

Historic Mount Olivet Cemetery Key Gravesite and Monument



Author of The Star-Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key

The Life of FSK

The final resting place of Francis Scott Key, the man who penned "The Star-Spangled Banner," is located within walking distance of historic Downtown Frederick in Mount Olivet Cemetery. Just within the front gates, stands an impressive monument dedicated on August 9th, 1898 to pay lasting tribute to the Frederick native who authored our national anthem.



Francis Scott Key was born in Frederick County on August 1st, 1779 at his family's plantation estate of Terra Rubra. Today this area is now part of Carroll County, Maryland. The son of a Revolutionary War lieutenant, Key studied

law in the state capital of Annapolis. He would come back home to Frederick to begin his legal practice in 1801. Francis Scott Key's sister Anne married Roger Brooke Taney, another Frederick attorney, and later, the fifth Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The Star-Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key wed Mary Tayloe Lloyd of Annapolis. The couple had a large family consisting of 11 children (6 sons/5 daughters). Key would eventually relocate the family to Georgetown in an effort to conduct his law career in the nation's capital in association with his uncle, Philip Barton Key.

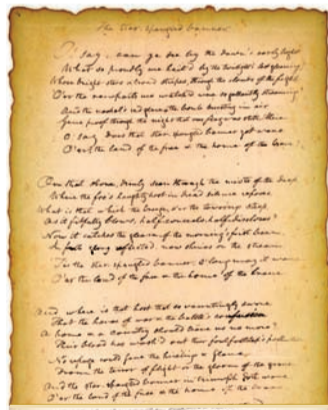
Throughout his lifetime, Francis Scott Key was a dutiful Christian and once considered entering the ministry. Instead, he decided to use his talent as a strong writer, effective speaker and quick, logical thinker in the courts of law. From 1833-1841, Key would serve as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Francis Scott Key died in Baltimore (MD) on January 11th, 1843 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Howard.

O Long May it Wave...

An amateur poet, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write his thoughts on the back of a letter. This impromptu scribbling would become a masterful work of prose, originally titled "The Defence of Fort McHenry." Days later, Key's ode to the national flag would appear in local newspapers. Within weeks, it would be reprinted in publications across the land.

Words were put to music and the song was adopted as the American national anthem, first by an executive order from Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and then by a Congressional resolution in 1931, signed by President Herbert Hoover.



The National Anthem

During the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key was summoned to gain the release of a friend, Dr. William Beanes, captured by invading British forces in late August, 1814. Together with Col. John Skinner, an American agent for prisoner exchange, Key set sail for Baltimore under a flag of truce approved by President Madison. At first the British refused to give up the physician from Upper Marlboro, but eventually relented. However, the three would be detained aboard a British sloop during the naval bombardment of Fort McHenry in the Baltimore Harbor.

The battle commenced in the early morning of September 13th and lasted for 25 hours, all the while with Key, Skinner and Beanes witnessing from their unique vantage point. When daylight came, the three men were astonished to see the 15-star American flag still flying atop Fort McHenry.

Cemetery Beautiful

Historic Mount Olivet Cemetery is considered one of the most beautiful and distinguished burial grounds in the country. Here in peaceful bliss, distinguished patriots of American conflicts rest in the company of thousands of other former residents and community leaders whose memory we cherish.



The Charter of Mount Olivet Cemetery was recorded among the Land Records of Frederick County on October 4th, 1852. The first interment, that of Mrs. Ann Crawford, was on May 28, 1854. Today in excess of 39,000 graves are occupied, rivaling the living population of our state capital of Annapolis. Eight miles of paved roadway criss-cross the spacious cemetery grounds, allowing for recreational usage by walkers, runners and cyclists acting in a reverent and respectable manner. In addition, the cemetery proudly welcomes history and art lovers, family genealogists, photographers, and "tombstone tourists" of all ages.

Mount Olivet Cemetery
515 South Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701
(301) 662-1164 • (888) 662-1164
www.mountolivetcemeteryinc.com

Brochure compliments of the Francis Scott Key Memorial Foundation

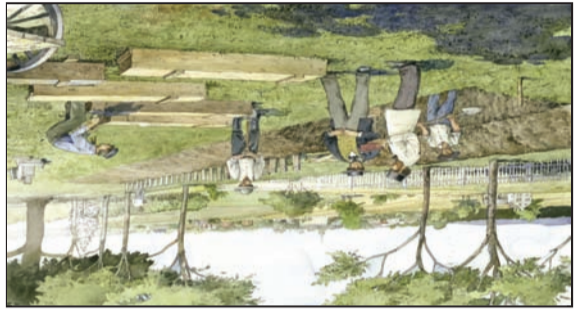


For info about other great things to do in Frederick County: www.visitfrederick.org



In 1880, a statue was erected to honor the Confederates buried here. This followed the work perpetuated by the Ladies Monumental Association of Frederick County in re-interring our local veterans, who lived through the epic conflict, would choose Mount Olivet as their final resting place.

