

## 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>

*DAC*  
*For Mrs Beard*

THE SHAW HOUSE <sup>14</sup>

WRITTEN BY "

IRENE WHITE "

AT 4-0455

*at. Mrs Beard*  
*Amc*

Information obtained from Mrs. William Lynch, a member of the Baltimore County Historical Society and a great-grand daughter of Mrs. Thomas Richard Shaw, and William B. Foulke, the present occupant of the Shaw House.

Built in the late 1700's, the house was headquarters for Gen. Robert Ross, who commanded the British forces at the Battle of North Point in 1814, and it was near here that the general was killed during the battle.

Among those which have been saved is Fort Garrison, on Stevenson road in Pikesville, which was built in 1695. It was headquarters for a troop of mounted rangers who patrolled the paths between the Patapsco and Susquehanna Rivers to protect settlers against hostile Indians. The county and the Baltimore County Historical Society prevailed upon the developer of the land around the fort to preserve the building and efforts are now being made to restore it.

In addition to being available at branches of the Baltimore County Public Library, the handbook may also be ordered by mail from the special services department of the Baltimore County Public Library, 25 West Chesapeake avenue, Towson 21204. Mail orders should be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$2.50, to cover postage and handling.

#### **Uncertain Future**

The Old Shaw House on North Point road, near Miller Island road, also has an uncertain future, for it was acquired by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation several years ago and the present occupants

## The Shaw House

Hidden by towering maple trees stands a lonely wooden house, a home replete with unique local historical stories. When a visitor to the Patapsco Neck area in the south eastern end of Baltimore County hears the history in which this building has played a part, it makes vivid the struggles of a growing new nation to establish its freedom and make complete its independence from its former mother country. The Shaw House, built in the latter part of the eighteenth century, stands amid fertile fields which border what was then known as Long Log Road, This is today known as North Point Road. The cooling breezes of the Chesapeake Bay whisper among the trees, and the ancient timbers of the dwelling listen to the stories, true and Legendary, which have grown about it. Although many places on Patapsco Neck have been honored by appropriate designations as parts of American History, the events occurring in the Shaw House have been left only to tradition and to the family history of the Shaw descendants who are yet living on the "Lower Neck". But as a witness to the events of the war of 1812 of this area this house is the only remaining home . All others have been demolished.

Throughout the aerly years of the war the Shaw House had glimpsed the fast riders who carried the activities of the enemy in the North Point area from the Todd home, located near the head of the Bay, to the Strett home facing the highway now called

Erdman Ave. From the Strett home messages were relayed to

Baltimore City

Four graves , near the home, bear silent witness to the active life that was once found there. Ann Shaw and her husband Thomas were buried in 1811 and 1812. Beside them are their two son's Thomas and Joshua, buried in 1813 and 1832.

If one <sup>WAS</sup> able to hear the story either Thomas or Joshua might tell it would be that this house was where General Ross of the invading British Army on September 11 slept here unknowing that it was his last earthly slumber.

Early that morning General Ross with his 7000 troops had landed on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay at the point where Fort Howard was later built. He had marched his troops beside the fertile fields bordering the Bay. As his first action to conquer this rich, lush countryside he burned the Todd home, a fine old home dating back to the early days of Maryland and the residence of the owner of 1700 well planted acres. Leaving the flaming Todd home, on came the British General with his invading army, Finally he paused at the winding lane of the Shaw home, This he seized as headquarters for himself and his staff for the night. He ordered the Shaw family to prepare a supper for the unwelcome guests. In the large brick kitchen which formed an L to the home, and which is no longer standing, the meal was prepared. Then General Ross ordered the family to the upper floor of the house while he conducted a council of war with his staff in the parlor. A young daughter of the family, Eleanor, who had assisted in the dinner preparation for the invaders, peeped, with girlish curiosity through the keyhole at her red coated enemies.

One of the privates in the general's entourage spied her and made unwelcome advances. Screaming, Eleanor ran up the stairs to her family for safety. The young soldier followed at her heels. Out to the porch roof Eleanor scrambled and jumped to the ground. To her consternation she found she had jumped into a barrel of freshly picked goose feathers. From the council of war being held in the parlor hurriedly came General Ross and his staff to witness and even more amazing spectacle. One of the soldiers, unaccustomed (p?) to country life, had mischievously stuck a bayonet into a beehive. The British city lad called the unwelcome swarm "white headed flies"

During the night the Americans gathered and advanced to protect their farms and to prevent the enemy reaching Baltimore. In the early morning light the General saw his enemies approach and he and his staff fled in such haste that the General left his night cap. This cap became the property of Joseph Minee whose great grandfather, at the close of hostilities, had married Eleanor Shaw. Within a mile of the Shaw home on the morning of September 12, 1814 General Ross was killed. This is known as the battle of North Point.

The Shaw house is now the home of William B. Foulke. it is owned by the Bethlehem Steel Co. As the giant mills of the company increase in size this land will be taken <sup>over</sup> for industrial use and this old house rich in history, legends and traditions will bow to progress and become one more lost American landmark. However, there are those like Mr. Foulke and Mrs. William Lynch whose ancestors settled this area, who are ever ready to relate these fascinating unwritten stories of "the Neck" It is from these two I obtained this information of these very human, yet historical, events in which the Shaw House played a part in local and national history