

COPYRIGHT / USAGE

Material on this site may be quoted or reproduced for **personal and educational purposes** without prior permission, provided appropriate credit is given. Any commercial use of this material is prohibited without prior permission from The Special Collections Department - Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore. Commercial requests for use of the transcript or related documentation must be submitted in writing to the address below.

When crediting the use of portions from this site or materials within that are copyrighted by us please use the citation: *Used with permission of the University of Baltimore.*

If you have any requests or questions regarding the use of the transcript or supporting documents, please contact us:

Langsdale Library
Special Collections Department
1420 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201-5779
<http://archives.ubalt.edu>

	Initials	Date
Prepared By		
Approved By		

FORT MCHENRY ARMAMENT INVENTORY AND ARMAMENT MAPS
ON FILE AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Type of Cannon
Claimed by St Michaels
also type donated by
Society of 1812 in 1932

	1		2		4		5										
	1861	1863	1864	1866	1867	1869	1872	1873	1892	1896	1897	1898	1900	1901	1902	1933	1972
SMOOTH BORE WEAPONS																	
6 pounder (brass)	3	3	6	6	6	4				2	2		1			3	
4-6 pounder (iron)																10	11
9 pounder (iron)																2	2
12 pounder (brass)			2	2	2	1				4	4	4	4				
12 pounder (iron)																1	1
24 pounder	24	8	3	9	9		9	9									
32 pounder	30	11	7	7	7		7	7									
42 pounder	19	13	12	13	13		13	13	5								
5 1/2" bore (iron)																1	1
Carronade																	2
18 pounder (bronze)																	1
Columbiads 8"												7	7		2		
Columbiads 10"	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2					
Rodmans 8"				7	7		7	7	7	7	7					9	9
Rodmans 15"				7	7	5	7	6	7	7	7	7	5		5	5	5
8" Siege Mortar	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1					
10" Siege Mortar	1	1	3	1	12	3	8	5	4	4	4	4					
10" Sea Coast Mortar	8	8	6	10	7	7	3	3									
Coehorn							1	1		1	1						
8" Siege Howitzer									1	1	1						
8" Siege Coast Howitzer	7	5	5	5	5		5	5		5	5	5					
12 pounder Field How.	1																
12 pounder Mount. How.	1	1															
RIFLED WEAPONS																	
Converted Rifle 8"									3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
4.5" Rifled									2	2	2						
3.2" Rifled										1	1						
32 pounder not banded	12		12	13	13		13	13									
Miscellaneous																	
Long Gatling										1	1						
Short Gatling										1	1						
Hotchkiss Revolving 1.5"											1						
TOTAL	97	65	59	83	83	25	78	72	33	42	43	33	20	3	10	31	32

Nov. 28 - 1935

HARP 1935

VOL. 184

ST. MICHAEL S COMET

ST. MICHAEL'S, MARYLAND - THURSDAY MORNING NOV. 28, 1935

Article on first page of paper.

Sent to Acting Superintendent Anonymously

*File
Common*

740-4

OLD CANNON IN
FORT McHENRY
TOWN PROPERTY

Should be Returned to Town

And Set Up in Park

A very interesting article has come to hand on two cannon which are now in Fort McHenry but belong to St. Michaels. The story follows: This was copied from the Land of Legionary Lore.

There are two cannon, six pounders, in Fort McHenry which belong to St. Michaels and which can be restored to the town if the corporation or the people of the town want them.

Jacob Gibson, of Marongo and Sharps Island gave these guns to the town in 1813 as a kind of peace offering to those whom his famous prank had offended. There is no one living now who can remember what occurred eighty-five years ago; but it has been only a few years since there were some alive who could tell the circumstances of this incident in the war with Great Britain. These six pounders he bought in Baltimore and had them transplanted around the head of the bay. The two guns did good service on the 10th of August 1813 when the British attacked St. Michaels on the Miles River side. After the war they were put in a market house in St. Mary's Square and were only brought out to fire a salute on the 22nd of February and the 4th of July. When the market house was demolished the cannon were sent to the Armory in Easton where they remained until June 9th 1861. They were then seized by Colonel Abel Smith, by order of General Barnes with all the other munitions of war and taken to Fort McHenry where they are to this day. The guns did not belong to the State but to the town of St. Michaels and ought to be restored.

1463/64

St. Michael's
Fitz

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH ON ST. MICHAEL'S CANNONS, 1861

Historian Bienvenu has spent sixteen work days on the above subject. Materials consulted are located at Fort McHenry, the Chief's Office of History & Archaeology, WASO, and the National Archives, GSA. Preliminary work was accomplished by Mr. Rich, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Young.

