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## THE WAR OF 1812

On June 18, 1812, the United States declared war against Great Britain. The declaration produced great excitement. Baltimore, unlike Boston, which at this juncture was for peace at any price, at once girded up her loins and prepared for the conflict. Maryland, through her Legislature, immediately pledged "the lives and fortunes" <sup>of her citizens</sup> to the public service, and made an appropriation for raising the State's quota of six thousand militia. In Baltimore the enthusiasm of the volunteers was such that the recruiting officers were compelled to suspend enlistments by companies and regiments and give precedence to the old military organizations. The war was thought just and necessary, and the public enthusiasm could scarcely allow the expression of any difference of opinion. This temper was illustrated only too forcibly in the outburst of indignation against the editors of the Federal Republican, which, while without justification or excuse, was an extreme manifestation of the intensity and depth of the war spirit.

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At the beginning of the war the government determined upon the invasion of Canada, and while the regular troops were forwarded to the frontier, a portion of the Maryland militia was called into service, at the expense of the State, to garrison the forts at Annapolis and Baltimore. In Baltimore the fortifications were manned by the city militia, and Capt. Collins' and Lieut. Sterett's companies of Baltimore militia were sent to Annapolis to garrison Fort Madison. Within six weeks after the declaration of war, Capt. Nathan Towson, of Baltimore County, organized a company of volunteer artillery in the city and county, and marched northward to join the Second Regiment of artillery, commanded by Col. Winfield Scott. Another artillery company was formed about the same time, composed of merchants of Baltimore, and commanded by Capt. Joseph H. Nicholson, chief justice of the Baltimore Court, and one of the judges of the Court of Appeals, with John Barney and Nathaniel F. Williams as lieutenants. The Fencibles tendered their services to the general government as a part of the garrison of Fort McHenry, and their offer was soon after accepted. Several other volunteer companies also tendered their services to the President, but owing to the unfortunates state of the Federal finances their offer was not accepted until the State could provide for their comfort. Nearly a regiment, however, was sent forward to the frontiers of Canada at this juncture from Baltimore under the command of Col. Wm. H. Winder, "and the most ample funds," says Niles' Register, "are provided from the liberal purses of our citizens to supply them with ever necessary to their leaving home. About fifteen thousand dollars have been subscribed for the purpose, and any reasonable sum may be obtained in addition if the service shall require it. Several gentlemen subscribed five hundred dollars each."

On the 5th of October another company of volunteers, consisting of one hundred rank and file, under the command of Stephen H. Moore, marched from Baltimore to join Col. Winder.

"Perhaps no body of men," says Mr. Niles, "were ever better calculated and provided for the service expected of them. They were fitted out in the most substantial manner, by the munificent patriotism of the people of Baltimore, with every necessary; and were, besides, presented with an elegant flag by the patriotic ladies of the Seventh Ward."

Maj. Beall, of the United States army, and Capt. Gordon, of the navy, were directed to co-operate with Gen. Smith, and Mr. James W. McCulloch was appointed acting deputy quartermaster-general. Col. Wadsworth, of the United States ordnance department, was placed in charge of the defenses, and under his direction Fort McHenry was much strengthened, and Fort Covington built. The guns of the abandoned French frigate "L'Eole"\* were borrowed from the consul and mounted, and to these Gen. Smith afterwards attributed the preservation of Fort McHenry. "The enemy knew they were mounted, and knew they carried balls of forty-two pounds weight, and that furnaces had been prepared to make them red hot." When Gen. Smith assumed command of the forces in and around Baltimore he found Fort McHenry in no condition for a conflict; "one of the platforms was rotten; the water battery was totally destroyed; the ground between the fort was in its natural state, affording a good cover to an attacking enemy; some of the carriages within the fort were unfit for service; there were no furnaces; and, in fine, the fort was not in condition to repel a serious attack from a formidable British fleet." By direction of the Secretary of War, Col. J.G. Swift, of the United States Engineers, was sent to Baltimore, and under his direction an extensive line of water battery was erected in front of the fort, mounted with thirty two heavy cannon, with furnaces attached. For a more extended defense of the city, "including the rear of Fort McHenry, the cove, the point between the fort and flagstaff point, and the point opposite Fort McHenry on the northeast side of the harbor," he recommended to the Secretary of War "to have twelve eighteen-pound cannon mounted on traveling field carriages, completely appurtenanced, attaching to them two pinnaces." This train was to be "disposed so as to run four of the pieces with a furnace to any position on the Fort McHenry side, and eight of them with furnace to the point opposite Fort McHenry, to be used as the position of the enemy may require." He further suggested that "bridges should be constructed over every creek or river in the route from Baltimore to any point of attack, removable at will."

\*A French seventy-four which came to Baltimore, Jan. 22, 1806, being nearly wrecked off the coast, she was stripped of her guns, and condemned and sold.

