



Star-Spangled Banner Flag House & Museum
History of the Flag House Coloring Packet

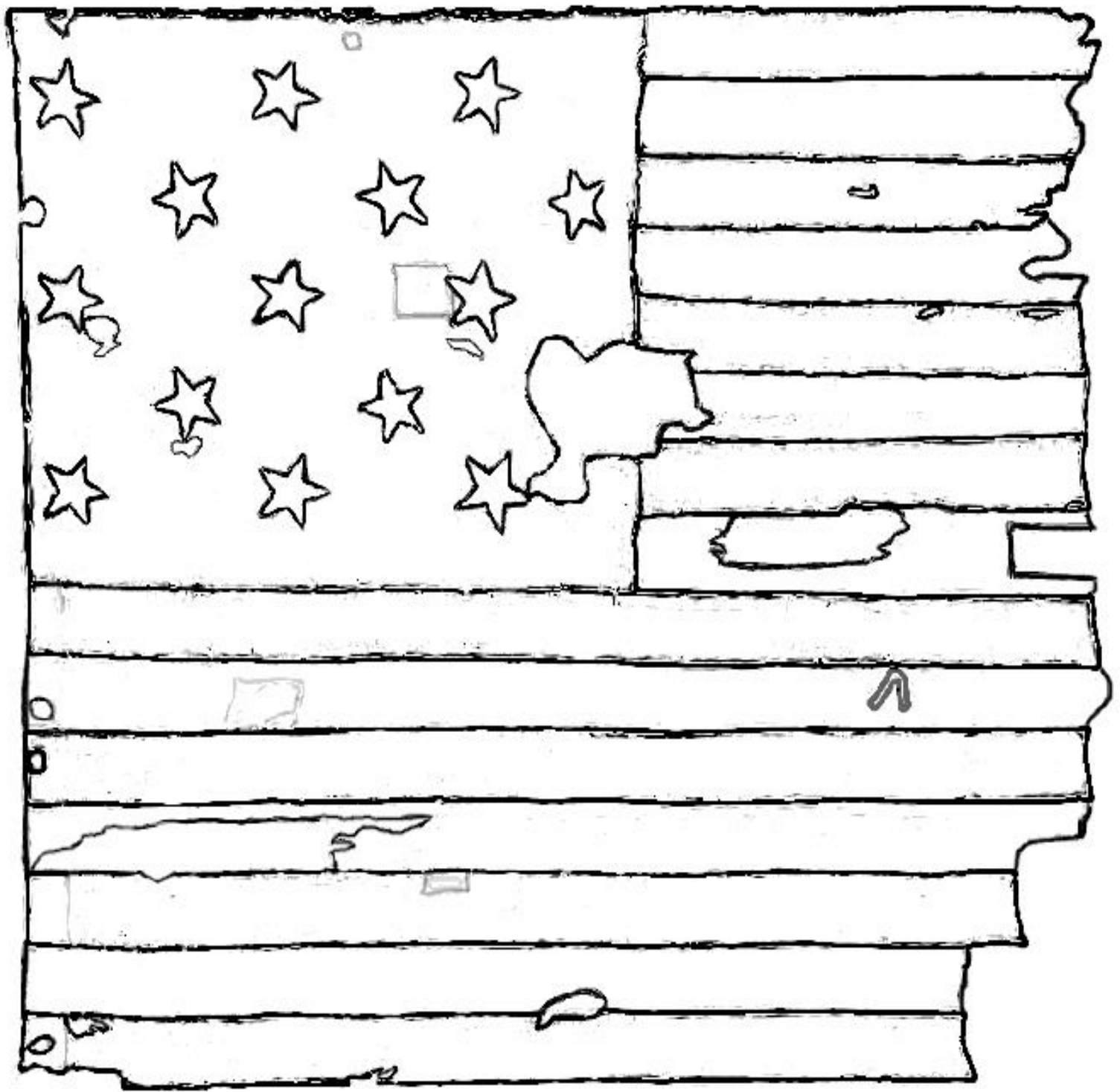
Star-Spangled Banner Flag House & Museum

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Star-Spangled Banner Flag

Did you know that the Star-Spangled Banner Flag is missing 6 to 8 feet of its original 30 by 42-foot size? Fragments of the flag were removed during the nineteenth century, including an entire star, and gifted to Old Defenders of Fort McHenry and friends of the Armistead family. The Flag House has seven fragments of the Star-Spangled Banner in its museum collection. The Star-Spangled Banner has been in the permanent care of the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of American History since 1912, nineteen years before the Star-Spangled Banner song became the American national anthem.



