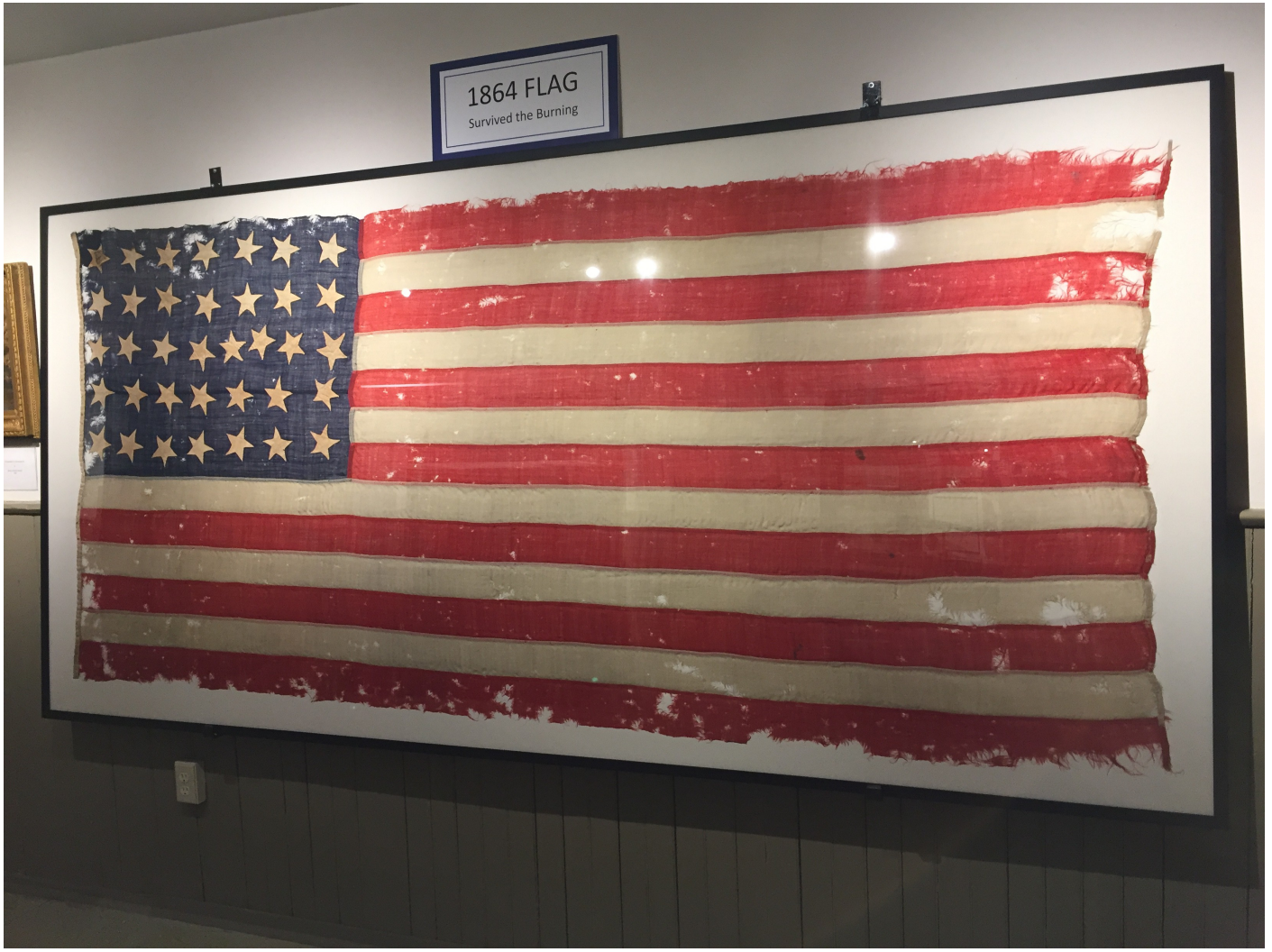
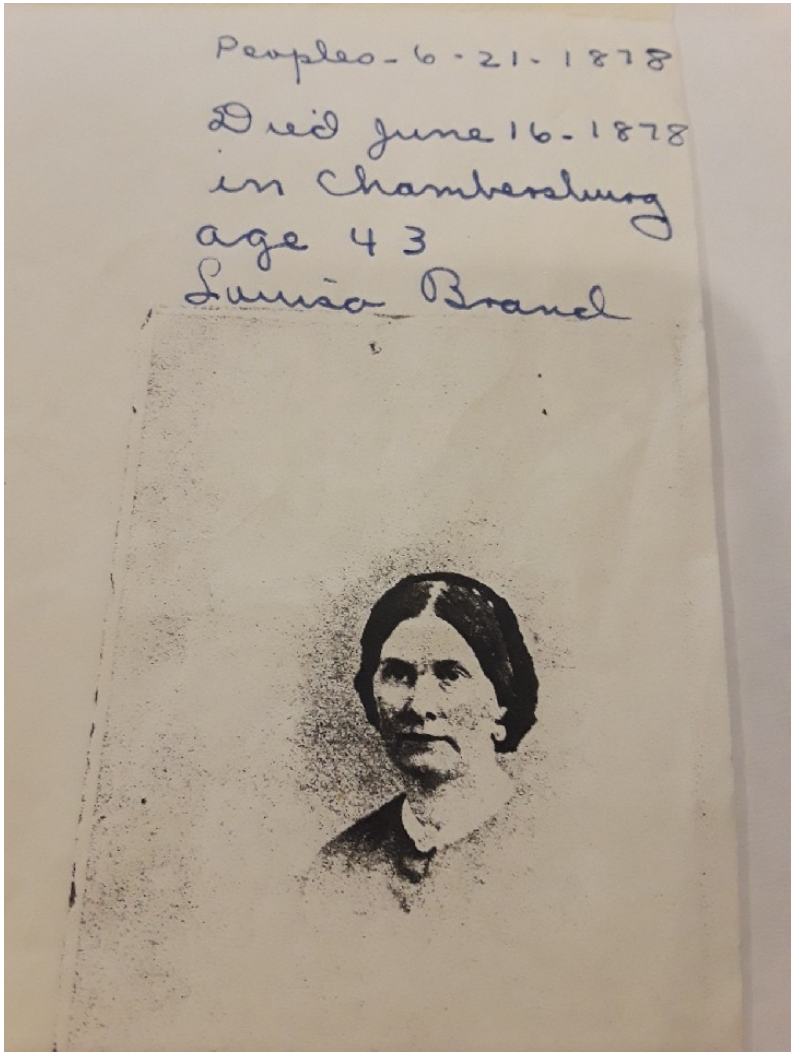
THE LIFE OF LOUISA BRAND presented by Franklin Co Historical Society-Kittochtinny