Mr. Rich effected scale drawings of the two cannons in question, showing measurements and bore size, and the lack of distinguishing marks. Mr. Peterson stated that the cannons are of French design and probably French manufacture. The cannons are definitely not 6 pounders and probably not four pounders, but are of an odd size, due to their French manufacture. The French LIVRE is slightly heavier and larger than one English pound. The work of Mr. Young, of Mr. Kahler's office, WASO, turned up a letter of June, 1926, Davis to Weller, which states that there were no guns of the 1812 period then at Fort McHenry.

Historian Bienvenu checked the HARP files at Fort McHenry for the year 1861, and all cross-references mentioned therein. Superintendent Mackenzie and Historian Goodman checked them for later dates. These sources, plus those perused in the National Archives, yielded the following information:

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Maryland, largely Secessionist, was occupied by pockets of Federal troops. One of these, Fort McHenry, was under the command of W. W. Morris, Major, 4th Artillery.

On the night of May 13, 1861, Federal Hill was occupied by Major-General Schofield. Major-General N. P. Banks was assigned to the Dept. of Annapolis, headquartered at Fort McHenry. During his tenure, expeditions were sent throughout the state to confiscate arms and to disband Secessionists.

One of these expeditions was assigned to the 13th New York Militia, a three-months enlistment outfit under Colonel Abel Smith, then stationed at Annapolis. The 13th N.Y. had been organized in Brooklyn on April 23 and were at Annapolis June 8. Captain John Sullivan, Company A, was in charge of the unit which went by steamer to Easton, on the Eastern Shore. After arresting some rebels, the unit marched to the arsenal, where Colonel Smith demanded the surrender of all arms in the armory. The column returned to the steamer with 15 wagon loads. They arrived at Annapolis on June 9. Included in the list of confiscated articles were several field pieces. It is not known if any of these pieces were later moved to Baltimore. On June 19, 1861, the 13th N.Y. was stationed at Federal Hill with 6 pieces of field artillery from Fort McHenry taken from secessionists.

A letter from Headquarters, Department of Annapolis, dated July 21, directs a detail of men with horses to remove 2 pieces of artillery from Federal Hill to Fort McHenry.

Major-General John A. Dix replaced General Banks on July 24, 1861, and nothing more has been found concerning these cannons thereafter.

General Dix did commend Colonel Morris for his ingenuity in making the townsfolk think Fort McHenry was well-armed by using logs to simulate cannons. This tends to show that all captured cannons would have been mounted for use at Fort McHenry and Federal Hill.

Easton No proof has been found that the St. Michael's cannons were in the Custom Armory. It is unknown whether the pieces confiscated at Easton were transferred to Federal Hill from Annapolis. Finally, it is not known whether the St. Michael's cannons were even at Fort McHenry, and if there were, it is unlikely they remained after 1926.

Lionel J. Bienvenu
Historian



CHARLES McC MATHIAS
... fires another round

Cannon fight reverberates in Interior

By GILBERT A. LEWTHWAITE
Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—Senator Charles McC. Mathias (R., Md.) has fired another round in the battle over ownership of two ancient cannon used against the British in 1813.

The cannon now lie in storage in Fort McHenry, Baltimore. But, Senator Mathias says, they belong in St. Michaels on the Eastern Shore.

Harry O'Bryant, superintendent of Fort McHenry, is refusing to give up the guns and is demanding proof of ownership.

Unable to produce such proof, Senator Mathias has now asked the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. B. Morton, who represented St. Michaels when he was a member of the House of Representatives and whose department now controls Fort McHenry, to return the six-pounders.

For St. Michaels Days

The people of St. Michaels want them back in time for the historical celebrations during the "St. Michaels days" September 15 and 16.

According to Senator Mathias, who is something of a history buff, the guns were taken to Fort McHenry from St. Michaels in 1861 to prevent their use by the Confederate Army.

Originally they had been used to repulse 300 British Royal Marines who attacked St. Michaels August 10, 1813, says Senator Mathias.

"It must be remembered that the United States troops who took possession of the pieces were not interested in history, and understandably failed to note that the St. Michaels cannon were among the half dozen they seized at the Easton Armory.

Tilghman referred to

"If other records do exist, they lie in the voluminous and neglected files of the War Department, ... the point in question—whether the cannon confiscated included the two St. Michaels cannon—is affirmed in Tilghman's "History of Talbot County" and journals of the period as well as the recorded recollections of Civil War-era residents," says Senator Mathias in his letter to the Interior Department.