Mary Young Pickersgill

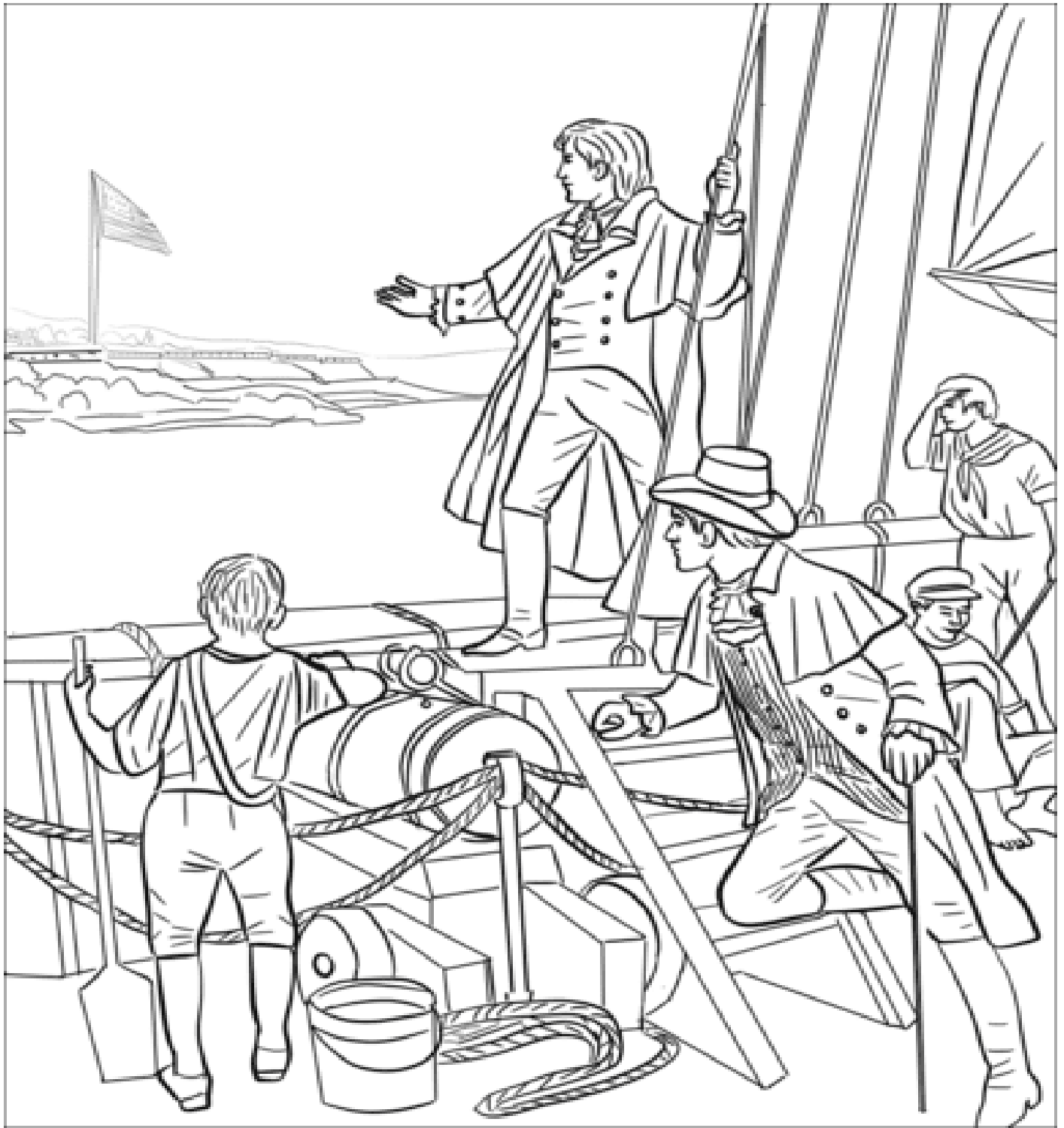
Mary Young Pickersgill was born in Philadelphia on February 12, 1776, to William and Rebecca Young. The Young family had close ties with the Continental Army and individuals responsible for the fight for American independence from Great Britain. Mary's mother was a flag maker and military supply craftswoman during the Revolutionary War, making flags and musket balls. Like her mother, Mary became a flag maker after moving to Baltimore in 1807. She operated her flag-making business from the historic Flag House from 1807 until about 1815. In 1813, Mary received instructions for the most important flag she'd ever make, the flag for Fort McHenry. Now known as the Star-Spangled Banner, Mary's flag flew over Fort McHenry after the Battle of Baltimore on September 14, 1814, and inspired Francis Scott Key to write his famous "Defense of Fort McHenry" poem.

