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PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

Last summer the Society of the War of 1812 started a marine museum at the fort and were prepared to double its size this year, but since the firearms episode people who owned these shipmodels have gotten very sceptical about their property rights and are withdrawing their models so fast that there may not be a model left by the end of the month.

We take no pleasure in making these complaints, but Baltimoreans are proud of the reputation of Fort McHenry and we hope that you will acquaint the Secretary of the Interior with these irregularities because we cannot conceive that he knows the real facts.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

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Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

Under the circumstances, my board feels that it would be timely to mention several similar annoyances that have occurred since the Department of the Interior took over the control of Fort McHenry by Executive Order in August 1933. During the eight years period of previous supervision by the War Department, our Society cooperated with their engineers in restoring the fort buildings and in landscaping the grounds. Meanwhile we collected exhibits for the museum and through our efforts some fifty historical tablets were erected and over 200 trees were planted on the grounds at Fort McHenry. Of these, thirty six tablets and thirty six trees were installed by the various patriotic societies to memorialize those historical characters who had been connected with the building of Fort McHenry, or who participated in the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812. But shortly after the Department of the Interior assumed control, their superintendents sold as junk a collection of old cannon balls that had been stored in the magazine at Fort McHenry for exhibition purposes. When we protested against this blunder, the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland was importuned to repurchase these relics at a price that was nearly tenfold what the Department of the Interior had gotten for them. I might also add that the trees which had been planted at considerable expense have been consistently neglected and that many of them are dead or dying.

At another time the Society of the War of 1812 sent twelve or fifteen authenticated cannon that had seen service in the defense of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Two of these cannon were mounted by the War Department at the entrance of the porte and three others were mounted by our Society on horse artillery carriages, as advised by Tousard who planned the fort, for sea coast defense around Baltimore. The superintendent at Fort McHenry knew that these items belonged to us and you can imagine our chagrin when we found that last summer agents of the Department of the Interior, without asking our permission, had taken our guns from our carriages and placed them on other carriages and when we protested, they placed other guns on our carriages that had no connection with the historic armament of Fort McHenry.

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Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

Provided, however, that in the event the said Collection, or a portion thereof, is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland; it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority.

If and when a deed or bill of sale of the above nature is executed and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by our Board of Managers authorizing the execution thereof.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

President.

"STOP AT RECOGNIZED HOTELS"



HOTEL RENNERT

BALTIMORE, MD.

FAMOUS FOR FINE FOOD FOR FIFTY YEARS

Print to after care of 2 copies of
of Judge Williams of John Sanford
to draft a letter to Govt stating &
alleging our ownership to the
Bowie Collection of Arms.

Passed

Whereas: The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland solicited and acquired, May 28th, 1934, the gift of a certain collection of fire-arms from the heirs of E. Berkly Bowie, deceased, with the expressed intention of establishing this collection as a military exhibit of American firearms at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland; and Whereas: This E. Berkly Bowie Collection of Firearms was afterwards removed to said Fort McHenry with the consent and the knowledge of the heirs of E. Berkly Bowie and of the United States Government. Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

First: That the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland hereby consents that the said E. Berkly Bowie Firearms Collection shall remain at the said Fort McHenry, in the custody of the United States Government, so long as said Government shall own, have jurisdiction over and maintain the said Fort McHenry for historical and patriotic purposes.

Second: That this consent is given with the understanding that the said collection of firearms, or any portion thereof, shall not be, at any time, for any purpose, removed from said Fort McHenry without the consent, in writing, of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

Third: That the object of the resolution is to assure both the Government of the United States and The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland that the said E. Berkly Bowie Firearms Collection shall be, and become, a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry; as long as the said Government shall maintain said Fort McHenry for the purposes that were expressed by Act of Congress in making Fort McHenry a National Shrine; and that this collection shall be so marked for the credit of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and they are not to be withdrawn, except that it be necessary to preserve them for display in this community, or to protect the title of the said Society thereto. Be It Further Resolved:

That such consent shall be and become irrevocably effective immediately upon the receipt of the acceptance of the custody of the said E. Berkly Bowie Firearms Collection by the United States Government, on the terms and conditions hereinabove set forth.

ESTATE OF E.BERKLY BOWIE, DECEASED. (Died 17 February 1934.)

Estate Docket Liber 40, fo. 195

Allen S. Bowie Administrator.

Inventory filed June 13, 1934. Inventory Docket No. 265 fo. 496

Inter alia: "Miscellaneous Lot of Old Guns and Pistols" Appraised \$100.

First Administration Account Vide; Administration Accounts J.H.B. No 329
fo. 165.

"Distributed to Virginia Bowie Schoenfeld, Elenor Bowie Turner and Allen
S. Bowie each an undivided $1/3$ interest

x x x x bx x X X x x x

Furniture, jewelry etc. appraised at \$505.50 "

COPY

March 29, 1934.

Mr. Verne E. Chatelain, Historian
Bureau of National Parks & Monuments
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chatelain:

Inclosed in this you will find two clippings, one from yesterday's News and the other from this morning's Sun. In several particulars the Sun report is not entirely correct but it is substantially true and after I had talked, one of the audience said that my account of what was being done at Fort McHenry was so interesting to him that it gave him an idea for a memorial. A crippled nephew who had collected a large number of firearms as a hobby, had died recently. There are some 600 articles in the lot, which includes items from the earliest periods to the present and he would talk the matter over with his wife and very probably would give them to us. I would like to have your idea of it, if the offer is actually made. I opine however that if we do take them that they will be sufficient to equip an entire room at the fort and it would be necessary for you to have cases built for their proper exhibition and protection.

I told Mr. Demaray on Monday that I was going to make the talk and also appeal for items for the museum, but things took a different turn from what I expected. In consequence I have been entertained over the phone all morning, by certain members of the Daughters of the War of 1812, who seem to think that anything other than 1812 memorials would be out of keeping at Fort McHenry. I am willing to admit their main view point, but at the same time, I do think that with the space we have to fill that other matters pertaining to the fort's history could be discretely exhibited, without minimizing the fact that it is a Shrine to the National Anthem.

Very truly yours,

May 4, 1934.

Dr. R. L. Jones
Historical Technician
Gettysburg National Military Park
Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear Dr. Jones:

I was sorry that I was in Washington when you were in town last week and have been holding the balance of the work on Antietam for you thinking that you would be in every day.

The collection of firearms has been given to the Society of the War of 1812, and am anxious to place it at Fort McHenry just as soon as it will be properly protected there. Please try to make some arrangements about this, because it will make a valuable addition to the museum and if proper arrangements for it are not made, it will have to be given to another institution.

Drop in to see me when you are in town although I will be in Washington most of next week.

Very truly yours,

P. S. It is a great relief to get back to a normal life again.

May 17, 1934.

Mr. Allen S. Bowie
811 Hamilton Terrace
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

The Board of Managers of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has authorized me to accept on their behalf, the unique collection of firearms that you have offered.

It is understood that this collection will be placed as an exhibit in the museum at Fort McHenry as a memorial to your deceased brother Berkley Bowie, as soon as preparations can be made for its proper protection.

It is further planned, if possible, to establish this collection in a room by itself and be called the Bowie Room and that it will be supervised and cared for by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as part of their museum.

Hoping that this will be agreeable to you and your sisters and assuring you of my deep appreciation of your offer, I am,

Very truly yours,

James E. Hancock

James E. Hancock, President
Society of War of 1812 in Maryland

COPY

Copy

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company

JOHN J. CORNWELL,
GENERAL COUNSEL
DANIEL WILLARD JR.,
ASSISTANT TO GENERAL COUNSEL
HERBERT R. PRESTON,
GENERAL SOLICITOR

W. IRVINE CROSS,
COUNSEL

R. MARSDEN SMITH,
DUNCAN K. BRENT,
CHARLES R. WEBBER,
GENERAL ATTORNEYS

ALLEN S. BOWIE,
FRANCIS R. CROSS,
EDGAR W. YOUNG,
ELMER L. BEACH,
JOHN J. FITZPATRICK,
ASSISTANT GENERAL ATTORNEYS

LAW DEPARTMENT
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

GEO. DOBBIN PENNIMAN,
COUNSEL, RELIEF DEPARTMENT

May 28, 1934.

Mr. James E. Hancock,
President, Society of the War of 1812,
521 W. Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge your letter dated May 17, 1934, written on behalf of the Board of Managers of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, relative to the collection of arms belonging to my brother, E. Berkley Bowie, deceased.

My sisters and I shall be happy to vest title and possession of this collection in your Society on the conditions named in your letter above referred to.

The collection will remain at my residence, 811 Hamilton Terrace, Baltimore, until such time as you may desire to remove it to Fort McHenry.

Yours very truly,

Allen S. Bowie

COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

September 22, 1936

Memorandum for the Director:

While visiting Fort McHenry National Park on September 18 to inspect the exhibits there, I learned from Mr. George A. Palmer, Superintendent, that the Bowie collection of firearms comprising some four hundred specimens has not been definitely acquired by the National Park Service. Mr. Palmer tells me that, so far as he is aware, the National Park Service does not hold any letter which states whether or not the collection is a loan or a gift; in fact, the Service has nothing whatsoever in writing as to its status.

