrs. David L. Johnson, Cleveland, Ohio, through the cooperation of J. Nicholas Shriver, Esq., has come a gold watch and chain which belonged to the donor's grandfather, Senator Isidor Raynor, made by Galt & Bro., Washington, D. C. The piece is inscribed "To Hon. Isidor Raynor/as a/loving tribute from/his friend /W. S. Schley, Nov. 1901." Commodore, later Rear Admiral, Schley was in active command of the United States squadron which defeated the Spanish fleet off Santiago, Cuba, in the Spanish American War. Later when he was accused of lack of enterprise during the engagement, Senator Raynor was one of the lawyers defending the Commodore.

Presented by Mrs. Frank Schepler, Baltimore, were two chests of wooden tools used by her grandfather in the mid-nineteenth century. From the Misses Anna and

Marie Scharinger, Baltimore, has come the World War I uniform of their brother, Leo Scharinger. On behalf of the Diocese of Maryland The Right Reverend Harry Lee Doll, D.D., Baltimore, presented through the cooperation of Mr. F. Garner Ranney, a doctoral gown and hood believed to have belonged to The Right Reverend William Robinson Whittingham, D.D., Bishop of Maryland 1840-1879.

The Society's costume collection has been augmented by a generous gift from Mrs. Gamble Latrobe, Jr., Wilmington, Delaware, of the wedding dress of Emma Crozer who married Gamble Latrobe in 1894. Included in the gift were several dresses, dating from 1865 to 1880, worn by Mrs. Latrobe's mother, Mrs. George P. Crozer.

Other donors were: Estate of Mrs. Adrian H. Onderdonk, through Miss A. Hester Rich; Mrs. R. Irving Paxton, Dr. Ethelbert Lovett, Miss Frieda C. Thies, Mr. De Wilton W. Haslup, Miss Sadell Ruths, Mrs. Wilson G. Lamb IV, Mrs. Irene Gladden Mullinex, Miss E. Mae Gladden, Miss Janet C. Preston, Mrs. A. T. Bragonier, Mrs. J. G. Donnelly Smith, Mrs. John R. Orrick, Mrs. Lucy Seymer, Mrs. Betty Leipold, Mr. George Chaney, Mr. George I. Ness, Jr., all of Baltimore; Mrs. Carlyle R. Earp, Elkridge; Mr. Foster Fenton, Riderwood; Miss Frances Homer and Mrs. Frank Martin, Riderwood; Mr. Robert L. Miller, Arlington, Va.; Miss Louise Gilder, New York, N. Y.; and Mrs. James P. Hennessy, New York, N. Y.

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The project has received generous additional gifts from Mr. H. Barksdale Brown and from Mr. Charles L. Wagandt II. Fifteen interviews have been completed or nearly so, including the reminiscences of Governor Theodore R. McKeldin, Dr. Thomas G. Pullen, Jr., Dr. Reginald V. Truitt, Judge Simon E. Sobeloff, and Messrs. F. Millard Foard and Charles E. Scarlett, Jr.

At 10 a.m. on September 29 at the Society all volunteers working with the project as well as the interested public are invited to hear Dr. Peter D. Olch, Director of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine and past President of the Oral History Association, will speak on "Oral History in the United States."

## MARITIME STAFF AT WORK

The new staff of the museum has re-arranged and made more attractive many of the exhibits in the collection. It has set up a small exhibition of primitive craft as a contrast to the more modern items on display. Mr. Douty, the Curator, with the welcome assistance of Mr. H. Graham Wood of the Maritime Committee, is identifying and cataloging approximately 400 photographic negatives of Chesapeake Bay steamboats, the gift of Mr. William C. Steuart. Mrs. King, assistant, has provided uniform labels for all items on display. The large rigged model of the U.S.S. Ship-of-the-Line *North Carolina* is now on display in a protected area. Color

slides of the collection are being made for use in talks to interested groups.

Mrs. James Brummelen of Baltimore has given a number of charts and maritime photographs and also has lent a model of a four-masted bark. Other generous gifts to the collection have been received from Captain Wesley Jennings, Leon B. Pollard and Mrs. W. Tardy.

### SOCIETY MEMBER AUTHORS BOOK

Mr. Bryden Bordley Hyde, long an interested and active member of the Society, is the author of a book titled *Bermuda's Antique Furniture and Silver*. Recently published by the Bermuda National Trust, the plentifully illustrated volume is available at the Society at \$15.00.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY AND STAFF

On May 19 the Director conducted a special night tour of the Society's collections for members of the Cadoa Business and Professional Club, and on July 19 the St. George's Society met in the Thomas and Hugg Memorial Building. During the quarter the Woman's Eastern Shore Society continued its usual monthly meetings.

On May 4 Mr. Charles F. Hummel, Curator of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, Delaware gave a slide-illustrated talk on "Floor Coverings Used in America Before 1850," and Professor Edward C. Carter II, Editor-in-Chief of The Papers of Benjamin H. Latrobe, presented a slide-illustrated address titled "The Papers of Benjamin H. Latrobe and the Maryland Historical Society 1885-1971."

The Director represented the Society at the annual meeting of the Talbot County Historical Society on May 6, and on June 13 he attended the Flag Day luncheon and ceremonies conducted by the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association. On June 5 he represented the Society at the annual spring meeting of the Association of Historical Societies of Maryland held this year in Westminster.

The Assistant Director vacationed in England and while there gave a talk at the Victoria and Albert Museum. He visited the British Museum, the Bath Public Library and the Royal Artillery Institution to do research relative to the proposed Star-Spangled Banner catalog now in preparation. Upon his return he conducted a seminar on genealogy at the American Library Association Conference at Dallas and visited the Texas State Historical Association, the Texas University libraries and the new Johnson Library in Austin. Mrs. Mary K. Meyer, Genealogical Librarian, spoke to the Prince George's County Historical Society May 5 on "From the Other Side of the Desk." Mrs. John B. Boles, Curator of Manuscripts was a guest of the National Historical Publications Commission at the Fifth Conference of Directors and Editors of Manuscripts Publications Projects at the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus.

Attendance during the quarter numbered 6,205 of which 1,943 represented school children.

Recent gift of Mr. Lester S. Levy  
A rare issue of the tune used for  
"The Star-Spangled Banner"  
Published in London ca. 1784-1792  
Mr. Levy, noted collector, owns the only other known copy.