While the people of Baltimore were thus actively engaged in strengthening the hands of the government, her volunteer soldiery were doing gallant and effective service in the north. As a military operation, however, the invasion of Canada on 1812 was a failure, relieved somewhat by the gallant deeds of Towson, Elliott, Covington, Winder, Moore, and other brave Marylanders. On the sea we were more successful, for we had proved by the close of the year that we were more than a match for Britannia in both skill and courage. To the Federal navy Baltimore contributed largely, and within four months after the declaration of war her wealthy merchants had sent to sea forty-two privateers and letters-of-marque, carrying about three hundred and thirty guns, and from two thousand eight hundred to three thousand men. These "skimmers of the sea" were the great thorns in the side of the enemy, and harassed and annoyed them in every quarter of the globe, and even at the entrance of their own ports in old England itself. They took and destroyed millions of property, and were, beyond all doubt, chief instruments in bringing about a permanent peace. By way of reprisal for the immense damage inflicted upon her commerce, England, in March, 1813, sent out a squadron of ten armed vessels, under Admiral Cockburn, and declared all the coast, except Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, to be in a state of blockade. The admiral entered the Chesapeake and began a system of devastation, plundering and destroying the villages and plantations on both shores. The inhabitants defended themselves as best they could, and applied to the Federal government for help, but it was refused them, although Marylanders were fighting in the Canada campaign, and favors were being granted to States which were clamorous for peace upon almost any terms. The local authorities of Baltimore, however, were not idle, and on the 11th of March, 1813, the Governor visited Baltimore and directed General Samuel Smith, of the volunteer militia, to "take the earliest opportunity of making the necessary arrangements of the militia for the defense of the port of Baltimore."

Upon taking command of the defenses of Baltimore, Gen. Smoth made an address to the troops, in which he said,\*-

"That the militia of Baltimore City and County stood high in the estimate of the general government and of the public generally; that as regulars could not be well spared for the protection of the different seaports, the Executive of the United States had to rely on the militia of such places for their immediate defense; that in placing this reliance on the patriotic militia of this city he would not be deceived, for the alacrity with which they had attended the first calls of discipline was sufficient evidence that they would always be found at their posts in time of need." to

On the 16th of April Cockburn's fleet, which had been slowly moving up the bay, plundering and destroying as it went, appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco, and threatened the city, which had already been "pointed out for military execution in papers published by citizens of the United States," the animosities and jealousies of other cities scarcely suffering them to conceal their joy over the impending ruin of Baltimore.\* Before this time the enemy had not attempted anything of great importance except what was incidental to a mere blockade. But now they stopped all intercourse with the city by water, cutting off an immensely valuable trade and stinting her citizens of even their ordinary supplies of provisions. To crown all, says Mr. Niles, "internal foes of the city co-operating with the enemy alarm those accustomed to deal with us from the interior, and destroy the whole trade and curtail the supplies for the subsistence of the people of this populous city." The total annihilation of trade, which threw out of employment all classes of mechanics, and the exorbitant price of most of the necessaries of life, compelled a great number of worthy people to choose between emigration or dependence on charity.

\* See the writer's "History of Maryland," III., p. 37

While thus assailed by her enemies and abandoned by those whom she had considered her friends, it was a fortunate thing for Baltimore that perfect good feeling prevailed between the Governor and the city, and that all classes of her citizens vied with each other in zeal for the common defense and in fortitude in bearing privation and loss. In spite of the great distress occasioned by the general suspension of business, the merchants of Baltimore about this time answered the application of the general government for a loan by a subscription of three million dollars, while on the 13th of April, 1813, the City Council appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the defense of the city, which was directed to be expended under the direction of the mayor, and Messrs. James Mosher, Luke Tiernan, Henry Payson, Dr. John Campbell White, James A. Buchanan, Samuel Sterett, and Thorndike Chase. Thus sum proving insufficient, a meeting of the citizens was held and a loan not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars was advised, the committee of supply being enlarged by the addition of John E. Howard, George Warner, J. Kelso, R. Gilmor, William Patterson, and Messrs. Deshon & Burke. Individual citizens likewise made liberal subscriptions, the committee of public supplies "rendered all the services that could have been obtained by the earlier appointment of a quartermaster," and Gen. Armstrong declared that the city was "making itself ready comparatively with little expense to the United States, and would no doubt be prepared to meet the enemy."