While I do not wish to inject myself into a local matter which is of no concern to the Museum Division nevertheless, the Division is definitely concerned since a great deal of work has already been done on the collection by one of our field curators in cleaning, classifying, and labeling the specimens, and an exhibit plan has been worked up for its permanent display. I understand that original arrangements were made by the Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings to acquire this collection for Fort McHenry and when that branch requested the Museum Division to prepare and exhibit the collection it was naturally assumed that all details of its acquisition had been worked out.

Since I have learned of this matter, I do not feel we are justified in continuing to work on the collection until it becomes the property of the National Park Service or some definite arrangements have been made with the owner. I shall instruct our field curator to stop this work until further notice.

May I suggest that Superintendent Palmer be instructed to make such necessary arrangements so that when it is finally acquired by the Service we can again take up the work of permanently installing the collection.

JB:MLE

Ned J. Burns
Acting Chief, Museum Division

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

United States Department of the
Interior
National Park Service
Washington

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

September 22, 1936

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JB:MLE

Ned J. Burns
Acting Chief, Museum Division

COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

September 30, 1936.

The Superintendent,
Fort McHenry National Park,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly let this Office have a report of your efforts to arrange for perfection of title to the Bowie collection?

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Branch Spalding
Acting Assistant Director.

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

September 30, 1936.

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Fort McHenry National Park,
Baltimore, Maryland

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Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Branch Spalding
Acting Assistant Director:

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
821 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Port McHenry National
Park
Baltimore, Maryland

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

October 2, 1936.

Mr. Allan S. Bowie,
811 Hamilton Terrace
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Bowie:

As you suggested last Sunday I have prepared a suggested letter in regard to the placing of the Bowie Firearms Collection at Fort McHenry. You can make any changes in it that you wish since this is just an example of the usual way in which presentations are made.

I had a note from the Washington Office inquiring whether any steps were being taken to clear up the matter since it had been raised a few weeks ago. There has been a change in the staff in the Washington Office and I think it might be well to get the whole thing cleared up before all of the old men are gone from over there.

Very truly yours,

George A. Palmer,
Superintendent.

GAP:P
Encl.

COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL PARK
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

October 2, 1936.

Mr. Allan S. Bowie,
811 Hamilton Terrace
Baltimore, Maryland.

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Very truly yours,

George A. Palmer,
Superintendent.

GAP:P
Encl.

October 5th, 1936.

Superintendent,
Fort McHenry National Park,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to the firearm collection of my brother, the late E. Berkley Bowie, which was placed at Fort McHenry National Park in September 1935. At that time it was not understood that a letter of presentation was necessary to accompany the collection. In order that there may be no question of title arising in the future, I wish to take this opportunity of presenting the above collection to Fort McHenry National Park in the name of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

In presenting the E. Berkley Bowie Firearms Collection to Fort McHenry National Park, I wish to make only one reservation. It is understood that the collection will be shown only at Fort Mc Henry National Park and is not to be broken for display in other parks.

Yours very truly,

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL PARK
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

October 5, 1936.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mr. Spalding.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find letter from Allen S. Bowie presenting the E. Berkley Bowie Firearms Collection to Fort McHenry National Park. You will note that the presentation is made with only one reservation that the collection be displayed at Fort McHenry and not be broken for display at other parks. I recommend that the collection be accepted with that one reservation.

This letter of presentation will clear up any of the questions which have arisen in the past in regard to ownership of this collection.

Sincerely yours,

Superintendent.

GAP:P
Encl.

COPY

October 5th, 1936.

George A. Palmer, Esq.,
Superintendent,
Fort McHenry National Park,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Palmer:-

In response to your letter to me of October
2nd enclosing a suggested form of letter to be written by me
to you presenting my brother's firearms collection to the
Fort McHenry National Park, I beg to enclose such letter and
^{you} you will note that I have adopted the wording verbatim.

It was very kind of you to call this matter to my attention
and to phrase the letter for me.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Wm. S. Bowie.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

C
O
P
Y

November 7, 1936.

Memorandum for the Acting Secretary:

The Act approved June 5, 1920 (41 Stat. 917) provides that "The Secretary of the Interior in his administration of the National Park Service is authorized to accept *** buildings or other property *** which may be donated for the purposes of the national park and monument system."

Pursuant to the above-quoted authorization the Bowie collection of firearms consisting of approximately 400 specimens has been donated to the Service by the Society of the War of 1812 to be used for display purposes in Fort McHenry National Park, Baltimore, Maryland.

It is respectfully recommended that the above-mentioned donation be accepted and used for the purpose mentioned.

In duplicate.

(Sgd.) A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

Approved: November 13, 1936.

(Sgd.) T. A. Walters
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

February 4, 1937

Hon. Millard E. Tydings
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Following our conversation at the University Club the other evening, I am inclosing a clipping from the "Baltimore Evening Sun", January 14th, which said that the Department of the Interior has acquired from the Society of the War of 1812 a title to the firearms collection at Fort McHenry. That is manifestly untrue because our Society has never been approached in the matter, although in tracing it out we discover an amazing situation, the details of which my board feels is not known by Secretary Ickes.

Very naturally we are disquieted by the occurrence because the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has been the means of placing about 90% of the exhibits at Fort McHenry and we feel a sense of responsibility to our fellow Baltimoreans. Therefor I am inclosing in this copies of certain letters that will explain themselves and will ask you to note that in May 1934, Mr. Allen S. Bowie gave to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland the collection aforesaid and that it was accepted and duly placed at Fort McHenry in accordance with our suggestion to Mr. Bowie. Other letters will show that ~~the facts of this gift were known by Mr. Chastelaine who had charge of the historical division of the Department of the Interior and by Mr. Peterson who planned the installation for the exhibit. I might also state that Dr. Jones, Mr. Carrett and Mr. Palmer, who have successively acted as superintendents at Fort McHenry, since then have seen the letter of gift from Mr. Bowie and that each was personally acquainted with its details. More recently, however, Mr. Bowie has been induced to give title to the Department of the Interior for the same collection that he had previously given to the Society of the War of 1812 and which we deposited at Fort McHenry in good faith.~~

of this gift from Bowie to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is a donation to the Society to plan the

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1936-52

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At another time ^{the} Society of the War of 1812 sent twelve or fifteen authenticated cannon that had seen service in the defense of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Two of these cannon were mounted by the War Department at the entrance of the porte and three others were mounted by our Society on horse artillery carriages, as advised by Tousard who planned the ~~fort~~, for ^{the} sea coast defense around Baltimore. The Superintendent at Fort McHenry knew that these items belonged to us and you can imagine our chagrin when we found that last summer agents of the Department of the Interior, without asking our permission, had taken our guns from our carriages and placed them on other carriages and when we protested, they placed other guns on our carriages that had no connection with the historic armament of Fort McHenry.

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fast that there may not be a model left by the end of the
month.

We take no pleasure in making these complaints,
but Baltimoreans are proud of the reputation of Fort Mchenry
and we hope that you will acquaint the Secretary of the
Interior with these irregularities because we cannot con-
ceive that he knows the real facts.

Very truly yours,

JEM:AG

which was made a National Shrine, & Congress
and in 1922 by the
direction of the Dept. of the Interior. We feel
that there is a danger of diminishing
the reputation of the name implies as does
hope that you will acquaint the Secretary of
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see if they cannot be corrected.

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Under the circumstances, my board feels that it would be timely to mention several similar annoyances that have occurred since the Department of the Interior took over the control of Fort McHenry by Executive Order in August 1933. During the eight years period of previous supervision by the War Department, our Society cooperated with their engineers in restoring the fort buildings and in landscaping the grounds, by collecting exhibits for the museum. Through our efforts some fifty historical tablets were erected and over 200 trees were planted on the grounds at Fort McHenry, and of these, thirty six tablets and thirty six trees were installed by the various patriotic societies to memorialize those historical characters who had been connected with the building of Fort McHenry, or who participated in the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812. But shortly after the Department of the Interior assumed control, their superintendent sold as junk, a collection of old cannon balls that had been stored in the magazine at Fort McHenry for exhibition purposes, and the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland was importuned to repurchase these relics at a price that was nearly tenfold what the Department of the Interior had gotten for them. I might also add that the trees which had been planted at considerable expense have been consistently neglected and that many of them are dead or dying.

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We take no pleasure in making these complaints because Fort McHenry was made a National Shrine by Act of Congress and Baltimoreans are proud of its reputation, And knowing that the irregularities are bound to diminish that respect for it, which the name implies, we hope that you will acquaint the Secretary of the Interior with the real facts and see if they cannot be corrected.

Very truly yours,

And placed
under the supervision of
the War Department.
Mr. King
Plaza 0400
Station 228
Imp.

Cordially yours,
THE ATCO COMPANY.

October 5th, 1936.

Superintendent,
Fort McHenry National Park,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:-

Reference is made to the firearm collection of my brother, the late E. Berkley Bowie, which was placed at Fort McHenry National Park in September 1935. At that time it was not understood that a letter of presentation was necessary to accompany the collection. In order that there may be no question of title arising in the future, I wish to take this opportunity of presenting the above collection to Fort McHenry National Park in the name of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

In presenting the E. Berkley Bowie Firearms Collection to Fort McHenry National Park, I wish to make only one reservation. It is understood that the collection will be shown only at Fort Mc Henry National Park and is not to be broken for display in other parks.

