

Freemen



Stand

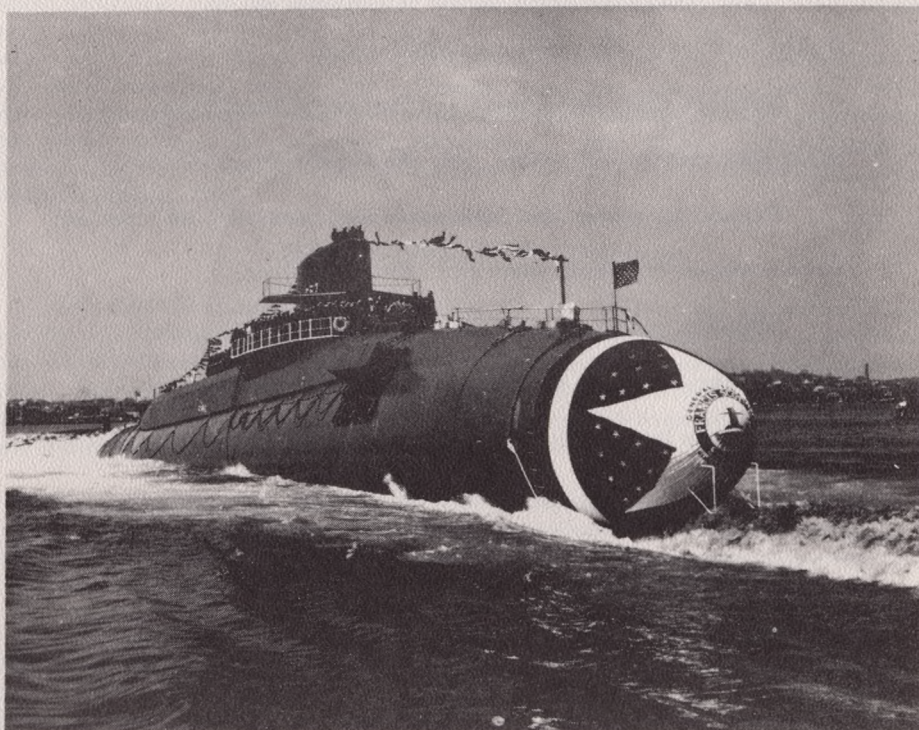
ARTHUR T. BRICE, EDITOR

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USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, launched at
Groton, Connecticut 11:00 AM
April 23, 1966.



O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand

Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation;

Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land

Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

And this be our motto: "In God is our trust!"

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

THE PAST IS PROLOGUE

The launching of the atomic submarine, the USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY named for our illustrious forebear, provided an occasion for the first general assembly of this Society since its formation at Annapolis, Maryland, in 1959. The events and formalities of April 22 and 23, 1966, at Groton and New London, Connecticut, celebrating the christening and launching undoubtedly strengthened the integrity of the Society as a unit.

Our hosts for these events were the Electric Boat Company Division of General Dynamics Corporation builders of the ship for the U.S. Navy. They had extended invitations to all members of the Society whose addresses were known for the christening and launching as well as a luncheon reception afterwards. In addition, they gave a formal dinner the night before the christening in honor of the two sponsors, Marjory Key Thorne and Edith Claude Jarvis. This affair was attended by high officials of the Electric Boat Company, a number of selected Naval Officers, and the Matrons of Honor of the Sponsors, Mrs. C. T. Lyon and Mrs. Milton E. Miles. On this occasion, Mrs. Jarvis contributed to the sense of solidarity of the Society of Descendants in all minds by presenting State of Maryland New York World's Fair Francis Scott Key gold medallions to wives of Boat Company officials who were most active in making local arrangements for the social events of the occasion, Mesdames J. Wm. Jones, Allan Dunning, and Robert Chappel, as well as to the skipper of the Blue Crew of the Ship, Captain Frank Graham, USN.

CHRISTENING AND LAUNCHING

The extent to which our ancestor still lives through his influence on our modern United States community and society was demonstrated by the crowds who attended the event. There were overalls and hair curlers from the workshops where the ship had been built. There was Brass from Wall Street, Groton, New London, and Washington, D.C., where she had been planned. They must now equip her for a commission by the U.S. Navy.