Mr. Lester S. Levy, a longtime member of the Library Committee, and Consultant on Sheet Music, has accepted the chairmanship of the Society's reactivated Committee on Addresses.

Dr. John B. Boles, Assistant Professor of History at Towson State College, is editing the William Wirt papers for a microfilm edition under the auspices of the National Historical Publications Commission. Accompanying the microfilm rolls will be a booklet describing the contents of the collection. Inquiries should be addressed to the Society.

### AHSM FALL MEETING

The fall meeting of the Association of Historical Societies of Maryland will be held on Saturday, October 23, 1971, at the Maryland Historical Society. Following a short business meeting, which will begin at 10 a.m., simultaneous hour-long workshops will be held on the following topics: "The Importance of Preserving and Restoring Historic Buildings," "Recording Local History," "Developing the Interest of Young People up to High-School Age in Local History," and "Developing Programs of Oral History." Summaries of the morning

workshops will then be given to the assembled representatives.

Beginning at 2 p.m., hour-long workshops on the following topics will be held: "Preserving and Maintaining Manuscripts and Documents," "Developing the Interest of Young People of High-School Age and Above in Local History," and "The Role of Historical Societies in the Coming Revolutionary War Bicentennial." Summaries of the afternoon workshops will then be given. A specialist in each field will serve as the moderator for each workshop.

It is hoped that each society will bring with its representatives one or more young people to participate in the workshops of interest to them. The general public as well as members of historical societies will be welcome, but advance reservations will be necessary in order to plan the luncheon. For reservations (adults over 18, \$6 per person; under 18, \$3 per person), write to: Mr. Harold R. Manakee, c/o Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

### DIRECTOR HONORED

On May 23 Loyola College awarded the Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to the Society's Director, Mr. Harold R. Manakee. Members of the Society will join with me in congratulating him and in expressing our warm thanks for all of his contributions to the Society during the past twenty-five years.

Samuel Hopkins, *President*

### NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

*Baltimore County*—On August 7 many members of the society enjoyed a bus trip to the Stepping Stone Museum, two miles north of Dublin. The museum opened several years ago under the presidency of Mr. J. Edmund Bull, and contains an outstanding collection of wood-working tools.

*Caroline*—The society has issued invitations to all who might be interested in contributing appropriate furniture to its recently acquired headquarters, the Goldsborough House in Greensboro.

*Carroll*—On June 5, the society was host to a meeting of the Association of Historical Societies of Maryland. The visitors toured the buildings of the host society and following a delightful luncheon, Mr. James C. A. Conner, President, presented an informative slide-illustrated address on historic homes and places in the county. The guests then dispersed to visit several historic houses, the Carroll County Farm Museum and the Union Mills Homestead.

*Montgomery*—At its annual dinner on May 20, members of the society heard an address by Mr. Robert E. Michel, President of the Star-Spangled Flag House Association, Inc. speak on the subject of "The Flag House and the Battle of Baltimore." Membership as of the end of June totalled 490. Plans are under way for the formation of a county farm museum.

*St. Mary's*—At a dinner meeting of the society held on July 17, members heard Mr. Clement E. Conger, Chairman of the Special Fine Arts Commission, present a slide-illustrated lecture on "Masterpieces of Americana in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State."

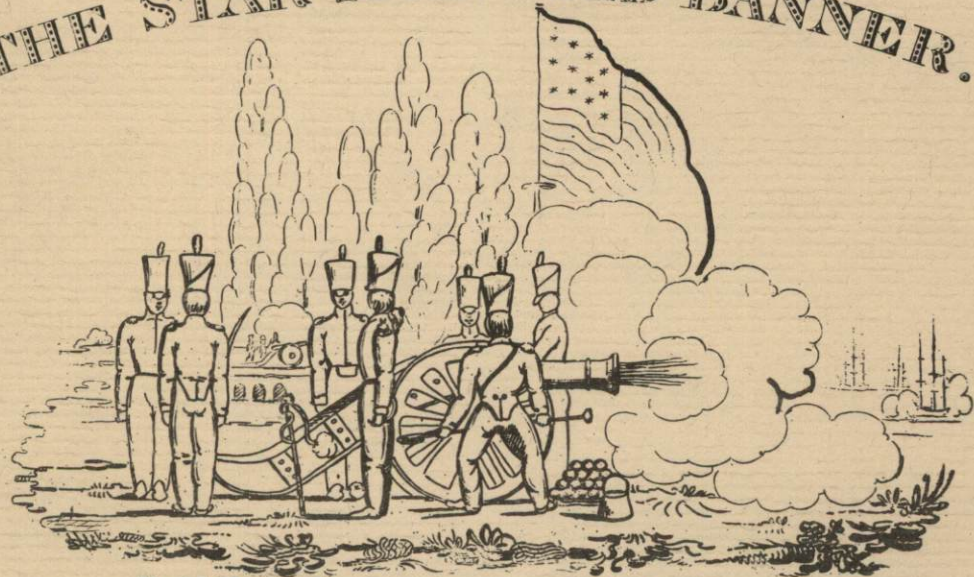
*Washington*—Over 500 persons attended the three-day opening of the Beaver Creek School Museum. At a luncheon given for them, the Board of County Commissioners presented to the society the deed to the old school building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
201 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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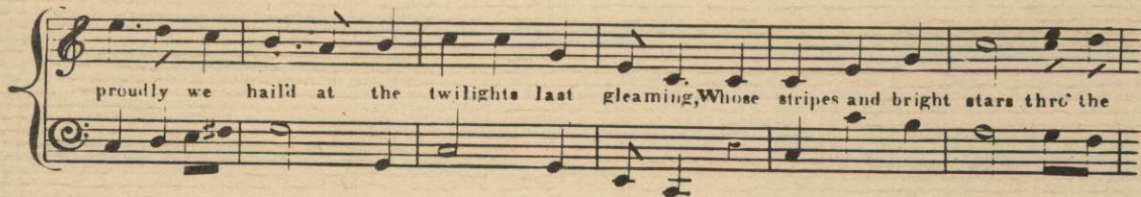
Mr. & Mrs. S. Vannort Chapman  
3937 Keswick Road  
Baltimore 11, Maryland

# THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.



*Published by Geo. Willig J., Baltimore.*

CON SPIRITO.



