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June 12, 1936

The Board of Park Commissioners
Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:

On the advice of Mayor Jackson and following the conversation with Mr. Nichols yesterday, I would hereby request that the two cannon which are now stored at Patterson Park, be given to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

These will be displayed at Fort McHenry in addition to the other exhibits belonging to this Society.

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am,

Very truly yours,

Jan. 19th, 1937

Hon. Stephen W. Cambrill,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

General Clinton L. Riggs has called my attention to your letter of January 13th, and I would respectfully refer you to my previous letter, April 3rd, 1937, which commented on the pending bill to change the name "Fort McHenry National Park" to "Fort McHenry National Monument".

To supplement this, I would also remind you that Fort McHenry was made a National Shrine by Act of Congress, March 3rd, 1925, and although its administration was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, by Executive Order, in August 1933, we doubt that this order changed the name that Congress had given it, to "Fort McHenry National Park".

We do not mean to be unnecessarily captious, but the Society of the War of 1812 was primarily responsible for the preservation of this old Maryland fort and we are extremely interested in its proper setting. Fort McHenry was not only the birthplace of the National Anthem, but it was also the first fortification in the country that was permanently garrisoned by federal troops, and is the only fort that has served a military purpose in every war of the nation.

To our mind, Fort McHenry is neither a "National Park" nor a "National Monument", but a distinctly historical place where people can go to review and renew those patriotic impulses that had much to do in making the national character.

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is opposed to the use of any other name than "Fort McHenry - A National Shrine".

Very truly yours,

President.

MILLARD E. TYDINGS, MD., CHAIRMAN

KEY PITTMAN, NEV.

CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.

WILLIAM H. KING, UTAH

JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, ARK.

BENNETT CHAMP CLARK, MO.

ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C.

HOMER T. BONE, WASH.

KENNETH MCKELLAR, TENN.

WILLIAM GIBBS MCADOO, CALIF.

BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT.

PETER G. GERRY, R. I.

ERNEST LUNDEEN, MINN.

GERALD P. NYE, N. DAK.

ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG, MICH.

CHARLES L. MCNARY, OREG.

ERNEST W. GIBSON, VT.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON

TERRITORIES AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

MISS CORINNE BARGER, CLERK

March 3
1937

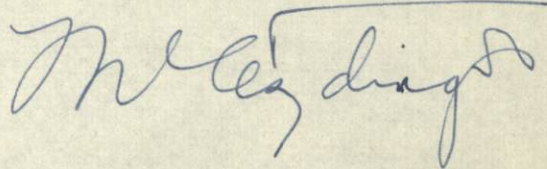
Mr. James E. Hancock
521 W. Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Hancock -

I am enclosing herewith copy of letter which Mr. Charles West, Acting Secretary of the Interior, has forwarded to me in regard to the exhibits at Fort McHenry National Park.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



2-m
encl

March 25, 1937

Hon. Stephen W. Gambrill
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gambrill:

On behalf of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, I want to thank you for opposing the proposed change of name for Fort McHenry, which was purposely made a National Shrine by Congress because its stubborn defense inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner.

Incidentally, Key's original name for his famous ode was "The Defense of Fort McHenry" and the unique Star Fort was placed in the custody of the War Department as a military relic.

The unsympathetic bureaucratic attitude of its present custodian - The Department of the Interior - and the recent innovations of some of its school boy historians are rapidly changing the traditional value of Fort McHenry to the nation and we hope for the credit of Maryland, that you will be able to retain the appellation that Congress first gave it, and if possible have Fort McHenry returned to the War Department for proper historical protection.

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C. March 30, 1937.

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

My dear Mr. Hancock:

I thank you for your letter of the 25th instant, in regard to the bill which was introduced in the House and reported by the Public Lands Committee, to change the name of Fort McHenry National Park to Fort McHenry National Monument, and to make a similar change in what is known as the Abraham Lincoln National Park.

I have just written General Riggs and I enclose copy of my letter to him which I hope you will accept as an effort on my part to prevent a duplication of work.

I hope you will be good enough to confer with General Riggs and let me know whether the designation "Fort McHenry National Shrine" would be acceptable, provided it becomes necessary to make some concessions.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Gambrill

March 30, 1937.

Hon. Clinton L. Riggs,
903 N. Charles Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear General Riggs:

I have pleasure in acknowledging your letter of the 27th instant, regarding HR-4070, designed to change the name of the Fort McHenry National Park to the Fort McHenry National Monument.

It was only through curiosity I had in looking over the Calendar of bills reported by the Committees that I found out this bill had been reported, to change the name of the Abraham Lincoln National Park and the Fort McHenry National Park. No Member of the delegation from Maryland in the House of Representatives was apprised of this bill and its existence was only known through my looking through the Calendar of reported bills.