Louisa's Flag



LOUISA BRAND

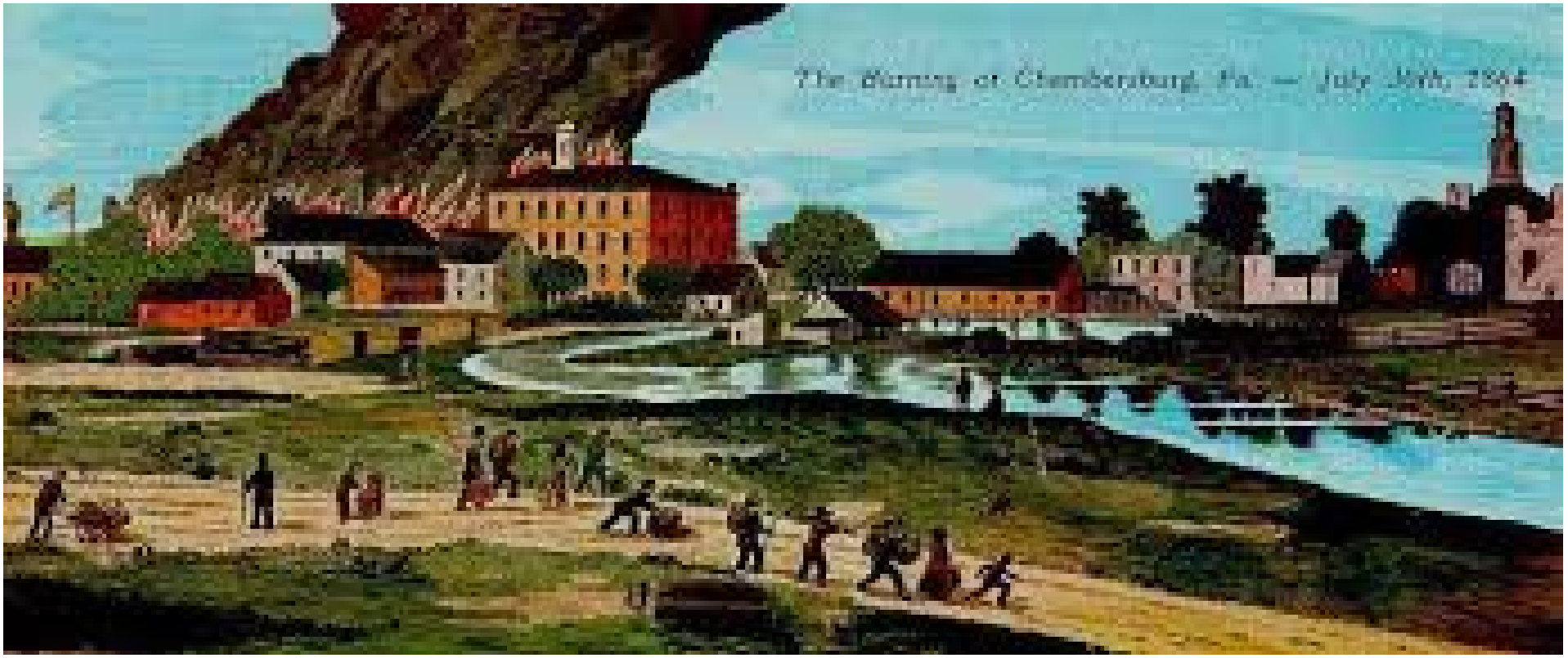


July 1864

- “Gen. D.N.Couch had his headquarters here with his staff distributed at various places. Col. Rutherford had his office in what was called The Mansion House.”
-
- Jacob Hoke, *Reminiscences of the War,* 1884.
- Chambersburg, M.A. Foltz, publisher

Maj General Darius N. Couch
Dept of the Susquehanna

Confederate cavalry under Gen John McCausland arrive in Chambersburg, July 30, 1864