The cemetery also contains a mass grave containing 408 unknown Confederate soldiers who died in the nearby Battle of Monocacy on July 9th, 1864. Additional nameless bodies were re-interred here following the war after being moved from hastily dug graves located within the proximity of the Sharpsburg and South Mountain battle grounds. Since Confederates could not be buried within Antietam National Cemetery, the remains of hundreds were placed in Mount Olivet. Meanwhile, many Union soldiers (originally buried here) were exhumed and removed to Antietam.



Frederick County was central to the military campaigns of 1862, 1863 and 1864. Frederick City was a major hospital center for soldiers of both armies. Unlike the Union men who died here from injuries or disease, many Southern families lacked the financial or transportation means to bring loved ones home. Mount Olivet Cemetery's "Confederate Row" contains 311 of these soldiers, laying side by side.

The Monument

Following his death in 1843, Francis Scott Key reposed in St. Paul's Cemetery in Baltimore within the Howard family crypt. After the Civil War, a contingent of leading Frederick residents lobbied Key's children to re-inter the author in their "new" rural cemetery in his beloved, native home. They obliged, and Francis Scott Key's remains were brought to Mount Olivet in 1866.



Local citizens formed the Francis Scott Key Monument Association, organized to plan for an appropriate memorial for the author of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Fundraising efforts totaled \$30,000, most of which was contributed by school children and others from around the country. The monument was dedicated on August 9th, 1898 amidst a flurry of local, state and national fanfare and newspaper coverage.

The bronze statue of Francis Scott Key is significant as an outstanding example of the work of sculptor Pompeo Coppini (1870-1957). Coppini, a young Italian immigrant, was in the employ of Alexander Doyle, a noted New York designer of the 19th century. He worked diligently on the statue, and during the process fell in love with (and later married) his sitting model for Columbia depicted at the statue's base.



A resolution by Congress is responsible for the flag being flown continuously over the Francis Scott Key Memorial and gravesite since May 30th, 1949.

Within a few hundred yards of Francis Scott Key's final resting place is Harry Grove Stadium, home to the local minor league baseball team—the Frederick Keys.

Mount Olivet

"The Cemetery Beautiful"



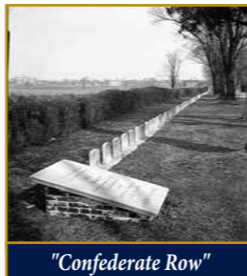
The Mausoleums of Mount Olivet

Mount Olivet's Mausoleum and Chapel Complex is the largest in Western Maryland. Three beautiful buildings offer alternative burial options ranging from crypts to cremation niches. The cemetery's administrative and sales office is also located here, and welcomes visiting tourists and genealogists.

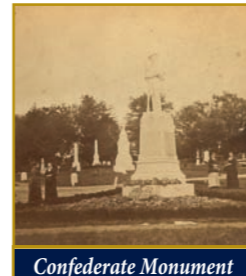
(Mausoleums: Daily 8:30am-5pm)
(Office: M-F 8:30am-5pm; Sat. 8:30-12noon)

Ties to the American Civil War

Frederick County and her residents certainly experienced the Civil War up close, and personal. While many local men chose to go off to battle, the war, itself, would come to this area and have a major effect on the everyday lives of the inhabitants. Many of those buried within Mount Olivet today, cared for the dead and wounded brought from Antietam, Gettysburg and Monocacy.



"Confederate Row"



Confederate Monument



World War II Memorial

WW II Memorial

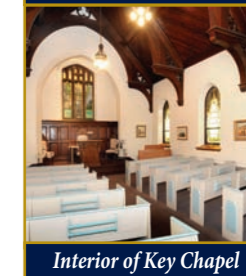
Dedicated to those who served during World War II, this monument was unveiled before a crowd of thousands on Memorial Day, 1948.