I regret to learn that the management of the Park has not been so pleasing to you and the members of the Society of the War of 1812 as was that of the administration under the War Department, and of course I appreciate your reasons for wishing to have the administration again placed in the hands of the War Department. I have not given the subject very much thought but I am inclined to the belief that we should not allow ourselves to be encouraged by the belief this transfer can be made, as it appears appropriate the Interior Department should have control over the National Parks.

I have registered my objection to the change of the name with the Chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, which Committee reported the bill, and I am communicating with him today asking him to be good enough to have the bill passed over without prejudice should it be called pending the time I expect to confer with the Director of the National Park Service on the subject. I have just talked with the Director over the phone and find out that he has engagements this week, out of town, which will preclude our having a conference, but I have arranged to see him this coming week. In the meantime I am quite confident that nothing will be done that will prejudice our position.

I enclose a printed statement of the reasons of the Secretary of the Interior for wishing to make the change in the name and this statement is not a very persuasive or forceful one, but I am tempted to ask you to let me know, if a change does seem desirable, whether it would be agreeable to the members of the Society and yourself to have the historic spot known as the Fort McHenry National Shrine.

-2-

Hon. Clinton L. Riggs,

March 30, 1937.

According to the best dictionaries, a shrine is "a thing or spot made sacred by historic or other association" (Funk and Wagnalls Standard Dictionary).

Will you be good enough to let me know the number of acres embraced within the Fort McHenry National Park?

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. James E. Hancock, President of the Society of the War of 1812.

With very best wishes, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

(S) STEPHEN W. GAMBRILL

April 3, 1937

Hon. Stephen W. Gambrill
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gambrill:

I have your letter, March 30th, relative to the bill
affecting the name of Fort McHenry.

As suggested, I have talked with General Riggs and we agree
that Fort McHenry National Shrine would be an acceptable appellation
providing such concession must be made.

Thanking you for your efforts in this matter and expressing
the appreciation of the Society of the War of 1812, I am,

Very truly yours,

JEH:AC

9/22/37.

Mr. Hillory A. Tolson,
U.S. Department of the Interior,
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Reply to your communication, August 26th, has been delayed because of the writer's absence from the city and being otherwise busy after his return.

Moreover I would not care to make any comment on the proposition until after it has been submitted to the board of the society, a meeting of which will probably be held next week; but when it is considered I will expect to go to Washington to see you.

Very truly yours

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



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

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

Oct. 25th, 1937.

BALTIMORE, MD.

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

Dear Sir:-

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

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

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

November 19, 1937.

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

Dear Mr. Hancock:

I wish to take this opportunity to acquaint you with the fact that Mr. Herschel C. Landru will replace me as Superintendent of Fort McHenry National Park Saturday, November 20. Mr. Landru has been with the National Park Service since 1933 and has proved himself a very efficient member of our organization in the southern military parks. After having spent a week with Mr. Landru I can assure you that you will find your associations with him very pleasant.

If in the future I can be of any assistance to you or your organization, I shall be very glad to have you write me at the Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York City.

Very truly yours,



George A. Palmer,
Superintendent.

GAP:P

Nov. 20th, 1937

Mr. George C. Palmer,
Statue of Liberty National Monument,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of Nov. 19th advising me that you are returning to your old post at the Statue of Liberty National Monument and that Mr. Herschel C. Landru has been appointed superintendent of Fort McHenry National Park.

At some convenient time I will expect to get over to Fort McHenry and meet Mr. Landru. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

President.

#

December 1, 1937

Mr. James E. Hancock
2122 St. Paul Street
Baltimore.


My dear Mr. Hancock:

You may recall that, some years since, I contributed my feeble efforts to the good cause of saving Fort McHenry from the clutches of the would-be destroyers.

I am trying to clear up accumulations of papers in my office and it has occurred to me there may be something in this file which would fill a vacancy in yours. If you care to take a look the devouring flames will be restrained.

Yours very truly,

Notes taken at
mass meeting
City Hall.

John O. Montgomery 
L.R. 1916 B - 1070

Atty

van Bicey - May

Citizens meeting on behalf of the Passage
of a Bill in the Congress of the United
States - making Fort Mifflin a National
Park.

Mayor Howard W. Jackson - President

Representative for Carroll County - pres.
gavel made from Barn of Fancis Scott
Key

Mr. Linthicum - Jan 11 '24 Bill introduced
to repeal & ren. of - restoration & perm. poss. of
Ft. Mifflin as n. p. - app of funds for
that purpose. - Bill to increase city P. & not
needed by Govt. - taken over during war for
hos. - Govt no longer needs grounds for hos
& is willing to give back to city. - citizens of
Md feel that it should be a military
Res & n. p.