Yours very truly,

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL PARK
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

BOWIE COLL.
OF ARMS.

January 15, 1937.

Mr. James E. Hancock,
521 W. Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

With reference to our telephone conversation this morning concerning the Bowie Collection, I wish to extend my remarks which were quite short.

Under date of September 22, 1936 the Chief of the Museum Division cut off all work and expenditure of funds on the Bowie Collection because of the fact that the Government held no title to the collection, since it is not permissible for the Government to expend funds unless title is held. The enclosed memorandum from Mr. Ned J. Burns explains this situation fully.

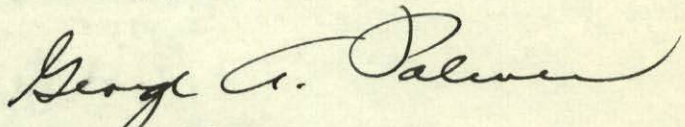
After this memorandum was forwarded I was requested orally to take the necessary steps to secure the title to the collection in order that work might be continued. On September 30 official inquiry was made as to the progress, as you will note by enclosure #2 from the Acting Assistant Director. At the time the question with regard to the Bowie Collection had arisen, Mr. and Mrs. Bowie called at the fort one Sunday morning. I explained to them the questions which the Washington Office had raised and told them of the requirement of the Museum Division. Mr. Bowie understood the situation thoroughly. He said, however, that he wished the donation to be made in the name of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and asked what procedure should be taken to present the collection in that fashion. I suggested the form of letter and he then asked me to draft it for him. A copy of my correspondence with Mr. Bowie and his reply is enclosed. Upon the receipt of Mr. Bowie's letter I forwarded it to the Washington Office with the recommendation that it be accepted as presented. In spite of the fact that the Service prefers that gifts be presented without any reservations, upon my recommendation the collection was accepted with the stipulation that it always remain at Fort McHenry.

Mr. Hancock

- 2 -

Let me assure you that no under handed work was planned and I did not consider that the steps which I took upon orders were secretive nor detrimental to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, my respect for which my superiors will affirm. I made the arrangements with Mr. Bowie that the collection would be given in the name of the Society and have taken steps to see that full credit is given to the organization in the permanent display. I hope that the above explanation is satisfactory and sincerely request that any feelings which you have toward my official actions with which you do not agree will not affect your feelings toward me personally.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George A. Palmer". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

George A. Palmer,
Superintendent.

GAP:P
ENCLS.

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

February 4, 1937

Hon. Millard E. Tydings
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Following our conversation at the University Club the other evening, I am inclosing a clipping from the "Baltimore Evening Sun", January 14th, which said that the Department of the Interior has acquired from the Society of the War of 1812 a title to the firearms collection at Fort McHenry. That is manifestly untrue because our Society has never been approached in the matter, although in tracing it out we discover an amazing situation, the details of which my board feels is not known by Secretary Ickes.

Very naturally we are disquieted by the occurrence because the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has been the means of placing about 90% of the exhibits at Fort McHenry and we feel a sense of responsibility to our fellow Baltimoreans. Therefor I am inclosing in this copies of certain letters that will explain themselves and will ask you to note that in May 1934, Mr. Allen S. Bowie gave to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland the collection aforesaid and that it was accepted and duly placed at Fort McHenry in accordance with our suggestion to Mr. Bowie. Other letters will show that the facts of this gift were known by Mr. Chatelaine who had charge of the historical division of the Department of the Interior and by Mr. Peterson who planned the installation for the exhibit. I might also state that Dr. Jones, Mr. Garrett and Mr. Palmer, who have successively acted as superintendents at Fort McHenry, since then have seen the letter of gift from Mr. Bowie and that each was personally acquainted with its details. More recently, however, Mr. Bowie has been induced to give title to the Department of the Interior for the same collection that he had previously given to the Society of the War of 1812 and which we deposited at Fort McHenry in good faith.

February 4, 1937

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U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

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Following our conversation at the University Club the other evening, I am inclosing a clipping from the "Baltimore Evening Sun", January 14th, which said that the Department of the Interior has acquired from the Society of the War of 1812 a title to the firearms collection at Fort McHenry. That is manifestly untrue because our Society has never been approached in the matter, although in tracing it out we discover an amazing situation, the details of which my board feels is not known by Secretary Ickes.

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Under the circumstances, my board feels that it would be timely to mention several similar annoyances that have occurred since the Department of the Interior took over the control of Fort McHenry by Executive Order in August 1933. During the eight years period of previous supervision by the War Department, our Society cooperated with their engineers in restoring the fort buildings and in landscaping the grounds. Meanwhile we collected exhibits for the museum and through our efforts some fifty historical tablets were erected and over 200 trees were planted on the grounds at Fort McHenry. Of these, thirty six tablets and thirty six trees were installed by the various patriotic societies to memorialize those historical characters who had been connected with the building of Fort McHenry, or who participated in the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812. But shortly after the Department of the Interior assumed control, their superintendents sold as junk a collection of old cannon balls that had been stored in the magazine at Fort McHenry for exhibition purposes. When we protested against this blunder, the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland was importuned to repurchase these relics at a price that was nearly tenfold what the Department of the Interior had gotten for them. I might also add that the trees which had been planted at considerable expense have been consistently neglected and that many of them are dead or dying.

At another time the Society of the War of 1812 sent twelve or fifteen authenticated cannon that had seen service in the defense of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Two of these cannon were mounted by the War Department at the entrance of the porte and three others were mounted by our Society on horse artillery carriages, as advised by Tousard who planned the fort, for sea coast defense around Baltimore. The superintendent at Fort McHenry knew that these items belonged to us and you can imagine our chagrin when we found that last summer agents of the Department of the Interior, without asking our permission, had taken our guns from our carriages and placed them on other carriages and when we protested, they placed other guns on our carriages that had no connection with the historic armament of Fort McHenry.

Last summer the Society of the War of 1812 started a marine museum at the fort and were prepared to double its size this year, but since the firearms episode people who owned these shipmodels have gotten very sceptical about their property rights and are withdrawing their models so fast that there may not be a model left by the end of the month.

We take no pleasure in making these complaints, but Baltimoreans are proud of the reputation of Fort McHenry and we hope that you will acquaint the Secretary of the Interior with these irregularities because we cannot conceive that he knows the real facts.

Very truly yours,

J&H:AC

February 8, 1937

Hon. Millard E. Tydings
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

Following our conversation at the University Club the other evening, I am inclosing a clipping from the "Baltimore Evening Sun", January 14th, which said that the Department of the Interior has acquired from the Society of the War of 1812 a title to the firearms collection at Fort McHenry. That is manifestly untrue because our Society has never been approached in the matter, although in tracing it out we discover an amazing situation, the details of which my board feels is not known by Secretary Ickes.

Very naturally we are disquieted by the occurrence, because the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has been the means of placing about 90% of the exhibits at Fort McHenry and we feel a sense of responsibility to our fellow Baltimoreans. Therefor I am inclosing in this copies of certain letters that will explain themselves and will ask you to note that in May 1934, Mr. Allen S. Bowie gave to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland the collection aforesaid and that it was accepted by us and duly placed at Fort McHenry in accordance with our suggestion to Mr. Bowie. Other letters will show that I notified Mr. Chatelaine who had charge of the historical division of the Department of the Interior and Mr. Peterson who planned the installation of this gift. I might also state that agents from the Department of the Interior came over to plan the exhibit and that each of the subsequent superintendents or acting superintendents at Fort McHenry had seen the letter of gift from Mr. Bowie and that each was personally acquainted with its details. More recently, on October 5th, 1936, Mr. Bowie was induced to give to the Department of the Interior this same collection that he had previously given to the Society of the War of 1812 and which had been deposited at Fort McHenry in good faith.

February 8, 1937

Under the circumstances, my board feels that it would be timely to mention several similar annoyances that have occurred since the Department of the Interior took over the control of Fort McHenry by Executive Order in August 1933. During the eight years period of previous supervision by the War Department, our Society cooperated with their engineers in restoring the fort buildings and in landscaping the grounds, *and* collecting exhibits for the museum. Through our efforts some fifty historical tablets were erected and over 200 trees were planted on the grounds at Fort McHenry, and of these, thirty six tablets and thirty six trees were installed by the various patriotic societies to memorialize those historical characters who had been connected with the building of Fort McHenry, or who participated in the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812. But shortly after the Department of the Interior assumed control their superintendent sold, as junk, a collection of old cannon balls that had been stored in the magazine at Fort McHenry for exhibition purposes, and the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland was importuned to repurchase these relics at a price that was nearly tenfold what the Department of the Interior had gotten for them. I might also add that the trees which had been planted at considerable expense have been consistently neglected and that many of them are dead or dying.