Key Memorial Chapel

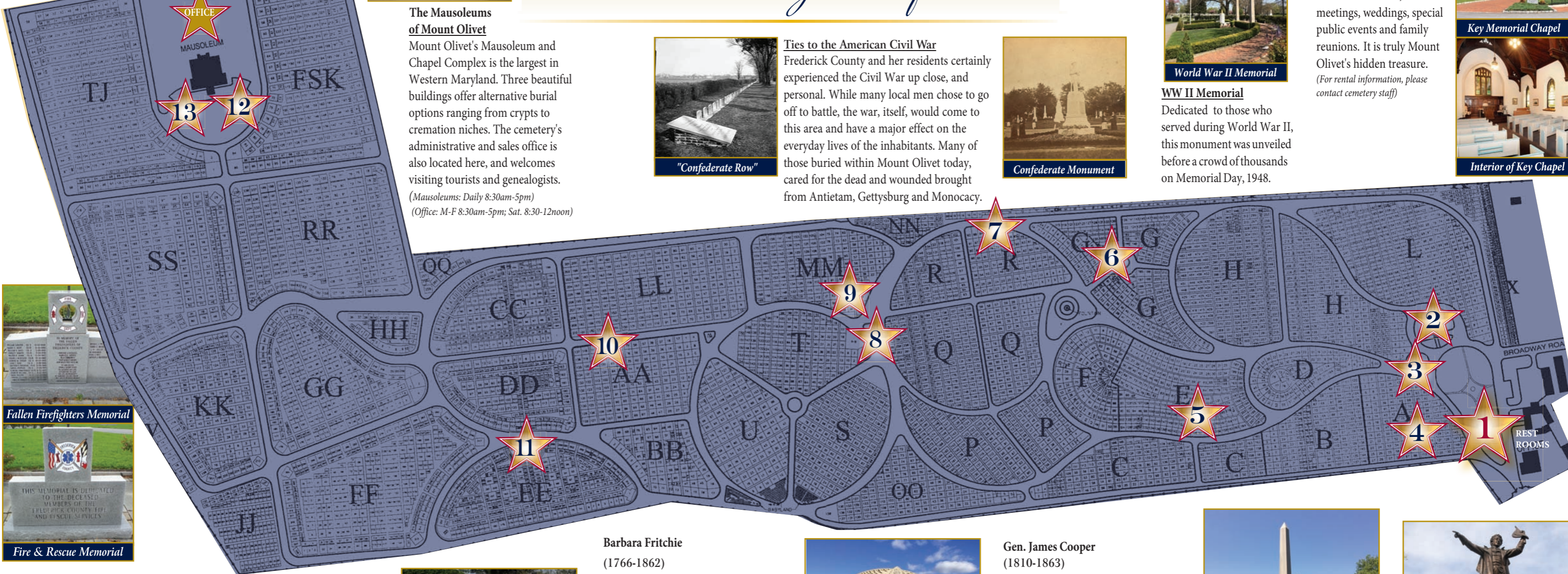
Dating back to 1913, this picturesque stone building has been the setting for memorial services, business meetings, weddings, special public events and family reunions. It is truly Mount Olivet's hidden treasure. (For rental information, please contact cemetery staff)



Key Memorial Chapel



Interior of Key Chapel



Fallen Firefighters Memorial



Fire & Rescue Memorial

Cemetery Key

1. Francis Scott Key Monument
2. Key Memorial Chapel
3. James C. Clarke Monument
4. James Cooper Monument
5. Margaret Hood Monument
6. Confederate Monument
7. Confederate Row
8. Barbara Fritchie Monument
9. Thomas Johnson Monument
10. Claire McCardell Marker
11. World War II Monument
12. Cemetery Office/Mausoleums
13. Frederick Co. Fire Memorials

Claire McCardell Harris (1905-1958)

Claire McCardell was a renowned fashion designer who paved the way for women's apparel changes that revolutionized the clothing industry.



Gov. Thomas Johnson, Jr. (1732-1819)

Behold the grave of the first elected-governor of Maryland. Johnson was a lawyer, business entrepreneur and general who led the state's militia during the American Revolution.

Barbara Fritchie (1766-1862)

"Shoot if you must, this old gray head, But spare your country's flag," she said. Mount Olivet serves home to the grave and monument of Barbara Fritchie, heroine of John Greenleaf Whittier's famed Civil War poem.



Margaret Scholl Hood (1833-1913)

Margaret Hood donated land to the Woman's College of Frederick in 1897, allowing the school to build a campus outside of downtown Frederick. This would later become Hood College, and so named for her generosity.

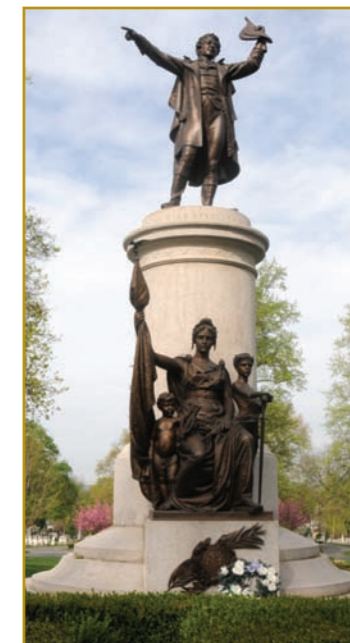
Gen. James Cooper (1810-1863)

Lawyer, politician, statesman & Civil War general, James Cooper served in the U.S. Senate. He was also a member of the House of Representatives for the state of Pennsylvania, and served as Speaker of the House from 1847-48.



Gen. James C. Clarke (1824-1902)

An American transportation pioneer, James C. Clarke headed railroad companies including the *Baltimore & Ohio*, the *North Central*, *Erie*, *Illinois Central*, and *Mobile & Ohio*. He also served as president of the *Chesapeake & Ohio Canal* from 1870 to 1872.



Francis Scott Key Memorial & Grave