"A bureaucratic insistence on further paperwork and primary sources from the period preceding the Civil War is in my opinion unnecessary to further establish the justice of St. Michael's claim."

But Mr. O'Bryant is not so sure. All his records show is that the cannon came from the War Department.

"We are not going to give them back these guns just because they say they are theirs. If they can prove they are theirs we will follow the proper manner of disposing of government property," he said.

"Part of the problem rests in having several cannon that possibly do come from Easton. However, we have no records that says the ones we have are those cannon.

"If these cannon were used in defense of Fort McHenry we would be losing historical objects that should be here. If they were, in fact, used in defense of St. Michaels they have no place here. But they have to prove that point," says Mr. O'Bryant.

In the meantime, negotiations are being conducted on the possibility of St. Michaels borrowing the cannon for its celebrations next month.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fort McHenry National Monument and
Historic Shrine
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D6215

August 23, 1972

Mr. S. Vannort Chapman
Room 1010
1 South Calvert Building
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Mr. Chapman:

It was indeed a pleasure to have spoken with you on the telephone and I am looking forward to meeting you.

Your willingness to volunteer time from a busy schedule to assist in establishing facts about Fort McHenry's War of 1812 cannon is commendable. I will be most appreciative of your assistance.

For several decades the St. Michaels' claim to cannon at Fort McHenry has been an issue. Most of the controversy has been over the question of the "confiscation and subsequent transfer of cannon to Fort McHenry in 1816." I am not attempting to determine the validity of the confiscation in 1861 as the people of St. Michaels are working in that area. What is of importance is establishing how the cannon that appeared on the armament inventory of 1933 were obtained by the War Department. National Park Service Historian Bienvenu in a 1963 search for information refers to a letter (copy not readily available) of "June, 1926 Davis to Weller" (believed to be Ovington E. Weller, U. S. Senator from Md. 1921-1927 and practiced law in Baltimore from 1927 until his death in 1947) which stated that there were no guns of the 1812 period at Fort McHenry. In my opinion, the 1812 cannon that were accepted from the War Department in 1933 by the National Park Service were obtained in the years after 1926. This theory appears to be substantiated in accounts from the Baltimore Sun in July 1926. I am obtaining copies from the Sun tomorrow and will enclose a copy for your review.

I have also enclosed an April 14, 1932 letter from Mr. James Hancock, about placing 3 or more cannon at Fort McHenry; an April 12, 1932 letter with the Society of the War of 1812 letterhead about the dedication of the cannon; a February 24, 1931 letter from Major John T. Harris about 1812 cannon; list of the custodians of Fort McHenry during the period of 1922 to August 1933; September 12, 1931 letter from Colonel A. K. Baskette which refers to 1812 cannon; a duplication of a newspaper article from the St. Michaels Comet November 28, 1935, and an armament inventory from 1861 to present.



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

The War of 1812 cannon presently at Fort McHenry are valuable in the historical interpretation. However, at this time, some are in temporary storage while awaiting carriages. Additionally, as I feel these cannons were gifts it is very important to establish how they were obtained by the War Department so the fate of the cannons claimed by St. Michaels will be determined by fact.

Names of the defenders at the Fort in 1814 are not readily available. However, this would be valuable information to have and will be a future research project.

Once again, Mr. Chapman, I appreciate your assistance and please call me should you need additional information.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harry L. O'Bryant". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Harry L. O'Bryant
Superintendent

Enclosures

S. VANNORT CHAPMAN
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1010 ONE SOUTH CALVERT BUILDING
(FORMERLY MERCANTILE TRUST BUILDING)
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

August 24, 1972

Mr. William Henry Pitcher
215 Longwood Road
Baltimore, Maryland. 21210

Dear Comrade,

As your archivist I would like to stir up your memory and get some nuggets of lore from the past when you were President of the Society of the War of 1812.

For several decades the town of St. Michaels has been pressing a claim to two cannon alleged to be stored at Fort McHenry, which were the gift to the town by one Jacob Gibson, and alleged to have been used in the defense of St. Michaels during the War of 1812, on or about August 11, 1813. St. Michaels authorities maintain that these cannon were put in a market house in St. Mary Square, where they were kept until moved to the Easton Armory in June 1861 where they were later confiscated by the Union forces and taken to Fort McHenry. St. Michaels is demanding their return.