At other times the Society of the War of 1812 sent twelve or fifteen authenticated cannon that had seen service in the defense of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Two of these cannon were mounted by the War Department at the entrance of the porte and three others were mounted by our Society on horse artillery carriages, as advised by Toussard who planned the fort for supplemental sea coast defense around Baltimore. The superintendent at Fort McHenry knew that these items belonged to us and you can imagine our chagrin when we found that agents of the Department of the Interior without asking permission had, last summer, taken our guns from our carriages and placed them on other carriages and when we protested, they placed other guns that had no connection with the historic armament of Fort McHenry on our carriages.

More recently the Society of the War of 1812 started a marine museum at the fort to memorialize the naval history of Baltimore at that period and we were preparing to double its size this year. But since the firearms episode people who owned these shipmodels have gotten very sceptical about their property rights and are withdrawing the models so fast that there may not be a model left by the end of the month.

We take no pleasure in making these complaints because Fort McHenry was made a National Shrine by Act of Congress and placed under the supervision of the War Department. But Baltimoreans are proud of its reputation, and knowing that these irregularities are bound to diminish that respect for it, which the name implies, we hope that you will acquaint the Secretary of the Interior with the real facts and see if they cannot be corrected.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

Washington

February 18, 1937

Memorandum for the Acting Secretary:

Reference is made to Senator Tydings' letter of February 10, regarding museum exhibits at Fort McHenry National Park, and the letter of Mr. James E. Hancock attached.

The background of this situation is as follows: In September 1936, the firearms collection of E. Berkley Bowie was placed at Fort McHenry through negotiations with Mr. James E. Hancock, President of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. There was no correspondence exchanged upon the collection, but it was assumed that the collection would be a gift to the National Park Service. Under that assumption, the National Park Service secured PWA funds in the amount of \$12,813 for cases and preparation of the collection.

It was deemed necessary by the Service to secure full title to the collection for acceptance of the Secretary in order to justify the expenditure of government funds. In September, 1936, Superintendent Palmer was instructed orally to secure title to the collection.

Superintendent Palmer believed that the reservations in Mr. Allen Bowie's letter of May 28, 1934, to Mr. Hancock, would make it necessary for Mr. Bowie to present the collection. When Supt. Palmer explained the necessity for title to Mr. Bowie, he stated that he wished the Society to have all credit for the collection. The presentation was made and accepted with the reservation that the collection would not be removed from Fort McHenry and that the name of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland would be carried with it when the final display was prepared.

With respect to Mr. Hancock's complaint that the trees at Fort McHenry are not receiving proper care, the following quotation from A.K. Baskette, Colonel, Quartermaster Corps, Baltimore, to Mrs. James Dorsey, Baltimore, March 19, 1931, is given: "All trees planted in Fort McHenry will be red oaks. This tree was selected after a thorough consultation with the Department of Agriculture in Washington, not only because of its own shape and coloring, but also because it is the best tree that can be grown on that particular ground". In spite of the recommendation of the Dept. of Agriculture, white pine trees also were planted while the War Department had jurisdiction. Tree authorities declare that the white pine cannot

COPY

live under atmospheric conditions at Fort McHenry. The white ~~oak~~ pine trees are dying and no care can save them. The oak trees are thriving and are being given care by the National Park Service.

The gun carriages referred to by Mr. Hancock are reproduction carriages of 1849 model. Mr. Hancock was informed of the plans to construct new carriages by Acting Superintendent Jones. When the carriages were changed, Mr. Hancock was shown the carriage plans of 1812. He gave Mr. Harper Garrett, Historian of the Service, oral approval to the change.

Since Fort McHenry National Park was transferred to the National Park Service in August 9, 1933, necessary improvements amounting to \$94,997.89 have been completed to properly preserve and make available for public reception the old Fort. There were no museum displays at Fort McHenry open to the public in August 1933. During the past three years, eight rooms of display have been opened permanently and temporary exhibits have been open at other times. During the six months from April 1936 to October 1936 there were 45,000 visitors to the museum rooms. It is estimated that 150,000 visitors entered the reservation. In meeting the increasing demands of the visitors and the program of development with regard to Service standards, we believe that the Society is not being injured and that we are cooperating with the local people. We are endeavoring to promote the best interests of Fort McHenry National Park.

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER
Director

Enclosure 1259827

CC-Senator Tydings

March 10, 1937

Mr. Charles West
Acting Secretary of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledgement is herein made of your enclosure 1259827 to Senator Millard E. Tydings, copy of which Senator Tydings has sent to me.

Noting that this memorandum is signed by Mr. Arno B. Cammerer, Director, for whom I have much respect, I regret the need to dispute several statements that are contained therein. Presuming, however, that this memorandum has been prepared for him in the usual routine of his office, I would refer to the fact that it says that there was no correspondence about the firearms collection. I would therefor enclose in this copies of letters to Mr. Chatelaine, Historian, and to Mr. Peterson, Chief of Division, regarding the matter and would further assert that several agents were then sent over from Washington to inspect the collection and to arrange for its display. These men knew that the collection had been given to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland for the purposes mentioned and every superintendent or acting superintendent at Fort McHenry since then has seen the letter of gift from Mr. Bowie to our society and were acquainted with its details.

I am also enclosing in this copy of a memorandum from Mr. Ned J. Burns, Acting Chief of Museum Division, to the Director, dated Sept. 22nd, 1936, and a copy of a letter from Mr. Branch Spalding, Acting Assistant Director, to Mr. Palmer, dated Sept. 30th, 1936, requesting a report from Mr. Palmer regarding the efforts that he was making to obtain a title to the collection. And please note that this was two years after the collection had been delivered to Fort McHenry in good faith and that Mr. Palmer had repeatedly seen the letter of gift from Mr. Bowie and knew who held the title to the firearms collection.

Reference is also made in Paragraph 5 to a letter from Col. A. K. Baskette to Mrs. James Dorsey dated March 19th, 1931 which I frankly feel is a red herring across the trail. In any event that was a matter between Col. Baskette and Mrs. Dorsey and I would specifically say that when we made application to erect 36 trees and 36 markers to

the selected men who were connected with Fort McHenry and the defense of Baltimore. Colonel Baskette stipulated that the trees should be white pine because they were a suitable evergreen. Moreover, these trees were purchased through Col. Baskette's office with money that was supplied by us and other patriotic societies and these trees were in good condition when the Department of the Interior took over the fort. Since then we have frequently called attention to the neglect of these trees, until recently an effort has been made to save them by futile spraying. I would therefore submit that a little care and a little top soil in 1933 and 1934 would have saved these trees which had been presented by the patriotic societies with good historical intent.

Replying to the comments in the first paragraph, page 2 of the memorandum, I not only deny that Dr. Jones ever showed me any plans for new gun carriages, but it is my impression that Dr. Jones resigned from the Department some time before this change was made. In fact, I doubt that Dr. Jones with his knowledge of our local history would have counseled such alteration and I remember the interest that he displayed when I showed him a copy of the Artillerist Companion published in 1809, in which Major Tousard who planned the Star Fort advised the use of horse artillery as a supplemental coast defense. Tousard knew the conditions around Baltimore and these carriages were made on the advice of the War Department about 25 years ago. The guns were first placed in one of the public parks of Baltimore until we moved them to Fort McHenry. However, when the guns were taken from our carriages, we protested and Mr. Garrett came over from Washington to ask me not to press the matter, because the new carriages had been made by W. P. A. workers and if we agitated it some one would get in trouble. Mr. Garrett then proposed to get new guns for our carriages and I naturally assumed that such guns would be of the 1812 period. As things now stand, our guns on the present carriages do not represent the history that we paid to emphasize and the new guns on our carriages have no historical connection with the Defense of Baltimore.

We are glad to have the figures for attendance at Fort McHenry because we remember the painstaking earnestness that the War Department took in restoring the old buildings and in landscaping the grounds. We also remember that the great majority of items for the museum were placed there by the Society of the War of 1812 and that we secured the street signs through the Keystone Automobile Club to direct the traveling public to the fort. We regret, however, to hear the many complaints from people who go to the fort and find that

they cannot get inside the buildings. Therefor I would respectfully suggest that it would be seemly for the Department of the Interior to realize that it obtained the work of these factors under the pretext of better management and that it can afford to have some regard for our property rights.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

James E. Hancock

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD. NOV. 8th, 1937.

Director, the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to certain correspondence relative to the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, which the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland previously deposited as a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, you will please be advised that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is presently disposed to execute a deed or a bill of sale, transferring to the United States of America the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned:

1. - That the United States of America will maintain the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection in good condition, under proper care and custody and will display same in toto at Fort McHenry.

2. - That the said United States of America will mark this display of the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry National Park by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland," in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore, that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said Collection.

3. - That the United States of America shall not remove the said E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the area now known as Fort McHenry National Park, without the written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said Firearms Collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the E. Berkley Bowie Firearms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and shall thereby re-invest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title therein.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

February 25, 1938.

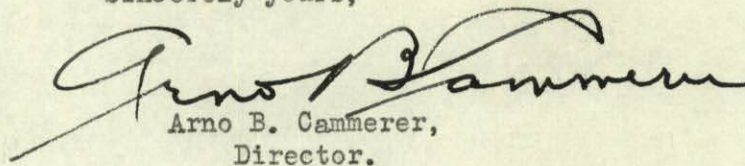
Mr. James E. Hancock,
President, Society of the War
of 1812 in Maryland,
521 W. Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

This Service has received two copies of a bill of sale executed February 21, 1938, by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, transferring to the United States the Bowie Arms Collection, now located at Fort McHenry National Park, together with copies of a resolution adopted by the Society February 15, authorizing the President and Secretary to execute the instrument on behalf of the Society. I take pleasure in accepting on behalf of the United States the property transferred, subject to the conditions expressed in the bill of sale.

