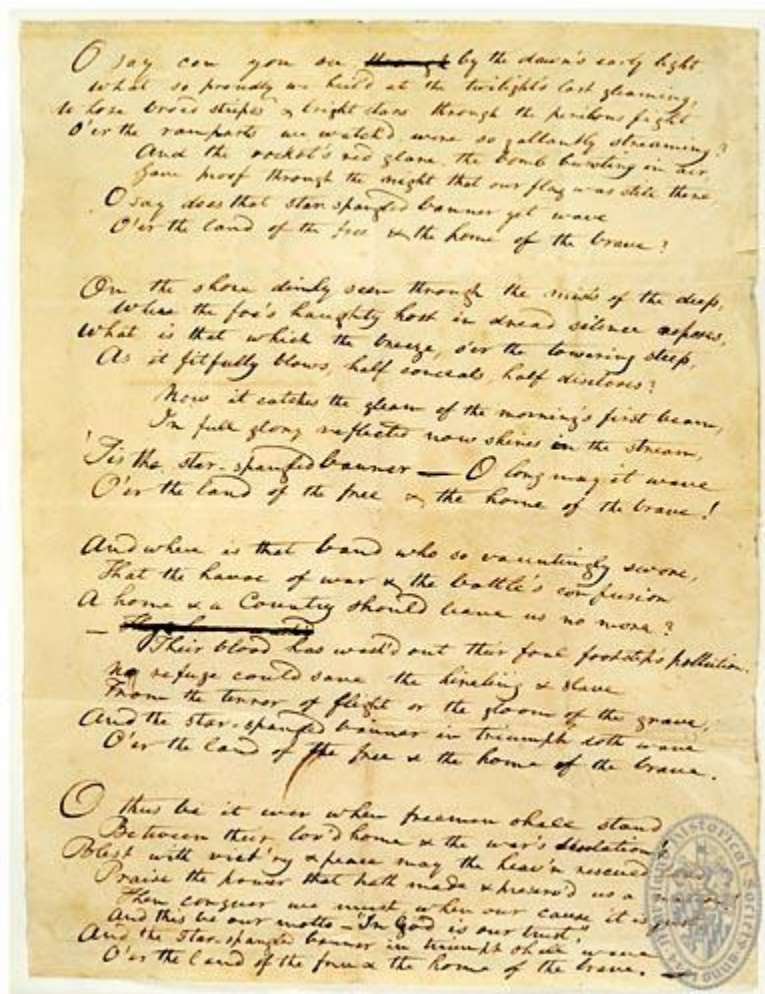


## DEFENCE OF FORT McHENRY

The Star-Spangled Banner, original handwritten manuscript by Francis Scott Key (1779 – 1843)



Source: Maryland Historical Society, <http://www.mdhs.org/digitalimage/star-spangled-banner-handwritten>

### Transcript

Tune—ANACREON IN HEAVEN

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 thro' 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?

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 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 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 of the free and the home of the brave.

O ! thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,  
Between their lov'd homes, and the war's desolation,  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land,  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserv'd 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.