

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted as the national anthem of the United States of America in 1931 by an act of Congress. Its creation was the result of a series of events that started in the middle of the night at the end of the summer in 1814, two years after the beginning of the War of 1812. America was at war with England. British soldiers, returning from the Battle of Bladenburg (near Baltimore) forcibly took Dr. William Beanes from his home. He was kept prisoner aboard a British warship. Legend relates that Dr. Beanes treated the ailing sailors, but was not allowed to return to his home. Francis Scott Key, a Baltimore lawyer and friend, located him and persuaded the Admiral to release him; however, they were not allowed to leave just then. The American Fort McHenry protected the entrance of the harbor leading to Baltimore, Maryland . . . and the British wanted to capture the city of Baltimore; the Fort must be captured! Early in the morning of September 13, 1814, the attack started, continuing throughout the day and night until the early hours of September 14. Dr. Beanes and Francis Scott Key watched the bombardment from the deck of the enemy ship. At dawn of September 14, when he saw the American flag, Francis Scott Key completed the poem he had been writing during the night. Upon being released, he showed it to his brother-in-law, who had it published in the newspaper. It was an immediate success!

Date +
 happened

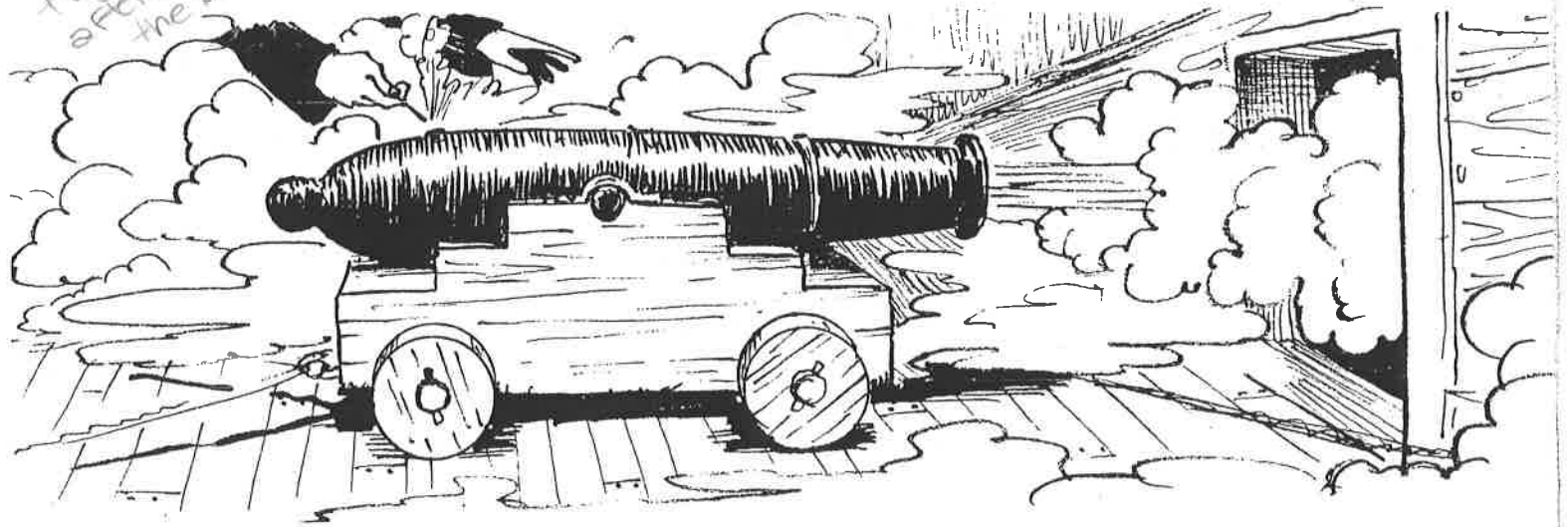
The war
of the
1812
He was
on a
ship

Francis
Scott Key
a lawyer
and
admiral

Saw the
American
flag Sept 14
after finished
the poem

The people
we were
at war
Helping sick
people He
wasn't allowed
to go home

Battle
of Baltimore



NOTABLE TRIVIA

The melody used for the poem was frequently heard in taverns of that day. It was a very popular British drinking song!