One copy of the executed bill of sale is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,


Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

Enclosure 1610348

BILL OF SALE

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maryland, in consideration of the acceptance and public display of the Bowie Arms Collection at Fort McHenry National Park, does hereby bargain and sell to the United States of America, the following property:

The Bowie Arms Collection, consisting of antique firearms, now located at Fort McHenry National Park,

Subject to the following express conditions:

1. That the United States of America will maintain in good condition, and display the Bowie Arms Collection in toto at Fort McHenry, unless the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland approves, under written authorization, the display and maintenance of only a portion of the said collection, in which event the portion of the collection to be displayed and maintained by the United States of America shall be described in the written authorization of the Society.

2. That the said United States of America will mark this display of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland", and in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said collection.

3. That the United States shall not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the said Fort McHenry, without written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection: Provided, however, that in the event the said collection or a portion thereof is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority; it also being further understood, that if it becomes known to the United States of America or to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland

that the Bowie Arms Collection or any part thereof has been stolen or removed without authority as hereinabove provided for, from Fort McHenry, the Secretary of the Interior will recommend to the proper officers of the United States that action legal or otherwise be taken by the United States of America to effect its return, with or without punitive measures, if such action would not result in unreasonable cost being incurred to do so.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the President and Secretary of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, being thereunto duly authorized, have hereunto set our hands and caused the official seal of the said Society to be affixed.



James E. Hancock
President

Witnesses:

Walter N. Melville
W. W. Warner

William H. Pitcher, Jr.
Secretary

State of Maryland, City of Baltimore, to wit,

I hereby certify, that on this 21st day of July,
in the year nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, before the subscriber, a notary public for the said State, in and for the City aforesaid, personally appeared James E. Hancock and William H. Pitcher, Jr., President and Secretary, respectively, of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, one of the parties mentioned in the foregoing bill of sale, and acknowledged the same to be the act and deed of the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

Walter N. Melville
Notary Public.

Baltimore, Md. Feb. 15th, 1938.

Whereas - The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland did procure, May 28th, 1934, the gift of a collection of Firearms from the heirs of the late E. Berkley Bowie and did deposit this same as a permanent exhibit in the Museum at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md.

And whereas - The United States of America desires to obtain the title to the said Bowie Firearms Collection subject to the stipulations and qualifications to be contained in an agreement or qualified Bill of Sale as hereinafter set forth.

Therefor be it resolved - That the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland agrees to vest title in the United States of America to the aforesaid Bowie Firearms Collection, subject however to the following conditions.

1. That the United States of America will maintain in good condition, and display the Bowie Arms Collection in toto at Fort McHenry, unless the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland approves, under written authorization, the display and maintenance of only a portion of the said collection, in which event the portion of the collection to be displayed and maintained by the United States of America shall be described in the written authorization of the Society.
2. That the said United States of America will mark this display of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland", and in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said collection.

Baltimore, Md. Feb. 15th, 1938.

3. That the United States shall not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the said Fort McHenry, without written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection; Provided, however, that in the event the said collection or a portion thereof is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority; it also being further understood, that if it becomes known to the United States of America or to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland that the Bowie Arms Collection or any part thereof has been stolen or removed without authority as hereinabove provided for, from Fort McHenry, the Secretary of the Interior will recommend to the proper officers of the United States that action legal or otherwise be taken by the United States of America to effect its return, with or without punitive measures, if such action would not result in unreasonable cost being incurred to do so.

And be it further resolved - That the President and the Secretary of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland are hereby authorized and directed to execute the hereinabove mentioned instrument.

James E. Hancock
President.

Signed.

William H. Pitcher, Jr.
Secretary.

MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD., CHAIRMAN
KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.
WILLIAM H. KING, UTAH
JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, ARK.
BENNETT CHAMP CLARK, MO.
ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C.
HOMER T. BONE, WASH.
KENNETH MCKELLAR, TENN.
WILLIAM GIBBS MCADOO, CALIF.
BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT.
PETER G. GERRY, R. I.

GERALD P. NYE, N. DAK.
JESSE H. METCALF, R. I.
ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.
CHARLES L. MCNARY, OREG.
ERNEST W. GIBSON, VT.

MISS CORINNE BARGER, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

IN REPLY
PLEASE REFER TO DATE
OF THIS LETTER
March 18, 1937

Mr. James E. Hancock,
521 W. Lombard St.,
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Hancock:

I have your letter of the 11th.

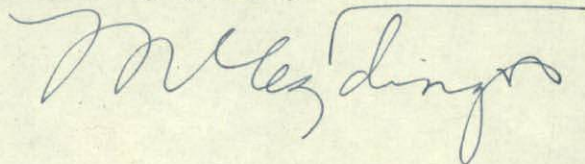
I want you to know that I stand ready and willing to do anything that I possibly can in cooperation with the Society of the War of 1812 to be helpful in regard to the preservation of Fort McHenry and the historical exhibits there.

So far as the recent collection of arms is concerned, I would prefer not to go further into that as the ownership of the same seems to be in dispute which I am powerless to settle.

However, if you feel I can be of help to the Society in any other way, please let me know just what you want me to do.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



2L

Copy

March 20, 1937

Hon. Millard E. Tydings
U. S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Tydings:

Yours of March 18th has been received, and noted.

At the risk of being misunderstood, I regret that you have included in same any comment on the title to the arms collection. My board feels that this is a moral issue and that the Department of the Interior has not been fair regarding the known facts of ownership.

However, I would not urge you to get into the contention unless you felt that our claim was justified.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 1937.

Mr. James E. Hancock,
President, Society of the War of 1812,
521 West Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

By reference from Acting Secretary West, the receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 10 regarding the Bowie collection of firearms and certain other matters at Fort McHenry National Park.

The records of this Service do not contain complete data as to the facts surrounding the delivery of the above-mentioned collection to Fort McHenry, and therefore the question of ownership of the firearms is not entirely free from doubt. However, our records do clearly indicate that it was the intention of the donor, Mr. Allen S. Bowie, to secure the benefit of the Society's prestige in persuading the Government to accept the collection and to display it at the Fort. Correspondence in our files also indicates that this Service believed the intention of the donor had been carried out as on November 7, 1936, Acting Secretary Walters of this Department accepted the collection, which Mr. Bowie stated in his letter of October 5, 1936, to Superintendent Palmer was being presented to the park "in order that there may be no question of title arising in the future".

From your letters, however, it appears that you believe a gift to the Society was consummated in September 1935, pursuant to an exchange of correspondence between you and Mr. Bowie in 1934.

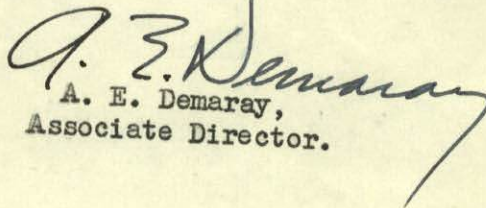
This Service has no intention of divesting the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland of title to the collection, if, in fact, title thereto is now vested in the Society and it is desired to retain ownership thereof. However, our administration of the Fort must be based on an orderly and permanent plan and unless our title to the collection is perfected, if it is not now valid, the space made available in the Fort for display of the firearms will be devoted to other historical exhibits.

Therefore, if your Society desires to remove all doubt as to title to the collection and thereby assure that the donor's expressed intention shall be complied with, namely, the collection displayed at

the Fort as a memorial to the donor's deceased brother, it is suggested that your Society take such steps as may be necessary to authorize and execute a deed of gift to the collection to the United States. An appropriate explanation of the Society's part in making the collection available will be made in exhibiting the firearms.

It is our understanding that, if a gift to the Society was consummated in 1935, the removal of the collection from Fort McHenry may cause title to the firearms to revert in Mr. Bowie and thereby prevent the wishes of Mr. Bowie from being carried out through the Society. Please advise the wishes of your Society in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Associate Director.

March 30, 1937

Mr. A. E. Demaray
Assistant Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Demaray:

Returning to the city yesterday, I found your letter, March 25th, in reference to the Bowie firearms collection.

It is the earnest intention of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland to make a permanent exhibit of this collection at Fort McHenry and we are amazed at the present confusion. Under the circumstance a satisfactory proposition from you might help to unravel the tangle.

I am tied up for the balance of the week with other engagements but if you would appoint a convenient time for next week, I would be glad to run over to see you.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

April 1, 1937.

Mr. James E. Hancock,
President, Society of the War of
1812 in Maryland,
521 W. Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

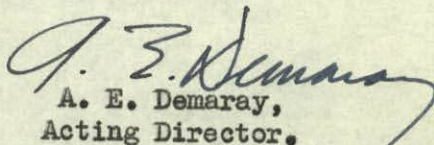
Dear Mr. Hancock:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 30 regarding the Bowie firearms collection now on display at Fort McHenry.

