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F O R T M C H E N R Y - A N A T I O N A L S H R I N E .

What it means in the History of the United States and to the City of Baltimore.

The restoration of Fort McHenry - the Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner - and its dedication as a National Shrine, arouses in one's mind an interest in these early days of our City and Nation. Nothing in the History of Baltimore has been more conspicuous and has reflected greater credit on her citizens than did the stirring events which occurred around this City during the fateful days of September 12th to 14th, 1814. The year 1812 opened up upon an unusual condition of the world's affairs. For 15 years Napoleon had succeeded in defeating every coalition that Europe had sent against him. ^{All of Europe was at war and} American trade with the rest of the world had been restricted by British Orders of Council and French Imperial Decrees. We had been forbidden by each Nation to trade with the other and her Allies. The United States was in her swaddling clothes. Our Government, ^{as established} founded under the Constitution of the United States, soon found itself in the throes of political discord when George Washington, our first President, died. One element in this country favored Britain because of natural ties; another favored France because of her help during our revolution; while over all there was a strong spirit that wanted to make America an independent country, free of all foreign entanglements. The City of Baltimore felt these influences very strongly. Within the twenty years preceeding, we had grown to be the third city of Commercial importance in the Country, largely under the influence of building ships for those merchants who sought trade export with the contending powers in Europe.

In his attempt to solve this great international problem, Thomas Jefferson had imposed The Embargo Act to avoid war, but its restrictions were so contrary to human nature that it was openly broken, until after fourteen months of hardship on the American trade, it was repealed.

Jefferson's policy of non-aggression had not only proven a failure, but it encouraged England to deny our rights., Great Britain saw her opportunity to demoralize our Government and through emissaries sought to create a discord between New England and the Southern States. The British Navy was mistress of the seas, and in her demand for seamen for her fleets, impressed American sailors into her service, and her navy around our shores and seized our shipping in her efforts to prevent our trade ~~xxxxxx~~ with France and the West Indies.

Because of these tyrannical impositions, Congress was compelled to protect our rights by declaring war on Great Britain on June 18th, 1812. The American treasury was almost empty and we had but seven vessels in our navy and about 5000 men in the army. Yet America, with this small force declared war against the greatest nation on earth; a nation which had at its disposal thousands of ships and corps of trained veterans. We had to construct an army out of our Militia just as we had to do when we declared war on Germany, and we supplemented our seven frigates with armed vessels of which Baltimore built and supplied over ^{Percent} 50%. These privateersmen took to the seas to harass the ⁱⁿ England fleets ^{British} and Baltimore's ships were soon scouring the coast of England itself, seizing her ships and demoralizing her commerce. This marked Baltimore with England's disfavor and in her effort to blockade the Chesapeake, the British established headquarters on Tangier Island and at other places on the bay from which she exacted tribute of our citizens. In April, 1813, her fleet appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco, and the people of Baltimore were made to realize their danger. No money for defense was available from the National Government. The Militia was called out, the City Council of Baltimore appropriated \$20,000.00 for constructing our defenses, while the citizens of Baltimore subscribed \$500,000 and ordered every able bodied citizen who was not under arms to report with pickaxes, shovels, wheelbarroes, ^w etc. etc. for duty in constructing the city's defenses.

Earthworks were thrown up around the city. At Patterson Park you can still see part of the old entrenchments that were thrown up from the water line around to what is now Greenmount Cemetery. The defenses at Fort McHenry were strengthened by appropriating the heavy guns from a French Frigate that lay up for repairs in our harbor. Water batteries were established, and signal boats were sent down the river, while troops of cavalry were stationed along the bay and river shores to report any activity.

The British Admiral sent up a flag of truce under pretext of forwarding a letter to the Secretary of State, but his messenger was not allowed to approach nearer than four miles from the City, where he was detained by Capt. Clayton, ~~commanding~~ one of our barges. The officer in charge of the flag of truce asked whether the citizens of Baltimore had mounted the guns of the French war ships at Fort McHenry as had been reported, and when told that they had, Admiral Cockburn changed his plan to attack the City (at that time) and his fleet sailed up the bay where they took Havre DeGrace, destroyed a cannon foundry on the upper bay, occupied Spesuti Island and sacked Frederick ^{town} and Georgetown on the Sassafras River. The British were employed in the upper part of the Chesapeake all summer, landing at St. Michael's and other places on the Eastern Shore and menacing Annapolis, until the whole bay was under their control. From another encampment near Fort Lookout they marauded the Potomac and the Patuxant sections and menaced St. Mary's and Calvert County. On the 8th of August, fifteen vessels moved up in sight of Baltimore as if preparing for an attack, but the Forts ~~xxx~~ at Patterson Park were so promptly manned, and with 40 pieces of Artillery, supplementing the marine batteries at Fort McHenry, ~~that~~ it discouraged the enemy, and in a few days, the fleet moved off and occupied Kent Island from whence they marauded the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel County. In November, a large part of the fleet left for Bermuda for repairs, to return in the Spring of 1814 with reinforcements.

Despite the fact that the British fleet had been blockading the Chesapeake and ravaging its shores, almost within sight of the National Capitol, there were on June 1st, 1814, but 2208 soldiers of the regular army ^W of the whole district from Norfolk to Baltimore. On July 2nd, the 10th Military District was formed, consisting of the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and that part of Virginia lying between the Rappahannock and the Potomac. On July 9th, General Winder, commanding that district, whose entire force of regular troops was between 700 and 800 men, suggested that 4,000 militia should be called out, two thousand of whom should be stationed between the South River and Washington, and two thousand in the vicinity of Baltimore. It was not until August 20th that General Winder's suggestion was approved. That same day, the British Fleet, accompanied by the new troops from the war in France and Spain, ascended the Patuxant and disembarked at Pig Point and moved on to Upper Marlborough. At daylight on August 24th, General Ross began his advance on Bladensburg, where the Washington army was joined by 2000 volunteers from Baltimore. The morning report of this recently organized American army consisted of 400 regular troops, 600 marines and 4,000 Militia, and when the fight occurred, the Americans were routed in the presence of the President and his Cabinet. The less said about the inglorious battle of Bladensburg, the better. It decided the fate of the Capitol at Washington, which was burned and the President was forced to flee. After several days, the British returned to their ships and sailed for Baltimore appearing at the mouth of the Patapsco on the morning of the 11th. Their army was disembarked on the morning of the 12th of September and began its march up the North Point Road while their fleet came up the Patapsco to bombard our fortifications. Beginning with April, 1813, the citizens of Baltimore had worked tirelessly to perfect our defenses, - a period of preparation that proved to be our salvation, - and General Stricker, learning that the British had landed, sent the 5th,

6th, 7th, 27th, 39th, and 51st regiments to meet them at the narrowest ~~point~~ part of the peninsula at a point between the head water of Bear Creek and Back River. Here the British advance was checked and Gen. Ross was killed, and the proposed plan of the British to make a juncture of their fleet and their army before Baltimore was frustrated. That evening the British returned to their transports and the fleet, which had moved up the river and taken its position, began the bombardment of Fort McHenry. The American troops fell back to protect our defenses around the water front. At daylight on the morning of September 13th, the British fleet opened fire on Fort McHenry which they bombarded continuously until 7 o'clock on the morning of September 14th, when they stopped firing and began to drop down the river and get under way. Baltimore had been saved though the heroism and sacrifice of her citizen soldiers, who gave in men and money to retrieve the nation's bad fortune.

When the British Army was in camp at Upper Marlborough, preparing for the attack on Washington, Admiral Cockburn ~~and some of the principle officers of the army,~~ ^{had} made ^{his} their headquarters at the home of Doctor Beanes, who was ~~the leading physician in Upper Marlborough.~~ The officers were furnished with everything that the house could provide and ~~in return~~ ^{he} they ~~treated~~ ^{comfort} Dr. Beanes ~~with~~ and his family with ~~much~~ ^{the} courtesy, and placed ~~guards~~ ^{nonpland} around his grounds to prevent any depredation by their troops. ~~On~~ ^{the} ~~return~~ ^{When} of the army to their ships, after the main body had passed through the town, stragglers ^{had returned} ~~made their appearance,~~ ^{by a} singly or in small squads, bent ~~on plunder,~~ ^{to pass through the town, plundering houses as they went.} and Dr. Beanes put himself at the head of a small body of citizens ~~to pursue~~ ^{who} and make prisoners of them. ~~This information was conveyed to the English camp,~~ ^{When this news} and a detachment was sent to release the prisoners ~~and seize~~ ^{they arrived} Dr. Beanes. When ~~the friends of Dr. Beanes learned this,~~ ^{head of} they went to Mr. Francis Scott Key, who lived in Georgetown, and prevailed upon ~~him to obtain permission and letters~~ ^{he} so that he might intercede for Dr. Beanes. ~~As soon as these arrangements were made~~ ^{was instructed to} Mr. Key hastened to Baltimore, ~~where he embarked to sail~~ ^{an agent to John S. Skinner, the governing agent for the city of town, who was ordered to} down the bay, meeting the British ^{They}

in his mission
to accompany Key

6. when they were

fleet off the mouth of the Potomac River preparing for ~~the~~ expedition against Baltimore. He was courteously received by ~~Admiral Cochrane~~, but when he ~~made known~~ ^{was told} his ~~business~~ ^{business}, his ~~application~~ ^{applied} for the release of Dr. Beanes was ~~very coldly received~~, especially by Gen. Ross and Admiral Cockburn. Mr. Key made ~~such a strong representation as to~~ ^{made} the character and ~~standing~~ ^{for} of Dr. Beanes and the care that had ~~been taken~~ ^{told of his condition} to the English wounded that Gen. Ross relented and said that he would release him after the attack on Baltimore, but in the meantime, neither he nor Dr. Beanes would be permitted to leave the fleet. The British sailed for Baltimore and Mr. Key and Dr. Beanes were placed on the frigate "Surprise" commanded by Sir Thomas Cochrane and ~~continued there~~ ^{remained there} until the fleet reached the mouth of the Patapsco when Admiral Cochrane shifted his flag to the "Surprise" in order that he might be able to move further up the river and superintend the attack on Fort McHenry. Mr. Key and Dr. Beanes were then sent on ~~his~~ board their own vessel, with a guard of Marines to prevent them from landing. They ~~con-~~ sidered themselves fortunate ^{was} to be placed in a position where they could see the flag of Fort McHenry from the deck of their own vessel, and Mr. Key remained on deck during the whole bombardment, watching every shell as it fell. While ~~the~~ bombardment continued ~~it was sufficient proof~~ ^{he knew} that the fort had ~~not~~ surrendered, but suddenly during the ~~morning~~ ^{he wondered} early morning of the 14th, the bombardment stopped, and ~~they did not know~~ ^{was} whether the Fort had surrendered, ~~or attack had been abandoned.~~ ^{the} ~~He~~ paced the deck in ~~painful~~ suspense and when the dawn broke, ~~they were~~ ^{he} relieved to find that "Our Flag Was Still There". During the ~~excitement~~ ^{attention} of the moment, Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner" and when the British withdrew and ~~the army had~~ embarked, they were informed ~~that~~ ^{learn} they could ~~leave and return home~~ when the fleet was ready to sail. ~~They went~~ ^{immediately} to Baltimore where the song "The Star Spangled Banner" was put to music and ~~first~~ ^{that night} sung in the Old Holliday Street Theatre.

The American troops fell back to protect our defenses around the water front. At daylight on the morning of September 13th, the British fleet opened fire on Fort McHenry which they bombarded continuously until 7 o'clock on the morning of September 14th, ~~which~~ when they stopped firing and began to drop down the river and get under way. Baltimore had been saved through the heroism and the sacrifice of her citizen soldiers, who gave in men and money to retrieve the nation's bad fortune.

For two years the American Army had been on the defensive. The campaigns in the North had been dismal failures. The only bright spot in the way had been the success of our small navy, ~~which had been~~ supplemented by armed private vessels, ^{which served} and in ~~this~~ Baltimore had been conspicuous, ^{supplying} ~~supplying~~ ^{half of the} ~~more~~ privateersmen than any other city in the country. ^{into the navy has been supplied by Baltimore, and} in less than two years ^{of our navy} ~~we~~ had captured 56 men-o-war carrying 886 cannons, and thousands of prisoners. England's boast that Britannia ^{is} rules the waves, had been humiliated and with ~~their~~ defeat at North Point and Fort McHenry, they soon arraigned for the Treaty of Peace which was signed at Ghent on December 24th, 1814.

For two years the American Army had been on the defensive. The campaigns in the North had been dismal failures. The only bright spot in the war had been the success of our small navy, supplemented by armed private vessels, in which service Baltimore had been conspicuous. Half of the privateersmen in the navy had been supplied by Baltimore, more than ^{by} ~~any other city~~ ^{the rest of} in the country. In less than two years, this new navy had captured 56 men-o-war carrying 886 cannons, and thousands of prisoners. England's boast that Britannia ruled the waves, had been humiliated and with her defeat at North Point and Fort McHenry, ^{and} they soon arraigned for the Treaty of Peace which was signed at Ghent on December 24th, 1814

The War of 1812 - our Second War for Independence from Great Britain has been called by some a needless war. It is true that it might have been arbitrated, like ^{other war} any might have been arbitrated, but when one counts the results attained, it was far from needless. It had to be, and the winning of it led to American Independence from all other nations, and broke us away from these influences of our old colonial life, which was holding back our proper developments. It freed American politics and policies from European standards and established a respect for our Nationality among the Governments of the World, which permitted us to work out our own systems for the betterment of the race and Fort McHenry is not only a National Shrine as the Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner, but ~~because~~ it is the symbol of the many things that have been evolved as distinctly American.

Its effect upon the local life and progress of Baltimore were equally positive. The experiences of the privateersmen encouraged a growing spirit of adventure in the hearts and minds of our young men, some of whom planned to restore a white man's government to Hayti. Stimulated by the tales of the French Refugees who had come from there during the insurrection on that island, small ^{groups} ~~bodies~~ went to the south coast of Hayti, where they met

Bolivar who was recruiting for his attempt to liberate the South American States from Spanish domination. They joined with him and the intimate history of South American freedom is linked with their names. Others, stimulated by the prospects for trade that had developed during the period went into the Merchant Marine service and soon carried the name of Baltimore to all ^{sailing} parts of the world. The Baltimore Clipper became the standard of swift trading ships in the seven seas. The returns to our merchants and to our shipbuilders naturally directed their attention to quick transportation generally and stimulated the building of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, with Baltimore as the starting point of the first railroad in America.

Under the same influences, we built the Battle Monument and Washington's Monument, - the first monument to George Washington in the Country - and our public spirit as exemplified in Baltimore's increasing memorials gained for us the name of the Monumental City. The period that followed was the day of Peabody, of Johns Hopkins and other merchant princes that established a prestige for Baltimore ^{which} that will never be forgotten.

rear of the revolutionary fort on Whetstone Point and subscribed the necessary money to erect it. In 1798, this fort was named Fort McHenry in honor of James McHenry,^{of Baltimore,} who was Secretary of War at the time, and it was garrisoned by Federal troops in 1799.

Fort McHenry is built of Baltimore made brick set in oyster shell lime mortar and is in itself a monument to the skilled labor of that period. It is shaped as a pentagonal star, with a distance of 300 feet between each of the star points; and its walls are 14 feet high and thirty-five feet thick, and the plan permitted a 4 foot drop back of the first 20 foot section as a protection for the men who manned its guns.

The thickness of the fort walls can be easily seen in the passageway of its entrance, which provided an office for the captain of the guard, a guard house, with iron barred cells, and two dungeons of arched brick, each of which is eighteen feet wide, nine feet high and thirty feet long under the fort walls on both sides of the passageway. The entrance to each of these dungeons is six feet wide and three feet high, protected by thick wooden doors, heavily studded with iron bolts, and when these doors were closed, the only ventilation for the prisoners was by means of a series of pipes, one foot in diameter, that extended to the outside ground level.

Passing through this interesting archway, with its heavily iron studded doors at both ends of the passageway, one sees the inside area of Fort McHenry. Here are the quarters of the garrison, each of whose two storied buildings are approximately seventy-five feet long and eighteen feet deep, all built of brick with heavy wooden porches running the full length of each building. To the immediate right of the entrance is the Headquarters Building with the old powder magazine, whose walls are eight feet thick all around, enclosing a storage room twenty feet long by twelve feet high and wide, and placed between the Headquarters Building and the commandants residence. Then comes the officers quarters and then the enlisted men's barracks, completing an oval surrounding a grassed plot in

the middle of which stands the old pump that supplied the garrison with water.

