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FRANCIS SCOTT KEY'S HOME IN GEORGETOWN Historic House Where Part of "The Star Spangled Banner" Was Written. A Fourth of July Sketch by Robert Donnell Jr. Copyright, 1908, by C. N. Lucie.

Of the shrines to which Americans go in patriotic reverence none is more sacred than the house which was the home of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner." For some years funds have been accumulating in the hands of officials of a memorial association the purpose of which is to restore the old "Key mansion" and preserve it to posterity as one of the nation's shrines. The old dwelling stands close to the Potomac river in Washington in that part of the national capital which was called Georgetown until its consolidation with the greater city.



THE OLD KEY MANSION, GEORGETOWN. he was a prisoner of war at the time has been popular far and wide. Both these impressions are erroneous. The wording of the poem itself proves that the latter part of it was written at least some months after the event which evoked the glorious national hymn. The enemy captured and carried away Dr. William Beers, a prominent citizen of the town of Marlboro, Md. Dr. Beers was held a prisoner on board one of the English vessels in Chesapeake bay.

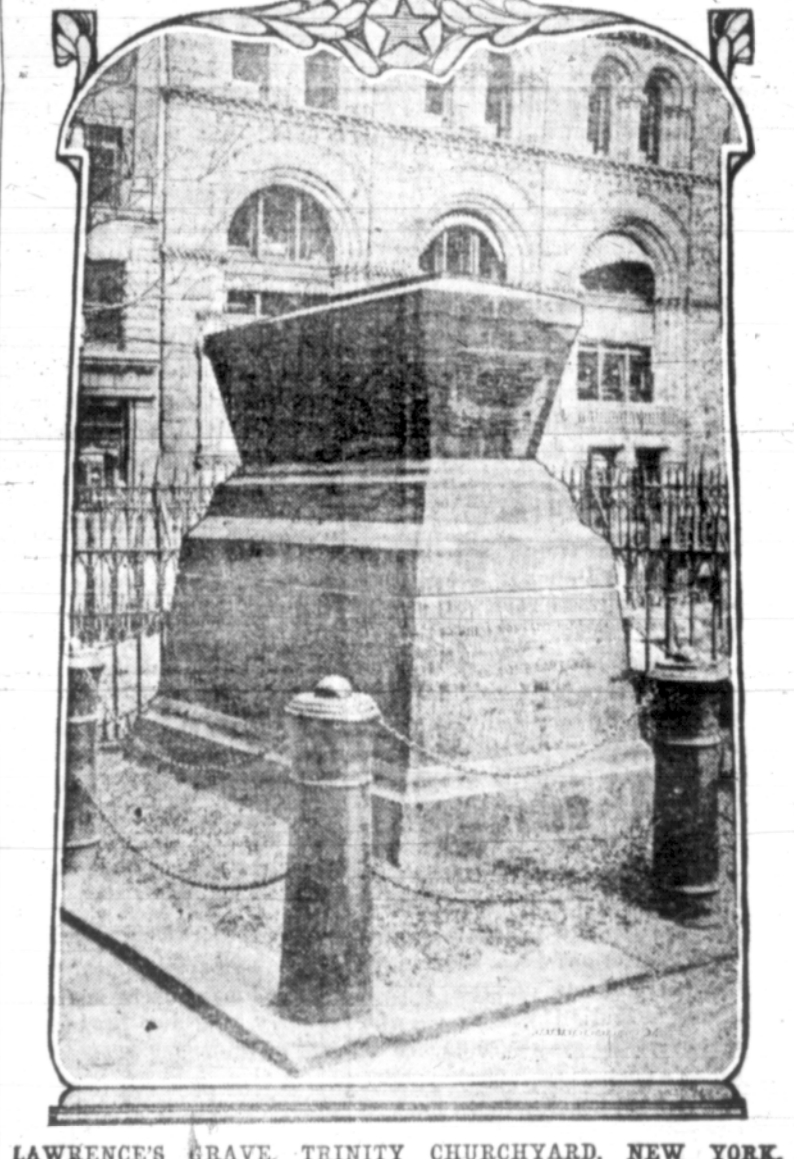
Near the end of August a citizen of Upper Marlboro, William Key and engaged the attorney to use his efforts for the release of Dr. Beers. Key was a young man of thirty-five, with a heretive practice and some little local reputation as a writer of verses. It was proposed that Key obtain the sanction of the American government to go out aboard the flagship of the British commander under a flag of truce and intercede for the imprisoned doctor. The lawyer obtained the necessary authority and started on his mission. He got aboard the ship at a critical time. The British were preparing to bombard Fort Mifflin. Key succeeded in securing the release of Dr. Beers, but both he and the doctor were held aboard one of the vessels until the bombardment was over lest they reveal the British plans. Key watched the bombardment from this highly interesting vantage point. And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that the flag was still there.

Then the poet's answer returned to the home which nearly a century later patriotic Americans propose to rescue from the low estate into which it has fallen with the advance of the Capital City. The little "Key mansion" has been used as an Italian fruit and nut vendor's stand, while the end walls of the residence itself have been profaned with large, lurid and ludicrous letters advertising cheap groceries and of children, whose descendants live in Washington and other cities. Francis Scott Key Smith, a grandson, is secretary of the Memorial association which is to restore the "mansion."



CHESAPEAKE AND SHANNON Robert Lawrence. Copyright, 1908 by Robertus Loe. DON'T give up the ship! Every American who has attended a public school or read the meager sketches of American history is aware that those heroic words were uttered by Captain James Lawrence, commander of the Chesapeake, as he was carried below to die after receiving a mortal wound in the engagement with the British frigate Shannon.

Renewed interest in the Chesapeake-Shannon fight was aroused not long ago when the captured battlement of the American frigate was pulled out of oblivion by the auctioneer's arm and sold to William Waldorf Astor, who presented the old flag to the British Royal United Service museum. Early in the year 1913 Master Commandant James Lawrence of the sloop Hornet, had engaged and sunk the sloop Peacock of the enemy. Lawrence was in his thirty-second year, with a record of sixteen years in the navy and only six weeks' leave of absence. He was brave and able and intensely patriotic. After his return from the Hornet victory he was promoted to a captaincy and was assigned to command the frigate Chesapeake, then lying in Boston harbor for repairs. Lawrence disliked this assignment and wrote several letters to the secretary of the navy protesting against it, for the Chesapeake was



LAWRENCE'S GRAVE, TRINITY CHURCHYARD, NEW YORK.

considered an unlucky craft as well as a disabled one. Captain Philip B. V. Brooke, a most gallant British officer, had commanded the Shannon for nearly seven years. Most of his officers and men had been aboard with him through the greater part of that period. He had brought his ship to a tip-top condition for effective service and had drilled his men and gunners so that they were as fine and fit as any men who ever trod deck timbers. On the other hand, Captain Lawrence scarcely knew one of his own seamen by sight. A number of them were foreigners, and others were American rifraff of humanity. Captain Brooke had been blockading Boston harbor with the Shannon and other vessels. In May, 1813, he determined to bring about a single ship combat with the Americans and prove to his country that British sailors still knew how to fight. The Shannon herself gave challenge to combat by standing in the offing across the bay when the sun rose bright and glorious on the morning of the 1st day of June. Bostonians witnessing Lawrence's hasty preparations hustled themselves into private boats to sail out and watch the sea fight. The Chesapeake set sail at noon and stood down the bay, followed at a cautious distance by the pleasure craft. Some of Lawrence's sailors celebrated the occasion of the sailing by getting drunk. Despite outlying on the part of a portion of his crew the hero