



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 night
O'er the ramparts we march'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare - the bomb's 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?

THE AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT

SIGNED BY

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

WITH AN A. L. S. OF SAMUEL SANDS
THE FIRST PRINTER OF
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

L. J. K.



Copyright 1931, William Edwin Rudge

Janet Dexter, fecit

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY • 1780-1843

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,
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 on 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 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,
Protect with violet & 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.

Washington
Oct 21 40.

F. Key

Anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore,
AND BOMBARDMENT OF FORT M-HENRY.

Baltimore Theatre—Saturday, Sept. 12.

The Public are respectfully informed, that THIS DAY, being the Anniversary of the BATTLE OF BALTIMORE, and Bombardment of FORT M-HENRY, the Profits of the performance will be appropriated in aid of the fund for the

Widows and Families of those Brave Men who fell on that Day.

On this occasion will be revived, (first time these 6 years,) the grand patriotic Tragedy of

Gustavus Vasa;
OR, THE DELIVERER OF HIS COUNTRY.

Gustavus, Mr. WOOD. Christiern, King of Denmark, Mr. HUGHES.
Trollio, Mr. HATHWELL. Arvida, Mr. BARRETT. Peterson, Mr. SCRIVENER.
Laertes, Mr. T. JEFFERSON. Anderson, Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
Arnoldus, Mr. JACKSON. Sivard, Mr. BURKE. Officer, Mr. DURANG.
Eirst Delacarian, Mr. TIERNEY. 3d do. Mr. JONES. 3d do. Mr. CARTER. 4th do. Mr. KING.
Guards, Miners, &c. &c. &c. &c.
Christina, Mrs. DARLEY. Augusta, Mrs. LEFOLLE. Gustav, Miss H. HATHWELL.
Marianne, Mrs. JEFFERSON. Attendants, Mrs. CARTER, Mrs. JACKSON, &c.

After the Play, the celebrated Song,

The Star-Spangled Banner, by Mr. M-Farland.
A NEW PATRIOTIC DANCE,

(Composed by Mr. Francis,) to be performed by Mrs. Harris, Misses Durangs, Hathwell, Seymour, &c.

Patriotic Song America, Commerce & Freedom
BY MR. DARLEY.

AFTER WHICH, THE COMIC OPERA CALLED

The Rival Soldiers,
OR, SPRIGS OF LAUREL.

Captain Cruiser, Mr. HATHWELL. Lenox, Mr. M-FARLAND.
Major Tactic, Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Sinclair, Mr. DARLEY. Corporal, Mr. DURANG.
Nipperkin, Mr. JEFFERSON. Mary Tactic, Mrs. BURKE.

On MONDAY, the favorite Comedy of the SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL; after which, CATHERINE & PETRUCHIO—*Petruchio*, Mr. I. WHEATLY, his second appearance.

A new Farce called the KALEIDOSCOPE; or MAID, WIFE, or WIDOW, is in preparation. In preparation, ROB ROY, the BOHEMIAN, BELLAMIRA, the NINTH STATUE, the FALLS OF CLYDE, and many other Novelties.

PRINTED BY MURPHY & MILLES, No. 4, HARRISON-ST.

Original Manuscript Account of first appearance
in type of "Star Spangled Banner" by compositor who
set it up, the reception of the manuscript at the printing
Office of

Office of the American Farmer
Baltimore, Jan. 1, 1877.

Gen. Brombe Meyer.

My dear Sir.