## IMPRESSIONS OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

1779 - 1843

The Star-Spangled Banner, the national anthem of the United States, has been heard in nearly every land under the stars. The name of its author, Francis Scott Key, has traveled much the same path. Key himself was a prominent figure of his time, an orator and idealist. In the words of his friend, John Randolph of Roanoke, he spent his whole life "endeavoring to do good for his fellowmen."

From an article by Annette Thom Cromwell

edited by Mary-Paulding Martin

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House  
Baltimore, Maryland

## The Keys of Terra Rubra

Terra Rubra, the 3000 acre estate of Squire John Ross Key, lay between the Monocacy River and Big Pipe Creek, Frederick County, in the redlands of western Maryland. Stables, barns, a smoke-house and slave cabins clustered in a village behind the house.

In these cheerful surroundings, Francis and Ann, only children of Ann Phoebe Dagworthy Charlton and Squire Key, spent a happy childhood, fishing in the creek, picnicking in the woods, romping with their pets. Company was constantly coming, and Francis liked to join them to follow the hounds of a frosty morning.

Often the family visited Belvoir, mansion of Grandmother Key on the Severn River below Annapolis. She had been made blind by her heroic rescue of two slaves from being burned to death. She had a particular affinity for Francis. At twelve he would often ride 80 miles over the rolling roads to see her and read the Scriptures to her in his mellow, soothing voice.

In 1791 President George Washington stopped at Terra Rubra to thank Squire Key who had led a contingent of riflemen with Lafayette at Yorktown. From miles around the farmers gathered, shouldering their long muskets, wearing cockades in their caps. Along with young Frank, they were elated to hear Washington speak from the great portico of the manor house: "My countrymen, I am about to leave your good land, your refreshing streams and blue hills. But I shall not forget in the dark hours of the Revolution, in doubt and gloom, the succor and support I received from the people of Frederick County cheering me on..."

## KEY IN ANNAPOLIS

Francis attended St. John's College in Annapolis, but owing to lack of dormitory space, he lived with his great aunt, Mrs. Upton Scott. The Scott home had been the residence of Richard Carvel's grandfather in Winston Churchill's romance of the same title. Mrs. Scott was not a permissive chaperone and did not allow her student boarder to dine late with Dr. Scott's convivial guests. He retired to his room for supper, but was recalled to read evening prayers on the stair landing, a picturesque figure in his long white nightgown.

Francis sailed along in his courses, wrote poetry and several hymns. After his graduation he studied law in the office of Judge Jeremiah Chase of the General Court, a former member of the Continental Congress. His close friend was another law student - lean, lanky Roger Brooke Taney, who later married his sister Ann, and became the only Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from Maryland, serving for 28 years.

Annapolis was known as the "Athens of America", noted for brilliant balls, lovely women, refinement and culture. The tall, handsome Francis was invited everywhere for sailing parties and fox hunts. He met and fell in love with a fourteen year old golden blonde, Mary Tayloe Lloyd. It is said that he wrote sonnets which the young belle used for curl papers. Mary's father, Edward Lloyd IV, son of the royal Governor, owned Wye House on the eastern shore and Chase House, the only three story colonial town house in Annapolis.

Francis finished his training and returned to Frederick to practice law, but he continued his courtship of Mary. The Lloyds lived in great luxury, securing from London "best blue and yellow lace for livery...four dozen best kid gloves for a small hand...two quarts perfume, finest milk of roses in little bottles." When Mary was 17 and Francis 22, they were married in the most lavish wedding of the year.

## KEY OF GEORGETOWN

The Keys moved to a house on the Potomac in Georgetown because Francis had decided to practice law with his uncle, Philip Barton Key, whose estate Woodley remains a show place in Washington. The bride was surprised at her husband's simplicity, for Key walked daily to his downtown office, cared nothing for clothes, drank little and did not even dip snuff. His keenest pleasure lay in the intelligent conversation of thinking men for whom his house became a mecca. He belonged to the Delphion Club of Baltimore, composed of the wits and wags of the day - Rembrandt Peale, Luther Martin, John Thomas Payne, who wrote "Home Sweet Home," and Edward G. Pinkney.

Key's warm active benevolence and tolerance - for he did not censure their gambling or duelling - endeared him to his friends. His religious sentiment was expressed in one of his hymns:

"And since words can never measure  
Let my life show forth by praise."

Although he lived in the midst of passions and struggles, Key never omitted an opportunity for philanthropy. Long before any agitation, he freed all his slaves, allowing to stay in his employ those who chose to remain. His most devoted servant Uncle Clem guarded the family receipts, fashioned quills, manufactured ink, and later conducted evening services. Key often bought and freed other slaves, once raising a fund to buy and free slaves from a Georgian dealer.

Generous to others, Key remained strict with himself. He rigidly kept aside a few hours each week for meditation and reading poetry, theology and ethics. One tenth of his earnings was put aside for charity. He was largely responsible for starting public schools in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, giving money and delivering speeches in favor of free education and a one-room schoolhouse. He taught his own children, no small feat, for he had six boys and five girls.

## KEY THE LAWYER

Francis Scott Key's reputation as a liberal, sympathetic lawyer found him in competition with such giants as Calhoun, Martin, Webster, and Henry Clay. As an orator, he was "thrilling and electrifying to hear, yet his perfect pronunciation and gesticulations remained free of affectation. A warm, human pleader, he threw himself into his speeches and his face shed sparkling beams upon his words in his more impassioned moments. It was like lightning charging his sentences with electrical power."

The case which helped to establish Key's reputation was his defense of the two adventurers implicated with Aaron Burr in that historic treason trial. When the case was brought before the Supreme Court, the clear delivery of Key's pleas on their behalf brought him fame. His clients were declared innocent of high treason and freed.

Key always found time to handle a case for a poor client without fee. He was greatly criticized for arguing cases for slaves whom he regarded with sympathy and understanding. No doubt he recalled the melodies sung by the Key slaves gathered in the courtyard of Terra Rubra. Three times he was appointed United States District Attorney for the District of Columbia by the President. Unquestionably he could easily have won a seat in Congress, but he did not wish to engage in party strife.

A pacifist at heart, Key hoped that war with England could be averted even while he cherished liberty. After debating for fifteen days, in 1812 President Madison and the Congress signed the War Act. Now 35, Key joined a field artillery company and became Lieutenant and Quartermaster. Washington was attacked and burned in 1814, the British Admiral sailed away, and Key was released from military duty.

