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FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION OF MARYLAND.
as appointed by Hon. Austin L. Crothers, Governor of
Maryland, on July 18th, 1911.

Clinton L. Riggs, Chairman.

Aubrey Pearre, Jr.	Mrs. Eric Bergland
Elihu E. Riley	Mrs. William C. Page
Oliver P. Baldwin	Ira H. Houghton
James W. Denny	W. Hall Harris
David Hutzler	Copeland Morton
Thomas O'Neill	Robert W. Smith
Henry F. Baker	Rev. Dr. William M. Dame
Blanchard Randall	Dr. James D. Iglehart
David Stewart	Dr. Charles E. Sadtler
Randolph Barton	Edward F. Arthur
Hon. Edwin Warfield	James M. Garnett
Col. William S. Powell	Mrs. John T. Mason
Mrs. A. D. McConachie	Mrs. Lillian T. Elliott
Mrs. A. Leo Knott	Miss Alice Key Blunt
Gen. A. Leo Knott	Mrs. Henry W. Rogers
Mrs. Jesse Cassard	Mrs. William I. Morgan
Mrs. Frank P. Clark	Mrs. Lillie Griffin
Mrs. J. Pembroke Thom	Charles C. Macgill.
Mrs. James H. Preston	
Hon. James H. Preston	

9676

State of Maryland

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Annapolis, JUL 18 1911

Mr. W. Hall Harris,

Baltimore, Md.

Sir:

The Governor directs me to notify you that you are hereby appointed a Delegate to represent the State of Maryland at the meetings of the committees for the conversion of Fort McHenry into a national park,

which meets on the _____ day of _____ 191

at _____

this being your sufficient Commission therefor.

Witness my hand and official seal the day and date first above written.

By order of the Governor:

Richard L. Williams

Secretary of State.





Baltimore

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In 1752 Baltimore's only defence for ^{its} ~~the~~ population of about 200 people was a stockade of wood, arranged for defence by small arms. The stockade had two gates, for ingress and egress: one at Baltimore St. near its intersection with McClellan's Alley, and the other on Gay St. near the ~~present~~ Fallsway. There was also a small gate for footmen near the present intersection of Charles & Saratoga Sts. Sts.

The Indians, in 1756, emboldened by the defeat of Braddock, approached within 30 miles of Baltimore; but as they withdrew without attacking the city, the stockade, which had almost entirely disappeared, was not rebuilt.

Twenty years later, in March 1776, much alarm was caused by the appearance in the Bay of the British ship, Otter; and it seemed necessary to prepare for defence on the water side. A boom was put in position between the Lazaretto and Whetstone Point, the latter being the present site of Fort McHenry. At this time, earthen batteries were built on the Point, and a few small guns were mounted.

During the year 1794, the batteries were repaired, and an inclosed bastion fort was built. Mr. J. J. Ulrich Rivardi, who as engineer designed the defences, refers in his letter of April 13th, 1794, to Governor Thomas Sim Lee, to "The ancient works", which he says were "Judiciously constructed". He recommends, however, some improvement, and a general plan of fortification, including the lower batteries, the upper batteries, and the star redoubt. He further states "The star fort never was intirely finished, Etc.", showing that the fort was started previous to this date, although it was not entirely completed until later. He refers also to the sum allowed by the government as being inadequate "To put the old works in repair", "In the case it is necessary to pay the workmen at the rate of even half a dollar a day".

Another letter written by Rivardi to Governor John Stone, dated Jan. 15th, 1795,

indicates that the work was still going on, as he asks therein for an additional appropriation of \$4,000.00 to proceed with the work.

Whetstone Point was first patented by Charles Gorsuch, who on Feb. 24th, 1661, took up a tract of 50 acres of land, at the extremity of which, Fort McHenry now stands, for which he paid a rent of one pound Sterling per annum at St. Mary's. Mr. Gorsuch vacating, a patent for the same land was granted to Mr. James Carroll, who called it "Whetstone," and paid a rent of two shillings per annum.

I have not endeavored to trace the title to this land, but the first deed ceding the property to the United States was from Alexander Furnival, dated July 20th 1795, and conveying about 7 acres and 56 perches of land. Other deeds were from William Goodman, dated Nov. 6, 1798, conveying 2 acres of land: from William Goodman, dated Aug. 26, 1800, conveying 11 acres, 3 roods, and 25 perches, of land; and from John O'Donnell, dated Jan. 14th, 1804, conveying 5 acres of land. It appears, therefore, that the Federal reservation at the time of the bombardment at Fort McHenry contained 26, 1/4 acres. Six other deeds recorded between Sept. 10, 1836; and Nov. 16, 1838, convey to the United States an additional tract of 26, 1/2 acres, making a reservation of 52.75 acres, the purchase thereof being authorized by acts of Congress, approved March 20, 1794, and July 2, 1836.

