An Emancipation by the Author of the "Star Spangled Banner."

BY WILLIAM ARCH. McCLEAN.

From the Independent.

Immortal by a single song is the epitome that may be written of the life of Francis Scott Key. As a poet, the author of America's most distinctive national song, "The Star Spangled Banner," is and will be ever gratefully remembered, while as an attorney at law he is and will be more or less forgotten. His life work in the legal profession, in which he arose to eminence, is obscured by that song of our nation's flag, written on the spur of an inspiration in a few moments of a single day of that life.

Hidden in dusty records of the early part of the century mention is found of two interesting episodes of the life of Francis Scott Key that have never become public. It becomes necessary briefly to recall the main story of his life to note their connection with the same.

Francis Scott Key was born in Frederick county, Md., August 1st, 1779. He was a son of John Ross Key, an officer in the Army of the Revolution. He was sent to St. John's College, at Annapolis, the capital of his native State, to be educated. After he was through with school he remained at Annapolis, taking up the study of the law under Judge Jeremiah Townley Chase of that place. Having completed his legal studies he was admitted to the bar at Annapolis in 1801. The same year, returning to his native county, he comcommenced the practice of the law in Frederick City.

A local feature was attracting attention in that neighborhood at that time. Frederick county, Md., was joined at Mason and Dixon's line by York county, Penn. York county was of great extent. The inhabitants of the western end were compelled to travel fifty and sixty miles to reach the county seat. It had become necessary to divide York county and form a new county out of the western portion. Proceedings were begun in 1800 to effect the formation of a new county, which was named after the President in office—Adams—the same year it was created.

York, the county seat of York county, had been a prominent town, Congress having made it the seat of the National Government for a brief period during the Revolutionary War. Settlers had been numerous in that region, and the town was a place of much importance. As a consequence, it might be supposed that the new county taken from York county, would be a desirable section to locate in and grow up with. Gettysburg was a small hamlet in 1800; but the selection of it as the county seat of the new county gave it an impetus that made it soon the most populous town of the new county.

The first court held in the new county brought with it several lawyers traveling the circuit with the judge. By and by four lawyers came to Gettysburg to locate, to be resident there. The following is the record of the fifth lawyer to be admitted to the Bar of Adams county:

"August 25, 1802, Francis Scott Key, Esq., was admitted as an attorney and took the oath prescribed by law."

Monday, August 25th, 1802, was the first day of the regular August term of court.

A careful search of the records does not disclose whether Mr. Key took part in any business at the August court, 1802, or afterward. Whether he came to attend business, or as a visiting attorney in the wake of the court, prospecting as it were, or whether he contemplated removing from Frederick, where he had located but a few months before, to the new county to better himself, cannot be ascertained. The fact remains that he came to the new county and was admitted to its bar, probably his first admission to any bar after his admission at Annapolis. The new county could not have been an inviting field, for one or more of the resident lawyers that preceded him only remained a short time, passing on in search of greener pastures. He returned to Frederick, but soon left it, removing to Washington, D. C., bebecoming a distinguished lawyer there.

It was during the War of 1812, while a resident of Washington, he undertook ro procure the release of a friend who had been taken prisoner by the British Admiral, being carried aboard the fleet. Francis Scott Key reached the British fleet under a flag of truce. He was himself held as a prisoner until after the bombarding of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor, September 13th, 1814. That night the firing ceased. Mr. Key and his party walked the deck of the vessel upon which they were, straining their eyes to catch sight of the flag that floated over Fort McHenry, whether it would be the Star Spangled Banner or the Union Jack of England.

As they watched in the growing light of the morn they beheld the Star Spangled Banner. Mr. Key, overwhelmed with joy, gave vent to his feelings in writing down on the back of a letter parts of that stirring poem, completing it the same day on their return to Baltimore. It at once became a national air and its author famous.

Mr. Key became a personal and political friend of Andrew Jackson. On June 23rd, 1833, the latter appointed him United States District Attorney for the District of Columbia. He was reappointed in 1837 by President Jackson, and was given the position a third time by President Van Buren. He died January 11th, 1843, at the age of sixty-four.

It was almost thirty years after Francis Scott Key had shaken the dust of Gettysburg from his shoes that he returned to the place, a record of which is preserved by an act of his own hand and with it a singular fact.