## KEY AND THE GREAT FLAG

The incident which led to Key's celebrated poem began at this time, September 1814; for friends importuned the persuasive Key to intervene in the unjust capture of Dr. William Beanes, physician of Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County. Dr. Beanes has caused the arrest of a straggling band of unruly British soldiers. In retaliation Admiral Sir George Cockburn sent a detachment who broke into Dr. Beane's house, dragged the Doctor from bed, and threw him in irons on board ship. It was an outrage, but his release could not be secured. His life was in danger and deportation was feared.

Key's characteristics of generosity, intelligence and tact made him a natural choice as an envoy. President Madison gave his sanction to the mission of mercy. The capital was in utter confusion. Banks were closed; no one knew when they would open. For safety Key sent his wife and children to Terra Rubra and rode to Annapolis for letters of petition addressed to the Admiral and the English General.

Two days later Key boarded an American sloop with Colonel John S. Skinner, liason officer, and debarked from Baltimore to seek the British fleet somewhere in the Chesapeake. At last the line was sighted at the mouth of the Potomac. Key had dinner with the notorious Cockburn, but was coldly received. The Admiral had determined upon "hanging the Doctor to the yardarm of his vessel." Key showed his letters and related stories of the Doctor's care of wounded British soldiers. His eloquence prevailed.

But the hour had struck for the attack on Baltimore from the sea. The three Americans were detained to watch the bombardment of Fort McHenry within enemy lines, a strange paradox. They were powerless to give warning that the wind was bringing in "Nelson's veterans and Wellington's invincibles."

Meanwhile the President, panicky from the ruthless pillaging of the capital, sent a message to Major George Armistead, Commandant of Fort McHenry, to "surrender rather than risk defeat." Armistead, just the age of Key, was made of sterner stuff. Impervious to disgrace and court martial, he defied the orders and held his ammunition until the square-rigged ships came close to his guns. Then he held them at bay with firing from his own cannons.

Over the Fort flew a tremendous flag, 30 X 42 feet, made by a young widow, Mary Pickersgill, in her home on Albemarle Street, now a National Historic Landmark known as The Flag House. Key watched the enemy rockets explode and bombs burst in the air. Doctor Beanes retired, but the lawyer-poet kept his vigil. He felt the spray and the movement of the swells. The night grew curiously still. In the morning light Key saw the great flag waving over the star Fort. On the back of an envelope, perhaps a letter from John Randolph, he began to write the words of the "star-spangled banner."

#### KEY AND DESTINY

Francis Scott Key had become well known on the national scene. His compatriots - Randolph, Taney, Audubon, Johnny Appleseed, Poe, Webster - knew him not as a poet but as an accomplished, idealistic lawyer. In his latter days as a dean of the bar, he decided to abandon Georgetown and live as a country gentleman in his ancestral redlands.

As it were, his fame came as an unexpected gift. Key had penned his song under amazing circumstances. He had witnessed the scorching of Washington, the White House ransacked. He had rescued his elderly friend from the detestable English sea-dog. As he himself said later:

"He had walked upon a deck surrounded by a hostile fleet...then in that hour of deliverance and joyful triumph came an inspiration not to be resisted...then did he remember that Maryland had called her sons to the defense of that flag...through clouds of war the stars of that banner still shone in his view..." The author of the national anthem proved himself worthy of its immortality.

rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof thro' the night that our

flag still was there, O say does that star spangled banner yet wave O'er the

land of the free and the home of the brave.

2

3

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,  
 Where the foes haughty host in dread silence reposes;  
 What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep  
 As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses;  
 Now it catches the gleam of the mornings first beam,  
 In full glory reflected, now shines in the stream -  
 'Tis the star spangled banner, O! long may it wave,  
 O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,  
 That the havoc of war and the battles confusion,  
 A home and a country shall leave us no more,  
 Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution!  
 No refuge could save the hireling and slave,  
 From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave;  
 And the star spangled banner in triumph doth wave,  
 O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

4

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,  
 Between their loved home, and the wars desolation;  
 Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven rescued land,  
 Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation:  
 Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
 And this be our motto - "In God is our trust!"  
 And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave,  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.



By The Johns Hopkins University  
To the Citizens of Baltimore

in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the  
founding of Baltimore and the 165th anniversary of  
the courageous defense of Fort McHenry and  
the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner."





Contained within is a facsimile of a first edition copy of "The Star Spangled Banner" published by Carr's Music Store of Baltimore in 1814 from the Special Collections Department of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of The Johns Hopkins University. This fine copy, presented to the Library by Lester S. Levy, is one of ten known copies surviving.

The first edition bears no title page, and its principal identification mark is the absence of the first letter "t" in the word "Patriotic" in the title, "The/Star Spangled Banner/A Patriotic Song." The imprint continues: "Baltimore. Printed and sold at CARRS Music Store 36 Baltimore Street/Air, Anacreon in Heaven." No credit was given to Francis Scott Key, who wrote the words, or indeed to John Stafford Smith, composer of the melody to which Key set his verse.

In the course of the War of 1812, Key, a Maryland lawyer, went under a flag of truce to the British fleet anchored in the Patapsco River about two miles off Fort McHenry. Detained by the British he watched anxiously as sixteen warships, just out of range of the fort's guns, shelled the fort. When the smoke had cleared after the twenty-five-hour bombardment, which had lasted through the night of September 13-14, 1814, he was thrilled to see that "by the dawn's early light... our flag was still there." In his joy of knowing that the courageous defense of Fort McHenry had been successful he scribbled verses describing his feelings on the back of a letter he had carried in his pocket. He finished the four stanzas of "The Star Spangled Banner" in Baltimore later in the day after his release by the retreating British. Put to the melody of the rousing British song, "Anacreon in Heaven," "The Star Spangled Banner" was first sung in Baltimore by musician-actor Ferdinand Durang a few days later. The song was immediately popular and was used as a national anthem by the United States Army and Navy bands but was not declared the official national anthem by the United States Congress until March, 1931.

Key's original manuscript is on view at The Museum and Library of Maryland History, The Maryland Historical Society.