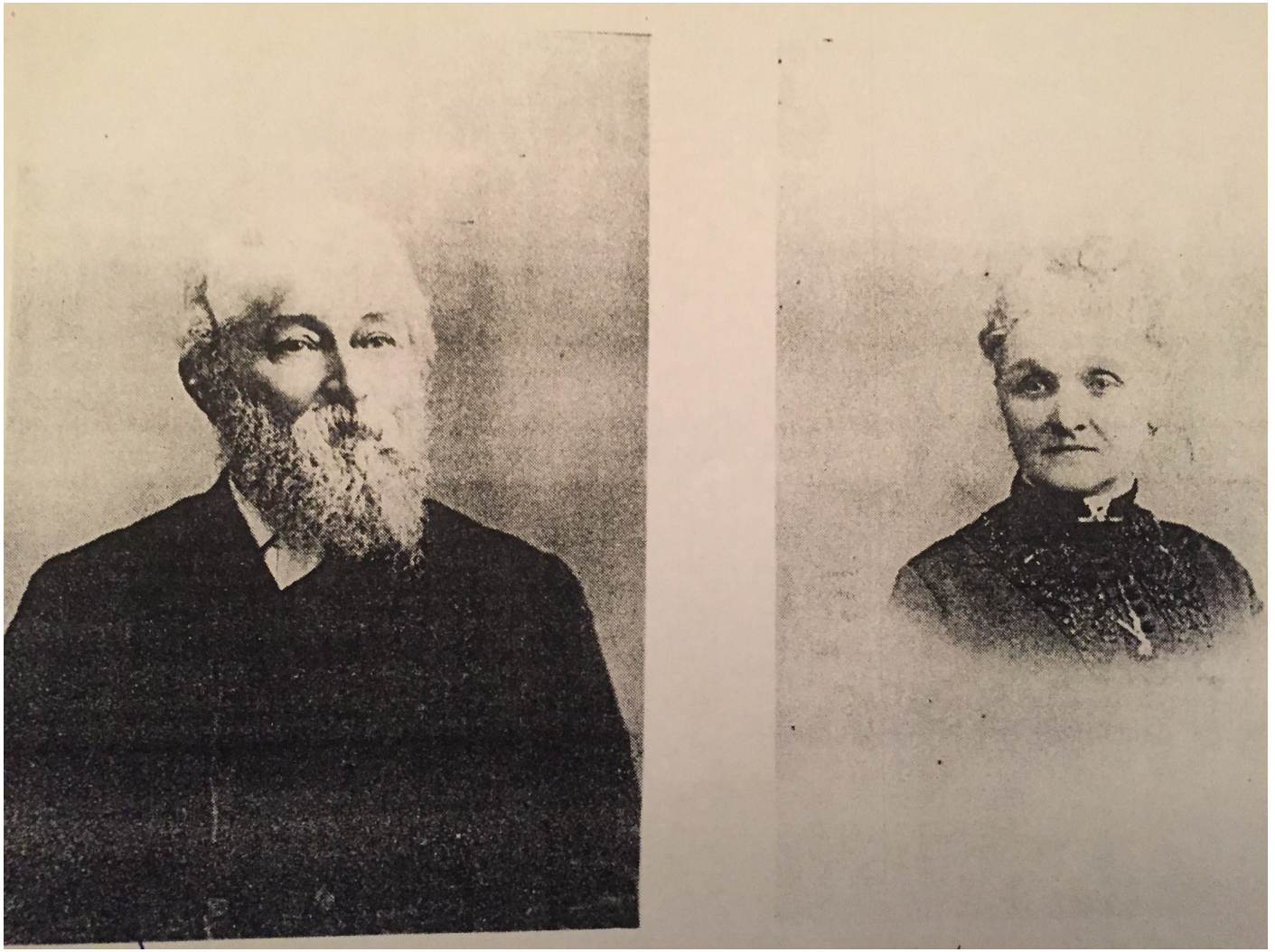


The Diamond, looking South

WHO WERE THE BRANDS AND HOW DID THEY GET THE FLAG?

- “On the morning of the fire, Mr. David Brand, brother of our townsman Mr. Jacob L. Brand, took the flag, which hung in front of Col Rutherford's headquarters in the Mansion House, from its staff and carried it to his home on Queen Street.”
- Jacob Hoke, “Reminiscences of the War.” p.123

Samuel Brand 1782-1849
Catherine Flinders Brand 1805-1876



Brand Hotel, after the burning
Brand home to the left on Queen St

Brand Hotel, after the burning with roof replacement

1860 CENSUS

- House on Queen St:
- Catherine Brand, widow, aged 57
- Children Jacob, 29, Catherine 26, Louisa 22, David 20, and Ellen, 14, living at home.
- Son Andrew Jackson Brand, 29, and wife Malinda, 25, were listing as living next door at the hotel.
-

Brands in the Civil War Years

- Samuel Brand (1822-1897) served as Franklin County Sheriff 1862-1865
- A.J. Brand (1825-1869) Captain, Company K, 107th PA Volunteers. Saw action at Antietam,South Mountain, 2nd Bull Run, Fredericksburg. Died of disease in Harrisburg
- Jacob Brand (1829-1891) Prominent local merchant. Almost killed by invading Confederates in 1863.
- David Brand (1841-1867) rescued the flag
- Louisa Brand (1835-1878)