By authority of Congress, approved July 19, 1878, this area was reduced by a transfer to the Baltimore Dry Dock Co. of about 2.75 acres. Jurisdiction over one part of this reservation was ceded to the United States by resolution No. 65 of the state legislature, passed Jan. 30, 1816; and by the proceedings of the Governor and Council at a meeting held on Feb. 27, 1816. Jurisdiction over the other part was ceded by an act, passed March 29, 1838.

The fort, when constructed, was named after James McHenry, who had been secretary to Gen. Washington during the Revolution, and who later, in 1798, became Secretary of War. In a letter dated Sept. 13, 1814, John Foncier thanks the Hon. James McHenry, Esq. for his courtesy to him when Secretary of War, and while "He was Building Fort McHenry."

In 1798, when England and France were at war, it seemed probable that the

3.

United States might be drawn into the conflict; but Baltimore was not again in danger of attack, until 1813. In April, ^{of that year} ~~1815~~, the British fleet, under Admiral Cockburn, appeared at the mouth of the river. Active operations were at once begun by the state authorities to strengthen the old defences, which were in bad condition, and to erect new ones. At this time the large water battery, which still stands, was erected, and Fort Covington was built.

~~At this time~~ ^X Baltimore was ^{then} the third city in population, and ^{the} fourth in wealth and commerce, and was, therefore, a prize well worth taking. In Sept. 1814, after the British had burned Washington, the crisis came. The British exulting over their success against the Capital, were confident, but apparently they had forgotten the lessons of Lexington, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and York Town. The story of the gallant resistance on Sept. 12, 1814, and the writing of our National Anthem, are well known to every member of this Society, and require no further comment. This is a day, however, that should ever be memorable; and it is this memory of our gallant forefathers that has inspired so many of our patriotic citizens to give liberally of their time in an effort to have the Fort McHenry reservation made a national park, in order that it may ever be preserved as a Memorial Shrine to those noble men, who, by winning that battle, saved the City of Baltimore and thereby, the nation.

For many years members of the Maryland Historical Society, the Society of the War of 1812, and other patriotic societies, have been actively interested in furthering legislation by the Congress, looking to the passage of a bill which would accomplish this object; and thus perpetuate a monument dedicated to the defenders in the War of 1812, and to the author of the Star Spangled Banner.

It has been my pleasure to lend my personal efforts to this end, and I have, therefore, been asked to briefly outline for your information how this has finally been accomplished.

My first connection with the movement, was in March 1906, when I heard that Fort McHenry was to be abandoned by the military authorities. In order to preserve this historic spot, I, as Adjutant General of Maryland, communicated with the Secretary of War, requesting information as to whether permission could be obtained for the use

of the reservation for the Maryland National Guard. This request met with a courteous response from the military secretary, and the secretary of war. A little later, while plans were being formulated, I received information that the reservation was to be abandoned immediately, and that it would be turned over to the secretary of the interior to be used as a cattle quarantine. Believing this to be a desecration of a sacred spot, but after consultation with Mayor Timanus, I went to Washington; and with the hearty cooperation of Gen. Robert Shaw Oliver, then acting Secretary of War, I was enabled to bring back the same evening a revocable lease of Fort McHenry to the State of Maryland for the nominal rental of \$1.00 per annum. It was very fortunate that my request met with the sympathetic approval of Gen. Oliver, as he informed me that if the matter had not been settled that night, he would have felt compelled to turn the property over to the Dept. of the Interior on the following day.

Under date of Nov. 30th, 1906, a combined lease and license under act of Congress approved July 28, 1892, revocable at will by the Sec'y. of War, was made to the state, for the use of the military reservation by the National Guard of Maryland, to become effective upon the abandonment of Fort McHenry as a military post by the United States. Under date of June 21, 1907, a formal instrument, covering the lease of said reservation to the state, but revoking the one of Nov / 30, 1906, was received at the Adjutant General's office.