Bill provides for app 100,000 - bill ref
to M. J. aff. Comm. - bill rep to H of Rep
with insignificant amendments - to dispose
of bedg & app proceeds not ex 50000 for
use in restoration - Believes bill as
amended will pass. - Bill not dead on
Calendar but is not on calendar reported
favorably - Congress meets Dec. 1st - no
reason why not passed at an early date -
stand in favorable position - up to Bureau
to get through Senate - members of Congress
will shut their mouths until bill is finally passed.
considers Ft Mifflin very important battle -

final victory & end of war of 1812. Peysch
of country in favor of it, difficult to get
Congress to consider such bills.

Senator Bruce plus much in promotion of
meeting. - Should turn from purely selfish concerns
to some civic object. - Acc to enumerate
ancient monuments - Wash. Mon., rather
Mon. - Cath Cath & St. Paul Church - Balto.

Shot Iowa - Ft. McHenry

Shot down to city - also want to Balto
Mon. - God to care for Cath & St Paul's Ch.
Remains for use & have nature to its but
regarding Ft. M.H. - national land
land mark - should be - N. memorial
shrine

in lives aty great episode

Battle of N.P. of defense of Ft. McHenry
not comparable with get battles - out
it is outstanding episode or event
City not marked during col. or Rev
period or during Civil War - no mark
history - Cf Day in life files City - N.P.
& bombardment for Ft. McHenry -
Gen Ross selected by Wellington.
Gen. Geo. Armstrong - the whole war
effort to penetrate City -

12th & 13th might be our single
day - most significant to our
city & an in life of nation

with it - movement worthy - no
military use which he can do day foresee,
Prepared to report lack of military
value. - heartily wish us all
for cooperation.

Mr. W. Hall Harris, - Pres. of Dist. Soc.
^{what is he to do}
"who commeth after the thing" - speaking
for Bd of Peabody Ins. Nat. Soc.
Hist. Soc. - This is day we long have
sought - 14 yrs. of struggle to
reach this point. - Ft. Meade
of def. class. - than other city Parks
Commendation all over country when
Blundell got out brochure. - letters
make most remarkable commendation
of an ideal. -

Mr. Tho. Foley Wiskey.

Please & intro

Reads Res passed in last legislature introduced
by Sharp.

Reads Res. by Mayor & city Council
disgress upon des. graceful condition of Dist.
introduces res to bring ackn & sentiment
to date.

Mayor - question - seconded
un-passed.

Thanks each a committee of
one to further passage of bill.

means by casualties not important
Impossible to rate too highly significance
of British repulse at Ft McHenry
People enveloped in gloom & humiliation
after destruction of Washington
Cast off despondency. - spirit revivified
national rebirth. -

These things should induce n. Govt
to comply with our request.

N. Shining forever unseparated to the
order of human part & overlinguistic
devotion of human order. -
will support n. Lutherans guidance
& esp & standing - will take charge of
bill: & will see that it does not die in
calendar

will be proud to say he has been
in giving power setting to #1 mot. which
all unseparated to human patriotism

Major. ref. set of war has appended
bill

Major. Gen. Sturgis - in accord with
movement & app. of sentimental matter
of this kind. - Resided at Ft McHenry
many years ago - Thoroughly familiar

Mr. Key Compton - mentions
booklet prepared by J. R. Bland - owner
& distribution. - reiterates statement
of Mr. Harris regarding response. -
Es. of const of restoring & vit. -
extols Bland - did not previously get
united front - "Thank God we now have it!"

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

Confidential

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

January 4, 1938.

Memorandum for Mr. Demaray and Mr. Moskey:

As you know, Congressman Creal of Kentucky and Congressman Gambrill of Maryland called last spring regarding the proposed bill to change the names of the Abraham Lincoln National Park and Fort McHenry National Park to national monuments respectively. They pointed out that they had not been consulted in the preparation of this legislation and would have to oppose it until they had received further information from their constituents regarding it. We agreed at that time that the measure had better be deferred until further information could be secured by the Congressmen.

Several weeks ago Congressman Creal was in this office and upon my inquiry informed me that he would not be willing to support the change from the Abraham Lincoln National Park to national monument, but that he would have no objection to calling it the "Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park". I believe that the extent and topography of the area and its availability for recreational purposes, aside from the memorial feature, would justify our including it in the national historical park category.

