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BATTLE OF BALTIMORE

Compiled by Donald F. Stewart

1965- 1973

Transcript (in part) of minutes of Baltimore Committee of
Vigilance and Safety, formed August 23d. Minutes now
in possession of the Maryland Historical Society and
presented to it by Mr. William Bowly Wilson.

Baltimore, 24th August, 1814.

In conformity to the recommendation and resolves of a meeting of a number of citizens convened by the Mayor at the Council Chamber on the 23rd instant. Meetings were held in the different wards at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, when the following persons were duly elected, in each ward, to form a general Committee of Vigilance and Safety during the present time of alarm, to wit:

1st Ward.

Henry Stouffer,
Solomon Etting,
Elias Ellicott,
Wm. Jessup.

Elias Ellicott, Chairman, and
Solomon Etting, Sec't. of the
meeting.

2d Ward.

Samuel Hollingsworth,
Benjamin Berry,
Henry Payson.

Henry Payson, Chairman.
A. S. Schwartz, Sec't.

3d Ward.

William Lorman,
James A. Buchanan,
William Wilson

James Calhoun, Chairman.
John Hollins, Sec't.

4th Ward.

William Patterson,

Jacob Myers, Chairman.

Adam Fonerden,
James Wilson.

Joshua Jones, Sec't.

5th Ward.

Joseph Jamison,
Cumberland Dugan,
William Camp.

Cumberland Dugan, Chairman.
George Franciscus, Sec't.

6th Ward.

James Armstrong,
James Taylor,
Peter Bond.

James Taylor, Chairman.
James Wilson, Sec't.

7th Ward.

Robert Stewart,
Frederick Schaffer,
Richard Stevens.

Robert Stewart, Chairman.
William B. Barney, Sec't.

8th Ward.

Hezekiah Waters,
David Burke,
George Woelpert.

Hezekiah Waters, Chairman.
John Snyder, Sec't.

Eastern Precincts.

Hermanus Alricks,
John Kelso,
Richard Frisby.

Hermanus Alricks, Chairman.
Richard Frisby, Sect'y.

Western Precincts.

(Western Precincts, continued)

Col. John E. Howard
George Warner,
Theoderick Bland.

Emanuel Kent, Chairman
Theoderick Bland, Sec't.

Baltimore, 24th August, 1814.

At a meeting of the Committee of Vigilance and Safety elected from the several wards and each of the Precincts of the City of Baltimore held at the Council Chamber at 5 o'clock P.M. this day in pursuance of public notice when Edward Johnson, Esq. the Mayor, being called to the chair, and Theoderick Bland, Esq. appointed Secretary. The Mayor in a short address opened to the Committee the general nature and objects of the business proposed to be submitted to their consideration.

On motion, Resolved that Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Bland and Mr. Payson be a committee to prepare an address to the citizens, which shall be submitted to this committee for their approbation at their next meeting.

Resolved, That this committee meet every day at 10 o'clock A.M. in the Council Chamber.

The Committee then adjourned.

Baltimore 25th August, 1814.

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment---when the proceedings of yesterday were read.

The Committee charged with the drafting of an address to the Citizens made a report which was ordered to lie on the table.

The following resolutions were then moved and adopted:

1. Resolved, That all good citizens be and they are hereby requested to give to this committee any information they may have relative to suspected persons or places and that the members of this committee be and they are hereby required to appoint such person or persons as they may think proper in each ward and precinct to search suspected persons and places; and the persons so appointed shall report to this committee any information that may be obtained.

2. Resolved, That the owners of vessels now moored and made fast at or near the wharves of the City are hereby directed to remove their vessels to some place below Harris' Creek for the greater security.

3. Resolved, That all deserters from the enemy shall during the present time of alarm be confined to the gaol and gaol yard, where their situation shall be made as comfortable as the nature of things will admit; that any extra expense for that purpose shall be provided for by this committee, and that Mr. Frisby, Mr. Kelso and Mr. Bland be and they are hereby appointed to adjust with the gaoler the amount of such extra expense and to report to this committee.

4. Whereas, It has been communicated to this committee by Brig. Genl. Stricker, Com. Perry, Maj. Armstead and

Capt. Spence in person that it is their wish that Maj. Genl. Smith be requested to take the command of the forces which may be called into service for the defence of the city, therefore,

Resolved, That Col. John E. Howard, Mr. Frisby and Mr. Stewart be appointed to wait on Maj. Genl. Smith and to communicate to him the information this committee have received, to state that they unanimously concur with the same, and to request that he would at this important crisis take upon himself the command of the forces that may be called out for the defence of our city.

5. Resolved, That the gentlemen named in the foregoing resolution wait on Maj. Genl. Smith and report his answer to this committee forthwith.

The gentlemen who were so appointed accordingly retired and after a short time reported that Maj. Genl. Smith was at this time willing and would take upon himself the command of the forces that might be called out for the defence of the city, but that he wished to be snactioned in so doing by the Executive of this State and that his powers might be extended, whereupon it was,

6. Resolved, That Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Bland and Mr. Frisby be and they are hereby appointed to address a letter to the Governor of this State, requesting him to invest Maj. Genl. Smith with powers in every respect commensurage to the present exigency, which shall be forwarded immediately by express; and that they report to this committee at their next meeting.

The committee then adjourned.

Baltimore, 26th August, 1814.

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met according to adjournment. The proceedings of yesterday were read and the first, second, and fourth resolutions and the names of this committee were ordered to be published. Mr. Bland from the committee reported that the gaoler had agreed to receive, hold and maintain in a comfortable manner any deserters that might be committed to him for the sum of twenty-five cents per day.

On motion it was resolved that four seamen who have presented themselves as deserters from the enemy, be placed under the care of a constable and at the expense of this committee conveyed beyond the Susquehanna, where there shall be given to each out of the funds of the committee, the sum of two dollars.

2. Resolved, that Mr. Daniel Conner be and he is hereby requested to place himself in the service of the committee for a compensation to be hereafter agreed upon; and that it be his duty, vigilantly to search for all suspected strangers or other persons, and in a discreet exercise of this authority, to report such persons to, or bring them before the mayor.

3. Resolved, That the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ an additional watch, to guard the city and precincts, and that the expense be paid out of the funds of the committee of Vigilance and Safety; and that the city commissioner and the companies of the Eastern and Western precincts be requested to aid him in the execution thereof.

4. Whereas in the present exigency money will be wanted for various purposes, therefore,

Resolved, That the inhabitants of the city and precincts be and they are hereby invited to contribute thereto by calling at the Mayor's office, who will receive such contributions, and will publish the names of the contributors and the sums by them severally given, to be appropriated to such objects as the committee of Vigilance and Safety may authorize and direct.

Ordered that the third and fourth of the foregoing resolutions be published.

Mr. Buchanan from the committee appointed to address a letter to the Governor reported that they had forwarded a letter by express a copy of which was read and approved. A letter from the Governor in answer to that which was addressed to him from the committee respecting Maj. Gen'l. Smith's command was received and read. The committee then adjourned.

Baltimore, 27th August, 1814.

The committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion the following resolutions were adopted to wit:

Whereas, The commanding officer has requested the aid of the citizens, in the erection of works for the defense of the city, and the committee of Vigilance and Safety having full confidence in the patriotism of their fellow citizens, have agreed on the following organization for the purpose of complying with the request of the Major General.

The inhabitants of the city and precincts are called on to deposit at the Court House in the third ward, Centre Market in the fifth ward, Riding school in the seventh ward, Market House Fells' Point, and take with them to the place required all wheel-barrows, pick-axes, spares and shovels that they can procure.

That the city and precincts be divided into four sections, the first section to consist of the Eastern precincts and the eighth ward, the second to comprise the 5th, 6th, and 7th, wards, and the third to comprise the 2d, 3d, and 4th, wards, and the fourth to comprise the 1st ward and the Western precincts.

That the exempts from militia duty and the free people of colour, of the first district, consisting of the 8th ward and the Eastern Precincts, assemble tomorrow, Sunday morning, at 6 o'clock, at Hampstead Hill, with provisions for the day, and that Arthur Mitchell, Daniel Conn, Henry Pennington, John

Chalmers, William Starr, Thomas Weary, Henry Harwood, and Philip Cunmiller, be charged with the superintendence during the day.

That the second district, comprising the 5th, 6th, and 7th wards assemble at Myers Garden on Monday morning under the superintendence of William Parks, Capt. Watts, Ludwick Herring, William Ross, William Carman, Daniel Howland, Caleb Ernest and James Hutton.

That those of the third district comprising the 2d, 3d and 4th wards assemble at Washington Square on Tuesday morning, under the superintendence of Frederick Leypold, William McClary, John McKim, Jr., Henry Schroeder, Alexander McDonald, Eli Hewitt, Peter Gold and Alexander Russell.

That those of the fourth district comprising the 1st ward and Western precincts assemble at the intersection of Eutaw and Market streets on Wednesday under the superintendence of William W. Taylor, William Jessup, Edward Harris, George Decker, William Hawkins, Isaac Philips, William Jones and John Hignet.

The owners of slaves are requested to send them to work on the days assigned in the several districts. Such of our patriotic fellow citizens of the country or elsewhere as are disposed to aid in the common defense are invited to partake in the duties now required, on such days as may be most convenient to them.

Ordered, That John Kelso, George Woelpert, Robert Stewart, Peter Bond, William Camp, Adam Fonerden, William Lorman, Benjamin Berry, Henry Stouffer and George Warner,

members of the committee be and they are hereby requested to give notice to the persons appointed to carry into effect the foregoing resolution, in the several districts and to aid them with their advice and assistance.

Ordered, That Adam Fonerden, James Wilson, and James Armstrong be and they are hereby appointed as a standing committee of accounts. The committee then adjourned.

DEFENSE OF BALTIMORE.

Resolves of the citizens in town meeting, particulars relating to the battle, official correspondence, and honorable discharge of the troops.

From Niles' Register.

Baltimore, August 27, 1813.

By the committee on vigilance and safety.

Whereas the commanding officer has required the aid of the citizens in the erection of works for the defense of the city, and the committee of vigilance and safety having full confidence in the patriotism of their fellow citizens, have agreed on the following organization, for the purpose of complying with the request of the major general.

The inhabitants of the city and precincts are called on to deposit at the court-house in the third ward, centre market in the fifth ward, market house Fell's Point, Riding-school in the seventh ward, or take with them to the place required, all wheel-barrows, pick-axes, spades and shovels that they can procure.

That the city and precincts be divided into four sections, the first section to consist of the eastern precincts and the eighth ward, the second to comprise the 5th, 6th and 7th wards, the third to comprise the 2d, 3d and 4th wards, and the fourth to comprise the 1st ward and western precincts.

That the exempts from military and the free people of color of the first district, consisting of the 8th ward and eastern precincts, assemble to-morrow, Sunday morning, at 6 o'clock, at Hampstead-hill with provisions for the day, and that Arthur Mitchell, Daniel Conn, Henry Pennington, John Chalmers, William Starr, Thomas Weary, Henry Harwood and Philip Cornmiller be charged with their superintendence during the day.

That those of the second district, comprising the 5th, 6th and 7th wards, assemble at Myer Garden, on Monday morning at 6 o'clock

under the superintendence of William Parks, Captain Watts, Ludwig Herring, William Ross, William Carman, Daniel Howland, Caleb Earnest and James Huttong.

That those of the third district, comprising the second, third and fourth wards, assemble at Washington Square, on Tuesday morning, at six o'clock, under the superintendence of Frederick Leypold, William M'Cleary, John McKim, jr., Henry Schroeder, Alexander M'Donald, Eli Hewitt, Peter Gold and Alexander Russell.

That those of the fourth district, comprising the 1st ward and western precincts, assemble at the intersection of Eutaw and Market streets, on Wednesday morning at 6 o'clock under the superintendence of William W. Taylor, William Jessop, Edward Harris, George Decker, William Harkins, Isaac Philips, William Jones and John Hignet.

The owners of the slaves are requested to send them to work on the days assigned in the several districts.

Such of our patriotic fellow citizens of the county or elsewhere, as are disposed to aid in the common defence, are invited to partake in the duties now required on such of the days as may be most convenient to them.

(Signed) EDWARD JOHNSON, Chairman.
Theodore Bland, Secretary.

BALTIMORE.

At the recommendation of the Committee of Vigilance and Safety, the people commenced their labors to fortify the city, on Sunday the 27th ult. The work done demonstrates their power and zeal, to the astonishment of all who behold it. Baltimore has long been remarkable for the patriotism and liberal spirit of her citizens; and her high character for these qualities is fully maintained by the free offering of men and money for the purposes of defence. In the meantime, volunteers and militia from the adjacent parts of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, have flocked in to our aid. We are restrained, by the request of the Committee of Vigilance, from mentioning any particular; but the honorable record shall yet be made. We restrain the desire to notice these things because enjoined by the committee; for we are very sure the enemy is apprised of almost every thing that is transacted here; but he has learnt nothing to our discredit. The means of defence have given confidence to the people, many families who had left the city have returned; nothing is relaxed; every thing goes on as though an attack were immediately expected, but with the exception of performing their military duties, the people have their usual composure and quiet. To our brethren who have flown to our assistance, we are greatly indebted, as well for the decorum of their conduct in the city, as their patriotism in coming to the camp. The sudden collection of so many people, of all classes and conditions, might have been expected to create much confusion and disorder; but no event has yet occurred, that we have heard of, which can sully the character of an individual soldier; and the city is as quiet, (the sound of the drum, or the rattling of wagons pertaining to the different corps, excepted) as ever it was. This tribute is due to the gentlemen associated to repulse the enemy. Major General Smith, of the Maryland Militia (of Mud Fort memory) commands the troops collected specially for the defence of Baltimore. Brigadier General Winder has under him the forces belonging to his military district. He is now here, and the whole is acting in concert.

Baltimore, 28th August, 1814.

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The committee were informed by a letter from Elias Ellicott that as his religious principles, (to wit, those of a quaker) would not permit him to interfere in military matters, he therefore resigned his station as a member of this committee.

On motion resolved, That this committee will fill up all vacancies occasioned in its own body by resignation or otherwise.

Resolved, That Mr. William Jessup be and he is hereby appointed a member of this committee to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Elias Ellicott.

Resolved, That Mr. Etting, Mr. Taylor and Capt. Stevens be and they are hereby appointed to provide a hospital or suitable accommodation for the sick and wounded of the forces that are or may be called out for the defense of the city and to report to this committee at their next meeting. The committee then adjourned.

Baltimore, 29th August, 1814.

The committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion, Resolved, That Samuel Hollingsworth, Adam Fonerden, Cumberland Dugan and Joseph Jamison or any three of them with the Mayor, be and they are hereby appointed to examine all deserters from the enemy that may be apprehended and brought before them and to report to this committee.

The members appointed to provide quarters for the sick and wounded made report that they obtained the use of the public hospital from Doctors McKenzie and Smythe in which there were accommodations for about one thousand and that the compensation for the same was to be such as this committee should hereafter deem reasonable.

Mr. Jessups who was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Ellicott appeared and took his seat as a member.

Resolved, That it be and is hereby most earnestly recommended to the good people of the State of Maryland to be extremely circumspect in their communications respecting the movements of the enemy and our preparations and disposition to resist him. In a particular manner they are exhorted to abstain from the expression of any opinions calculated to inspire a belief that the people of Baltimore will be found wanting in what is due to themselves. The committee are urged to this measure by perceiving as they do, with indignation, that letters degrading to our character have appeared in some of the distant papers; the writers and publishers of such must be alike objects of contempt to all who have any attachment for their country.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published immediately.

Resolved, That Mr. Payson, Mr. Lorman and Mr. James Wilson be and they are hereby appointed to wait on Maj. Genl. Smith and inform him that from the zeal manifested by our fellow citizens in the erection of works of defense as directed, they feel great pleasure in assuring him that, if he should deem it necessary to order the extension of those or the erection of other works, that they will be promptly undertaken. And that they be further instructed to inform the Major General that in whatever way the services of the committee of Vigilance and Safety can be useful in providing for the comforts of their patriotic fellow citizens in arms, they will cheerfully undertake the same; and that they report to this committee at their next meeting. The committee then adjourned.

Baltimore, 30th August, 1814.

The committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

On Motion, Resolved, That the resolution passed by this committee on the 25th of this month relative to deserters from the enemy be and the same is hereby repealed.

Resolved, That George Warner, Solomon Etting, William Jessup, David Burke and George Woelper be and they are hereby appointed a committee to wait on the Quarter-master General and tender to him their aid and that of this committee in providing suitable accommodations for our fellow citizens in arms, who are assembling for the common defense.

Resolved, That it be the particular and permanent duty of the above named committee diligently to enquire into the wants of the troops on their arrival and that they make known the same from time to time to this committee and to those authorities in the staff department who are competent to supplying the same.

Whereas, The committee of Vigilance and safety have received information from a reputable source that certain individuals are in the constant habit of making use of very improper and intemperate expressions, calculated to produce discussion, and to defeat the preparations making for the defense of our city, therefore

Resolved, That Richard Frisby, William Camp and Peter Bond be and they are hereby appointed to investigate cases of this kind and make an immediate report to this board.

On motion the following address and appeal to our fellow citizens of the country was adopted, to wit,

The ardour with which our fellow citizens in arms of this and the neighbouring States are hastening to the defense of our city affords the strongest evidence of the patriotism of our yeomanry and inspires the committee with an earnest desire to make their situation here perfectly comfortable. The committee reposes unlimited confidence in the disposition of the good people in this and the neighboring states who are not employed in a military capacity to aid in this laudable purpose and they therefore confidently call upon them individually and collectively to bring to the city for sale such supplies as may contribute to the comfort of those to whom, under Providence, the safety of this city is confided. The committee are authorized by the Major General to assure those who visit our city with the laudable intention of contributing to the comforts of its brave defenders, that they shall be permitted to transact their business free from the danger of impressment to their wagons, carts or horses or of any species of interruption to themselves, and that if there be any cause of complaint the same shall be promptly removed on application to this committee. Editors of newspapers are requested to give this publicity.

Ordered, That the foregoing address be published immediately, printed in handbills and disseminated as widely as possible.

Whereas, The commanding officer has requested the further aid of the citizens in completing the works already so far advanced; and in erecting others for the defense of the city; and the committee of Vigilance and Safety having full confidence in the patriotism of their fellow citizens, therefore

Resolved, That the city and precincts be divided into four districts, and that the exempts from militia duty and the free people of color of the first district, consisting of the 8th ward and Eastern precincts, be and they are hereby requested to assemble on Thursday next, and that Arthur Mitchell, Daniel Conn, Henry Pennington, John Chalmers, William Starr, Thomas Weary, Henry Harwood, Philip Cunmiller, John Price, Bazil Smith, John Gracy, John Schunck, John Smith, and Calvin Cooper, be charged with the superintendence during the day.

That those of the second district, comprising the 5th, 6th, and 7th wards, assemble on Friday next, under the superintendence of William Parks, Capt. Watts, Ludwick Herring, William Ross, William Carman, Caleb Arnest, Jacob Miller, Robert Fisher, John Gross, James Hutton and George Auckerman.

That those of the third district comprising the 2d, 3rd, and 4th wards assemble on Saturday next under the superintendence of Frederick Leypold, William McClary, John McKim, Jr., Henry Schroeder, Alexander McDonald, Eli Hewitt, Peter Gold and Alexander Russell; and

That those of the fourth district, comprising the first ward and western precincts, assemble on Sunday next, under the superintendence of William W. Taylor, William Jessup, Edward Harris, George Decker, William Hawkins, Isaac Philips, William Jones, John Hignet, Charles Bohn, Alexander Irvine, Ferdinando Gourdon and Jonas Clopham.

That John Kelso, George Woelpert, Robert Stewart, Peter Bond, William Camp, Adam Fonerden, William Lorman, Benjamin Berry, Henry Stouffer and George Warner, members of this committee be and they are hereby requested to give notice to the persons appointed as superintendents in their several districts, and to aid them in their advice and assistance.

The owners of slaves are requested to send them to work on the days assigned to the several districts, and such of our patriotic fellow citizens of the country, or elsewhere as are disposed to aid in the common defense are invited to partake in the further duties now required on such days as may be most convenient.

The committee then adjourned.

Baltimore, August 31, 1814

The committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Warner from the committee appointed to wait on the Quarter-master General reported that they had done so and acquainted him with the readiness of this committee to cooperate in any way for the common good.

Mr. Hollingsworth from the committee appointed to examine deserters from the enemy reported that they had examined three of whom they entertained no apprehensions but submitted to this committee for their consideration the propriety of sending such persons, at least some distance into the country.

Resolved, That the chairman of this committee be and he is hereby authorized and requested to give to each of the above mentioned deserters five dollars from the funds of this committee, a passport, and order them to go out of the State of Maryland.

Ordered, That the letter from the Major-General to this committee respecting a deposit in the banks on loan be and the same is hereby referred to Mr. William Wilson, Mr. Waters and Mr. Payson, with power, and a request to communicate with the other Presidents and directors of banks and to report to this committee at its next meeting.

This committee were informed by their chairman that Mr. Robert C. Long with thirty carpenters in his employ had tendered their services to this committee whenever called on and in what-

ever manner they might be required.

Whereas, The duties imposed on this committee, engrossing much of their attention, and it being necessary that immediate steps be taken to raise a Committee of Relief whose duty it shall be, to solicit subscriptions in money and necessaries for the relief of the poor and distressed, more particularly to be applied to the aid and support of families whose distress is immediately occasioned by the calling off the chief supporters of their families on public service; therefore:

Resolved, That James Ellicott, William W. Taylor, Elisha Tyson, Richard H. Jones, Levin Wethered, Luke Tiernan, William Riley, James Mosher, Joseph Townsend, Peter Diffenderfer, William Brown, Daniel Diffenderfer, William Trimble, William Mundle, William Proctor and John Ogden, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee of Relief, requiring them in such manner as they shall think proper to adopt, to solicit subscriptions in money or other necessary supplies for the poor, and that they appoint a committee or committees, to ascertain by the best possible means, the situation and wants of the families of those called out on the present emergency, as well as all others who may probably need assistance, and that they distribute from time to time, with judicious care, such aid and comforts as they shall think proper. The committee then adjourned.

Baltimore 1st September 1814

The Committee of vigilance and safety met pursuant to adjournment--
the proceedings of yesterday were read--

Ordered, That the Letter from the Surgeons of the different Regiments
attached to the command of Genl. Stansburys brigade be and the same is hereby
referred to the committee appointed to aid the Quarter Master General, to act
upon and report to this committee-

Whereas it is presumed that additional buildings for the accommodation
of the Troops will be required and it having been signified to this committee
by Maj. Genl. Smith as his wish that temporary Shed-Barracks in convenient
situations be erected--therefore--

Resolved, That, Robert C. Long with the patriotic company of Carpenters
in his employ, who are exempt from military duty and who have offered their
services, or any others exempt from military duty, willing to be so employed,
be immediately requested to erect the same under the superintendance of the
committee appointed to aid the Quarter Master General in the discharge of his
duties--and that Robert C. Long be furnished with a Copy of this Resolution and
the names of the Committee--

The committee to whom was referred an enquiry into the conduct of
Joseph Presbury a Justice of the Peace of Fells Point, beg leave to report that, they
have examined several respectable witnesses upon this subject and are perfectly
satisfied from the testimony produced, that, the conduct of the said Presbury is
highly censurable, and that he is frequently in the habit of expressing sentiments
unworthy of an American citizen--That he has on a very recent occasion
rejoiced at the difficulties and embarrassments into which he expected our
Government would in all probability be thrown, and manifested pleasure at the
powerful reinforcements which the Enemy were pouring into our Country--Your

Committee further beg leave to represent that, the general character of the said Presbury appears to be marked with strongest impropriety, that, it has a tendency as far as his influence may extend, to damp the ardour of our patriotic citizens in defence of our City, and is highly derogatory to an officer holding a commission from the State of Maryland--Your Committee consider it as one of those cases which calls for the interposition of your Board, but leave it to your wisdom and judgment to mark out a proper course to be pursued--all which is respectfully submitted--Richard Frisby Chairman--

Ordered That, a Copy of the foregoing Report be transmitted to the Governor of this State and that he be respectfully requested to take the same into consideration and to remove the said Presbury from the office of Justice of the Peace

Whereas this Committee are informed by a letter of this date from Maj. Genl. Smith that "orders have been received from the war department to send off the 19 pounders on travelling carriages"--and as the Guns are the property of the United States and the carriages the property of the city of Baltimore--and as the Committee are of opinion that those Guns are indispensably necessary for the protection of this city--therefore--

Resolved That the Major General be and he is hereby requested to retain the Gun Carriages as the property of the City as long as they may be, by him deemed useful, and also that, he remonstrate against and do all he can to prevent the removal of Guns which are believed to be so important to our defence--

Mr. Payson from the Committee to whom was referred Maj. Genl. Smiths Letter requiring the Banks to place at the disposal of the Quarter Masters and Commissary's department a sum of money as mentioned in that communication,

Reports, That, the Banks of this city have accorded therewith, and that the money will forthwith be placed as required--

Resolved, That Mr. Stouffer and Mr. Bond be and they are hereby requested to have the nuisance immediately removed from the Circus, which is at present occupied by our Troops, and any expense in doing the same shall be defrayed out of the funds of this Committee--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 1st September 1814

The Committee of vigilance and safety met pursuant to adjournment--
the proceedings of yesterday were read--

Ordered, That the Letter from the Surgeons of the different Regiments
attached to the command of Genl. Stansburys brigade be and the same is hereby
referred to the committee appointed to aid the Quarter Master General, to act
upon and report to this committee-

Whereas it is presumed that additional buildings for the accommodation
of the Troops will be required and it having been signified to this committee
by Maj. Genl. Smith as his wish that temporary Shed-Barracks in convenient
situations be erected--therefore--

Resolved, That, Robert C. Long with the patriotic company of Carpenters
in his employ, who are exempt from military duty and who have offered their
services, or any others exempt from military duty, willing to be so employed,
be immediately requested to erect the same under the superintendance of the
committee appointed to aid the Quarter Master General in the discharge of his
duties--and that Robert C. Long be furnished with a Copy of this Resolution and
the names of the Committee--

The committee to whom was referred an enquiry into the conduct of
Joseph Presbury a Justice of the Peace of Fells Point, beg leave to report that, they
have examined several respectable witnesses upon this subject and are perfectly
satisfied from the testimony produced, that, the conduct of the said Presbury is
highly censurable, and that he is frequently in the habit of expressing sentiments
unworthy of an American citizen--That he has on a very recent occasion
rejoiced at the difficulties and embarrassments into which he expected our
Government would in all probability be thrown, and manifested pleasure at the
powerful reinforcements which the Enemy were pouring into our Country--Your

Committee further beg leave to represent that, the general character of the said Presbury appears to be marked with strongest impropriety, that, it has a tendency as far as his influence may extend, to damp the ardour of our patriotic citizens in defence of our City, and is highly derogatory to an officer holding a commission from the State of Maryland--Your Committee consider it as one of those cases which calls for the interposition of your Board, but leave it to your wisdom and judgment to mark out a proper course to be pursued--all which is respectfully submitted--Richard Frisby Chairman--

Ordered That, a Copy of the foregoing Report be transmitted to the Governor of this State and that he be respectfully requested to take the same into consideration and to remove the said Presbury from the office of Justice of the Peace

Whereas this Committee are informed by a letter of this date from Maj. Genl. Smith that "orders have been received from the war department to send off the 19 pounders on travelling carriages"--and as the Guns are the property of the United States and the carriages the property of the city of Baltimore--and as the Committee are of opinion that those Guns are indispensably necessary for the protection of this city--therefore--

Resolved That the Major General be and he is hereby requested to retain the Gun Carriages as the property of the City as long as they may be, by him deemed useful, and also that, he remonstrate against and do all he can to prevent the removal of Guns which are believed to be so important to our defence--

Mr. Payson from the Committee to whom was referred Maj. Genl. Smiths Letter requiring the Banks to place at the disposal of the Quarter Masters and Commissary's department a sum of money as mentioned in that communication,

Reports, That, the Banks of this city have accorded therewith, and that the money will forthwith be placed as required--

Resolved, That Mr. Stouffer and Mr. Bond be and they are hereby requested to have the nuisance immediately removed from the Circus, which is at present occupied by our Troops, and any expense in doing the same shall be defrayed out of the funds of this Committee--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 2d. September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Mr. Burke from the committee to whom was referred the Letter from the surgeons attached to Genl. Stansburys Brigade respecting certain conveniences for the army made report that upon enquiry the conveniences asked for were unnecessary and therefore they had not provided them: which report was received and concurred with--

Resolved That the Committee of Superintendants be and they are hereby directed to detail from the workmen of the third District tomorrow morning two hundred men, to be employed under the direction of Capt. Babcock and that on the following day the same number of men be detached from the fourth District and that the same plan be followed by the Districts in rotation--

Resolved, That the inhabitants of the 2d, 3d and 4th Wards in performing their tour of duty tomorrow, Saturday, are requested to assemble at the Court House, Tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock, as two hundred of them will be wanted to commence works of defence on Camp-look-out-Hill, near the Magazine under the direction of Capt. Babcock, and the remainder to progress with the works already commenced--and that the inhabitants of the 1st Ward and western Precincts will assemble for the same purpose at the intersection of Market and Eutaw streets, on Sunday morning at 6 o'clock--

Ordered That the foregoing Resolution be published for the information of the citizens forthwith--

Ordered, That so much of the Letter from the Major General as relates to Hospital surgeons be and the same is hereby referred to the Committee heretofore appointed to procure a Hospital for the sick, and that they comply as soon as possible with the request respecting Hospital surgeons and report to this committee--

Whereas it has been represented to this committee that the Regimental funds of the Baltimore Brigade have proved inadequate to supplying the same with music, and further that some of the commandants of Regiments have in part supplied such deficiency out of their private funds--therefore

Resolved, That one hundred dollars be paid out of the funds of this committee to each of the paymasters of the six Regiments composing Genl. Strickers Brigade to be applied in payment of music and that Genl. Stricker be furnished with a Copy of this Resolution--

Resolved, that, Mr. Burke, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Bond be and they are hereby authorised to fit up and prepare for service the Guns now under the care of Mr. Beatty, or any others, that may be deemed useful by the commanding officer, and that the expense thereof be defrayed out of the funds of this Committee--

Resolved, That Mr. Dugan, Mr. Berry and Mr. Alrecks be and they are hereby appointed to aid Mr. Brawner in converting the Flour and bread for the use of the Troops--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 3d. September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Mr. Dugan from the Committee appointed to aid in having the Flour baked into bread for the use of the Troops reported, That they had entered into a written contract with Francis W. Bolgiano to bake bread for the use of this committee which was received, ratified, and ordered to be filed--

The Committee to whom was referred the requisition of Major Genl. Smith for six Hospital surgeons to attend on the sick and at the Hospital beg leave to report, That in consequence of the authority vested in them by the Committee of Vigilance and Safety they have appointed Doctor Colin McKinzie Hospital surgeon and authorised him to appoint Doctors James Middleton, Horatio Jameson, William Turner, George Frick and Charles Richardson assistants, who will be called into the Hospital as Doctor McKenzie may find their services necessary--They also beg leave to report that, when they visited the Hospital, they were informed by Mr. Gatchell that he had received orders to procure groceries and medicines, but that some other articles would probably be required for the comfort of the sick, which your committee directed him to procure until an arrangement could be made to obtain them in a regular way, the appointments now made it is presumed will remove this difficulty--

Which Report was read and concurred with--

Resolved, That Mr. Stewart, Mr. Waters and Mr. Schaffer be and they are hereby appointed to have a bridge of scows from Pattersons Wharf, Fells Point, to the nearest land on the opposite shore, erected immediately, in the manner directed and requested by the Major General in his communication of this date and to report to this committee--

Whereas, The Commander has required still further aid from the citizens in completing the works of defence already begun and in erecting others, and it being highly desirable to expedite such works by every possible means, and the Committee of Vigilance and Safety feeling an entire and undiminished confidence in their fellow citisens; therefore--

Resolved, That the City shall hereafter be laid off and divided into two Districts; the first of which shall comprise all that part of the City together with the Eastern Precincts, East of Jones' Falls, and all the residue of the City with the western precincts shall compose the second District--

That all exempts, people of colour and others, able and willing to labour, of each District be, and they are hereby most earnestly invited and requested to turn out and labour on the works of Defence in their respective Districts on Monday next and every day thereafter they can find it convenient--

That Arthur Mitchell, Daniel Conn, Henry Pennington, John Chalmers, William Starr, Thomas Weary, Henry Harwood, Philip Cunmiller, John Price, Bazel Smith, John Gracy, John Schunck, John Smith, William Parks, Capt. Watts, Ludwick Herring, William Carman, Jacob Miller, Robert Fisher, John Gross, George Auckerman, John Mackenhumer, Mr. Moran, Robert Wilson, and Hezekiah Price be and they are hereby appointed a committee of superintendance for the first or Eastern District--

That William Ross, Caleb Arnest, James Hutton, Frederick Leypold, William McClary, John McKim junr., Henry Schroeder, Alexander McDonald, Eli Hewitt, Peter Gold, Alexander Russell, William W. Taylor, Edward Harris, George Decker, William Hawkins, Isaac Philips, William Jones, John Hignet, Charles Bohn, Alexander Irvine, Ferdinand Gourdon, and Jonas Clopham, be and they are hereby appointed a committee of superintendants, for the second or Western District--

That each of those committees make such division of themselves, into sub-committees, appoint deputies, and make such arrangements as will best suit their own convenience, and ensure a faithful discharge of their duty--

That Richard Frisby, George Woelper, John Kelso, George Warner, Henry Stouffer and Adam Fonerden, members of this Committee be, and they are hereby requested to give notice to the persons appointed as superintendants in their several Districts, and to aid them with their advice and assistance--

The owners of slaves are requested to send them to work in the Districts in which they reside, and such of our patriotic fellow citizens of the country or elsewhere, as are disposed to aid in the common defence, are invited to partake in the further duties now required, at such times as may be most convenient--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 4th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Resolved, That Mr. Stouffer, Mr. Berry & Mr. Jessup be, and they are hereby appointed to procure Palisades for the Fortifications now erecting on Camp-look-out Hill at the most convenient place and in the most expeditious way possible--(This entire paragraph was x-ed out, and the word "Error" inserted in the margin.)

Resolved, That the members of this Committee appointed to aid the superintendants be and they are hereby requested to confer with Capt. Babcock, the Engineer, as to the number of labourers and implements that may be wanted from day to day to carry on & complete the works of Defence, and that they be and are hereby authorised to provide the same--

Ordered, That the communication from the surgeons of the third Brigade of Maryland Militia lie on the Table--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 5th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceeding of yesterday were read--

Major DeFourville, an Engineer, who had hitherto aided in erecting works of Defence, on being introduced to the Committee tendered his services gratis to the citizens directing the erection of works proper for its defence, and also submitted some observations respecting the works already begun and others which were deemed necessary and proper--

Mr. Fonerden from the committee who were appointed to confer with Capt. Babcock: Reported that he had done so, that Capt. Babcock required two hundred hands on this day and would inform the committee of the number wanted from day to day and further that Capt. Babcock wanted a Horse to enable him to attend to his duties--therefore--

Ordered That Capt. Babcock be furnished with a Horse--

Resolved, That George Woelper be and he is hereby appointed a superintendant whose duty it shall be to hire one hundred labourers to be employed in raising breast works on the Road towards North Point for one week, as required by the communication of the Major General of this date and that said superintendant be authorised to hire said labourers on the best terms in his Power and to furnish them with Provisions and other necessaries and to furnish an account thereof to this Committee--

Resolved, That a Superintendant be appointed whose duty it shall be to employ labourers not exceeding one hundred and fifty per day to work at the Fort erecting at Camp-look-out; and that said superintendant is hereby authorised to pay to each labourer not exceeding one dollar per day, they finding their own

provisions and liquor; and that he be also directed to employ as many Carpenters and Mechanics as the Engineer may judge advisable, whose wages shall not exceed one dollar and twenty five cents per day; and that said labourers, carpenters and other mechanics be continued until the works are completed; and an account thereof be rendered to this Committee: and that Isaac Philips be & he is hereby appointed a superintendant to carry on the abovementioned work under the direction of the Engineer--

Resolved, That a superintendant be appointed whose duty it shall be to employ labourers, not exceeding one hundred per day to work at the Fortifications erecting or about to be erected at the eastern end of the Town, and that said superintendant is hereby authorised to pay each labourer so employed a sum not exceeding one dollar perday, and to employ as many Carpenters and other mechanics as Major Armstead may deem adviseable, whose wages shall not exceed one dollar and twenty five cents per day, the said labourers and mechanics to accommodate themselves with victuals and drink; and that the said labourers Carpenters and other Mechanics be continued until the works are completed; and an account thereof be rendered to this Committee--

Resolved, That George Auckerman be the superintendant to carry into effect the foregoing Resolution--

Ordered, That the Major General be furnished with a Copy of so much of the report of the committee of the 3d. instant respecting the Hospital, as relates to the appointment of six Hospital Surgeons--

Ordered, That Mr. Fonerden be excused from further attendance as a member of this Committee to aid the superintendants, and that Mr. Jessup be & is hereby appointed in his stead--

The Committee then adjourned. (Inserted here is a slip, in another hand, reading: " The Requisition for Thirty Scows Was made on the fifth Day of September 1814 and Continued in Service untill thirtieth November in said year Comprising a period of Eighty Six Days. ")

Baltimore 6th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
the proceedings of yesterday were read--

Resolved, That Mr. Jamison and Mr. Burke be and they are hereby
requested to superintend the purchase and delivery of Lumber for the use of the
Fortification: and to investigate the quality of that which has already been delivered--

Whereas in compliance with the requisition of the commanding officer,
the Committee of vigilance & safety have supplied Capt. Babcock with labour to
be employed in works on Camp-look-out Hill but they are apprehensive that
Capt. Babcock contemplates Fortification more complete, more costly, and
requiring more time than the present exigency and the means of this committee
will justify--therefore--

Resolved, That, the commanding officer be requested to give such
instruction to the Engineer, as well procure for the western section of the city
such temporary works as the time allowed us, the use to be made of the private
property on which they are to be erected and the very limited means of this
committee will justify--

Ordered, That Mr. Buchannan & Mr. Payson wait on the Major General
with a Copy of the foregoing Resolution and confer with him respecting the nature
of the works of defence contemplated and report immediately--

Mr. Buchannan from the committee appointed to wait on the Major
General Reported that they had done so, and that they were informed by the
Commanding Officer that the works intended to be erected would be of such a
temporary nature and such limited extent as the present exigency would admit of
and no more--and that the expence would be met by the United States--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 7th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Resolved, That so much of the Resolution of this Committe^e passed on the fifth instant as relates to the wages to be paid to the labourers and the number thereof, that may be hired to work on the Fortifications erecting on Camp look out Hill be and the same is hereby repealed and the superintendant is hereby authorised to hire such number of labourers and upon such terms as he shall think best--

The Committe^e then adjourned--

Baltimore 8th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Resolved, That, the Committee of Accounts be and they are hereby
authorised to advance to Mr. James Beatty any sum of maney that he may want
for the purpose of fitting-up and repairing Guns and Gun Carriages, not exceeding
three thousand dollars--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 9th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Resolved, That a sum not exceeding fifty dollars be paid out of the funds of this Committee to the Paymaster of the Rifle Battalion to be applied to the payment for music--

A communication was received from the Committee of Relief, requesting that, the contributions in provisions subscribed to this Committee should be transferred to the Committee of Relief to be by them disbursed among the poor and needy -- which was read and ordered to lie on the table--

Mr. Frisby from the Committee who were appointed to investigate cases of individuals who may be accused of being "in the constant habit of making use of very improper and intemperate expressions calculated to produce disunion, and to defeat the preparations making for the defence of our City"-- made report of sundry improper & intemperate expressions of a certain Richard Lewis of Pratt Street, which was read and ordered to lie on the table--

Resolved That the chairman of this Committee be and he is hereby authorised to pay the sum of twenty five dollars to Edward Miles for his trouble in assisting and bringing home Charles Ernest a Soldier who was wounded in the battle of Bladensburg--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 10th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Mr. Frisby from the committee who were appointed to investigate cases of individuals who may be accused of being in the constant habit of making use of very intemperate and improper expressions calculated to produce disunion and to defeat the preparations making for the defence of our City--made Report of sundry improper expressions and suspicious conduct of a certain Lewis Briers an alien enemy resident hereby permission--whereupon

Ordered That the chairman of this committee be and he is hereby authorised and requested to have the said Lewis Briers immediately arrested and strictly examined and committed to prison if the chairman shall think proper--

The following address was moved and assented to

"Those who feel interested in the safety of Baltimore and who have omitted to subscribe to the fund which is placed at the disposal of this committee, are respectfully reminded that the subscription paper is still open at the Mayors office, that the expenses to be defrayed by the committee are unavoidably large and are for objects deemed by the Military authorities indispensable to our safety--

"The committee acknowledge with thanks the liberality of those who have contributed so freely to this important fund, but they deem it their duty to state that, although the subscriptions have been liberal, yet that, from estimates it is apprehended they will be inadequate to our wants and that, the subscription list comprises only about five hundred names--The committee are preparing for publication an alphabetical list of those who have aided them with their funds, and

that, this may appear as speedily and be as respectable as possible they beg their Countrymen to be prompt in their subscriptions--(").

Ordered That the foregoing address be published immediately--

Ordered That when this committee do adjourn they shall be adjourned to tomorrow morning nine o'clock--

The Committee then adjourned-

(from orig. ms. at Md. Hist. Soc.)

Baltimore 4 O'Clock P.M. 11th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance & Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

The proceedings of the forenoon were read--

It was stated that a certain man named Maxwell has of late conducted himself in a manner so as to excite suspicion that he has or intends to have some intercourse with the enemy--therefore--

Ordered, That the chairman of this committee cause the said Maxwell to be arrested immediately & imprisoned during the present time of alarm--

Capt. Thomas C. Jenkins appeared and offered the services of his Company of exempts in any way that they could be most usefully employed--

Resolved, That Capt. Jenkins, Capt. Mackenheimer and Capt. Lynch be and they are hereby requested to divide their companies into sections and to lay off the city into districts so as to suit their convenience and to patrol the city and suburbs every night during the present time of alarm--And that Mr. Stouffer inform Capt. Lynch and Mr. Bond inform Capt. Mackinheimer of the proposed arrangement--

Resolved, That the committee appointed to superintend the works of defence be and they are hereby authorised and required to call on all able bodied free men of colour to turn out and labour on the Fortifications or other works; and in case of refusal to call on the commanders of the several companies of exempts to assist in enforcing such persons to turn out and labour--

The Committee then adjourned to 8 O'Clock tomorrow morning--

Baltimore 11th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance & Safety met pursuant to adjournment--

The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Resolved--That Messrs. Wm. Wilson, Burke, Camp, Stevens, Schaffer, Taylor, Lorman and Waters be and they are hereby appointed to procure as speedily as possible thirty or more ships or vessels and to deliver them to Commodore Rodgers for the purpose of Having them sunk near Fort Mchenry in such manner & place as the Commodore shall direct, as required by the Major Generals communication of this date--

Resolved, That Messrs. Hollingsworth, Jessup, Warner, Berry and Alricks be and they are hereby authorised and required to provide immediately Tents and Camp equipage and to supply the wants of the Militia of the third Brigade and for that purpose to appoint such number of superintendants as they may deem necessary--

Ordered That the Committee heretofore appointed to provide a Hospital be and they are hereby required to supply the wants of the sick and wounded at present, until another arrangement can be made and a supply can be had in the regular way, of such articles as are said to be wanted in the communication of the Hospital surgeon of this date--

Ordered That Mr. Kelso and Mr. Frisby be and they are hereby required to procure forthwith such number of labourers to work on the Fortifications to the eastward of the City as the Engineer can employ--

The Committee then adjourned to 40'Clock P.M. of this day--

(from orig. ms. at Md. Hist. Society)

Baltimore 12th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance & Safety met pursuant to adjournment--

The proceedings of yesterday afternoon were read--

Whereas it is represented to this committee that it will contribute very materially to the preservation of good order in our City, if the retailing of spirituous liquors were prevented after a certain specified hour of the night; therefore--

Resolved, That the Mayor be and he is hereby requested to cause all Taverns except those for the accommodation of Travellers, and all those Houses where spirituous liquors are retailed to be closed at 9 O'Clock every night and to remain closed during the night--

The committee then adjourned to three O'Clock P.M. this day

(From orig. ms. at Md. Hist. Soc.)

Baltimore 3 O'Clock P.M. 12th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance & Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
the proceedings of yesterday afternoon were read--

Resolved, That Mr. Mortimer be and he is hereby authorised and directed
to remove the sick Family at Mr. Sterlings place, formerly Hustlers Garden,
immediately at the expense of this committee

The committee then adjourned to 8 O'Clock of this evening

(From orig. ms. at Md. Hist. Soc.)

Baltimore 8 O'Clock P.M. 12th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance & Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of the afternoon were read--and nothing being communicated or
proposed for adoption the committee adjourned to 8 O'Clock tomorrow morning--

(From orig. ms. at Md. Hist. Soc.)

Baltimore 13th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--

The committee received a verbal communication from the Major General, requesting that, they would have the provisions of our fellow citizens in arms cooked every day for them during the actual investment of our city by the Enemy; therefore--

Resolved, That the several members of this Committee be and they are hereby requested to have as much of the provisions for our army cooked in his own Family and also by others, every day, as he possibly can during the present emergency--

The committee then adjourned to 3 O'Clock of this day--

Baltimore 3 O'Clock P.M. 13th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
The proceedings of the forenoon were read--

The Major General informed the Committee by a verbal communication that, the troops under General Douglas command were in want of provisions; therefore--

Resolved, That Mr. Bond be and he is hereby requested and directed to send provisions immediately to the Troops under General Douglas command--

Resolved, That Mr. Payson be and he is hereby authorised and requested to purchase for the use of the Army, on the best terms he can, of Mr. Robert Barry all the provisions he has on hand--

The Committee then adjourned to 8 O'Clock tomorrow morning--

Baltimore 14th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--

The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Mr. David Willie came before the committee complained that his waggon and team had been pressed and prayed that it (be) released--The committee took the complaint under consideration and promised relief as soon as possible

The committee received a communication through their chairman from Major Armstead requesting this committee to furnish him with two hundred shovels one hundred Pick axes and five hundred Pieces of Timber eight feet long and one foot square, for the purpose of erecting bomb proof covered ways for the protection of the soldiery stationed at Fort Mchenry; therefore--

Resolved, That Mr. Payson be and he is hereby authorised and requested to have one hundred Pick axes and two hundred Shovels collected immediately and sent to Fort Mchenry--

Resolved, That Mr. Burke and Mr. Taylor be and they are hereby authorised and directed to procure five hundred pieces of Timber eight feet long and twelve inches square and with all possible dispatch to deliver them to Major Armstead at Fort Mchenry--

The Committee then adjourned to 3 O'Clock P.M. of this day--

(from orig. ms. at Md. Hist. Soc.)

Baltimore 3:0'Clock P.M. 14th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--The proceedings of the forenoon were read--

The Committee received a verbal communication from the Major General requesting, that, two Fire Ships should be prepared and delivered to Commodore Rogers forthwith; that carriages should be sent to bring home the wounded: and that a party be sent to bury the Dead--therefore--

Resolved, That Mr. Burke, Mr. Schaffer and Mr. Stevens with Mr. Joseph Smith the Harbour Master, be and they are hereby requested to provide two Fire Ships; say old sloops or schooners filled with light wood, tar and other combustible matter and to deliver them with all possible dispatch to Commodore Rodgers--

Resolved That, the Members of this Committee will immediately press and procure Hacks or other Carriages to bring our wounded men from the battle ground--

Resolved, That Mr. Buchannan, Mr. Payson & Mr. Frisby be appointed a committee, whose duty it shall be, first to provide for the immediate internment of such of our brave fellow citizens as have fallen in the late attack on this city and further to provide for such funeral Honors as becomes the duty of the living to pay to the brave and virtuous Dead--

Ordered, That the foregoing Resolution be published--

Resolved, That Mr. William Wilson and Mr. Frisby be and they are hereby directed and requested to wait on Major Armstead and know of him whether he would require any other ships to be sunk near Fort Mc Henry--

Resolved, That the Superintendent theretofore appointed to aid in the Fortifications at Camp-look-out be and he is hereby requested to furnish the

(p.2, 9/14/44 - 3 p.m.)

Engineer tomorrow morning with as many labourers and Carpenters as he may require, and to continue the supply of labour and mechanical aid until the work is completed--

The following letter was read agreed to and ordered to be forwarded--

To the Deputy Commissary of Purchases

Sir--

The opportunities which we have had of observing the injury to the public service by the absence of the Deputy Commissary of purchases and the public Storekeeper induces us to assume the privilege of recommending that those important officers may not permit their military to interfere with their Staff duties, but on the contrary they remain to discharge the latter--

The Committee then adjourned to 8 O'Clock tomorrow morning--

(from orig. ms. at Md. Hist. Soc.)

Baltimore 15th September 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--the proceedings of yesterday afternoon were read--

Resolved, That the Requisition from Major Armstead requesting the aid of the committee in procuring Timber and other materials to render the Magazines at the Fort bomb proof be referred to Mr. Jamison with instructions to furnish the same as expeditiously as possible--

The following letter was read agreed to and ordered to be sent--

"To our fellow citizens of the City of Baltimore Carpenters owners of Slaves,

Gentlemen,

You will render an essential service to the Committee of Vigilance and Safety as well as to the City if you can hire us your black Carpenters to work at the Fort at Camp-Look-out, in laying floors &c.--

We want them to-morrow morning at 6 O'clock and let them bring their tools with them--The white Carpenters are all now on duty--15th Sept--1814"--ed:
Johnson Chair--

The Committee appointed to superintend the funeral of our brave dead report in part, That, they proceeded this day to the field of Battle and have removed from thence two of the only remaining dead bodies, the third being at the same time removed by his friends--The committee have also procured the removal of two wounded men who were remaining at a House in the vicinity of the Meeting House--Mr. Frisby is requested to ask of Mr. Townsend that he will do

them the favour to cause to be completed the interment of the Enemy's dead who are now imperfectly buried--

The following letter was then read agreed to and ordered to be sent--

"Major Armstead

Sir

This Committee have received with pleasure and are executing with all possible promptitude your requisitions to promote the Security of the Magazines and of our brave Countrymen under your command--

The Committee very respectfully tender to you any services which it may be in their power or in the power of their fellow citizens to render, and they intreat of your unsparingly to make any demands upon them which may contribute to the safety and comforts of those who are immortalizing themselves in the common cause of our beloved Country--We have the Honor to be with the highest consideration, Sir your obt St--

Resolved, That Mr. Daniel Conner be and he is hereby authorised and directed to procure two or three cords of wood four dozen earthen cups & plates three dozen bleeding bowls four dozen Iron spoons, & fifty blankets, immediately for the use of the Hospital--

The Committee received a Communication from Mr. James Beatty which was read and ordered to lie on the table--

The Committee then adjourned to 3 O'clock P.M. this day

(Part of September 10 minutes)

(Following address was moved and
assented to)

"Those who feel interested in the safety of Baltimore and who have omitted to subscribe to the fund which is placed at the disposal of this committee, are respectfully reminded that the subscription paper is still open at the Mayor's office; that the expenses to be defrayed by the committee are unavoidably large and are for objects deemed by the military authorities indispensable to our safety.

The committee acknowledge with thanks the liberality of those who have contributed so freely to this important fund, but they deem it their duty to state that although the subscriptions have been liberal, yet **that** from estimates it is apprehended they will be inadequate to our wants, and that the subscription list comprises only about five hundred names.

The committee are preparing for publication an alphabetical list of those who have aided them with their funds and that they may appear as speedily and be as respectable as possible, they beg their countrymen to be prompt in their subscriptions."

Notice from September 10, 1814, Niles' Register:

"At the recommendation of the Committee of Vigilance and Safety the people commenced their labors to fortify the city on Sunday, the 27th ultimo. The work done demonstrates their power and zeal, to the astonishment of all who behold it. Baltimore has long been remarkable for the patriotism and liberal spirit of her citizens; and her high character for these qualities is fully maintained by the free offering of men and money for the purposes of defence. In the meantime, volunteers and militia from the adjacent parts of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia have flocked in to our aid. We are restrained by the request of the Committee of Vigilance from mentioning any particulars, but the honorable record shall yet be made. We restrain the desire to notice these things because enjoined by the committee, for we are very sure the enemy is apprised of almost everything that is transacted here."

Baltimore 4th Octo: 1814

The Committee of Viligance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--The proceedings of yesterday were read--

The committee were informed by letters from Capt. Samuel Moales,¹⁴⁰ from the Baltimore Beneficial Society and from Capt. Henry Thompson¹⁴¹ that the companies under their commands and the society offered their services to labour one day on the works of Defence erecting about our city--therefore--

Ordered That the services of the said companies & Society be accepted and that the secretary be charged to present the thanks of this Committee to each by a Letter addressed to each--

The Committee were informed that the Company of Exempts under the command of Capt. Thomas C. Jenkins offered their services to perform one days labour on the works of Defence--therefore

Ordered, That the services of Capt. Jenkins Company be accepted and the thanks of this Committee be presented to him and his company by our Chairman--

Ordered, That the following expression of the sense of this committee be published in the several News Papers of this City with a list of those military or other associations who have or may hereafter tender their services to labour on the works of Defence also designating the days of labour which have been or may be assigned to each by themselves or by this board--to wit--

"The Committee of Vigilance and Safety take this method of making public the grateful sense they feel for the generous and patriotic services of the following military and other associations who have laboured or tendered their services to labour on the Works of Defence about our City--"

140 Samuel Moale (1771-1857), attorney, 7 N. Gay St.

141 Henry Thompson (1774-1837), merchant, 53 Smith's Wharf.

The Committee through their Chairman received a Letter from Capt. Isaac Phillips informing them that the Fortifications at Camp Lookout were nearly finished and that it would not be in his power to give his services as a superintendent longer than Saturday next--therefore

Ordered, that the Chairman present the thanks of this Committee to Capt. Phillips for his services; and that the members of this committee who have been appointed to superintend the labourers in the western part of the City provide a suitable person as a successor to Capt. Phillips--

Whereas, two Neutral Vessels being advertised to depart the Port by permission of British authority and as those Vessels are owned by Allies of Great Britain: the owners and Commanders of the same being no way interested in the general welfare of our Country--And in order to prevent the departure of such Vessels it may require the interposition of the Military Authority--And it being the opinion of this committee that, it is highly improper that Vessels be permitted to depart, the owners or Commanders of which may thereby have it in their power to give information to the Enemy that may militate very much to our injury--therefore--

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Committee wait on the Major General and request that such steps be pursued to prevent the departure of the Vessels as in his judgment he may deem proper on the occasion--

The Committee then adjourned--

Baltimore 5th Octo:1814

The Committee of Vigilance & Safety met pursuant to adjournment-- The proceedings of yesterday were read--

Resolved, That the communication of the Major General of this date be and the same is hereby referred to Mr. William Wilson, Mr. Payson, Mr. Walters, Mr. Jessup, and Mr. Burke to consider of the same and Report to this Committee--

The Committee were informed by Capt. John Montgomery¹⁴² that the Company under his Command offered their services to labour on the works of Defence about our City for one day when required--wherefor it was

Ordered That the services of Capt. Montgomery's company be accepted and that he be pleased to accept for himself and present to his company the thanks of this Committee for their generous offer--

The Chairman of this Committee having been appointed to wait on Col: Armstead and confer with him on all matters relative to the situation of Fort McHenry, and having done so, and reported to this Committee an elaborate account of many important improvements and additions necessary to be erected--therefore

Resolved, That the Chairman be and he is hereby requested to wait on Maj: Genl. Smith and detail to him a full statement of the views and opinions as suggested by Col: Armstead as absolutely necessary for the further defence of the City and to request of the Major General, after having given the report an examination, that he will assign an Engineer to take charge of the work and that his requisition to complete the same will be respected by this committee--

The Committee then adjourned

142 John Montgomery (1764-1828), 37 Fayette St. - mayor, 1820-22, 1824-26.

Baltimore 6th Octo: 1814

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment-- the proceedings of yesterday were read--

The Committee were informed that the 39th 27th and 51st Regiments and the Companies under the command of Capt. Richard B. Magruder,¹⁴³ and Capt. John Hanna¹⁴⁴ tendered their services to perform a days labour on the works of Defence erecting about our City, where required-- therefore--

Ordered That the services of those Regiments & Companies be accepted and the thanks of this Committee presented to each of them--and also that the superintendants of labourers apprise the commanders thereof in due time when a Regiment, Battalion or Company may be wanted--

Resolved, That the Commissary of Purchases be and he is hereby authorized and requested to purchase on the faith and credit of this committee two thousand pair of shoes to be distributed among the men of Genl. Stansburys Brigade and that he take receipts on behalf of this committee, from the men to whom they may be delivered--

Ordered, That the Committee on Gun Carriages suspend the procuring of trucks for the Guns of Fort Camp look out--

Resolved, That Mr. Warner, Mr. Jessup and Mr. Jamison be and they are hereby requested as soon as possible to erect three bomb proof Magazines and two bomb proof barracks at Fort Mchenry, agreeable to the requisition of the Major General of this date--

Ordered, That the Committee heretofore appointed to cause a Bridge to be erected over the Basin be and they are hereby requested to consult with the Major General on the propriety and practicability of removing the present Bridge to a more suitable place and also of erecting one at the Lazaretto--

143 Richard B. Magruder (1787-1844), attorney, 53 S. Charles St.
144 John Hanna (d. 1829), accountant, 10 Pitt St.

Resolved, That the Collector of the Port of Baltimore be and he is hereby respectfully requested to cause all persons coming in vessels that may enter this Port during the present time of danger to be carefully and strictly examined, and a Report thereof to be made every day to this Committee--

The sub-committee to whom the communication from Maj. Genl. Smith was referred--

Report, That the sum of Fifty thousand dollars can be obtained for Treasury Notes from the Banks, for the purpose of paying the wages now due to the Militia and to prevent the same from being discharged--

Which Report was read, approved of, and a copy thereof ordered to be laid before the Major General--

Ordered, That the following advertisement be inserted in the News papers of this City--to wit--"The Committee having been informed that there is a great want of Carts to assist in carrying on the works of Defence erecting at Camp look out Hill do therefor respectfully and earnestly request that all persons having a Cart and Horse not otherwise engaged, would send the same to the Fortification to be employed as the superintendant of the labourers may direct"--

The Committee then adjourned--

(From original ms. at Maryland
Historical Society)

Baltimore 7th Octo: 1814

The committee of Vigilance and Safety met pursuant to adjournment--
the proceedings of yesterday were read--

The committee were informed that a detachment from Col. Shutes Regiment
of Militia had performed a days labour on the works of Defence erecting
about our City; and that the Troop of Horse under the Command of Capt.
James Horton ¹⁴⁵ tendered their services to perform a days labour thereon--

Ordered That the thanks of this committee be presented to the said
Detachment and Troop and that the superintendants inform Capt. Horton when
his troop may be wanted--

The Committee then adjourned--

145 James Horton (d.1837), merchant, Baltimore nr. Paca St.