The lower floors of the buildings are built of brick and each building is divided into communicating rooms, upstairs and down, with an outside entrance to each division and stairways to the floors above.

A moat runs between the fort walls and the upper outside batteries, with arched brick bomb-proofs running under each respective battery for storage of explosives, and there is a very unique one man passageway under the walls of the fort that was the only other means of ingress for those who served the outside batteries after the heavy doubled doors of the main entrance of the fort were closed, in time of siege.

During the Revolutionary War, Baltimore had equipped and sent 248 privateersmen to sea to fight against the enemy, and when the War of 1812 was declared, her merchants again turned to privateering, and furnished more ships for this important service than any other city in America. When Great Britain declared its blockade of the United States Coast, it was a Baltimorean - Captain Boyle - who released several prisoners, almost in sight of the mouth of the Thames, with copies of his personal declaration of a counter blockade of the British Isles; and the British Naval Register of 1814 complained that "with over a thousand ships in the English Navy, it was not safe to sail without convoy from one part of the English or Irish Channel to another."

For over two years, the British Navy blockaded the Chesapeake, but the swift sailing Baltimore Clippers sailed out almost at will. Several times the enemy came into the Patapsco to make its attack, but the superior condition of Baltimore's defenses delayed their offensive until on the morning of September 11th, 1814, their fleet of over 50 ships, loaded with Nelson's Marines and Wellington's Invincibles, was seen coming up the Bay.

This force had just captured the neighboring city of Washington, where they had burned the National Capitol, the Navy Yard and other public

buildings, and they then boasted that Baltimore would be destroyed. Landing their army, under the command of Sir Robert Ross, at North Point, about 10 miles from the city, they began their advance against Baltimore on the morning of September 12th, while their ships moved up the river to shell Fort McHenry and the Lazaretto on the opposite side of the entrance to the harbor. Here they planned to make a contact between their army and navy and move in and destroy the city; but General Ross was killed at the head of his troop on the afternoon of September 12th and although their ships bombarded Fort McHenry incessantly until 7 o'clock on the morning of September 14th, they were not able to carry a single position in their three day's attack on Baltimore.

After the British left Washington, they arrested Dr. William Beanes, a friend of Francis Scott Key, for interfering with some of their men and Key obtained letters from President Madison to intercede for his friend. Key was ordered to report in Baltimore to Captain John S. Skinner, the agent for flags of truce, who was directed to accompany Key on his mission to the enemy fleet. Leaving Baltimore on Skinner's vessel, they met the British coming up the Bay and were detained until after the attack on Baltimore.

Besides innumerable round shot and rockets, the British fired over 1500 bombs, weighing 250 pounds each, into Fort McHenry, and during the night of September 13th when the fighting was most intense and the enemy tried to surround the fort to take it from the rear, Key watched the bombs as they fell, fearing that they might force the passage. When dawn broke, he was relieved to find that "Our Flag was still there" and during his enthusiasm, he wrote our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," on the back of an old envelope.

For two years the American Army had been on the defensive and our counter campaigns into Canada had failed. But England's boast that "Brittania ruled the waves" had been blasted by our little navy of seven ships

and our privateers; and, after her defeat at North Point and Fort McHenry, she signed the Treaty of Peace, at Ghent, on December 24th, 1814.

The results of the War of 1812 - Our Second War for Independence from Great Britian -, gave us that liberty for which we had fought during the Revolution. It freed the policies of the United States from European dictation, established our rights to trade with foreign nations and gained a respect for our country abroad as nothing else had done.

Fort McHenry saw its last active service during the World War when it was the site of one of the largest military hospitals in America; and now that modern implements and high explosives have changed the art of war, the old fort has been restored to its original condition, and its glory still lives as a National Shrine - the Birth Place of the Star Spangled Banner -, the defense that turned the tide of battle in a critical hour of our nation's peril; and as a real monument to the American Flag.

F O R T M e H E N R Y

By

James E. Hancock,

The story of Fort McHenry is so intimately connected with the History of Baltimore that it is difficult to speak of the one without thinking of the other.

Previous to the Revolution, Baltimore was a small town that was just beginning to grow. In March, 1776, its inhabitants became alarmed at the presence of the British ship Otter which was reported to be in the Chesapeake and they threw up earthworks on Whetstone Point where they mounted a few cannon to protect the narrow mouth of our harbor. In 1794, the people of Baltimore again became concerned for their protection because of the prospect of a war with France and they decided to enlarge the defenses at Whetstone Point. They engaged Major J. J. Ulrich Rivardi, who designed the present star redoubt as a bastion fort with upper and lower batteries as a more complete plan of fortification.

Baltimore was growing rapidly. In the several years previous to 1800 quite a number of refugees from the insurrection in San Domingo had settled in the town and these were joined by many of their friends and relatives who had fled from the revolution in France. They brought with them new ideas of trade and a working knowledge of the arts and sciences that were a great advantage to our people. Baltimore continued to grow until in 1810 it had become the third largest city in the Union. In 1812, the United States was compelled to declare war on Great Britain because of her tyrannical seizure of our shipping in its trade with France and the West Indies, and because of British insistence to board our vessels and impress our seamen into her naval service.

Shipbuilding had become an important part of our city's activity and within four months after the war was declared, we had sent to sea 42 armed private vessels, some of which went to the coast of England itself and seized her shipping. In the first six months of the war these privateers captured over 250 English vessels, with many guns and millions of dollars worth of merchandise.

Because of Baltimore's activity in the war, the English decided to blockade the Chesapeake and early in the Spring of 1813, they occupied Tangier Island and established another headquarters near Point Lookout, at the mouth of the Potomac River. In April, of that year, their fleet appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco River and our people began to realize their danger from attack. There was no money available from the Federal Government for our local defense. The City Council of Baltimore met and appropriated \$20,000 and the people of Baltimore subscribed \$500,000 to strengthen the defenses around the town, and every able-bodied citizen with his slaves, wheelbarrows, pickaxes, and shovels were ordered out to help build the line of earthworks that stretched from the harbor front around to what is now Greenmount Cemetery. Part of these entrenchments, with some of the old guns mounted on them may still be seen at Patterson Park.

When Admiral Cockburn learned that the armament at Fort McHenry had been strengthened by the addition of the heavy guns from the French Frigate "La Poursivante" which was lying at Despeaux's shipyard for repairs, he evidently altered his plans to attack Baltimore at that time and his fleet moved up the Bay and captured Havre De Grace, occupied Spesuti Island and plundered Fredericktown and Georgetown on the Sassafras River. On August 8th they again appeared in the Patapsco and the fleet moved up and took positions for an attack on Baltimore, but the entrenchments around the city had become completed and strengthened by 40 more cannon and when the

British Admiral saw the fortifications promptly manned, by men who showed an evidence of discipline and bravery, he again changed his mind and dropped down the River and occupied Kent Island, from whence he completely controlled the Bay from Annapolis to the Susquehanna.

One of the interesting comments in the newspapers of that time was the disappearance from Baltimore of the Russian Consul, who left the city several days before each appearance of the British, and did not return until about a week after they had left the river. Russia was a strong ally of England in her wars with France and the inference was that the Consul was giving reports to the British Fleet.

In November, 1813, most of the fleet left the Chesapeake and went to Bermuda for repairs, returning in the spring of 1814 with re-inforcements including a corps of Wellington's Invincibles, freshened from their fights in France and Spain.

In the meantime Baltimore had equipped 26 gun boats and barges, officered and manned by our own captains and seamen, and commanded by Commodore Joshua Barney, with orders to break the blockade of the Chesapeake. After several

small naval encounters the British forced him back unto the Patuxent and followed him up the River until he was compelled to land his marines and burn his fleet at Pig Point. The British landed in force and followed him to Bladensburg where a battle was fought with the American Army around Washington, and the Americans were badly defeated. The British captured Washington and sacked and burned the Capitol and other Federal Buildings and returned to their ships with the mad boast that Baltimore would be the next to fall.

For several days the British rendezvoused near the mouth of the Potomac and prepared for their attack on Baltimore. They ~~went~~^{Came} up the Bay, appearing off the mouth of the Patapsco on the afternoon of September 11th, and

landed their troops at North Point on the morning of September 12th and began its march against Baltimore, At the same time their fleet moved up the river and prepared for the bombardment of Fort McHenry. Their plan of battle was to carry the outer defenses of the city and then make a juncture of their army and their fleets near the Lazaretto for their final assault on Baltimore.

When General Stricker heard that the British landed at North Point he sent the 5th, 6th, 7th, 27th, 39th, and 51st regiments to meet them. This force composed entirely of militia regiments met ~~xxx~~the British at the narrow part of the peninsula between Back River and Bear Creek, where General Ross, the British Commander was killed and their advance was checked. That evening, the British troops returned to their ships, while their fleet continued its bombardment during the entire day of September 13th and until about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 14th. Shortly after midnight, they attempted to land a force of marines from the fleet to attack Fort McHenry from the rear, by sending them in barges and large boats up the main branch of the Patapsco, past what is now Wagner's Point. This attempt might have been disastrous if it had succeeded. Captain Hancock's Company of the 22nd (Anne Arundel County) regiment which was patrolling that position against a surprise attack, heard their muffled oars and set fire to a hayrick, which threw the British boats in full view of Fort Covington and the Six Gun Battery. These batteries were behind Fort McHenry and manned by marines who had seen considerable private^{er} service ^{and} the cross fire from these smaller forts took the British by surprise, after several of their boats ~~were~~ had been sunk, they rapidly retired. The British fleet stopped their bombardment for the time, fearing that they might hit their own boats which were escaping. It was then that Francis Scott Key thought that Fort McHenry had fallen. He had gone to the British fleet on a flag of truce vessel commanded by Captain John S. Skinner who had been acting

as the American truce officer out of Baltimore, in order that he might intercede for the release of his friend Dr. Beanes, of Upper Marlboro who had been arrested by the British when they returned from Washington. This vessel, which was of the pilot boat type was numbered, but not named, as is usual with our submarine craft at the present time and it was so favorably placed that Key could see Fort McHenry during the whole bombardment; and when the dawn broke and showed that "Our Flag Was Still There" his exultation at the sight of it inspired him to write "The Star Spangled Banner"

About 7 o'clock in the morning, September 14th, the British stopped their bombardment and dropping down the river, the fleet joined the transports and got under way. Baltimore had been saved by her citizen soldiers whose bravery retrieved the nation's misfortune and brought about the Treaty of Peace.

The day after the bombardment the Fort McHenry Guard buried those who had been killed in the engagement and the troops paraded. A meeting was held and it was declared that Baltimore's Defenders should never disband.

At first the organization was called the Veteran Military of Baltimore, which name was later changed to the Old Defenders of Baltimore, and afterwards to the Association of Descendants of the Old Defenders and in 1893 it was again changed to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

From its original organization in 1814, this Society had celebrated September 12th as its particular day, until it became Baltimore Day in our City calendar, and a legal holiday with a municipal celebration. On September 12th, 1815 its President General Samuel Smith laid the cornerstone of the Battle Monument and they dedicated its completion on September 12th, 1822. The Society has preserved the earthworks at Patterson Park and at Riverside Park, by mounting thereon a score or more of old cannon that was used in the

engagement, It has placed another parking of these old guns in the triangle at Mt. Royal and North Aves. It has erected a Monument to General Armistead, who commanded Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, and assisted in the erecting, in Homewood Park, of a Monument to General Sammel Smith, who commanded the district during that war. It encouraged the erection of the Key Monument in Fort McHenry and has marked Hauck's Field and other points of interest on the North Point Battle ground.

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has maintained an unabated interest in the preservation of Fort McHenry, and largely through its activity it has been made a National Shrine. On September 12th, the old star fort will be repaired in the same condition that it was when the bombardment occurred, as a Memorial to the American soldier; and the Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner.

Hundreds of thousands of ships have passed it on their way to and from all parts of the world. In the old days every American vessel that went by saluted its colors in respect for the service that it had rendered. Patriotism is the life blood of a nation; let us see that the custom is continued and that Fort McHenry shall be a National Shrine in every particular.

F O R T M c H E N R Y

By

Committee
James E. Hancock, Chairman, for
the Restoration of Fort McHenry.

In March, 1776, the people of Baltimore were alarmed by the news that the British war ship, Otter, was in the Chesapeake Bay. Earthworks were thrown up and a few cannon were mounted on Whetstone Point, and a boom was thrown across the channel, between that point and the Lazaretto, to prevent the entry of the Otter into our harbor. This was the beginning of Fort McHenry.

Baltimore at that time was a small town of less than one hundred houses, which was just beginning to take on a commercial aspect. Its advantages as a port began to attract attention shortly after the Revolution and by 1810 our population had increased to such an extent that Baltimore had become the third city of commercial importance in the Union, which rank she still holds in ~~exports~~. *so a port*

In 1795/ when war with France seemed imminent, the defenses at Whetstone Point were ordered to be repaired and enlarged. The improved fortification was designed by J. J. Ulrich Rivardi, an engineer who had come to this country with ~~Lafayette~~ *The French forces* during the Revolution, and ^{artillery} ~~they~~ included the star redoubt bastion fort with upper and lower batteries.

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McHenry of Baltimore, who was ^{appointed} Secretary of War in 1798 and who had been a Secretary to General Washington during the Revolution, contained twenty-six and one-quarter acres at the time of the War of 1812. Jurisdiction over this reservation was ceded to the United States Government by Act of the Maryland Legislature, January 30th, 1816. Between September 10th 1836, and November 16th, 1838, six other deeds were recorded, conveying an additional twenty-six and one-half acres, making fifty-two and three-quarters acres in the enlarged reservation; and jurisdiction over this was assumed by the Government under a similar Act of the Maryland Legislature passed March 28th, 1834.

It was an unusual period in the world's affairs. The United States had only recently set up a new constitution which proclaimed opportunities and advantages for the individual that were not permitted by any other Government. On the other side of the Atlantic, the French Revolution had occurred and this had incited the antagonism of the other Governments of Europe, in their effort to maintain their old social order. While America was striving for peace and social re-organization, all of Europe was aflame with war and the growing trade of America with the rest of the world was restricted by British Orders of Council and French Imperial Decrees. We were forbidden by either nation to trade with the other and her allies. There was a strong element in this country which favored England because of natural blood ties, and another that favored France, because of the help that she had given us during our Revolution. While Washington lived, he taught and encouraged the idea that America must be an independent nation, free from all foreign entanglements; but Washington died in 1799, and although the several Presidents who followed him were undoubted patriots, none of them had the confidence of the people that Washington had enjoyed, nor his strength of character, and his keen insight into national affairs. ~~xxxxxx~~
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Great Britain saw her opportunity to demoralize our Government and attempted through her emissaries to create discord between New England and the Southern States. She had never given up the hope of regaining her lost colonies. She was mistress of the seas and her navy hovered along our coast and seized our shipping in her efforts to prevent our trade with France and the West Indies. In her demands for seamen for her fleets, she boarded our vessels and impressed American sailors into her service; even boarding the vessels of our navy and taking off ^{enlisted} men, ~~for her service~~ ^{and}. It might be interesting to know that the first vessel of our navy which she held up for this purpose was the sloop of war "Baltimore".

Our people became provoked over Britain's unjust activities, and in his attempt to solve this international problem, Thomas Jefferson imposed The Embargo Act, as an effort to avoid war; but its restrictions were so contrary to human nature that it was openly broken, until after fourteen months of hardship on the American trade, it was repealed. Jefferson's policy of non-aggression not only proved a failure, but it encouraged England to deny our rights, and because of these tyrannical impositions Congress was compelled to protect our dignity, by declaring war on Great Britain on June 18th, 1812. The American treasury was almost empty. We had but seven vessels in our navy and about 5000 men in our army; and yet America with this small force, declared war against the richest nation on earth, which had at its disposal thousands of ships and corps of trained veterans. We had to construct an army out of our Militia, as we had to do when we declared war on Germany, and we supplemented our seven frigates with armed private vessels. Baltimore took the lead in this, and in the first four months of the war we sent to sea forty-two privateersmen to harass British shipping. It is a matter of record that many of these privateersmen went to the English coast and even entered the Irish and the English channels and seized her

shipping, capturing over 250 English vessels ~~and took~~ with many guns and several million dollars worth of merchandise. Baltimore's activities in the first year of the war marked her with England's disfavor and in their effort to blockade the Chesapeake, the British established headquarters on Tangier Island and other places on the Bay from whence she exacted tribute of our people.

