KEY COMPTON, PRESIDENT
ROBERT J. BEACHAM, SECRETARY

GEORGE L. IRVIN, TREASURER
A. E. BECK, TRAFFIC MANAGER

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
E. ASBURY DAVIS
W. W. CATOR
F. S. CHAVANNES
F. J. LAMOTTE

ADVISORY BOARD:
SUMMERFIELD BALDWIN
E. STANLEY GARY
HENRY F. BAKER
CHARLES E. FALCONER
WILLIAM H. MATTHAI

October 21st, 1921.

Hon. O. E. Weller,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:-

The announcement in the daily press of this city last evening and this morning to the effect that the War Department intends to sell Fort McHenry to the highest bidder came as a distinct shock to this community, and more especially to me personally on account of our recent correspondence on this subject.

If there is any more historical spot in the United States than Fort McHenry I don't know where to look for it - and at this particular time, how any red-blooded American could for one moment consent to his Government disposing of Fort McHenry is beyond me, and I don't believe that any good American citizen who has the true love of country and who honors his flag would permit it. Fort McHenry should not only belong to the citizens of the city of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, but should be the property of the whole United States, and should be so preserved as to make it a point of interest to every citizen in this country.

A number of our citizens have been making efforts to bring about the restoration of Fort McHenry to its original status, and to preserve the spot on which the National Anthem was written by Francis Scott Key, by making it a National Park and having it properly cared for by the United States Government.

If our Government is in such financial condition that it feels it necessary (and I don't believe this is the case) to dispose of Fort McHenry, then, as very properly said in the press this morning, we had better sell the original copy of the Declaration of Independence and all other documents in which our people are interested and love.

I appeal to you and to your associates in Congress, without regard to party, to immediately take such steps as will prevent any such action as is forecast in the papers this morning by the Secretary of War.

I again appeal to you to ask the Secretary of War at the earliest possible date to name an hour and date at which time he can be seen in regard to this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Key Compton
President.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Annapolis, Maryland

October 22nd, 1921.

COPY

Key Compton, Esq.,
President,
Merchants and Manufacturers Association,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Compton:-

Thank you for your favor of October 21st, enclosing copy of your letter to Senator Weller relative to Fort McHenry.

I am certainly with you in your object, and will do anything I can to help. I am glad to see from the latest newspaper accounts that the situation does not appear as serious as it did at first.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Albert C. Ritchie,

Governor.

UNITED STATES SENATE

Committee on Commerce.

October 22, 1921.

Mr. Key Compton Esq., President,
Merchants & Manufacturers Association,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Compton:

I read your letter to me about Fort McHenry in the press yesterday, and received the letter this morning. There have been so many misstatements and so much misrepresentation on this subject, that I have decided to make a statement to the papers about it next Sunday morning. I believe that this will clear the atmosphere. I have talked with Secretary Weeks several times about this, including a conference with him this morning.

I have not made an appointment for you and Mr. Bland to see him, because the Secretary is extremely busy, and I felt that it would not be necessary. Besides, I know that this is the view of the Secretary. I talked to him again this morning about the engagement, and he will make one with you, if you desire it, after reading my statement on Sunday. The Secretary will be glad to see you, although he can only tell you that this matter is in the hands of Congress, and he can probably add nothing to my statement.

I shall be glad to hear from you further about this. I am sending Mr. Bland a copy of this, for his information.

With kind regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) O. E. WELLER.

OEW:E.

COPY.

KEY COMPTON, PRESIDENT
ROBERT O. BEACHAM, SECRETARY
A. S. Goldsborough, Secretary

GEORGE L. IRVIN, TREASURER
A. E. BECK, TRAFFIC MANAGER

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

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HENRY F. BAKER
CHARLES E. FALCONER
WILLIAM H. MATTHAI

9 56
10.22.21

10.22.21

To Mellon
To Hill
To Chase

TO THE BUSINESS AND PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS

OF BALTIMORE:-

Your attention is directed to the enclosed copy of letter written by Mr. Key Compton, President of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association to Senator O. E. Weller. It involves the fate of Fort McHenry.

It is very imperative that every organization should ask vigorously in this matter. It is not necessary for us to do more than merely call your attention to what is contemplated by the War Department. Will you use your utmost influence quickly, and in the most effective way, to head off this incomprehensible bad move on the part of the Washington Authorities.

A. S. GOLDSBOROUGH
GENERAL SECRETARY.

956

October 24,1921

Gen. Clinton L. Bigos,

The Latrobe Apartments,

Baltimore.

My dear General:

I have been out of town a great deal lately, but the papers advise that Ft. McHenry is again in peril. So far as I gather, however, the danger is not imminent, but I have written to Senator Weller to say that the Historical Society would like to have an opportunity to exert its efforts to prevent so unfortunate an occurrence. If it seems to you that there is anything the Society should do in the present aspect of affairs, I shall be very much obliged if you will let me know and give the Society the benefit of your assistance to that end.

Yours very truly,

956.

Office of the President
433/445 Title Building
Baltimore, Md.

October 24, 1921

Honorable John Philip Hill,

House of Representatives,

Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hill:

This Society in common with other Organizations and citizens, feels that there should be no room for misapprehension concerning the reported purpose of the Government to sell Fort McHenry, and I am writing to ask that you will so interest yourself in the matter and to advise whether further steps should be taken to avert such calamity, and if so, upon what lines your judgment would suggest their employment.