While the enemy's squadron was lying off Baltimore, the measures for defense went on with the greatest activity. The militia, under the command of Gen. Smith, erected a water battery, mounted with forty-two pounders, and built furnaces for heating shot, in accordance with the suggestions of Col. Swift. Look-out or signal boats were established far down the Patapsco, and cavalry, infantry and artillery were stationed along the shores of the bay with a "code of signals." Fort McHenry was strengthened by the mounting of a number of thirty-two pounders, Col. Wadsworth, of the United States Engineers, laid off other fortifications, and several old hulks were stationed in the river for the purpose of being sunk in the channel if necessary. A small work of six guns was also thrown up by the brickmakers without charge, and in the ensuing year, during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, destroyed one of the enemy's barges in their night attack and compelled them to retreat.\* The day the enemy appeared off the Patapsco Mr. Niles says was a proud one for Baltimore:

"It was astonishing to perceive the animation of the people on the firing of the alarm gun. Only one spirit prevailed. There was no fear but the fear of being too late on duty; no party but to repel the enemy. This generous feeling went through all ranks of society. We have perfect harmony (if such a thing can be), and the din of arms has not disturbed the quiet of the citizen. The place is profoundly tranquil. The marching of the volunteers occasions no bustle. All things are done decently and in order. On the evening of that day they captured two packets from Baltimore bound for Queenstown. The packet boat 'Patapsco' was captured by the enemy's small boats off North Point, with the mail, a large number of passengers, and over two thousand dollars in specie. The passengers were detained over night under guard, and on

the following day were put on board an old boat, with scarcely any provisions and no water, to make the best of their way to Queenstown with a permit from the Admiral."

\* It would seem that Fort McHenry was further strengthened by the "first marine artillery of the Union," described as a "body of invaluable men, masters and mates of vessels," to whom the city is represented as "indebted for the transportation and mounting of twenty great guns for a new battery there."

The 22d of April still found the British squadron lying inactive within a few miles of the city, contenting itself with predatory excursions and rapid raids into the adjacent country, in which, however, they got little else than hard knocks. It is quite evident that the military authorities expected to come into close quarters with the enemy, for we find Gen. Smith, on the 27th of April, writing to Edward Johnson, mayor of the city, at the suggestion of Col. Wadsworth, to advise that the fire engines and fire companies he held in readiness in case of an attack, "so that in such an emergency (which doubtless meant the firing of the city by the anticipated bombardment) they may be employed with the best practical effect." These apprehensions might possibly have been realized but for the vigorous preparations for defense that had been made, and the prudent precautions adopted by Gen. Smith to prevent the enemy from sounding the river and examining the fort. Under the pretext of transmitting a letter to the Secretary of War, Admiral Cockburn sent a flag up the river, which, by Gen. Smith's instructions, was met at a distance of four miles by his aide-de-camp, and detained by Capt. Chayter, who commanded one of the flotilla barges at that point, until an answer could be returned. While waiting for Gen. Smith's reply, the British messenger asked whether the guns of the French seventy-four had been mounted, and was told that the heaviest had been placed in position; and this information, it was afterward said in the fleet, prevented an attack being made at that time. Finding Baltimore too well prepared to be attacked with any hope of success by the force then under his command, Admiral Cockburn proceeded to revenge himself for his disappointment by plundering Sharp's, Poole's, Tilghman's and Poplar Islands, and by dispatching expeditions for the destruction of the towns and villages at the head of the bay. This savage mode of warfare

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not unnaturally spread terror through all adjacent parts of the State, and a report having reached Baltimore on the 5th of May that the British were once more advancing to attack the city, the alarm guns were fired, and the city was thrown into great bustle and apparent confusion. It was calculated that upwards of five thousand men were under arms and in their proper places an hour after the alarm was given. In the afternoon it was discovered that the alarm was a false one, and the soldiers were dismissed. An attack was still expected, however, for many women and children were sent away to places of safety, and work was actively continued on twenty large barges and several gunboats intended for the special defense of the city.

On the ~~1st~~<sup>1st</sup> of June, Admiral Warren entered the Chesapeake with a considerable naval reinforcement for Cockburn and Beresford, bearing a large number of land troops and marines under the command of Sir Sidney Beckwith. The British force now in the Chesapeake consisted of eight ships of the line, twelve frigates, and a considerable number of small vessels. Such a force evidently foreshadowed an attack upon some important point. By the capture of the bay craft they were supplied with numerous tenders precisely adapted to the navigation of our waters. With these and their barges they made repeated expeditions, and kept the country in a state of constant alarm. Baltimore, believing herself to be the chief object of this expedition, made every preparation to receive the enemy. Several companies of militia and volunteers from Prince George's and other counties of the State were ordered to the defense of the city, and relieved the citizens for a time from the fatigues of garrison duty. Brig.-Gen. Miller commanded in June a stationery force of two thousand men, which, with the local strength, was supposed sufficient for any emergency. To repel the advances which the increased power of the enemy now authorized him to attempt, the militia throughout the State were more regularly embodied, and the Governor called the attention of the more distant militia officers to their powers and duties under the laws. In the latter part of May, Governor Winder convened the Legislature in extra session, and that body, while deprecating the singular manner in which Maryland's application for assistance had been received by the Federal government, with that spirit of unselfish patriotism which distinguished her citizens throughout the war, appropriated the sum of one thousand dollars for the defense of the State. A further application to the government for protection against invasion resulted in the reply that "so far as expenditures have arisen or shall arise, in consequence of militia calls made by the State,