In April, 1813, the British fleet appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco and the people of Baltimore began to realize their danger. No money for defense was available from the Federal Government. Our Militia was called out, and the City Council of Baltimore appropriated \$20,000 for constructing our defenses. While the citizens of Baltimore subscribed \$500,000 and ordered every able bodied citizen who was not under arms to report with pickaxes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc. for duty in constructing ~~our defenses~~ earthworks which ~~earthworks~~ were thrown up around the city. At Patterson Park one may still see part of the old entrenchments that were thrown up from the water line around to what is now Greenmount Cemetery. Fort McHenry was strengthened by appropri-
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Fort McHenry was strengthened by the heavy guns of the French Frigate "LaPoursivante," which had come to Despeaux's shipyard for repairs, after her fight with the British Frigate "Hercules" and had been interned under the Act of 1794, which was one of Washington's wise provisions to keep us out of the war between England & France. The British Admiral sent up a flag of truce under pretext of forwarding a letter to the Secretary of State, but he was evidently seeking information about Baltimore's defenses. The officer in charge of the flag of truce was detained by one of our barges about four miles from the city, and when he learned that the report was true that the people of Baltimore had mounted these extra guns at Fort McHenry, it evidently persuaded Admiral Cockburn to change his plans to attack the city at that time, because his

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August, fifteen of their vessels moved up in sight of Baltimore and prepared for an attack, but when they saw that the fortifications around the City were promptly manned, it discouraged them and in a few days, the fleet ^{again} moved off and occupied Kent Island, from ~~where~~ ^{which place} they marauded the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel County. In November, the most of this fleet left for Bermuda to be repaired, returning in the Spring of 1814 with reinforcements. Although the British fleets had been blockading the Chesapeake and ravaging its shores almost within sight of the City of Washington, there were on June 1st, 1814, but 2208 soldiers of the regular army in the whole district from Norfolk to Baltimore. On July 2nd, the 10th Military District was formed, consisting of the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and that part of Virginia lying between the Rappahannock and the Potomac. On July 9th, General Winder, commanding that District, whose entire force of regular troops was between 700 and 800 men, suggested that 4,000 militia should be called out, two thousand of whom should be stationed between the South River and Washington, and two thousand in the vicinity of Baltimore. On August 20th, General Winder's suggestion was approved, and on that same day the British Fleet, accompanied by their new troops from the war in France - Wellington's Invincibles - ^{forced Barney to burn his fleet.} They ascended the Patuxant and disembarked at Pig Point and moved on to Upper Marlborough, ^{and} at daylight on August 24th, General Ross began his advance on Bladensburg, where the Washington ^{troops} ~~troops~~ were joined by 2000 volunteers from Baltimore. The morning report of this recently organized American army consisted of 400 regular troops, 500 marines and 4,000 militia, and when the fight occurred, the Americans were routed in the presence of the President and his Cabinet. Bladensburg decided the fate of the Capitol at Washington, which was burned and the President was forced to flee. After several days, the British returned to their ships and sailed for Baltimore appearing at the mouth of the Patapsco on the morning of ^{Sept.} ~~the~~ 11th. They attempted to make a landing at Bodkin Point, evidently to attack Baltimore from the south and the rear, but a battallion of the 22nd regiment (Anne Arundel

County) fired on their boats from behind trees on the bluff and they withdrew and crossed over to North Point, ^{on} the opposite side of the River. Here their army was disembarked on the morning of September 12th and began its march up the North Point Road while their fleet came up the Patapsco to bombard our fortifications. Beginning with April, 1813, the citizens of Baltimore had worked tirelessly to perfect our defenses - a period of preparations that proved to be our salvation - and when General Stricker learned that the British had landed at North Point ~~road~~, he sent the 5th, 6th, 27th, 39th, and 51st regiments to meet them at the narrowest part of the peninsula at a point between the head water of Bear Creek and Back River. Here General Ross was killed, ~~the advance was checked and the proposed plan of the~~ British to make a juncture of their fleet and their army before Baltimore was frustrated. That evening, the British Army returned to their transports and the fleet, which had moved up the river and taken its position, began the bombardment of Fort McHenry. The entrance to the harbor had been closed by boats that had been sunk in the channel and a heavy iron chain had been stretched from the Lazaretto to the Fort. Our troops fell back to protect the defenses around the water front. At daylight on the morning of September 13th, the British fleet opened fire on Fort McHenry which they bombarded ~~continuously~~ until 7 o'clock on the morning of September 14th, when they stopped firing and began to drop down the river and got under way.

Before daylight on the morning ~~of the 14th~~ on September 14th, the enemy attempted a surprise attack from the rear by sending a regiment of men in boats up the main branch of the Patapsco between the Fort and what is now Wagner's Point; but Captain Francis Hancock's company of the 22nd Regiment, ^{which} ~~was~~ ^{was} patrolling that ~~position~~ ^{position}, heard their muffled oars and lighted ^{which} a hayrick, threw them into full view of the Six Gun Battery and Fort Covington further up the river. ~~also~~ The terrible ^{from these batteries} gave them a devastating crossfire ~~which~~ sunk a number of their boats and they were forced to retire back to their ships.

When the British Army was in camp at Upper Marlborough preparing for its attack on Washington, Admiral Cockburn had made his headquarters at the house of Dr. Beanes, the leading Physician of that town, under agreeable conditions of mutual courtesy; but when their army had returned to their ships from the pillage of Washington, small groups of stragglers began to appear, who plundered homes as they went. Dr. Beanes put himself at the head of a small body of citizens, who pursued and arrested some of them, and when this news was conveyed to the English, ^{Commander} a detachment was sent up to release the prisoners and to arrest Dr. Beanes. ~~When~~ Francis Scott Key, personal friend of Dr. Beanes, ^{hearing} ~~heard~~ of this, ~~he~~ obtained permission from the President to intercede for Dr. Beanes. Key was instructed to ^{go} ~~hasten~~ to Baltimore and report to ~~Mr.~~ John S. Skinner, the government agent for flags of truce, who was ordered to accompany Key ~~on his mission~~. They sailed down the Bay, and found the British fleet off the mouth of the Potomac River preparing for the expedition against Baltimore. Explaining his mission, Key made a strong plea for Dr. Beanes and told of the care and attention that had been given to the English wounded, until General Ross relented and said that he would release him after the attack on Baltimore, but in the meantime, neither he nor Dr. Beanes would be permitted to leave the fleet. They were quartered on the frigate "Surprise" which ~~was~~ commanded by Sir Thomas Cockrane, a son of the fleet commander, and the British sailed for Baltimore. Arriving at the mouth of the Patapsco, Admiral Cockrane shifted his flag to the "Surprise" in order that he might be able to move further up the River to superintend the attack on Fort McHenry, and Key and Dr. Beanes were sent back on board their own vessel accompanied by a guard of Marines to keep them from landing. They were fortunately placed in a position where they could see the flag of Fort McHenry from the deck of their vessel, and Key remained on deck during the whole bombardment, watching every shell as it fell. While the bombardment continued, he knew that the Fort had not surrendered, but suddenly, the bombardment was stopped, by the British who feared ^{that they might} ~~to~~ hit their men who were attempting

to pass the fort to make the attack from the rear, and he wondered if the fort had surrendered. When the dawn broke, he was pacing the deck, and was relieved to find that "Our Flag Was Still There". During the exultation of the moment, Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner" and when the British withdrew, they were informed they could leave. Key returned to Baltimore where the song was immediately put to music.

For two years, the American Army had been on the defensive. The campaigns in the North had been dismal failures. The only bright spot in the war had been the success of our small navy, who with our privateersmen had crippled the British Marine. In less than two years, this new navy had captured 56 men-o-war carrying 886 cannons, and thousands of prisoners. England's boast that Britannia ruled the waves, had been humiliated and with her defeat at North Point and Fort McHenry, they soon arraigned for the Treaty of Peace which was signed at Ghent on December 24th, 1814.

The War of 1812 - our Second War for Independence from Great Britain - has been called by some a needless war. It is true that it might have been arbitrated, like any other war might have been arbitrated, but when one counts the results attained, it was far from needless. It had to be, and the winning of it led to American independence from all other nations, and broke us away from these influences of our old colonial life, which ~~was~~ ^{were} holding back our proper development. It freed American politics and policies from European standards and established a respect for our nationality among the governments of the world which permitted us to work out our own systems according to our own plans. Its effect upon the local life in Baltimore and upon the progress of our city was very pronounced. The experiences of those who had served on board of the privateers created a spirit of adventure among our young men, some of whom joined Bolivar in his attempt to liberate the South American States from Spanish domination, and the intimate history of South American freedom is linked with their names. Others entered the merchant marine service

next century of our country's growth. May the Glory ~~of the battle of~~
~~the Battle of~~ Fort McHenry presage the future.

S. Good

H. Good

Miss Harris

2906 Alameda Drive

Seattle

Dear Evans

Comedy of the South
1812

The Committee on Fort McHenry is pleased to congratulate the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland upon the successful attainment of its greatest desire.

The recent session of Congress appropriated the money that was necessary to restore the premises and Fort McHenry was dedicated as a National Shrine on September 12th, 1928.

This happy culmination of a project that was started in this Society over forty years ago contains so much that is of historic interest to us, that it might be advisable to tell the story by starting at the beginning.

Previous to the Revolutionery War, Baltimore was an inconspicuous town that was just beginning to take on a commercial importance. The rich soil of the country provided good grain for its mills, and Maryland flour and Maryland tobacco were developing an increasing trade from this port with the West Indies and with Europe. The war interrupting this growing foreign trade, many of our people turned privateers, and the town soon grew rich with the spoils of British commerce.

In March, 1776, the people of Baltimore were alarmed by the news that the British warship "Otter" accompanied by two tenders and several prizes, was in the Chesapeake Bay. Earthworks were thrown up and 18 cannon were mounted at Whetstone Point. This fortification, which was the beginning of Fort McHenry, was put under the command of Capt. N. Smith. A large force of men were employed to erect a boom between Whetstone Point and the Lazaretto and a chain was stretched across the neck of the harbor supported by 21 sunken schooners to prevent the expected attack by the British. Meanwhile, the Maryland ship "Defence" was lying in the harbor nearly completed, and when volunteers from Smallwood's Battalion offered to serve on board of her as marines, her commander, Capt. James Nicholson

rushed the work and sailed out to attack the British, who fled and left their prizes behind.

The population of Baltimore had doubled during the Revolutionary War because of the activity of the port, and in the decade that followed, it was doubled again. In 1794, it looked as if we would be drawn into another war, because of the conflict between France and Great Britain, and it was decided to enlarge the defenses at Whetstone Point. Major J. J. Ulrich Rivardi, a french artillery engineer who had come to this country during the Revolution, was employed to make the plans, which included the present star bastion fort, with upper and lower batteries, and it was also deemed advisable to place this improved fortification under the control of the Federal Government. In 1798, Major Tousard was ordered to examine the defenses and report upon them to the war department, and this fortification was named for James McHenry of Baltimore who was appointed the Secretary of War in 1798, and who had previously served as Secretary to General Washington during the Revolution.

By the year 1800, the population of Baltimore had again doubled over what it was in 1794, and by 1810, it had doubled over what it was in 1800. We had become the third city of commercial importance in the Union, and when the War of 1812 was declared, and the Chesapeake was blockaded by the British, our shipping was interrupted and we again turned to privateering as we had done during the Revolution. This marked us with Britain's particular disfavor, and after Washington had been sacked and burned, they turned their attack on Baltimore. The British land forces were stopped at North Point and their fleet was repulsed by Fort McHenry which withstood a terrific bombardment for a day and a night, during which Francis Scott Key was inspired to write what has become by acclamation our National Air - The Star Spangled Banner.

The first deed of transfer of property for this fortification was from Alexander Furnival, who on July 30th, 1795, conveyed to the United States Government, seven acres and fifty-eight perches. This was followed by two deeds from William Goodman, for a similar purpose, dated November 6th, 1798 and August 26th, 1800, conveying thirteen acres three rods and twenty-five perches, and another from William O'Donnell, dated January 4th 1804, conveying five acres. The fort grounds contained twenty-six and one-quarter acres at the time of the War of 1812.

Jurisdiction over this reservation was ceded to the United States Government by the act of the Maryland Legislature, January 30th, 1816. Between September 10th, 1836 and November 16th, 1838, six other deeds were recorded, conveying an additional twenty-six and one-half acres, making fifty-two and three quarters acres in the enlarged reservation; and jurisdiction over this was assumed by the Government under a similar act of the Maryland Legislature passed March 28th, 1834.

On September 15th, 1814, the day after the bombardment, the Defenders Society of Baltimore was formed to perpetuate the heroic deeds and to memorialize the men who had been engaged in the three day fight around Baltimore. The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, composed of the descendants of these men is the worthy successor of that object and when General Peter Leary, who was a captain of artillery at Fort McHenry and afterwards the President of this Society, reported in 1893 that the Government was planning to abandon Fort McHenry because it had outlived its usefulness as a fortification, this Society began to take steps for the preservation of this historic landmark which had been created when the nation began, and had played such an interesting part throughout our history!

Under the leadership of General Leary, our Society was able to prevent the evacuation of the Fort, for military purposes until after the

Spanish-American War. In 1906, it was planned by the War Department to give Fort McHenry to the Department of the Interior as a cattle quarantine station. Again we were fortunate in having a past president of our Society, Edwin Warfield, Governor of the State of Maryland, and General Clinton L. Riggs, the present president of our Society, as Adjutant General of Maryland, and at the last moment General Riggs was successful in preventing the proposed transfer by taking over the premises as a drill ground for the Maryland National Guard at a nominal rental.

In 1911, General Clinton L. Riggs, was appointed Chairman of a Commission of forty, by General Crowthers, "to persuade the government to convert this fort into a national park" and bills were introduced in Congress by Senator Raynor and by Representative Linthicum for the preservation of Fort McHenry and the grounds connected therewith as a government reservation, under the control of the Secretary of War. These bills did not pass and on August 13th, 1913, Representative Linthicum introduced another bill "to place the supervision and control of Fort McHenry and the grounds connected therewith under the City of Baltimore". This will was defeated; but a new bill was introduced by Mr. Linthicum in 1914 and was passed "granting permission to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to occupy the reservation as a city park".

Under the impulse of the Centennial of the Star Spangled Banner the City of Baltimore improved the grounds at Fort McHenry as a city park and although our Society never approved the measure, we were glad to feel that Fort McHenry would be preserved. When the World War broke out and the Government took over the grounds again for the purpose of a military hospital and the time came when these hospital buildings would be vacated, we again saw the possibility of our dream.

Fortunately, we had created considerable public interest in the proposition to make Fort McHenry a National Monument. General John R. Bland

at his own expense, published a handsome brochure which was sent to the members of Congress and to the Governors of every state appealing for the preservation of Fort McHenry as a National Park. Cooperating with this Committee and with the Maryland Historical Society and other patriotic societies, we began another crusade. Bills were introduced in Congress, some of which conflicted with the others and hearings were given before the representative committees that had these bills in charge. The matter was thoroughly discussed and eventually the sentiment was crystallized to make Fort McHenry a National Park and the interest of our members of Congress and the state and city administration was enlisted. We cannot give too much credit to the Maryland Delegation in Congress during the sessions of 1922-23-24-25, nor to the different elements that helped the cause. It is true that the bills that were introduced in these several sessions of Congress died in the house, until the bill making Fort McHenry a National Shrine was passed and signed by the President on March 3rd, 1925. The bill appropriating the necessary money for the restoration of the fort and grounds, however, was lost in that session of Congress.

We were able to keep the needed appropriation in the army deficiency bill and have it approved by the budget committee in the succeeding sessions of congress. Our great fear was that it might be cut out by the several military affairs committees of Congress. Eventually it was reported on the floor of the House of Representatives and passed, although it was held up by a sub-committee of the committee on military affairs in the Senate. We had learned our lesson from the previous failures. Through personal solicitations and the enlistment of friends throughout the country and the cooperation of Mr. Joseph Bristor and Richard Worthington of our society, we were able to bring the measure out on the floor of the Senate, untouched, where it was passed and finally signed by President Coolidge.

The Committee is indebted to the Membership of our Society, to the many friends who have supported the proposition and have helped to make Fort McHenry a National Shrine under the control of the Federal Government. Much public interest was shown in its dedication on September 12th last, when we entertained the General Society of the War of 1812 in a Bi-Annual Congress.

Our work is not finished, however. The restoration will soon be completed and it is proposed to establish a museum at the fort. A nucleus of this has been promised and we hope to make an exhibit that will interest the large number of people who are visiting Baltimore's patriotic spot, Fort McHenry.

F O R T M e H E N R Y

By

James E. Hancock

The dedication of Fort McHenry as a national shrine on September 12th, 1928, to be followed by the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Baltimore in 1929, affords an interesting retrospect of our local history that is unique.

