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The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland

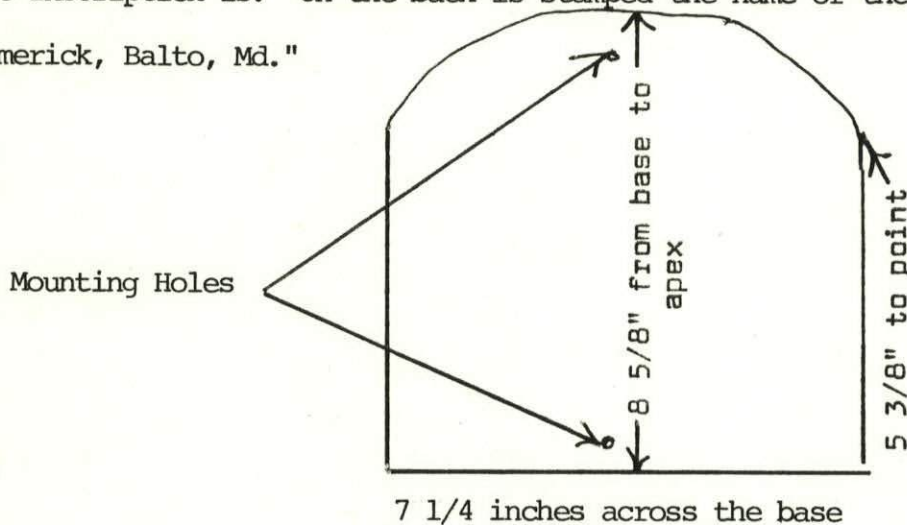


FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 14, 1814

RICHARD N. HAMBLETON  
Pres. Md. Soc. War of 1812  
P.O. Box 1746  
Annapolis, MD. 21404

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED ITEM WAS FOUND BY RICHARD N. HAMBLETON  
IN "ANTIQUÉ SHOP" ON WEST STREET IN ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND IN  
JANUARY, 1983

It appears to be of good metal with, possibly, silver plating on the front where  
the inscription is. On the back is stamped the name of the maker -"J. Arthur  
Limerick, Balto, Md."



THE INSCRIPTION READS

"THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812"

OLD DEFENDERS' FLAG  
THE ORIGINAL FLAG OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF DEFENDERS  
WAR OF 1812 & 14 ADOPTED BY  
THEM SEPTEMBER 16th, 1814  
DONATED TO THE SOCIETY OF THE  
WAR OF 1812 IN MARYLAND  
AND BY THAT SOCIETY PRESENTED  
TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND  
OCTOBER 19th, 1907

BRIG. GEN'L PETER LEARY, JR.  
PRESIDENT

JAMES EDW. CARR, JR.  
HISTORIAN

JAMES D. IGLEHART, M.D.  
CHAIRMAN

# Guide Book and Descriptive Manual

of

**RICHARD N. HAMBLETON**  
Pres. Md. Soc. War of 1812  
P.O. Box 1746  
Annapolis, MD. 21404

## BATTLE FLAGS

in the

### FLAG ROOM OF THE STATE HOUSE

at

### ANNAPOLIS, MD.

**Lieutenant General Milton A. Reckord**  
The Adjutant General  
State of Maryland

January 1965

**F L A G S**  
in the  
**MARYLAND STATE HOUSE COLLECTION**

**No. 1 - Revolutionary War and War of 1812**

**Maryland Light Infantry**  
**(The Cowpens Flag - National)**

Evidence indicates that this United States flag is the oldest in existence made in accordance with the specifications of the Flag Resolution of June 14, 1777. Designed with an unusually long fly, it carries seven red and six white stripes while the blue field bears a circle of twelve white stars enclosing another at the center. The stars are uniform in size. The flag is made of tow, a material handwoven from flax. The dyes appear to have been homemade, and the heavy yellowish thread was unevenly stitched by hand.

In the Revolutionary War this flag was carried by Color Sergeant William Batchelor of the Maryland Light Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Eager Howard, at the Battle of Cowpens, S. C., January 17, 1781. Wounded in the engagement, Batchelor returned with the flag to his Baltimore home; and in the War of 1812 his son, Ensign Joshua F. Batchelor of the 27th Maryland Militia, carried it in the North Point phase of the Battle of Baltimore, September 12, 1814.

For years the younger Batchelor carried the flag on commemorative occasions; but in August, 1843, he deposited it with the Old Defenders' Association, a veterans organization formed shortly after the successful defense of Baltimore. On moving to New Jersey, however, he reclaimed the flag and kept it until his death in Newark about 1855. Years later it was returned to Dr. Albert Kimberly Hadel of Baltimore, a member of the Old Defenders group and an officer in its successor organization, the Society of the War of 1812. On October 19, 1907, that group presented it to the State.

**No. 2 - "Old Defenders'" Association**  
**National Flag**

Some re-evaluation of the traditional history of this thirty-eight star national flag also is necessary. Long regarded as the original official flag of the Old Defenders' Association, organized April 1, 1842 by veterans and descendants of veterans of the Battle of Baltimore, it was alleged to have been used at all functions of that organization until the death in 1888 of James Morfort, the last member. Yet the large size of the

flag (approximately 9 by 12 feet) precludes the possibility that it could have been carried on a staff by a color-bearer, and its thirty-eight stars place it in the 1877 to 1890 period. Little doubt exists that this was an official flag of the Old Defenders' Association, but in all probability it was not the original. It was presented to the State October 19, 1907, by the Society of the War of 1812.

**No. 3 - Union Volunteers of Baltimore  
Company Color - War of 1812 (Tradition)**

The history of this badly faded and tattered color is uncertain. For years it has been regarded as the company color of the Union Volunteers, a unit that saw action during the War of 1812 at North Point in September, 1814, as a component of the Fifth Regiment, Maryland Militia. However, its swallow-tail shape and its basic stars and stripes design with thirty-four stars in the canton raises the possibility that it may have been a cavalry or light artillery guidon of the Civil War period. This possibility is heightened by the fact that it was presented to the State, November 21, 1906, by Wilson Post No. 1, Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War.