Yours very truly,

President.

956

October 24,1921

Honorable Ovington E. Weller,

Senate of the United States,

Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:

On behalf of the Maryland Historical Society I beg to voice its earnest hope that the threatened sale of Fort McHenry may be but the outcome of some misapprehension, and to ask that if there be any risk of such action, you will secure for this Society opportunity to use its utmost endeavors ro prevent what it could but regard as the desecration of a spot held almost sacred by the citizens of our State.

Yours very truly,

President.

KEY COMPTON, PRESIDENT
~~ROBERT J. BEACHAM, SECRETARY~~

GEORGE L. IRVIN, TREASURER
A. E. BECK, TRAFFIC MANAGER

956
10.26.21

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
E. ASBURY DAVIS
W. W. CATOR
F. S. CHAVANNES
F. J. LAMOTTE

ADVISORY BOARD:
SUMMERFIELD BALDWIN
E. STANLEY GARY
HENRY F. BAKER
CHARLES E. FALCONER
WILLIAM H. MATTHAI

October 25th, 1921/b

Hon. Albert C. Ritchie,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland.

My dear Governor:

I have yours of the 22nd instant regarding copy of my letter of the 21st to Senator Weller relative to Fort McHenry.

You will probably note in the daily press that Congressman Linthicum has introduced a Bill in the House to turn Fort McHenry over to the city of Baltimore to use as a park. It seems to me (and I think it is the general sentiment of the community) that Fort McHenry should be preserved as a National Park and maintained and preserved by the United States Government. The reservation was originally ceded by the State of Maryland to the United States Government with the proviso that it should be used for military purposes. Therefore, as I understand the situation, the Secretary of War cannot turn this reservation over to the city government for park purposes except by an act of Congress.

I shall be very much obliged to you, if you concur in these views, if you will write the Secretary of War and our representatives in Congress urging upon them the taking over of Fort McHenry by the Government and its maintenance as a National Park to commemorate the spot on which the National Anthem was written. I am quite certain that such a letter from you on these lines will have the desired effect, and go a long way towards helping to finally settle and determine the status of Fort McHenry.

Very sincerely yours,

Key Compton

President.

Copy to Hon. W. Hall Harris.

KEY COMPTON, PRESIDENT
ROBERT J. BEACHAM, SECRETARY

GEORGE L. IRVIN, TREASURER
A. E. BECK, TRAFFIC MANAGER

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

956
10.26.21

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
E. ASBURY DAVIS
W. W. CATOR
F. S. CHAVANNES
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ADVISORY BOARD:
JAMES A. GARY
SUMMERFIELD BALDWIN
LLOYD L. JACKSON
E. STANLEY GARY
HENRY F. BAKER
CHARLES E. FALCONER
FRANK N. HOEN
WILLIAM A. MAHAI

October 25th, 1921.

Hon. O. E. Weller,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

I have yours of the 22nd instant in answer to mine of the 21st regarding Fort McHenry and its status.

I read with a great deal of interest your statement in the daily press, and I also read the public statement of the Secretary of War "that it would be a crime to sell Fort McHenry", and that he pledged himself "to do everything in his power to prevent such a sacrilege."

Fort McHenry is the property of the United States Government, having been ceded to the United States by the State of Maryland. Therefore, in my judgment, it cannot be disposed of except by an act of Congress, and therefore the Secretary of War is absolutely right when he says that the matter is in the hands of Congress and he can probably add nothing to your statement. However, Congress will certainly not take any action in this matter except with the approval of the Secretary of War, and no doubt will very properly look to the Secretary of War for guidance and advice in regard to its disposition.

As I said to you in my letter of the 21st, Fort McHenry is a National and not a city and state property, and should be treated strictly as a National proposition and preserved and maintained to the people at large as a National Park. I hope therefore that you can see your way clear to introduce a Bill in Congress preserving Fort McHenry as a National Park to be maintained by the United States Government. I am satisfied that the general sentiment of the community is in accord with these views.

We all appreciate fully that the Secretary of War at the present time is an extremely busy man, and I for one hesitate to encroach on his time. I believe, however, that his cooperation and help in this matter would be enhanced by a personal interview with some of the prominent citizens of this city who have devoted their thought and efforts to bring about a peoper solution of the Fort McHenry situation. I further believe that if the Maryland delegation in Congress would direct their efforts as a whole towards having Congress pass the necessary legislation to finally and properly dispose of this matter, it could be done.

As Mr. Bland and myself have undertaken, with others, to put this matter in the proper shape before the country at largewe felt that it would not be, to say the least, courteous to the Secretary of War to go ahead in this matter without first getting his approval. For this reason, therefore, we have asked you to appoint an hour and date at which time it would be convenient to the Secretary ot War to see us.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Ulu Dampton

President.

Copy to Hon. W. Hall Harris.

JOHN PHILIP HILL
3D DISTRICT MARYLAND

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 26, 1921.

956th
10.27.21

Mr. W. Hall Harris,
President, Sons of the Revolution,
433 Title Building,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you for your letter of the 24th. As you have seen in the press, the entire Maryland Delegation in Congress has taken up the fight for Fort McHenry. I introduced a Bill in the House providing for the deeding to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, both Fort McHenry and Fort Carroll, and public hearings on this Bill will be conducted by the Military Affairs Committee of the House on Friday morning. Tomorrow morning, the Maryland Delegation will meet in the office of Senator Weller to take up this matter, and you may be sure every effort will be made to save these historic landmarks.