We are pleased to note that it is the earnest intention of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland to make a permanent exhibit of the collection at Fort McHenry. As correspondence from your Society raised a question as to ownership of the collection, it was not clear to this Service why this question was raised when the wishes of the donor and the Society were apparently being carried out by this Service. Furthermore, as Government funds have been and undoubtedly will be expended on the collection, it is necessary for us to resolve all doubts in the matter one way or the other. Accordingly, we wrote you on March 25 suggesting a procedure to insure that the collection would be permanently available for exhibition at the Fort.

It is believed that we will be able to adjust this matter without any difficulties. Your Society appears to have a genuine interest in the historical background of the War of 1812 just as we do. Therefore, I will be glad to have you call at my office next week at your convenience so we may discuss this matter in a friendly way and dispose of any differences that may now exist. I suggest that you advise in advance what day it will be convenient for you to call at this office.

Sincerely yours,


A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

GEO. WASHINGTON WILLIAMS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
225-32 NEW AMSTERDAM BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MD.

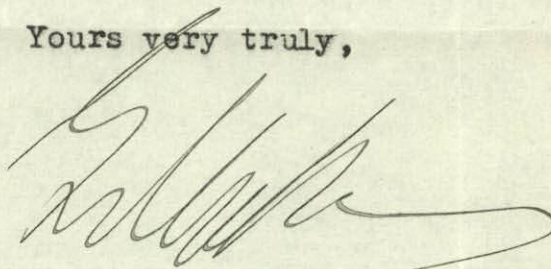
April 21, 1937.

Dear Doctor:-

In going over the draft of Resolution just now (6:15) I note that three words were omitted in the last line, in the copying from my manuscript, and you will, therefore, please insert "of the custody" between the word "acceptance" and the word "of" in said last line. If they are omitted, there might be some quibble, though I don't see how. Anyhow, I had intended to insert them, and wish them inserted now.

Hoping that the paper heretofore mailed will meet with your approval, I am, with best regards,

Yours very truly,



P. S. You may convert "exhibit" into "exhibition" in the 3rd line from the top.

I was in haste to get it to you in today's mail, hence did not proof read it very well, it seems.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

~~WASHINGTON~~

Fort McHenry National Park
Baltimore, Maryland

C
O
P
Y

August 17, 1937

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mr. Ronald Lee

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Mr. Lee's letter of August 9 concerning the marker or plaque for the E. Berkeley Bowie Firearms Collection. I have discussed the enclosed legend with Mr. Bowie, who approved it.

The completed plaque would be approximately 17" x 25" or four times the size of the enclosed one. The proposed location of the completed marker is shown on the enclosed photograph by the white block of paper on the fireplace chimney of the first room given to the Bowie Collection. The collection should be marked with a bronze tablet, but if the park is to supply the marker I doubt whether I have sufficient funds in our appropriation to secure it. For the time being I feel that a wooden marker with white background and with brown lettering to correspond with the white and brown painting of the stairway adjacent to the chimney would be very appropriate. I have discussed this location and type of marker with one of the regional architects who felt that such a marker was appropriate.

Because of the fact that we are starting an ERA project I did not find it convenient to bring this suggested marker copy over in person. If you wish to discuss it further, however, I will come over at your convenience.

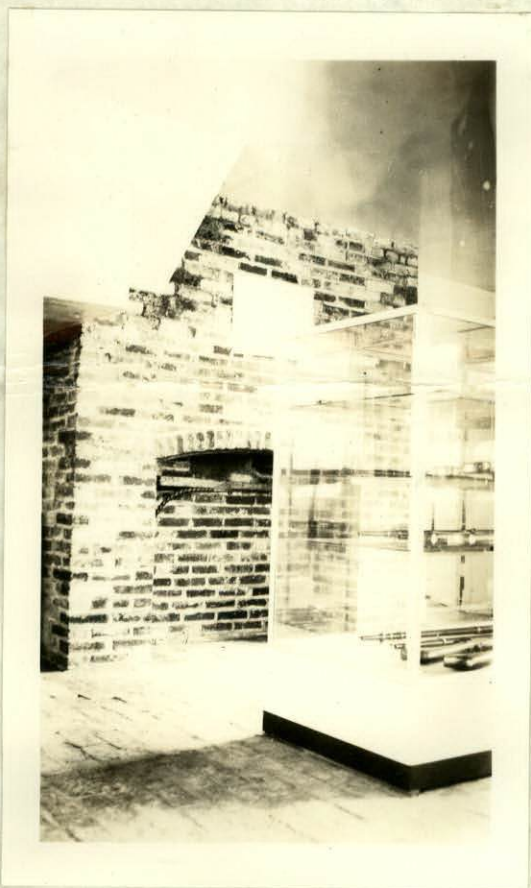
Sincerely yours,

(signed)

George A. Palmer
Superintendent.

THE E. BERKLEY BOWIE
COLLECTION OF FIRE ARMS
made by
E. BERKLEY BOWIE
of BALTIMORE

presented to
FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL PARK
by
THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
IN MARYLAND



Proposed location of marker.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

August 26, 1937.

Mr. James E. Hancock,
President, Society of War of
1812 in Maryland,
521 West Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

There is enclosed a copy of a letter from Superintendent George A. Palmer, of Fort McHenry National Park, with enclosure, proposing an inscription and location for a marker or plaque concerning the E. Berkeley Bowie fire arms collection. We are forwarding this to you for the consideration of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. We hope that the proposed wording and location will be agreeable to your organization.

In this connection, it is understood that you are studying the form of provisional deed which would be satisfactory to us for the arms collection. We shall be glad to have one of our attorneys meet with your organization in Baltimore to draw up a suitable deed if you will advise where and when you would like to have the meeting held.

Sincerely yours,

Hilroy A. Tolson
Hilroy A. Tolson,
Acting Director.

Enclosure 1596923.

Whereas: The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland,
Solicitor & Acquina in 1934, the gift of a certain
Collection of firearms from the heirs of E. Goshly Gornie
deceased; and

Whereas: This ~~E. Goshly Gornie Firearms Collection~~
~~was removed to Fort McHenry, Baltimore,~~
~~the consent of the aforesaid heirs of E. Goshly Gornie~~
~~and the State of Maryland~~ It was the expressed
intention of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland
to establish this Collection of Firearms as a
permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry. This same
Collection was removed to the said Fort McHenry
with the consent and knowledge of the heirs of
E. Goshly Gornie deceased & of the State of Maryland
Now, therefore, Be it Resolved

First: That the Society of the War of 1812 in
Maryland, hereby consents that the said E. Goshly
Gornie Firearms Collection shall remain at the
said Fort McHenry, in the custody of the State
of Maryland, so long as said State shall
own, have jurisdiction over, or control of said
Fort McHenry for museum or historical purposes.

Second: That this consent is given with the entire
understanding & agreement that no part of, or all,
of said Collection.

RESOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN MARYLAND

*

WHEREAS, this Society, to wit, THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN MARYLAND, is the owner of the "BOWIE ARMS COLLECTION", now on exhibit at Fort McHenry, City of Baltimore, State of Maryland, and

WHEREAS, it ~~was the intention of the donor, and is now~~ the intention of this Society, and the desire of the United States Government, that said Arms Collection become a permanent exhibit at said Fort McHenry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

FIRST: That this Society hereby consents to the said Bowie Arms Collection remaining at said Fort McHenry, in the custody of the United States Government, so long as said Government shall own, have jurisdiction over, or control of, said Fort McHenry.

SECOND: That such consent is given with the distinct understanding and agreement that no part, or all, of said collection shall be, at any time, for any purpose, removed from said Fort McHenry, without the consent, in writing, of this Society, ~~and~~ that the same may be removed therefrom, then, only for short intervals, such as for temporary exhibitions, and never permanently, or in any manner equivalent to permanency.

THIRD: That the object of this resolution is to assure both the Government and the Society that the said Arms Collection shall be, and become, a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, in perpetuity, or as long as circumstances will permit, and they are not to be withdrawn, except that it be necessary to do so to preserve them for display in this community, or to protect the title of this Society thereto.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such consent shall be, and become, irrevocably effective immediately upon the receipt of the acceptance of said Arms Collection by the said United States Government, on the terms and conditions hereinabove set forth.

Suggested form for letter.

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland agreeably to your suggestion is willing to allow you to hold the "Bowie Arms Collection" now at Fort McHenry and to give you ^{a qualified} title thereto with the distinct and positive understanding that the U.S. Government will keep said arms collection in proper care and custody and that it, the said U.S. Government will always hereafter maintain same at Fort McHenry and will not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection nor any part thereof from the said Fort McHenry and furthermore that it will suitably mark the display as showing the said Society was the original depositor.

Furthermore and in consideration for the permission of the Society to allow the U.S. Government to assume ownership the said U.S. Government through ^{the Secretary of the Interior} ~~its properly qualified agents and officials~~ covenants and agrees that it will always keep and maintain said Bowie Arms Collection in the best manner and will not remove, nor permit its removal, or any part or portion thereof, from the said Fort where it now is and that if at any time in the future the said Collection, or any part or portion thereof, is removed from exhibition at said location, to wit; from Fort McHenry, then, and in that event, the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland will prior to such removal be given notice of same and the U.S. Government or its agents and servants having charge of such arms

return the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society and will at once re-invest said Society with full and absolute title to said Collection. And that if any of the guns, pistols or any part or parcel of said arms collection as it now stands have been removed the U.S. Government will immediately have same returned and give same back to the said Society with a clear title (as above set forth) to the said Society.