without the participation of the United States, no provision is found to exist under the present laws." While the Legislature was thus taking measures for that protection which the general government refused to afford, a respectable memorial was presented to it from the citizens of Baltimore, setting forth the undefended state of the city, and the fact that the city banks had, in the emergency, made a loan for the purpose of strengthening the fortifications and arming the citizens; of which loan they prayed the Legislature to assume such part as might not be refunded by the Federal government. They further asked that, as the Assembly might not be able to consider the matter at once, the municipal authorities might be authorized to levy a tax on the citizens to liquidate the debt pending the ultimate action of the Legislature. Both of these requests, however, were refused.

On the 8th of August three ships of the line, three brigs, two schooners, and a number of small vessels moved in sight of Baltimore, as if designing an attack. Promptly the forts weremanned, and seven hundred men of Col. Jamison's regiment of the Baltimore county brigade were ordered "to defend a narrow pass of high land seven or eight miles from the city towards North Point." The cavalry of the Baltimore City and County brigades of militia, under the command of Lieut.-Cols. Biays and Moore, assembled on Hampstead Hill, and proceeded to North Point to make themselves better acquainted with the ground in case the enemy should attempt to land, while on the elevated grounds east of the city (now Patterson Park) about forty pieces of artillery, eighteen, twelve, six and four-pounders, mounted of field carriages, were collected, and the "marine artillery company," Capt. George Stiles, manned their "marine battery" of forty-two pounders on the water front of Fort McHenry.\* Awed probably by the formidable preparations, the British forces determined to turn their attention to weaker points, and accordingly resumed their savage warfare on the Eastern Shore. While the citizens of Maryland were thus energetically engaged in the protection of their own firesides, they also bore an ample part in the dangers and honors of the arduous campaign on the frontiers of Canada; and though sorely pressed at home, over a thousand volunteers and recruits from the city and State were sent forward to the main army during the summer of 1813. Nothing more important than skirmishes took place in this quarter until April 27, 1813, when the town of York, now called Toronto, was captured. Capt. Stephen H. Moore's company of Baltimore volunteers had the honor to be in the advance, and nobly sustained the character of their native city for gallantry and steady courage. In the midst of the assault the magazine of one of the barracks, containing five hundred pounds of powder, blew up, killing and wounding more than two hundred of the victorious column. Two of Capt. Moore's company were killed by the explosion, five <sup>men</sup>

men severely wounded, and he himself received injuries necessitating the amputation of his leg. The "Baltimore Volunteers," however, had the satisfaction, when the town capitulated, that afternoon, of placing in advance of any other, the flag presented to them by the ladies of the Seventh Ward, "on the highest pinnacle of the Government House in the capital of Upper Canada." On the 27th of May, Fort George was attacked and taken, and in this action also Baltimore and Maryland volunteers were in the front of the battle. In the struggle at Burlington Heights, on the 6th of June, they also took a prominent part; and Gen. Lewis, in his official report of the action, says, "Hindman, Nicholas, Biddle, and Towson are young soldiers who would do honor to any service;" and to the troops under their command, with a few others, he ascribes the salvation of the army.

- \* Among Baltimore's defenders at this time was Capt. Brooker's corps of Richmond and Washington volunteers, and according to the captain, "never were soldiers more hospitably entertained" than were these volunteers by the citizens of Baltimore.

The overthrow of Napoleon in the spring of 1814 left Great Britain free to increase her forces in the United States, and to supply what had hitherto been wanting,--a land force to co-operate with the squadron, which, without it, could do nothing of importance. It was therefore resolved to increase Cockburn's fleet in the Chesapeake, and to send over a large body of veteran troops who had served under Wellington in Spain. Stronger preparations were also made on this side. Commodore Joshua Barney was placed by the Navy Department in command of a flotilla, or a small fleet of gunboats and barges, fitted out in Baltimore in the summer of 1813 to defend the shores of the bay; and though not able to attack Cockburn's ships, he did great service in checking and driving off the enemy's raiding parties. In April, 1814, his little fleet was ready for active service, and after several minor engagements won a considerable naval victory on the 10th of June in St. Leonard's Creek.

