

Local History
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Subject *Bicentennial*
Date of Material _____

1776



1976

BICENTENNIAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



The Star-spangled banner.

O' say, can ye see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hail'd by the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose bright stars & broad stripes, through the clouds of the 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?

One that shone, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,

And where is that host that so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war & the battle's confusion
A home & a country should leave us no more?
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 homes & 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 and the home of the brave.

F. Key

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM - THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

The Star-Spangled Banner was designated the National Anthem by Act of Congress, March 3, 1931. It was written by Francis Scott Key during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, September 13-14, 1814. When a friend, Dr. Beanes, was taken aboard Admiral Cockburn's British squadron for interfering with ground troops, Key and J. S. Skinner carrying a note from President Madison went to the fleet under a flag of truce to ask Beanes' release. Admiral Cockburn consented, but as the fleet was about to

bombard Fort McHenry, he detained them.

The bombardment began at 7 a.m., September 13, 1814 and lasted with intermissions for 25 hours. During the bombardment Key wrote a stanza on the back of an envelope. Next day he wrote out the poem and gave it to his brother-in-law, Judge J. H. Nicholson, who suggested the tune "Anacreon in Heaven" and had it printed. Two copies currently survive. The flag Key saw is preserved in the Smithsonian Institution.