(In answer to your note and subsequent personal request, I take the earliest opportunity afforded me of giving you a statement of my recollections and impressions of the participation I had in the promulgation of the original copy of our great National song, "The Star Spangled Banner.") On a former occasion I gave some dry items upon the subject to the editors of the Baltimore American, in whose journal the song originally appeared which will be found in the account of the Centennial of that paper - afterwards I believe to Col. Scharff, also I gave some facts, for his Chronicles of Baltimore, and more recently I published, under my own initials, I published in the agricultural journal, the American Farmer, conducted by myself and son, in the number for June, 1874, a more detailed account of the circumstances attending the production and issuing to the world of this National anthem, which has long since taken rank with that other American song "Hail Columbia", both of which are dear to every American patriot, and whenever sung, cause a tumult of joyful passion in the heart, equalled only by that which was elicited by the Scotch lassie's announcement to the beleaguered soldiers in the East Indian fort, at Lucknow, that she heard to the east the pibroch of her native kind, the tune so thrilling to the heart of every son of Scotia, "The Campbells are coming."

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The scenes connected with the composition and publishing to the world of the great song, occurred some sixty three or four years ago, and altho' I had a direct part therein, yet I venture to aver that neither the author, publisher, or printer, entertained at the time any idea that this tribute to the bravery and persistence of our Baltimore citizen soldiers, in so gloriously resisting the foe's invasion, would reach such world-wide celebrity, and become the glory and admiration of the nation.

As the particulars of the scenes of those times are given in the publications alluded to above, and more particularly in the letter of the late Chief Justice Jay, as introductory to the volume of fugitive poems of the author, Mr. Key, as gathered and published by the late Rev. Dr. H. V. Johns, of Baltimore, it is not necessary for me to enter farther into the details than as regards the immediate part I had taken in its publication. I will therefore premise, that after the battle of North Point and the ceasing of the bombardment of Fort Mifflin, the British forces retired from our shores, in their boats, to the fleet lying in the river, and then proceeded down the bay, leaving our city and its surroundings free some more from the dangers of their incursions. Although there were a number of regiments of militia hastily drawn from the Counties of our own state, as also from the neighboring states of Pennsylvania and Virginia, yet the force which was sent to the front to meet Gen. Ross and his invading army, which did effect a landing at North Point, ~~yet~~ the consisted almost entirely of the Baltimore city regiments, who on the occasion met the veterans of Wellington's army, and presented their bodies as a bulwark to the first advance of the invaders, a number of them giving their lives to the defence of our

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fair city, and for the protection of their wives and ^{daughters}
from the consequences of the "foe's desolation."
These citizen soldiers, when the enemy had disappeared
from our vicinity, took up their quarters in and ad-
jacent to the intrenchments and batteries erected for our
defence upon Loudenslager's hill, just eastward of the city
borders, where they remained for some short time
until all apprehension of the return of the British fleet
had been dissipated. What was thus located, Mr. Thos. Mur-
phy, one of the members of Capt. Ainsworth's First
Baltimore Sharp Shooters, obtained leave of absence, and
returned to the city, and again opened the counting room
of the American, which with all the other newspapers of the
day, had suspended publication for the time being, the
editors, journeymen and apprentices able to bear arms,
being in the military service. According to the best of
my recollection, I was the only one belonging to the print-
ing office that was left, who was not in the military ser-
vice, being then but about fourteen years of age, and
not capable of bearing arms - I worked away the time
during the suspense of the invasion, in looking after
the office, and in occasional visits to the "boys" at the
entrenchments. After Mr. Murphy's return, the manuscript
copy of the song was brought to the office - I always
had the impression that Mr. Jos. S. Skinner brought it,
but I never so stated it as a fact, for I had no proof
thereof, but it was a mere idea, and I never consid-
ered it of sufficient importance to make inquiry
upon the subject from my old and valued friend, Mr.
Murphy, or from Mr. Skinner, who was subsequently en-
gaged with me in the editing of my farm journal, and
who was the founder thereof - but the letter of Judge
Taney, alluded to above, proves that I was mistaken

4) in that matter - Mr. Skinner was a cartel gent
for our government in its intercourse with the Port
ish fleet in our Bay, and I took up the impression
that he on his return from the fleet, had brought
from Mr. Key the manuscript - but Judge Foley
gives the particulars of the examination and copying
of the song, in this city, by Judge Nicholson and
Mr. Key; and remarks that one of these gentlemen took
it to the printers.