It was known that a serious attack was intended upon Baltimore or Washington, and Brig.-Gen. William H. Winder, lately exchanged, and returned from Canada, where he had been kept prisoner since his capture at Stony Creek, was placed in command of the military district which embraced Maryland, the District of Columbia, and part of Virginia. He entered upon his duties with the utmost energy, but soon found that the new district was "without magazines of provisions or forage, without transport tools or implements, without a commissariat or efficient quartermaster's department, without a general staff, and finally without troops." He urged the government to call out four thousand militia, part to be stationed near Baltimore, and part between South River and Washington, so as to be able to support each other in case of a landing of the enemy. The government, however, paid no attention to his request, and all the force he could muster was about a thousand regulars and an uncertain number of militia. On the 14th of August, Admiral Cochrane arrived in the Chesapeake with a fleet, bringing more than three thousand veteran troops from France, under Gen. Robert Ross, and the plan of attack was at once arranged. A portion of the force, under Capt. Gordon, was sent up the Potomac to bombard Fort Washington and open the way to the capital; a few vessels, under Sir Peter Parker, were dispatched up the Chesapeake, as if to attack Baltimore, while the main body, under Admiral Cochrane, ascended the Patuxent, as if to engage Barney's flotilla, which was lying near Nottingham, but really with the design of attacking Washington, if there seemed a reasonable prospect of taking it. On August 19th and 20th, Cochrane landed about four thousand five hundred men at Benedict, on the west bank of the Patuxent, who at once began their march northward under the command of Gen. Ross. Cockburn's flotilla of barges went up the river at the same time, and after compelling Barney to set fire to his boats at Mount Pleasant, joined Ross at Upper Marlborough, and on the 24th of

August the whole force marched for Bladensburg, where a battle ensued between the British forces under Gen. Ross and the Americans under Gen. Winder. The Americans were completely routed, and the British entering Washington burned the capital and other public buildings. The Baltimoreans at Bladensburg were under the command of Gen. Tobias Stansbury, of that city, and consisted of two regiments of militia,---the Fifth Regiment of Baltimore volunteers under Lieut.-Col. Sterett. Maj. William Pinkney's rifle battalion, and two companies of volunteer artillery, with six-pounders, under Capts. Myers and Magruder, also from Baltimore. Commodore Barney, with his sailors, had charge of a battery of heavy guns, and were supported by United States marines. The Baltimore troops, about eight hundred in all, "worn down with hunger and fatigue," reached Bladensburg on the evening of the 23d.

After the capture of Washington it became evident that Baltimore would be next attacked. A feeling of special hostility was entertained against this city on account of the mischief done by its privateers, and the high spirit and courage of its people. An eminent British statesman declared that Baltimore was "the great depository of the hostile spirit of the United States against England," and Admiral Warren said, "Baltimore is a doomed town." A London paper said, "The American navy must be annihilated, their arsenals and dockyards must be consumed, and the truculent inhabitants of Baltimore must be tamed with the weapons which shook the wooden turrets of Copenhagen." Indeed, Gen. Ross openly boasted that though the heavens "rained militia," he would make his winter-quarters in Baltimore. Thus forewarned, the inhabitants of Baltimore immediately set about making further preparations for defense. Up to this time half a million <sup>of</sup> dollars had been expended in the defense of the city, under the direction of the mayor, Edward Johnson, and a Committee of Safety composed of James Mosher, Luke Tiernan, Henry Payson, Dr. J. C. White, James A. Buchanan, Samuel Sterett, and Thorndike Chase. A Committee of Vigilance and Safety, of which Mayor Johnson was chairman and Theodrick Bland secretary, co-operated unceasingly with the military, and on the 27th of August, three days after the battle of Bladensburg, issued the following order:

"Whereas, the commanding officer has required the aid of the citizens in the erection of works for the defense of the city, the Committee of Vigilance and Safety having full confidence in the patriotism of their fellow-citizens, have agreed on the following organization for the purpose of complying with the request of the major-general:

"The inhabitants of the city and the precincts are called on to deposit at the court house, in the Third Ward; Centre Market, in the Fifth Ward; market house, Fell's Point; riding school, in the Seventh Ward; or take with them to the place required, all wheelbarrows, pick-axes, spades, and shovels that they can procure.

"That the city and precincts be divided into four sections, the first section to consist of the eastern precincts and the Eighth Ward; the second to comprise the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Wards; the third to

comprise the Second, Third and Fourth Wards; and the Fourth to comprise the First Ward and western precincts.

"That the exempts from military duty and the free people of color of the First District, consisting of the eight wards and eastern precincts, assemble tomorrow, Sunday, morning at six o'clock at Hampstead Hill, with provisions for the day, and that Arthur Mitchell, Daniel Conn, Henry Pennington, John Chalmers, William Starr, Thomas Weary, Henry Harwood, and Philip Cornmiller be charged with their superintendence during the day.