Sincerely yours,

John Philip Hill

M.C.

956
10.26.21

Md. Hist. Soy.

Peabody Institute.

Sons of the Revolution.

War of 1812.

State Delegate. 1911

National not Municipal

Turning point of War, - not merely defense of Balto. or Md. but of Country.

National Anthem.

Nation should not lose control, Municipal administrations change - and their policies.

The Nation might need the Fort again

The Nation has provided $75.000.- for Monument &c. and should be in position, at all times to preserve it. Never intended to erect monument on any but its own property.

Hearing - Mellor re.
10.27.21

Municipal Park utterly inappropriate

Many fine rounds. Soft drinks.

Gen. Prod. - Chf. of Staff - appd. Apl. 3. 1912

Quartermaster pair needed

Municipal buildings

9 A.M.
10.27.'21

With Bland. Hancock. Goldsborough (A.S.)
Ryan. (Fitzpatrick).
to urge retention of Fort re. as
National, not municipal, reservation
before Miller & Frame, Senators and
Hill, Leatherman & Blackney, M.C.s

(1) That Fort McHenry should be retained by the United States as a national memorial park. This should be done not merely because the Fort is associated with the writing of the Star Spangled Banner; but also because the Fort is the spot where was fought one of the determining battles in that crucial American war.

(2) That the United States Government, at such early period as Congress and the departments deem wise, shall restore said Fort to its old historic status and at the same time shall develop the surrounding reservation, so that it will be in full harmony with the aims and purposes of such a memorial park.

(3) That legislation be enacted <u>at once</u> assuring the retention of the Fort and reservation for the above stated purposes.

10.27.21
Goldsborough's legislation
Also from a Texas and
which seems optimistic and
delegation is willing to accept

A. A. BLAKENEY
2D DIST. MARYLAND

COMMITTEE:
RIVERS AND HARBORS

House of Representatives U. S.

Washington, D. C. October 27, 1921.

Mr. A. J Carr,
209-15 New Amsterdam Bldg.
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Carr:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 26th, and note your special interest relative to Fort McHenry situation, and thank you for the same.

I assure you this matter will be given my earnest and careful consideration and I shall be pleased to give the proper decision to your resolution.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

A. A. Blakeney

AAB/LOW.

House of Representatives U. S.

Committee on
Expenditures in the Post Office Department
Washington, D. C.

October 27, 1921.

Mr. Alfred J. Carr,
President, Maryland Society,
215 New Amsterdam Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Carr:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, containing copy of resolution passed at the last meeting of your Society, in reference to the proposed sale of Fort McHenry, and replying thereto would state that you may count on my cooperation to prevent the sale of this historical place to private individuals.

Thanking you for having written me in this connection, and with kind personal regards, I beg to remain

Very sincerely yours,

F. N. Zihlman

JOSEPH IRWIN FRANCE
MARYLAND

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
AUDIT AND CONTROL THE CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE
NAVAL AFFAIRS
POST OFFICES AND POST ROADS
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

October 27, 1921.

Mr.Alfred J.Carr, President,

209 New Amsterdam Bldg.,

Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr.Carr:--

Permit me to acknowledge receipt of copy of resolutions adopted by the Annual Meeting of the Society of the War of 1812, in Maryland, in reference to the preservation of Fort McHenry as a national shrine.

You have likely seen in the newspapers the statement that I am doing all I can to preserve this historic landmark, and I believe a solution of the problem will be reached which will be satisfactory to the citizens of Baltimore.

Assuring you of my heartiest cooperation in this matter, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J I France

B

John R. Bland, President.

Capital Paid in Cash $4,500,000.

WE WILL BOND YOU
FIDELITY
CONTRACT
JUDICIAL
CASUALTY

United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company

Baltimore, Md.

W. W. Symington,
Vice-President
and
Director of Agency and
Development Departments

272
10.29.21

October 28, 1921

Mr. Wm. Hall Harris,
Title Building,
216 St. Paul Street,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Harris:

In regard to the Fort McHenry proposition, I am now getting together a complete mailing list of those persons throughout the country to whom a copy of the brochure should be sent. I don't want to take up too much of your valuable time but I will appreciate your informing me of just who should get it among the Sons of the Revolution, or from whom I can get such information.

With assurances of my highest esteem, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Clarke J. Fitzpatrick

T. ALAN GOLDSBOROUGH
1ST DIST. MARYLAND
C. M. TAYLOR, SECRETARY

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 184

House of Representatives U.S.

Washington, D. C.

October 28, 1921.

Mr. Alfred J. Carr, President,
Maryland Society of the War of 1812,
209 New Amsterdam Building,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Sir:

I thank you for the copy of resolution adopted by the Maryland Society of the War of 1812, protesting against the sale of the Fort McHenry property. I am in entire sympathy with the efforts to prevent this step being taken by the Government and believe it is needless to assure you of my cooperation in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

T. Alan Goldsborough

J. CHAS. LINTHICUM
FOURTH MARYLAND DISTRICT

COMMITTEE:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON

BALTIMORE
LINTHICUM BUILDING
20 E. LEXINGTON STREET
BY APPOINTMENT

Oct. 28, 1921

Mr. Alfred J. Carr, Esq,
President, Maryland Society, War 1812,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Carr:

In response to your letter, as President of the above Society, in which is contained Resolutions passed on October 25, 1921 protesting against the sale of Fort McHenry, I beg to say I was very much surprised to see the statement in the Press sometime ago in which it was intimated that Fort McHenry would be sold by the Government.