Having been informed by an artillery officer at Fort Howard that the old guns with the gun carriages, then at Fort McHenry had been condemned and ordered to be sold as junk, I communicated on April 18, 1907, with the Sec'y of War, requesting that these guns, with their carriages, should be presented to the State of Maryland. My communication was returned with the endorsement "These cannon and cannon balls may be turned over to the City of Baltimore, under act of May 22, 1896, authorizing the donation to municipal corporations". This order signed by F. C. Ainsworth, the Adjutant General, as acting Secretary of War, was dated April 27, 1907, and directed that the two 8-in. smooth bore cannon, and the ~~five~~ 15-in. smooth bore cannon, and the cannon balls then on hand at the post, except such as might be desired for ornamental purposes at Fort Howard, and those that might be loaded; should be left at the post. I was also notified

that the gun carriages on which these guns were mounted, could not, under the law, be donated; but would have to be purchased.

On May 7, 1907, I communicated with Gen. Peter Leary, Jr., U.S.A. Retired, asking him to cooperate with me, and to raise a fund with which these carriages might be purchased. Gen. Leary, who formerly had served at Fort McHenry as a captain of artillery, entered enthusiastically into the scheme, and appointed a committee of which Mr. Appleton Wilson and Dr. James D. Iglehart were members. A fund, amounting, I believe, to \$800.00, was speedily raised by private subscription; and these carriages and some additional property was purchased; and the guns, some of which were transported from Fort Delaware; and the carriages thus obtained, with suitable inscriptions, naming the donors, were mounted on the old ramparts where they have since remained.

The secretary of war on Aug. 21, 1907, gave permission to the State of Maryland to construct a wharf at Fort McHenry for the use of the Naval Militia. This wharf was completed, and considerable necessary dredging was done by the City of Baltimore. On April 8, 1909, the assistant secretary of war revoked all of the leases and licenses heretofore granted, as the reservation was again needed by the United States Army for the purposes of a quartermaster's depot. A new license was then given for the use of the drill ground by the Militia, with a right of way for the purpose of reaching the wharf, and with the further use of certain buildings, and other privileges for the benefit of the Naval Militia.

The first active movement looking towards the creation of Fort McHenry as a National Park, was on July 18th, 1911, when the Hon. Austin L. Crothers, created a commission of forty "For the conversion of Fort McHenry into a National Park". In transmitting a commission to me as chairman "of the Fort McHenry National Park Committee", the Secretary of State on Sept. 19, 1911, wrote "This commission was voluntarily appointed by the Governor, and not under an act or resolution. Its objects, as I understand it, are to persuade the government to convert this fort into a national park".

A meeting of this committee was held at the Hotel Belvedere on Tuesday,

Oct. 17th, 1911 (a list of the members of this committee is attached hereto), Patriotic speeches were made by Gen. A. Leo Knott, Maj. Randolph Barton, Rev. Wm. M. Dame, Col. Wm. S. Powell, and Mr. W. Hall Harris, Sr.; and the result of the meeting was the appointment of a committee of Five, consisting of Mrs. J. Pembroke Thom, Hon. James W. Denny, Mr. David Hutzler, Mr. Blanchard Randall, Mr. W. Hall Harris, Sr Mr. Henry F. Baker, and the chairman, for the purpose of drawing up a bill, and submitting the same to Senator Raynor, with a request that it be introduced into Congress. A bill was drafted by the committee, and submitted to the Hon. Isador Raynor, who took a very great interest in the project, and who after making several valuable suggestions to the committee, on April 15, 1912, introduced a bill entitled " An act to perpetuate and preserve Fort McHenry and the grounds connected therewith as a Government reservation, under the control of the Secretary of War". This act, which was passed without amendment by the Senate, was referred to the committee on Military Affairs in the House of Representatives, on April 20, 1912; and was there amended "To authorize its partial use as a museum of historic relics". The bill received the full support of the War Dept., including Gen. Leonard Wood, then chief of staff; and with the special help of Hon. J. Chas. Linthicum, the bill was finally passed, with a few amendments, and signed by the president on Aug. 16, 1912. Time has shown, however, that the passage of this bill did not, as we hoped it would, finally settle the future of Fort McHenry.

