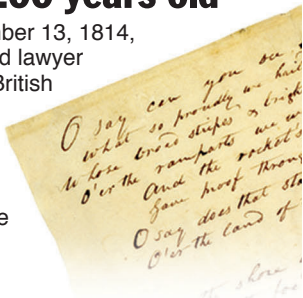


U.S. national anthem is 200 years old



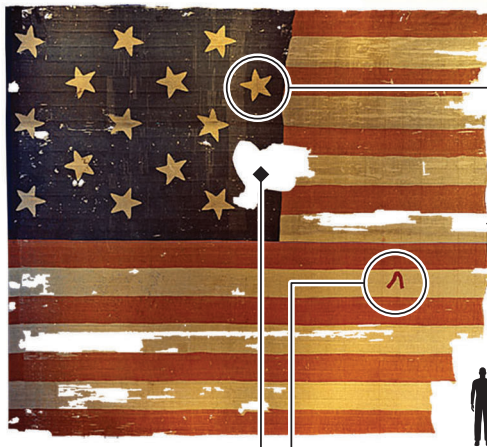
■ **LYRICS:** On night of September 13, 1814, **Francis Scott Key**, 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet, witnessed British naval bombardment of **Fort McHenry**, Baltimore, during Anglo-American War of 1812

Sight of American flag flying over fort on morning after battle inspired Key to write poem, **The Star-Spangled Banner**



■ FLAG:

In summer of 1813, Maryland flagmaker **Mary Pickersgill** (below) was asked to sew vast garrison flag measuring 30x42ft (9x12.8m), at cost of \$405.90 – around \$5,500 today



Stars made of cotton, stripes made of English wool bunting



Person to scale



15 stars represent 13 original colonies and next two states to join union – Kentucky and Vermont. One star later cut out

"A" reportedly sewn by **Louisa Armistead**, widow of commander of Fort McHenry

Several pieces cut out as patriotic keepsakes, contributing to loss of over 8ft (2.5m) of flag



■ **MELODY:** Key's poem was set to tune of **To Anacreon in Heaven** – popular British drinking song written by composer **John Stafford Smith** (left)

Star-Spangled-Banner, as song was renamed, was soon wildly popular but was not officially adopted as U.S. anthem until 1931

Singer **Beyoncé** performing national anthem at **President Obama's** inauguration in 2013