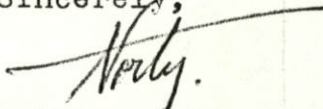
James E. Hancock, then President of our Society on April 14, 1932, made application to place three or more "original cannon" used in the defense of Baltimore with the Fort. And on April 12, 1932 Mr. Hancock, by letter advised Arthur High, Chairman of the Bi Centenary Committee that,- "The Society of the War of 1812 will install a museum at Fort McHenry and will also dedicate three original cannon".

My concern is the possible loss of "our cannon" should any be returned to St. Michaels. Both Gordon Stick and I have talked with Mr. Harry O'Bryant the new Superintendent of the Fort, and he knows our position and wants our help. We feel he deserves our help and cooperation. If St. Michaels can substantiate a claim to two cannon they should have those that were used to defend St. Michaels,- but St. Michaels should not get the cannon our Society donated as "original cannon" used in the defense of Baltimore.

Now will you delve into your memory or records and let me have anything you know or remember of this matter.

With real thanks for your prompt help,

Sincerely,



S. Vannort Chapman

SVC/ac

I met in in 1930 but have no memory of these particular cannon. Where are the minutes? Pat

2 ancient Fort McHenry cannon to be loaned to St. Michaels

By GILBERT A. LEWTHWAITE
Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—Two ancient cannon will be taken this week from Fort McHenry to St. Michaels on the Eastern Shore, which is where local residents think they belong.

But the two six-pounders will only be on loan for 45 days because the Interior Department refused to accept St. Michaels's claim to ownership of the guns.

Local historians in the Talbot county community claim the two cannon were used to defend St. Michaels during the War of 1812 and were confiscated in 1861 from Easton Armory by Union troops to defend Fort McHenry against possible Confederate attack during the Civil War.

Government officials

Government officials, who are not yet convinced of the claim, have agreed to lend the cannon for celebration of St. Michaels Days this month. But before they hand over the cannon permanently they want more proof.

"Although it may appear to be extravagant to request documentation by primary historical sources to prove ownership of the cannon, the protection of these historical objects, as required by law, appears to justify the extent of the re-

quest," says Curtis Bohlen, acting assistant secretary of the interior in a letter to Senator J. Glenn Beall, Jr., the Maryland Republican who has been pressing the case for the cannon's return to St. Michaels.

Mr. Bohlen, in his letter, says that a search of Fort McHenry's records has revealed no trace of the cannon taken from Easton Armory in 1861.

Three cannon

"Three cannon from the War of 1812, believed to have been used in the defense of Baltimore and of the same type as St. Michaels's, were donated (in the 1930's) by the Society of the War of 1812.

There are indications that during this same period of strong patriotism all the other 1812 cannon at the fort were donated by the City of Baltimore and patriotic societies and citizens," says Mr. Bohlen.

He adds that the National Park Service will continue to assist the St. Michaels residents in establishing their claim, but says the new information from Fort McHenry's files "strongly indicates" that the cannon were not taken to the fort from Easton Armory.

Charles Novak, a retired government engineer at Edgewood arsenal who moved to St. Michaels from East Baltimore

seven years ago, has been heading the campaign to establish local ownership of the cannon.

"They are supposed to be on loan for 45 days, but we hope before the 45 days are up we will be able to keep them, he said.

"We have sent them (Fort McHenry's curator and National Park Service officials) a complete study. It tells how the soldiers came down and how they took the cannon and everything else. Our problem is that even though we point out what happened they say we have not proved these two cannon were the ones that were taken," said Mr. Novak.

"Two are ours"

"Two of those cannon we feel are ours. We have done our work now it's up to them to disqualify what we have given them. They will have to make the decision.

"The idea of St. Michaels Days is always to have some historical fact brought out, so someone said 'Let's get the cannon back,'" said Mr. Novak.

Would St. Michaels consider refusing to return the cannon once they were delivered this week?

"We are not revolutionaries," he said.

S. VANNORT CHAPMAN
 ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
 1010 ONE SOUTH CALVERT BUILDING
 (FORMERLY MERCANTILE TRUST BUILDING)
 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

August 25, 1972

Mr. Dennis F. Blizzard
 805 Kelly Road
 Lutherville, Maryland. 21093

Dear Comrade,

As your archivist I would like to stir up your memory and get some nuggets of lore from the past when you were President of the Society of the War of 1812.

For several decades the town of St. Michaels has been pressing a claim to two cannon alleged to be stored at Fort McHenry, which were the gift to the town by one Jacob Gibson, and alleged to have been used in the defense of St. Michaels during the War of 1812, on or about August 11, 1813. St. Michaels authorities maintain that these cannon were put in a market house in St. Mary Square, where they were kept until moved to the Easton Armory in June 1861 where they were later confiscated by the Union forces and taken to Fort McHenry. St. Michaels is demanding their return.