The Johns Hopkins University Levy collection of printed Banner materials includes a copy of the first edition of "The Anacreontic Song" first published in London about 1779, one of a later edition published between 1784 and 1792 as well as a copy of a version of that popular melody entitled "Battle of the Wabash," celebrating the Battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811. The cover of this "salute" was adapted from a print contained in *Picture the Songs*, written by Levy and published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976.

"A Star Spangled Banner Salute" was first presented at the Tenth Annual Baltimore City Fair, September 14, 15, 16, 1979.

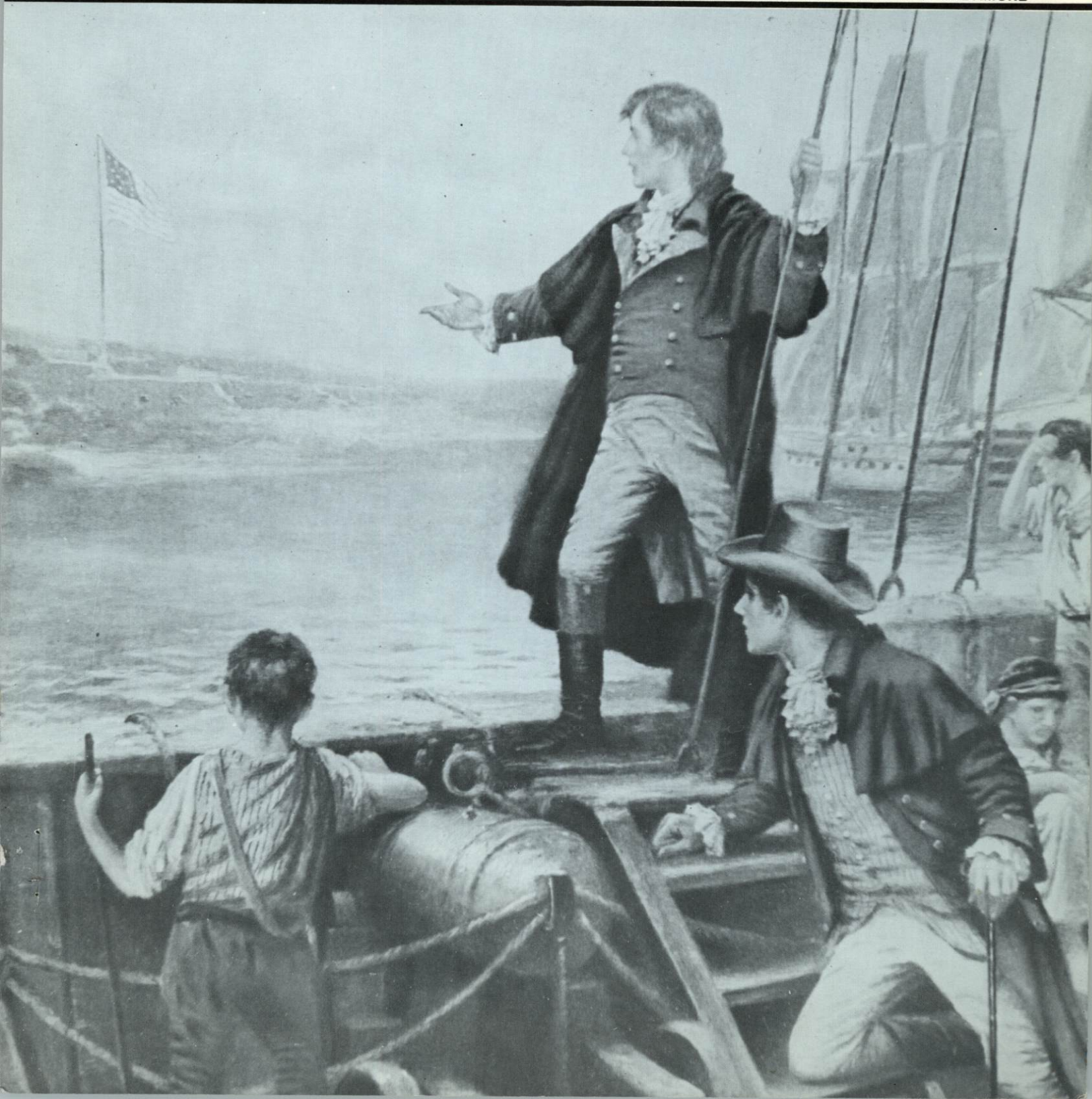
John D. Lucas Printing Company is behind Baltimore, too.

# The Baltimore Journal

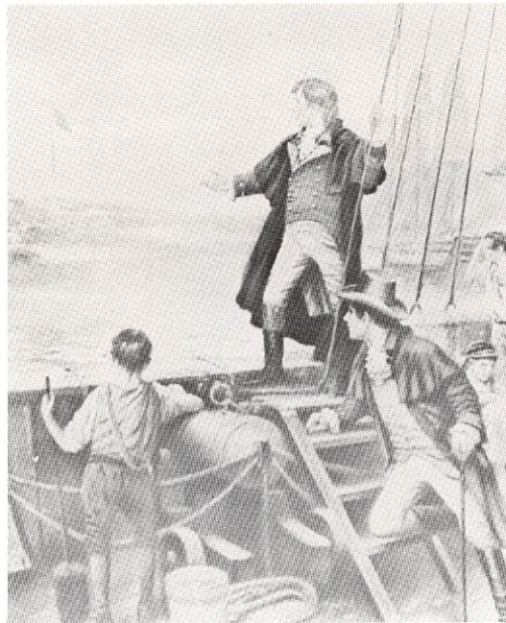


SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 18

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE



# On The Cover



Morning mist and battle smoke hung over Baltimore's harbor, but Francis Scott Key saw that our Flag was still there.

This was the scene that inspired Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner." In 1914, on the hundredth anniversary of the poem's birth, Percy Moran unveiled the pictorial recreation of Key's momentous vision reproduced on our cover.

On September 7th, the City of Baltimore, the National Park Service, and the Society of The War of 1812 will offer another recreation of the events surrounding Key's vision.

As part of its 165th Defender's Day activities, Fort McHenry will be placed back in time to that fateful evening of September 13, 1814, when The Battle of Baltimore was at its height. There will be a recreation of the British bombardment by a United States Naval Destroyer, a special illumination of a replica of the 32 x 40 foot battle flag that inspired Key, and a final fireworks display imitating the "rockets red glare" and "the bombs bursting in air."