Mr. Linthicum on July 23, 1912, introduced a bill "Providing for the erection of a monument to Francis Scott Key and to the defenders of Fort McHenry at the time of the British attack on that fortification". It was largely through Mr. Linthicum's efforts that an appropriation for this purpose was finally obtained, and that the memorial which now stands on the reservation was secured. On Jan, 20, 1913, Mr. Linthicum introduced another bill "To authorize the use as a site for the U.S. Emigration Station and grounds at the Port of Baltimore of a piece of land acquired by the United States about the year 1836, as part of an addition to Fort McHenry in the State of Maryland, and which is now under the control of the War Dept., Etc.". After several conferences between the engineers, the ^{imm}igration authorities and the

Fort McHenry committee, this project was approved, and the ~~emigration station~~^{building} was erected. The portion of the land referred to was not a part of the original reservation of Fort McHenry at the time of the bombardment, and it was therefore felt that it could properly be used for an ~~emigration~~^{imm} station, which it was thought would be of considerable value to the City of Baltimore.

As a result of the activities of Governor Crothers' committee, a bill had been introduced on July 5th, 1911, by the Hon. Isador Raynor "Providing for the appointment of three engineers, to make plans for the National Park at the site known as Fort McHenry, and for other purposes"; and the second section of this resolution provided "That Fort McHenry be retained as a military reservation by the United States, and that no other use shall be made of the said fort, or of the site upon which it is located, except as a park and military reservation, as herein indicated". This resolution, however, failed of passage; and it was, therefore, possible to have a part of the reservation used for the ~~emigration~~^{imm} station.

On Aug. 5th, 1913, Mr. Linthicum introduced ~~another~~^a bill, asking for \$500,000.00 for the ~~erection~~ erection of a monument, and flag staff, and a memorial hall, to be erected at Fort McHenry, together with the erection of a monument upon the North Point Battle field; and for the necessary alterations in the buildings and grounds in connection therewith; ~~and~~^{but} on the same date, he introduced another bill "To place the supervision and control of Fort McHenry and the grounds connected therewith under the City of Baltimore, and making certain provisions in connection with the said transfer". The Fort McHenry National Park Committee did not approve of the provisions in this bill, and therefore protested against its passage. The committee was of the unanimous opinion that the reservation should be retained by the Federal Government as a national park and memorial shrine. While this bill failed of passage, another ~~bill~~^{similar} bill was passed in 1914, granting permission to the Mayor and city council of Baltimore City to occupy the reservation as a city park. The city spent considerable money in improving the grounds, but ~~the former~~^{this} action of the Congress was nullified by reason of the World War, and the War Dept., needing the grounds for military purposes, again assumed jurisdiction on July 23, 1917.

During the war, and until some time after the cessation of hostilities, the reservation was used for the purposes of a hospital; but it has since been evacuated, and the buildings have been allowed to become dilapidated, and are now only a fire menace, and a disgrace to the government.

Early in 1921, Mr. Key Compton and twenty-nine other gentlemen, undertook to bring this matter to the attention of the nation, and ^a beautiful brochure, published at the expense of Mr. John R. Bland, was sent to every member of congress, to the governors of all states, and generally throughout the whole country. Copies of this interesting book are now in the possession of the Maryland Historical Society.

Several meetings were held in Washington, but a difference of opinion as to the proper disposition of the matter existed among our representatives in congress, and nothing was accomplished. On Oct. 24th, 1921, Mr. Linthicum introduced a bill "Authorizing and directing the Sec'y. of War to grant the use of Fort McHenry Military Reservation in the State of Maryland to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, Etc."; but on the same date, Hon. John Philip Hill introduced a bill "To preserve in perpetuity Forts McHenry and Carroll, located in Baltimore, Maryland".

In accordance with the suggestion of Hon. Joseph I. France, the Senior Senator from Maryland, a public meeting was held in the rooms of the Maryland Historical Society, on Thursday evening, Jan. 24th, 1922, in order to discuss the question as to whether it would be better for the National Government to retain Fort McHenry as a National Shrine, or to deed the property to the City of Baltimore, in order that it might be converted into a city park. In a letter to Mr. Key Compton, dated Dec. 14th, 1921, Senator France said that an effort should be made to ascertain the sentiment of the people of the city, and the state, on this question. Senator France presided at the meeting referred to; but after much discussion, it was evident that those assembled were strongly in favor of a bill, by which the Federal Government would retain the Fort McHenry Reservation as a National Park.