I had no fear then, nor have I had since, that any such action could or would be taken, and I believe I have been confirmed in this by recent utterances of the Secretary of War. Generally speaking the Secretary of War cannot sell any of the forts without an act of Congress, and I am quite sure no Congress which ever assembled under the dome of the Capitol would for an instant consider the proposition of selling a fort of such historic interest as Fort McHenry.

In speaking particularly of Fort McHenry, beg to say I had the honor in 1914 to have passed by Congress an act which authorized and directed the Secretary of War to grant permission to Baltimore City to use Fort McHenry as a public park with right to withdraw its use at any time the War Department might think proper. The war having ended, I feel that just as soon as the Government's use of the Fort has ceased, it will be the duty of Secretary of War to grant permission of Baltimore City to again repossess this old Fort.

Under that Act, which can be found in the U.S. Statutes, Vol. 38, Chapter 100, page 382, unless other legislation has or is passed, I believe the Secretary of War as outlined by his reports before the Committee today will re-transfer the Fort and grounds to Baltimore City. It appears, however, to be the desire of many to have it made a National Park. I should be very

J. CHAS. LINTHICUM
FOURTH MARYLAND DISTRICT

COMMITTEE:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON

BALTIMORE
LINTHICUM BUILDING
20 E. LEXINGTON STREET
BY APPOINTMENT

Mr. Alfred J. Carr....No.2,

favorable to this if it can be demonstrated that the National Government will so treat it and properly care for it. I fear, however, that with the tremendous burden which the National Government is now under, it will hesitate to maintain the Fort as a public park in Baltimore or one in any other City.

I should like an expression from your Society after due deliberation as to your views, whether we should maintain our rights of re-possessing these grounds and operating and managing them as a public park for the City of Baltimore, or should we endeavor to procure other legislation denominating the Fort as a National Park under the control and supervision of the Government?

With my regards to you and your Society,
I remain

Very truly yours,

J. Chas. Linthicum

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

October 29, 1921.

Mr. Alfred J. Carr,
President, Maryland Society
War of 1812,
209 New Amsterdam Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Carr:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter, reciting a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Maryland Society of the War of 1812, relative to the disposition of the Fort McHenry property, for which I thank you.

I greatly appreciate the interest of the Society in this matter, and for the information of its members am enclosing a copy of a statement issued by me which gives briefly the salient points in the situation. I would appreciate it if you will have it read at your next meeting.

With assurances of my cooperation, I am

Sincerely yours,

O. E. Weller

B
Enclosure: (1)

STATEMENT ISSUED TO THE PRESS ON OCTOBER 23, 1921, BY SENATOR O. E. WELLER, ON THE FORT McHENRY SITUATION.

*****

I desire to clear up some of the misapprehensions relative to Fort McHenry.

Within the past six months I have seen Secretary of War Weeks several times about this, and have also been in conference with Messrs. John R. Bland, Key Compton, and other prominent citizens of Baltimore, who are very much interested in the preservation of this historic spot.

Fort McHenry has never been granted or deeded to the City of Baltimore by the Government. In 1914 an Act of Congress authorized the use of the Fort reservation as a public park by the City of Baltimore. This Act provided that the Secretary of War might terminate the use of said grounds whenever and at such time as he might deem expedient to do so. Secretary Baker took the property back in 1917, during the War, and subsequently returned it to the City of Baltimore, for use as a park.

Secretary Weeks has not authorized the sale of Fort McHenry. Congress alone has the right to do this. The Fort is still in the possession of the City of Baltimore. In the interest of economy, Secretary Weeks has had prepared a list of 102 pieces of real estate owned by the Government, under the control of the War Department, for which there is no need for military purposes. The Secretary has transmitted this list to Congress for its consideration and action. It

includes 102 tracts, located in 29 different States. Of these 7 are in Massachusetts, and 4 in Maryland, the latter being Forts Armistead, Carroll, Foote and McHenry. The sale of such of these properties as Congress may decide upon will bring to the Government a large sum of money, and will also save heavy maintenance charges. Secretary Weeks recommended to Congress that in disposing of these parcels, the locality should be given an opportunity to purchase the site, when practicable, and that special consideration should be given to the desires of the community when the property has any historic value, such as Fort McHenry. He also recommended that appropriate provision should be made at Fort McHenry for the plat of ground reserved for the erection of a monument to Francis Scott Key.

At a conclusion of a conference with me this morning, Secretary Weeks agreed that he will recommend to Congress, that such part of Fort McHenry as may be necessary shall be granted to Baltimore as a public park. With this recommendation, favorable action should be secured from Congress. The entire Maryland delegation in Congress will give this their vigorous support.

It has been estimated that it would require $55,000 to restore Fort Mc Henry to the condition it was in at the time of the bombardment by the British, on September 11, 1814, and to place it in proper shape for a park. It would cost about $7,000 a year for its maintenance.

*****

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

gdb
10.31.21

October 29, 1921.

W. Hall Harris, Esquire,
President, Maryland Historical Society,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Harris:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 24, 1921, relative to the disposition of the Fort McHenry property, for which I thank you.

I greatly appreciate the interest of the Society in this matter, and for the information of its members am enclosing a copy of a statement issued by me which briefly gives the salient points in the situation. I would appreciate it if you will have it read at your next meeting.