This morning I went to see Congressman Gambrill, who stated that he had talked with several of his influential constituents and while they had no objection to the change of the name from Fort McHenry National Park to something else, they didn't want that something else to be "national monument". They suggested "national shrine" and "national memorial park". I pointed out that these appellations would not fit in our existing categories and the only "national memorial park" that I knew of was a cemetery just outside of Falls Church, Virginia. I went all over the history of the national monuments with him, pointing out that it would fit in best in that category with such other places as Fort Pulaski, Fort Matanzas, Fort Marion, and the like. I told him that I believed it would fit in much better in the national monument class, and not in the national historical park class as Abraham Lincoln would because of its recreational facilities. One point that I made that seemed to impress him greatly was that persons who come to Abraham Lincoln and the Fort McHenry National Park areas inevitably are disappointed because these two do not measure up to the Grand Canyon, or the Yellowstone and other national parks that they have visited and as a result suffer by comparison. I again urged him to approve the measure giving Fort McHenry a national monument status and he said he would think it over a little bit further and let me know.

(Signed) A. B. C.
Director.

cc: Mr. Moskey - Mr. Spalding.

PRESIDENT
JAMES E. HANCOCK
521 W. LOMBARD ST.



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

Society of the War of 1812
in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD. Jan. 19th, 1938

Hon. Stephen W. Gambrill,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

General Clinton L. Riggs has called my attention to your letter of January 13th, and I would respectfully refer you to my previous letter, April 3rd, 1937, which commented on the pending bill to change the name "Fort McHenry National Park" to "Fort McHenry National Monument".

To supplement this, I would also remind you that Fort McHenry was made a National Shrine by Act of Congress, March 3rd, 1925, and although its administration was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, by Executive Order, in August 1933, we doubt that this order changed the name that Congress had given it, to "Fort McHenry National Park".

We do not mean to be unnecessarily captious, but the Society of the War of 1812 was primarily responsible for the preservation of this old Maryland fort and we are extremely interested in its proper setting. Fort McHenry was not only the birthplace of the National Anthem, but it was also the first fortification in the country that was permanently garrisoned by federal troops, and is the only fort that has served a military purpose in every war of the nation.

To our mind, Fort McHenry is neither a "National Park" nor a "National Monument", but a distinctly historical place where people can go to review and renew those patriotic impulses that had much to do in making the national character.

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is opposed to the use of any other name than "Fort McHenry - A National Shrine".

Very truly yours,

President.

Jan. 19th, 1938

Hon. Stephen W. Cambrill,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

General Clinton L. Riggs has called my attention to your letter of January 13th, and I would respectfully refer you to my previous letter, April 3rd, 1937, which commented on the pending bill to change the name "Fort McHenry National Park" to "Fort McHenry National Monument".

To supplement this, I would also remind you that Fort McHenry was made a National Shrine by Act of Congress, March 3rd, 1925, and although its administration was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, by Executive Order, in August 1933, we doubt that this order changed the name that Congress had given it, to "Fort McHenry National Park".

We do not mean to be unnecessarily captious, but the Society of the War of 1812 was primarily responsible for the preservation of this old Maryland fort and we are extremely interested in its proper setting. Fort McHenry was not only the birthplace of the National Anthem, but it was also the first fortification in the country that was permanently garrisoned by federal troops, and is the only fort that has served a military purpose in every war of the nation.

To our mind, Fort McHenry is neither a "National Park" nor a "National Monument", but a distinctly historical place where people can go to review and renew those patriotic impulses that had much to do in making the national character.

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is opposed to the use of any other name than "Fort McHenry - A National Shrine".

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM B. WALKER

President.

Jan. 19th, 1938

Hon. Stephen W. Casbrill,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

General Clinton L. Riggs has called my attention to your letter of January 13th, and I would respectfully refer you to my previous letter, April 3rd, 1937, which commented on the pending bill to change the name "Fort Mchenry National Park" to "Fort Mchenry National Monument".

To supplement this, I would also remind you that Fort Mchenry was made a National Shrine by Act of Congress, March 3rd, 1925, and although its administration was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, by Executive Order, in August 1933, we doubt that this order changed the name that Congress had given it, to "Fort Mchenry National Park".

We do not mean to be unnecessarily captious, but the Society of the War of 1812 was primarily responsible for the preservation of this old Maryland fort and we are extremely interested in its proper setting. Fort Mchenry was not only the birthplace of the National Anthem, but it was also the first fortification in the country that was permanently garrisoned by federal troops, and is the only fort that has served a military purpose in every war of the nation.

To our mind, Fort Mchenry is neither a "National Park" nor a "National Monument", but a distinctly historical place where people can go to review and renew those patriotic impulses that had much to do in making the national character.

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland is opposed to the use of any other name than "Fort Mchenry - A National Shrine".