"That those of the Second District, comprising the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Wards, assemble at Myer Garden on Monday morning at six o'clock, under the superintendence of William Parks, Capt. Watts, Ludwig Herring, William Ross, William Carman, Daniel Howland, Caleb Earnest, and James Hutton.

"That those of the Third District, comprising the Second, Third and Fourth Wards, assemble at Washington Square on Tuesday morning at six o'clock, under the superintendence of Frederick Leybold, William McCleary, John McKim, Jr., Henry Schroeder, Alexander McDonald, Eli Hewitt, Peter Gold, and Alexander Russell.

"That those of the Fourth District, comprising the First Ward and western precincts, assemble at the intersection of Eutaw and Market (Baltimore) Streets on Wednesday morning at six o'clock, under the superintendence of William W. Taylor, William Jessops, Edward Harris, George Decker, William Hawkins, Isaac Philips, William Jones, and John Hignet.

"The owners of slaves are requested to send them to work on the days assigned in the several districts.

"Such of our patriotic fellow-citizens of the county or elsewhere as are disposed to aid in the common defense are invited to partake in the duties now required on such of the days as may be most convenient to them."\*

\* The Committee of Vigilance and Safety was composed of the following members: Henry Stouffer, Solomon Eting, Elias Ellicott, Samuel Hollingsworth, Benjamin Berry, Henry Payson, William Lorman, James A. Buchanan, William Wilson, William Patterson, Adam Fonerden, James Wilson, Joseph Jamieson, Cumberland Dugan, William Camp, James Armstrong, James Taylor, Peter Bond, Robert Stewart, Fred. Schaeffer, Richard Stevens, Hezekiah Waters, David Burke, George Woelper, Hermanus Alricks, John Kelso, Richard Frisby, Col. J. E. Howard, George Warner, and Theodorick Bland.

On the same day the committee adopted further resolutions calling upon all good citizens to keep a careful watch upon all suspected persons, and to contribute to the defense of the city. \*

\* The patriotic ardor of the citizens is well illustrated by the reply of John Eager Howard to a suggestion of surrender: "I have," said he, "as much property at stake as most persons, and I have four sons in the field. But sooner would I see my sons weltering in their blood and my property reduced to ashes than so far disgrace the country ." "Put me down for fifty thousand dollars for the defense of Baltimore," said Isaac McKim when he heard Ross was coming.

A committee composed of Col. John E. Howard, Richard Frisby, and Robert Stewart was appointed to wait on Maj.-Gen. Samuel Smith and request him to assume military command of the city in accordance with the expressed desire of Brig.-Gen. Stricker, Maj. Armistead, Capt. Spence, and Commodore Perry, who was then in Baltimore. On the 2d of September the Committee of Vigilance and Safety, in view of the distress occasioned among many of the poorer families by the absence of husbands, brothers, and fathers in the army, adopted the following resolution, and appointed a Committee of Relief\* to solicit subscriptions for their support. In order more effectually to carry out this good work, committees of inspection were appointed, who were directed to ascertain and relieve the meritorious poor in their respective wards.\*\*

\* The Committee of Relief was composed of James Ellicott, W.W. Taylor, Elisha Tyson, Richard H. Jones, L. Wethered, Luke Tiernan, William Riley, James Mosher, Joseph Townsend, Peter Diffenderfer, William Brown, Daniel Diffenderfer? William Trimble, William Mande, William Proctor, and John Ogsden.

\*\* The ward committees were: First Ward--Isaac Tyson, Isaac McPherson, Christian Keller, John Hignet, Second Ward--Elisha Tyson, Cornelius Comegys, Richard H. Jones, and Moses Shepard. Third Ward--L. Wethered, Luke Tiernan, Henry Schroeder. Fourth Ward--James Sloan, William Riley, John McClure. Fifth Ward--Baltzer Shaeffer, Daniel Howland, Samuel McKim. Sixth Ward--William Ross, Jacob Miller, William Brown, Seventh Ward--William Trimble, William Parks, Samuel Wilson, Joshua Mott. Eighth Ward--James H. Clarke, Nathaniel Knight, John Murphy.

About the same time the committee called upon the "good people of this and the neighboring States to bring to the city for sale" supplies for the support of the troops, assuring all who should "visit the city for this laudable purpose that they should be "free from the danger of impressment of their horses, wagons, or carts, or any species of interruption to themselves."

To these various appeals all classes of citizens responded with generous enthusiasm; their ordinary avocations, which until this time had scarcely been interrupted, were now altogether laid aside, and every (Page 90)one who could wield a musket, even old men and boys, were found in the ranks, and each day marched to the sound of martial music to their occupation of laboring on the line of the intrenchments and fortifications.