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O. E. Weller

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*****

JOHN PHILIP HILL
3D DISTRICT MARYLAND

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Nov. 3, 1921.

Mr. Alfred J. Carr,
209 New Amsterdam Building,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Carr:

I have the resolutions of the Society of the War of 1812, in reference to Fort McHenry. I am doing, and shall continue to do, all I can for the preservation of that historic spot, and I shall be glad to receive any suggestions you care to make in reference to the matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Philip Hill

M. C.

HARRIS & THOMPSON,
Attorneys at Law
255-260 TITLE BUILDING
Baltimore, Md.

W. HALL HARRIS
H. OLIVER THOMPSON
W. HALL HARRIS, Jr.

V

#

November 5, 1921

Alfred J. Carr, Esquire, President,
Md. Society of the War of 1812,
209 New Amsterdam Building,
Baltimore.

My dear Mr.Carr:

I have your letter of the 3rd instant relative to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Society of the War of 1812 to be held on the evening of the 8th instant, but which, I very much fear it will be impracticable for me to attend, although I will do so if I can.

Should the matter of the control or disposition of Fort McHenry be submitted for consideration, may I suggest that while it is extremely difficult from the confused and contradictory reports which have appeared in the press, to understand precisely the attitude in which the matter now stands, it would appear to me that those who, like myself, believe that the Fort should be preserved not as a local but as a National Memorial,canbest serve that end by backing the efforts of Mr.Bland and Mr.Compton with Senators Weller and France who, I understand to hold the same view,- than by combating the attitude taken by Representatives Linthicum and Hall in which I am sure that Representative Blakeney does not concur.

Yours truly,

W. Hall Harris.

November 5, 1921

Alfred J. Carr, Esquire, President,
Md. Society of the War of 1812,
209 New Amsterdam Building,
Baltimore.

My dear Mr.Carr:

I have your letter of the 3rd instant relative to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Society of the War of 1812 to be held on the evening of the 8th instant, but which, I very much fear it will be impracticable for me to attend, although I will do so if I can.

Should the matter of the control or disposition of Fort McHenry be submitted for consideration, may I suggest that while it is extremely difficult from the confused and contradictory reports which have appeared in the press, to understand precisely the attitude in which the matter now stands, it would appear to me that those who, like myself, believe that the Fort should be preserved not as a local but as a National Memorial,canbest serve that end by backing the efforts of Mr.Bland and Mr.Compton with Senators Weller and France who, I understand to hold the same view,- than by combating the attitude taken by Representatives Linthicum and Hall in whom I am sure that Representative Blakeney does not concur.

Yours truly,

UNITED STATES SENATE,

Committee on Commerce

November 8, 1921.

Key Compton Esquire, President,
Merchants & Manufacturers Association,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Compton:

I have your favor of the 5th, and thank you for your generous words.

I fail to perceive how the recent action of the Secretary of War in returning Fort McHenry to the City can make any practical difference as to having the Government preserve the Fort as a National Reservation. This act of the Secretary does not in any way affect the status of the situation. It simply leaves it as it was before Secretary Baker took the Fort back during the war, that is, that Baltimore City is to have the use of the property as a park, but that the title to it will still remain in the Government, and it can be taken over by the Government again at any time when the Secretary of War may so decide. It seems to me that this is all the milk there is in the cocoanut. I doubt very much if a bill to make it a National Park can be put through Congress now, unless our delegation is united behind it. You will see the difficulties that would be in the way of accomplishing this.

With very kind regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) O. E. WELLER.

COPY.

KEY COMPTON, PRESIDENT
ROBERT J. BEACHAM, SECRETARY
A. S. Goldsborough, Secretary

GEORGE L. IRVIN, TREASURER
A. E. BECK, TRAFFIC MANAGER

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
E. ASBURY DAVIS
W. W. CATOR
F. S. CHAVANNES
F. J. LAMOTTE

ADVISORY BOARD:
SUMMERFIELD BALDWIN
E. STANLEY GARY
HENRY F. BAKER
CHARLES E. FALCONER
WILLIAM H. MATTHAI

956
11.12.21

November 10th, 1921.

Hon. O. E. Weller,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

I have yours of the 8th instant on the Fort McHenry situation, and it seems to me that the time has arrived when some definite action should be taken in this matter.

It is true that prior to the declaration of war Fort McHenry was turned over to the City of Baltimore for park purposes by the former Secretary of War. Why was this done? Because there was an effort on foot to make it a cattle quarantine station, which would have been a desecration, and to prevent this action the then Mayor of the City asked that it be turned over to the City by the Government to be made a park. Was this right? In my judgment it certainly was not. Then came the war, when the Government took Fort McHenry back and turned it into a hospital. Now comes a period when Fort McHenry is condemned for hospital purposes, and very properly, because it is no place for a hospital, with the fumes of fertilizer factories and other disagreeable odors always in the nostrils of the wounded soldiers. The War Department loaned the fort temporarily to the Public Health Service, and Colonel Forbes says that it is not a proper place to keep the men, but unfortunately the Government, as I understand the situation, is not properly prepared in its hospitals to take care of these 800 or 900 men now there under treatment until some suitable hospital accomodations are made for them elsewhere, which I understand is now in progress.