DONT GIVE UP
THE SHIP

Don't Give Up the Ship Flag

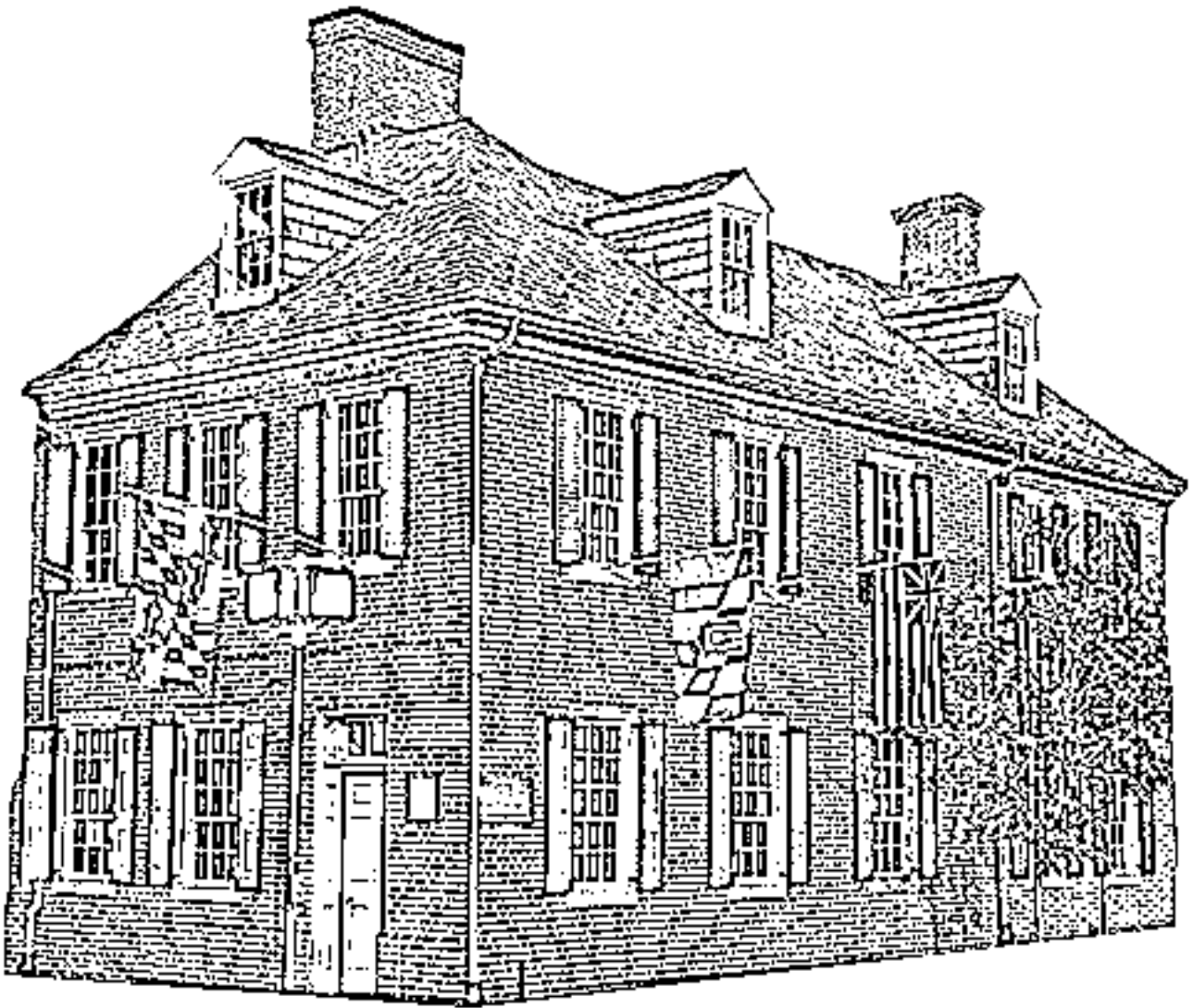
On June 1, 1813, Captain James Lawrence, in command of the USS *Chesapeake*, initiated a fierce naval battle against the British Royal Navy frigate *Shannon*. Although slightly smaller, the British ship disabled *Chesapeake* within the first few minutes. Captain Lawrence ordered his officers, "Don't give up the ship. Fight her till she sinks." Or "Tell them to fire faster; don't give up the ship."