Read over that glorious national song of liberty, with its ringing patriotism, its love of country, its fullness of freedom. The last stanza peals out

> "Oh, thus be it ever where freemen shall
> stand,"

and reverberating at the end with

> "And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph
> shall wave
> O'er the land of the free and the home of
> the brave."

Yet he who sang so triumphantly of liberty, of the land of the free, was a slaveowner.

Of course in those days to be a slaveowner was not considered wrong. Many owned slaves both in the North and South. The public's conscience had not yet become awakened on the subject os slavery. However, it seemed to shock the everlasting proprieties of things to discover that he who sang so stirringly of the Star Spangled Banner waving over the land of the free, should be the master of one in that land who was not a freeman.

That the author of the "Star Spangled Banner" was a kind and good master is made evident by the same writing that proves that he was a slave owner. On the third day of October, 1831he made the second recorded visit to Gettysburg. He came now on an errand of freedom to give a new meaning to his own glorious song. While in Gettysburg he executed the following instrument which was placed on record there. The witnesses are two attorneys-at-law, residing at Gettysburg then. now dead.

"Pennsylvania, Adams County, ss., Whereas I, Francis Scott Key of the District of Columbia, being the owner of a certain man of color called Clem Johnston, now in Gettysburg, in the State of Pennsylvania, and being desirous for divers good causes and considerations to emancipate the said Clem Johnston and having agreed with him to leave him in the State of Pennsylvania free to continue there or to go wherever he may please. Now therefore in consideration of Five Dollars to me in hand paid & for other good causes & considerations I do hereby manumit & set free the said Clem Johnston aged about 45 years forthwith & hereby release & discharge the said Clem Johnston from all service to me, my heirs, executors & administrators.

"Witness my hand and seal this Third day of October, A. D., one thousand eight hundred & thirty-one 1831.

"test. (signed) F. S. Key :seal:
"W. N. Irvin.
"W. McClellan.

"Pennsylvania, Adams Co., ss. Be it remembered that on the Third day of October 1831 before me one of the Justices of Peace in and for said county personally appeared Francis S. Key, who acknowledged the above instrument of writing to be his act & deed for the purpose therein contained to the intent that as such the same might be recorded according to law.

"Witness my hand & seal the day & date above written.

"Samp. S. King :Seal:
"J. P.

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All our Scotch Lawns, worth 8 cts., at 2½ cents.
All our high grade Dimities, Organdies, Crepes and Duchess Lawns, that have been selling at 18 and 20 cts., reduced to 11 cents.
All our 10 cent Dress Ginghams, reduced to 6¼ cents.
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Yard-wide Bleached Muslin, worth 8 cents, at 5 cents.
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Charles R. Woods,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Office with Clabaugh & Roberts, Court St., Westminster, Md.

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CONNECTING WITH

P. & R. R. at Shippensburg and Gettysburg Norfolk, & Western R. R. at Hagerstown; B & O. Railroad at Hagerstown and Cherry Run; Penna. R. R. at Bruceville, and P. W, & B., N. C. and B. & P. Railroads at Union Station, Baltimore, Md.

MAIN LINE AND CONNECTIONS
Taking effect Sunday, June 30th, 1895.

TRAINS WEST.

LEAVE.	1. A M. *	11. AM. †	15. AM. †	23. PM. †	29. P M †	53. AM. ‡	55 P M. ‡
New York Philadelphia							
Washington							
Baltimore	4.30	8.11	10.17	4.00	6.07	9.[illegible]	2 30
Arlington		8.36	10.40	4.23	6.36	9.52	2.54
Mt. Hope		8.39	10.43	4.27	6.40	9.57	2 57
Pikesville		8.46	10.50	4.34	6.48	10.05	3.04
Owings Mills		9.00	11.02	4.47	7.03	10.15	3.14
Glyndon	5.11	9.11	11.14	4.59	7.17	10.28	3.[illegible]7
Emory Grove		9.12	11.15		7.18	10.29	3.28
Finksburg		9.21	11.26	5.12	7.29	10.41	3.41
Carrollton		9.37	11.38	5.25	7.46	10.55	3 58
Westminster	5.40	9.53	11.53	5.42	8.05	11.12	4.17
Avondale		10.00	12.00	5.49	8.12	11.20	4.27
New Windsor	5.53	10.10	12.10	6.02	8.23	11.33	4.39
Linwood		10.16	12.16	6.07	8.29	11.40	4.45
Union Bridge	6.00	10.20	12.29	6.13	8.33	11.46	4.50
Middleburg		10.27	P M.	6.18	P M	AM.	P M.
Bruceville	6.07	10.29		6.23			
D. P. Creek		10.33		6.27			
Rocky Ridge		10.40		6.36			
Thurmont	6.25	10.53		6 47			
Edgemont	7.06	11.45		7 35			
Waynesboro	†7.28	12.02		7.53			
Chambersb'g	†8.05	12.39		8.32			
Shippensburg	†8.33	1.06		9 00			
Hagerstown	7.30	12.15		8.05			
Williamsport	AM.	PM.		PM.			