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM STILES COMMISSION

President.

January 24, 1938.

Hon. Stephen W. Gambrill,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

As you are aware, there is a bill pending to change the name "Fort McHenry National Park" to "Fort McHenry National Monument". Fort McHenry was made a National Shrine by an Act of Congress on March 3, 1925, and as you are doubtlessly aware the Society of the War of 1812 of Maryland had been agitating the setting aside of the Fort as a National Shrine for many years. Fort McHenry is neither a National Park nor a National Monument and it was not the intention of Congress to so designate. It was set aside as a National Shrine in order to preserve the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner, our National Anthem, and to preserve as well the place where the British were forced to retire. I wish therefore, to go on record not only as a citizen of the City of Baltimore but as a Vice President of the Society of the War of 1812 of Maryland as being opposed to the use of any other name than the name of "Fort McHenry - A National Shrine" and trust you will use your endeavors to defeat this bill.

Very truly yours,

Richard W. Worthington.

Jan. 25th, 1938

Col. John R. White,
Cosmos Club,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel:-

First I would tell you that General Riggs has returned home and is resting easily and then I would include in this copies of two letters - one to Mr. James R. McConaghie, of June 4th, 1934 and the other to Senator Tydings, of February 8th, 1937. The one to Mr. James R. McConaghie suggests certain plans for the proper development of Fort McHenry and the other to Senator Tydings, gives a list of grievances against the administration of the Department of the Interior. If you will kindly read these letters, you will see the situation at Fort McHenry.

I would say further that Fort McHenry was made a National Shrine by Act of Congress March 3rd, 1925 and placed under the direction of the War Department, whose engineers restored it as it was in 1812. In August 1933, this administration was transferred to the Department of the Interior, by Executive Order, but I doubt that this order changed the name from "Fort McHenry National Shrine" to "Fort McHenry National Park". Moreover, we are pleased with the appellation that Congress gave it - A National Shrine - where people could go and think of those patriotic principles and actions that were fundamental to our national development and to American character.

Weather permitting, I hope to be in Washington Thursday, and will call at the Department of the Interior to take up the matter about the Bowie Arms Collection and if so, I hope that I may have the pleasure of seeing you. In any event, I hope to see you in the near future.

Very truly yours,

UNITED STATES COMMISSION

January 26, 1938.

Honorable Stephen W. Gambrill,
1132 House Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Stephen:

Some of my friends have spoken to me regarding a bill pending in Congress to change the name from Fort McHenry National Park to Fort McHenry National Monument.

Just why anyone should be interested in making this change I do not know, but I can see no possible reason for it and, although I know the name has been used in connection with one or two other places owned by the government and set aside for public use, I frankly think the word monument is not descriptive and is, in a sense, misleading. On the other hand, National Park at once suggests a place that people can visit.

While those most interested think it should be referred to as "Fort McHenry - A National Shrine", and if the name can be changed to that I am with them on it, but otherwise I think the name should remain as it was described in the bill originally creating it, to wit, a National Park.

Very truly yours,

Washington Bowie, Jr.

STEPHEN W. GAMBRILL
5TH DISTRICT MARYLAND

MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C. Jan. 26, 1938.

Mr. Richard W. Worthington,
209 Fidelity Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Worthington:

I have your letter of the 24th instant, regarding
the Fort McHenry National Park, and I am glad to have your
comments in connection therewith.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Gambrill

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

January 27, 1938.

Memorandum for the Director:

Attention: Dr. Bryant

Well, the joke is certainly on me. After a strenuous week at the Superintendents' conference I left Saturday evening to spend the week end with my old friend in Baltimore, General Clinton L. Riggs, who has been rather ill. Almost the first thing that General Riggs spoke to me about after the preliminaries of family greetings was Fort McHenry National Park. It turned out that General Riggs was the dollar-a-year-man who first took charge of Fort McHenry and attempted to restore it, and that General Riggs' best friend is James E. Hancock, 521 W. Lombard Street, Baltimore, the President of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland.

So on Sunday morning I found myself with General Riggs and Mr. Hancock on a tour of Fort McHenry which lasted for a couple of hours and I wish that I could have spent the whole day there. The Director may be interested in one or two brief reflections based on my short while at Fort McHenry.

I was struck by the general scene and the ease with which I could visualize the whole drama of the British attack on Fort McHenry, and the famous episode of "The Star Spangled Banner." It seems to me that this is one of the most imposing and inspiring shrines of American history and the fight for liberty, and also that the episode could be dramatized even more effectively than it is.