Previous to the Revolution, Baltimore was an inconspicuous town that was just beginning to grow, because it possessed certain factors for trade. An abundance of iron ore that was easily worked, provided a supply of this useful metal for tools, and several swift moving waterways led to the building of a number of mills. The rich soil of the country around supplied a high grade of wheat for these mills, and the reputation of our flour and Maryland grain and tobacco was developing an increasing trade with Europe and the West Indies. When the war interrupted this growing foreign business, many of our ship owners and merchants turned to privateering. Between April 1777 and March 1782, two hundred and forty-eight privateers and letters of marque sailed from this port. These privateers were not only the nursery of our infant navy but the town grew rich with the spoils of British commerce.

In March, 1776, the people of Baltimore were alarmed by the news that the British warship "Otter" accompanied by two tenders and several prizes, was in the Chesapeake Bay. Earthworks were thrown up and 18 cannon were mounted at Whetstone Point and this fortification, which was the beginning of Fort McHenry, was put under the command of Capt. N. Smith. A boom was erected between Whetstone Point and the Lazaretto and a chain was stretched across the neck of the harbor supported by 21 sunken schooners to prevent the expected attack by the British. Meanwhile, the Maryland ship "Defence" was lying in the harbor nearly completed, and when volunteers from Smallwood's Battalion offered to serve on board of her as marines, her commander,

Capt. James Nicholson rushed the work and sailed out to attack the British, who fled and left their prizes behind.

The population of Baltimore doubled during the Revolutionary War because of the activity of the port, and in each of the several decades that followed it was progressively doubled again. In 1794, it looked as if we would be drawn into another war because of the conflict between France and Great Britain, and it was decided to enlarge the defenses at Whetstone Point. Major J. J. Ulrich Rivardi, a french artillery engineer, who had come to this country during the Revolution, was employed to make the plans, which included the present star bastion fort, with upper and lower batteries, and it was also deemed advisable to place this improved fortification under the control of the Federal Government. In 1798, Major Tousard was ordered to examine the defenses and report upon them to the war department, and this fortification was named for James McHenry, who had served as Secretary to General Washington during the Revelation, and who was appointed the Secretary of War in 1798.

The first deed of transfer of property for this fortification was from Alexander Furnival, who on July 20, 1795, conveyed to the United States Government seven acres and fifty-eight perches. This was followed by two deeds from William Goodman, for a similar purpose, dated November 6, 1798, and August 26, 1800, conveying thirteen acres three rods and twenty-five perches, and another from William O'Donnell, dated January 4, 1804, conveying five acres. It will thus be seen that

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one quarter of a century following 1790 was an unusual period in the world's affairs.

The United States had only recently set up a new Constitution which proclaimed opportunities and advantages for the individual that were not permitted by any other government. On the other side of the Atlantic the French Revolution had occurred, and this had incited the antagonism of the other governments of Europe in their effort to maintain their old social order. While America was striving for peace and social reorganization, all of Europe was aflame with war and the growing trade of America with the rest of the world was restricted by British Orders of Council and French Imperial Decrees. We were forbidden by either nation to trade with the other and her allies.

There was a strong element in this country which favored England because of natural blood ties, and another that favored France because of the help that she had given us during our Revolution. While Washington lived he taught and encouraged the idea that America must be an independent nation, free from all foreign entanglements; but Washington died in 1799, and although the several Presidents who followed him were undoubted patriots, none of them had the confidence of the people that Washington had enjoyed, nor his strength of character and his keen insight into national affairs.

Great Britain saw her opportunity to demoralize our Government and attempted, through her emissaries, to create discord between New England and the Southern States. She had never given up the hope of regaining her lost colonies. She was mistress of the seas and her navy hovered along our coast and seized our shipping in her efforts to prevent our trade with France and the West Indies. In her demands for seamen for her fleets, she boarded our vessels and impressed

American sailors into her service, even boarding the vessels of our navy and taking off enlisted men, and it might be interesting to know that the first vessel of our navy which she held up for this purpose was the sloop of war Baltimore.

Our people became provoked over Britain's unjust activities, and in his attempt to solve this international problem Thomas Jefferson imposed the embargo act as an effort to avoid war. Its restrictions were so contrary to human nature that it was openly broken, until after fourteen months of hardship on the American trade it was repealed. Jefferson's policy of non-aggression not only proved a failure but it encouraged England to deny our rights, and because of her tyrannical impositions Congress was compelled to protect our dignity by declaring war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812.

The American Treasury was almost empty. We had but seven vessels in our navy and about 5,000 men in our army. Yet America, with this small force, declared war against the richest nation on earth, which had at its disposal thousands of ships and corps of trained veterans. We had to construct an army out of our militia, as we had to do when we declared war on Germany, and we supplemented our seven frigates with armed private vessels.

It is doubtful if any city in the history of the world previous to that time had increased in population as rapidly as Baltimore had grown within the preceding twenty-five years. By 1812 we had become the third city of commercial importance in the union and when the Chesapeake was blockaded by the British, and our shipping was again interrupted, we turned to privateering as we had done during the Revolution and began to harass the British.

It is a matter of record that many of these privateersmen went to the English coast and even entered the Irish and English channels and seized her shipping, capturing over 250 English vessels with many guns and several million dollars' worth of merchandise. Baltimore's activities in the first year of the war marked her with England's disfavor, and in their efforts to blockade the Chesapeake the British established headquarters on Tangier Island and other places on the bay from whence she exacted tribute of our people.

In April, 1813, the British fleet appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco and the people of Baltimore began to realize their danger. No money for defense was available from the Federal Government. Our militia was called out and the City Council of Baltimore appropriated \$20,000 for constructing our defenses, while the citizens of Baltimore subscribed \$500,000 and ordered every able-bodied citizen who was not under arms to report with pickaxes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc., for duty in constructing earthworks, which were thrown up around the city.

At Patterson Park one may still see part of the old intrenchments that were thrown up from the water line around to what is now Greenmount Cemetery. Fort McHenry was strengthened by the heavy guns of the French frigate La Poursivante, which had come to Despeaux's Ship Yard for repairs after her fight with the British frigate Hercules and had been interned under the Act of 1794, which was one of Washington's wise provisions to keep us out of the war between England and France.

The British admiral sent up a flag of truce under pretext of forwarding a letter to the Secretary of State, but he was evidently seeking information about Baltimore's defenses. The officer in charge of the flag of truce was detained by one of our barges about four miles from the city, and when he learned that the report was true that the people of Baltimore had mounted these extra guns at Fort McHenry it evidently persuaded Admiral Cockburn to change his plans to attack the city at that time, because his fleet sailed up the bay, where they took Havre de Grace, occupied Spesutia Island and sacked Fredericktown and Georgetown, on the Sassafraz river.

The British stayed in the upper part of the Chesapeake all summer, landing at St. Michaels and other places on the Eastern Shore and menacing Annapolis. From another encampment near Point Lookout they ravaged the Potomac and the Patuxent sections until the whole bay was under their control.

On August 8 fifteen of their vessels moved up in sight of Baltimore and prepared for an attack, but when they saw that the fortifications around the city were promptly manned it discouraged them and in a few days the fleet again moved off and occupied Kent Island, from which place they marauded the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel county. In November the most of this fleet left for Bermuda to be repaired, returning in the spring of 1814 with reinforcements.

Although the British fleets had been

blockading the Chesapeake and ravaging its shores almost within sight of the city of Washington, there were on June 1, 1814, but 2,208 soldiers of the regular army in the whole district from Norfolk to Baltimore. On July 2 the Tenth Military district was formed, consisting of the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia and that part of Virginia lying between the Rappahannock and the Potomac. On July 9 General Winder, commanding that district, whose entire force of regular troops was between 700 and 800 men, suggested that 4,000 militia should be called out, 2,000 of whom should be stationed between the South river and Washington, and 2,000 in the vicinity of Baltimore.

On August 20 General Winder's suggestion was approved, and on that same day the British fleet, accompanied by their new troops from the war in France — Wellington's Invincibles — ascended the Patuxent and forced Barney to burn his fleet. They disembarked at Pig Point and moved on to Upper Marlborough, and at daylight on August 24 General Ross began his advance on Bladensburg, where the Washington troops were joined by 2,000 volunteers from Baltimore.

The morning report of this recently organized American army consisted of 400 regular troops, 500 marines and 4,000 militia, and when the fight occurred the Americans were routed in the presence of the President and his Cabinet. Bladensburg decided the fate of the Capitol at Washington, which was burned and the President was forced to flee. After several days the British returned to their ships and sailed for Baltimore, appearing at the mouth of the Patapsco on the morning of September 11.

They attempted to make a landing at Bodkin Point, evidently to attack Baltimore from the south and the rear, but a battalion of the Twenty-second Regiment (Anne Arundel county) fired on their boats from behind the trees on the bluff, and they withdrew and crossed over to North Point, on the opposite side of the river. Here their army was disembarked on the morning of September 12, and began its march up the North Point road, while their fleet came up the Patapsco to bombard our fortifications.

Beginning with April, 1813, the citizens of Baltimore had worked tirelessly to perfect its defenses—a period of preparations that proved to be our salvation—and when General Stricker learned that the British had landed at North Point he sent the Fifth, Sixth, Twenty-seventh, Thirty-ninth and Fifty-first Regiments to meet them at the narrowest part of the peninsula at a point between the head water of Bear creek and Back river. Here General Ross was killed, the advance was checked and the proposed plan of the British to make a juncture of their fleet and their army before Baltimore was frustrated.

That evening the British army returned to their transports and the fleet, which had moved up the river and taken its position, began the bombardment of Fort McHenry. The entrance to the harbor had been closed by boats that had been sunk in the channel and a heavy iron chain had been stretched from the Lazaretto to the fort. Our troops fell back to protect the defenses around the water front. At daylight on the morning of September 13 the British fleet opened fire on Fort McHenry, which they bombarded until 7 o'clock on the morning of September 14, when they stopped firing and began to drop down the river and got under way.

Before daylight on the morning of September 14 the enemy attempted a surprise attack from the rear by sending a regiment of men in boats up the main branch of the Patapsco between the fort and what is now Wagners Point, but Captain Hancock's company of the twenty-second regiment, which was patrolling that position, heard their muffled oars and lighted

a hayrick, which threw them into full view of the six-gun battery and Fort Covington further up the river. The terrible crossfire from these batteries sunk a number of their boats and they were forced to return to their ships.

When the British Army was in camp at Upper Marlboro preparing for its attack on Washington, Admiral Cockburn had made his headquarters at the house of Dr. Beanes, the leading physician of that town, under agreeable conditions of mutual courtesy, but when their army had returned to their ships from the pillage of Washington, small groups of stragglers began to appear, who plundered homes as they went. Dr. Beanes put himself at the head of a small body of citizens, who pursued and arrested some of them, and when this news was conveyed to the English commander a detachment was sent up to release the prisoners and to arrest Dr. Beanes. Francis Scott Key, personal friend of Dr. Beanes, hearing of this, obtained permission from the President to intercede for Dr. Beanes.

Key was instructed to go to Baltimore and report to John S. Skinner, the Government agent for flags of truce, who was ordered to accompany Key. They sailed down the bay and found the British fleet off the mouth of the Potomac river preparing for the expedition against Baltimore. Explaining his mission, Key made a strong plea for Dr. Beanes and told of the care and attention that had been given to the English wounded, until the British commander relented and promised that they would release him after the attack on Baltimore, but in the meantime, neither he nor Dr. Beanes would be permitted to leave the fleet. They were quartered on the frigate Surprise, which was commanded by Sir Thomas Cockrane, a son of the fleet commander, and the British sailed for Baltimore.

Arriving at the mouth of the Patapsco, Admiral Cockrane shifted his flag to the Surprise in order that he might be able to move farther up the river to superintend the attack on Fort McHenry, and Key and Dr. Beanes were sent back on board their own vessel accompanied by a guard of marines to keep them from landing.

They were fortunately placed in a position where they could see the flag of Fort McHenry from the deck of their vessel, and Key remained on deck during the whole bombardment, watching every shell as it fell. While the bombardment continued, he knew

that the fort withstood the attack, but suddenly the bombardment was stopped by the British who feared that they might hit their men who were attempting to pass the fort to make the attack from the rear, and he wondered if the fort had surrendered. When the dawn broke he was pacing the deck, and was relieved to find that "Our flag was still there." During the exultation of the moment Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" and when the British withdrew they were informed they could leave. Key returned to Baltimore, where the song was immediately put to music.

For two years the American Army had been on the defensive. The campaigns in the North had been dismal failures. The only bright spot in the war had been the success of our small navy, which, with our privateersmen, had crippled the British marine. In less than two years this new navy had captured 56 men-o-war carrying 886 cannons and thousands of prisoners. England's boast that Britannia ruled the waves had been humiliated and, with her defeat at North Point and Fort McHenry, they soon arranged for the treaty of peace which was signed at Ghent on December 24, 1814.

The War of 1812 - Our Second War for independence from Great Britain-has been called by some a needless war. It is true that it might have been arbitrated, but when one counts the results attained, few things in the nation's history have produced greater results. The winning of it led to American independence from all other nations and broke us away from these influences of our old colonial life, which were holding back our proper developement. It freed American politics and policies from European standards and established a respect for our Nationality among the Governments of the World, which permitted us to work out our own systems ~~af~~ for the betterment of the race, and Fort McHenry is not only a National Shrine as the Birth-place ~~the~~ of Star Spangled Banner, but it is a symbol of the many things that have been evolved as distinctly American.

Its effect upon the local life and progress of Baltimore were equally positive. The experiences of the privateersmen encouraged a growing spirit of adventure in the hearts and minds of our young men, ~~and~~ many of whom, stimulated by the prospects of trade, went into the Merchant Marine Service and ~~soon~~ carried the name of Baltimore to all parts of the world. The Baltimore Clipper became the standard of swift sailing ships ~~and~~ in the seven seas. The period that followed was the day of Peabody, of Johns Hopkins and other merchant princes that established a prestige for Baltimore which will never be forgotten.

1914 when

Fort McHenry was continuously used as a garrison post until the art of war had been so changed by modern implements and high power explosives that its usefulness as a fortification had passed. During the World War one of the largest military hospitals in the country was built on the reservation and this was maintained for several years thereafter, caring for thousands of wounded and otherwise disabled soldiers, until it was finally evacuated. It has been restored as it was during the bombardment, September 13[&] 14th, 1814 and its glory will still live as a national shrine - the birthplace of the "Star Spangled Banner"-and the defense of Baltimore, the only large city on our Atlantic Coast over which the enemy's flag has never flown.

F O R T M C H E N R Y - A N A T I O N A L S H R I N E

What it means in the History of the United States and to the City of Baltimore.

The restoration of Fort McHenry - the Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner - and its dedication as a National Shrine, arouses in one's mind an interest in these early days of our City and Nation. Nothing in the History of Baltimore has been more conspicuous and has reflected greater credit on her citizens than did the stirring events which occurred around this City during the fateful days of September 12th to 14th, 1814. The year 1812 opened upon an unusual condition of the world's affairs. For 15 years Napoleon had succeeded in defeating every coalition that Europe had sent against him. All of Europe was at war and American trade with the rest of the world had been restricted by British Orders of Council and French Imperial Decrees. We had been forbidden by each Nation to trade with the other and her Allies. The United States was in her swaddling clothes. Our Government, established under the Constitution, soon found itself in the throes of Political discord when George Washington, our first President, died. One element in this country favored Britain because of natural ties; another favored France because of her help during our revolution; while over all there was a strong spirit that wanted to make America an independent country, free of all foreign entanglements. The City of Baltimore felt these influences very strongly. Within the twenty years preceeding, we had grown to be the third city of Commercial importance in the Country, largely under the influence of building ships for those merchants who sought trade export with the contending powers in Europe.

In his attempt to solve this great international problem, Thomas Jefferson had imposed The Embargo Act to avoid war, but its restrictions were so contrary to human nature that it was openly broken, until after four teen months of hardship on the American trade, it was repealed.

Jefferson's policy of non-aggression had not only proven a failure, but it encouraged England to deny our rights. Great Britain saw her opportunity to demoralize our Government and through emissaries sought to create a discord between New England and the Southern States. The British Navy was mistress of the seas, and in her demand for seamen for her fleets, impressed American sailors into her service, and her navy ~~hovered~~ ^{hovered} around our shores and seized our shipping in her efforts to prevent our trade with France and the West Indies.