When it was brought up to the printing office,
my impression is, and ever has been, that I was the
only one of those belonging to the establishment
who was on hand, and that it was put in type, and
what the printers call "galley proofs" were struck off
previous to the renewal of the publication of the pa-
per, and it may be, and probably was the case, that
from one of these proof sheets, handbills were printed
and circulated throughout the city.

This is simply all the part which I had in the
transaction alluded to. Altho the song obtained cele-
brity in a little time after it was first presented to
the world, yet the unimportant and very secondary
consideration as to who first printed and issued
it was never mooted. For probably fifty years there-
after, when I was called upon by sundry persons to
give my recollections upon the subject, which
called forth the responses in the several publica-
tions alluded to already.

At the time I put the song in type, I was an ap-
prentice in the office of the Baltimore American
and lived in the family of Mr. Murphy - and as this may
probably be the last time I will be called upon again
to publicly allude to the transactions detailed, I must
ask to be permitted here to bear my tribute to the
worth and excellency of character of my old friend
and whilom master - he was in the strictest sense

of the term, a gentleman, of the most estimable
character, and was ^{ever} held in the highest esteem by
all who enjoyed his acquaintance. He was
with the rest of the hands of the office, and was
of the front in that gallant in that gallant corps
of riflemen, the Sharpshooters, which was pushed
forward in the advance of our little army to
reconnoitre—and it was to two of them, (Wells
and McComas) the death of Gen Ross was at
tributed—the smoke of their guns indicated where
the fatal bullets came, which killed the Gallant
General, and a volley from the crest of Ross
was poured into the copse of wood whence
the firing proceeded, which caused the death
of these two youthful heroes, to bite the dust.
Their fellow-citizens afterwards contributed a
sum of money to erect a monument to their
memory, and a lot in the Eastern section of the
city was appropriated for the purpose.

Yours with respect

Saml Sands.

Defence of Fort M^cHenry.

"The annexed song was composed under the following circumstances. A gentleman had left Baltimore on a flag of truce for the purpose of getting orders from the British fleet a friend of his who had been captured at Marlborough. He went as far as the mouth of the Patuxent, and was not permitted to return lest the intended attack on Pallis, ^{more} should be disclosed. He was therefore brought up the Bay to the mouth of the Patuxent, where the flag vessel was kept under the guns of a frigate, and he ^{was} compelled to witness the bombardment of Fort M^cHenry, which the Admiral had boasted he would carry in a few hours, & that the city must fall. He watched the flag at the fort throughout the whole day with an anxiety that can be better felt than described, until the night prevented him from seeing it. In the night he watched the Bomb. Shells, and at early dawn his eye was again gratified by the proudly waving flag of his Country.

June - Anacrow in Heaven.

"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 and bright stars through the perilous night,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd as they so gallantly streaming?
And the Rocket's red glare, the Bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night, that our flag was still there;
m - O! say does that star-spangled Banner yet wave,
l - O'er the land of the free and 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,
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 now shines on the stream,
l - 'Tis the star-spangled banner, O! long may it wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And when is that and who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war & the battles confusion,
A home & a country should 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.

O! this but was when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd homes, & the war's devastation,
Blest with vic'try & peace, may the Heavens rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made & preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this is 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.

Copied Baltimore, tied in the "American" Office from the Original
copy of the paper, dated "Baltimore, Wednesday Morning, September
21. 1814." Invol. XXX of Am. & Com. Daily Advertiser,
No 4767. — Death May 23. 1876.
The paper was found for some time at that period of attack, on the city
on a single sheet of 2 pages - indeed up to the end of September 1814

- 1st & over - no change
- 2nd in 1 line that shows for the in America
- 2nd in nd "To the Star of Psyche's beam" (in italics)
- 3rd in no change
- 4th in "home" for "homes" in America

Suppl to Miss Repulse published in 1816.
p. 83 is the song reported

page 80. Oliver Cromwell's letter
To a London Money Changer

American printed

Butterfly does not

Miss Repulse not till 1816, with different

with a quantity of other printed songs &

less than forecast, and
the Heads for which from
the Americans

ML95
K49
Case

SECOND SESSION, MONDAY, NOV. 17th, 1941 at 8:15 P. M.

