



AMERICA'S STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

A TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

MARGOT MORRELL



For James and Naeyl,
May the love of freedom and liberty flourish throughout your lifetimes.

This flag, with 13 stars, flew over Fort Independence in Boston Harbor during the American Revolution.

LeadershipLives.com

In 1754, Benjamin Franklin published a cartoon that urged America's colonists to "join or die" but he forgot to include Georgia.

Back then, Delaware was part of Pennsylvania.





DONT TREAD ON ME

During America's Revolutionary War, General Christopher Gadsden designed a flag for the Army and Navy to use.

On battlefields and at sea, flags are important tools to identify friends and foes.

Gadsden used Benjamin Franklin's design on his flag.



When Benjamin Franklin saw Gadsden's flag, he commented on the symbolism of the rattlesnake:

- "The ancients considered the serpent as an emblem of wisdom."
- "The Rattlesnake is found in no other quarter of the world besides America."
- "She has no eye-lids. She may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance."
- She never begins an attack, nor, when once engaged, ever surrenders. She is therefore an emblem of magnanimity and true courage."
- Rattlesnake "wounds however small, are decisive and fatal. Conscious of this, she never wounds till she has generously given notice, even to her enemy, and cautioned him against the danger of treading on her."

George Washington's secretary, Joseph Reed designed The Pine Tree flag in 1775, for warships to use. "An Appeal to Heaven" comes from British philosopher John Locke's writings on government.

Today, without the words, the design is still used in Massachusetts on flags designed for boats and ships. The Pine Tree has been a symbol of New England for over 400 years.

AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN

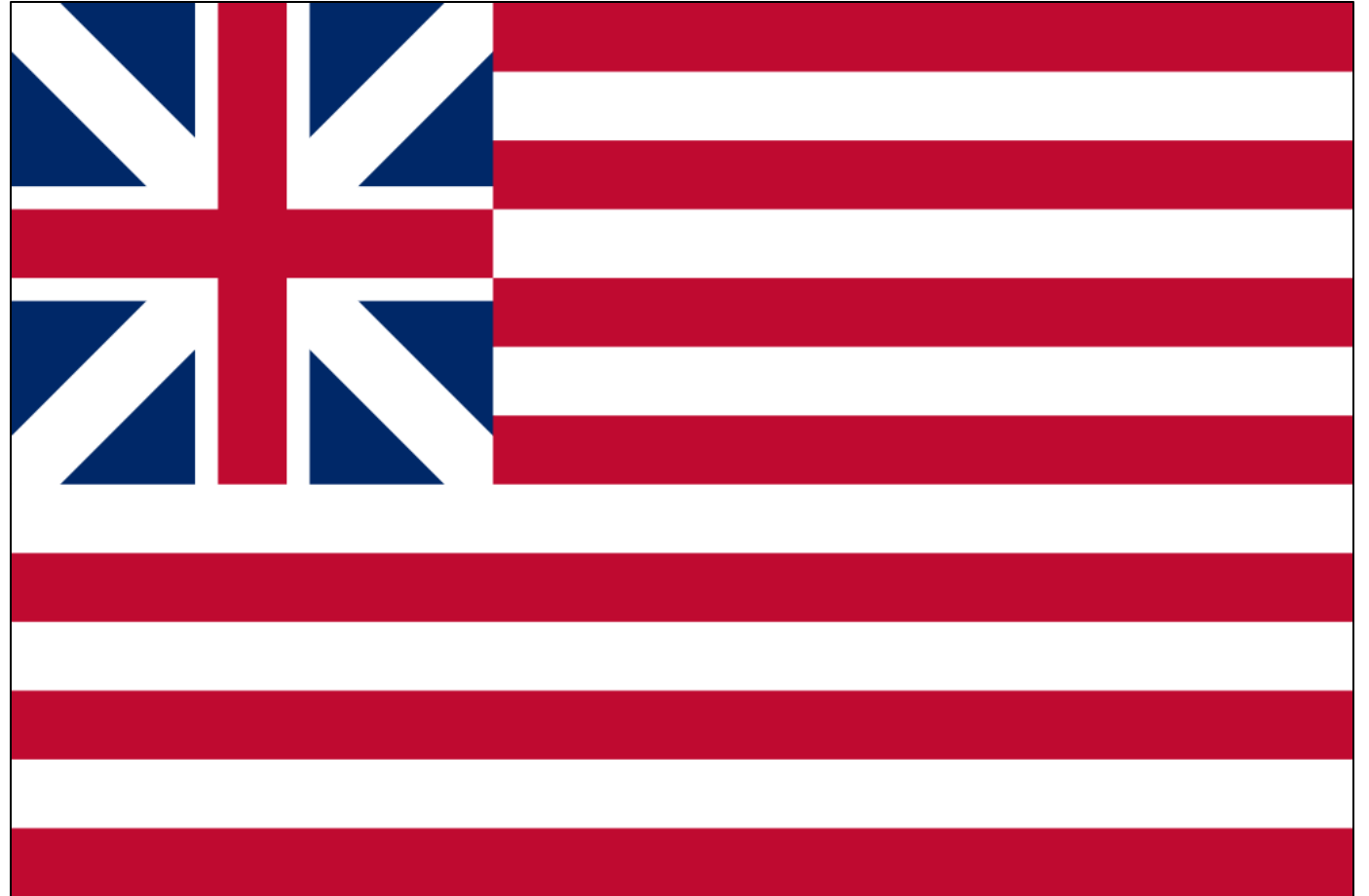




Other colonists designed flags.