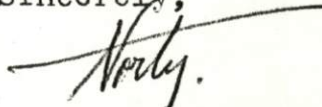
James E. Hancock, then President of our Society on April 14, 1932, made application to place three or more "original cannon" used in the defense of Baltimore with the Fort. And on April 12, 1932 Mr. Hancock, by letter advised Arthur High, Chairman of the Bi Centenary Committee that, - "The Society of the War of 1812 will install a museum at Fort McHenry and will also dedicate three original cannon".

My concern is the possible loss of "our cannon" should any be returned to St. Michaels. Both Gordon Stick and I have talked with Mr. Harry O'Bryant the new Superintendent of the Fort, and he knows our position and wants our help. We feel he deserves our help and cooperation. If St. Michaels can substantiate a claim to two cannon they should have those that were used to defend St. Michaels, - but St. Michaels should not get the cannon our Society donated as "original cannon" used in the defense of Baltimore.

Now will you delve into your memory or records and let me have anything you know or remember of this matter.

With real thanks for your prompt help,

Sincerely,



S. Vannort Chapman

SVC/ac

August 24, 1972

Dear John,

Since you are in St. Michaels you may know more about this claim and the history back of it. And maybe you could put your ear to the ground and find out something about the public feeling and interest.

Apparently the St. Michaels claim just recently made was oral from a Mr. Charles Novak. Apparently St. Michaels basis its claim on a statement in Tilghman's History of Talbot County, and a story from the Land of Legendary Lore found in the public library in St. Michaels.

The story seems to be that Jacob Gibson of Sharp's Island gave the cannon to the town in 1813 as a kind of peace offering to those whom his famous prank had offended.

The cannon in question were said to be 4-6 pounders made of iron. The inventories of smooth bore weapons at Fort McHenry in 1861 through 1931 shows no such weapons. However the inventory in 1933 shows ten, three of which could be those given by our Society and the inventory of 1972 shows eleven such cannon.

If we accept as accurate Tilghman's History and The Land of Legendary Lore and the statement that weapons in the Easton arsenal were confiscated by the Federal troops there is no evidence that the "St. Michaels Cannon" were ever placed at Fort McHenry. Further, would cannon of 58 years of age be of any use in 1861?

If you on the "field of battle" can find out anything please help me.

Incidentally the "Danicker Papers" have been located.

S.V.C.

August 24, 1972

Mr. Harry L. O'Bryant
Superintendent
Fort McHenry
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Re: St. Michaels Cannon Claim

Dear Mr. O'Bryant,

Thank you for your informative letter of August 23, 1972, and the enclosures concerning the "St. Michaels Cannon".

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to all of the living past presidents of the Society of the War of 1812. I hope I will get some replies in due course but doubt the replies will come in "promptly".

Incidentally you should try to get from the News-American their Special Commemorative Magazine issue of September 7, 1969. One of the articles in this issue is on "Battle Acre" on the North Point Road and displays a picture of the monument there with what appears to be a 4-6 pounder mounted on a marble marker as appears in the inclosed copy thereof.

When I have had time to carefully study the enclosures you sent me I will be in touch.

Sincerely,

SVC/ac

S. Vannort Chapman

Copy: Gordon M. P. Stick

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland



FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 14, 1814

Past President
JOHN A. PENTZ
- 1639 GROFFTON ROAD -
- BALTIMORE 127 MD. -
St. Michaels, Md.
21663

August 28, 1972

S. Vannort Chapman, Esq.
Archivist, Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland
1010 One South Calvert Building
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Norty,

I do not know Mr. Novak, though I have heard of him. I do know the other members of the St. Michaels cannons committee.

As to support for the committee's contention, they have (in addition to Tilghman's statement) the armorer's account of the removal of the cannon from the Easton Armory and a contemporary letter (by a man named Dodson, I believe) which states that they were taken to Annapolis and then to Fort McHenry.

I know nothing of the Society's cannon. Years ago I visited the museum at Fort McHenry and saw the valuable Bowie collection of small arms presented to the Fort through our Society, but did not see or ever hear of the cannon. Incidentally, your quotation expresses a purpose to "dedicate three original cannon" but does not mention delivery.

It looks to me as though either St. Michaels or the Society will have to produce better evidence than is now at hand to establish the true identity of the cannon now at the Fort in substantiation of its claim.