"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

The "Cist Copy" of the Autograph Manuscript, the First Signed
by the Author

(Probably the only Copy available; as the 'Walters Copy' and the Copy in the Pennsylvania Historical Society Are in Museums. The 'Howard Copy' is Mythical and the 'Mahar Copy' Has Been Lost.)

WITH THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT
ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST PRINTING OF
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"
BY ITS FIRST PRINTER

- 308 KEY, (FRANCIS SCOTT). Autograph Manuscript, signed, of "The Star-Spangled Banner". 1 page, folio. Dated "Washington Oct. 21-40." Together with an Autograph Letter, signed, by Samuel Sands, the first printer of "The Star Spangled Banner". 5 pages, folio, about 1,300 words. Office of the American Farmer, Baltimore, January 1, 1877. To Brantz Mayer. With a Manuscript copy of the song made by Brantz Mayer from the original issue of the "American", dated "Baltimore, Wednesday Morning, September 21, 1814". Also a play-bill: "Anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and Bombardment of Fort M'Henry. Baltimore Theatre-Saturday, September 12" (1815?); and a Colored Portrait of the Author, signed Janet Dexter. All preserved in a handsome red levant morocco portfolio with the Portrait of Keys, by Miss Dexter, inlaid on a panel on inside of front cover, and the extra items in a transparent pocket.

One of the possibly five known autograph manuscript copies of "The Star-Spangled Banner", the first signed by him and apparently the first copy made after the Walters Copy. Internal evidence apparently makes this copy the true earliest version. There was no question but that the Walters copy was the earliest extant Manuscript of "The Star-Spangled Banner", but this manuscript gives rise to the question whether it is not the true earliest version of the famous anthem. The historical data in this description are based on Oscar G. T. Sonneck's Library of Congress Reports on "The Star-Spangled Banner", 1909-14.

He (Mr. Key) . . . remained on deck during the night, watching every shell, from the moment it was fired until it fell, listening with breathless interest to hear if an explosion followed. While the bombardment continued, it was sufficient proof that the fort had not surrendered. But it suddenly ceased some time before day: and as they had no communication with any of the enemy's ships, they did not know whether the fort had surrendered, or the attack upon it been abandoned. They paced the deck for the residue of the night in painful suspense, watching with intense anxiety for the return of day, and looking every few minutes at their watches, to see how long they must wait for it; and as soon as it dawned, and before it was light enough to see objects at a distance, their glasses were turned to the fort, uncertain whether they should see there the Stars and Stripes, or the flag of the enemy. At length the light came, and they saw that 'our flag was still there' . . .



Under the excitement he had written a song . . . he commenced it on the deck of their vessel, in the fervor of the moment, when he saw the enemy hastily retreating to their ships, and looked at the flag he had watched for so anxiously as the morning opened. . . . He had written some lines, or brief notes that would aid him in calling them to mind, upon the back of a letter which he happened to have in his pocket; and for some of the lines, as he proceeded, he was obliged to rely altogether on his memory; and . . . he finished it in the boat on his way to the shore, and wrote it out as it now stands, at the hotel, on the night he reached Baltimore, immediately after he arrived . . . The next morning he took it to Judge Nicholson, to ask him what he thought of it . . . he was so much pleased with it that he immediately sent it to a printer, and directed copies to be struck off in hand-bill form . . . Chief Justice Taney's account remained unchallenged except in unimportant points."—O. G. T. Sonneck.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE OF SAMUEL SANDS
WHO FIRST SET THE TYPE TO PRINT
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

On December 23, 1876, Brantz Mayer, founder of the Maryland Historical Society and Mexican archeologist, visited Samuel Sands, editor of the "American Farmer" and received the copy of "The Star-Spangled Banner" mentioned above. From the "American" on September 21, 1814. On January 1, 1877, Mr. Mayer received from Mr. Sands his own account of the printing of "The Star-Spangled Banner". Most of this account has been published by Mr. Sonneck.