9. *In accordance with the expressed desire of those present at this meeting* On March 16th, 1922, Senator France introduced a bill "To amend the Act approved May 26th, 1914, entitled * An act authorizing the Sec'y. of War to grant the use of the Fort McHenry reservation in the State of Maryland to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, Etc. '; and to provide for the restoration of Fort McHenry, and its permanent preservation as a National Park and perpetual National Memorial Shrine, as the birthplace of the immortal Star Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key, and for the appropriation of the necessary funds, and for other purposes". The difference of opinion which then existed, and the lack of cooperation in congress, caused the failure of this bill, but the result seemed to justify the more general opinion that the only safe solution of the problem was to have the Fort McHenry reservation created a National Memorial Shrine, thus placing it, for all time, under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

In Oct. 1923, Mr. T. Murray Maynadier, as president of the Maryland Society of the War of 1812, appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Joseph W. Bristor, James E. Hancock, Thomas Foley Hiskey, Charles H. Linville, and the speaker; for the purpose of endeavoring to secure the passage of a bill to have Fort McHenry made a National Park. Fortunately, the Governor of Maryland, the Mayor of the City, and every member of the Senate and House of Representatives from Maryland, agreed to cooperate, in an effort to have a bill passed which would accomplish this object: as all interested were of the opinion that the question should be settled now, and not leave it for final decision by future generations.

On March 28th, 1922, Mr. Linthicum had introduced a bill "To provide for the restoration of Fort McHenry, in the State of Maryland, and its permanent preservation as a National Park, and perpetual National Memorial Shrine, as the birthplace of the immortal Star Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key; for the appropriation of the necessary funds, and for other purposes": but this bill had died in the House. On Jan. 11th, 1924, at the request of this special committee, Mr. Linthicum introduced another bill, which was practically a copy of the bill which had failed in the previous session; but at this time we were able to secure a united front, and the enthusiastic support of Hon. John Philip Hill, in the House; and of both of the Senators from Maryland.

Upon motion of Hon. Albert E. Sharpe, chairman of the Baltimore City delegation, and a member of the Society of the War of 1812, the legislature of Maryland passed a joint resolution, requesting the congress to pass Mr. Linthicum's bill. This resolution was heartily supported and signed by Hon. Albert C. Ritchie, Governor of Maryland.

At the request of Hon. Howard W. Jackson, Mayor of Baltimore City, the City Council adopted a resolution also heartily approving the bill, and asking for its passage.

At a mass meeting, held in the City Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 19th, 1924, called, at the request of the committee, and presided over by the Mayor, a resolution was unanimously passed, asking for prompt action by the congress. This meeting was attended by representatives of many patriotic societies, and probably two hundred prominent individuals, who believed that the creation of a National Memorial Shrine in the City of Baltimore would lend a dignity and atmosphere to this historic spot, which would make it of the greatest value to the City and the State. Speeches were made by the Mayor, Hon. Wm. Cabell Bruce, Hon. J. Chas. Linthicum, and Maj. Gen. Sturgis, commanding the Third Corps Area., Mr. W. Hall Harris, Sr., President of the Maryland Historical Society, and Mr. Thos. Foley Hiskey, representing the Society of the War of 1812; also spoke strongly in favor of the bill.

The committee on military affairs of the House, to whom Mr. Linthicum's bill had been referred, gave us a hearing on April 16th, 1924. The committee, accompanied by other members of the Society of the War of 1812, together with Mrs. Reuben Ross Holloway, representing the state society U.S. Daughters of 1812; Miss Florine J. Judik, National Society U.S. Daughters of 1812; Mrs. Charles E. Rieman, Colonial Dames of America; Miss Elina Williams Gaither, Chapter No. 1, Colonial Dames; and several others, appeared, and were very cordially received by the committee on Military Affairs, which afterward reported the bill favorably to the House. Hon. James Harry Preston, formerly Mayor of Baltimore, who was unable to be present, wrote a strong letter, advocating the passage of the bill.

The committee, accompanied by Hon. O. E. Weller, Hon. William Cabell Bruce, and Hon. J. Chas. Linthicum; called on the Sec'y. of War on ^{February 18th 1925} ~~March 19th, 1924~~, and were very courteously received. A few days later, Mr. Weeks communicated with the ^{of the Senate} chairman of the military committee, giving his approval to the bill.

While your committee did all that was possible to further ~~the interests of~~ this project, the success of the measure was undoubtedly due to the splendid cooperation and untiring efforts of Hon. J. Chas. Linthicum and Hon. John Philip Hill, in the House; and later, of Hon. O. E. Weller and Hon. William Cabell Bruce, who by working together, and through strenuous efforts, secured its final passage by the Senate. The bill was signed by the President of the United States, on March 3d. 1925; and the pen which was used by the President on this occasion is now among the possessions of the Society of the War of 1812, here, at the Maryland Historical Society.