Like other members of this community I have been very interested, though not directly involved, in the return of the cannon to St. Michaels. Nevertheless, as a member of the 1812 Society, and in the interest of fairness, I should want the pieces to remain in Baltimore if the Society can establish a superior claim to ownership. If heither group can prove its case convincingly, I will not, because of my dual loyalties, participate in any controversy which may ensue, although, frankly, the question has occurred to me whether the objects of our Society would not be more effectively promoted by a community-centered patriotic employment of the cannon by St. Michaels, rather than our abandonment of them to neglect in a storeroom at the Fort, where in all likelihood they would have remained indefinitely had it not been for the long-time efforts of this community to secure them for the town and to use them to good purpose.

S. Vannort Chapman, Esq.

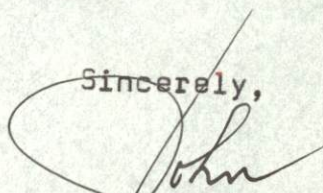
August 28, 1972

I have not spoken to anyone here about the Society's interest in the cannon and will not do so unless and until I learn of the Society's wishes. If the Society leadership wishes to meet with one or more of the committee to try to clear up the situation, I could arrange a meeting. Unless I hear from you or someone else in authority, I will remain uninvolved.

I suppose the Daneker papers you mention are the certified copies of the minutes and other records of the Society from 1814 until 1888 or thereabouts which disappeared from the 1812 filing cabinet. You probably don't know that Bill Pitcher and I decades ago spent a year or more in a fruitless effort to track down the originals. Whichever you mean, I am delighted and would greatly like to know where and how they were located. I once intended to use the records as a basis for a history of the Society. Indeed I did write a short history which has appeared in some of our annual brochures.

With best regards and good wishes.

Sincerely,



John A. Pentz

Copy to
Gordon M.F. Stick, Esq.

General Society of the War of 1812

FOUNDED SEPT. 14, 1814

S. Denmead Kolb
Past President General
644 S. SALISBURY BOULEVARD
SALISBURY, MD. 21801
P. O. BOX 155



AUGUST 28, 1972

S. VANNORT CHAPMAN
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1010 ONE SOUTH CALVERT BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

DEAR MR. CHAPMAN:

IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 24, 1972, I REGRET HAVING TO TELL YOU THAT I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE WHATSOEVER AS TO THE CANNON SITUATION AT ST. MICHAELS. I DO KNOW THAT ST. MICHAELS WAS BOMBARDED BY THE BRITISH DURING THE WAR OF 1812, AND A LANDING WAS MADE THERE.

I SUGGEST THAT YOU ADDRESS AN INQUIRY TO MR. MAX CHAMBERS, N. MAIN ST., PRESTON, MARYLAND, WHO HAS BEEN QUITE ACTIVE OVER THE YEARS IN HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA, AND COULD QUITE POSSIBLY PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION.

I ALSO SUGGEST THAT YOU MIGHT COMMUNICATE WITH DR. WROTEN AT THE SALISBURY STATE COLLEGE, WHO IS RECOGNIZED AS AN HISTORIAN AND AUTHORITY ON THE EASTERN SHORE. I AM CERTAIN THAT THESE GENTLEMEN WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST IF POSSIBLE.

YOU CERTAINLY DO HAVE A MOST INTERESTING AND DESERVING PROJECT AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING INFORMATION DESIRED. WITH EVERY GOOD WISH, I AM

YOURS VERY TRULY,

S. Denmead Kolb.
S. DENMEAD KOLB

CC: MR. MAX CHAMBERS
DR. WILLIAM H. WROTEN, JR.

SDK:ET

5713 Ranny Road
Baltimore 21209
January 11, 1973

S. Vannort Chapman
One South Calvert Bldg
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Chapman:

I am writing to you in reference to the St. Michael's cannon controversy. Mr. Harry O'Bryant, Superintendent of Fort McHenry, has employed me as a researcher in this matter and it is at his suggestion that I am contacting you.

As you probably know this controversy has been raging for the past three decades without coming any closer to a resolution. At the best, the evidence the St. Michael's people present is second hand. They themselves acknowledge this, and have resorted to what is tantamount to political armtwisting. On the other hand, the staff of Fort McHenry is embarrassed because it cannot prove precisely where the cannons did come from. It is in this latter regard that I am appealing to you.