Of course, it does not need a trained eye to detect the atrocity of Francis Scott Key's statue. It seems to me that it is simply awful. I suppose it is intended to signify the joy of youth and the feeling of liberty for a young nation, but to me it looked like the bad dream of a broken-down sculptor. In any case, it would seem that the statue of Francis Scott Key should be out facing the bay where has been placed the statue of the colonel commanding the Fort during the attack. Incidentally, I understand that he was not a colonel but a major, another bit of historical inaccuracy.

General Riggs seemed particularly interested in four matters:

1. The restoration of the name "National Shrine" instead of the appellation "National Park." There may be some legislative difficulty in changing this name but certainly the name National Shrine is much more appropriate than that of National Park, and it belonged to Fort McHenry for a number of years. I think that most people in Baltimore feel that Fort McHenry should be called a National Shrine.

2. The condition of the trees planted in avenues. Although I am not a trained dendrologist, it seemed to me that the Bermuda grass was killing these trees and that if about six feet around each one of them was cut free from Bermuda grass and a little fertilizer placed there, the trees would be much improved. Of course, there should be some group planting as well as the avenues. I do not think the avenues particularly inappropriate for a place like Fort McHenry as there should be retained a fitting military primness and lining up of planting.

3. General Riggs seemed to feel that there was some danger that the splendid collection of arms, so laboriously collected for Fort McHenry by its friends, might be transferred to another national fort or broken up. Certainly this collection means something to the people of Baltimore and should be kept intact.

4. It had rained the day before I went to the Fort and as the walks under the WPA project had not been finished, I had to get my feet muddy and wet in order to see the various places of interest. I suggested to the Superintendent that it would be quite easy to take a wheel barrow and a little sand and gravel that is available and cover over the wet places.

I found the Superintendent alert and well informed but he is a Western man, I believe trained in Oregon, and I do not think that the National Park uniform with a Stetson hat and breeches and field boots is in any way appropriate for Fort McHenry. I think it looks a little absurd under such surroundings. And I say this without any feeling that the National Park uniform should be reserved for a special class or national parks in the East. Uniforms, like the national clothes of a people, are usually of gradual growth and appropriate for local conditions. But the Stetson hat and field boots in Fort McHenry grated on me almost as much as if they had been holding a wild west rodeo show on the grassy lawns around the Fort. Why cannot the uniform there be trousers and a cap?

3 Incidentally, the young man (and a nice young man he was) kept his hands in his pockets all the time, which always looks bad with a man in uniform.

I hope that the above observations may be of some use to the Director and I certainly very much appreciated the opportunity to visit Fort McHenry under the guidance of General Riggs and Mr. Hancock.

I am attaching copies of letters written by Mr. James E. Hancock to Senator Millard E. Tydings and to Mr. James R. McConaghie, Federal Director, National Military Parks. Although the latter letter was written on June 3, 1934, and the one to Senator Tydings, on February 8, 1937, Mr. Hancock's remarks are still pertinent to the present situation. I think it likely that the Director has not had these letters brought to his attention and from my cursory observation of the Fort McHenry situation it seems to me that what General Riggs and Mr. Hancock want is exactly what the National Park Service wants, and I feel sure that the Director will very quickly be able not only to satisfy the very proper wishes of these gentlemen but also to put into effect the National Park Service policy.

John R. White,
Superintendent,
Sequoia National Park.

Enclosure 1740017
cc: General Riggs
Mr. Hancock

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C. Jan. 27, 1938.

General Washington Bowie, Jr.,
Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Wash:

Thanks for your letter of the 26th instant, regarding the proposed change in the name of the Fort McHenry National Park. I am opposed to this change and have been leading the fight against the passage of a bill now pending in Congress to change the name from Fort McHenry National Park to the Fort McHenry National Monument.

The whole situation was prompted by the desire of the Secretary of the Interior or the Interior Department to have some distinction made in the name between what is known in the West as national parks and what we know as a national monument. The Interior Department has the idea in mind that no place should be called a park unless it stands on an equality, in point of acreage, with Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park and the other large parks in the West. They have overlooked, of course, the important fact that Fort McHenry has an acreage of seventeen acres and it would be almost ridiculous to call it a national monument, as it has none of the attributes of a monument.

I am very glad you wrote me.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Gambrell

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

January 28, 1938.

Col. John R. White,
Sequoia National Park,
California.