In Taunton, Massachusetts, a group called the SONS OF LIBERTY designed the Liberty and Union Flag.

The Grand Union Flag, also known as the "Continental Colors," was the first official flag of America's Continental Congress.

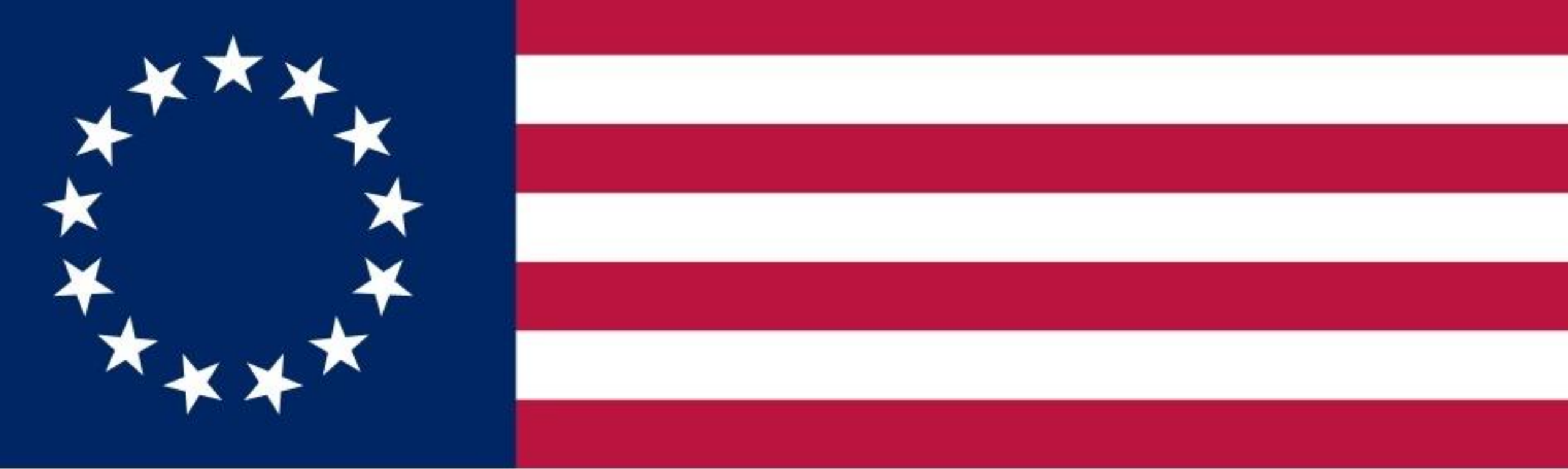




These flags were based on Britain's "Red Ensign" which had been in use since 1700. Using Britain's Union Jack motif in 1775 reflected how reluctant America's patriots were to declare independence from the mother country.



But on July 4, 1776, in a unanimous decision, the United States of America declared independence from Great Britain.



A year later, as the first birthday of the United States approached, Congress settled on a design and announced on June 14, 1777, "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."



