

Broad Stripes and Bright Stars

Act One

Video online at: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/Videos/Stars1.asx>

Codes:

A = Actor (Mary Pickersgill)

“ “ =interrupting, pause

[] = not speaker's words

A = Isn't this day glorious? It looks to be off to a most promising start. Not that I'll be seeing much of the outside of this room. I will be spending yet again another day with my eyes firmly fixed on the task at hand. This project has far outgrown the confines of my tiny home. I really must speak with Mr. Claggett for the use of his expansive malt house. I know a brewery, but as improbable as it seems, it just might work. It appears to have all of the necessary requirements. I know there is enough space, an abundance of light and most importantly an air of serenity and quiet. As much as I enjoy the companionship of my mother, and my daughter, and the indentured girl, and the boarders and my nieces, all of those people and all of their incessant chatter is enough to drive a body to distraction. Pardon my manners. When I find myself engrossed in a task often proper manners and graces find themselves absented. Commit me to introduce myself. I am the widow Pickersgill; Mary Young Pickersgill. I am certain you are wondering what anyone could possibly be doing with this bundle of blue on the floor in Baltimore, Maryland. Well, plainly and simply, I am sewing and I hope you don't mind my working whilst we converse. Please do settle yourselves down and keep me company a while, won't you?