Dear Mr. White:

Reference is made to our telephonic conversation of today concerning the statutory authority for the establishment of the Fort McHenry National Park. This park was established by the Act of Congress of March 3, 1935 (43 Stat. 1109), authorizing and directing the Secretary of War to restore Fort McHenry as a national park and perpetual national shrine as the birthplace of the "Star-Spangled Banner". The second paragraph of the Act of March 3, 1935, is as follows:

"That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed so soon as it may no longer be needed for uses and needs growing out of the late war, to begin the restoration of Fort McHenry, in the State of Maryland, now occupied and used as a military reservation, including the restoration of the old Fort McHenry proper to such a condition as would make it suitable for preservation permanently as a national park and perpetual national memorial shrine as the birthplace of the immortal 'Star-Spangled Banner,' written by Francis Scott Key, and that the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, further authorized and directed, as are his successors, to hold the said Fort McHenry in perpetuity as a military reservation, national park, and memorial, and to maintain it as such, except that part mentioned in section 3 hereof, and that part now in use by the Department of Commerce for a light and fog-signal station under revocable license from the War Department with the maintenance of the electric lines thereto and such portion of the reservation, including improvement, as may be reserved by the Secretary of War for the use of the Chief of Engineers, the said reservation to be maintained as a national public park, subject to such regulations as may from time to time be issued by the Secretary of War."

I trust this will give you the information desired
but if not please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Donald Lee
Special Assistant to the
Assistant Director.

CLINTON L. RIGGS,
903 NORTH CHARLES STREET,
BALTIMORE, MD.

January 30, 1938.

Hon. Stephen W. Cambrill,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cambrill:

Referring to my letter to you, dated January 19th, 1938, in reply to your communication, asking for my opinion as to the change in the name of the Fort McHenry National Park, I have consulted, again, with Mr. James E. Hancock, the President of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, which Society has a particular interest in this matter; and offer the following suggestion: -

In the Bill H. R. 4070, 75th Congress, 1st. Session, change the language by the following amendment:- after the words "Lincoln National Monument" on the 8th. line, insert the following - "and The Fort McHenry National Monument and Perpetual National Memorial Shrine", respectively, etc.

I understand that this change will meet with the approval of Mr. Cammerer, and if the wording is changed as suggested, that it will meet with the approval of those of us in Baltimore who have been vitally interested in the future of Fort McHenry.

Very sincerely yours,

Clinton L. Riggs

Copy for information, Mr. Hancock.

September 27th, 1938.

Mr. Amos B. Cammerer,
Director, Bureau Nat. Parks,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:-

I am inclosing in this a letter that I have received this morning and which will explain itself.

Any encouragement that you could give to The Thomas Johnson Society, Children of The American Revolution in their patriotic desires to plant a Constitution tree at Fort McHenry, would be appreciated by them and I will advise Mrs. Scott that I have forwarded her letter for your personal attention.

Regretting that I did not see you when I called at your office last Friday, I am,

Very truly yours,

_____, CHAIRMAN

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ROGER WILLIAMSON, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

December 1, 1938

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

Dear Jim:

Enclosed is a letter which I have just received from Congressman Gambrill with enclosures. I have not made copies but ask you to return the originals to me with your comments. You are certainly the outstanding authority on Fort McHenry and I would like to know what you think about this matter.

Sincerely yours,


George L. Radcliffe

R/b

John E. ...

Dec. 2nd, 1938.

Hon. George L. Radcliffe,
Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear George:-

Acknowledging your letter, December 1st, which enclosed a copy of letter from Congressman Stephen W. Gambrill dated Nov. 23rd, with memorandum of S. D. #8039 to change the appellation of Fort McHenry from a National Shrine to a National Monument, I would include in this a copy of a letter, January 19th, 1938, to Mr. Gambrill, on the matter.

I might also say that I recently had a conference with Mr. Anne B. Cammerer, Director of National Parks, on the subject and will report thereon to the Board of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, at its next meeting. At that time, we hope to come to a mutually agreeable understanding and will let you and Mr. Gambrill know the result as soon as possible.

Do I understand that the Senate has already passed the bill, authorizing the change from a National Shrine to a National Monument, or will the next session require an entirely new bill for passage?

Very truly yours,

Dec. 2nd, 1938

Hon. Stephen W. Gambrill,
House of Representatives,
Office Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gambrill:-

Inclosed in this you will find copy of my
reply to a letter that was received from Senator Radcliffe
this morning.

The copy will explain itself and I hope
to be able to report to you by the middle of December, that
we have mutually agreed, with Mr. Commerer on a satisfactory
title for Fort McHenry.

Very truly yours,

Dec. 2nd, 1938.

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

Dear Mr. Cammerer:-

Inclosed in this you will find copy of my
reply to a letter from Senator Radcliffe this A. M.

In the meantime, I would like to have your
slant on the title "Fort McHenry a National Monument and
Historical Shrine". I believe that I could readily get the
consent of my Board to that.

Very Sincerely,

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C. Dec. 5, 1938.