TRAINS EAST.

LEAVE	22, P M *	4. AM. †	8. AM. †	12. P M. †	18. P M. †	52. A M ‡	54. P M. ‡
Williamsport							
Hagerstown	4.15		7.02		2.00		
Shippensburg			6.00		1.09		
Chamb'rsburg			6.32		1.39		
Waynesboro			7.07		2.11		
Edgemont			7.36		2.35		
Thurmont	5.20		8.10		3.20		
Rocky Ridge			8.26		3.31		
D. P. Creek			8.33		3.38		
Bruceville	5.38	6.25	8.37		3.44	6.25	
Middleburg		6.28	8.39		3.46	6.29	
Union Bridge	5.45	6.37	8.45	12.45	3.56	6.37	3.[illegible]8
Linwood		6.41	8.49	12.49	4.02	6.43	4.[illegible]2
New Windsor	5.52	6.46	8.54	12.55	4.09	6 5	4.08
Avondale		6.56		1.05	4.23	7.0[illegible]	4.[illegible]
Westminster	6 07	7 02	9.11	1.12	4.34	7.14	4.28
Carrollton		7.16	9.25	1.28	4.49	7.33	4.44
Finksburg		7.25	9.35	1.40	5.01	7.48	4 58
Emory Grove		7.32		1.49	5.10	7.49	5.10
Glyndon	6.45	7.40	9.43	1.50	5.11	8.06	5.11
Owings Mills		7.52	9.52	2.00	5.24	8.20	5.25
Pikesville		8.03	10.00	2.10	5.36	8.32	5.38
Mt. Hope		8.11	10.05	2.16	5.43	8.4	5.46
Arlington		8.14	10.08	2.19	5.46	8.44	5.50
Baltimore	7.18	8.37	10.27	2.40	6.10	9.10	6.15
Washington							
Philadelphia New York	P M.	AM.	A M.	P M.	P M	AM	[illegible]

*Daily. †Daily, except Sunday. ‡Sunday.

EMMITSBURG R. R. (Daily except Sunday.)—Trains East will leave Emmitsburg at 7.10 and 10.00 A. M. and 2.50 and 5.50 P. M., arriving at Rocky Ridge, 7.40, and 10.30, A. M. and 3.20 and 6.20 P. M. Trains west will leave Rocky Ridge at 8.26, and 10.40 A. M. and 3.31 and 6.36 P. M., arriving Emmitsburg 8.55 and 11.10 A. M. and 4.00 and 7.06 P. M.

FREDERICK DIVISION PENNSYLVANIA R. R. (Daily except Sunday.)—Trains for Frederick leave Bruceville at 9.40 A. M. and 5.40 P. M. Trains for Taneytown, Littlestown and York leave Bruceville 7.44 A. M., and 3.45 P. M.

Through trains for Hanover and Gettysburg and points on Baltimore and Harrisburg Division leave Baltimore, daily, except Sunday, at 7.22 A. M. and 3.32 P. M. Through cars for Gettysburg and intermediate points leave Baltimore also daily except Sunday at 10.17 A. M.

ACCOMMODATION NO. 2.

Leave Union Bridge 5.22, Linwood 5.29, New Windsor 5.38, Avondale 5.57, Westminster 6.08, Carrollton 6.21, Finksburg 6.38, Glen Falls 6.40, Glyndon 6.51, Baltimore 7.46 A. M.

BLUE MOUNTAIN NO. 21.

Leave Baltimore 3.22, Westminster 4.27, New Windsor 4.40, Union Bridge 4.48, Bruceville 4.57, Hagerstown 6.17 P M.

BLUE MOUNTAIN NO. 6.

Leave Hagerstown 6.43, Bruceville 7.57, Union Bridge 8.04, New Windsor 8.11, Westminster 8.24, Glyndon 8.52, Baltimore 9.31 A. M.

J. M. HOOD, General Manager
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