There will also be performances by the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team, and the Marine Corps Color Guard and an aquatic display by a City fireboat.

Activities at The Fort begin at 7:00 PM and admission is free. You're invited to arrive earlier to tour The Fort's historic grounds, stroll its sea-wall path, gaze at the harbor, and eat dinner in the park's breezy picnic area.

Then, as evening progresses, you can feel, as Key once did, the inspiration of the Flag that is still there.

## The Baltimore Journal



Official Publication of the City of Baltimore

### CITY OF BALTIMORE

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*Hyman A. Pressman, Comptroller*  
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*City Council President*

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**Supplement** - Formal Bids, Informal Bids, Public Notices, City Council Hearings, Sales, Auctions

Cover: Photograph of "The Dawn's Early Light," 1914 painting by Percy Moran display at The Star Spangled Banner Flag House. Reproduced with permission of the Peale Museum, City of Baltimore.

The Baltimore Journal is published biweekly by the Department of Finance under the authority of the Baltimore City Code and by Ordinance 709 of the City Council. It contains proceedings of the City Council, Boards, Commissions, and Agencies; notices of contract bids and awards, public hearings, auctions, sales, job openings, and other advertising relating to City business; schedules of City meetings and events; and reports on City programs, projects and services.

Subscriptions by mail: \$50.00 per year

Michael Singer, editor  
 Mary Moured, typesetter  
 Doris Somers, graphic artist

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## FROM THE MAYOR



September in Baltimore brings a new season. As summer vacations end, we begin our busy fall schedules of school and work.

This September, our City has much to look forward to. In particular, two events stand out.

One is the eleventh Baltimore City Fair, which will be held at the Inner Harbor from September 26-28. It will feature booths by more than 80 City neighborhoods and 110 City institutions along with continuous entertainment and refreshments. Our City Fair is still the largest and best-known urban fair in the country.

Also, in September, Baltimoreans will participate in our City's "Defender's Day" activities, celebrating the 1814 Battle of Baltimore and the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

Both of these special events speak for the civic pride and national recognition our City has achieved.

So, as fall arrives, I urge all Baltimoreans to take part in these and the many other activities offered here in our "Star Spangled" City.

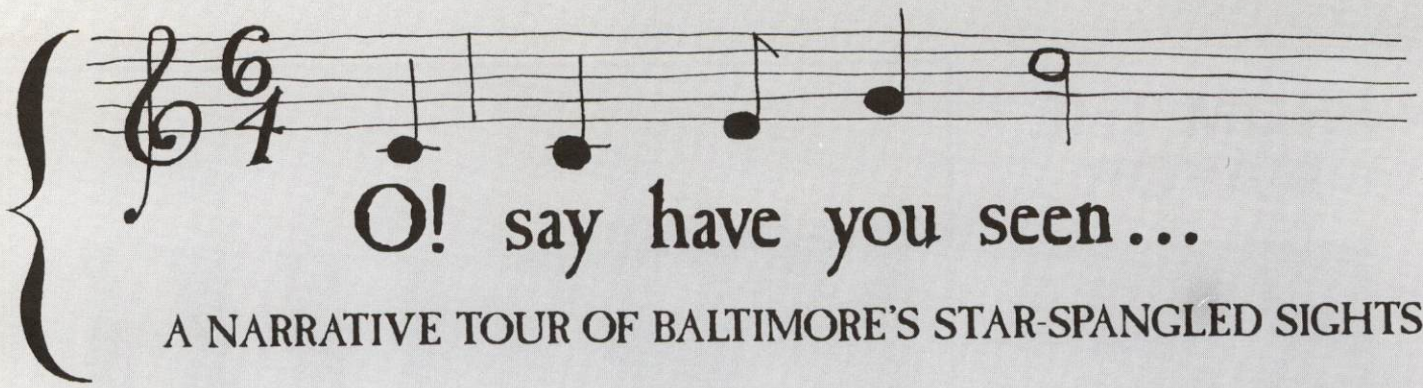
*William Donald Schaefer*



(The original Star-Spangled Banner, Smithsonian Institution; Photo courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society)

*"We, sir, are ready at Fort M'Henry to defend Baltimore against invading by the enemy. 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."*

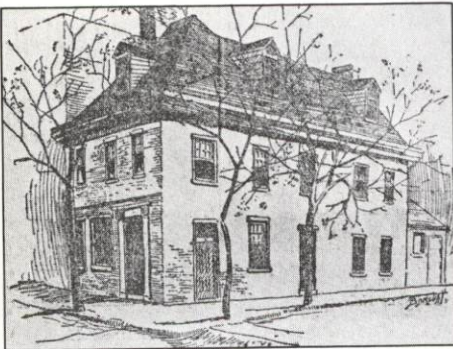
*Major George Armistead,  
Commandant of Fort M'Henry,  
in 1813 report to Major Samuel  
Smith, Commander of Baltimore  
Defenses*



## A NARRATIVE TOUR OF BALTIMORE'S STAR-SPANGLED SIGHTS

Major George Armistead's request for a flag to fly over Fort McHenry bring two American officers, Brigadier General John S. Stricker and Commodore Joshua Barney, to call on a house at the northwest corner of Albemarle and Queen (now Pratt) Streets. The house is occupied by Mary Pickersgill, a professional flag maker well known for her patriotism. The officers have heard about Mary's skills, passed down from her mother, Rebecca Young, who made the Great Union Flag, the first flag of the American Revolution. They order the flag from Mary.

Often working until midnight, Mary uses 400 yards of bunting to weave the 15 stars and stripes that go into the flag. She is paid \$405.90 for her work. On August 19, 1813, the flag, measuring 30 by 42 feet, is delivered to Fort McHenry.