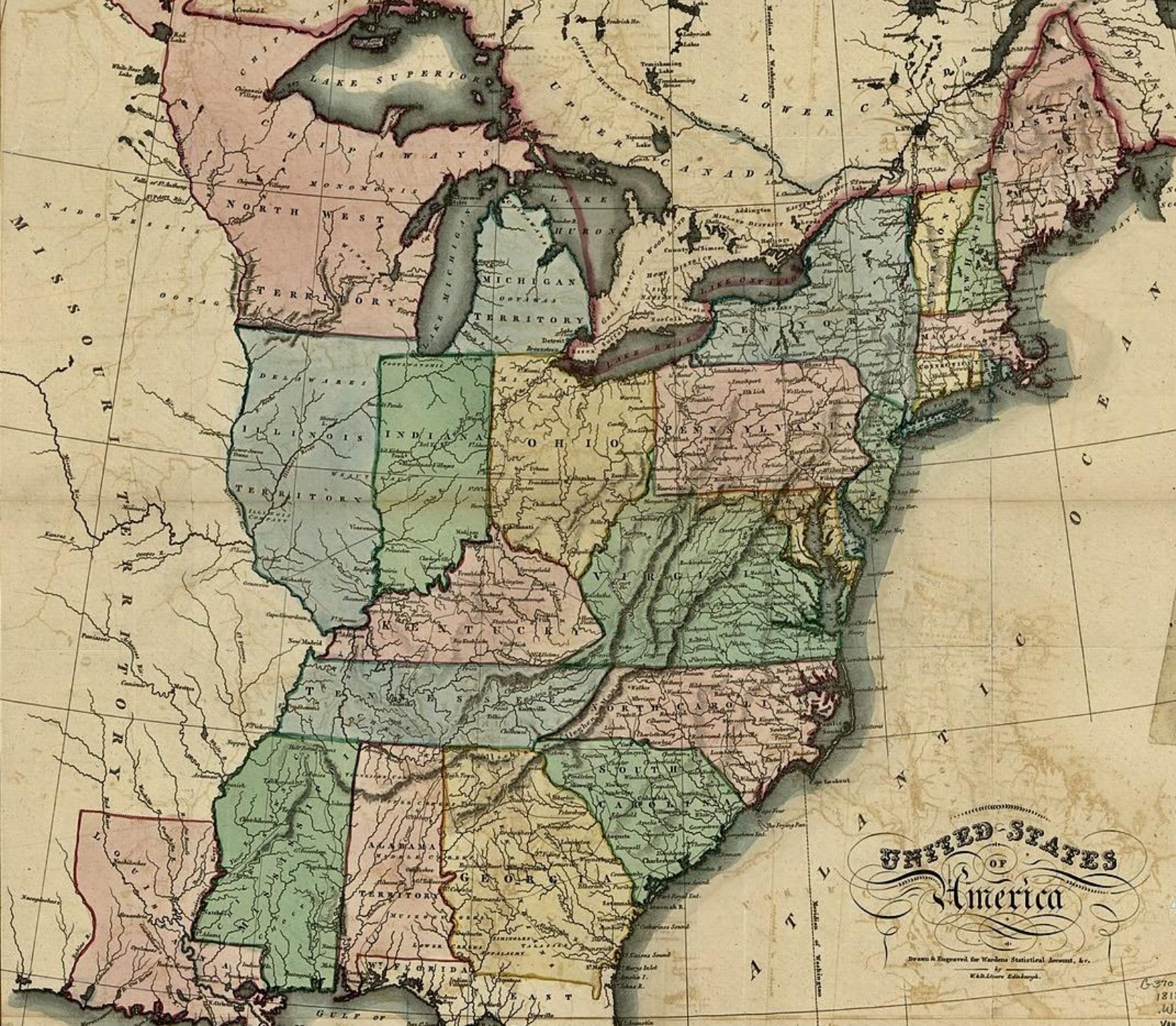
100 years later, descendants of Philadelphia seamstress, Betsy Ross, claimed she had designed and made America's first flag at the request of George Washington. There isn't any evidence for that in historic documents.



We're not sure what the first official American flag looked like!
But we do know, our flag's first nickname was "the Stars and Stripes."

