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24 Feb 1661

1661. The next settler who took up ground was Charles Gorsuch, said to be a member of the Society of Friends, who patented fifty acres of land on the 24th of February, 1661, which is afterwards known as "Whetstone Point," lying between the branches of the Patapsco River, and at whose extremity Fort McHenry now stands---Mr. Gorsuch yielding and paying the rent of one pound sterling per annum in equal half-yearly instalments at St. Mary's.

Mr. Gorsuch vacating, a patent was granted for the same land on the 2d of June, 1702, to Mr. James Carroll, who called it "Whetstone," he paying two shillings rent per annum.

19 April 1706

1706. On the 19th of April an Act was passed creating  
"Whetstone Point" a town,---the original favorite  
among locaters of land in this vicinity.

*March . 1776*

1776. In March, Capt. Squires, the commander of the British sloop of war Otter, who had been cruising about in various parts of the bay, made a demonstration in the Patapsco river with various boats, which produced great alarm in the town. Capt. Nicholson, the commander of the Defence, a ship belonging to the State of Maryland, was at that time in Baltimore. He soon got under way to drive those marauders from the river, which he did in a short time, and captured four or five of their boats. It was the occasion of this alarm that gave rise to the necessity of throwing up batteries on Fell's Point, the fortifying of Whetstone Point with eighteen guns, &c., &c. These defences were considered at the time as invaluable, and the aid which the militia of the surrounding country afforded, called forth the grateful thanks of the people.

1794

1794. The extraordinary pretensions and naval power of the British rendered them ~~most~~ obnoxious, and it was thought a war with them could scarcely be avoided; but as the surest means of preserving peace with hinor, the President invited serious preparation here, both for offence and defence, whilst his minister, Mr. Jay, with the terms of accomogation prescribed, was waiting in London their acceptance. The fort at Whetstone Point was repaired by the inhabitants of the town, and the Star Fort of brickwork added. The ground was afterward ceded to the United States, and the work called Fort McHenry, in honor of Colonel James McHenry of Maryland, then Secretary of War.

July 24 1797

1797 On the 24th of July, the following gentlemen having been appointed a committee on behalf of the citizens of Baltimore, published an appeal to raise by subscription among the citizens of the city sufficient means to finish the fortification (Fort McHenry) at Whetstone Point: Robert Gilmore, George Sears, Robert Oliver, William Patterson, David Stewart, Jeremiah Yellott, Mark Pringle, Archibald Campbell, Thomas Cole.