



Francis Scott Key, a 35-year-old lawyer from Maryland, was eight miles away aboard a British naval ship negotiating the release of Dr. William Beane, a prominent physician who was taken prisoner. From that vantage point, Key witnessed the spectacular bombardment, and on the morning of 14 September, when the British ceased their attack, he saw that the American flag was still flying over Fort McHenry, inspiring him to pen his tribute. The song not only celebrated the victory at Baltimore, it marked a significant turning point in American cultural history: a renewal of American patriotism and the elevation of the American flag as the nation's most important cultural symbol.

Set to the tune, "Anacreon in Heaven," a popular English drinking song by John Stafford Smith (1740-1846), "The Star-Spangled Banner" took on a life of its own after the war, and served, together with several other popular songs as one of the nation's "unofficial" anthems throughout much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1931, Congress proclaimed "The Star-Spangled Banner," the official national anthem.

This issue of The Baltimore Patriot & Evening Advertiser is being sold by the American Antiquarian Society to benefit their collections acquisitions fund. This work is duplicative within their collection. Founded in 1812 by printer Isaiah Thomas in Worcester, Massachusetts, The American Antiquarian Society is one of the oldest learned societies in the United States. Its primary mission is to collect, preserve and make available material printed in what became the United States from the seventeenth century through 1876. In 2014, the Society was the recipient of the National Humanities Medal, "for safeguarding the American story. For more than two centuries, the Society has amassed an unparalleled collection of historic American documents, served as a research center for scholars and students alike, and connected generations of Americans to their cultural heritage."

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