### The Star Spangled Banner Flag House

844 East Pratt Street

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 1 PM to 4 PM

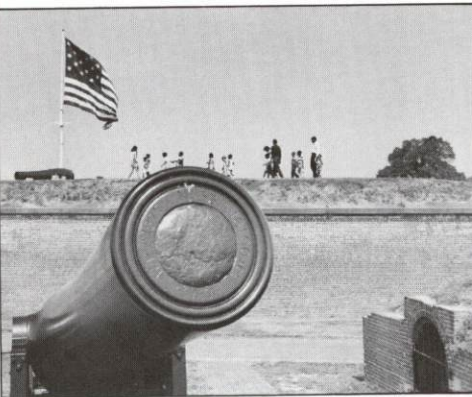
Admission: Adults - \$1.00;

Students - \$.50; Children under twelve - free

Telephone: 301-837-1793

Mary Pickersgill sewed her famous flag in this house. She lived here from 1807 until her death in 1857. Built in 1793 and extended in 1823, the house

is now in the custody of Baltimore City and the Star Spangled Banner Flag House Association. Through careful restoration, the House's interior is very similar in decor to when Mary lived there. A replica of Mary's famous flag; the original receipt for the flag; an attic loom and historic flag exhibit; and 1812 period furniture are a few highlights of the objects on display. The House was made a National Historic Landmark in 1970.



The date is September 13, 1814. The British have burned the White House. A fleet of sixteen naval vessels are stationed in the Patapsco River, firing on Fort McHenry. As evening approaches, Mary Pickersgill's flag becomes hung in darkness and smoke. Francis Scott Key, lawyer and poet, watches the Battle of Fort McHenry from a flag-of-truce ship. With him is Dr. William Beanes, an American physician. Key has secured the release of Beanes, held a prisoner of war by the British. But, both men must wait aboard the ship until the battle is won. Throughout the night, Key anxiously watches the Fort. As dawn rises, the huge American flag, tattered by British shells, still flies. Inspired, Key begins composing the words to "The Star Spangled Banner."

### Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine

Hours: Daily from 9 AM to 5 PM except Christmas and New Year's Day

Address: Near East Fort Avenue at Maryland Route 2

Admission: Free

Telephone: (301) 962-4290

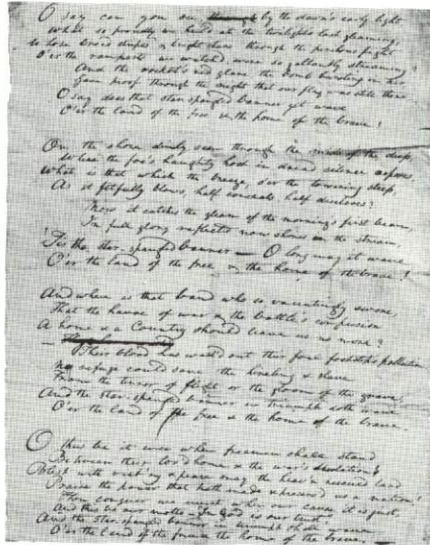
At Fort McHenry, visitors can see where the battle took place. A replica of the Star Spangled Banner Flag flies at the same spot as "the flag that was still there" did on September 14, 1814. On the grounds, there is a frieze with a portrait shield of Key surmounted by the mythological figure of Orpheus and on the Fort wall, there is a commemorative memorial plaque with a profile of Key. In the Visitors Center Auditorium, a 15-minute film tells of the Battle of Baltimore and the defense of Fort McHenry.



Failing to capture Fort McHenry, the British retreat. Popular legend has it that on the afternoon of September 14, 1814, Key and Dr. Beanes sail to Baltimore from the Patapsco River, and all the while, Key makes notes for a verse about the battle. That night, in the Indian Queen Hotel at Baltimore and Hanover Streets, Key studies his notes and composes a poem about the defense of the Fort. In the morning, Key shows the poem to Judge Joseph H. Nicholson, his brother-in-law. Judge Nicholson suggests its words could be sung to a tune called "To Anacreon in Heaven." He takes the poem to the offices of The Baltimore American, where the poem is printed as a small handbill. In the handbill, the poem's title is given as "The Defense of Fort McHenry." The author's name is not mentioned.

## Maryland Historical Society

201 West Monument Street  
 Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 1 PM to 5 PM  
 Admission: Adults - \$1.50; Children -\$.75  
 Telephone: (301) 685-3750



Only two existing copies of the handbill are known; one is at the Maryland Historical Society. In addition, the earliest extant manuscript of the Star Spangled Banner, handwritten by Key, is enshrined here. The Society's collection also includes one of the few remaining copies of the first sheet music printing of the "Star Spangled Banner," published by Carr's Music Store on Baltimore Street.



After the Battle of Baltimore, Key, 35, returns to Washington, D.C., where he leads a successful career as a lawyer. He serves as Attorney General for the District of Columbia under President Andrew Jackson, and argues many cases before the United States Supreme Court. He continues to write poetry, but none of his verses equal the stature of "The Star Spangled Banner."

In January, 1843, Key visits his daughter, Mrs. Charles Howard, at her residence on Mount Vernon Place. He soon develops pleurisy and then pneumonia. He dies at the home of his daughter. Buried in the graveyard of St. Paul's Church, his body is later interred in a family lot in Mt. Olive cemetery in Frederick, Md., the town of his birth.



## Francis Scott Key Tablet

The Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church Monument and Charles Streets

A memorial tablet, on the facade of the Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church, marks the site of the building where Key died at the age of 64. Sculpted by Hans Schuler and unveiled in 1913, the plaque was sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. It features a medallion portrait of Key with a furling flag background and several lines from his famous poem.



After Key's death, the popularity of "The Star Spangled Banner" steadily grows. In 1904, the Secretary of the Navy orders "The Star Spangled Banner" be played morning and evening when the flag is raised and lowered. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson orders all units of the armed forces to use the song as the National Anthem. In March 1931, President Herbert Hoover signs a bill making Key's poem the official National Anthem of the United States.

The popularity of the song increases along with the popularity of the young American patriot who composed it. In 1911, The Francis Scott Key Monument is unveiled at Eutaw Place at Lanvale Street. In connection with The Star Spangled Banner Centennial in 1914, a monument is erected on the historic Roger Bastion in Patterson Park. In 1922, President Warren G. Harding dedicates a monument to Francis Scott Key at Fort McHenry.

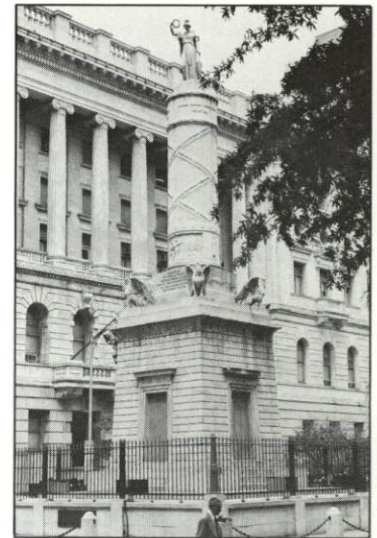
But, amidst the growing tributes, one of the best known monuments of all remains the Battle Monument erected in 1814 to 1815 to commemorate the defense of Baltimore and the memory of all those who died in the War of 1812.