Since your Society has been most generous in donating at least two peices of artillery that we do know about, it is the hope of the staff that your records may indicate where the two "St. Michael's" cannon came from. For this reason I am appealing to you to make the records of the Society of the War of 1812 available to me so that my research might be as thorough as possible. I realize that my request is presumptuous, but it is my sincere hope that a mutual respect for historic accuracy will enable your answer to be affirmative.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,
Patricia Schultheis
Patricia Schultheis

January 15, 1973

Ms. Patricia Schultheis
5713 Ranny Road
Baltimore, Md. 21209

Re: St. Michaels Cannon Controversy

Dear Ms. Schultheis,

I have your letter of January 11, 1973 asking that I make the records of the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland available to you so that you may make the research into this matter, assigned to you by Mr. O'Bryant, (Superintendent of Fort McHenry) as thorough as possible.

I have not as Archivist of the Society, the power nor authority to grant your request, but will bring the matter up at the next meeting of the Society.

In the meantime I will say that I made an effort toward some research but found little in our records. I called attention to the following letters which are in the files at Fort McHenry and are known to Mr. O'Bryant, namely;

Letters of April 12, 1932 from James E. Hancock, President of the Society of the War of 1812 to Mr. Arthur High, Chairman, Bicentenary Committee, in which it is said that the Society will "dedicate 3 original cannon that were used in the War of 1812 and that the Daughters of the War of 1812 will unveil bronze markers on the walls of the Fort buildings.

Letter of April 14, 1932 from James E. Hancock to Col. Alvin K. Baskette, making application to place 3 or more original cannon that were used in the defence of Baltimore. (Note that these cannon were "used in the defence of Baltimore).

Letter of February 24, 1931 to Col. Alvin K. Baskette, Q.M.C., Hqrs. 3rd Corp. Area from Major John T. Harris, Q.M.C., War Department Washington, saying, "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 pieces which were used at the Fort in 1812 are at various places in the City of Baltimore. General Riggs of the Historical Society....and some of the historical society members....know the location of these cannon. Some steps might be taken....to have them donated by the City of Baltimore.

Letter September 12, 1931, Subject, Improvements at Fort McHenry, to quartermaster General, Washington, D. C. from Col. A. K. Baskette, see

January 15, 1973

Mrs. Patricia Schultheis, #2

Re: St. Michaels Cannon Controversy

item 1, g and item 2, e, saying that the cannon originally a part of this fortification were dismantled and stored in a warehouse in the City of Baltimore.

Mr. O'Bryant furnished me with a copy of an Armament Inventory from 1861 to 1972. The problem is to determine an accurate description of the cannon alleged to belong to St. Michaels so that the said inventory may become meaningful.

"A preliminary Research on St. Michael's Cannons" was made by Lionel J. Bienvenu, Historian, during k963-64, a copy of which is in the files at the Fort.

When I can find time I will look into our records for further information.

Sincerely,

SVC/ac

S. Vannort Chapman

5713 Ranny Road
Baltimore, 21209
February 6, 1973

Mr. S. Vannort Chapman

re: Fort McHenry Cannon

Dear sir:

Thank you for your informative letter of January 15. The information you gave us opened two new possible avenues of investigation. Hopefully they will lead us to the source of these cannon.

In your letter you quote a letter from James E. Hancock stating that the Society will "dedicate 3 original cannon that were used in the War of 1812." These particular cannon, I am happy to report, are safely on display in the sallyport of the Fort where they have given enjoyment to thousands of visitors. Their source is well documented and any concerns you might have had about their becoming the property of St. Micheal's might be safely allayed. Thank you once again for your time and effort.

Yours truly,
Patricia Schultheis
Patricia Schultheis

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland

Past President
JOHN A. PENTZ
1360 SPOFFORD ROAD
BALTIMORE-12, MD.
St. Michaels, Md.
21663



FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 14, 1814

June 28, 1973

Dennis F. Blizzard, Esq.
President Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland
805 Kellogg Road
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

Dear Dennis:

In pursuance of our conversation at the 1812 Julep Party, I should like to present the situation regarding the two cannon as I see it.

1. The St. Mary's Square Museum wishes to have returned to St. Michaels the two cannon used there to repel a British landing party during the War of 1812, and, at the time of the Civil War, confiscated by Federal forces, sent to Annapolis, and later, so it is believed, deposited at Fort McHenry. So far the St. Michaels committee has been unable positively to identify the two cannon at the Fort as the cannon in question.

2. There are on deposit at Fort McHenry two 1812 cannon identified as belonging to the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, just possibly the cannon taken from St. Michaels. As you will see, I consider their identity more or less irrelevant to my principal concern.