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, of the USS *Niagara*, is remembered for the words using the words "Don't Give Up the Ship," on his battle flag, as a tribute to his colleague Captain James Lawrence of USS *Chesapeake*. He is also known for his message to General William Henry Harrison, which reads in part, "We have met the enemy, and they are ours; ..."



***By Dawn's Early Light*, Edward Percy Moran, 1914-15
Collection of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House**

On the morning of September 14, 1814, after the 25-hour Battle of Baltimore, the Star-Spangled Banner Flag was raised over Fort McHenry, signaling the successful defense of Baltimore against the British bombardment. The Battle of Baltimore was a turning point in the War of 1812 and became one of the most important American victories. Francis Scott Key, aboard a ship in the mouth of the Patapsco River, witnessed the flag flying over the fort and on the back of an envelope wrote his famous "Defense of Fort McHenry" poem. The poem was eventually set to music and became the official anthem of the United States on March 3, 1931.



The Historic Star-Spangled Banner Flag House

The Flag House was built in 1793 and was the home and business of Mary Young Pickersgill from 1807 until 1857.

Nine people lived and worked alongside Mary while she made the Star-Spangled Banner. Residents of the Flag House included Mary's mother, Rebecca Young, daughter Caroline Pickersgill, nieces Eliza, Hannah, and Margaret Young, free African American apprentice Grace Wisher, a boarder, and two enslaved African American women.

After Mary, the house passed to new owners and became a post office, general store, and pharmacy. The Flag House opened as a museum in November 1928 and became a National Historic Landmark in 1970.

