

## New Hampshire Supplement

SK David S. Collins  
REGC  
david.collins@tds.net  
(603) 344-5146



SK Patrick J. O'Sullivan,  
VEDGC & Editor  
patosully\_1@yahoo.com  
(603) 487-1644

In order to keep you better informed of the happenings in the jurisdiction, I will dedicate a portion of this column to upcoming events. Below are our events for July and beyond:

- Every other Tuesday(s) July, Grand York Rite bodies educational series, at 7:00pm online (details provided weekly)

### On Banners...

In military and chivalric history banners, Beauseants, flags have all played an important role. Some are or were used for moral, to indicate one's allegiance, or even as means of communication from higher echelons to those of field units. If you have seen any movie such as *Braveheart* or *Glory*, you have seen how these are deployed and used in such battles. This was true even for knights such as the Templars, who would have used such signaling devices.

Today, while we no longer use these methods of communication, as those have been replaced by modern technology that can provide information globally, they are no less important. So why am I using all this space in here to explain this? Well, honestly, it is because we are at the time when we celebrate our Independence this Fourth of July. That got me to thinking about the role our Flag plays in today's society and how it came to be. Of particular interest to me was not Old Glory itself, but rather that old tune of which we are all familiar with, *The Star Spangled Banner*.

First composed in in 1814 by Frances Scott Key, a litigator from the colonies, it evokes such imagery that one cannot be, but moved by the lyrics. The history leading up to its beginnings was quite fascinating. While most know it was written during the battle of Fort McHenry located in Baltimore harbor, you may not be fully aware of how and why a lawyer would be watching such a scene.

According to the Smithsonian, Key just days prior had boarded a British naval vessel in hopes of convincing the Royal Navy to release a friend of his who was in their custody. He was able to win them over and even became aware of the British plans to attack the fort, but they would only allow him to return to his own ship that was not allowed to leave their control.

On the morning of 13 September, Keys watched helplessly while the British pummeled the fort. His quote of the scene was quite alarming to read, he said," It seemed as though mother earth had opened and was vomiting shot and shell in a sheet of fire and brimstone." As we all know now, the Fort and more especially the American revolutionaries were able to maintain control and one of the first things Key witnessed in the haze was the American Flag flying proudly in face of the British onslaught. As a matter of fact, that flag is still in existence and in the care of the Smithsonian.

That scene is one of the pivotal points in American history and one which we continue to honor every time we sing that familiar tune. May you be well, may you be healthy, and may freedom continue to ring true.



York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhyorkrite.org/calendars/>

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SK Patrick J. O'Sullivan, DGC – Editor