Nor was the water approach neglected. A four-gun battery was constructed at Lazaretto Point, Canton, and between this point and Fort McHenry, across the mouth of the harbor, a number of vessels were sunk. Southwest of the fort, near what is now Winans' wharf, guarding the middle branch of the Patapsco from the landing of troops who might endeavor to assail Fort McHenry in the rear, were two redoubts, five hundred yards apart, and called Fort Covington and the City Battery. \*

\* In 1854 a joint resolution was introduced in the City Council requesting the Senators from Maryland in Congress to procure the passage of an act donating the old battery, known as Fort Covington, in the Seventeenth Ward, and the adjacent ground, belonging to the United States government, to the city of Baltimore for the purpose of converting it into a public square, which is now known as Riverside Park.

In the rear of these, upon the high ground at the foot of Light Street, on the present site of Battery Square, was the Circular Battery of seven guns. A long line of platforms for a battery were erected a few yards in front of Fort McHenry, which was called the Water Battery, and upon which was mounted a number of forty-two-pounder guns borrowed from the French consul.

The British army, after several days' rest, having replenished their store of fresh provisions by plundering the people on the shores of the Patuxent, at daybreak on the 6th of September embarked on board of their fleet, weighed anchor, weighed anchor, and stood with a fair wind for the Chesapeake. After sailing down the bay, at mid-day on the 7th they entered the Potomac, and after moving up that stream for two days, for the purpose of deceiving the Americans and to keep them in suspense as to the next point of attack, on the night of the 9th the whole squadron hastened back to the Chesapeake and stood for the mouth of the Patapsco.

It was probably this and the other delays succeeding the capture of Washington which saved Baltimore from the hands of the enemy. On the evening of the 24th of August, Washington was in the possession of the British army, and on the morning after the battle the enemy was again at Bladensburg, on his retreat to Benedict. Had Ross made directly for Baltimore at this time, attacking it from the west side, he would doubtless have effected its capture. But the time between the 24th of August and the 12th of September afforded the necessary opportunity for the reorganization of the army that had been beaten at Bladensburg and the concentration of fresh troops at Baltimore. An immediate attack from the western and northern sides of the city would, moreover, not only have prevented the formation of an effective army of defense at Baltimore, but would have rendered the formidable batteries at Fort McHenry and the fortifications and intrenchments on the eastern and northern sides entirely unavailable. As it was, Gen. Ross waited until a strong army had been thrown into Baltimore, and then advanced against it directly in the teeth of the numerous batteries and fortifications on the eastern side of the city. History presents but few instances of such accomodating generalship.

On Sunday evening, September 11th, about seventy of the enemy's vessels were anchored off North Point, about twelve miles from the city of Baltimore by water, and fourteen by land. The beautiful moonlight night was chiefly spent by the fleet in preparing for an immediate debarkation. At three o'clock on Monday morning, the 12th, the boats of every ship were lowered, and the troops landed under cover of several gun-brigs anchored within a cable's length of the beach. The boats went in divisions, the leading one of each being armed with a carronade. By seven o'clock they had landed a force of about seven thousand men, composed of infantry, artillery, marines, and sailors, completely equipped, each man bearing eighty rounds of ammunition, a spare shirt and blanket, and cooked provisions for a three days' march. The most perfect system characterized every movement. Not the slightest doubt as to the result existed in the minds of the officers who planned the campaign, and the troops looked eagerly forward to the promised plunder.

- 1 At the State election held in October, 1818, the soldiers stationed at Fort McHenry and the sailors and marines on board the United States vessel " Nonesuch" were mustered, furnished with ballots, marched to the polls and voted. The soldiers themselves said that their ballots were dealt out to them by a sergeant on parade, that they were then marched to the polls and ordered to vote the tickets with which they had been furnished.

*July 24. 1847*

(1847)

On the 24th of July, Maj. Kenly embarked from Fort McHenry on the transport-ship "Alexandria," with the three Maryland companies under his command, and in one month dropped anchor off the port of Vera Cruz.

*Jan*

On the 12th of January three companies  
of United States Light Artillery from  
Fort Leavenworth arrived in Baltimore  
and occupied Fort McHenry.

On the 26th of April (1861) the propeller "Express" landed troops and munitions of war at Forst Carroll and McHenry. On the same day an order was issued by the Board of Police Commissioners forbidding the display of flags, and some seventeen persons on Federal Hill were arrested who refused to lower the United State Flag. On the 29th there was a grand parade of the First Light Division of the municipal forces, consisting of the Frist and Second Brigades, under command of Maj.-Gen. Stuart.