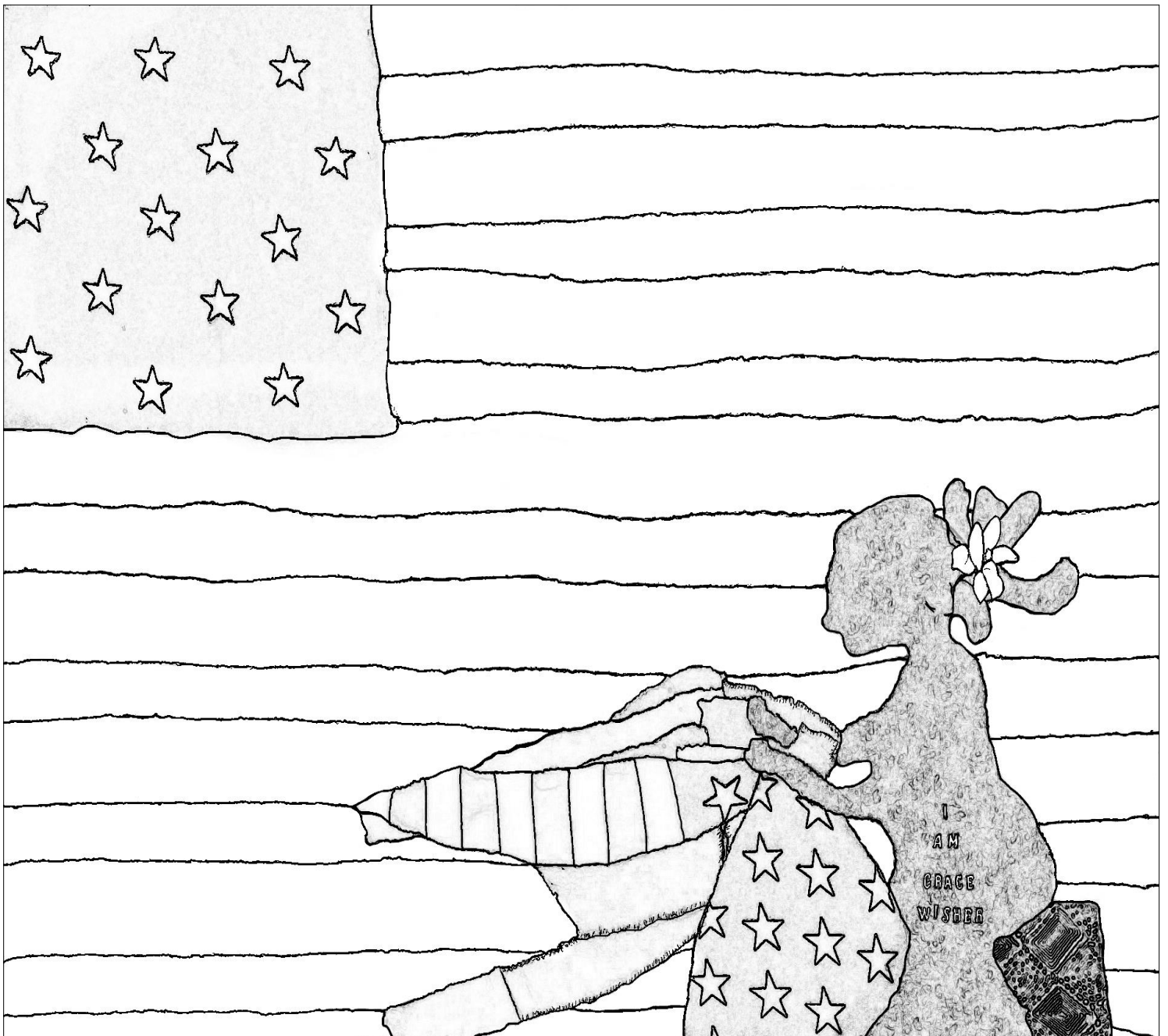


Crafting a New Star-Spangled Banner

Mrs. Romaine E. Einschultz sewing a two-foot star on the Star-Spangled Banner replica.

The Star-Spangled Banner replica project, led by the Flag House and American Legion Auxiliary, began in 1963 and was completed in 1964. The flag was destined for display at the Maryland pavilion of the New York World's Fair of 1964-1965. The Flag House has an extensive collection of archival material from the project. You can view the digitized contents of the collection, including production documents, and the American Legion participant's scrapbook, lists of names of participants, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