Because of these tyrannical impositions, Congress was compelled to protect our rights by declaring war on Great Britain on June 18th, 1812. The American treasury was almost empty and we had but seven vessels in our navy and about 5000 men in the army. Yet America, with this small force declared war against the greatest nation on earth; a nation which had at its disposal thousands of ships and corps of trained veterans. We had to construct an army out of our Militia just as we had to do when we declared war on Germany, and we supplemented our seven frigates with armed vessels of which Baltimore built and supplied over 50 per cent. These privateersmen took to the seas to harass the English fleets and Baltimore's ships were soon scouring the coast of England itself, seizing her ships and demoralizing her commerce. This marked Baltimore with England's disfavor and in her effort to blockade the Chesapeake, the British established headquarters on Tangier Island and at other places on the Bay from which she exacted tribute of our citizens. In April, 1813, her fleet appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco, and the people of Baltimore were made to realize their danger. No money for defense was available from the National Government. The Militia was called out, the City Council of Baltimore appropriated \$20,000.00 for constructing our defenses, while the citizens of Baltimore subscribed \$500,000 and ordered every able bodied citizen who was not under arms to report with pickaxes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc. for duty in constructing the city's defenses.

Earthworks were thrown up around the City. At Patterson Park you can still see part of the old entrenchments that were thrown up from the water line around to what is now Greenmount Cemetery. The defenses at Fort McHenry were strengthened by appropriating the heavy guns from a French Frigate that lay up for repairs in our harbor. Water batteries were established, and signal boats were sent down the river, while troops of cavalry were stationed along the Bay and river shores to report any activity.

The British Admiral sent up a flag of truce under pretext of forwarding a letter to the Secretary of State, but his messenger was not allowed to approach nearer than four miles from the City, where he was detained by one of our barges. The officer in charge of the flag of truce asked whether the citizens of Baltimore had mounted the guns from the French War ship, at Fort McHenry as had been reported, and when told that they had, Admiral Cockburn ^{with} changed his plan to attack the City (~~at the time~~) and his fleet sailed up the Bay where they took Havre De Grace, destroyed a cannon foundry on the upper bay, occupied Spesuti Island and sacked Fredericktown and Georgetown on the Sassafras River. The British were employed in the upper part of the Chesapeake all summer, landing at St. Michael's and other places on the Eastern Shore and menacing Annapolis, until the whole bay was under their control. From another encampment near Fort Lookout they marauded the Potomac and the Patuxant sections and menaced St. Mary's and Calvert County. On the 8th of August, fifteen vessels moved up in sight of Baltimore as if preparing for an attack, but the Forts at Patterson Park were so promptly manned, and with 40 pieces of Artillery, supplementing the marine batteries at Fort McHenry, ^{that} it discouraged the enemy, and in a few days, the fleet moved off and occupied Kent Island from whence they marauded the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel County. In November, a large part of the

Despite the fact that the British fleet had been blockading the Chesapeake and ravaging its shores, almost within sight of the National Capitol, there were on June 1st, 1814, but 2208 soldiers of the regular army in the whole district from Norfolk to Baltimore. On July 2nd, the 10th Military District was formed, consisting of the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and that part of Virginia lying between the Rappahannock and the Potomac. On July 9th, General Winder, commanding that district, whose entire force of regular troops was between 700 and 800 men, suggested that 4,000 militia should be called out, two thousand of whom should be stationed between the South River and Washington, and two thousand in the vicinity of Baltimore. It was not until August 20th that General Winder's suggestion was approved. That same day, the British Fleet, accompanied by the new troops from the war in France and Spain, ascended the Patuxant and disembarked at Pig Point and moved on to Upper Marlborough. At daylight on August 24th, General Ross began his advance on Bladensburg, where the Washington army was joined by 2000 volunteers from Baltimore. The morning report of this recently organized American army consisted of 400 regular troops, 600 marines and 4,000 Militia, and when the fight occurred, the Americans were routed in the presence of the President and his Cabinet. The less said about the inglorious battle of Bladensburg, the better. It decided the fate of the Capitol at Washington, which was burned and the President was forced to flee. After several days, the British returned to their ships and sailed for Baltimore appearing at the mouth of the Patapsco on the morning of the 11th. Their army was disembarked on the morning of the 12th of September and began its march up the North Point Road while their fleet came up the Patapsco to bombard our fortifications. Beginning with April, 1813, the citizens of Baltimore had worked tirelessly to perfect our defenses - a period of preparation that proved to be our salvation - and General Stricker, learning that the British had landed, sent the 5th, 6th, 7th, 27th 39th, and 51st regiments to meet them at the narrowest part of the peninsula at a

point between the head water of Bear Creek and Back River. Here the British advance was checked and Gen. Ross was killed, and the proposed plan of the British to make a juncture of their fleet and their army before Baltimore, was frustrated. That evening, the British returned to their transports and the fleet, which had moved up the river and taken its position began the bombardment of Fort McHenry. The American troops fell back to protect our defenses around the water front. At daylight on the morning of September 13th, the British fleet opened fire on Fort McHenry which they bombarded continuously until 7 o'clock on the morning of September 14th, when they stopped firing and began to drop down the river and get under way. Baltimore had been saved through the heroism and sacrifice of her citizen soldiers, who gave in men and money to retrieve the nation's bad fortune,

When the British Army was in camp at Upper Marlborough, preparing for the attack on Washington, Admiral Cockburn had made his headquarters at the home of Doctor Beanes. The officers were furnished with every comfort that he could provide and Dr. Beanes and his family were treated with courtesy, and guards were placed around his grounds to prevent any depredation by their troops. When the army had returned to their ships, stragglers began to pass through the town, singly or in small squads, plundering houses as they went. Dr. Beanes headed a small body of citizens who pursued and arrested some of them. When this news was conveyed to the English camp, a detachment was sent to release the prisoners and they arrested Dr. Beanes. When Mr. Francis Scott Key heard of this, he obtained permission from the President and obtained letters so that he might intercede for Dr. Beanes. Mr. Key was instructed to hasten to Baltimore, and report to John S. Skinner, the government agent for flags of truce, who was ordered to accompany Key on his mission. They sailed down the Bay, and found the British fleet off the mouth of the Potomac River, where they were preparing for the expedition against Baltimore. He was courteously received but when he applied for the release of Dr. Beanes, General Ross and

and Admiral Cockburn dissented. Mr. Key made a strong plea for Dr. Beanes and told of the care and attention that had been given to the English wounded, that Gen. Ross relented and said that he would release him after the attack on Baltimore, but in the meantime, neither he nor Dr. Beanes would be permitted to leave the fleet. Mr. Key and Dr. Beanes were placed on the frigate "Surprise" ~~and the British sailed for the Chesapeake Bay~~ ~~by order of the British fleet commander~~ which was commanded by Sir Thomas Cockrane, a son of the fleet commander, and the British sailed for Baltimore. Arriving at the mouth of the Patapsco, Admiral Cockrane shifted his flag to the "Surprise" in order that he might be able to move further up the River to superintend the attack on Fort McHenry. Key and Dr. Beanes were sent back on board of their own vessel accompanied by a guard of Marines to keep them from landing. They were fortunately placed in a position where they could see the flag of Fort McHenry from the deck of their vessel, and Mr. Key remained on deck during the whole bombardment watching every shell as it fell. While the bombardment continued, he knew that the Fort had not surrendered, but suddenly during the early morning of the 14th, the bombardment stopped, and he wondered whether the Fort had surrendered. When the dawn broke, he was pacing the deck, and was relieved to find that "Our Flag Was Still There". During the exultation of the moment, Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner" and when the British withdrew ~~and~~ they were informed that they could leave. Key returned to Baltimore, where the song was immediately put to music and sung that night in the Old Holliday Street Theatre.

For two years the American Army had been on the defensive. The campaigns in the North had been dismal failures. The only bright spot in the war had been the success of our small navy, supplemented by armed private vessels, in which service Baltimore had been conspicuous. Half of the privateersmen in the navy had been supplied by Baltimore, more than by the rest of the country. In less than two years, this new navy had cap-

tured 56 men-o-war carrying 886 cannons, and thousands of prisoners. England's boast that Britannia ruled the waves, had been humiliated and with her defeat at North Point and Fort McHenry, they soon arraigned for the Treaty of Peace which was signed at Ghent on December 24th, 1814.

The War of 1812 - our Second War for Independence from Great Britain has been called by some a needless war. It is true that it might have been arbitrated, like any other war might have been arbitrated, but when one counts the results attained, it was far from needless. It had to be, and the winning of it led to American Independence from all other nations, and broke us away from these influences of our old colonial life, which was holding back our proper developements. It freed American politics and policies from European standards and established a respect for our Nationality among the Governments of the World, which permitted us to work out our own systems for the betterment of the race and Fort McHenry is not only a National Shrine as the Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner, but it is a symbol of the many things that have been evolved as distinctly American.

Its effect upon the local life and progress of Baltimore were equally positive. The experiences of the privateersmen encouraged a growing spirit of adventure in the hearts and minds of our young men, some of whom planned to restore a white man's government to Hayti. Stimulated by the tales of the French Refugees who had come from there during the insurrection on that island, small groups went to the south coast of Hayti, where they met Bolivar who was recruiting for his attempt to liberate the South American States from Spanish domination. They joined with him and the intimate history of South American freedom is linked with their names. Others, stimulated by the prospects for trade that had developed during the period went into the Merchant Marine service and soon carried the name of Baltimore to all parts of the world. The Baltimore Clipper became the standard of swift sailing trading ships in the seven seas. The returns to our merchants and to our shipbuilders naturally directed their attention

to quick transportation and stimulated the building of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, with Baltimore as ~~the~~ starting point of the first railroad in America.

Under the same influences, we built the Battle Monument and Washington's Monument - the first monument to George Washington in the Country- and our public spirit as exemplified in Baltimore's increasing memorials gained for us the name of the Monumental City. The period that followed was the day of Peabody, of Johns Hopkins and other merchant princes that established a prestige for Baltimore which will never be forgotten.

The art of war has been changed by modern implements and high power explosives, until the usefulness of Fort McHenry has passed as a fortification. It is being restored as it was during its bombardment, September 13th and 14th, 1814 and its glory will still live as a National Shrine- the Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner- and the defense of Baltimore, the only large city on our Atlantic Coast over which the enemy's flag has never flown during the life of our nation.

The story of Fort McHenry is largely a story of Baltimore whose citizens erected it and later ceded it to the Federal Government in 1816, two years after its dramatic bombardment.

Nine tenths of the force that defended Baltimore against the three day attack by the British in 1814, were local militiamen and seven of the eight batteries in Fort McHenry at that time were Baltimore volunteer artillery.

The history of Fort McHenry provides the best, if not the only cross section that is extant throughout the life of the republic and this history can be best portrayed by a man who is familiar with the traditions of Baltimore.

Mr. Worthington is well qualified for the position and has a pleasing personality; and with his training in other work would make an excellent superintendent and a likeable host to the visitors at this historic shrine.

Fort McHenry

The Birthplace of The Star Spangled Banner.

The story of Fort McHenry is really a story of Baltimore whose citizens built and manned an 18 gun battery at the entrance to their harbor, in 1776, while Boston, New York, Philadelphia and other seaports were in the hands of the enemy. For periods of a year and longer, Baltimore was at no time under the control of the British. This city also supplied the first two warships for the Continental Navy, whose highest ranking officer throughout the war was a Baltimorean; and besides building other vessels for naval service the records of the Court of Admiralty show that 248 privateers were registered out of Baltimore to help fight against the enemy.

When another war with Great Britain was threatened in 1794, the old revolutionary fort was enlarged and offered to the Federal Government "as a fort or an arsenal for public defense" and when the U. S. Navy was organized in 1798, because of a naval war with France, Baltimore built more warships than any other city and Maryland built furnished more officers for that navy than any other State in the Union. The Constellation--the first frigate in the U. S. Navy was built in Baltimore and 12 guns were taken from the fort and mounted on the Constellation and 12 more were sent to Philadelphia to help arm the frigate United States so that she could get to sea. This depleted the armament at the fort so materially that the people of Baltimore then subscribed the money to build the Star Fort, with walls 35 feet thick and when it was completed they named it after Col. James McHenry of Baltimore who was Secretary of War 1796-1800.

During this period the Baltimore Clipper--the swiftest sailing vessels that the world had ever seen--was developed and Baltimore merchants soon dominated the trade with the West Indies. By 1812, three quarters of American commerce was carried in Baltimore Clippers and when the war of 1812 was declared, one third of the ships in the U. S. Navy had been built in Baltimore and one fifth of the officers and one eighth of the men in the navy were Marylanders.

Fort McHenry, The Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner.

By

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

In 1776, the citizens of Baltimore erected a water battery of 18 guns at the narrow entrance to their harbor to oppose the entrance of British ships. In 1794, an upper battery was added to this and in 1799, the works were further strengthened by the erection of the Star Bastion Fort, with walls 35 feet thick. This fort was built by public subscription and when completed it was named Fort McHenry in honor of Col. James McHenry, of Baltimore, who served as Secretary of War under Presidents Washington and John Adams.

During the War of 1812, Baltimore sent more privateers to sea than any other city in America and in an effort to keep them from sailing, the British began to blockade the Chesapeake in February 1813. In April, their fleet of 15 ships came into the Patapsco but would not risk an attack, because they knew that the citizens of Baltimore had subscribed another \$500,000 for defense and had strengthened the armament at Fort McHenry. In the summer of 1814, the British heavily increased their forces in the Chesapeake and after capturing the city of Washington and burning its public buildings they returned to their ships with the avowed intentions of taking Baltimore. Planning a joint attack of their army and navy, the British fleet of 70 sail came into the Patapsco during the evening of September 11th and disembarked their troops at North Point before daylight on the morning of September 12th, while their bombing fleet moved up the river to attack Fort McHenry. The Baltimore Brigade was sent out to oppose the enemy's advance and established its line at the narrowest part of the North Point peninsula. About 1 o'clock in the afternoon an outpost of the 5th Maryland Regiment contacted the head of the enemy column and in the skirmish the British Commander - General Sir Robert Ross - was killed. Shortly afterwards the whole line became engaged and the militia held at bay a superior force, composed of Wellington's Invincibles and Nelson's Marines, until 4 P. M. when they were compelled to retire on their support, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in the rear.

When the British fleet began its bombardment of Fort McHenry at daylight September 13th the Baltimore Brigade retired to the immediate defense of the city. All that day the British army lay within one mile of the entrenchments around the city waiting for their fleet to force an entrance into the harbor. The enemy continued its bombardment until 7 A. M. September 14th, and besides innumerable round shot and rockets, their mortars hurled over 1500 bombs weighing 250 pounds each at Fort McHenry, without being able to carry a single position. Before daybreak, September 14th, the British sent a flotilla of long boats and barges, manned by 1200 sailors and marines equipped with scaling ladders, into the main branch of the river, hoping to surprise Fort McHenry from the rear. But the creaking of their oars was heard by members of one of the companies of the 22nd Maryland which was patrolling the opposite shore, who lighted a hay mow and revealed the enemy boats to the men in Fort McHenry and in Forts Babcock and Covington further up the river. The terrific cross fire from these batteries forced the enemy to retire in confusion and it was this diversion behind Fort McHenry before dawn on the morning of September 14th, that made Francis Scott Key think that Fort McHenry had fallen.

Key had left Baltimore some days before on a flag of truce ship to intercede for the release of a friend who had been captured by the British at Upper Marlboro. Boarding the British flag ship off the mouth of the Patuxent Key explained his mission and was promised that his friend would be released in his charge after the battle. When the fleet reached the mouth of the river Key was returned, under a guard of marines, to the cartel, which was anchored among the transports where he could observe the details of the bombardment. Key was anxiously pacing the deck, when the dawn's early light revealed that our flag was still flying over Fort McHenry and in the exultation of the moment, he wrote the Star Spangled Banner, which was published and set to music on his return to Baltimore and has now become our National Anthem.

Fort McHenry was ceded to the United States Government in 1816.

During the Civil War, Fort McHenry served as a Federal Bastille for political and military prisoners and during the World War it was the site of one of the largest military hospitals in America. Modern warfare has now made its armament obsolete, but its glory still lives as a National Shrine - The Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner - and the defense of Baltimore, the only large city in the United States, that dates from our colonial period, over which an enemy flag has never flown.

Fort Mc Henry

The Birth place of the Star Spangled Banner.

The story of Fort Mc Henry is really a story of Baltimore whose citizens bristled & manned an 18 gun battery at the entrance to their harbor, in 1776, to protect their and shipping from the enemy. While Boston, New York, Philadelphia and other seaports were in the hands of the enemy for periods of a year or longer, Baltimore was never under the control of the enemy. This city also supplied the first two warships for the Continental Navy, whose highest early officer thought the war was a Baltimorean; and besides building other vessels for the service, the records of the Court of Admiralty show that 288 privateers were reported out of Baltimore to help fight against the enemy.