Provided, however, that if any of said articles are fraudulently by other than an agent, or agents or employee or employees of the U.S. removed or stolen/then, and in that event, there will be no responsibility on the part of the said U.S. for the loss of such articles nor will such theft, or abstraction cause the title to said Bowie Arms Collection, in itself, ~~xxxxx~~ to re-invest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland will give ^{added by} a Bill of Sale, in the nature of an agreement, to the United States which will embody the above stipulations, or provisos, and which ^{deed,} Bill of Sale, or agreement, will be accompanied by a resolution passed by ^{its} our Board of Managers authorizing its execution and which said Bill of Sale, or agreement, ^{is} ~~will~~ also be executed by the Secretary of the Interior, or a duly authorized representative of the United States Government, ^{formally accepting} ~~forming~~ said Bill of Sale and assenting to ^{the} ~~its~~ stipulations and agreements contained therein.

RESOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN MARYLAND

— * —

WHEREAS, this Society, to wit, THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN MARYLAND, is the owner of the "BOWIE ARMS COLLECTION", now on exhibit at Fort McHenry, City of Baltimore, State of Maryland, and

WHEREAS, it ~~was the intention of the donor, and is now~~ the intention of this Society, and the desire of the United States Government, that said Arms Collection become a permanent exhibit at said Fort McHenry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

FIRST: That this Society hereby consents to the said Bowie Arms Collection remaining at said Fort McHenry, in the custody of the United States Government, so long as said Government shall own, have jurisdiction over, or control of, said Fort McHenry.

SECOND: That such consent is given with the distinct understanding and agreement that no part, or all, of said collection shall be, at any time, for any purpose, removed from said Fort McHenry, without the consent, in writing, of this Society, ~~and~~ that the same may be removed therefrom, then, only for short intervals, such as for temporary exhibitions, and never permanently, or in any manner equivalent to permanency.

THIRD: That the object of this resolution is to assure both the Government and the Society that the said Arms Collection shall be, and become, a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, in perpetuity, or as long as circumstances will permit, and they are not to be withdrawn, except that it be necessary to do so to preserve them for display in this community, or to protect the title of this Society thereto.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such consent shall be, and become, irrevocably effective immediately upon the receipt of the acceptance of said Arms Collection by the said United States Government, on the terms and conditions hereinabove set forth.

for when we desire
your approval. If you are
incapable then in
deed

collected as may be
to parties
for return

Oct. 25th, 1937.

Director, N. P. S.
Dept. of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to certain correspondence relative to the
"Bowie Arms Collection" which The Society of the War of 1812 in
Maryland had previously deposited as a permanent exhibit at Fort
McHenry, you will please be advised that The Society of the War of
1812 in Maryland, is presently disposed to give a qualified title
of the Bowie Arms Collection to the U. S. Government under the
following conditions:

1. - That the U. S. Government will keep the "Bowie Arms
Collection" in proper care and custody and will always hereafter
maintain the said Bowie Arms Collection in toto at Fort McHenry,
2. - That the said U. S. Government will mark this display
of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift from the
Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, in a way that is agreeable
to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. *as the National Park Service*
3. - That the U. S. Government will agree not to remove the
said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof from the presents
of Fort McHenry, without the written permission of the Society of
the War of 1812 in Maryland and that in the event of any removal
in toto or in part, the U. S. Government will return the said
Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society and will re-invest The
Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, with full and absolute
title to said Collection.

to create a deed conveying to the
N. S. State - qualified title
to the Bowie Arms Collection
If the other conditions will
Society's deed will
contain the terms
fully covering

unless the Society is not
authorized under statute
to make such a deed
Mutually

We authorize
not to be authorized by

If or when a deed of the above nature is executed
and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed
by our board of directors authorizing the execution of the deed

President
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. Lombard Street

Secretary
WM. H. PITCHER, Jr.
3 W. Lombard Street

SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
In Maryland

Baltimore, Md.,
October 26, 1937.

Director of the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Referring to certain correspondence relative to the Bowie Arms Collection with the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, previously deposited as a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, you will please be advised that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is presently disposed to execute a deed or a bill of sale transferring to the United States of America the Bowie Arms Collection, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned:

1. That the United States of America will maintain, in good condition, and display the Bowie Arms Collection in toto at Fort McHenry, unless the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland approves, under written authorization, the display and maintenance of only a portion of the said collection, in which event the portion of the collection to be displayed and maintained by the United States of America shall be described in the written authorization of the Society.

2. That the said United States of America will mark this display of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and the National Park Service.

3. That the United States shall not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the area now known as Fort McHenry National Park without

written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection;

Provided, however, that in the event the said collection, or a portion thereof, is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority.

If and when a deed or bill of sale of the above nature is executed and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by our Board of Managers authorizing the execution thereof.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 of Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

President.

President
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. Lombard Street

Secretary
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. Lombard Street

SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
In Maryland

Baltimore, Md.,
October 26, 1937.

Director of the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

which *qualified* *has*
Referring to certain correspondence relative to the Bowie Arms Collection with the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, previously deposited as a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, you will please be advised that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is presently disposed to execute a deed or a bill of sale transferring to the United States of America the Bowie Arms Collection, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned:

1. That the United States of America will maintain, in good condition, and display the Bowie Arms Collection in toto at Fort McHenry, unless the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland approves, under written authorization, the display and maintenance of only a portion of the said collection, in which event the portion of the collection to be displayed and maintained by the United States of America shall be described in the written authorization of the Society.

2. That the said United States of America will mark this display of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and the National Park Service.

3. That the United States shall not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the area now known as Fort McHenry National Park without

written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection;

Provided, however, that in the event the said collection, or a portion thereof, is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority.

If and when a deed or bill of sale of the above nature is executed and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by our Board of Managers authorizing the execution thereof.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 of Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

President.

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
821 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD. Oct. 28th, 1937.

Director, the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to certain correspondence relative to the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, which The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland previously deposited as a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, you will please be advised that The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is presently disposed to execute a deed or a bill of sale, transferring to the United States of America the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned:

1.-That the United States of America will maintain the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection in good condition, under proper care and custody and will display same in toto at Fort McHenry.

2.-That the said United States of America will mark this display of the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry National Park by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland," in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said Collection.

3.-That the United States of America shall not remove the said E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the area now known as Fort McHenry National Park, without the written authorization of The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said Firearms Collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the E. Berkley Bowie Firearms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and shall thereby re-invest The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title therein.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*costs being incurred to effect
to do.*

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
821 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD.

Provided however, that in the event the said Collection or a portion thereof is stolen or removed from said Fort McHenry by other than an agent or agents, or an employee or employees of the United States of America, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents or employees acting within the scope of their authority.

If and when a deed or bill of sale in the nature of an agreement is executed and forwarded to you it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by the Board of Managers of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland authorizing the execution thereof, and this deed, bill of sale or agreement is also to be executed by the Secretary of the Interior or a duly authorized representative of the United States of America, formally accepting said bill of sale or agreement and assenting to the stipulations and agreements contained therein.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

President.

Nov. 6th, 1937.

Director, the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to certain correspondence relative to the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, which the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland previously deposited as a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, you will please be advised that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is presently disposed to execute a deed or a bill of sale, transferring to the United States of America the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned:

1. - That the United States of America will maintain the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection in good condition, under proper care and custody and will display same in toto at Fort McHenry.

2. - That the said United States of America will mark this display of the E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry National Park by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland" in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore, that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said Collection.

3. - That the United States of America shall not remove the said E. Berkley Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the area now known as Fort McHenry National Park, without the written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said Firearms Collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the E. Berkley Bowie Firearms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and shall thereby re-invest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title therein.

written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection;

Provided, however, that in the event the said collection, or a portion thereof, is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority.

If and when a deed or bill of sale of the above nature is executed and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by our Board of Managers authorizing the execution thereof.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 of Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

President.

Director of the National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Jan. 26th, 1938

Dear Sir:-

Referring to certain correspondence relative to the Bowie Arms Collection, which the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has previously deposited as a permanent exhibit at Fort McHenry, you will please be advised that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is presently disposed to execute a qualified deed or a bill of sale transferring to the United States of America the Bowie Arms Collection, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned:

1. That the United States of America will maintain, in good condition, and display the Bowie Arms Collection in toto at Fort McHenry, unless the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland approves, under written authorization, the display and maintenance of only a portion of the said collection, in which event the portion of the collection to be displayed and maintained by the United States of America shall be described in the written authorization of the Society.
2. That the said United States of America will mark this display of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The B. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland" and in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said Collection.
3. That the United States shall not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the said Fort McHenry, without written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of

Jan. 26th, 1936

1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection;

Provided, however, that in the event the said collection or a portion thereof, is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority; it also being further understood, that if it becomes known to the United States of America or to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland that the Bowie Arms Collection or any part thereof has been stolen or removed without authority as hereinabove provided for, from Fort McHenry, such action legal or otherwise will be taken by the United States of America to effect its return, with or without punitive measures; if such action would not result in unreasonable cost being incurred to do so.