I should like formally to propose, through you, to the Executive Committee of the Society that these two cannon be transferred into the legal possession of the St. Mary's Square Museum of St. Michaels, preferably as an outright gift, or at least on indefinite or permanent loan, if compelling considerations seem to indicate the latter course as preferable.

In support of my proposal I respectfully offer the following rationale: The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Maryland, as constituted, is a state-wide organization. Although the Society had its inception at Fort McHenry in 1814, has maintained a headquarters in Baltimore, and throughout its long history has held most of its social functions and

June 28, 1973

Dennis F. Blizzard, Esq.
President Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland

patriotic observances in that city, yet it has an obligation to promote its objectives throughout our state. Perhaps the Society has been somewhat remiss, during the 159 years of its existence, in failing to grasp opportunities to generate and encourage in various areas of the state, a just pride in their local patriots and noteworthy events of the Second War for American Independence.

Our Society is here presented with such an opportunity. The transfer of the two cannon to St. Michaels would constitute a most excellent action in the furtherance of the Society's objects. St. Michaels is a prosperous, fast-growing community, proudly conscious of its history and of its notable contributions to Maryland's prosperity and development. The flourishing Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum has done much to accelerate the growth of the town's leading present-day industry -- tourism; and the St. Mary's Square museum, located on the quaint, old, historic center of civic activities, does all things possible to make old residents, as well as newcomers and tourists, aware of their prideworthy heritage.

The annual St. Michaels Days, held in September, unite all segments of the community in a happy manifestation of civic pride. Thousands of tourists attend the events and visit, among other places, the St. Mary's Square Museum, on the front lawn of which the presence of the cannon would arouse their interest in the Battle of St. Michaels -- far better for our Society, I should think, than having the cannon, as formerly, hidden away in some dark storage area of Fort McHenry, or even if properly displayed, lost in interest amid the numerous other relics at the Fort.

We -- our Society -- have many shrines, monuments, and memorabilia in and around Baltimore. Let us be generous in spirit -- and actually greatly benefit our own patriotic cause -- by offering the cannon to the St. Mary's Square Museum just as soon as practicable, so that they can be removed to their new (and possibly original) home in time for the St. Michaels Days. Whether or not the cannon are the very same weapons that defended the town of St. Michaels in 1813, let time and the experts determine. What really matters is that the cannon, if placed at St. Michaels, will greatly enhance interest in the War of 1812.

As past president and a member of the Society these many years, I urge you, Dennis, to bring this matter before the Executive

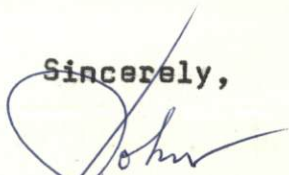
June 28, 1973

Dennis F. Blizzard, Esq.
President Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland

Committee for its serious consideration and action at its next meeting. I should do so personally were it not for my reluctance to drive any great distance at night, as I have explained to you.

With my thanks, high personal regards, and all good wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John", written over a large, stylized heart shape.

John A. Pentz
Past President

cc: S. Vannort Chapman, Esq.
Robert E. Michel, Esq.
Gordon M.F. Stick, Esq.

S. VANNORT CHAPMAN
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
1010 ONE SOUTH CALVERT BUILDING
(FORMERLY MERCANTILE TRUST BUILDING)
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

September 5, 1973

Mr. Dennis F. Blizzard
805 Kellogg Road
Lutherville, Md. 21093

Re: Fort McHenry Cannon
of War of 1812

Dear Dennis,

I have had a talk with Mr. O'Bryant, Superintendent of Fort McHenry, who advises that the National Park Service research on the cannon has been completed and a copy thereof will be made available to me within 30 days after it has been reproduced with all its appendages.

Mr. O'Bryant, however, advises that according to the research report, the 3 cannon referred to "as those donated by our Society" were never the property of our Society. These three cannon were received by the Fort from the War Department who acquired them from the City of Baltimore through the efforts of Mr. Hancock, then President of our Society, and are now on carriages at the Fort and are the property of the Fort under the National Park Service. These cannon in 1932 were removed from their emplacement at Mount Royal and North Avenue in Baltimore City and turned over by the City to the War Department and thence to Fort McHenry. From this it seems that our Society never had title to or ownership of the cannon but only exerted influence to see that they reached the Fort. Consequently it would appear that we cannot give them to St. Michaels. Our Society cannot give away what it never owned.

When I get a copy of the Park Service Research Report I will analyse it and make a further report.

Sincerely,



S. Vannort Chapman

SVC/ac

Copy: Mr. John A. Pentz
"The Grove" Church Neck
St. Michaels, Md. 21663