The bill, as finally passed, provides for the restoration of Fort McHenry, and its permanent preservation as a national park, and perpetual National Memorial Shrine, as the Birthplace of the immortal Star Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key; and for the appropriation of the necessary funds. The Sec'y. of War is directed as soon as the reservation may no longer be needed for uses and needs growing out of the late war, to begin the restoration of Fort McHenry, including the restoration of the old ^{Star} fort, ~~proper~~, to such a condition as would make it suitable for preservation permanently as a National Park and Perpetual National Memorial Shrine; and he ~~is~~ further directed to hold the said Fort McHenry in perpetuity as a military reservation, National Park, and Memorial; and to maintain it as such.

The bill further provides that the Sec'y. shall dispose of the useless temporary buildings and contents; and to use the proceeds, not exceeding \$50,000.00, in the restoration of the reservation.

Senator Bruce was able to get an additional appropriation for \$50,000.00 inserted in the deficiency bill, but the House refused to approve the appropriation for Fort McHenry, and on the last day of the session, the Senate ~~conferees~~ recessed, and the amendment, which had been inserted in the Senate, was stricken from the deficiency bill.

The bill as finally passed, has apparently settled the question, but there may be some delay in cleaning up the grounds, and in making the ~~repairs~~ necessary on

The old Fort.

I am informed that the Veteran's Bureau still has an interest in the property, and that papers must be prepared to secure the release of their interest to the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department must then turn over the property to the War Department, which can take no action until its title is again assured. As the funds with which the grounds are to be restored must be obtained from the sale of the old buildings, considerable time may then be consumed in advertising, and in the final disposition of the material for sale.

I have, however, been assured of the cooperation of the departments having this matter in charge; and I feel that the fort will eventually be restored, and that the grounds will be improved in such a way that the reservation will be a credit to the Federal Government, and that in the future, it will be preserved as a beautiful water front park.

This result will undoubtedly prove of inestimable benefit to our own people; and the city will have a place of tremendous interest to all visitors; but not until this is done, will we feel that we have fully achieved the accomplishment of our aspirations.

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Baltimore, July 19, 1911.

Hon. N. Winslow Williams,
Secretary of State, of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of date the eighteenth instant, advising me of appointment by the Governor to the position of a Delegate to represent the State of Maryland at the meetings of the Committees for the conversion of Fort McHenry into a National Park, and to say that I shall hold myself subject to the call of the Chairman of such Committees.

Respectfully,

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

October 10, 1911.

Mr. W. Hall Harris,
511 Park Avenue,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

There will be a meeting of the Fort McHenry National Park Committee, of which you are a member, in the Red Parlor of the Belvedere Hotel, on Tuesday, October 17th., at 3.30 P. M.

The Governor of Maryland will be present, and will make an address.

As this will be the first meeting for organization, and important matters will be considered, it is hoped that every member will be present.

Very respectfully,

Clinton L. Riggs
Chairman.

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

October 19, 1911.

Mr. W. Hall Harris,
511 Park Avenue,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Fort McHenry National Park Committee, held at the Hotel Belvedere, on Tuesday, October 17th., a motion was made by Major Randolph Barton, and seconded by Hon. Edwin Warfield, giving the Chairman authority to appoint a committee to endeavor to obtain the passage of a bill by Congress to make a National Park at Fort McHenry, in accordance with the suggestion made by the Chairman at this meeting. This resolution was carried with an amendment that the Chairman of the Committee should be ex officio Chairman of this sub-committee.

In accordance with this resolution, I have appointed you, together with the following persons, to serve as a committee for this purpose,

- Mrs. J. Pembroke Thom
- Hon. James W. Denny
- Mr. David Hützler
- " Blanchard Randall
- " Henry F. Baker

I sincerely trust that your interest in this worthy object will induce you to accept this appointment, and that the final result due to the work of this Committee, may forever settle the question as to the future of this historic spot.

Yours very truly

CLR-jnh

(COPY.)

October 2, 1912.

Hon. Phillips Lee Goldsborough,
Governor of Maryland.

Sir:

As Chairman of the Fort McHenry National Park Commission, appointed on July 28, 1911, by Hon. Austin L. Crothers, then Governor of Maryland, I have the honor to report, that the Committee met at the Hotel Helvedere, on Tuesday, October 17, 1911.

From the Committee of Forty, appointed by the Governor, a large number were present, and after speeches by Genl. A. Lee Knott, Major Randolph Barton, former Governor Edwin Garfield, Mr. S. Hall Harris, Col. William S. Powell, and the Rev. W. M. Dams, a sub-committee was appointed for the purpose of obtaining the passage of a Bill by Congress, to create a national park at Fort McHenry.

