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A TRIP THROUGH
The Home and Slave Quarters
of
CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY
FREDERICK, MARYLAND

A NATIONAL SHRINE AS A MEMORIAL TO

ROGER BROOKE TANEY

Author of the Dred Scott Decision

and his brother-in-law

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Author of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

ROGER BROOKE TANEY

- 1777—Born in Calvert County
- 1795—Graduates from Dickinson College
- 1799—Admitted to Bar and elected to Legislature
- 1801—Commences practice of law in Frederick
- 1806—Marries Anne Key, sister of Francis Scott Key
- 1816-1821—Member of Maryland Senate from Frederick County
- 1827-1831—Attorney General of Maryland
- 1831-1833—Attorney General of the United States
- 1831—Acted as Secretary of War ad interim while serving as Attorney General.
- 1833—Appointed Secretary of the Treasury, directs that Government deposits shall not be made in the Bank of the United States.
- 1834—His nomination rejected by the United States Senate, resigns as Secretary of the Treasury.
- 1836—Becomes Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, succeeding John Marshall
- 1857—Delivers the decision in the celebrated Dred Scott Case, which was reversed by the Civil War.
- 1861—Administers Presidential oath to Abraham Lincoln
- 1864—Dies in Washington.

Grave and monument in Frederick.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

- 1779—Born on the Key estate, Frederick County, now within borders of Carroll County
- 1796—Graduates from St. John's College
- 1800—Commences practice of law in Frederick
- 1802—Marries Mary Lloyd in Annapolis
- 1807—Argues his first case in the U. S. Supreme Court as counsel for two men accused of treason as messengers of Aaron Burr
- 1814—Writes "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the time of the British attack on Baltimore
- 1816—One of the organizers of the American Colonization Society
- 1831—Urges Taney to enter Jackson's Cabinet as Attorney General
- 1833—Appointed by President Jackson U. S. District Attorney for the District of Columbia, and at the President's direction goes on special mission to Alabama to help settle the controversy between the Federal and State Governments over the Creek Indian lands.
- 1834—Guest of honor with Taney at historic banquet in Frederick
- 1842—Delivers his last and most notable speech on slavery before the Colonization Convention
- 1843—Dies in Baltimore

Grave and monument in Frederick.



FRONT VIEW OF TANEY HOME
ERECTED IN THE YEAR 1799

Approaching the front of the home of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, the visitor's attention is directed to its Georgian architecture, plain in style, but with a touch of refinement given by its original cornice and the Colonial transom above the entrance door—the same threshold that Taney and his wife and daughters entered over a century ago.

— DRAWING ROOM —

Entering the drawing room, you see the painting of the dramatic inaugural of 1861, when Chief Justice Taney administered the presidential oath to Abraham Lincoln, that he would "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." This canvas by Henry Roben depicts Seward, Breckinridge, Chief Justice Taney, Edward D. Baker, Clerk of the Court Carroll, Buchanan, Lincoln, Salmon P. Chase, Stephen A. Douglas and Horace Greeley.

You are asked to register at the desk of the Chief Justice. On this old desk Mr. Taney penned his celebrated opinion in the Dred Scott case, a landmark in American jurisprudence, said to have caused more dissension than any other legal opinion in the history of the world.

Directly in front of the fireplace is a small slate stone with an iron ring, covering a copper tinder-box.

Before leaving this room you will notice on the right wall portraits of the seven Presidents whom Taney inducted into office—Van Buren, Harrison, Polk, Taylor, Pierce, Buchanan, and Lincoln—more Presidents than were inaugurated by any other man in American history.

The bust of Taney is the work of Joseph Urner, Maryland sculptor.

— DINING ROOM —

You now enter the dining room. In this room is the Stryker Collection, including the silver coffee pot and the silver tea pot used by Chief Justice and Mrs. Taney, also Chief Justice Taney's key-winding watch and gold fob.

The miniature—the earliest known picture of Taney—was presented to Miss Anne Key, who became his wife in 1806.

On one of the walls you will see woodcuts of the famous John Brown Raid. You will also notice one of John Brown's pikes and a musket used in the insurrection. On another wall is a collection of photographs and other portraits of Chief Justice Taney.

Among the original documents in the dining room are messages signed by Taney as Secretary of the Treasury. In this exhibit is a steel engraving of the United States Bank, from which Taney removed the Government deposits in 1833.

— KITCHEN —

Stepping back into the yard, you first take a glimpse of the kitchen with its original Dutch oven—in splendid state of preservation—and the century-old utensils.

— WINE CELLAR —

To the right of the kitchen door is a stairway leading down to the wine cellar. This chamber, with its barrels and bottles, shows how the wine cellars looked one hundred years before the advent of national prohibition. To the left, enclosed in a case, is a book of recipes for making wines and liquors. This book is of Taney's time and elicits much interest.

— SLAVE QUARTERS —

Coming up from the cellar, you proceed along the flagstone walk, taking a casual glance at the smoke house wherein the meats for the family were cured; then the work room with the spinning wheel and the old implements of employment for the slaves.

You now come to the living room of the slaves. Chief Justice Taney, notwithstanding his decision in the Dred Scott case, never personally approved of human slavery; and in this room are exhibited records of the manumission of Taney's slaves.

At the end of the garden, you have a favored view of the structure with its great stone chimney—typical slave quarters of the old South, set in quaint surroundings.

— STAIRWAY —

And now a trip back to the main dwelling. To the right, as you start to climb to the second floor, you see a rare specimen of the Stars and Stripes. This original "Lone Star State Flag" was used in Henry Clay's campaign for President in 1844, when the chief political issue was the question of taking Texas into the Union as a Slave State.

— BEDROOM —

At the head of the stairs you come to the Taney bedroom. All of the furniture is early American. The portrait of Taney was autographed by him and presented to his daughter Alice in 1855.

THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY ROOM



Named in memory of Francis Scott Key, who came to Frederick immediately after the bombardment of Fort McHenry and related to Taney how "The Star-Spangled Banner" was written.

This song of victory was adopted as the National Anthem by an Act of Congress approved by President Herbert Hoover on March 3, 1931.

To the right, as you enter the Key Room, is a collection of portraits and papers from the Key family. The original Chippendale chair was once owned by the author of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And next we come to America's benefactor from across the seas, Marquis de Lafayette. Here is one of the very few letters written by Lafayette during the Revolutionary War. The memorial erected at Jug Bridge by the Sons of the American Revolution marks the spot where Lafayette was met on his visit to Frederick in 1824.

One of the Nation's leaders during the Revolution was Thomas Johnson, first Governor of the State of Maryland, who nominated George Washington for Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. In the Thomas Johnson exhibit is an oil painting of his home, Rose Hill, one of Frederick's finest Colonial mansions. In the open fireplace is an iron "fire-back" made in 1776 by Johnson and his brothers at the famous Catoctin Furnace. You will notice that Governor Johnson's will was written by Taney and signed by him as a witness.

You will also see exhibited here the Goldsborough Collection of Frederick County Indian relics, containing over five thousand pieces.

In the glass case in the center of the room you see a collection of original manuscripts and other mementoes of Francis Scott Key. On the top shelf of the case is a copy of the anthem showing exactly how it was written by Key in 1814, concluding with the words:

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.