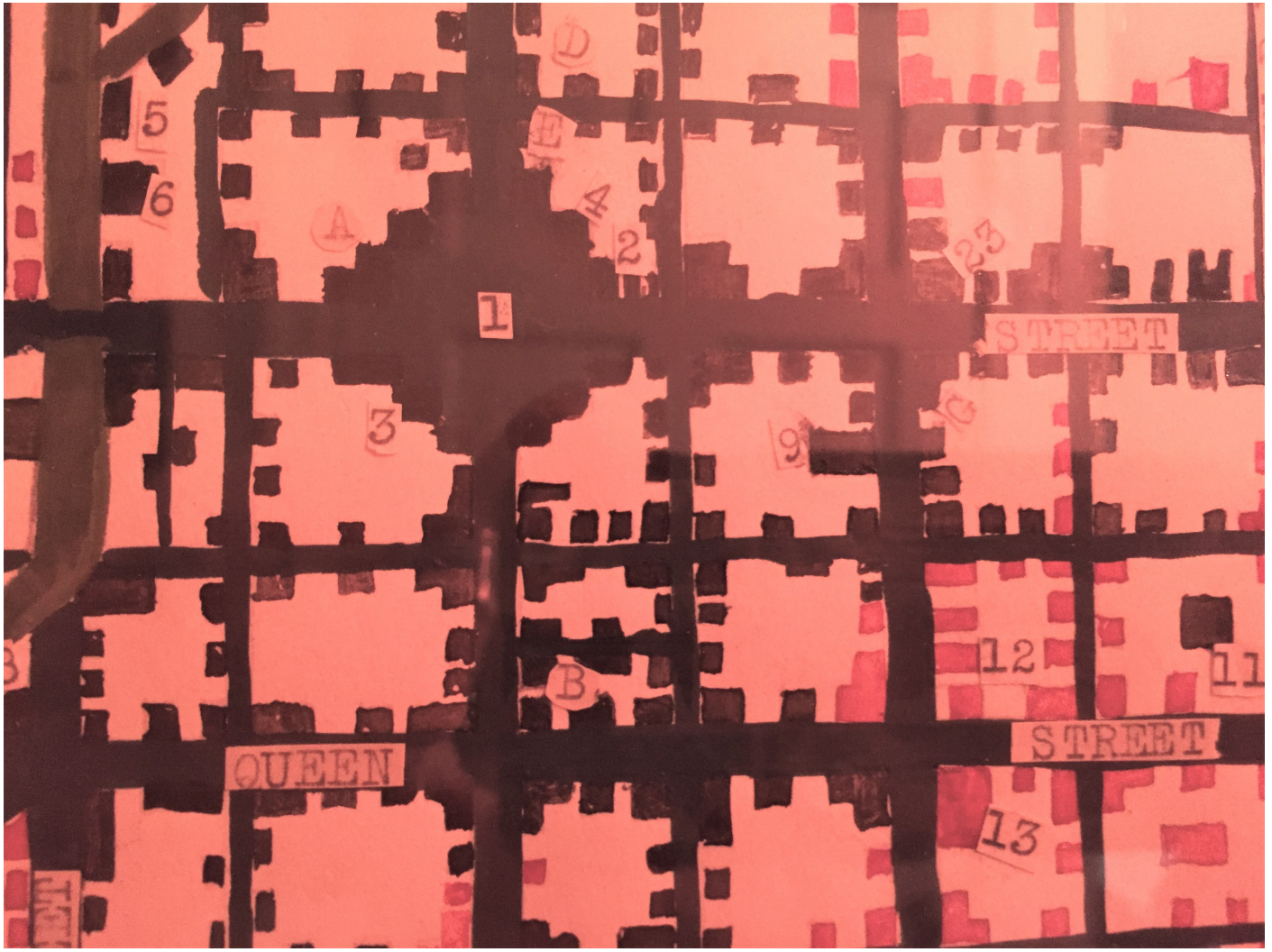
Louisa Brand and the flag

LOUISA'S STORY

- “Mr. David Brand, brother of our townsman Mr. Jacob S. Brand, took this flag from its staff with a rein to prevent its falling into the hands of the rebels, and carried it to his mother's residence on Queen Street. While the Confederates were firing the houses in that neighborhood, Mr. Brand's sister, Miss Louisa Brand, took this flag and wrapping it about her person, with a drawn revolver in her hand, stood in the front door of their residence and dared any rebel to enter their house or fire it.

-
- She was noticed by all who passed by, and while nearly every house around was burned, hers was undisturbed and yet stands.”
-
- The Franklin Repository, June 12, 1887 p. 2

The fire stops at the corner of Queen and Second Streets



Looking north up Second St, Masonic Temple to the right

After the war

- Brand Hotel is rebuilt, operated by Samuel Brand
- By 1868, it was McGrath's hotel
- Various owners and names to the early 1900s
- Rented then owned by the Coyle Library, building torn down and new library opened in 1924

Circa 1868

Corner of E. Queen and S. Second Streets, 2021

Louisa Brand after the war

- Louisa remained in the house on East Queen St for the rest of her life
- 1870 census lists Louisa, her mother, and sisters Catherine and Ella in the house
- Probate of Louisa's will in 1879 lists her as one-third owner of the house. (Mother deceased 1876)
- Louisa died on June 17, 1878, aged 42