This sub-committee, consisting of Mrs. J. Pembroke Thom, Hon. James W. Donny, Mr. W. Hall Harris, Mr. Blanchard Randall, Mr. David Hutzler, Mr. Henry F. Baker and the Chairman, met, and drew up a Bill, which was submitted to Senator Laidor Rayner, with the request that it be introduced in Congress.

Senator Rayner took a very great interest in the project, made several valuable suggestions to the Committee, and on April 15, 1912, introduced an Act, of which a copy is enclosed herewith, which was passed without amendment by the Senate of the United States, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, in the House of Representatives, on April 20th. 1912.

(1).

P. L. G.-2.

Mr. W. Hall Harris and the Chairman, representing the Committee, enlisted the interest of the Hon. J. Charles Linthicum, who finally succeeded in having an Act passed by Congress, although a few amendments were made to the Bill as passed by the Senate, as shown by the printed copy of the Bill attached hereto, which Bill was approved August 16th. 1912.

The Committee in making this report feel, that while they may not have accomplished all that was originally hoped for by the former Governor of Maryland, that they have at least obtained legislation which will forever settle the question of the future of Fort McHenry, and will result in its retention by the War Department for all time as a government reservation.

We wish also to note the co-operation and support of the Chief of Staff, U. S. A., Genl. Leonard Wood, who approved of the efforts of the Committee, and co-operated in the final passage of the Bill.

Respectfully submitted,
(signed) Clinton L. Riggs,
Chairman.

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

October 19, 1912.

Mr. W. Hall Harris,
511 Park Avenue,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

In order that you may be fully advised as to what has so far been accomplished by the Fort McHenry National Park Commission, I am enclosing herewith a copy of my report as Chairman to the Governor of Maryland.

You will also find enclosed copies of the Bill as introduced by Senator Rayner, and which was passed by the Senate without amendment, and also a copy of the Bill as finally passed by the House of Representatives, and approved by the President.

I desire to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the project, on which I think there is still work, which may be done at some future period, which will be for the benefit of the citizens of Baltimore.

Yours very truly,

Clinton L. Riggs

Copy of a letter sent to each member of the sub-committee.

CLR-jnh.

3 Enclo.

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

December 3, 1913.

My dear Mr. Harris:-

As my appointment has been confirmed I will shortly be leaving the United States for an indefinite period and have therefore today tendered my resignation to the Governor as a member of the Fort McHenry National Park Commission.

As we have worked together in this matter and no one is more familiar with the conditions or more interested in the outcome than yourself, I have taken the liberty of suggesting to His Excellency that he appoint you chairman of the commission.

I am hoping to have the Secretary of War and Mrs. Garrison to lunch with me next Sunday and if so will take them to Fort McHenry. I am particularly anxious that before leaving Maryland I shall have been able to accomplish something in this matter and trust that the secretary will come over on Sunday and will take as much interest in the reservation as we all hope for.

Yours very sincerely,

Clinton L. Riggs

W. Hall Harris Esq.,
216 St. Paul St.
Baltimore, Md.

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

December 5, 1913.

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12.6.13

My dear Mr. Harris:-

Referring to your letter of December 4th I took occasion a few days ago to get in touch with the Governor's office and ascertained that the Fort McHenry National Park Commission was not only still in existence, but that the Governor thought that it should be continued.

I sincerely hope, therefore, that the Governor will name you as my successor and that you will accept the trust.

I shall certainly accept the opportunity to speak of you to the Secretary of War and I believe that we will find that he will be inclined to do all he can to assist us.

If anything occurs on Sunday of interest I shall certainly communicate with you with regard to it.

Yours very sincerely,

Clinton L. Riggs

W. Hall Harris Esq.,
216 St. Paul St.,
Baltimore, Md.



OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND.

December 10, 1913.

ROBERT P. GRAHAM
SECRETARY OF STATE

Hon. W. Hall Harris,
216 St. Paul St.,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

The resignation of Gen. Clinton L. Riggs, Chairman of the Fort McHenry National Park Commission creates a vacancy and the Governor directs me to advise you that you are hereby appointed Chairman of this Commission, to fill said vacancy. He hopes you will accept the same and continue in the important work entrusted to this Commission.

Yours truly,

Robert P. Graham

SECRETARY OF STATE

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12.11.13
Graham

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

December 11, 1913.