The ceremony was attended by a large Naval contingent, including the personnel of the two -- Blue and Gold -- crews selected to man the vessel, officials of the Electric Boat Company, a detachment of Sea Scouts and more than 3,000 citizens, including those members of our Society present.

The route through the shipyard to the ways was through a double line of our National Flags held by blue-jackets and past an honor guard of Sea Scouts. Red, white and blue bunting decorated the bow of the Ship and the launching stand. Combined with perfect weather, and the Navy Special Show Band which played during the assembly prior to the launching, these local arrangements provided a gala and auspicious setting for the historic event.

The ceremony was opened by an inspiring rendition of the National Anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner", followed by a stirring address by the Hon. David G. Bress who now holds the position once held by our ancestor, Francis Scott Key, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. He gave an account of the

Defense of Fort McHenry, Grandfather Key's trip to the British Fleet, the bombardment and the writing of the Anthem, to which even the most meticulous of historians could find no exception.

At exactly eleven o'clock on 23rd of April, 1966, the Sponsors, our Recording Secretary Edith Claude Jarvis and Cousin Marjory Key Thorne, each broke a bottle of champagne on the bow, and the newest nuclear submarine USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY slid down the ways in the bright sunlight amid the waving flags, accompanied by the cheers of spectators and the spirited music of the Navy Band.

RECEPTION

The importance of the occasion, the number of distinguished guests involved, and the wishes of the Acting Regents of the Society of Descendants to hold a short family gathering called for the use of two rooms of the Mohican Hotel in New London, Connecticut, across the river from the shipyards. In one, our Sponsors of the christening were introduced to distinguished guests, officers of the Navy and officials of the Boat Companies, before joining members of the family in the other.

On arrival in the Hotel after the launching, we were greeted by signs which read "FRANCIS SCOTT KEY descendants proceed to the Florentine Room", an arrow, and a corps of ushers. At the door of the banquet room, we were greeted by a secretary who gave us name tags and a staff of waitresses serving champagne. A bar was set up at one end of the room with an elaborate buffet adjacent. The remainder of the room was set with small tables.

No count or roster of names was kept. An estimate of more than sixty in attendance was based on counting thirty-two acceptances of invitations as two apiece. There were, however, also parties of 3, 4, and 5, including children, so that the attendance may well have been more than seventy.

With delicious food, waitresses insistant on keeping champagne glasses filled, and circulation between the tables, one might have thought we were attending a wedding reception.

THE GATHERING OF THE CLAN

It was hard to break up the party and establish a semblance of order at one end of the room. The business meeting was a short one. Our Christening Sponsor Marjory Key Thorne, Line XI, was presented with a framed photograph of her Aunt Mary McBlair, Line XI, deceased.

Our Christening Sponsor and Recording Secretary Edith Claude Jarvis, Line II, made the following report.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

On October 18, 1963, a meeting of four of the Acting Regents of the SOCIETY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. Jarvis in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Those present were Col. Arthur Brice, Chairman, Col. Wilfrid Blunt, Treasurer, General Richard W. Cutts, and Mrs. Edith Claude Jarvis, Recording Secretary.

A discussion concerning the drafting of a Resolution to be presented to Governor Tawes of Maryland took place. The Resolution concerned the presentation of a documentary film on the Bombardment of Ft. McHenry and the writing of the National Anthem for use at the New York World's Fair. The Resolution was adopted and later signed by about 22 of the Maryland descendants of Francis Scott Key. It was presented to the Governor by Mrs. Jarvis with the result that a documentary film was shown at the New York World's Fair in 1964.

On March 11, 1965, your Secretary attended a Bill-signing Ceremony at the State House in Annapolis. It was a House Joint Resolution #14 endorsing the name of Francis Scott Key for consideration to the Hall of Fame of Great Americans. Nearly every State in the Nation took similar action, as a result of D.A.R. efforts. However, Key's name was not among the 4 who were selected for the Hall of Fame.

In the Summer of 1965, all of the Key family records, which had been carefully collected, indexed, and filed by Col. Arthur Brice, Chairman of the Acting Board of Regents, were shipped to the East from California. They are now in the temporary custody of the Recording Secretary, Mrs. William T. Jarvis, Chevy Chase, Md., until such time as a permanent place may be found for them.

Respectfully submitted,
(signed) EDITH CLAUDE JARVIS
Recording Secretary

April 23, 1966

The Recording Secretary's report was acceted by unanimous vote of the meeting.

Treasurer, Col. Wilfrid M. Blunt, Line IX, reported on receipts and expenditures by year from organization of the Society to December 31, 1965. During that period, a total of \$540.00 was received from contributions and \$439.37 expended for office expense, secretarial help, stationery, printing, postage, etc., leaving a balance of \$100.63 on deposit with Suburban Trust Company of Maryland. His report was accepted by unanimous vote of the meeting.

Your Acting Chairman made an appeal for contributions to meet similar expense in connection with St. John's College Genealogical Records Project. To date \$325.00 has been received by the Treasurer in response to this appeal.

On nomination and seconding from the floor, Mrs. C. T. (Cousin Clarissa) Lyon, Line XI, having accepted, was appointed Acting Regent in place of Edward Lloyd, Line I, deceased.

The Chairman suggested that the next meeting might be held in connection with the dedication of the new buildings of the Maryland Historical Society where the original manuscript of the Anthem is kept. No date for the dedication had as yet been set. He urged all members in the interim to think over the problems of giving permanence and continuity to the Society by adoption of a formal constitution and to decide whether appointment of Regents should be for specified terms of office or for life.

On motion by General Dick Cutts, USMC, Ret'd., Line V, the Chairman was given a rising vote of confidence and the meeting adjourned.

EPILOGUE

"Everything that looks to the future elevates human nature."

Through the years since 1959, by correspondence and in conference, the Acting Regents have discussed many different plans and projects for the Society of Descendants. Primarily, the question has been how we can give it permanence and perpetuity after a small dedicated group of founders who assembled at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1959 pass on. A set of accurate genealogical records is of the greatest importance. A complete genealogical file on the family as a whole should carry the Society on through the ages for as long as the Star Spangled Banner remains the National Anthem.

St. John's College reports that less than half of the living descendants of known addresses have submitted genealogic records, and experience has shown that the cards originally sent out were not entirely satisfactory. An improved genealogic record card is being prepared for distribution. It is hoped that they will be executed and submitted without delay.

Our Line III was believed to be extinct for several generations, but we now have nine names and six addresses of living members in it -- descendants of Francis Scott Key, Jr. (1806 - 1866) and Elizabeth Lloyd Harwood (1807 - 1902).

We have no names or addresses of any living descendants in Line IV - descendants of John Ross Key, II (1809 - 1837) and Virginia Ringgold (? - 1901). Information on any living descendants in this line will be appreciated.

No replies were received to many invitations to the christening and launching of the USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, resulting, no doubt, from faulty mailing lists, unknown addresses, address changes -- or possibly even name changes not reported. Our Secretary is now keeping the record of all correspondence and current archives of the Society at her home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, until such time as a permanent place may be found for them. It is urgently requested that all members notify her of any changes of name or address.

The Maryland Historical Society will sponsor a meeting of our Society on the occasion of the dedication of its new building in Baltimore, expected to take place in the Spring of 1967. At that time, the Acting Regents would like to present to the Maryland Society a set of colors to be a memorial to the founding of the Key Family Society of Descendants. Estimates have been obtained of cost of a suitable

set of nylon flags with fringes, staffs with brass eagle on one and cross on the other, stands, etc., for \$113.00. The Treasurer will acknowledge any contributions to this approved project that may be received by any member of the Acting Board of Regents. Checks should be made payable to the "Society of Descendants of Francis Scott Key."



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656 Austin Avenue
Sonoma, California 95476
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Bethesda, Maryland 20014
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