When another war with Great Britain was threatened in 1794, the old revolutionary fort was enlarged & offered to the Federal Government "as a fort or an arsenal for public defence and when the U.S. Navy was organized in 1798, because of a naval war with France, Baltimore built more warships than any other city & Maryland furnished more officers for the Navy than any other State in the Union. The Constitution - the first frigate in the U.S. Navy was built in Baltimore & 12 guns were taken from the fort as mounted on the Constitution & 12 more were sent to Philadelphia to help arm the frigate. The States so that she could get to sea. This depleted the armament of the fort so materially that the people of Baltimore then subscribed the money to build the Star Fort, with walls 35 feet thick as when it was completed they named it after Col. James Mc Henry of Baltimore who was Secretary of War 1796-1800.

During this period the Baltimore Clipper was developed the fastest and most valuable of the sailing vessels that the world had ever seen - was developed in Baltimore. Merchants soon dominated the trade with the West Indies by 1812, three quarters of American Commerce was being carried in Baltimore Clippers & when the war of 1812 was declared, one third of the ships in the U.S. Navy

Shed his built in Baltimore so one fifth of the officers
and one eighth of the men in the Navy were Marylanders

~~The Maryland patriots~~
Baltimore's

~~Became of the Marine activities the British
promptly blockaded the Chesapeake Bay several times
in the summer of 1813, the British fleet entered the
Bay to attack the City of Baltimore. The British had
about 11,000 men and 20 ships. The British had
300000 lbs of powder and 200000 lbs of shot for
supplying the Arsenal~~

One quarter of the provisions of the Army of 1812
was also from Baltimore to be used
of the Marine activities, the British promptly
blockaded the Chesapeake. Several times
in the summer of 1813, the British fleet entered
the bay onto the critical point called the
City, but the Baltimoreans anticipated the
movement and substituted another 300000
to supply the Arsenal of Fort Mifflin
strengthen the defenses around the City, for
during the fall of 1813, they built a fleet
of gunboats which was set down the
Chesapeake under the command of Commodore Joshua
Barry and named by local names, in the
Spring of 1814. ~~Barry in July 1814 the summer~~
of 1814, The British then heavily increased
their force in the Chesapeake and in August
drove Barry up the Potomac until he was
forced to land his men and burn his gunboats
to keep them from being captured. The British
then landed and followed Barry to Bladensburg
where the American Army under Major General
Plummet was defeated. After the
British occupied the City of
Washington, the British burned the Capitol, the White
House and other public buildings of the

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to their vessels or at the several situations of being
to the Battle. On the day the evening of Sept. 11th their
fleet of more than 50 vessels entered the mouth of
the Potomac as early in the morning of Sept. 12th they
distributed their army at North Point, while their
fleet & warships sailed up the river to attack.
Fort Mifflin, For more than a year the local
militia had been thoroughly trained & every available
man had been called ~~upon~~ called into service.
The Baltimore Brigade went out to meet the
British Army advance of the British Army up the State.
North Point against the city as ~~on the afternoon of Sept. 12th~~
in a two hour battle on the afternoon of Sept. 12th
the British General Sir Robert Ross was killed and the
every land attack was checked. Early in the morning of
Sept. 13th ~~the~~ the guns of the British fleet were opened
on Fort Mifflin as the Baltimore Brigade returned
to the immediate defense of the city. The British
Army advanced followed to within a mile of City Line
but did not dare to risk an attack.
The earthworks that had been thrown up. For more
than 25 hours the enemy fleet kept up an incessant
bombardment and fired innumerable round shot &
bombs, they fired over 1500 bombs & shells at
250 lbs each at Fort Mifflin in an effort to
blast their way into the harbor. The fort stood
firm ~~no effort~~ ~~of our~~ ~~before~~ daylight on
the morning of Sept. 14th, the British ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ 1200
men & sailors with scaling ladders in an attempt
to get behind Fort Mifflin or take it from the rear.
This ~~attempt~~ ~~was~~ ~~discarded~~. The crossing for the
shore follows however and the enemy fled to their
ships. Shortly afterwards the Army saw the ordered back
to its transports as about 7 A.M. their fleet stopped firing
and fell back to join the army.

^{tradition}
The main records of Baltimore show such important contribution
to the organization of the U.S. Navy as the development of American Commerce,
that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, has hoped that the
government would some day recognize these activities by setting the
U.S. Constitution to her birthplace & use it as a monument to
the naval activities of this City at a critical period of our country's
history. Will this in view, it has created the intent of the
Mayor's City Council of Baltimore, the Maryland Historical Society,
the Baltimore Association of Commerce, the Federation of Labor in
any civic, patriotic & industrial organization in town, to support
S.D.R. # 87, as introduced in Congress by Senator ^{Young} &
Redcliffe & H.D.R. # 226 of Representative Stephen W. Seabell
Petitions are also being circulated by the Board Club of Baltimore,
which will be duly presented to President Roosevelt in Congress,
requesting them to return this historic old flag to Baltimore,
the only large city on the Atlantic seaboard over which a flying
flag has never flown.

Records of Great Commerce show that, in the former period,
the tradition, more than two thirds of the shipping between the
American Colonies & Great Britain, came from the Chesapeake Bay,
as it is an historical fact that the first two vessels for the
Continental Navy were equipped in Baltimore & named by Baltimore
citizens. Captain James Nicholson of Baltimore was the ^{first} ^{captain}
officer of that first ^{Continental} Navy, as while New York, New York
so other reports were in possession of the enemy, Baltimore also
answered the call of Congress for provisions to ~~supply~~ ^{supply} the ~~little~~
national fleet, by sending out 248 privately armed vessels to
supply the ~~little~~ national fleet. When the war was over,
Congress sold the four ships that remained in the Continental Navy
because the government could not maintain a navy. About ten years
afterwards, on his way to have troubles abroad & the landing of
the Constitution in Baltimore Sept. 7th, 1797, practically marks the
beginning of the U.S. Navy. ~~The U.S. Navy was the organization~~
the first two Secretaries of the U.S. Navy were Marylanders, and under
their administration our first exclusively naval wars were successfully
fought.

Including the Constitution & the safety of her former
prize the draught for U.S. gun service, nine ^{gun} ^{boats} ^{built} ⁱⁿ ^{Baltimore} ⁱⁿ ¹⁷⁹⁸ ^{and} ¹⁷⁹⁹ ^{and} ¹⁸⁰⁰
were built or equipped for the first U.S. Navy in Baltimore. One
of these vessels were given outright to the government by the people
of Baltimore; and the Navy, which had been built by Baltimoreans

air catches a strong breeze from the fleet of American
 merchant for the West Indies. The cargo ~~is~~ ^{is}
 of the ~~Cambria~~ ^{Cambria} on day this next week ~~is~~ ^{is}
 with the ~~Demerit~~ ^{Demerit} July 9th 1799 & the ~~Demerit~~ ^{Demerit}
 Although the Cambria took very small prizes
 during the ~~war~~ ^{war} her ~~captain~~ ^{captain} ~~was~~ ^{was}
 was with the ~~Demerit~~ ^{Demerit} July 9th 1799 & the ~~Demerit~~ ^{Demerit}
 2nd 1800, as she is credited with pretty out of American
 money long years in the ~~war~~ ^{war} ~~1798-1801~~ (1798-1801)
 the the other U.S. frigates continue. The Cambria
 also ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~open~~ ^{open} the ~~war~~ ^{war} ~~with~~ ^{with} the
 July 1801-1805, by blockading the port of ~~San~~ ^{San}
 was in the ~~charge~~ ^{charge} of that war.

This period also marks the development of the
 Baltimore Clippers, the fastest ships of their day ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ
 Baltimore not only ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~under~~ ^{under} ~~their~~ ^{their} ~~influence~~ ^{influence} ~~Baltimore~~ ^{Baltimore}
 not only ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~under~~ ^{under} ~~their~~ ^{their} ~~influence~~ ^{influence} ~~Baltimore~~ ^{Baltimore}
 by 1812, about three fourths of the ~~commerce~~ ^{commerce} of the
~~United States~~ ^{United States} was by ~~carried~~ ^{carried} by Baltimore
 by the ~~war~~ ^{war} of 1812, one third of the ships in the
 U.S. Navy were built in Baltimore & one fifth of
 the ~~officers~~ ^{officers} & ~~men~~ ^{men} in the ~~navy~~ ^{navy}
 for ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~war~~ ^{war} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~1812~~ ¹⁸¹².

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Believing that the marine ^{traditions} ~~traditions~~ of Baltimore & Maryland are important history in the development of the U.S. Navy & of the Commerce of the Nation, the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has looked upon the fact, when the U.S. Constitution became unrevocable, she would be returned to her birthplace. With this in view, ~~we have~~ ^{we have} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~entirely~~ ^{entirely} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~cooperation~~ ^{cooperation} has been obtained of the Mayor & City Council of Baltimore, the Maryland Historical Society, the Baltimore Association of Commerce, the Federation of Labor & every civic, patriotic & industrial organization in town to support S.D.R. #87, as introduced by Senators ^{Yardis} ~~Yardis~~ & Redcliffe, & H.D.R. #526, by Representative Stephen Sarbille. The Social Club which ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~also~~ ^{also} ~~circulating~~ ^{circulating} ~~petitions~~ ^{petitions} for individual signatures & these will be transmitted to Congress at an early date, ~~with the request~~ ^{with the request} that the people of Baltimore ~~requesting~~ ^{requesting} the President & Congress to return this historic old ship to Baltimore. 110

B.H.

Believing that the marine traditions of Baltimore & Maryland are an important contribution to the naval & Commercial development of the United States, the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has expected that the U.S. Constitution would eventually be returned to Baltimore as a memorial to this City's participation in the early years of the Nation. With this in view, it has obtained the support of the Mayor & City Council of Baltimore, the Maryland Historical Society, the Baltimore Association of Commerce, the Federation of Labor & every civic, patriotic & industrial organization in town, to support S.D.R. #87, as introduced in Congress by Senators Yardis & Redcliffe & H.D.R. #526, as introduced by Representative Stephen Sarbille. Petitions are also being circulated by the Social Club of Baltimore for individual signatures & these will be forwarded to the President & Congress, requesting them to return this historic old frigate to her birthplace.

The records of Great Britain show that, in the period which preceded the war, more than two thirds of the direct shipping between the American colonies & Great Britain came out of the Chesapeake. In those days, merchantmen averaged about 200 tons burden by the rules for the Chesapeake and distinguished by their graceful lines & speed. They offered themselves for prizes and other enemies, they frequently carried one or two guns, or experienced a close possibility of being made overboard by the enemy. A large number of privateers had been sent out of Baltimore by the revolution. In fact, when the Continental Congress, appointed a Marine Committee to assemble in Annapolis, they obtained its first two vessels in Baltimore & throughout the war, the highest ranking officer in the Continental Navy was a Baltimorean.

When the war was over Congress sold or otherwise disposed
of the few remaining ships that were left in the national fleet
but in 1794, the State States began to have trouble abroad
and Congress was compelled to plan for a navy.
The U.S. Navy was organized to meet the emergency. That
the first two Secretaries of the U.S. Navy were Matthews & Welles
their administrations the two exclusively naval wars (with Spain
1798-1801 and with the Barbary States 1801-1805) were successfully
fought.

The launch of the Constitution in Baltimore Sept 7th
1797, practically marks the begining of the U.S. Navy and
includes the rebuild of the Insurgents, Baltimore supplied 9th
about 25% of the warships for the original fleet. The
Constitution was the first U.S. frigate to get to sea &
after a short cruise along the southern coast, the Yankee
Rice Horse, as the Dutch called, was ordered to go to
Albany, into the U.S. Gulfstream, to act as a convoy for
a fleet of whaling ships of American whalers in
the Gulf from the Dutch Indies.

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1776 - A battery of 18 guns - the key of Fort
Mead was erected & named by the people
of Gettun, on Whelstone Point, to protect
defend the entrance to Gettun harbor. By the
Revolution War Gettun also furnished the first two
ships for the Continental Navy, besides sending 248 private armed
mills to sea to fight against the enemy.

1794 - This fort was ^{erected by} offered to the United States
Government "as a fort or an arsenal for public
defense during a threatened war with Great Britain."

1798 - 1800 - During the Naval war with France
the United States Navy was organized by the first
Congress - the first frigate in the U.S. Navy was
built in Gettun. The Congress in Gettun this
period Gettun built more ships for this first U.S.
Navy than any other port in America.

By the ^{year} 1798 the U.S. Navy was organized
to meet the emergency of a war with France. Including
the Congress - the first frigate of the U.S. Navy -
Gettun supplied more ships for the service than
any other city in America.

In 1798, the U.S. Navy was organized to
meet the emergency of a war with France in Gettun
equipped more ships for naval service than any other
city in America. ~~So early as~~ soon taken of the
first to help in the Revolution - the first frigate
of the U.S. Navy was built in Gettun 24 guns
soon taken for the first ~~to~~ to help in
the first Congress & the first United States
to that they could get to sea. By this period
Gettun was substantially to build the present
Star & out of masonry with walls 33 feet thick.
has when finished it was named Fort Mead
in honor of Col. James Mead who was
Sentry of War under credits Surgeon Major & John Adams

This fort was garrisoned by ^{British} troops
a Company of the S. Artillery in 1799 & was

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the first permit fort
1812 - 1814. Before the year of 1812, nearly 3/4
of American vessels was carried by British
Clippers, & British dominated the trade with
the West Indies. ^{They} ^{was} ^{declined.}
By their war, one third of
the shipping ships in the S. Sea were
built in Britain or one fifth of the officers
or one eighth of the men in the navy were
Mariners. Because of these maritime
activities, the British navy blockade was
Cherbourg for some time their fleet
entered British harbor. But the people of
Britain had subscribed another 500000
to strengthen Fort Mudge & build forts to
guard their city. After capturing
by the City of Derby in August 1814,
the British planned an attack on Britain
by land or water. Albury their army at
North Point on the morning of Sept 12th, the
Army began its advance while its battle
fleet moved up the river to block the
shipping line at the very fort Fort Mudge.
Early that afternoon the British Brigade
met the Army at North Point Road.
When the British General Sir Peter Ross
was killed. The daybreak on the morning of
Sept. 13th the British fleet began its
bombardment which was continued for over
25 hours. British shells were shot by
British the British forces only 1500 tons were
and 2500 lbs. of shot & shells were

Army decided for them to pass the fort.
Early Oct / Oct 1 on the morning of Sept. 14th
the British attempted to land 1200 men
onto the beach in the rear of the fort
but the attempt was discovered by the Army
and they returned under the covering fire of the
fort or then followed further up the shore

Sept 14

Sept 15

Sept 16

Sept 17

Sept 18

Sept 19

Sept 20

Sept 21

Sept 22

Sept 23

Sept 24

Sept 25

Sept 26 & 27

Sept 28

Sept 29

Sept 30

Oct 1

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Oct 11

Oct 12

Oct 13

furnished more officers for the Army than
 State in the Service. 1000, four guns were also
 taken from the fort and used to arm the frigates
 An expedition to Havana States so that they could
 get to sea and then the people of Baltimore
 subscribed sufficient money to build the fort
 brick Star Fort with walls 35 feet thick in
 name it for Col. James McHenry, who was
 Secretary of War 1796-1800. It took three
 years to buy stone to terms of three more
 to rebuild the original fort, ~~in the town~~
 In the meantime the Baltimore Clipper - the
 fastest ship of their day was developed
 by 1800, Baltimore dominated the trade
 with the West Indies. By 1815, three quarters
 of American Commerce was being carried
 Baltimore Clippers through the Cape the day
 of 1000 ~~was~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~world~~
 included in Lord Byron - The year of
 1815, they this was one of the
 ships in the U.S. Navy had been built in
 Baltimore is one fifth of the officers & one
 eighth of the men in the naval service were
 from Maryland. Because Baltimore also set
 to sea more printers than any other city
 in the country so because of these maritime
 activities Lord Byron promptly blockade
 the Chesapeake. Some times during the
 Navy of 1812, the British fleet came into
 the Patuxent River, prepared to attack the
 City, but the citizens of Baltimore had observed
 another 300000 will value they they they
 the defenses of Fort Mifflin & other to they

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The Chesapeake Bay was the Mediterranean of Colonial America & in the period before the revolution about 2/3 of the export trade to Great Britain ~~was~~ ^{passed} through this section was shipped from this section. Many planters in Maryland owned their own vessels and the ~~shoreline~~ ^{3000 mile shore line} of the Chesapeake & its tributaries was dotted with shipyards in which the builders worked out their own contracts. Even then these vessels had an unique reputation for speed & ~~power~~ ^{robustness} they were used across the ocean or to the East Indies, they were armed to protect themselves against pirates & other enemies.