## The Battle Monument

Court Square  
 Fayette and Calvert Streets

The Battle Monument along with the City's Washington Monument is the structure that prompted President John Adams, on a visit to Baltimore, to raise a toast to the "Monumental City." This name has lasted until today.

One of the first Egyptian-inspired monuments in the City, The Battle Monument is the work of French sculptor Maximilian Godfrey. Almost 39 feet high, the monument has 18 states of the Union at the time the structure was erected. The Monument's shaft features friezes depicting the battles of North Point and Fort McHenry, and the names of the 36 soldiers who died in these battles.



The female statue atop the monument, sculpted by Antonio Capellano, wears a crown and carries a laurel wreath. She serves as a symbol of Baltimore.

In 1879, the Battle Monument is made the dominant graphic impression used in the official seal of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

Photo credits: Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key Tablet - Jon-Eric Eaton, Photo Services, City of Baltimore; Battle Monument - Kirk A. Stinnette, Photo Services, City of Baltimore; The Flag House courtesy of The Flag House; Key's manuscript courtesy of The Maryland Historical Society.

# The Star-Spangled Banner

Reproduction of the Original Francis Scott Key Flag  
Showing Existing Colors and Condition



*THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER is reverently preserved in the United States National Museum in Washington, D. C. It is 28 feet on the hoist and 34 feet on the fly. The flag is designed with 15 alternate red and white stripes, the top and bottom stripe being red. This most precious relic was presented to the National Museum by Mr. Eben Appleton, a grandson of Colonel George Armistead, the defender of Fort McHenry.*

*For the better preservation of the flag it was stitched to a backing of linen by a peculiar six-sided net stitch, under the direction of Mrs. Amelia Fowler of Boston, Mass., who had previously restored many of the flags of the United States Naval Academy.*

# A Brief Historical Sketch

By Dr. Marcus Benjamin

Editor of the Publications of the United States National Museum  
and a Vice-President of the General Society of the War of 1812

**N**O AMERICAN LYRIC is as well known as THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER. It was written under auspicious circumstances of the most romantic character, the memory of which will endure so long as the Union of American States continues to exist. Its history is as follows:

The War of 1812 was by no means a popular one and it found our country very far from being prepared on land to repel a foreign foe, and yet before its close the veterans of Wellington were completely defeated at the battle of New Orleans by the unerring marksmanship of the frontiersmen commanded by Andrew Jackson.

The early days of September, 1814, were not so auspicious. A small force of British regulars had captured Washington, and, after burning the Capitol and the White House, turned in the direction of Baltimore, then of far more importance than now, and from whose citizens an indemnity could be levied to pay for the expenses of the expedition. For a time their progress was unimpeded, but near Bladensburg a small force of flotillamen and marines under the gallant Barney held them for a brief space, but as they were outnumbered, they soon were forced to give way.

Onward the foreign foe advanced until in sight of the desired goal, then defended by Fort McHenry, inadequately manned and inefficiently equipped.

Meanwhile Francis Scott Key, a young lawyer, while on a mission of mercy to the neighboring town of Upper Marlboro had been seized by the British and held as a hostage on board the American cartel ship *Minden* under a guard of marines until the British plans should be carried out.

On the eventful day of September 21, Fort McHenry, commanded by Col. George Armistead, was subjected to a fierce bombardment by the British who had made contact with their fleet which was manned also by veterans who had served under Nelson. All through the day sixteen vessels of war "hurled bombs, rockets, and solid shot into the ramparts," to which the batteries of Fort McHenry made reply as best they could, but unfortunately the range of the American guns and mortars fell short of the British ships.

Again, as ever, our faithful allies, the French, were at hand, and during the night it is said longer-range guns were transferred to the fort from a French man-of-war in the harbor, so that if the evening saw the spirit of the Americans falling, surely the dawn brought with it new hopes, fortunately soon to be realized.

Meanwhile, from the deck of the *Minden*, Key had watched with ever increasing anxiety the bombardment of Fort McHenry, but on the morning the sunrise brought to his delighted vision the Stars and Stripes, "scarred but still defiantly floating."

Soon the bombardment ceased; and as General Ross had fallen at the battle of North Point, his troops, many of whom had been wounded, were conveyed to the ships, and the fleet departed.

Then, to quote from eminent authority: "The joy of Key was unrestrained, and from his soul there came THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER. He put into words the exaltation which coursed through the veins of every loyal American, as the tidings of the triumph spread. Conceived in the midst of shrieking shell and of bursting bomb, the National Anthem of America was born in victory. The battle had been fought and freemen had dealt a crushing blow to the invader."

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER, now universally accepted as the National Anthem of the United States, is played at retreat, or when the flag is being lowered, whether on land or at sea, in memory of one of the greatest events in our country's history.



O say can you see ~~through~~ by the dawn's early light  
what so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
in hose brass stripes, or bright stars through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,  
gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,  
O say does that Star-spangled Banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
to the woe which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,  
'Tis the Star-spangled Banner — O long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,  
That the havoc of war & the battle's confusion  
A home & a Country should leave us no more?  
— ~~Their blood~~  
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution  
No refuge could save the hireling & slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the Star-spangled Banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home & the war's desolation,  
Blest with vict'ry & peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made & preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto — "In God is our trust."  
And the Star-spangled Banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.



*F. S. Key*

*Francis Scott Key was born in Frederick County, Md., on August 9, 1780. He was educated at St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., then studied law and practiced his profession in Frederick, Md., and Washington, D. C. He died in Baltimore, Md., on January 11, 1843. Monuments to his memory are in San Francisco, Calif., and Baltimore, Md.*



## “THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”

1814

*“And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”*

The flag that flew over Fort McHenry, Baltimore, which inspired FRANCIS SCOTT KEY to write the words of the immortal hymn, is preserved in the National Museum at Washington. The reproduction here is from the original banner and shows existing colors and condition.