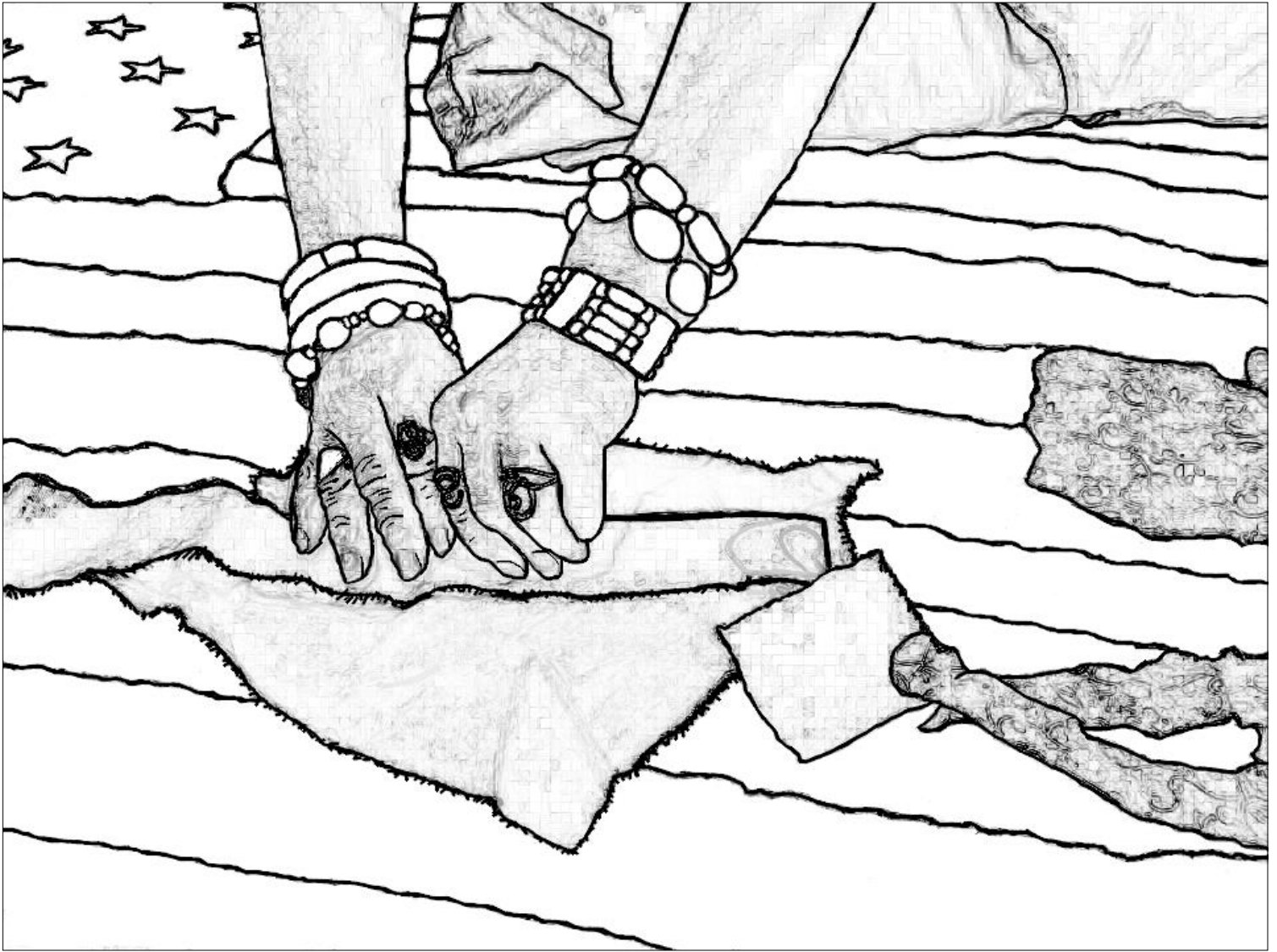
[Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Replica Flag Collection](#)



I am Grace Wisher by Grandmother Edna Lawrence

December 16, 1809, Mary Pickersgill receives the sum of twelve dollars and a Baize dress from Jenny Wisher as part of the indenture contract for her ten-year-old daughter Grace Wisher. Grace, a free African American girl, was indentured to Mary Pickersgill for six years to learn housework and plain sewing. During the summer of 1813, Grace, then aged 13, the same as Mary's daughter Caroline Pickersgill, would have been three years into her indenture and certainly would have been expected to take part in household work and business of flag making, including being present and active in the creation of the Star-Spangled Banner.

I am Grace Wisher appeared in Grandmother Edna Lawrence's exhibit, *Fabric Expressions* in the Flag House's Maryland House building, 2018 – 2020.



A Tribute to Grace Wisher by Grandmother Edna Lawrence

Grace Wisher was a free African American girl who was apprenticed to Mary Pickersgill by her mother, Jenny Wisher. Grace was to live with Mary from age ten until sixteen and would be taught housework, sewing, and likely helped with the flag making business. In 2018, quilt artist Grandmother Edna Lawrence crafted a tribute quilt to Grace, as an overlooked figure in American history. In the image above, Grandmother Edna adds small fragments of red, white, and blue fabric to the *I am Grace Wisher* art quilt. The quilt appeared in Grandmother Edna's exhibit, *Fabric Expressions* in the Flag House's Maryland House building, 2018 – 2020.