"In answer to your note and subsequent personal request, I take the earliest opportunity afforded me of giving you a statement, of my recollections and impressions of the participation I had in the promulgating the original copy of our great National song, "The Star-Spangled Banner" . . .

KNOWN MANUSCRIPTS OF "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

Mr. Sonneck lists the known manuscripts of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as follows:

1. The Judge Nicholson-Mrs. Shippen-Walters copy, 1814. (Now in Walters Museum, Baltimore).
2. The Louis J. Cist copy, 1840. Present whereabouts unknown. (The Present Copy is the Cist Copy.)
3. The supposed Howard copy, circa 1840. (In another place Mr. Sonneck describes this: "the handwriting has not the firmness of youth and it stands to reason that Key wrote this manuscript in late life." A comparison of facsimiles would indicate that it was written after this Cist manuscript of 1840.)
4. The Gen. Keim-Pennsylvania Historical Society copy. (Mr. Sonneck dates this manuscript 1842).
5. Mahar copy, 1842.

All of these manuscripts vary in detail of word or phrase. Mr. Sonneck, using the Walters text as a basis of comparison, but without esthetic comment, points out the differences. This Cist manuscript contains four variations not found in any other manuscript, and four additional variations not found in the Walters manuscript.

From the careful comparisons it is evident that Mr. Key used the early form of words such as "ye" for "You"; "by" for "at" in the Cist copy; and in all late copies a comparative uniformity of other expressions, such as "on that" for "on the" in the first line of the second stanza, and "on" for "in" in the sixth line of the second stanza. We have no actual knowledge of the wording of the original manuscript of "The Star-Spangled Banner", which, according to all authentic statements, was written on the back of an old letter;



but all accounts agree that the original manuscript was submitted to Judge Nicholson for his approval. On the authority of W. W. Hensel of Lancaster, Pa. Mr. Sonneck states that Mr. Key had an ignorance of musical composition that was utterly inconceivable, and that he could not even recognize the music of his own song. It is then apparent, and is recognized as a fact by Mr. Sonneck, that Judge Joseph H. Nicholson was the one who adapted "The Star-Spangled Banner" to the music of "Anacreon in Heaven". In the process of this adaptation Judge Nicholson doubtless changed many words, and in all probability suggested the two changes Mr. Key made in the Walters manuscript.

THIS MANUSCRIPT PROBABLY THE EARLIEST VERSION

This Cist manuscript differs in many words and phrases from the Walters manuscript and though it was written twenty-five years later the words and phrases of the Cist and other late copies are of the period of the War of 1812. It is a psychological fact that as a man approaches old age his thoughts and the words, he uses revert to the period of his youth and young manhood. It is therefore probable that as Mr. Key wrote this manuscript, the first copy since that of 1814, his thoughts turned back to the eventful day when he first jotted down the outline of his poem, and that in this manuscript he used the same words and phrases that he used on the morning that "The Star-Spangled Banner" yet waved.

- 309 KILMER, (JOYCE). Autograph Manuscript of the Famous Poem "Trees". 1 page, 8vo. Dated May 21, 1915.

This Manuscript is framed with an autographed photograph of Joyce Kilmer.

MANUSCRIPT OF "ON THE ROAD TO MANDALAY"

- 310 KIPLING, (RUDYARD). The Original Autograph Manuscript of "Mandalay". 1 page, 4to, tipped on the folio card and bound with a portrait of Kipling in full green levant morocco with doublures of red levant morocco and green silk moire fly-leaves. Preserved in cloth portfolio.

This is probably the most important and certainly the best known product of Kipling's Pen.