On the 4th of May (1861), Maj. Morris, commander of Fort McHenry, refused to obey a writ habeas Corpus issued by Judge Wm. F. Giles, of the United States District Court, for the purpose of releasing from the United States service an enlisted soldier named John George Mullen, who had petitioned for release on the ground of minority. On the same date an immense meeting was held in Baltimore to protest against Coleman Yellott's bill to appoint a board of public safety. The powers proposed to be given to the board were very great, and included the expenditure of an appropriation of two millions of dollars for the defense of the State and the entire control of the military, including the removal and appointment of commissioned officers. It was strongly pressed in the Legislature, but finally failed to pass. The proposed measure created intense opposition among Union men as well as among some Southern sympathizers being regarded as a mere substitute for an ordinance of secession.

---At three o'clock on the morning of the 27th of June (1861) , Marshal Kane was arrested by a body of military and taken to Fort McHenry, where he was confined. On the same day Gen. Banks issued a proclamation informing the citizens that by virtue of authority invested in him, and in obedience to orders as commanding general of the military department, he had arrested and detained in custody Col. George P. Kane, marshal of police.

On the 17th of the month (October, 1862), Gen. Morris, commanding Fort McHenry, issued a peremptory order forbidding any carriage to enter the gate of the fort, bringing supplies to Confederate prisoners who were confined there, and directing that all such supplies should be marked "Provoost-Marchal's Office" and left with the guards at the outer gate.

Oct 1862

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On the 26th of November (1862), Col. J. Dimmick, commander of Fort Warren, was ordered to release all the Maryland State prisoners, and on the next day the following citizens of Baltimore were set at liberty: Severn Teackle Wallis, Henry M. Warfield, William G. Harrison, T. Parkin Scott, ex-members of the Maryland Legislature; George William Brown, ex-mayor of Baltimore; Charles Howard and William H. Gatchell, of the Baltimore Police Commissioners; George P. Kane, ex-marshal of Baltimore police; Frank Key Howard, one of the editors of the Baltimore Exchange; Thomas W. Hall, Jr., editor of the Baltimore South; and Robert Hull, merchant of Baltimore. The Baltimore "State prisoners" arrived home on the 28th and 29th of November: Several of these gentlemen brought suit against the government and military authorities for false imprisonment.

*March 1863*

On March 13th (1863) a fire occurred at Fort McHenry which totally destroyed a building used as quarters for some of the officers. The large number of soldiers in the city and the facility with which they obtained liquor, led, about this period, to the passage of an order by Gen. Schenck forbidding the sale of strong drink to soldiers under penalty of imprisonment and the closing of the shops of proprietors so offending.

June 27 61

The police force continued to protect the city until the military authorities took possession of it in 1861. On the morning of ~~###~~ the 27th of June a detachment of military proceeded to the residence of Col. George P. Kane arrested him, and carried him to Fort McHenry. On the same day, by order of Gen. Banks, Col. John R. Kenly suspended the board of police and assumed command of the police force of the city. On July th, Gen. Banks appointed George R. Dodge marshal of police in place of Col. Kenly. He entered upon the duties of the office the same day, with James McPhail as deputy marshal. They occupied the marshal's office, stationhouses and other property of the city provided for the regular police, and the troops which had been quartered in the heart of the city were withdrawn and marched back to their several camps. On the 1st day of July the police commissioners were also. These arrests were made between three and five o'clock in the morning by Col. Morehead's Philadelphia regiment, which first proceeded to the house of John W. Davis, arrested him, and sent him under guard to the fort. They next visited the residences and arrested Charles D. Hinks, Charles Howard and William H. Gatchell. All four of the commissioners were conveyed to Fort McHenry, and were afterward imprisoned for more than a year in Fort Warren, Boston Harbor. William McKewen, clerk of the board, was also arrested, but afterwards discharged by Marshal Kenly, there being no charge against him. Gen. Banks appointed the following Board of Police Commissioners to assist in the management of the police affairs in the city: Columbus O'Donnell, Archibald Sterling, Jr., Thomas Kelso, John R. Kelso, John W. Randolph, Peter Sauerwein, John B. Seidenstricker, Joseph Roberts and Michael Warner. Between the hours of eleven o'clock Thursday night and eleven o'clock Friday morning a number of military arrests were made, among them the mayor of the city; George William Brown, at that time ex officio a member of the Board of Police Commissioners, who was committed to Fort McHenry. It was intended to send him with others arrested to the Dry Tortugas, but fortunately there were no vessels in the port suitable at that time for the service.

(Footnote):

In August, 1861, an attempt was made to supply Fort McHenry with water by means of an artesian well, but after boring to the depth of one hundred and twenty five feet the work was stopped by a thick layer of oyster shells. For eighty feet of this distance a very impervious clay was encountered studded with boulders and nodules of iron ore, limestone, etc.

Friday, September 13th, 1861.

Whilst looking on with wonder and amazement, the astounding intelligence was brought in that Thomas W. Hall, Jr., Esq., had been arrested\*\*\*\*\*and it is only reasonable to suppose that he is now an inmate of the American Bastile, formerly known as Fort McHenry.