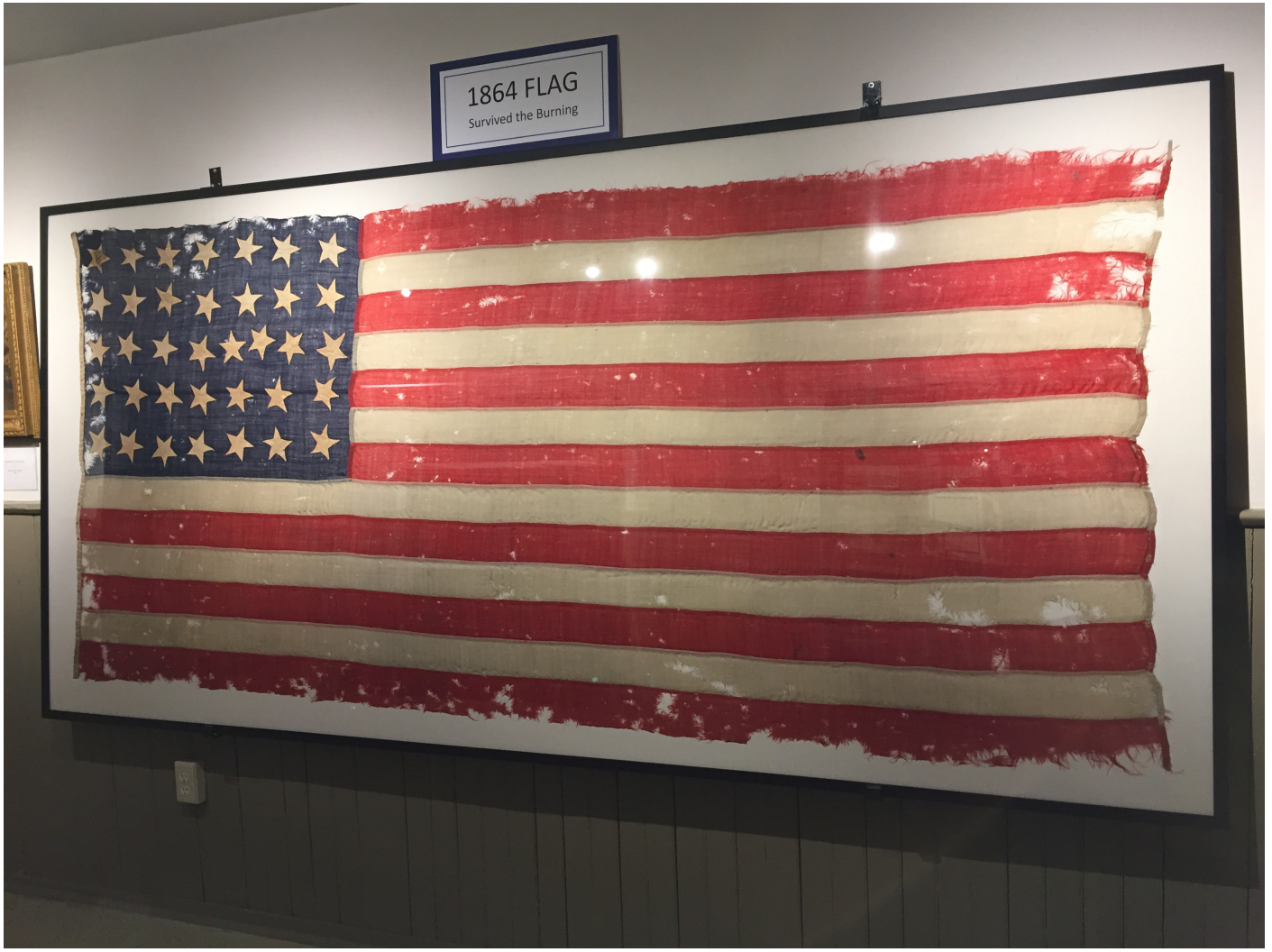
Brand plot, Cedar Grove Cemetery, Chamberburg

But what about the flag??

Why we know this is THE flag

- 1887 article by Jacob Hoke says that Louisa gave the flag to Mrs. Susan McGrath
- It was displayed at the Housum Post of the G.A.R. In Chambersburg. Susan's husband Allen C. McGrath was a founding member.
- Per Kittochtinny Historical Society records, it came from Mrs. Eleanora McGrath, the wife of Allen and Susan's son Frank McGrath.
- Date is unknown but Mrs. McGrath died in 1964.

The flag was restored for display, 2020-2021



THE END---THANK YOU!