- 311 KITTREDGE, (WALTER). Autograph Manuscript, signed, of "Tenting on the Camp Ground", 2 verses and chorus. 1 page, 8vo. Framed with an autographed portrait of the Author.

- 312 LOWRY, (ROBERT). Autograph Manuscript, signed, of "Yes We'll Gather at the River", first verse and chorus written in ink. 1 page, 12mo. Dated Plainfield, New Jersey, May 10, 1893. It was written in 1864 during an epidemic in Brooklyn.

- 313 MARKHAM, (EDWIN). Broadside. "The Man With the Hoe". 1 page, folio. With the Autograph of the Author, Dated 1928.

ONE OF THE FIVE KNOWN AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPTS

OF "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

THE CIST COPY ★ A UNIQUE VERSION

ML95
K49
Case

WITH THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT ACCOUNT
OF THE FIRST PRINTING OF "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"
BY ITS FIRST PRINTER

206. KEY, FRANCIS SCOTT. AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT, signed, of "The Star-Spangled banner", 1 p., folio. "Washington Oct. 21-40." Together with an A. L. s. by Samuel Sands, the first printer of "The Star-Spangled Banner", 5 pp., folio, about 1,300 words. Office of the American Farmer, Baltimore, January 1, 1877. To Brantz Mayer. With a Manuscript copy of the song made by Brantz Mayer from the original issue of the "American", dated "Baltimore, Wednesday Morning, September 21, 1814". Also a play-bill: "Anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and Bombardment of Fort M'Henry. Baltimore Theatre—Saturday, Sept. 12" [1815?]. Together 4 pieces.

ONE OF THE FIVE KNOWN AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT COPIES OF "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" AND APPARENTLY THE FIRST MANUSCRIPT COPY OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM MADE BY MR. KEY AFTER THE "WALTERS COPY" FROM WHICH THE SONG WAS FIRST PRINTED. INTERNAL EVIDENCE APPARENTLY MAKES THE PRESENT COPY THE TRUE EARLIEST VERSION.

Different, indeed, is the status of this manuscript from that of the one offered in these Galleries in 1934. There was no question but that the Walters copy was the earliest extant manuscript of "The Star-Spangled Banner", but this manuscript gives rise to the question of whether it is not THE TRUE EARLIEST VERSION OF THE FAMOUS SONG. The historical data in this description are based on Oscar G. T. Sonneck's Library of Congress Reports on "The Star-Spangled Banner", 1909-14.

Our examination of the present manuscript and our comparison of its text with that of the version in Mr. Key's hand sold in these Galleries last year, as well as with the versions of other manuscripts as quoted by Mr. Sonneck, have strongly inclined us to the conclusion that the present manuscript approaches more nearly to the text of the author's first draft.

In presenting this manuscript to the public it is necessary to consider the following points:

1. The historical setting under which the song was first written.
2. The evidence of Samuel Sands, the first printer of "The Star-Spangled Banner".
3. The Autograph Manuscripts of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as listed by Mr. Sonneck, with their variations.
4. The development of the conclusion that this manuscript contains the nearest approach to the true original version of "The Star-Spangled Banner".

THE HISTORICAL SETTING. Mr. Key gave the first authentic account of the origin of "The Star-Spangled Banner" to his brother-in-law, R. B. Taney, later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, in substance as follows: Dr. Beanes, a friend of Mr. Key's, was captured by the British during their forays in Maryland, and Mr. Key, then a volunteer in Major Peter's Light Artillery, went under a flag of truce, secured through President Madison, to procure his liberation. He was received by the British Admiral Cochrane, but the release of Dr. Beanes was refused for the time, and Mr. Key was informed that he must stay aboard his vessel until after the contemplated attack on Fort McHenry and Baltimore. During this time the ship was anchored in a position which, during daylight, enabled those aboard to see distinctly the flag of the United States on Fort McHenry from the deck of the vessel.