If and when a deed or bill of sale of the above nature is executed and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by our Board of Managers authorizing the execution thereof.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

James E. Howard
President.

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
821 W. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY
WM. H. PITCHER, JR.
3 W. LOMBARD ST.

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD. Jan. 26th, 1938

1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection;

Provided, however, that in the event the said collection or a portion thereof, is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority; it also being further understood, that if it becomes known to the United States of America or to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland that the Bowie Arms Collection or any part thereof has been stolen or removed without authority as hereinabove provided for, from Fort McHenry, ~~no~~ action legal or otherwise will be taken by the United States of America to effect its return, with or without punitive measures; if such action would not result in unreasonable cost being incurred to do so.

If and when a deed or bill of sale of the above nature is executed and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by our Board of Managers authorizing the execution thereof.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

James E. Hancock
President.

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1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection;

Provided, however, that in the event the said collection or a portion thereof, is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority; it also being further understood, that if it becomes known to the United States of America or to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland that the Bowie Arms Collection or any part thereof has been stolen or removed without authority as hereinabove provided for, from Fort McHenry, the Secretary of the Interior will recommend to the proper officers of the United States that action legal or otherwise be taken by the United States of America to effect its return, with or without punitive measures; if such action would not result in unreasonable cost being incurred to do so.

If and when a deed or bill of sale of the above nature is executed and forwarded to you, it will be accompanied by a resolution passed by our Board of Managers authorizing the execution thereof.

Please advise whether it will be agreeable to your Service for the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland to proceed in the manner hereinabove outlined.

Very truly yours,

President.

P. S. I have discussed this matter with Attorney Donald E. Lee, of your Service, who has suggested some of the above provisions to me.

Feb. 7th, 1936

Mr. Donald E. Lee,
Legal Dept. National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lee:-

When in your office Thursday, January 26th, Mr. Barton said that in anticipation of our offer of the Bowie Firearms Collection being accepted, he was working on a bill of sale for transfer of same.

Last Friday, I received an acknowledgement from Mr. Cammerer dated January 29th, in which he asks that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland should send such deed or bill of sale for approval. I have taken this up with my committee and Mr. John L. Sanford suggested that it might facilitate matters if such deed of sale according to your routine be furnished for our consideration. Inasmuch as I would like this matter to be fully reported at the next board meeting, I would ask you to consult Mr. Barton so that such memoranda can be forwarded without delay.

Very truly yours,

President.

1935-1936

CHARTER SOCIETY OF SOCIETIES
of the War of 1812
for the Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary
UNITED STATES COMMISSION

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

February 9, 1938.

Mr. James E. Hancock,
President, Society of the War
of 1812 in Maryland,
521 W. Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

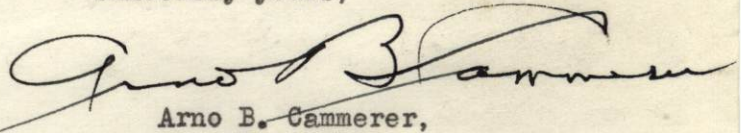
Dear Mr. Hancock:

Reference is made to your letter of February 7, requesting that a proper bill of sale be drawn by this Service for the use of your Society in transferring the Bowie Arms Collection to the United States.

There are enclosed three copies of the draft of bill of sale which you requested. In drafting it, we were obliged to make several assumptions regarding the corporate status of the Society and the proper officers to execute and acknowledge the instrument. You may make such changes as may be necessary in case our assumptions are incorrect. It was understood that you would prefer to receive a form at once rather than wait to ascertain all points involved.

When the instrument is executed, please return two executed copies to this Service. One of the copies will be returned to you with the official notation attached, showing acceptance by the United States. Please attach to each copy of the bill of sale an original or authenticated copy of the resolution authorizing it to be executed.

Sincerely yours,


Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

Enclosure 1610329

*my warm regards
to you.*

Baltimore, Md. Feb. 15th, 1938

Whereas - The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland did procure, May 28th, 1934, the gift of a collection of firearms from the heirs of the late S. Berkley Bowie and did deposit this same as a permanent exhibit in the Museum at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md.

And Whereas - The United States of America desires to obtain the title to the said Bowie Firearms Collection subject to the stipulations and qualifications to be contained in an agreement or qualified Bill of Sale as hereinafter set forth.

Therefore be it resolved - That the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland agrees to vest title in the United States of America to the aforesaid Bowie Firearms Collection, subject however to the following conditions.

1. That the United States of America will maintain in good condition, and display the Bowie Arms Collection in toto at Fort McHenry, unless the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland approves, under written authorization, the display and maintenance of only a portion of the said collection, in which event the portion of the collection to be displayed and maintained by the United States of America shall be described in the written authorization of the Society.
2. That the said United States of America will mark this display of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland", and in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said collection.
3. That the United States shall not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the said Fort McHenry, without written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection: Provided, however, that in the event the said collection or a portion thereof is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority; it also being further understood, that if it becomes known to the United States of America or to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland that the Bowie Arms Collection or any part thereof has been stolen or removed without authority as hereinabove provided for, from Fort McHenry, the Secretary of the Interior will

Feb. 21st, 1938.

Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your letter of February 9th, with its enclosures, I am including in this two attested copies of Bill of Sale for the Bowie Collection of Firearms that is at Fort McHenry, with attached copies of resolutions that were passed by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, on February 15th, 1938.

Unfortunately, some one has mislaid the seal of the Society and rather than wait any longer for it, I am improvising a seal, for the purpose.

Hoping that this is satisfactory, I am,

Very truly yours,

Feb. 21st, 1938.

Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your letter of February 9th, with its enclosures, I am including in this two attested copies of Bill of Sale for the Bowie Collection of Firearms that is at Fort McHenry, with attached copies of resolutions that were passed by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, on February 15th, 1938.

Unfortunately, some one has mislaid the seal of the Society and rather than wait any longer for it, I am improvising a seal, for the purpose.

Hoping that this is satisfactory, I am,

Very truly yours,

Baltimore, Md. Feb. 15th, 19

recommend to the proper officers of the United States that action legal or otherwise be taken by the United States of America to affect its return, with or without punitive measures, if such action would not result in unreasonable cost being incurred to do so.

And be it further resolved - That the President and the Secretary of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland are hereby authorized and directed to execute the hereinabove mentioned instrument.

Signed.

President.

William H. Pritchard, Jr.

Secretary.

BOWIE ARMS
COLLECTION

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON February 25, 1938.

ADDRESS ONLY

THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mr. James E. Hancock,
President, Society of the War
of 1812 in Maryland,
521 W. Lombard Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

This Service has received two copies of a bill of sale executed February 21, 1938, by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, transferring to the United States the Bowie Arms Collection, now located at Fort McHenry National Park, together with copies of a resolution adopted by the Society February 15, authorizing the President and Secretary to execute the instrument on behalf of the Society. I take pleasure in accepting on behalf of the United States the property transferred, subject to the conditions expressed in the bill of sale.

One copy of the executed bill of sale is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) Arno B. Cammerer

Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.

Enclosure 1610348

CC: Supt., Fort McHenry Nat'l Park - with copy of bill of sale
Supt., Statue of Liberty Nat'l Monument
Allen S. Bowie, c/o Baltimore and Ohio R. R., Baltimore, Md.
Regional Director, Region 1 - with copy of bill of sale
Dr. Bryant

BILL OF SALE

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Maryland, in consideration of the acceptance and public display of the Bowie Arms Collection at Fort McHenry National Park, does hereby bargain and sell to the United States of America, the following property:

The Bowie Arms Collection, consisting of antique firearms, now located at Fort McHenry National Park,

Subject to the following express conditions:

1. That the United States of America will maintain in good condition, and display the Bowie Arms Collection in toto, at Fort McHenry, unless the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland approves, under written authorization, the display and maintenance of only a portion of the said collection, in which event the portion of the collection to be displayed and maintained by the United States of America shall be described in the written authorization of the Society.
2. That the said United States of America will mark this display of the Bowie Arms Collection to show that it was a gift of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland as follows: "The E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms, presented to Fort McHenry by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland", and in a way that is mutually agreeable to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland and to the National Park Service; and furthermore that such marking or markings will be permanently maintained by the National Park Service in connection with the display of said collection.
3. That the United States shall not remove the said Bowie Arms Collection, or any portion thereof, from the said Fort McHenry, without written authorization of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland. In the event of any unauthorized removal of the said collection in toto or in part, the United States of America shall forthwith surrender possession of the said Bowie Arms Collection to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, and shall thereby reinvest the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland with full and absolute title to said collection: Provided, however, that in the event the said collection or a portion thereof is stolen, or without authority of the United States removed, from said Fort McHenry, such removal shall not cause title to the said Collection to reinvest in the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, it being understood that the United States of America is responsible only for acts performed by its duly authorized agents acting within the scope of their authority; it also being further understood, that if it becomes known to the United States of America or to the said Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland