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Jan. 29th, 1936

Colonel John R. White,  
c/o Cosmos Club,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel White:-

Many thanks for the inclosure of copy of your report to Dr. Bryant on your visit to Fort McHenry.

It is not only colorfully interesting but you have sized up the situation surprisingly well. Fort McHenry provides one of the best historical cross sections of the early period of American life and policies and I am enclosing in this a copy of the dedication program in 1929, which includes a short sketch of such.

I know that General Riggs will be pleased with the report and I hope that it will bring about a better understanding of the interest of our Society in Fort McHenry.

With best wishes for a pleasant journey home, and the hope that I will see you again shortly. I am,

Very truly yours,

CHIEF OF BUREAU  
UNITED STATES COMMISSION

UNITED STATES COMMISSION  
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1935-1936

CHIEF OF BUREAU OF CELEBRATION  
OF THE BUREAU OF  
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY  
UNITED STATES COMMISSION

JAMES E. HANCOCK



# John F. Hancock & Son

Manufacturing Pharmacists

521 West Lombard Street

Baltimore, Md.

October 24th, 1930.

Mr. T. Foley Hiskey,  
215 N. Charles Street,  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Foley:-

Inclosed in this you will please find copy of the resolutions that I have prepared for Monday evening.

I think that you are the proper one to present these resolutions, representing the Fort McHenry Committee, and want you to feel free to alter or redraft them as you please.

Very truly yours,

JEH:MW  
INC.

FEB 24 1931

HARP 1931

VOL- 180

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO QM 472 A-M  
(Fort McHenry)

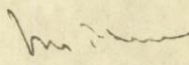
February 24, 1931.

Colonel Alvin K. Baskette, Q.M.C.,  
Hqrs. 3rd Corps Area,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Colonel:

Referring to the 1st indorsement of this office of Feb. 20th, file QM 472 A-M (Fort McHenry), relative to the supply of cannon for Fort McHenry, it has been ascertained that in connection with the collection of data for the restoration of Fort McHenry information was obtained that some old field guns which were used at the Fort in 1812, are at various places in the City of Baltimore. General Riggs of the Historical Society interested in the fort, and some of the historical society members, it is understood know the location of these cannon. Some steps might be taken if they are located, to have them donated by the City of Baltimore.

Very truly yours,

  
JOHN T. HARRIS,  
Major, Q. M. Corps.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CORPS AREA  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER  
BALTIMORE MARYLAND

In reply 688-McHenry (9/12/31)  
refer to: 49

September 12, 1931.

SUBJECT: Improvements at Fort McHenry.

TO: The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

1. It is recommended that consideration be given to the requirements and projects at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, listed below, with a view to obtaining funds at the next session of Congress:

a. The construction of a colonial design public comfort station, as outlined in 1st Indorsement dated May 18, 1931, file 634-A-M from OQMG to The Adjutant General. It is estimated this project will cost \$12,000.00, including a septic treatment tank and necessary sewer line. This comfort station should not be located within the Star Fort or its immediate vicinity. A suitable location could be found between the Star Fort and main gate, preferably back of old magazine.

b. Construction of a colonial design caretaker's quarters, at an estimated cost of \$9,500.00. It is desired to erect this building somewhere between the Star Fort and the gate. The caretaker is now housed in the upper floor of Building "C", inside the Star Fort. This change would still further restore the Star Fort to the conditions that existed at the Battle of Fort McHenry, which is evidently the intent of Congress. It is not intended to again authorize any employee to live in these grounds, except the caretaker.

c. The number of newly planted trees along the walk from the main entrance of the grounds to the Star Fort itself, was definitely arranged so that there are altogether 48 trees, 24 on each side, which it was intended should represent one for each state in the Union. The number of trees from the Key Monument towards the entrance to the Star Fort is 18, 9 on each side, which it was intended should represent the number of States in the Union at the time the Battle of Fort McHenry occurred. When it has been definitely determined that all of these trees will survive the planting, which should be at least one year from the present, it is desired to place simple bronze markers, imbedded in concrete, near each one of these trees, with the name of the State on it and the word "Admitted", and a date below this word which would be the date of that particular State's admission into the Union. These markers will cost approximately \$16.00 each installed, or a total of \$768.00 for the forty-eight.

d. Put heating facilities somewhere in an unobtrusive place with underground connections that would heat all the buildings inside the Star Fort, permitting their use in winter as in summer for sight seeing purposes. In order to preserve, as far as possible, the looks of the place and to correspond closely with conditions at that time, it is believed some scheme of hot air heating with the openings in rooms so located as not to be noticeable, would be preferable to putting radiators around, which would immediately attract attention by their modernity. It is estimated that this can be accomplished for \$6,000.00.

e. After closing hours, young hoodlums attempt to enter the grounds at the two points where the fence connects with the sea wall. It is deemed best that a project be considered on the southwest corner to erect an iron fence on top of the sea wall from the old wall of the Fort to a point beyond low water mark, in order to prevent entrance there. At the connecting point of the reservation fence with the sea wall on the southeast corner, it is believed all purposes can be answered by extending it into the sea. The estimated cost of this improvement is \$250.00.

f. The present chicken wire fence on the southeast side of the reservation connecting the iron picket fence near the Veterans' Bureau Building with the sea wall should be replaced by an iron picket fence of similar design. The cost of this project will be \$1,700.00.

g. The cannon that were originally a part of this fortification at the time of the Battle of Fort McHenry, were dismantled and stored in a warehouse in the City of Baltimore, and eventually were dispersed through gifts, and all have been lost track of except 5 embedded in concrete in Patterson Park, this city, where a part of the fortifications that defended Baltimore at that time have been restored. It is believed a project should be considered, using these old original cannon as models, to duplicate the cannon that were in the Fort at the time of the Bombardment, and place them on carriages at the proper places in Fort McHenry. The present cannon in Fort McHenry, property of City of Baltimore, are of the Civil War type and should be disposed of. It is requested that the office of The Quartermaster General decide estimate of cost for this project.

Total cost  
about \$8,000.00

h. It is desired to make a project of bronze markers to be placed on the sea wall in Fort McHenry at the points where chains were stretched across the harbor to present the entrance of British ships at the time of the Battle. This will require two markers at an estimated cost of \$150.00.

i. The present wooden flagpole is rotted at the ground line and it is feared that it may break off and do considerable damage if not replaced in the very near future. The estimated cost of a new steel flagpole, according to the standard design of the OQMG, erected in place, is \$950.00.

j. Furnish lower floor of Barracks building with utensils and furniture similar to those used by enlisted men of the period of 1812, estimated cost \$800.00.

k. Remodel the main entrance to the grounds in keeping with the period of 1812, estimated cost \$1000.00.

2. Patriotic organizations in Baltimore are now considering projects as outlined below with the intention of eventually requesting authority from the War Department to carry them out. It is not the intent or purpose of these patriotic organizations to intrude on War Department plans, if any such exist other than already in course of accomplishment or recommended in this communication. It is their sincere desire to lend their efforts as far as possible to add to the interest and attractiveness of Fort McHenry as the National Shrine that Congress intended it to be. As far as has been communicated to me, it is their full intent to comply with all the instructions the War Department desires to prescribe. This is a most patriotic and laudable undertaking that should be approved and greatly encouraged in every way as a means of fostering Americanism and for educational purposes, which is their expressed intent. The known projects are:

a. Use of the room where toilet facilities are now located inside the Star Fort, as a museum by the Society of the War of 1812, which will furnish all funds necessary for glass cases, etc., because this room is heated, and can be open to the public all the year around.

b. Furnish the lower floor of the Commanding Officer's and officers' quarters as a museum with furniture of the period of the War of 1812 that might ordinarily be in such a building. This is being considered by the National Daughters of the War of 1812.

c. The Maryland Society Chapter of the Daughters of the War of 1812 has proposed, and is now preparing a project to place a bronze tablet on the outside wall of each of the buildings in the Star Fort, giving an explanation and other data of the particular building.

d. Placing in the lower floor of Building "D", formerly used as an enlisted men's barracks, such items of barrack furniture as can be specially made at reasonable cost, replicas of that in use in the War of 1812. This has been one of the projects this Headquarters had contemplated had there been sufficient funds in the appropriation for the purpose, and is believed to be a proper project for the United States Government to handle.

e. The same thing applies to the old Guard House at the entrance gate as in b.

3. When the projects outlined in paragraph 2 have been approved,

Ltr to the QMG (Continued).

this Headquarters will erect just inside the outside doors on the ground floor in the building referred to, a rail permitting the door to be opened and contents viewed, without permitting visitors to enter, in some such manner as is now being done at Mount Vernon, and probably will be done in the Lee Mansion in Arlington Cemetery.

4. The allotment for care and upkeep of these grounds for fiscal year 1931 was \$4,850.00, and for fiscal year 1932 was \$4,571.00. The allotment this year has been broken down of necessity into the following projects:

Salary of Caretakers	\$3,480.00
Fuel	180.00
Water	200.00
Electric current	300.00
Gas & Oil for lawn mowers	50.00
Supplies	50.00
Total	<u>\$4,260.00</u>

Allotted	\$4,571.00
Less above	<u>4,260.00</u>
Balance	<u>\$ 311.00</u>

Out of this balance must come any requirements for temporary labor, repairs to roads and buildings, and non-structural improvements.

There are 3 caretakers now employed, whose combined annual salary is \$3,480.00. These caretakers not only act as laborers in cutting grass and watering trees and the grass, but also as guards. Under present conditions, it is imperative that they be frequently taken from their labor work in order to perform guard duty, and this will be increased when the road to the grounds is finished and the grounds thrown open for automobile traffic up to the parking space. This compels the use of additional labor during the grass cutting season. It is simply a physical impossibility to properly handle this reservation with the funds allotted, and it is believed imperative that an appeal be made to Congress to increase the funds this fiscal year in order to properly care for the place. It is recommended that the present allotment be increased by \$1500.00

A. K. BASKETTE,  
Colonel, Quartermaster Corps,  
Quartermaster.

Sept 25 1931

WHEREAS - Fort McHenry - The Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner - has been made a National Shrine and has become a conspicuous patriotic memorial.

AND WHEREAS - The work on this, the only National Memorial to the War of 1812, has not been completed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED - That the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland petitions Congress to include in the Army Appropriation Bill (Cemeterial and Memorial Section) a sufficient sum to finish the plans that have been undertaken.

November 16, 1931

688 (Ft. McHenry).

49

Proposed Furnishings for Buildings at Fort McHenry.

The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.

1. Reference paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement, this Headquarters, of June 29, 1931, and your 3rd indorsement of July 7, 1931, file QM 688 A-M, (Ft. McHenry), the National Society of United States Daughters of 1812 in Maryland are now preparing to furnish the first and second floors of Building A -- Headquarters, Administrative Offices; Building D--Officers' Quarters; and the Guard House, in the Star Fort at Fort McHenry, Md. The furniture and equipment in these buildings will correspond with that used during the period of time covered by the War of 1812.

2. The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland propose to furnish Building C--Quarters of Major George Armistead, Commanding Officer. Building E--Enlisted Men's Barracks, is to be furnished from funds allotted this Headquarters, as estimated in paragraph 1-j of letter this office of September 12, 1931, file 688 (McHenry)(9-12-31), subject: Improvements at Fort McHenry.

3. Authority has been granted by this Headquarters for the National Society of United States Daughters of 1812 in Maryland to hold meetings in the buildings from time to time in furtherance of their work.

A. K. BASKETTE  
Colonel, Quartermaster Corps.  
Quartermaster.

copy

QM 688 A-M (Ft. McHenry, Md.)

1st Ind.

War Dept., OQMG, Washington, December 4, 1931 - To Quartermaster, Third Corps Area, Baltimore, Md. (Thru Commanding General, Third Corps Area).

1. In connection with the foregoing communication, you are advised that if the proposed furnishing has any historic value it should be carried out strictly in accordance with the uses of the buildings in the Old Star Fort. The records of this office are clear as to the purpose for which these buildings were originally constructed and how they were used, but the designation of the buildings by letters as outlined in the foregoing communication is not understood. There is inclosed a blue print which shows the buildings and designations as understood by this office, viz:

Sally Port, with guard room and guard house.

A - Quarters of the Commanding Officer and his Adjutant.

B - Magazine.

C - Officers' Quarters.

D - Enlisted Men's Barracks.

E - Enlisted Men's Barracks

2. In the restoration of these buildings it was found necessary to provide quarters for the caretaker, and these together with a public rest room, were placed in Building "C". Later it was found necessary to provide quarters for an Assistant Caretaker and these were placed in the northwest end of Building "D". Apart from these variations from the original plans of the buildings, all of them have been restored strictly in accordance with their original historic uses, and these historic uses should be observed in the furnishing of the buildings.

3. In the opinion of this office there does not appear to be any reason why meetings of patriotic organizations should not be held in any of these rooms.

For The Quartermaster General:

JAS. H. LAUBACH  
Lt. Col., Q. M. Corps.  
Assistant.

1 incl.  
Blue print.

copy.

COPY

Mrs. Charles Lincoln Spaulding  
26 Lincoln Terrace  
Yonkers, N. Y.

Nov. 25, 1931.

Dear Sirs:-

This time last year we visited Fort McHenry, but were disappointed to find the place so deserted. We were unable to find anyone who could tell us anything about the famous old fort. Our efforts to find even a postal card or the smallest scrap of literature were fruitless.

We have been told that the fort has been restored since we were there, but do not know whether this is so or not. Have you not some literature or pictures of the place? We are very desirous of making a small replica of the fort for our little six year old son who visited the fort with us a year ago, so any information you may have available either gratis or for sale will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. C.L.) Helen L. Spaulding.

✓ cy to Mr. Hancock

COPY

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
United States Veterans Bureau  
Baltimore, Md., November 30, 1931

This letter refers to  
your file number:

In reply refer to: A

Third Corps Area Army Headquarters,  
311 St. Paul Place,  
Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:

There is attached hereto letter from Mrs. Charles Lincoln Spaulding of Yonkers, N. Y., regarding the improvements to Fort McHenry, and in which she asks for literature or pictures of the Fort. Will you kindly give this letter your attention? I have informed Mrs. Spaulding that her letter has been referred to you.

Very truly yours,

C. F. SARGENT,  
Manager,  
Baltimore, Md.

✓ Copy to Mr. Hancock.

COPY

✓  
cy to Mr. Hancock.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CORPS AREA  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER  
BALTIMORE MARYLAND

December 1, 1931.

Mrs. Charles Lincoln Spaulding,  
26 Lincoln Terrace,  
Yonkers, New York.

Dear Madam:

Your letter of November 25, 1931, requesting information relative to Fort McHenry, has been received by this office, which has supervision over the Fort.

It is true that a great deal of work has been done at Fort McHenry within the last year. New roads have been installed, additional trees have been planted, and the entire area has been covered with top soil and planted with grass. This work was done under the supervision of this office last Spring.

I am enclosing a blue print of Fort McHenry, which I hope will give you the information desired. You will notice that the old Fort is laid out in the form of a five-pointed star, surrounded by brick walls. The cannon for defending the Fort are located just inside the points of the star. You will also note inside the star that the various buildings are designated by the letters A, B, C, D, and E, and Sally Port, the latter at the entrance gate which you no doubt remember. The usage to which these buildings were put at the time the famous battle occurred are as follows:

- A - Administrative Offices - Headquarters Building.
- B - Powder Magazine.
- C - Quarters of Major George Armistead, who was Commanding Officer of the Post at the time of the bombardment.
- D - Officers' Quarters.
- E - Enlisted men's Barracks.

At the Sally Port the Guard House is located, with dungeons underneath for confinement of prisoners of war.

The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 in Maryland expect to have some literature, pictures, etc., giving a description of the Fort, prepared for presentation to visitors. This has not yet been done and the literature probably will not be available before some time next Spring. In the meantime, it is hoped that the enclosed blue print and brief description of the usage of the buildings will serve the purpose for which it is desired.

Very truly yours,

A. K. BASKETTE, Col., Q.M.C.  
Quartermaster.

1 encl. blue print.



State of Maryland

# National Society United States Daughters of 1812

National Headquarters, 1461 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Business Headquarters

Office of the President National

MRS. SAMUEL Z. SHOPE, 108 Iona Avenue, Narberth Pennsylvania

President, MRS. NICHOLAS LEEKE DASHIELL, 2927 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland  
First Vice-President, MRS. ADELE SADTLER, 3948 Cloverhill Road, Baltimore, Maryland  
Second Vice-President, MRS. S. BERNARD NOVEMBER, 1413 Bolton Street, Baltimore, Maryland  
Third Vice-President, MRS. WILLIAM A. APPLEWHAITE, Greenway Apts., Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland  
Recording Secretary, MRS. ADELBERT W. MEARS, 3102 Hilton Street, Baltimore, Maryland  
Corresponding Secretary, MRS. JOSEPH B. GALLOWAY, 605 Park Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland  
Treasurer, MRS. NORRIS HARRIS, 2906 Alameda Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland  
Historian, MISS HARRIETT P. MARINE, 1318 Linden Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland  
Registrar, MRS. ROWLAND WATTS, 3315 Powhatan Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland  
Auditor, MRS. WALTER D. FOCKE, Wyman Park Apartments, Baltimore, Maryland  
Color-Bearer, MRS. C. M. ATHEY, 4 Milbrook Road, Guilford, Baltimore, Maryland  
Librarian, MRS. R. ROSS HOLLOWAY, Severna Park, Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
Genealogist, MRS. WILLIAM E. MILLER, 7 Beechdale Road, Roland Park, Baltimore, Maryland  
Chairman of Board, MRS. HENRY ZOLLER, JR., 4402 Charlcote Place, Guilford, Baltimore, Maryland  
Chaplain, MRS. W. BURNS TRUNDLE, The Greenway Apartments, Baltimore, Maryland

Dec - 7/31.

My dear Mrs. Hancock -

Your letter containing description  
of the uses of the different buildings within  
the Star Fort, received today.

Thank you very much for sending me the  
most complete, descriptive history of the Building  
within the Star Fort.

I am delighted with the markers for the  
building and very anxious to secure estimates  
for same - They are exquisite. I trust the markers will  
be pleased. I am distressed at the death of Mr. Lamerick  
but hope the factory will continue through we  
may not expect as satisfactory 'consideration'  
as was hoped had from Mr. Lamerick -

Again thanking you for your letter -

Sincerely

Eleanor M. Dashiell

(Mrs. M. L.)

PRESIDENT  
JAMES F. HANCOCK  
521 W. LOMBARD ST.

TREASURER  
IRA H. HOUGHTON  
211 N. CALVERT ST.



SECRETARY  
RICHARD CONSTABLE BERNARD  
802 MARYLAND TRUST BLDG.

REGISTRAR  
FRANCIS B. CULVER  
1227 16TH ST., N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*Society of the War of 1812  
in Maryland*

**BALTIMORE, MD.**

January 9th, 1932.

Dear Mr. Hisky,

Below is a tentative draft of the Resolution regarding Fort McHenry.

WHEREAS over one hundred years ago the citizenry of Baltimore subscribed the funds to provide the site and original buildings of Fort McHenry and patriotically transferred this historic Fort to the Federal government, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the valor of the citizens of Maryland who fought at Fort McHenry for the defense of their country, the Congress of the United States formally set aside Fort McHenry as a perpetual memorial shrine and allocated large sums for the restoration of this hallowed spot so that in beauty it might be worthy of the valor of our illustrious forebears, and

WHEREAS the attention of this Society has been directed to the projected desecration of this historic shrine by the erection of a Veterans Hospital on and adjacent to the Fort Reservation,

BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, at this, its one hundred and seventeenth annual Jackson Day meeting, that the President of the United States, the members of the Congress thereof, the Secretary of War and all other interested persons be advised that the Society solemnly protests any such violation of the sanctity of <sup>this</sup> hallowed shrine and desires that it be forever protected from the vagaries of utilitarian persons by the exclusion of all things detrimental to the beauty and dignity of this revered monument.

Your suggestions or revision will be appreciated,

Very truly yours,

*Richard C. Bernard*  
Secretary.

T. Foley Hisky, Esq.,  
215 North Charles Street,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

# FEDERAL BOARD OF HOSPITALIZATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMBERS:

BRIG. GEN. FRANK T. HINES  
ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
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MAJ. GEN. R. U. PATTERSON  
SURGEON GENERAL, U. S. ARMY

REAR ADMIRAL C. E. RIGGS  
SURGEON GENERAL, U. S. NAVY

SURGEON GENERAL H. S. CUMMING  
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

January 27, 1932.

DR. WM. A. WHITE  
SUPERINTENDENT, ST. ELIZABETHS HOSPITAL

HON. THOMAS D. THACHER  
SOLICITOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

COL. GEORGE E. JAMS  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS

GEN. GEORGE H. WOOD  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ADMINISTRATOR  
ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO NATIONAL HOMES

LORETTA H. RYAN, SECRETARY

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

My dear Mr. Hancock:

This office is in receipt, by reference from the Secretary of the Treasury, of your letter of January 18, 1932, advising that the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is opposed to any plan to use the grounds at Fort McHenry as a location for a veterans' hospital.

Your communication will be referred to the Federal Board of Hospitalization for attention when that Board reaches consideration of the hospital situation in the State of Maryland.

Very truly yours,

*L. H. Ryan*  
Secretary.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

JAN 27 1932

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

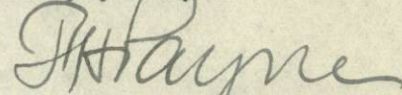
Dear Mr. Hancock:

Reference is made to your letter of January 19, 1932, relative to resolution adopted by your Society protesting against any plan to use the grounds at Fort McHenry for any other purpose than that for which it has been established by Congress.

Congress by Act of March 3, 1925 (Public No. 543 - 68th Congress), which provided for the preservation as a perpetual national memorial shrine of the Fort McHenry Reservation, also granted the Secretary of the Treasury permanent use of a strip of land 60 feet wide, beginning at the north end of the Fort McHenry Military Reservation and extending southward a distance of 650 feet, as an entrance to the Immigration Station. By permit from the War Department the use of an additional 50 feet in the length of this strip has been granted to the Treasury Department.

It is not contemplated by the War Department that any portion of Fort McHenry will be used as a site for a Veterans' Hospital.

Very truly yours,



F. H. PAYNE,  
The Assistant Secretary of War.



# John F. Hancock & Son

Manufacturing Pharmacists

521 West Lombard Street

Baltimore, Md.

February 5, 1932.

Mr. Richard C. Bernard  
1312 John St.,  
Baltimore, Md.

My Dear Dick:

Yours of February 4th has been received and I am inclosing copy of resolutions on Fort McHenry in this and am happy to say that they served their need.

I know of nothing recent, however, that has given me a sense of regret as does the other purpose of your letter. I not only appreciate your long and capable service as Secretary and know that at times it must be irksome, but several of us have hung on because of the pleasant associations and the thought that we were trying to do a work that was worth while.

Although what you desire has been somewhat anticipated, now that we are face to face with the facts, I have an inexpressible tinge of sadness over your resignation, that I know will be similarly felt by others on the Board.

Think it over again before the next meeting and see whether you are not willing to continue the present arrangement; and in particular review your suggestion about getting off the Board entirely. We would miss you keenly.

Very truly yours,

*James E. Hancock*

PRESIDENT  
JAMES E. HANCOCK  
521 N. LOMBARD ST.



SECRETARY  
W. H. FITCHER, JR.  
22 LAURENS ST.

REASURER  
IRA H. HOUGHTON  
211 N. CALVERT ST.

REGISTRAR  
FRANCIS B. CULVER  
1227 16th ST. N. W.  
WASHINGTON D. C.

Society of the War of 1812  
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD

April 12, 1932.

Mr. Arthur High  
Chairman BiCentenary Committee  
Jr. O. U. A. M.  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir;

Complying with the request of the BiCentenary Committee Jr. O.U. A.M. to submit a tentative program for their participation in the patriotic exercises that will be held at Fort McHenry on September 12th, 1932, it might be well to remind you that Baltimore has been celebrating September 12th - Defender's Day - as a municipal holiday for the past 117 years; and since Fort McHenry - The Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner - has been made a National Shrine, this historic fort has become the natural place for such celebrations because of its connection with the defense of Baltimore in 1814.

This year, The Society of the War of 1812 will install a museum at Fort McHenry and will also dedicate 3 original cannon that were used in the War of 1812 and the U. S. Daughters of the War of 1812 will unveil 6 bronze markers on the walls of the fort buildings, citing their historical significance and uses. We also expect to dedicate the state markers for the 48 red oak trees that have been planted on either side of the main drive-way of the fort and hope to have this effected either by the governors of the 48 states in the Union or their representatives.

It is also proposed to plant and mark 36 evergreen trees, each of which will be given by the various patriotic organizations. These trees will memorialize men who were conspicuous in the history of Fort McHenry or in our Second War of Independence from Great Britain and the first eighteen of these has already been approved. These trees and markers will cost approximately \$40.00 each and are being subscribed for by The Sons of the American Revolution, The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Children of the American Revolution, The Society of the War of 1812, The U. S. Daughters of the War of 1812 and others, and we are reserving some of these trees for the Jr. O.U.A.M. and its affiliations as promised in my conversation with your committee.

PRESIDENT  
JESSE E. HANCOCK  
407 LOMBARD ST.

ADDRESS  
IRA H. HOUGHTON  
27 N. ALBERT ST.



SECRETARY  
W. H. PITCHER, JR.  
227 CALVERT ST.

REGISTRAR  
FRANCIS B. CULVER  
1227 H ST. N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Society of the War of 1812  
in Baltimore

BALTIMORE, MD.

Because of this variety and length of program, it might be necessary for the different organizations to select a convenient time for their individual activity during the day, with this reservation, however, that the speaking from the general platform shall commence at 2 P.M. and that the addresses be short and undertaken only by Mayor Jackson, a representative from the National Government, Governor Ritchie, Congressman Linthicum and one representative from any organization that participates.

Inasmuch as Fort McHenry was built by the people of Baltimore at Washington's suggestion and was afterwards named for his Secretary of War, Major James McHenry, who was a Baltimorean, it would seem appropriate that this year's celebration at Fort McHenry should be made a part of the Washington Bicentenary; for surely no other place around Baltimore is more intimately connected with Washington and his time. I also believe that your proposed parade could be made a feature of the celebration and with a band concert and probably fire works at night we could develop a valuable patriotic demonstration.

Hearnestly hoping that these suggestions will meet with your approval and that your organization will decide to participate, I am,

Very truly yours,

John F. Hancock & Son

Manufacturing Pharmacists

521 West Lombard Street

Baltimore, Md.

April 14, 1932.

D66

Co. Alvin K. Baskette  
3rd Corps Area  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland would herewith make application to place 3 or more original cannon that were used in the defense of Baltimore, within the area of the star fort at Fort McHenry.

These cannon will be properly mounted and should be extremely interesting relics of the original armament of the fort.

Very truly yours,

*James E. Hancock*

January 1st, 1855 — SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY — January 1st, 1930

Enclosure #6

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CORPS AREA  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER  
BALTIMORE MARYLAND

October 24, 1932.

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

My dear Mr. Hancock:

Authority has been granted by the War Department for the planting of a memorial tree and the placing of an appropriate marker, on the grounds of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, under the following conditions:

"Authority is granted the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, at its own expense, to plant a white pine tree and place an appropriate marker on the grounds at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland. The spot where the tree is to be planted, the specifications as to its size and planting, the spot where the marker is to be erected, and the specifications as to material, size, and anchorage of marker, will be furnished by the Quartermaster, Third Corps Area, who is designated to supervise and control the purchase and installation. The wording on the marker will be as shown on the attached sheet."

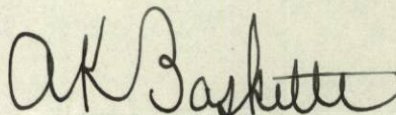
"It is understood and agreed that this authority is granted specifically under the condition that the organization named is obliged to keep a live white pine tree, at its own expense, in the spot selected, as long as the organization exists, and the War Department reserves the right that at any time the organization named fails to fulfill these obligations, it will grant the right to some other organization, and will remove the markers placed by your organization."

This office has advertised for the bronze marker to be placed on the tree, and the cost of this marker installed is \$15.00. The tree is to be advertised for shortly, and planted this winter, and the cost of the tree planted, guaranteed to live for one year, will not exceed \$30.00.

Request that the check for the marker be forwarded this office, and if you so desire, the cost of the tree can be included. If you do not desire to send the money for the tree now, you will be informed of the exact cost when the bids are opened.

Please make check payable to Alvin K. Baskette, Colonel,  
Q. M. Corps.

Most sincerely,



A. K. BASKETTE,  
Colonel, Quartermaster Corps,  
Quartermaster.

1 Encl.

July 10, 1933.

Hon. George H. Dern  
Secretary of War  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am inclosing in this for your information copies of letters that I am sending to the President and to the Secretary of the Interior, and have earnest hopes that they will be the means of retaining the control of Fort McHenry under the War Department.

Mr. Radcliffe, who has endorsed the letter to Mr. Roosevelt, is Chairman of the National Committee for Maryland.

Very truly yours,

*James E. Hancock*

*Copy*

July 10, 1933.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

This approach may not be entirely tactful but the good impression that I have formed of you from your talks over the radio, persuades me that you will not think it an impertinence.

I am inclosing in this copy of a letter that I am sending to President Roosevelt and I hope that you will be so generous as to suggest to the President himself that Fort McHenry should be exempted from his general order for National Parks and that it shall continue under the jurisdiction and supervision of the War Department.

Very truly yours,

July 10, 1933.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Your Excellency:

Having heard that you have recently issued an executive order which will transfer the control of Fort McHenry from the War Department to the Department of the Interior on August 9th, the Board of Managers of the Society of the War of 1812 has requested me to present the following pertinent facts.

Acting on the order of President Washington, in 1794, to strengthen our coast defenses, the people of Baltimore subscribed \$500000 to build a Star Fort in the rear of the older revolutionary fort at the entrance of our harbor, and when it was completed in 1798, it was named Fort McHenry in honor of Col. James McHenry - a Baltimorean - who was at that time Washington's Secretary of War and it was then offered to and manned by the Federal Government.

This gift from the State of Maryland has served in every war in which our nation has been engaged and during the War of 1812 Fort McHenry withstood a terrific bombardment by the British fleet in their three day attack on Baltimore. Had Fort McHenry fallen at that time, when the National Capitol had been taken and the Government demoralized, Britain would very probably have regained her lost provinces and the sequent history of our country might have been quite different. For this and as Key's inspiration for our National Anthem - The Star Spangled Banner - Congress has made it a National Shrine.

Moreover Fort McHenry is the only Star Fort that is now in possession of the Government and the War Department has been extremely interested in the preservation of this military relic. A great deal of this work has been due to the sympathetic cooperation of Col. A. K. Baskette, Quartermaster of the 3rd Corp Area and surely the 3rd Corps with its headquarters in Baltimore can administer the reservation more

economically than any other agent.

We are not presuming to criticize the wisdom of your plans for the administration of National Parks nor do we question the ability of the Department of the Interior in the premises but we would plead with you that Baltimoreans would like to keep Fort McHenry in its proper setting. We are proud of the fact that Baltimore is the only large city in the country, that was in existence when the nation was born, over which an enemy flag has never flown and it is the earnest hope of our people that you will exempt Fort McHenry from your order for National Parks and perpetuate its glory as a military memorial under the control of the War Department.

Very truly yours,

I heartily approve of the ideas expressed in the above letter.

Signed: George L. Radcliffe



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

JUL 19 1933

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

Dear Mr. Hancock:

I have received your letter of July 10, dealing with the transfer under the President's reorganization program of Fort McHenry at Baltimore, Maryland, as well as a copy of your letter of July 10 to the President on the same subject. In compliance with your wishes I shall be glad to discuss this matter with the President at the earliest opportunity, using as a basis your letter to him. Before doing so, however, I desire to point out to you the considerations which have prompted the Administration's action.

The President's reorganization plan is based upon a desire to avoid needless duplication of activities in Government. Good administration, economy of operation and general efficiency point overwhelmingly to the need for centralizing under each agency of government those activities which it is best equipped to administer, and to avoid as far as possible the confusion which arises when two or more bureaus or departments are trying to do similar or over-lapping work.

The National Park Service from its years of experience with the custody, administration and interpretation of many parks and monuments throughout the United States, has developed a fine reputation in this field. Moreover its policy has always been to work closely with other agencies of the Government, calling upon them for assistance, where assistance can be obtained, rather than setting up a duplicate piece of machinery to do the work. Thus it has called upon the Bureau of Public Roads to do its road construction, rather than to develop a road construction organization of its own.

To its new problems the same approach will be used. The transfer of Fort McHenry and other reservations now under the control of the War Department does not involve the turning over of the records of the War Department. The National Park Service

will limit itself to its own field of endeavor, where its reputation as an efficient organization of the Government has been made. That is the field of the effective preservation, administration and interpretation of the site itself. To the War Department it will turn to supply the information from the records of military history which it will use in its program of development at Fort McHenry. Thus each arm of the Government can assist the other without duplication of effort. That arrangement leaves the War Department free to do the work which it is primarily set up to perform, while to the National Park Service will be left the job of preserving the national sites which contain our great scenic, scientific and historic treasures, as well as of meeting the public and through a highly trained educational service making clear the significance of the site. Incidentally let me say that the National Park Service is already engaged on a large scale with historical work, and has developed skilled personnel to handle this problem.

In the National Government as the situation has existed in the past there has been great variation and confusion in the policies and methods of handling our great historic treasures. For instance what logical reason can there be for the administration of such Revolutionary site as Yorktown, Virginia, and Morristown, New Jersey, which are under the National Park Service in a fashion different from the historic sites at King's Mountain and Guilford Courthouse? The same principle applies equally to Fort McHenry, in my opinion. All are important battlefields or military sites, famous in our history. I feel that they should be handled as a unit, administered uniformly, and interpreted to the visiting public within the same comprehensive philosophy. I want to stress especially the fact that the National Park Service is splendidly equipped to deal with the general public, whose interest in an old fort, like McHenry, is naturally very great. It follows the policy of working closely with local organizations, enlisting their aid and securing the benefit of their advice, to the mutual advantage of all concerned.

Your letter indicates your deep interest and concern in the fate of Fort McHenry, and I consider it extremely fortunate that the people of Baltimore think enough of this fine old fort to show that spirit. I think that you will not be disappointed in the attitude which the National Park Service will display in approaching its work in Baltimore or toward you in your manifestation of civic interest and pride in Fort McHenry. I venture to say that

the Service will display deep sympathy and breadth of understanding and will make every effort to satisfy the citizens of your community.

Finally, I desire to take this opportunity as the administrative officer under whose supervision the work of the National Park Service is carried on, to express to you my own great interest in the continued preservation and welfare of such areas as that at Fort McHenry. The Nation needs these reminders of our past history, and in the future they will serve an increasingly larger purpose in our national program of education in patriotism. Thus it is that through my official connection with the National Park Service, I look forward with pleasure to the prospect of associating with you in this great patriotic work in your community.

With cordial esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Harold L. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

July 20, 1933.

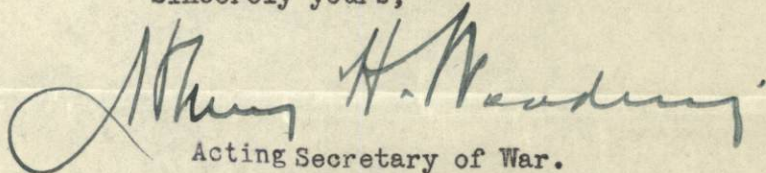
Mr. James E. Hancock,  
521 West Lombard Street,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 10, 1933,  
inclosing a copy of your communication of July 10, 1933, to the  
President, on the subject of administration of Fort McHenry.

The War Department appreciates the feeling that motivated  
your letter to the President and hopes that Fort McHenry may be  
retained under its jurisdiction and supervision.

Sincerely yours,

  
Acting Secretary of War.

JUL 20 1933

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

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of July 10, 1933,  
inclosing a copy of your communication of July 10, 1933, to the  
President, on the subject of administration of Fort McHenry.

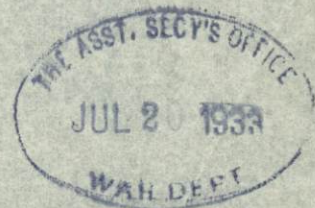
The War Department appreciates the feeling that motivated  
your letter to the President and hopes that Fort McHenry may be  
retained under its jurisdiction and supervision.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) HARRY H. WOODRING

Acting Secretary of War.

*To accompany  
original.*



July 25, 1933.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On Thursday, shortly after receiving your letter of July 19th, I had a phone call from Washington to run over and see the architect of the American Pharmaceutical Headquarters Building on Constitution Avenue at 22nd Street, about a memorial in which I am interested.

I then took the liberty of calling at your office and regret that you were not available. However I left a booklet on Fort McHenry with your secretary so that you might see what we think of its traditions in Baltimore.

Your proposal for a general policy in the administration of all patriotic memorials is very reasonable and has its merits. On the other hand, I do know that the work at Fort McHenry has been economically and effectively administered by the Quartermaster's office of the 3rd Corps Area in Baltimore and I do not feel that the Department of the Interior would be justified in maintaining an office in this city for that purpose, nor do I see how it can be done as economically from Washington.

Therefore, as you suggest, we will leave the matter for the President's decision and hope that whatever is done, will be for the best.

With great respect, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

July 31, 1933.

The Mayor and Board of Estimates  
of Baltimore City,  
Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to announce that we have just completed our full program for memorials at Fort McHenry and find that, because of this fact, we have been able to reduce the price from \$45.00 to \$43.00 per setting of each Evergreen tree and Bronze Tablet.

Your subscription was based on the anticipated average of \$45.00 per tree and tablet and I am therefore inclosing check \$14.00 as refund for your seven memorials, that were dedicated September 12th, 1932.

Permit me to express the appreciation of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland for your interest and cooperation in this work and to express my personal pleasure that it has been completed.

Very truly yours,



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

AUG -1 1933

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

My dear Mr. Hancock:

I have received your letter of July 25 regarding the transfer of Fort McHenry at Baltimore.

I am sorry indeed that I could not see you the other day when you were in the office. However, I wish to thank you for the booklet on Fort McHenry which you left with my secretary and I shall go over it carefully as soon as possible.

It is pleasing to me to note that you are in accord with the idea that there ought to be a general policy underlying the administration of our national historical areas.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold C. Ickes*

Secretary of the Interior.



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

R. WALTER GRAHAM  
COMPTROLLER  
W. S. HANNA  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

August 2, 1933.

Mr. James E. Hancock,  
521 W. Lombard st.,  
City.

Dear Sir:-

This will acknowledge receipt of check for \$14.00 as a return to the Board of Estimates, being the difference between \$43.00 and \$45.00, cost of evergreen trees and bronze tablets.

Thanking you, I am,

Yours very truly,

DEPUTY COMPTROLLER.

WSH/EAC.

August 2, 1933.

Hon. Harold L. Ickes  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

For the past 118 years, September 12th has been observed by the people of Baltimore as Defender's Day, and without exception it has been annually celebrated by public demonstration and as a municipal holiday.

In recent years these affairs have been held at Fort McHenry and this year the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland had secured the usual privileges from the War Department for September 12th, 1933.

We are now informed that the jurisdiction over Fort McHenry will be transferred to the Department of the Interior on August 5th next, and we are presuming that it is necessary to ask that these privileges shall be ratified by your department.

In order that you may be more fully informed about Fort McHenry and the local sentiment regarding it, with the general plans for developing it as a National Shrine, I am sending, under other cover, a copy of the magazine Baltimore for March 1931, in which our ambitions are outlined; and we would request that you will grant the permission of your department to hold our municipal exercises at Fort McHenry on the afternoon of September 12th, 1933. This will include the dedication of nine memorial tablets and evergreen trees which will complete our program of 100 similar markings with band concert and addresses, and to the use of Barrack D for a meeting of the Society of the War of 1812, to be followed by a buffet supper to our members.

We would be pleased if you could run over and attend these ceremonies, so that you might see what has been accomplished and we would be delighted to place you on the program for an address.

Very truly yours,

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

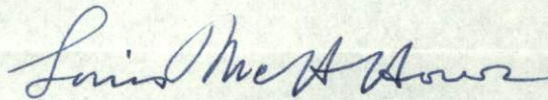
August 5, 1933.

My dear Mr. Hancock:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July tenth, in reference to the transfer of the control of Fort McHenry from the War Department to the Department of the Interior.

I am informed by the Secretary of the Interior that on July nineteenth he wrote you fully in regard to this matter.

Very sincerely yours,



LOUIS McH. HOWE  
Secretary to the President

James E. Hancock, Esq.,  
521 West Lombard Street,  
Baltimore,  
Maryland.

November 6, 1933.

Mr. James R. McConaghie, Superintendent  
National Military Park  
Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of November 2nd received and I thank you for your courtesy in granting permission for the Daughters of the War of 1812 to hold a tea at Fort McHenry on the afternoon of November 12th. Sunday is such an odd day for an affair of this kind that I wondered whether it would be agreeable but - oh you know the other sex and that they are pretty generally a rule to themselves.

On October 28th - the day after we were at Fort McHenry - some friends of Senator Shephard of Texas, came over to Baltimore and had me take them through the fort and while on the flag parapet, I congratulated myself that you had decided to change the location for the comfort station. I had no idea that the position which your engineers had picked out could be so conspicuous from this particular spot which is surely the most popular view point on the fort.

I appreciate your desire to have this as convenient to the parking space as possible, but I think that the particular mound that has been selected would be the least desirable of all, because it is immediately in front of the place where every one goes and so placed that a blind man could not only see it, but every one going in and out of it would be equally observed.

If possible try to have this held up until we can again confer, otherwise I am sure the work would be severely criticized. The station established by Col. Baskette, even though it is inconvenient, would be muchly preferred to it.

Very truly yours,

November 24, 1933.

Mr. R. L. Jones  
Ex Director National Park Service  
Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Jones:

Yours of November 21st has been received and I like your idea, and will promise the support of the Society of the War of 1812 in anything that is practical for your program.

I am presuming by your letter that there will be a series of talks and will thank you to let me know how many you would approve. In the meantime I will get hold of Fred Huber to see what his ideas are and am sure that with his help in the selection of music, we can get up an interesting program.

Please give the inclosed to Mr. McConaghie and ask him to let me have his opinion of its purport.

Very truly yours,

November 24, 1933.

Mr. R. L. Jones  
Ex Director National Park Service  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your letter of November 21st has been received and I like your idea, and will promise the support of the Society of the War of 1812 in anything that is practical for your program.

I will get hold of Fred Huber the first of the week and have a talk with him to see what his ideas are and am happy to think that nobody in the country could better arrange the musical part of the work.

I am presuming by your letter that you contemplate a series of these talks and would like to have your survey and the probable number of them. It seems to me that a preliminary talk on the history that preceded the War of 1812, with the facts that led up to it, a short history of the war itself, with an emphasis on the romantic part that the privateersmen took in it followed by the story of the attack on Washington and Baltimore and the writing of the Star Spangled Banner would make it very instructive and timely.

If this is too pretentious, do not hesitate to say so and in any event be assured that we will adapt ourselves to your plan.

Very truly yours,

ALVIN K. BASKETTE  
COLONEL, QUARTERMASTER CORPS

Fort Hayes, Columbus, Ohio.  
November 29, 1933.

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

My dear Friend:

Your kind letter of November 27 certainly gave me a Thanksgiving present for which I am most certainly grateful. It is splendid news for me and I do appreciate most sincerely all that you are doing. If we can just get Mr. Radcliffe to ask the President as a personal favor to him, I think the whole matter is settled beyond a question of a doubt. I do know that other candidates are carefully working and naturally would hope to be able to sway the President just as we are doing, and probably the first man that gets to him who is close enough to ask for such a personal favor will get it. Therefore I believe that if it is humanly possible to push Radcliffe in immediately upon the President's return that it should be done because once pledged, the matter is settled. This point is most important.

I learned, through a friend who dropped through here, that a Mr. Peterson, who has charge of National Park landscaping in the Interior Department Park Service, has expressed himself as making a change in the arrangement of the cherry trees and oak trees, as well as all other shrubbery down at Fort McHenry, on the ground that it is too military and formal.

Since the arrangement of the trees and shrubbery there was made with a definite purpose in view, it is obvious that this man has not grasped the significance of the whole matter in any sense of the word. To change things now will mean considerable expense and in my opinion will ruin the complete significance of everything that has been done.

Take only the Avenue from the main gate to the Star Fort, where the trees of the States are planted. One starts in with the last State admitted to the Union first, the youngest State in our group, and as he approaches the Star Fort, the age of the States represented on this Avenue increases until he reaches those venerable eighteen who comprised the union at the time the battle occurred there. It should be with a feeling of increasing reverence that visitors approaching the Star Fort grasps the significance of the arrangement. To scatter these State trees all over the ground, as is apparently

contemplated, would destroy this feeling completely and one would get the idea they have in entering any other Park, that it is entrancing and beautiful, and that is all. Such an idea in connection with Fort McHenry is so dumb that I lack expletives enough to really express myself properly. The same idea applies to everything done down there.

I was told by my friend that now is the time to exert pressure on Mr. Peterson, and those over him, to prevent the carrying out of any such destructive purposes, and I am laying this "baby" on your door step because you are the only man I know who can safely and properly handle it. Should you desire, I will be glad to write up and send to you the story of my reasons for planting every tree and shrub down there in the position they now occupy, with the significance that I regarded as being back of it, even the location of the pine trees named for individuals have their peculiar significance in that they answer a double purpose, not only that of giving a background of green to the Star Fort when they will have obtained their full height, but each one of those individuals commanded a unit most prominently engaged in the defense of Baltimore and naturally are "backing" the old Star Fort that so successfully withstood the center of attack, and their positions naturally and properly should be back of it, so placed as to eventually make the green background for a view of the Star Fort as well as keeping their memory's dream in the minds of their Countrymen. Especially does this apply to those who died for their country and whose shades should ever hover back of the Star Fort and protect it.

I have been so terribly busy here that it has been simply impossible for me to take up and complete my application to the Sons of the American Revolution, but I will do so very shortly now.

I am taking a leave to spend Thanksgiving with my sister in Richmond, Kentucky and will go from there down into Tennessee to contact various influences that have already resulted in Tennessee Senators and Congressmen backing me solid for that position, in their letters to the Secretary of War. I will be back in my office not later than Wednesday, December 6.

Nelle and I are still hoping that you will take your contemplated trip to Chillicothe and honor us by stopping here. Be sure to give me notice of your arrival so that I will have nothing whatever that will interfere with the pleasure we anticipate from your visit.

Thanking you most sincerely again for the many favors I  
have received at your hands, and with very kindest regards and best  
wishes from us both to you and your sister, I am

As ever

Your sincere friend,

A. K. Baskette

December 22, 1933.

Mr. James R. McConaghie  
Federal Director  
National Military Parks  
Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear McConaghie:

Have arranged to start the two historians to work on Tuesday morning December 26th but the reduction to 30 hours per week has made the remuneration to the draughtsmen so small that they have taken positions with the Geodetic Survey P W A where they will have more congenial work for a longer time than they would have with the C W A.

In fact it seems to me that the welfare crowd who have charge of this local unemployment are more interested in putting the people whom they have been relieving on the governmental pay roll than in anything else and I am not letting this change of plans worry me, because I know that the necessary maps are available through other sources where we can get them at any time and it is a relief to feel that such capable men are being taken care of.

Am sorry for the upset, but it has been worth while to get behind the stage setting and see them running around like squirrels in cages all day long without getting anywhere in particular and I would not advise taking up the map work unless we can get capable men for it.

With wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and Dr. Jones, I am,

Very truly yours,

*Shy*  
P. S.-- Jack ~~King~~ - one of the best rewrite men who has ever been on the Baltimore Sun and knows Baltimore history well, has just been in and needs work. If you will let me put him on as an historian he would make a cracker jack and also serve as a Secretary.

February 6, 1934.

Dr. R. L. Jones  
National Military Parks  
Gettysburgh, Pa.

Dear Dr. Jones :

Yours of February 5th received and will be glad to obtain photos of Fort McHenry for the C. and O., if they will let me know more definitely what they want.

As you probably saw by my report to Mr. McConaghie last week, I have put in a requisition for twenty-five photos of Fort McHenry including several of early periods, with detail views of the present star fort and three panoramic views of the hospital buildings during the World War. I hope that the local purchasing agent will allow these as materials, otherwise I understand that Mr. McConaghie is permitted to purchase these on his order as the district administrator of a Federal project.

There is also another matter that I will ask you to refer to him. We have been using the rooms at the Historical Society at no rent expense although our men have been using their electric lights and heating rather freely. I do not feel comfortable under this charge and think that it would be a very pleasing gesture if McConaghie would permit me to have an estimate made of this and let him reimburse them out of his general fund for the project.

Only yesterday the War Department called on me to undertake some work for the War College, who are getting up a Military history, and it may be that they will use our men, after we finish our work, but there is no reason why an extra expense should be laid on the Historical Society for it.

Take this up with Mr. McConaghie if you will and get his views on it, and let me hear from you.

Very truly yours,

COPY

February 15, 1934.

Mr. James R. McConaghie  
Federal Director  
National Military Parks  
Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear McConaghie:

Inclosed in this you will find weekly report as requested.

I presume that you have had a wire from Washington advising you that all Federal Projects that are not on government property were to be stopped to-night, February 15th. I am unable to get definite information here as to the status of F-8 and have also been given a local CWA circular that says that all work is limited to Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and that a daily report must be made at the local office on all operations.

The work on Fort McHenry is practically over but I realize the confusion that exists, and further think that our work is not under the State or City control. Under circumstances, I have told the men to lay off to-night, until further notice, and will ask your instructions in the matter.

Very truly yours,

March 1, 1934.

Dr. R. L. Jones  
National Military Parks  
Gettysburg, Pa.

Dear Dr. Jones:

Have had a talk with Dick Worthington and have persuaded him to accept the position at Fort McHenry.

He is a man of exceptional personality, widely known and is a vice president of the Society of the War of 1812. He is not only a good talker but comes from one of the best families in Maryland and would fit in better for this position than anyone else I could think of, and I am sure that both you and Mr. Chatelaine will like him.

He has had military training and is a gentleman in every particular and nothing but his chance remark the other day made me think that he might be available.

Very truly yours,