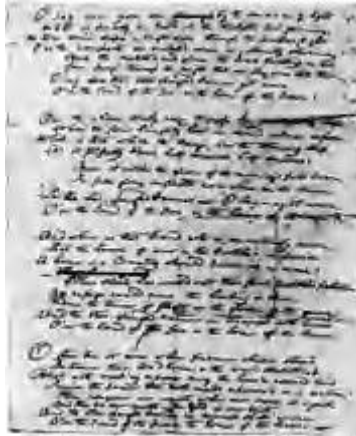


Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843.



Francis Scott Key
1779-1843



DEFENCE OF FORT MIFFLIN.

The stanza was composed under the following circumstances—A gentleman had left Baltimore, in a flag of truce for the purpose of getting released from the British fleet, a friend of his who had been captured at Mifflinburg.—He went as far as the mouth of the Patuxent, and was surrounded at night by the British ships in Baltimore Bay, he discovered the vessel which bore the flag to the mouth of the Patuxent, where the flag-boat was kept under the guns of a frigate, and he was compelled to witness the bombardment of Fort Mifflin, which the British had taken but he could carry for a few hours, and that the city would fall. He watched the flag as the Fort through the whole day until an anxiety that was to better his sleep, and he might prevent him from seeing it. In the night he watched the British fleet, and as early dawn his eye was again opened by the proudly waving flag of his country.

First Stanza in Quarto.

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd as the conqueror's prize,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the atmosphere
Did the world's eyes glare, and the hero's heart thrill,
And the soldier's heart glow, the brave heart of our
Stars and stripes, the flag that our flag we call ours?

O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave?

On the shores dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the lowly bark's sail is seen in the deep,
What is that which the waves, the waves are they,
And the sailor's heart thrill, and the hero's heart glow,
And the soldier's heart glow, the brave heart of our
Stars and stripes, the flag that our flag we call ours?

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave.

O! that the stars and stripes should wave,
And the sailor's heart thrill, and the hero's heart glow,
And the soldier's heart glow, the brave heart of our
Stars and stripes, the flag that our flag we call ours.

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave.