In consequence ^{in the fall of 1775} when the Marine Committee was appointed to develop the Continental Navy, it obtained its first two warships in Baltimore. Maryland also built a State navy for local protection and the needs of the ~~Cont of Admiralty~~ ^{Cont of Admiralty} show that ~~she~~ ^{she} was ~~armed~~ ^{armed} ~~vessels were important~~ ^{vessels were important} besides the Continental frigates Virginia, the ship defense and other warships that were built in Baltimore, the needs of the Cont of Admiralty show that ~~she~~ ^{she} was ~~armed~~ ^{armed} vessels were important out of this port during the revolution to fight against the British.

In 1776, the people of Baltimore also built a battery of 18 guns ^{and} named a battery of 18 guns at Whetstone Point, at the entrance of its harbor to protect its shipping interests. This was the beginning of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~one~~ ^{one} ~~Henry~~ ^{Henry} ~~and~~ ^{and} in 1790, when it looked as if we would again have trouble with Great Britain, Baltimore of this Revolutionary fort was enlarged ^{and} offered to the Federal Government as a fort or an arsenal for public defense. In 1798, the Naval Act was passed which provided for the U.S. Navy was organized. War with France in the U.S. Navy was organized. the first two frigates of which were Marylanders. Besides the U.S. Constitution, the first frigate in the U.S. Navy, Baltimore built more ships for the U.S. Navy than any other port in America or Maryland.

Non immediate defense of the City, & some followed
 by the British who started about a mile from the
 eastern limits of the City, & went for the fleet to
 blast its way up the fort. Early in the
 morning before day on the morning of Sept. 11th the
 British landed 1200 men & doctors with
 heavy ladders in an effort to get behind Fort
 Mifflin & take it from the rear. But their boats
 were discovered & forced to return in confusion.
 The British sent a message to the directors
 & in many of the British ships back
 they the British the harbor, & the British
 find over 1500 barrels of powder & shot
 and, had a number of small boats
 in Fort Mifflin, & they entered by a
 passage &

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12

this preparation they would have no danger other
place towns along the bay. That winter Balthasar
built a flotilla of gun boats that were sent
down the bay out to oppose the British, but in
July 1814, the enemy fleet was heavily increased
so Barry's fleet was forced up the Patuxent until
he had to land his men to burn his ships
to keep them from being captured. The enemy also
landed & followed them to Gladstone where
the American Army was defeated so next day the
British captured the City of Washington so forced
the government to evacuate. After burning the Capitol,
the White House, the Army Department, the Navy
Yard & other public buildings the British returned
to their ships with the express intention of
burning Balthasar to the ground. Sailing up the bay,
the enemy fleet of over 30 vessels entered the mouth
of the Patuxent on the evening of Sept. 11th & on the
morning of Sept. 12th, they landed their army at
North Point to begin their advance on Baltimore
while their warships sailed up the river to
attack Fort Mifflin & the other forts along the
river front. They planned a joint attack by land
& water, but on the afternoon of Sept. 12th the
Baltimore Brigade which had gone down to oppose
their advance, became engaged in a desperate fight
with the main Army of the British so during the battle
the British General Sir Robert Ross was killed.
Early in the morning of Sept. 13th the British
fleet opened fire on Fort Mifflin and kept up an
incessant bombardment for about 25 hours. In the
meantime the Baltimore Brigade had returned to the

1800, it dominated the trade with the
 West Indies. The Gullion Clipper had been
 developed & by 1815, three quarters of
 America's commerce was being carried by these
 swiftly sailing vessels. The rapid rise of American
 trade sources trade affronted Great Britain
 whose navy was ordered to search & capture
 American vessels whenever it met them. In
 consequence the United States declared war
 against Great Britain Jan 18th 1812 & when
 the war began, no good was to be expected of
 Britain's maritime activity that one third
 of the ships in the U.S. Navy were built in
 this port & Maryland supplied one fifth
 of the officers & one eighth of the men in
 the naval service. Britain also
 sent more printers to sea than any other
 port - in fact about 25% of the whole
 American printers on these ships so
 thoroughly demoralized British shipping that
 the Chesapeake was promptly blockaded
 by the enemy. Several times during the
 Spring & Summer of 1813, the British fleet
 came into the Potomac, prepared to attack,
 but the people of Baltimore had volunteered
 another 50000 to strengthen the defense
 at Fort Mifflin & to break the lines
 around the town & the enemy withdrew
 with the cost of a great many killed &
 wounded.

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The history of Fort Mifflin is ^{largely} a story of
old Baltimore, whose people erected a battery of 18
on Whetstone Point in 1776, to oppose the entrance of
British ships into their harbor. This battery was manned
by local volunteers, under the command of Captain N. Smith
throughout the Revolutionary War. ~~At the same time, the~~
~~Massachusetts Committee of Congress Baltimore supplied the funds~~
~~two cruises for the Continental Navy, Baltimore had previously~~
supplied the funds two warships for the Continental Navy.
As ~~Captain James Nicholson~~ built several others for that
service while the Court of Admiralty records of the Court of Admiralty
show that 248 privately armed vessels were registered
out of Baltimore to cruise against the enemy during the
Revolution, while Capt James Nicholson of Baltimore was
the highest rank officer of the ~~United States~~ Continental
Navy throughout the war.

In 1794, when trouble was again brewing with
Great Britain, the old ~~battery~~ battery was ~~replaced~~ replaced
enlarged as a gift to the Federal Government as a fort
or an arsenal for public defense. The offer however
was not accepted at that time. As when war a naval
war with France broke out in 1798 as the U.S. Navy
was organized Baltimore equipped more ships, for
including the Constitution the first frigate of the U.S. Navy
than any other city in the country. Along this period
two guns were taken from the fort as placed on
the Constitution or two more were sent to Philadelphia
to help arm the frigate America States, so that they
could get to sea, but before the war was over
Baltimoreans had subscribed sufficient money to
build the present Star Fort as named it for Col.
James Mifflin - a Baltimorean - who was Secretary
of War 1796-1800. This fort of masonry with
its outside batteries, was considered the strongest
fort of its day in America and in 1799 was garrisoned
by a Company of U.S. Artillery. Baltimore had become the most
important shipbuilding port in the United States as by

Believing that the record of Baltimore's marine activities in organizing the U. S. Navy and in developing American commerce, were important factors in the early life of the nation, the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland has hoped that some day, the government would recognize these communities efforts by returning the U. S. Constellation to her birthplace and use it as a memorial to the naval services of this city at a critical period in the history of the United States. With this in view, it has enlisted the support of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, the Maryland Historical Society, the Baltimore Association of Commerce, the Federation of Labor and every civic, patriotic and industrial organization in town to support S. J. R. #87, as introduced in Congress by Senators Tydings and Radcliffe, and H. J. R. #226 by Representative Stephen W. Gambrill. Petitions are also being circulated by the Gavel Club of Baltimore, which will be duly presented to President Roosevelt and Congress, requesting the return of this historic old frigate to Baltimore, the only large city on the Atlantic seaboard over which an enemy flag has never flown.

Records of British Commerce show that in the period preceding the Revolutionary War, more than two thirds of the direct shipping between the American colonies and Great Britain, came out of the Chesapeake Bay. These vessels usually carried one or two guns to protect themselves against pirates; and experience on these armed merchantmen was undoubtedly the training school for the 248 privately armed ships that were registered out of Baltimore during the revolution. It is also an historical fact that the first two vessels for the Continental Navy were obtained in Baltimore; and that a Baltimorean was the highest naval ranking officer in the Revolutionary War. When the war was over, Congress sold or otherwise disposed of the few ships that were left in the Continental Navy, because the government could not afford to maintain them. For about ten years the seacoast town and their shipping were unprotected, until troubles abroad made a naval force imperative.

The launching of the Constellation September 7th 1797, practically marks the beginning of the U. S. Navy, and the Navy Department was organized, by Act of Congress April 14th 1798. The first two Secret-

original

aries of the U. S. Navy were Marylanders and under their adminis

Block tration the two exclusively naval wars of the United States

Brim ^{successfully} were fought. During the War with France (1798-1801) about one

Braid ^

Band quarter of the ships in the U. S. Navy were built or equipped in

Leather Baltimore, ^{some of the warships were built & given to the Govt by the people of Baltimore} and the Constellation was the first U. S. frigate to

Tip get to sea. ~~had~~ After a short trip along the southern coast, she

Side Lace returned to the Chesapeake and was ordered, with the U. S. Balti-

Bow Braid more, to act as convoy for a valuable fleet of 60 American

Thread Merchantmen that was bottled up at Havana. She was then ordered

Edging to cruise in the West Indies and on February 7th 1799, ^{she} captured

Paper Tip the French Frigate Insurgente. On February 2nd 1800, she badly ^{after a short fight} ~~was~~ ^{captured}

Extras trounced the frigate Vengeance and her record of captures show

Bleaching that she put out of commission more enemy guns than the other

Sewing U. S. frigates combined. The Constellation ^{also} opened the war with

Sizing the Barbary States (1801-1805) and was ~~also~~ in the closing

Blocking operations of that war.

Hydraulic & Brims

Finishing The period of these two wars ~~also~~ makrs the time of the

Printing development of the Baltimore Clippers--the fastest ships of their

Reeding Leathers day in the world, and by 1812, Baltimore not only ^{won} ~~donated~~ the

Trimming trade with the West Indies but nearly three quarters of American

Bow commerce was carried by Baltimore Schooners. One third of the

Packing ships in the U. S. Navy during the War of 1812, were built in

Cases Baltimore and one fifth of the officers and one eighth of the

Paper Boxes men in the naval service were Marylanders. In fact, Maryland

Expressage furnished more officers for the first U. S. Navy than the whole

Discount of New England, or of all the southern states together and more

Factory than either New York or Pennsylvania, and the people of Baltimore

Selling gave two of their warships to the government without cost.

430
730

Fort McHenry
The Birth Place of "The Star Spangled Banner."
By
James E. Hancock
President, Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

Baltimore is the only large city in the United States that was in existence before the Republic began, over which an enemy flag has never flown. Baltimore was the third city of commercial importance in America when the War of 1812 was fought and she still holds that same relative position in export trade. Baltimore was the first city to erect a monument to George Washington - the Father of his Country;- and the first city in America to have railroad and telegraph communication with other parts of the Union.

But her greatest pride is Fort McHenry - the Birth Place of the Star Spangled Banner - the fort that turned back the British invasion in 1812 and saved the nation, after the city of Washington had fallen and New England and the Mississippi section were planning to secede from the Union.

In March 1776, the people of Baltimore mounted a battery of 18 guns behind log and earthen breastworks to defend the town against an expected attack by a part of the British fleet that was operating in the Chesapeake. Volunteers then manned the Maryland ship "Defense," which was being built in the harbor and went out and recaptured their prizes and drove the enemy from the bay.

When the Revolution was over, the American people found that, although the Treaty of Paris gave them political independence, it made no concessions for their commercial outlets beyond the confines of their thirteen states. Great Britian was still the mistress of the seas, and insisted upon regulating every other nation's trade. In 1794, American resentment against British interferences became so acute, that President Washington advised the country to prepare for another war with Great Britian; and Baltimore immediately engaged a French engineer, Major J. J. Ulrich Rivardi, to draw up plans for a more competent fortification in the

One quarter of the privateers of the War of 1812 also sailed from Baltimore and because of these marine activities, the British promptly blockaded the Chesapeake. Several times in the summer of 1813, the enemy fleet entered the river with the evident plan to attack the city, but Baltimoreans anticipated the movement and subscribed another \$500,000 to supplement the armament of Fort McHenry and strengthen the defenses around the city, and during the fall of 1813, they built a fleet of gunboats which was sent down the Chesapeake under the command of Commodore Joshia Barney and manned by local seaman, in the spring of 1814. The British then heavily increased their force in the Chesapeake and in August drove Barney up the P until he was forced to land his men and burn his gunboats to help them from being captured. The enemy then landed and followed Barney to Bladensburg where the American army around Washington was defeated. Occupying the city of Washington, the British burned the Capitol, The White House and other public building and then went back to their vessels with the intentions of taking Baltimore. During the evening of September 11th their fleet of more than 50 vessels entered the mouth of the Patapsco and early on the morning of September 12th they disembarked their army at North Point, while their warships sailed up the river to attack Fort McHenry. For more than

a year the militia had been thoroughly trained and every available man had been called into service. The Baltimore Brigade went out to meet the advance of the British army against the City and in a two hour battle on the afternoon of September 12th the British General Sir Robert Ross was killed and the land attack was checked. Early in the morning of September 13th, the guns of the British fleet were opened on Fort McHenry and the Baltimore Brigade returned to the immediate defense of the city. The British army followed to within a mile of city line ~~then-earthworks-that-had-been~~ but did not dare to risk an attack the earthworks that had been thrown up. For more than 25 hours the enemy fleet kept up an incessant bombardment and besides innumerable round shot and rockets, they fired over 1500 Bombs weighing out 250 lbs each at Fort McHenry in an effort to blast their way into the harbor. The fort stood firm and before daybreak on the morning of September 14th, the British sent in 1200 marines and sailors with ~~early~~ ladders in an attempt to get behind Fort McHenry and take it from the rear. The crossfire from the shore batteries however sent them scurrying back to their ships. The army was then ordered back to its transports and about 7A.M. their fleet stopped firing and fell back to join the army.

After the defeat of the American forces at Bladensburg, the British marched on Washington and sacked the City, burning the Capitol and the White House. Returning to their ships, they began their advance on Baltimore, which was a city of considerable importance, and whose privateersmen had demoralized British Commerce. Here they expected to collect an indemnity sufficient to pay the expense of their expedition and break up its shipyards which were building many of the swift ~~clipper~~ ^{privateersmen} ships that were challenging British control on the high seas.

Onward they advanced until in sight of the desired goal which was defended by Fort McHenry and other batteries on the Patapsco River, and by earth works on the Eastern side of the city. Landing their army at North Point, to advance on Baltimore by land, the fleet moved up the river to subdue the forts at the mouth of the harbor. The invasion of their land forces was checked at the Battle of North Point, September 12th, 1812, when their commanding General Ross was killed and were not able to effect their planned juncture with the fleet on the ~~fortifications~~ ^{in the attack} of Baltimore.

On the morning of September 13th, the British fleet manned by Nelson's veterans began their bombardment of Fort McHenry, which was commanded by Col. George Armistead. During September 13th and 14th, sixteen vessels of war "hurled bombs, rockets and solid shot into ~~its~~ its ramparts," while the batteries of Fort McHenry made reply as best they could, with guns that fell short of the British range. ^{Meanwhile,} ~~During the bombardment,~~ some longer range guns had been removed from a French frigate that was up for repairs in the harbor and transferred ~~it~~ to the Fort, so that if the evening of the 13th saw the spirit of the Americans falling, the dawn of the 14th brought with it new hopes that were soon to be realized.

Francis Scott Key, a young lawyer on an errand of mercy, had gone on board the British cartel ship "Minden" where he was confined until the British plans could be carried out. From the deck of the "Minden" Key had watched with ever increasing anxiety the bombardment of Fort McHenry during the night of September 13th until the morning sunrise brought to his delighted vision the Stars and Stripes "scarred but still defiantly floating."

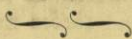
Fort Mc Henry



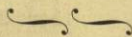
Birthplace

of the

*Star-Spangled
Banner*



A CATECHISM OF THE
NATIONAL ANTHEM



COMPLIMENTS OF THE

*Baltimore Association
of Commerce*

The Star-Spangled Banner

Question—Who was the author of the Star-Spangled Banner?

Answer—Francis Scott Key, the only son of John Ross Key, an officer in the Revolutionary War.

Q.—When was Key born and in what place?

A.—Francis Scott Key was born on the ninth day of August, 1780, at Double Pipe Creek, Frederick County, Maryland.

Q.—What profession did the author of the “Star-Spangled Banner” pursue?

A.—Francis Scott Key was trained for the legal profession. He practiced law for a short period in Frederick County, but moved, in the year 1804, to Georgetown, D. C., to establish himself in the practice of his profession in that community.

Q.—When was Mr. Key inspired to write the verses of our national anthem?

A.—“The Star-Spangled Banner” was written on the 14th day of September of the year 1814, when the author, detained on board the British Cartel Ship *Minden*, had witnessed the unsuccessful bombardment of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, by a British fleet of invaders commanded by Vice-Admiral Cochrane.

