

1     *A hundred years from now* (excerpt)

2.     *The Sun*, September 8, 1914, Baltimore, Maryland

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4     The Baltimore of a hundred years ago and the world of a  
5     hundred years ago differed less probably from the Baltimore  
6     of today and the world of today than the city and earth of  
7     2014 will differ from the city and earth of 1914. If Key and  
8     the defenders of Fort McHenry could come back to the  
9     celebration this week the things that would amaze them the  
10    most are the things which have become everyday matters of  
11    course with us. But if the crowds that fill our streets this  
12    week could return to the next Star-Spangled Banner  
13    Centennial, their amazement probably would be even greater  
14    than would be that of the Old Defenders today. Physical health  
15    and strength may by that time have become the general rule  
16    and disease the rare exception, through the researches and  
17    discoveries of medical science and the human bodily standard  
18    have become more nearly perfect than ever before. If the  
19    world advances as it should in the next hundred years, such a  
20    war as that of 1914 will be impossible in 2014. And the poverty that  
21    now holds the great masses of mankind in thrall from the cradle to the  
22    grave will have disappeared in a world in which the human race  
23    will have become more nearly equal in merit and in opportunity.  
24    We have a right to be very happy and thankful when we remember the  
25    real meaning of this celebration, the real message which it conveys to  
26    us and all other nations. Let our hope and prayer be that a hundred  
27    years from now, whatever other changes time may have brought, the  
28    people of 2014 may still see the same banner waving over them that  
29    waves over us, and still symbolizing the principles of justice,  
30    brotherhood and equality of opportunity.

Francis Scott Key is the lawyer who wrote the poem that would become *The Star Spangled Banner*, our national anthem.

Old Defenders - On April 1, 1842, the surviving registered members formally organized the "Association of Old Defenders of Baltimore in 1814" for the purpose of keeping alive the memory of those who fought in the defense of Baltimore in September 1814. They agreed to meet annually until such time when the last five members were no longer able to attend.

thrall – having great power over someone

### Questions:

1. What year was this article written? In what line did you find your answer?
2. In lines 4 through 7, does the author think when people in 2014 look back through the years that the greatest changes will have occurred in the world between 1814 and 1914 or between 1914 and 2014?
3. In lines 7 through 11 the author states “ If Key and the defenders of Fort McHenry could come back to the celebration this week the things that would amaze them the most are the things which have become everyday matters of course with us.” Can you think of things that we use every day, which might be considered amazing to a person from 1914?
4. In 2014 does the author think that humans will be healthy? How do you know? In what lines did you find your answer?
5. In lines 21- 22 what does the phrase “from the cradle to the grave” mean?
6. In lines 22-23 the author states that in 2014 “the human race will have become more nearly equal in merit and in opportunity”. Do you think that this has come true? Why or why not?
7. In line 28, what banner is the author specifically referring to in the sentence? How do you know?

### Extension Opportunities:

1. The author states “Physical health and strength may by that time have become the general rule and disease the rare exception, through the researches and discoveries of medical science and the human bodily standard have become more nearly perfect than ever before.” What major breakthroughs have we had in medicine since 1914?
2. In lines 18-20 what war is the author referring to in the sentence? The author thinks there will never be as war as bad as the one mentioned in 1914. What major wars took place between 1914 and 2014?
3. The author states; “And the poverty that now holds the great masses of mankind in thrall from the cradle to the grave will have disappeared in a world in which the human race will have become more nearly equal in merit and in opportunity.” Has poverty disappeared in the United States? Was the author correct? Does everybody now in 2014 have equal opportunity to succeed? Research poverty rates across the United States to help form your answer.
4. At the end of the article the author hopes that in 2014 we still honor the flag as an important symbol in the United States. Then research American flag etiquette to see how we are supposed to treat our flag.

## Background Information on the War of 1812 in Baltimore

The British brought the War of 1812 to the Chesapeake region in 1813 and 1814. The Campaign of 1814 was a significant period because the British occupied our nation's capital (they burned the White House) after the American defeat at the Battle of Bladensburg. The events of the campaign are significant to American history because of their pivotal effect on the outcome of the War of 1812 and their effect on far-reaching aspects of American society, including the nation's identity.

As events unfolded in Bladensburg and Washington, Baltimore's citizens, including free blacks, worked feverishly to establish defenses in Baltimore. More than a mile of earthworks stretched north from the harbor to protect the approach from the bay. These earthworks were to protect Baltimore from a land attack on the east - where the British did ultimately land at North Point and approached the city from that direction. The forts, sunken hulls, chain of floating masts and gun barges protected the city from water approaches. Fort McHenry, the star-shaped fort that protected the water approach to Baltimore, was seen as the cornerstone of the American defense.