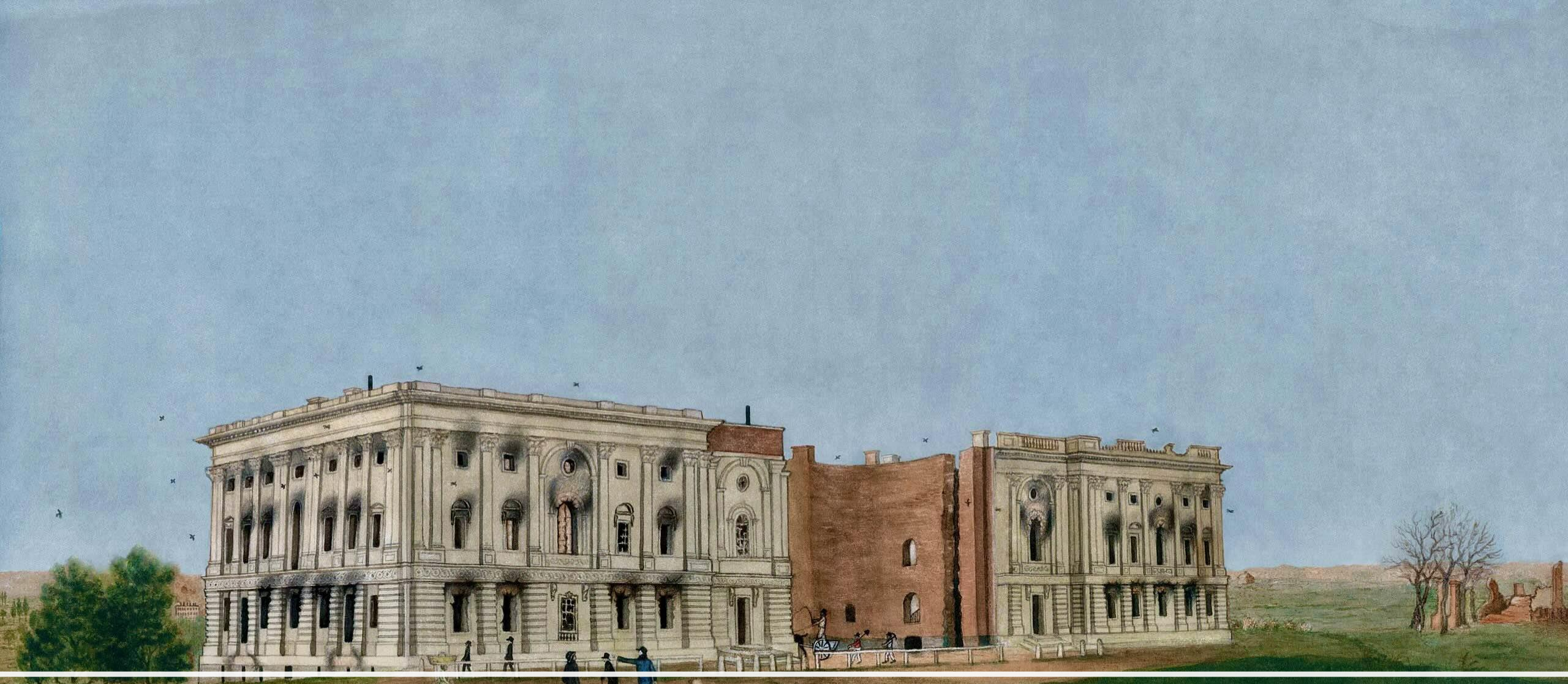


In 1794, President George Washington signed a law to change the flag's design when two new states, Vermont and Kentucky, were admitted to the Union. For the first and only time, stripes were added to the flag as well as stars.



Over the next 23 years, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi were admitted to the Union but the flag did not change until 1818.

In part, because during those years America's presidents were preoccupied by another conflict with Great Britain.



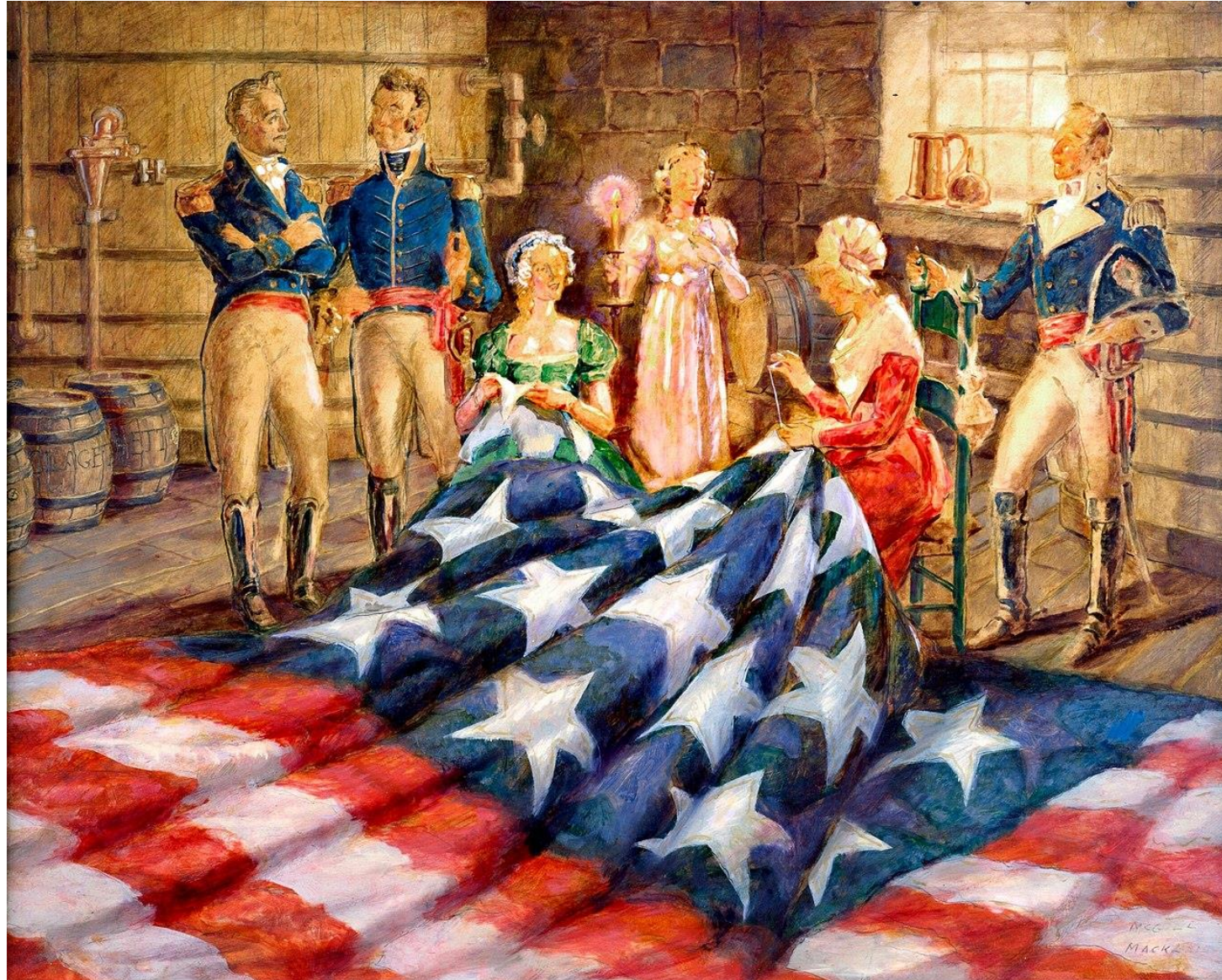
The War of 1812 began as a dispute between Great Britain and the United States over borders and trade. The conflict led to the burning of the White House and United States Capitol and ended when Andrew Jackson defeated the British at New Orleans in 1815.

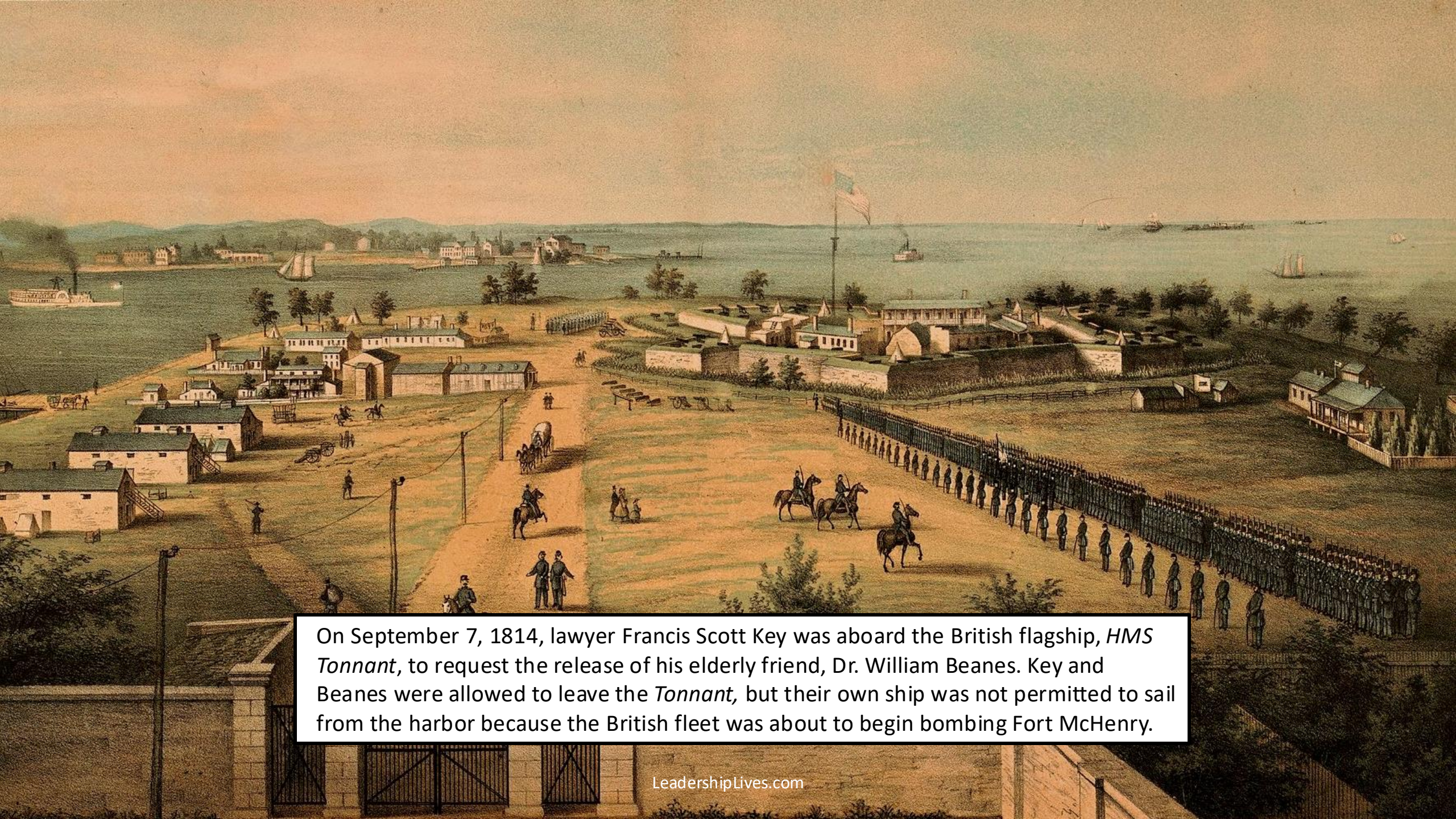
In 1813, Major George Armistead was appointed commander of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. He requested a large flag – "a garrison flag" - to fly over the fort.

Baltimore seamstress, Mary Young Pickersgill, and her staff, created an enormous flag that measured 42 feet by 30 feet. It took them over a month to make the flag.

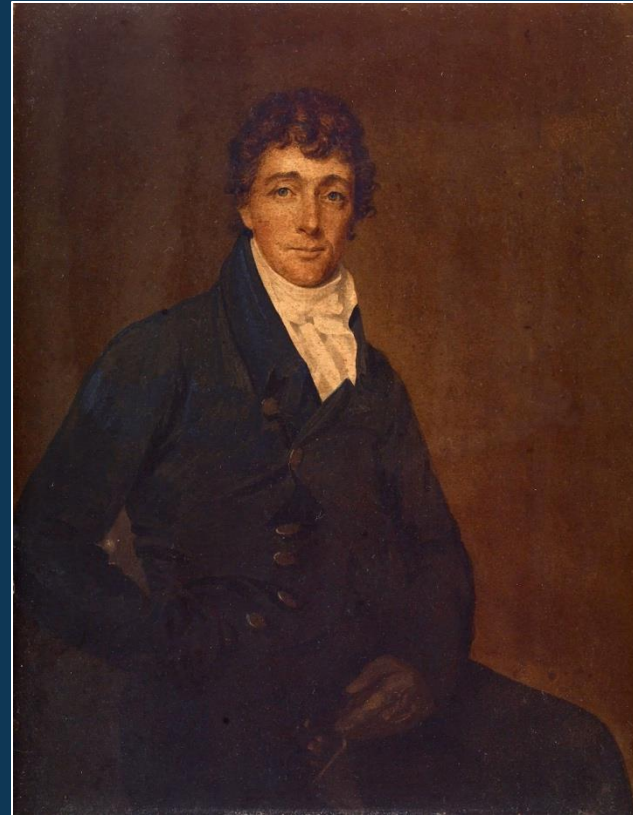
Today, Ms. Pickersgill's house is the Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum.







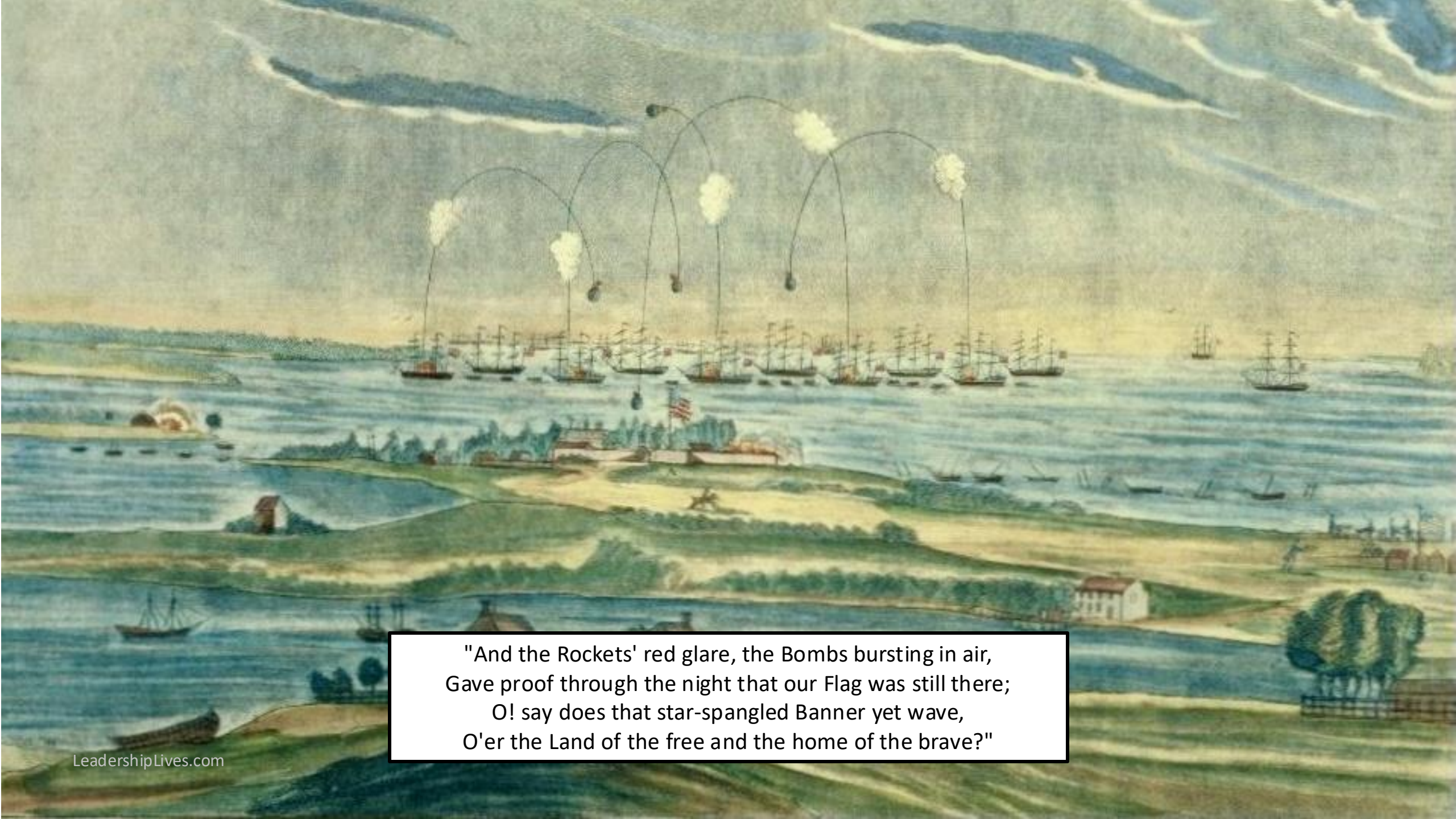
On September 7, 1814, lawyer Francis Scott Key was aboard the British flagship, *HMS Tonnant*, to request the release of his elderly friend, Dr. William Beanes. Key and Beanes were allowed to leave the *Tonnant*, but their own ship was not permitted to sail from the harbor because the British fleet was about to begin bombing Fort McHenry.



For twenty-five hours, from daybreak on September 13th to early the next morning, Francis Scott Key watched as British ships pounded Fort McHenry with more than 1500 shells.

During the night, Baltimore put out all lights. When dawn broke on the 14th, Key could see Fort McHenry's flag waving in the wind. Astounded by the sight – which meant the Americans had not surrendered - he grabbed an envelope from his pocket and began writing a poem...

"O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight.
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?



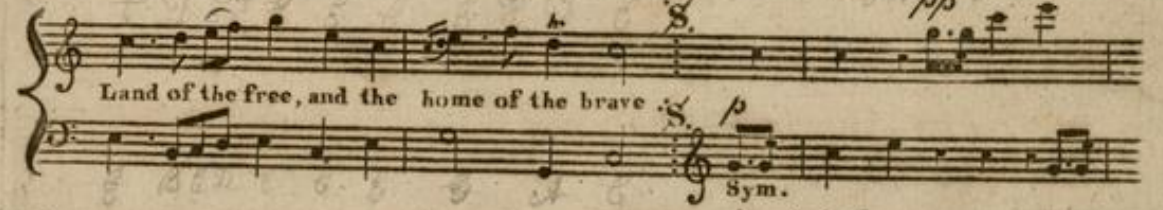
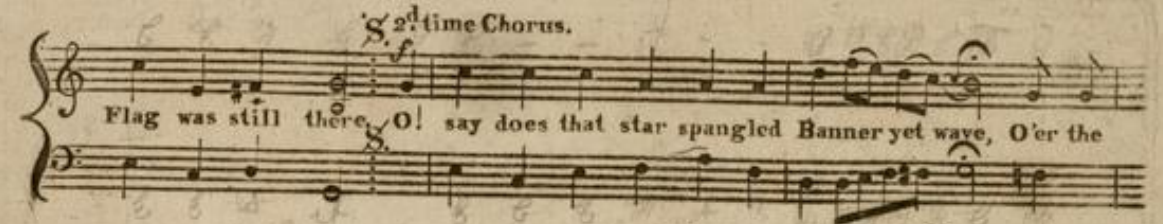
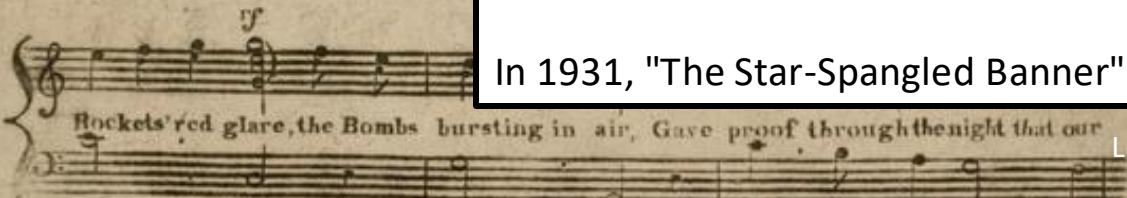
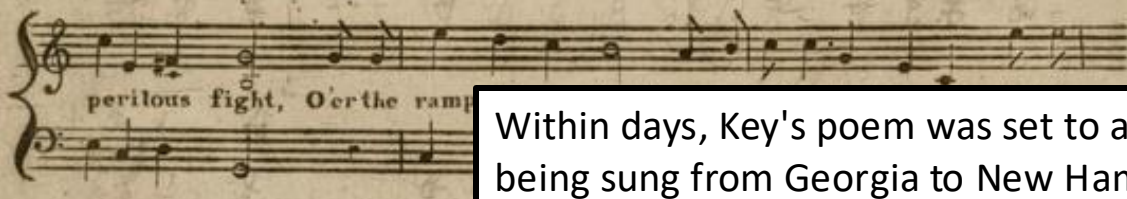
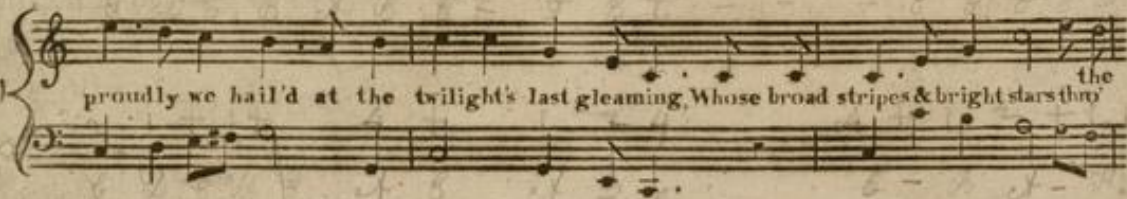
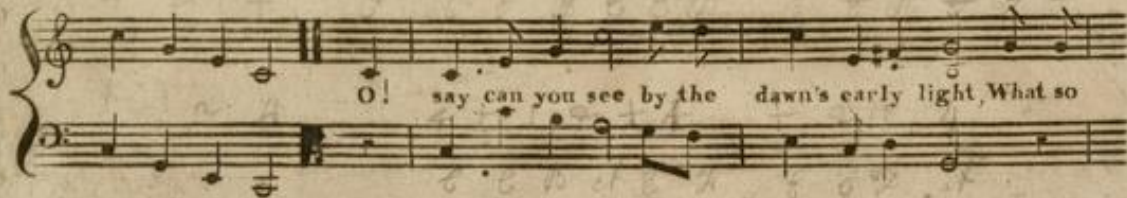
"And the Rockets' red glare, the Bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our Flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled Banner yet wave,
O'er the Land of the free and the home of the brave?"

THE
STAR SPANGLED BANNER

A PATRIOTIC SONG.

Baltimore. Printed and Sold at CARRS Music Store 36 Baltimore Street.
Air, Anacreon in Heaven.

Con Spirito



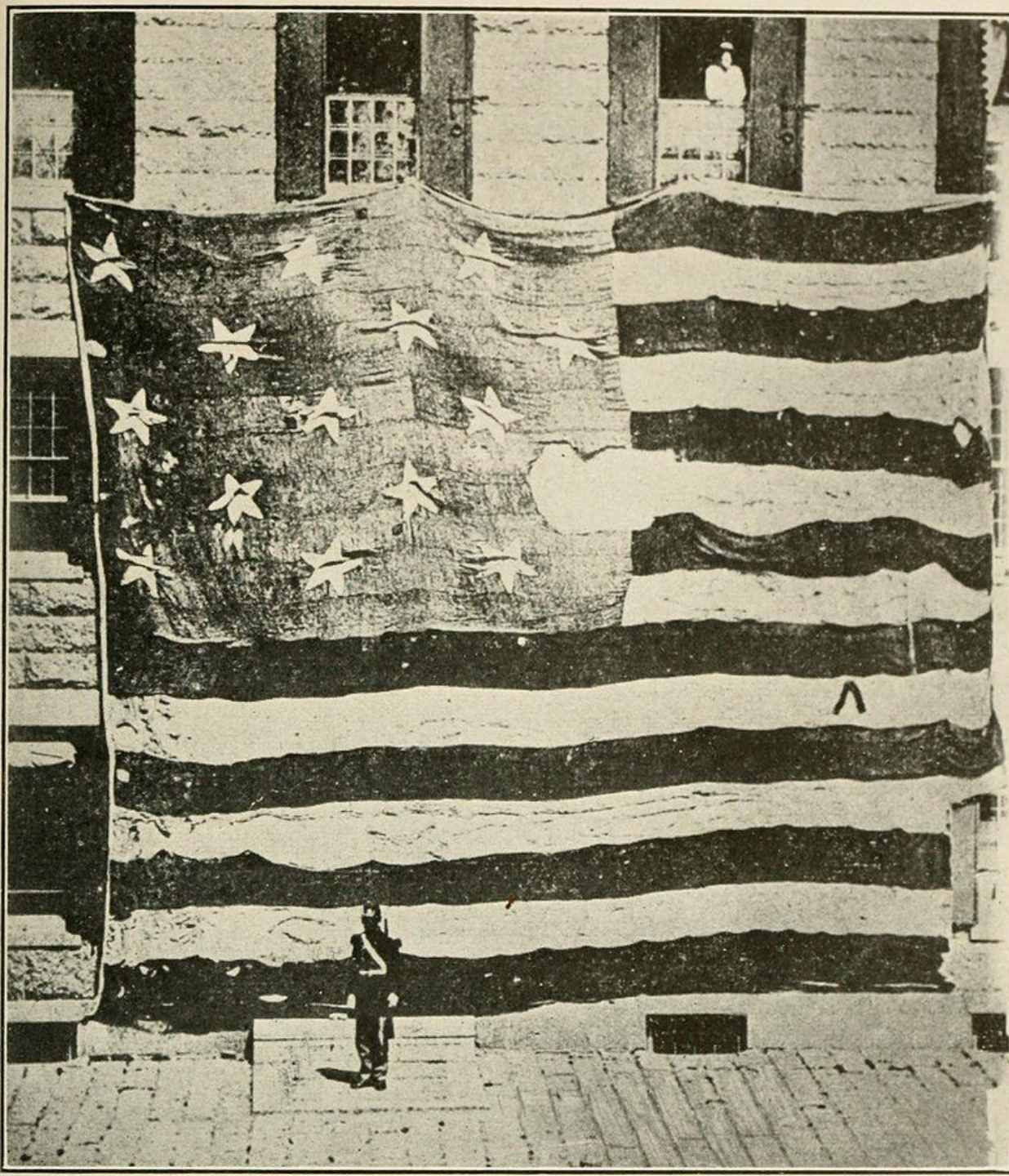
On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses,
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected new 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.

(3)
And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country, shall leave us no more,
Their blood has wash'd 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 &c.

(4)
O! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,
Between their lov'd home, and the war's desolation,
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land,
Praise the Pow'r 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,

Within days, Key's poem was set to a popular tune, "To Anacreon in Heaven," and was being sung from Georgia to New Hampshire.

In 1931, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially named America's national anthem.



In 1873, Major Armistead's daughter lent the Star-Spangled Banner to naval historian, George Preble.

To protect the sixty-year-old, war-damaged flag, Admiral Preble had it sewn on to sailcloth and then had the flag displayed and photographed at the Boston Navy Yard.

In 1912, Major Armistead's grandson, Ebenezer Appleton, donated the flag to the Smithsonian Institution.



Today, the Star-Spangled Banner flag is preserved and on display
at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.



POSTSCRIPT

In 1824, Massachusetts sea captain, William Driver's mother gave him a flag for his 21st birthday.

The first time, Captain Driver hoisted the flag on his ship, he shouted, "Behold Old Glory!"

The flag, which measures 17' by 10', is now at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