Q.—Was the invading force sufficiently formidable to make the attack one of importance?

A.—The forces that descended upon Baltimore upon this memorable occasion comprised 16 bomb and rocket vessels, probably the most formidable hostile fleet ever in American waters. In addition, the fleet was giving convoy to land forces numbering 5,000 under the command of General Sir Robert Ross. Fresh from the continent, where, as the Duke of Wellington’s “Invincibles,” they had successfully fought against Napoleon’s armies in the Peninsula campaign, they were reputed to be the picked soldiers of Europe. Certainly in point of experience they were far superior to the citizen soldiers upon whom devolved the defense of the beleaguered city.

Q.—What incident was there in connection with the invasion of the National Capital that directly gave rise to the circumstances making possible our national anthem?

A.—Following the invasion of Washington, General Ross, fearing the return of the American forces to cut off his retreat under cover of darkness, immediately evacuated the city, marching his men back to the fleet in the Patuxent River. Owing to a severe storm that raged at the time, a number of British soldiers became detached from the main column and trespassed upon the property of Dr. William Beanes, a prominent citizen of Upper Marlboro, in Maryland.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Becoming boisterous and disorderly, even threatening, Dr. Beanes assumed the responsibility of ordering their arrest and had them confined in the Marlboro jail. One of the soldiers, however, effected his escape and, overtaking his command, reported the episode.

Q.—What was the result of this action on the part of Dr. Beanes?

A.—When word of the arrest of the British soldiers was received by Rear-Admiral Cockburn, who was in command of the conveying vessels, he immediately dispatched a company of marines to take Dr. Beanes into custody. The doctor was accordingly apprehended, marched half-clad from Marlboro to the British lines, placed in irons and consigned to the hold of one of the vessels with the assurance that he would later be hanged.

Q.—In what manner did Francis Scott Key become involved in this matter?

A.—Mr. Richard West, a resident of Marlboro and an intimate friend of Dr. Beanes, carried tidings of the doctor's misfortune to Mr. Key, in Washington, and urgently besought him to visit the commander of the British forces and intercede in behalf of Dr. Beanes.

Q.—What action did Mr. Key resolve upon?

A.—A patriot above else, Francis Scott Key, unmoved by the possibility of danger to himself or the sacrifice of his own liberty, determined to act in the interest of his fellow-countryman. Waiting upon President Madison he secured his permission to make the attempt and then hastened to Baltimore to intercept the British fleet. From Baltimore he was conveyed to the fleet of the enemy, at the mouth of the Patuxent River, and with unflinching courage boarded the flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Cockrane.

Q.—With what success were the efforts of Mr. Key attended?

A.—When Mr. Key arrived at his destination he was greatly relieved to discover that Dr. Beanes, by reason of certain humane services rendered British officers previous to his arrest, had not been hanged. Making the most of this disposition on the part of the British Admiral to deal leniently with the doctor, Mr. Key argued earnestly for his complete release. So well did Mr. Key present his plea that Vice-Admiral Cockrane eventually announced that his prisoner would be set at liberty, but pending a certain "important event" both the doctor and his intercessor would have to be detained on board a British vessel. Both Americans were accordingly transferred to the cartel ship Minden to await the "important event."

Q.—What did Mr. Key and his companion discover to be the anticipated event?

A.—The Americans were not long held in suspense. The immediate movement of the enemy toward the port of Baltimore

O say can you see ~~through~~ by the dawn's early light
 what so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
 whose broad stripes & bright stars through the perilous fight
 O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
 gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
 O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
 O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
 where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
 what is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
 as it fitfully blows, half conceals half discloses?
 Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
 in full glory reflected now shines on the stream,
 'Tis the star-spangled banner — O long may it wave
 O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
 that the havoc of war & the battle's confusion
 a home & a Country should leave us no more?
~~They~~
 Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution
 no refuge could save the hireling & slave
 from the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
 and the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
 O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when freeman shall stand
 between their lov'd home & the war's desolation!
 Bless with vict'ry & peace may the heav'n rescued land
 Praise the power that hath made & preserved us a nation!
 Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
 and this be our motto — "In God is our trust!"
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.

FAC-SIMILE OF FRANCIS SCOTT KEY'S ORIGINAL

indicated all too plainly the purpose of the British to raid that city. Knowing the fate of Washington, the anxiety of the temporary prisoners for the safety of the metropolis of the Chesapeake, can well be imagined. Aside from their patriotic interest in the city as a part of their beloved country, the fact that both men had many intimate friends there made their distress the more acute.

Q.—In the meanwhile what preparations were being made in Baltimore for the reception of the invaders?

A.—All during the week following the capture of Washington, the citizens of Baltimore, realizing the danger of a similar descent upon their own city, set to work with patriotic fervor to protect the city against invasion. Ten thousand troops were mustered under the command of General Samuel Smith and fortifications were thrown up at various places around the harbor by citizens old and young, poor and rich, laboring day after day with pick, shovel and wheelbarrow.

Q.—What previous evidence of loyalty to the nation had Baltimore shown?

A.—At the outbreak of the war the merchants of Baltimore had loaned the bankrupt general government \$3,000,000. Finding none of this was to be spent for the protection of their own port, they subsequently raised an additional half-million for the equipment of Fort McHenry, Fort Babcock and Fort Covington, the main defenses of Baltimore's harbor. In addition to this they had equipped some sixty-one privateers for naval activities, more than any other city on the coast. Now that the approach of the British made an attack a certainty, there was no disposition to avoid an issue. As one man the citizens rallied to the defense.

Q.—How did the British proceed in their movement against the city?

A.—On September 12, Vice-Admiral Cockrane's fleet reached the mouth of the Patapsco. The vessels carrying the troops of General Ross proceeded to North Point, about twelve miles southeast of Baltimore, where some four thousand troops effected a landing. While this movement was in progress, the frigates, bomb-ketches and barges entered the river and sailed toward the city.

Q.—What measures were taken by the Americans to repel the British landing party?

A.—As soon as word reached General Smith and his Baltimore militia, augmented by a regiment of the York Volunteers, of Virginia, that the British had effected a landing the Americans were eager for the encounter. Not satisfied to await the arrival of the enemy before the main line of defense, General John Stricker begged that he be allowed to advance with a skirmishing party of three thousand men to draw the British on by a forward attack

and gradual retreat. This plan was agreed upon and the detachment accordingly moved forward, taking a position on the North Point Road where it could intercept the invaders.

Q.—In what manner did General Ross evidence his contempt for Baltimore's citizen soldiers?

A.—Supremely confident of his ability to sweep all before him, as he had done at Washington, General Ross contemptuously halted his advancing forces for breakfast within a few miles of the Americans. Accompanied by a number of his officers he repaired to the farmhouse of Robert Gorsuch, a well-known citizen of that section, and commanded that breakfast be served. Gorsuch provided food for his unwelcomed guests with such evident reluctance that General Ross, fearing his host would attempt to poison his party, compelled Gorsuch to taste of every dish that was served. As an evidence of the haughty assurance of General Ross, it is related that in reply to a query of Mr. Gorsuch as to whether or not he would eat his supper at that place, he replied: "No, I shall eat my supper in Baltimore or in hell."

Q.—What move of the Americans rudely disturbed the pleasantries of the breakfast party.

A.—A small detachment of about one hundred and fifty infantry and riflemen, thrown out by General Stricker for reconnoitering purposes, came upon the British while General Ross and his brother officers were yet resting. Immediately there was an exchange of musketry, the noise of which brought the British officers hurrying in amazement from the farmhouse.

Q.—What was the first calamity that befell the British arms?

A.—Among the first to fall before the fire of the Americans was General Sir Robert Ross. Almost as soon as he had reached his position and had given the order to "bring up a column," he fell from his mount, mortally wounded, and died a few minutes later in the arms of his favorite aide, Sir Duncan McDougall. At his own request he was covered to keep his troops from recognizing him and was carried away in a cart. Tradition has it that General Ross fell a victim to the rifles of Daniel Wells and Henry C. McComas, two Baltimore youths.

Q.—What was the outcome of the engagement?

A.—Upon the death of General Ross, Colonel Brooke assumed command of the British forces. Profiting by the experience of the first encounter Colonel Brooke moved with extreme caution, advancing his men as though opposing a strong and disciplined army. From the disposition it was thought proper to make of the American troops, not more than seventeen hundred of them were engaged in the ensuing battle. These, however, fought with such bravery and perseverance that they completely discomfited and baffled the enemy. Musketry was rapid and incessant for about an hour and a quarter, but both the Maryland and Virginia volunteers, unaccustomed though they were to the singing of threatening bullets, withstood the attacks of the seasoned vet-

erans of Europe with disconcerting coolness. The despised militia, indeed, proved too much for the invaders. With their commander dead and hundreds falling before the accurate fire of the defenders, the British soon became disheartened, ceased firing and withdrew to their point of landing.

Q.—While these events were transpiring on land what move was made by Vice-Admiral Cockrane to subdue the harbor defenses?

A.—On Tuesday morning, the thirteenth of September, the first division of the enemy's fleet, consisting of six bomb-ketches, some rocket ships, barges, and a number of frigates, sixteen vessels in all, were formed in a semi-circle before Fort McHenry and began bombardment. As their position was about two and a half miles from the fort, the range was too great for the forty-two pounders of the defense. The gallant battalion of artillery manning the fortification was, consequently, subjected to a rain of rockets and bombs without the means of making effective reply. Notwithstanding this disheartening situation, under the inspiring leadership of Colonel George Armistead, who was at that time but thirty-five years of age, the garrison restrained its impatience under the terrific stress of the attack and waited anxiously for the enemy to close in.

Q.—How long did the British commander maintain this method of attack?

A.—Until nightfall the British squadron, from its safe vantage point, rained shot and shell upon the little fort and its brave defenders. It has been estimated that more than fifteen hundred bombs were discharged at the fort during this time. A circumstance that made the safety of the garrison extremely precarious was the unprotected condition of the magazines of the fortification. Colonel Armistead could but conjecture the fate of his men should a shell of the enemy fall on his store of ammunition. The courage of no group of patriots has ever been more rigorously tested than that of the garrison of Fort McHenry during this galling bombardment; yet, to the chagrin of the British squadrons, there was no intimation of submission.

Q.—What was the experience of Francis Scott Key and his friend Dr. Beanes during these fateful hours?

A.—From the deck of the Minden, Mr. Key and Dr. Beanes watched with sickening anxiety the terrific attempts of the invaders to subdue the gallant defenders of their country. While there was daylight to reveal the courageous response of the little fortress to the unceasing fire of the British, hope stirred in their hearts. When night fell as a pall to shroud in uncertainty the fate of their countrymen, hope was paralyzed by a fearful suspense. Bombs and rockets flared through the night carrying they knew not how much destruction to their fellow-patriots. Their

anxiety was multiplied an hundredfold, when by reason of its ineffective range the fort ceased firing and they could no longer hear the reassuring booming of its guns. So the long, wretched hours of the night passed until, just before morning, the British vessels abruptly ceased the cannonade. What could this mean? Had the garrison yielded? Were the British in possession of the city? With such conjectures torturing their minds the two Americans paced the hated deck of the Minden, awaiting whatever disclosures daylight might bring.

Q.—What was the glorious revelation of the dawn and what was its effect upon Mr. Key?

A.—As the first illumination of the breaking day filtered through the smoke-thickened mists of dawn, Francis Scott Key and his companion strained their anxious gaze in the direction of the battle-scarred fort. Imagine the elation that must have thrilled them when they saw dimly but surely the unmistakable evidence of the unyielding courage of their gallant countrymen—the Stars and Stripes floating in proud defiance above the fort. In the exaltation that flooded the soul of Francis Scott Key in that sublime moment was born an inspiration that with remarkable facility found expression in verse. Aflame with patriotic fervor, he jotted down on the back of a letter a hasty outline of that stirring tribute to the defenders of Baltimore, an immortal

panegyric to the flag of his native land. In that happy moment he conceived that gem of poetic phrases, "The Star-Spangled Banner." No figure of speech could more aptly describe our beloved ensign.

Q.—Under what circumstances did Mr. Key complete his poem?

A.—Interrupted in the draughting of his verses by the execution of Admiral Cockrane's order, that he and Dr. Beanes be sent ashore, Mr. Key was compelled to complete his poem while being rowed to shore in the tender of the Minden.

Q.—How did Key's poem reach the public?

A.—Proceeding to Baltimore, after his release, Mr. Key, later in the day, wrote out a complete copy of his verses which he showed to Judge Nicholson, of Baltimore, who had been engaged in the defense of Fort McHenry. The judge, being greatly impressed by the poem, carried it to a printer and had copies of it printed and distributed. That evening it was sung to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" on the stage of the Holliday Street Theatre in Baltimore. Thus introduced, it circulated rapidly throughout the country, shortly afterward being played by a United States military band in New Orleans

Q.—What was the date and place of Mr. Key's death?

A.—Key died in the year 1843, in Baltimore, while visiting his eldest daughter, who resided in that city.

Q.—What special honor is paid the remains of Francis Scott Key?

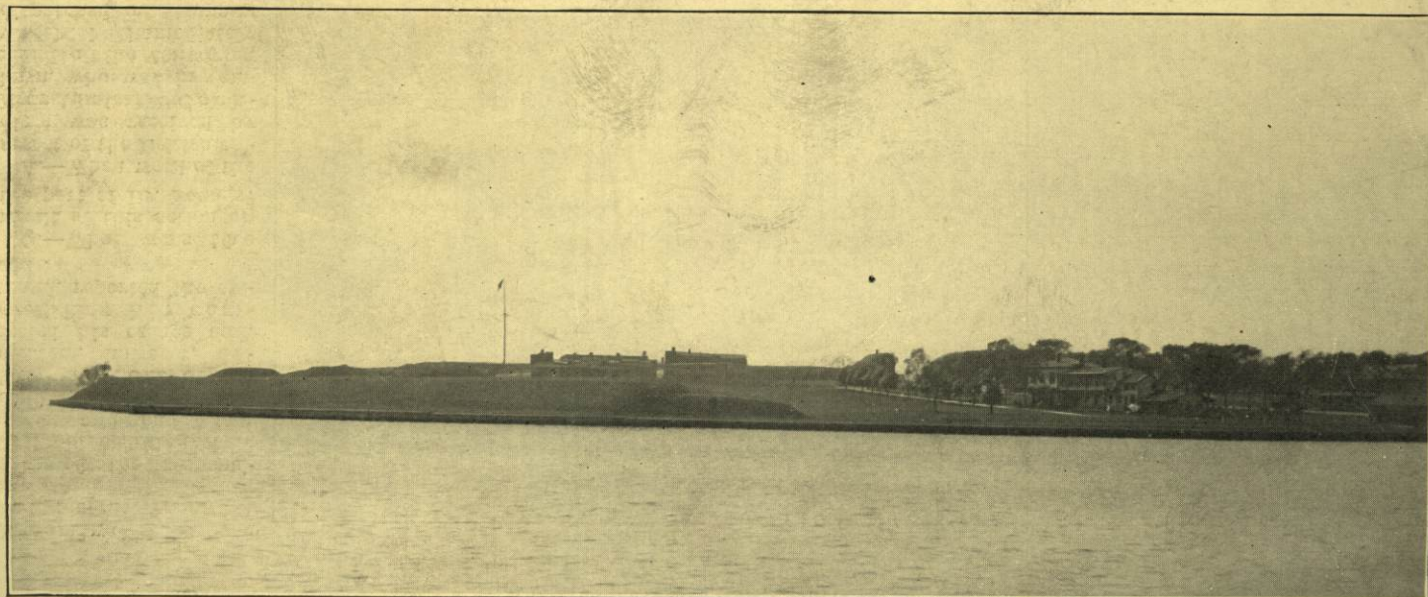
A.—Over the grave of Key in the Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick, Maryland, where he rests by his own request, "neath the shades of the everlasting hills," a large national flag is kept floating day and night, never being lowered except to be replaced by a new one.

Q.—By what action did the United States attempt to give its national anthem individuality?

A.—In our own country, the Navy Department took steps in the year 1889 to break away from custom and choose an air more typically American. The result of this effort was the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" for band music at morning "colors," and "Hail Columbia" for evening "colors." Later it was prescribed that "The Star-Spangled Banner" should be played at both morning and evening "colors."

Q.—What special distinction is given "The Star-Spangled Banner" in Army and Navy practice?

A.—The official regulations of both the Army and Navy prescribe that all officers and men shall stand at attention whenever the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played, such position being maintained until the last note of the anthem has been sounded.



FORT McHENRY, BALTIMORE, MD.