

Here are details of the incredible two-hundred-year journey of the original Star-Spangled Banner—from Fort McHenry in 1814, when Francis Scott Key first saw it, to the Smithsonian—and the family who defended, kept, hid, and ultimately donated the most famous flag in American history.

Francis Scott Key saw the original Star-Spangled Banner flying over Baltimore's Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814, after a twenty-five-hour bombardment by the British Navy, inspiring him to write the words to our national anthem. Torn and tattered over time, the flag's existence after two centuries is the story of dedication, perseverance, patriotism, angst, family squabbles—and luck.

For this feat, we have the Armistead family to thank—led by Lieutenant Colonel George Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry, who took it home after the battle. His descendants kept and protected their family heirloom for ninety years, until Armistead's grandson loaned it to the Smithsonian in 1907. Digging deep into archives, McMillan follows the flag through two centuries, offering a “story behind the story” account of one of the country's most treasured relics.

Tom McMillan, a longtime student of history, is the author of four books, including *Flight 93: The Story, The Aftermath, and the Legacy of American Courage on 9/11*.

Robert Fass is a veteran actor and twice winner of the prestigious Audie Award for the year's best narration. He has earned many Earphones Awards and AudioFile magazine “Best of the Year” accolades.

READ BY ROBERT FASS



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OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE

TOM McMILLAN



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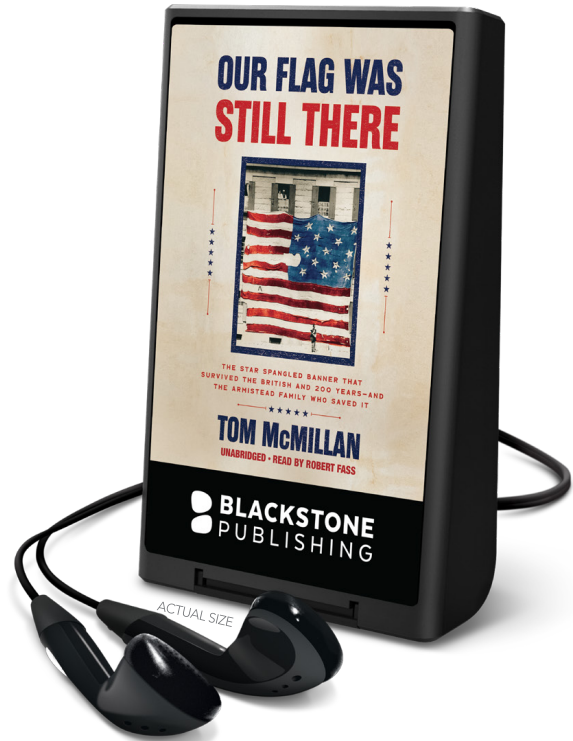


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