"He [Mr. Key] . . . remained on deck during the night, watching every shell, from the moment it was fired, until it fell, listening with breathless interest to hear if an explosion followed. While the bombardment continued, it was sufficient proof that the fort had not surrendered. But it suddenly ceased some time before day: and as they had no communication with any of the enemy's ships, they did not know whether the fort had surrendered, or the attack upon it been abandoned. They paced the deck for the residue of the night in painful suspense, watching with intense anxiety for the return of day, and looking every few minutes at their watches, to see how long they must wait for it; and as soon as it dawned, and before it was light enough to see objects at a distance, their glasses were turned to the fort, uncertain whether they should see there the Stars and Stripes, or the flag of the enemy. At length the light came, and they saw that 'our flag was still there'. . . Under the excitement . . . he had written a song . . . he commenced it on the deck of their vessel, in the fervor of the moment, when he saw the enemy hastily retreating to their ships, and looked at the flag he had watched for so anxiously as the morning opened . . .

" . . . He had written some lines, or brief notes that would aid him in calling them to mind, upon the back of a letter which he happened to have in his pocket; and for some of the lines, as he proceeded, he was obliged to rely altogether on his memory; and . . . he finished it in the boat on his way to the shore, and wrote it out as it now stands, at the hotel, on the night he reached Baltimore, immediately after he arrived . . . The next morning, he took it to Judge Nicholson, to ask him what he thought of it . . . he was so much pleased with it that he immediately sent it to a printer, and directed copies to be struck off in hand-bill form. . . Chief Justice Taney's account remained unchallenged except in unimportant points."—O. G. T. Sonneck.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE OF SAMUEL SANDS
WHO FIRST SET THE TYPE TO PRINT
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

On December 23, 1876, Brantz Mayer, founder of the Maryland Historical Society and Mexican archeologist, visited Samuel Sands, editor of the "American Farmer", and made the copy of "The Star-Spangled Banner" mentioned above, from the "American" of September 21, 1814. On January 1, 1877, Mr. Mayer received from Mr. Sands HIS OWN ACCOUNT OF THE PRINTING OF "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER". Most of this account has been published by Mr. Sonneck.

"In answer to your note and subsequent personal request, I take the earliest opportunity afforded me of giving you a statement of my recollections and impressions of the participation I had in the promulgating the original copy of our great National song, 'The Star-Spangled Banner' . . .

" . . . After the battle of North Point and the ceasing of the bombardment of Fort M'Henry, the British forces retired from our shores, in their boats, to the fleet lying in the river, and then proceeded down the bay, leaving our City and its surroundings free once more from the dangers of their incursions. Although there were a number of regiments of militia hastily drawn from the counties of our own state, as also from the neighboring states of Pennsylvania and Virginia, yet the force which was sent to

the front to meet Gen. Ross and his invading army, which had effected a landing at North Point, consisted almost entirely of the Baltimore city regiments . . .

"These citizen soldiers, when the enemy had disappeared from our vicinity, took up their quarters in and adjacent to the intrenchments and batteries erected for our defence upon Loudenslager's hill, just eastward of the City borders, where they remained for some short time . . . Whilst thus located, Mr. Thos. Murphy, one of the members of Capt. Aisquith's First Baltimore Sharp Shooters, obtained leave of absence, and returned to the city, and again opened the counting room of the American, which with all the other newspapers of the day, had suspended publication for the time being, the editors, journeymen and apprentices able to bear arms, being in the military service. According to the best of my recollections, I was the only one belonging to the printing office that was left, who was not in the military service, being then but about fourteen years of age, and not capable of bearing arms. I whiled away the time during the suspense of the invasion, in looking after the office, and in occasional visits to the 'boys' at the entrenchments. After Mr. Murphy's return, the manuscript copy of the song was brought to the office. I always had the impression that Mr. John S. Skinner brought it, but I never so stated it as a fact, for I had no proof thereof, but it was a mere idea, and I never considered it of sufficient importance to make inquiry upon the subject from my old and valued friend, Mr. Murphy, or from Mr. Skinner, who was subsequently engaged with me in the editing of my farm journal, and who was the founder thereof—but the letter of Judge Taney, alluded to above, proves that I was mistaken in that matter—Mr. Skinner was a cartel agent for our government in its intercourse with the British fleet in our Bay and I took up the impression that he on his return from the fleet, had brought from Mr. Key the manuscript . . .