My dear Mr. Harris:-

I am today in receipt of a letter from the Secretary of State informing me that the Governor has accepted my resignation as Chairman of the Fort McHenry National Park Commission and has appointed you as my successor.

I am very glad of this as I now feel that there is some one with a keen interest in the matter who will not only look after, but who will be able to meet the issues which will surely arise in the near future.

I regret to report, "Mr. Chairman" that on account of the bad weather the Secretary of War did not lunch with me last Sunday and so nothing was accomplished. I feel, however, from talks which I have had with Mr. Garrison, that he is very much interested in Fort McHenry and will prove a friend at court.

As I may possibly not have the opportunity of seeing you again before I sail I want to say, "Good-bye" and to thank you for the cordial way in which you have always supported me in my endeavors to protect the historic spot.

Yours very sincerely,

Clinton L. Riggs

W. Hall Harris Esq.,
216 St. Paul St.,
Baltimore, Md.

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December 11, 1913.

Hon. Robert P. Graham,
Secretary of State,
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of tenth instant, advising my appointment by the Governor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of General Clinton L. Riggs, from the Chairmanship of The Fort McHenry National Park Commission.

Will you be kind enough to convey to His Excellency my appreciation of his consideration and acceptance of his appointment, and to furnish me, at your convenience, with a list of the Members of the Commission.

Yours truly,



OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND.

December 12, 1913.

ROBERT P. GRAHAM
SECRETARY OF STATE

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12.13.13
L. L.

Hon. W. Hall Harris,
c/o Fort McHenry National Park Commission,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 11th, accepting the appointment as
Chairman of the Fort McHenry National Park Commission, which is very
gratifying to the Governor.

As requested in your letter, I enclose herewith a list of the
members of this Commission.

Yours truly,

Robert P. Graham

SECRETARY OF STATE
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Fort McHenry National Park Committee.
 Aubrey Pearce, Jr., 207 N. Calvert St., Baltimore
 E. J. Riley, Annapolis, Md.
 Oliver W. Baldwin, "The Sun", Baltimore
 James W. Senny, 209 St. Paul St., ..
 David Hutzler 1801 Eutaw Place ..
 Thos. O'Neill 1731 Park Place ..
 Henry F. Baker, Mt. Washington, Md.
 Blanchard Randall 16 W. North Ave., ..
 David Stewart 1005 N. Chas. St. ..
 Randolph Barton 207 N. Calvert ..
 Hon. Edwin Warfield Fidelity Bldg.
 Col. Wm. S. Powell, Ellicott City, Md.
 Mrs. A. D. McConachie 805 N. Charles St., ..
 Mrs. A. Leo Knolt 335 N. Charles St. ..
 Gen. A. Leo Knolt " " " " ..
 Mrs. Jesse Cassard 1223 Maryland Ave ..
 Mrs. Frank P. Clark 207 St. Paul St. ..
 Mrs. J. Pembroke Thow 828 Park Ave. ..
 Mrs. Jas. H. Preston 820 N. Charles St ..
 Hon. Jas. H. Preston. " " " " ..
 Mrs. Eric Berglund 1116 N. Charles St.
 Mrs. Wm. C. Page 917 N. Calvert St.,
 Ira H. Houghton 1719 " " "
 W. Hall Harris 511 Park Ave., ..
 Copeland Morton 104 Stewart Bldg., ..
 Robert W. Smith 210 Uekers " ..

H. Oliver Thompson	202 W. Monument St. Balt.
Rev. Dr. W. M. Daue	1409 Baltow St. .. "
Dr. Jas. S. Dylehart	211 Lawale .. "
Dr. Chas. E. Sadtler	1415 Linden Ave .. "
Edward F. Arthur	626 Equitable Bldg .. "
Jas. M. ^{Gannett} Gannett	1316 Baltow St. .. "
Mrs. John F. Masou	Baltimore, Md.
Mrs. Lillian J. Elliott	" .. "
Miss Alice Key Blunt	" .. "
Mrs. Lillie Griffin	" .. "
Mrs. Henry W. Rogers	" .. "
Mrs. William J. Morgan	" .. "
Chas. C. Macgill	Chamber of Commerce, Balt.

ASB

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December 12, 1913.

Hon. Robert P. Graham,
Secretary of State,
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Sir:

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your favor of the 12th instant covering the list of members of Fort McHenry National Park Commission, which you were kind enough to supply.

Yours very truly,

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