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

My dear Mr. Hancock:

I have before me your letter of the 2nd instant, enclosing copy of your communication of the same date to Senator Radcliffe. I am just a little bit surprised at the efforts which are being made by you to bring about a compromise with the Interior Department in the matter of a change in the name of the historical Fort McHenry National Park.

It is true that a bill passed the Senate in the 75th Congress for a change in the name to be made, but so far as I can ascertain this was done without the knowledge or approval of either Senator Tydings or Senator Radcliffe. So far as the House is concerned, I do not think it is necessary that there should be any compromise with the Interior Department, as I believe it is a serious mistake to try to change the name of the park to that of a "Monument", and I flatter myself on the belief that I have sufficient influence in the House to prevent the change in the name, especially since it would be a misnomer to call the park a monument.

I wrote Mr. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service, on November 23rd, 1938, in part, as follows:

"Regardless of how Mr. Hancock may feel, I find I am still very earnestly opposed to the change contemplated by the bill introduced in the last Congress. If a new bill is introduced in the new Congress, I shall feel impelled to object to its passage, but I will do so, of course, without any feeling whatsoever regarding your attitude in the matter."

This quotation from my letter to Mr. Cammerer explains my attitude although in order that there may be no ill feeling you will probably be diplomatic in any expression you make to Mr. Cammerer regarding my attitude in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Stephen W. Gambrill

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 6, 1938.

Mr. James E. Hancock,
Pres., Society of the War of 1812 of Md.,
521 W. Lombard St.,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Hancock:

Your letter of December 2nd, has been received in Mr. Cammerer's absence from the city. He is expected back the end of the week, at which time I will bring your letter to his attention.

Sincerely yours,

Nathaniel N. Benson
Secretary to the Director.

Dec. 12th, 1938.

Hon. Stephen W. Gambrill,
House of Representatives Office Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

In acknowledging your letter, December 5th, I would respectfully refer you to my letter, January 19th, 1938, in which I expressed the doubt of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, that the Executive Order which transferred the supervision of Fort McHenry from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, also automatically changed the name that Congress had given Fort McHenry - A National Shrine - to Fort McHenry National Park.

Therefor, when I called to see Mr. Gammerer about a month ago to thank him for extending the courtesy of Fort McHenry to the South Baltimore Business Men's Association so that it might hold its Armistice Day Celebration at Fort McHenry, the question arose about the proper classification of Fort McHenry. Mr. Gammerer said that he did not regard Fort McHenry as a National Park and this offered an opportunity to arrive at a better understanding of this vexed question. I promised to bring the matter to the attention of my Society but I would assure you that neither Mr. Gammerer nor I had any idea of compromising anybody or anything.

Very truly yours,

December 12th, 1938.

Miers Busch, Esq.,
President Society of War of 1812 in Penn.
1006 Spruce St.,
Phila., Pa.

Dear Mr. Busch:-

Since receiving your letter December 5th, I have been trying to obtain a fitting picture of Fort McHenry for the purpose intended.

There are many postcards that picture the Fort from different positions, but I have not been able to obtain the one that shows the Star Fort in its entirety. I looked up some plates that I had but none of these seemed suitable and I am now inclosing a booklet on Fort McHenry that I wrote some years ago, the inside frontispiece of which may be blocked off for your purpose.

However, I am hopeful of getting a better picture for you and if you do not immediately need it, am sure that I can get it for you before long.

Hoping that you are well and that we may meet again soon, I am,

Very truly yours,

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 13, 1938.

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

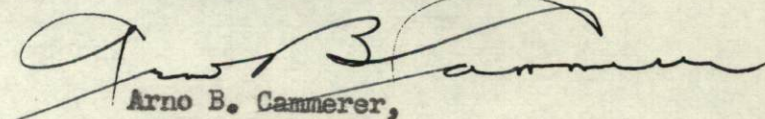
Dear Mr. Hancock:

I have your letter of December 2, but have delayed until I could ascertain the present status of the matter on which you write.

We have prepared a bill to present to the Department for its consideration and submittal to Congress which would change the name to "Fort McHenry National Monument and memorial shrine", which, as to the latter wording, followed the wording in the original Act of March 3, 1925, which refers to the area as a "national park and perpetual memorial shrine". Whether the name of the area is changed to "Fort McHenry National Monument and Historical Shrine" or "Fort McHenry National Monument, and Memorial Shrine" would seem to be unimportant, but it occurred to me that following the original wording in the organic act was adhering more closely to the original idea of the sponsors behind the project.

I have heard from Congressman Gambrill who said he still is not in favor of the change.

Sincerely, and with warm regards,


Arno B. Cammerer,
Director.