"When it was brought to the printing office, my impression is, and ever has been, that I was the only one of those belonging to the establishment who was on hand, and that it was put in type, and what the printers call 'galley proofs' were struck off previous to the renewal of the publication of the paper, and it may be, and probably was the case, that from one of these proofslips, handbills were printed and circulated throughout the city . . . At the time I put the song in type, I was an apprentice in the office of the Baltimore American and lived in the family of Mr. Murphy . . ."

KNOWN MANUSCRIPTS OF "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

Mr. Sonneck lists the known manuscripts of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as follows:

- (1) The Judge Nicholson-Mrs. Shippen-Walters copy, 1814 [sold in these Galleries in 1934].
- (2) The Louis J. Cist copy, 1840. Present whereabouts unknown. [THE PRESENT COPY IS THE CIST COPY.]
- (3) The supposed Howard copy, circa 1840. [In another place Mr. Sonneck describes this: "the handwriting has not the firmness of youth and it stands to reason that Key wrote this manuscript in late life". A comparison of facsimiles would indicate that it was written after this Cist manuscript of 1840.]
- (4) The Gen. Keim-Pennsylvania Historical Society copy. [Mr. Sonneck dates this manuscript 1842.]
- (5) The Mahar copy, 1842.

All of these manuscripts vary in detail of word or phrase. Mr. Sonneck, using the Walters text as a basis of comparison, but without esthetic comment, points out the differences. This Cist manuscript contains FOUR VARIATIONS NOT FOUND IN ANY OTHER MANUSCRIPT, and four additional variations not found in the Walters manuscript. Some of these variants are peculiar, such as "ye" for "you" in "O say can you see"; "by" for "at" in "What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming"; and "that host that" for "that band who" in "And where is that band who so vauntingly and"

From the preceding comparisons it is evident that Mr. Key used the early form of words such as "ye" for "You"; "by" for "at" in the Cist copy; and in all late copies a comparative uniformity of other expressions, such as "on that" for "on the" in the first line of the second stanza, and "on" for "in" in the sixth line of the second stanza. We have no actual knowledge of the wording of the original manuscript of "The Star-Spangled Banner", which, according to all authentic statements, was written on the back of an old letter; but all accounts agree that the original manuscript was submitted to Judge Nicholson for his approval. On the authority of W. W. Hensel of

Lancaster, Pa. Mr. Sonneck states that Mr. Key had an ignorance of musical composition that was utterly inconceivable, and that he could not even recognize the music of his own song. It is then apparent, and is recognized as a fact by Mr. Sonneck, that Judge Joseph H. Nicholson was the one who adapted "The Star-Spangled Banner" to the music of "Anacreon in Heaven". In the process of this adaptation Judge Nicholson doubtless changed many words, and in all probability suggested the two changes Mr. Key made in the Walters manuscript.

THIS MANUSCRIPT PROBABLY THE EARLIEST VERSION

This Cist manuscript differs in many words and phrases from the Walters manuscript, and though it was written twenty-five years later the words and phrases of the Cist and other late copies are of the period of the War of 1812. It is a psychological fact that as a man approaches old age his thoughts and the words he uses revert to the period of his youth and young manhood. It is therefore probable that as Mr. Key wrote this manuscript, the first copy since that of 1814, his thoughts turned back to the eventful day when he first jotted down the outline of his poem, and that in this manuscript he used the same words and phrases that he used on the morning that "The Star-Spangled Banner" yet waded.