On September 12, Americans observed in terror as the British fleet approached Baltimore at North Point near the mouth of the Patapsco River. About 4,500 British troops landed and began their 11-mile march to Baltimore. As the troops marched, the British warships moved up the Patapsco River toward Fort McHenry and the other defenses around the harbor. The ships opened a 25- hour bombardment of the fort, but failed to force its commander, Major George Armistead, and the other defenders to surrender. As the British fleet withdrew down the Patapsco, the garrison flag, now known as the Star- Spangled Banner, was raised over Fort McHenry, replacing the smaller storm flag that flew during the bombardment.

On land, British Major General Robert Ross was mortally wounded in a skirmish prior to the Battle of North Point. The British troops reached Baltimore's impressive defensive earthworks, manned by 15,000 Americans. Hearing of the failure to take Fort McHenry, the British prudently decided to withdraw. With this defensive victory for the Americans, the Chesapeake Campaign essentially ended.

Beanes, Key, and Skinner had witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry from onboard the truce vessel. Key was so moved by the scene of the battle that he composed a song that eventually became the National Anthem. Key chose the tune, "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith, because it was a popular American and British melody and he had previously adapted it to other lyrics.

Key, Beanes, and the other Americans were released as the British retreated, and that night Key worked on his song. Handbills were quickly printed and copies distributed to every man who was at Fort McHenry during the bombardment. Key's song was first printed on September 20, 1814, in the Baltimore *Patriot and Advertiser* under the title "Denfence of Fort M'Henry." By the end of the year, Key's words were printed across the country as a reminder of the American victory. In 1931, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation that made "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official National Anthem.

From the *Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement*,  
National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Northeast Region, March 2004.

#### A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW.

The Baltimore of a hundred years ago and the world of a hundred years ago differed less probably from the Baltimore of today and the world of today than the city and earth of 2014 will differ from the city and earth of 1914. Material civilization and science have made rapid strides in the last century, and if Key and the defenders of Fort McHenry could come back to the celebration this week the things that would amaze them most are the things which have become everyday matters of course with us. But if the crowds that fill our streets this week could return to the next Star-Spangled Banner Centennial, their amazement probably would be even greater than would be that of the Old Defenders today. Science, invention, human intellect and ingenuity have achieved such wonders in the last few years that the ordinary imagination can descry few new worlds for them to conquer; but the things which progress has in store for us may surpass even in a material way all that has hitherto been accomplished, and make them look crude and primitive. It is likely, however, that the most signal advance which the world will make in the next century will be moral and intellectual in its character—the

application to our so-called civilization of some of the principles of government and social regulation that are now regarded as doubtful theories. Physical health and strength may by that time have become the general rule and disease the rare exception, through the researches and discoveries of medical science, and the human bodily standard have become more nearly perfect than ever before. National and municipal administration may also represent the application of purely scientific and sociological principles to public affairs. The man who can come back to Baltimore in 2014 will, in a word, be struck not so much by the marvels of material advancement as by the change in the human standpoint with regard to community questions and with regard to community methods. If the world advances as it should in the next hundred years, such a war as that of 1914 will be impossible in 2014. And the poverty that now holds the great masses of mankind in thrall from the cradle to the grave will have disappeared in a civilization in which the human race will have become more nearly equal in merit and in opportunity.

Dreams, idle dreams, perhaps. But mankind cannot stand still. It must go backward, if it does not go forward, and, in spite of occasional relapses into barbarism, such as we see

now in Europe, it has been steadily going forward for hundreds of years. The last stage of progress has been the triumph of the material side of civilization. But along with it has gone an awakening of conscience, the beginning of a world-wide moral and intellectual development. The last has been the age of science; the next may be the century of applied ethics, and the enthronement in government and society of the principles which we preach in the press and the pulpit and forget in everyday practice.

One thing we may prophesy with confidence: unless the world not only looks backward but turns backward, Baltimore will take far more pride in celebrating the two hundredth centennial of the Star-Spangled Banner than Europe will in celebrating the war of 1914. The defense of Baltimore in 1814 represents one of the few causes for which men have the right to shed human blood; and the flag which Key glorified represents the only principle by which the masses may be saved from oppression and raised to the full stature of manhood.

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and thankful when we remember the real meaning of this celebration, the real message which it conveys to us and all other nations, and when we contrast the difference between Europe bathed in blood and tears and our own land radiant with peace and plenty. Let our hope and prayer be that a hundred years from now, whatever other changes time may have wrought, the people of 2014 may still see the same banner waving over them that waves over us, and still symbolizing the principles of justice, brotherhood and equality of opportunity.

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