If you will look over the records you will find that an amount of money was appropriated by Congress for a statue to be erected on Fort McHenry to Francis Scott Key. It was further understood that when this statue was ready for erection the hospital building occupying the site would be removed. The site on Fort McHenry - be it wise or unwise - was selected, and the buildings removed, and the foundations for the statue built. The cost of tearing down these buildings, which included the mess hall and other hospital buildings, and the reconstruction of the buildings for the purposes needed at the present time in connection with the hospital, cost the taxpayers of this country, as I understand it, somewhere in the neighborhood of $100,000.00. The statue is here and the foundation erected, but condemned, so that the money was expended, but without result. Who is to blame I do not know. You can get this record from the War Department.

After arrangements have been made to properly take care of the wounded soldiers now at Fort McHenry under treatment, what are you going to do with Fort McHenry? In accordance with the promise of the former Secretary of War the present Secretary says he will turn it back to the city for park purposes, which is in accordance with an Act of Congress permitting this city to use Fort McHenry for park purposes, provided that the Secretary of War shall, at any time he seets fit, take it back from the city for military purposes. The original grant of the reservation to the Government was made by the State of Maryland. The Government cannot give the city permanent use of the reservation without an act of the Maryland Legislature. In accordance with my understanding, if the Government wants to give up Fort McHenry, then it must turn it back to the State of Maryland, and it will require an act of the Legislature, of Maryland to permanently turn it over to the City of Baltimore. Does the Congress want to give up such a historical spot as Fort McHenry to the City of Baltimore, or any other individual or corporation? I don't think so. I would hate to believe that my countrymen have lost their patriotism to such an extent as to desecrate the spot on which the National Flag flew at the time Francis Scott Key wrote our National Anthem.

I can only repeat to you what I have said before - that the sentiment, so far as I have been able to get it from the country at large, the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore, is that Fort McHenry should be preserved by the National Government as a National Park for the use of the people of the country at large, and I hope that you will, at an early date, introduce such a Bill on the floor of the Senate as will comply with this sentiment, and if there are any members of the Maryland Delegation who are not prepared to stand behind you in your efforts to make it a National Park, will you be good enough to let us know who they are? If we are going to do anything, let's do it right - do the permanent thing, and the thing that we can be proud of, and stop forever this swapping of what belongs to the Nation at large with the municipality.

I ask your pardon for taking so much of your valuable time.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Hey Pimpleton

President.

UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D.C., November 14, 1921.

Key Compton, Esquire,
President, Merchants and Manufacturers Association,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Compton.

I have your comprehensive favor of the 10th, giving your views in detail as to the reasons why Fort McHenry should be preserved as a National Park, and requesting me to introduce a bill for that purpose in the Senate, and to ascertain for you which members of the Maryland delegation in Congress are not prepared to stand behind me in this effort.

I am entirely in accord with everything you say about having Fort McHenry preserved as a National Park, and have so expressed myself repeatedly and publicly. At the meeting held in my office, it was decided, without a dissenting vote, that a Committee consisting of Senator France as Chairman, Congressman Hill and Congressman Linthicum, should prepare such a bill, and push it in Congress, in cooperation with the rest of the Maryland delegation, and the others interested in the project. Under these circumstances, I do not feel justified in introducing such a bill myself, and I believe, that upon reflection, you will agree with me in this. I would suggest that you take this up with Messrs. France, Hill and Linthicum. I am sending each of these gentlemen, and also Mr. Bland, a copy of this letter. I am also forwarding Senator France, as Chairman of the Committee, your letter of the 10th to me, for his information, and that of the members of his Committee.

With very kindest regards, and assuring you of my earnest and continued interest in this patriotic proposal, believe me, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) O. E. Weller.

COPY

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

956
11.22.21

November 21st, 1921.b

Hon. Joseph I. France,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

Hon. J. Charles Linthicum,
U. S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Hon. John Philip Hill,
U. S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

At a conference held in Senator Weller's office on October 27th, the Maryland Delegation selected you gentlemen as a Committee to prepare and introduce in the Senate and House a Bill making Fort McHenry a National reservation to be preserved and maintained by the United States Government for the people of the whole country as a National Park.

Under date of November 10th I wrote Senator Weller and sent you a copy of my letter to him, and I have today his reply under date of the 14th, a copy of which He has furnished you. It is now up to your Committee to take the necessary action in Congress. May I ask of you that it be done at an early date ?

Very sincerely yours,

Key Compton

President.

KEY COMPTON, PRESIDENT
ROBERT J. BEACHAM, SECRETARY
A. S. Goldsborough, Secretary

GEORGE L. IRVIN, TREASURER
A. E. BECK, TRAFFIC MANAGER

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

November 21st, 1921.b

Hon. O. E. Weller,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

Yours of the 14th instant would have had a more prompt reply but for my absence from the city for all of last week.

I want to thank you most cordially and sincerely for your efforts in the question of the preservation of Fort McHenry as a National Park. In accordance with your suggestion I have today written a joint letter to Senator France and Representatives Linthicum and Hill, a copy of which is hereto attached.

With best regards, and again thanking you for your help and cooperation, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Key Compton

President.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D.C.

December 14, 1921.

Mr. Key Compton,
Merchants & Manufacturers Association,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Compton:-

I deeply appreciate the interest which you have shown in the future of Fort McHenry, and as the senior Senator from Maryland in the Congress, I am desirous of learning more of your views and of those of the people of Baltimore City as to the measures that would give the most satisfactory results in making and preserving Fort McHenry a state and national shrine. I am communicating with you because there seem to be two divergent views as to how Fort McHenry should be cared for.

FORT McHENRY WILL BE PRESERVED

I feel confident that there is no danger of Fort McHenry being disposed of by the Government to interests which would not care for it. I feel confident, from what I have learned, that the Secretary of War, that the members of the Maryland delegation, that the members of Congress and the people of the United States are all desirous of seeing Fort McHenry made a permanent memorial. I believe that it will either be held by the National Government or turned over to the City of Baltimore under the provisions of the Statute of May 26, 1914. Certainly, in the absence of unfavorable legislation, which is inconceivable, Fort McHenry will remain either in the control of the Federal Government or in charge of the City of Baltimore. This brings us to the question concerning which I wish to consult you, and so far as may be, through you and your organization, the people of Baltimore city.

FEDERAL OR CITY CONTROL

The question has arisen, and upon this there is even in the Maryland delegation a division of opinion, as to whether Fort McHenry should be under the control of the Federal Government or under the control of Baltimore City. Undoubtedly this is a most important question, with much to be said on either side. It wouldbe difficult to give a resume of the arguments which may be presented on both sides of this question, but I might suggest to you the following considerations:

A NATIONAL MEMORIAL

It is the thought of those who wish to see Fort McHenry made a National Memorial that the government should permanently retain its control on the Fort, that it should expend there One Hundred Thousand Dollars, or so much thereof as might be necessary, to restore Fort McHenry, so far as may be, to the condition in which it was when the Star Spangled Banner was written, to put the grounds in fine condition, to do all that might be necessary to make this an attractive, well-kept National Park and Memorial, which would be

freely enjoyed by the people of Baltimore as a water-front park, and which would be visited by people from all over the United States. Under this plan, a National Museum should ultimately be builded there for the preservation of objects associated with the War of 1812. The expense of maintaining this is a National Memorial, would, of course, be borne by the Federal Government, an expense which might amount to as much as Twenty-five Thousand Dollars a year, or possibly even more.

A CITY PARK

There are those who hold that it should be a City Park, that Fort McHenry should be permanently deeded by the Federal Government to the City of Baltimore, to be maintained as a part of the park system of Baltimore. Those who hold this view contend that the people of Baltimore would have greater opportunities for enjoying this park if it should be made a City Park. Those who favor it being made a National Memorial do not share this view. Those who feel that it should be a Baltimore City Park hold that this shrine is peculiarly dear to the Baltimore people, who would prefer to have it under their charge. On the other hand, those who favor control by the Federal Government, hold that the Fort is a National possession, and that the Nation would care for it as conscientiously as would the city of Baltimore.

CONFERENCE PROPOSED

In view of the conflicting opinion existing among the people and their representatives in Congress, it has occurred to me that I should consult with the Mayor of the City of Baltimore, with a view to having him confer with the members of the Park Board and other concerning the question. Personally I am convinced that it would be much better to have Fort McHenry made a national memorial park, and unless there should be opposition to the plan on the part of the citizens of Baltimore and Maryland, I would be very glad to introduce a bill making this a national memorial park, and asking for an appropriation of One Hundred Thousand Dollars or so much thereof as might be necessary for the restoration and development of thenproperty. I feel that we should make an effort to ascertain the sentiments of the people of the city and state on this question, and knowing of your deep and patriotic interest in it, I desire to have some evening in the near future convenient to us all, a hearing by the Mayor and two members of the city administration and the members of the Maryland delegation in Congress, at which hearing the citizens of Baltimore and the state who are interested in this question, could present their views. I would suggest that we hold this hearing at the Maryland Historical Society Building, if that would be agreeable to the Society.

I am therefore, suggesting this plan to you in order that I may have your views and at the same time I am suggesting it to those organizations and persons who have manifested an interest in Fort McHenry. I am also writing to the Maryland Historical Society to see whether it would be agreeable for them to let us have their Hall for the purpose of holding these hearings and on what dates we could secure it. If I find that I could secure this meeting place and if it seems to be agreeable to all concerned, I will then be very glad to call a meeting of the Maryland delegation with yourself in order that the representatives of the City, as well as the representatives of Maryland in Congress may be made acquainted with the sentiment of the public on this question.

I shall be most pleased to receive your suggestuons and your views as to the propriety and desirability of arranging such a meeting as I have indicated.

Thanking you for your consideration of this matter, with deep appreciation for the services which you have rendered in the preservation of Fort McHenry, and with assurance that I am desirous of co-operating with you in every way, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

(Signed) JOSEPH I. FRANCE.

C O P Y.

KEY COMPTON, PRESIDENT
ROBERT J. BEACHAM, SECRETARY
A. S. Goldsborough, Secretary

GEORGE L. IRVIN, TREASURER
A. E. BECK, TRAFFIC MANAGER

Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Baltimore

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SUMMERFIELD BALDWIN
E. STANLEY GARY
HENRY F. BAKER
CHARLES E. FALCONER
WILLIAM H. MATTHAI

156
12.20.21
Gunn

December 19th, 1921/b

Hon. Joseph I. France,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

I have yours of the 14th instant, which I have very carefully noted, and I feel that there is very little that I can add to the views that I have already expressed on the question of the preservation of Fort McHenry as a National Park by the United States Government.

At a meeting of the Maryland delegation held in Senator Weller's officer on October 27th, it was my understanding that the delegation agreed as a unit to support the proposition, and you, together with Represevtatives Hinthicum and Hill, were named a Committee to draw up the necessary Bill to be presented in Congress to cover the situation.

So far as I know the sentiment in favor of the preservation of Fort McHenry as a National Park has been approved by the Governot of the State and the Mayor of the City, and I have heard no objection of any character raised by any organization, either commercial or historical, in the State or City. I therefore cannot understand why the Committee agreed upon in Senator Weller's officer has hestitated to take the necessary action in the introduction of Bills in the Senate and House.

It will be entirely agreeable to me to have such a conference as you outline in the closing portion of your letter, and I shall be very glad to attend it, but I do not see the necessity for it.

The Congressional Act of May 26th, 1914, at which time a Bill was introduced to turn Fort McHenry back to the City of Baltimore with the understanding that it would be returned to the United States Government by the City whenever it was desired, was enacted at the instigation of the people of the City of Baltimore because they didn't want to see Fort McHenry made a cattle quarantine. Why should the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Baltimore be asked to preserve and maintain a National reservation belonging to the people of the whole country, and, historically, a point which every American citizen with red blood in his veins should honor as the spot on which his country's flag was flying when the National Anthem was written ? If Fort McHenry is to be preserved, as I have said before, it should be preserved as a National reservation by the National Government, and maintained by the National Government, to whom it belongs.

Thanking you for your interest in this matter, and regretting that any controversym apparently, has arisen on the subject, for which I can see no necessity, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Key Compton

PRESIDENT.

December 20,1921

Key Compton,Esquire,
Office of the Merchants & Manufacturers Association,
Baltimore.

My dear Mr.Compton:

I am very much indebted for the copies of correspondence in the Fort McHenry matter which you have been kind enough to send me and have asked the Corresponding Secretary of the Maryland Historical Society to write to Senator France that the rooms of the Society are, of course, entirely at his service for such meeting as he suggests, although their seating capacity is smaller than he perhaps appreciates.

Your recollection is entirely clear that at the meeting of October 27th ultimo, the Maryland Delegation expressly directed a Committee consisting of Senator France and Representatives Linthicum and Hill to submit legislation definitely retaining not only ownership but possession of the Fort McHenry property in the National Government and its preservation under the control of the Federal Authorities as a National Reservation. While such action was, I understand, formally taken, Representatives Linthicum and Hill, of the Special Committee, so advocated the transfer of the property to the City of Baltimore for a city park that the Chairman of the Committee called their attention to the fact that they were proposing legislation looking to one conclusion and arguing that action should be taken diametrically proposed thereto.

The attitude of the Maryland Historical Society, as well as my own, are well known and it occurs to me to suggest that at any such meeting as Senator France proposes, it would be of the utmost importance that both yourself and Mr. Bland, with such other representative citizens as may be selected, should be prepared to express forcefully the very strong desire of the large majority of the community they represent that Fort McHenry should not be placed in the control, either temporarily or permanently, of a municipal government and thereby subjected to all the perils incident to its necessarily frequent change of composition and attitude.

Yours very truly,

gsb
12.30.21
Sam

Office of the Executive
United States Fidelity & Guaranty Company
Baltimore, Md.

December 29, 1921

Mr. W. Hall Harris,
Title Building,
St. Paul Street Plaza,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

I take great pleasure in sending you, as one of the signers, a copy of the Fort McHenry brochure.

If we succeed in prevailing upon Congress to dedicate and preserve Fort McHenry as a National Park, then our efforts will have been richly rewarded.

We possess a limited number of these brochures in excess of our immediate circulation, and if you want one or more additional copies, I will be glad to comply with your desires.

Yours very truly,

John A. Rand

956

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December 30,1921

John R. Bland, Esquire,

U. S. Fidelity & Guaranty Co.,

Baltimore.

My dear Mr. Bland:

It is with great satisfaction I read the Fort McHenry Booklet copy of which you are kind enough to send me.

The waning fires of patriotism (much abused term) should brighten into an effective flame under the forced draft of this stirring Call, and I very sincerely hope they may do so.

Senator France has been advised, on behalf of the Maryland Historical Society, that its rooms are entirely at his service for such a meeting as he has suggested and which I hope may be held, although personally I entertain some doubt whether the accommodations available at the Society's Building would be adequate for a meeting the attendance at which should not be inconsiderable.

With Best Wishes not only for complete success in the Fort McHenry campaign, but for your every undertaking during the coming year,

Believe me to be,

Yours very truly,

John R. Bland, President.

Capital Paid in Cash $4,500,000.

WE WILL BOND YOU
FIDELITY
CONTRACT
JUDICIAL
CASUALTY

United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company

Baltimore, Md.

W. W. Symington,
Vice-President
and
Director of Agency and
Development Departments

January 3, 1922

956
1.A.22

Mr. Wm. Hall Harris,
Title Building,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Harris:

I have your letter of the 30th ultimo, addressed to Mr. Bland, and he desires me to thank you for your commendation and good wishes. I take pleasure in sending you under separate cover ten copies of the brochure, with envelopes.

Sincerely yours,

Clarke J. Fitzpatrick

Assistant to
Vice-President.

JOSEPH IRWIN FRANCE
MARYLAND

CABLE ADDRESS
"FRANCE, WASHINGTON"

56/956
1.19.22
20

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
AUDIT AND CONTROL THE CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE
NAVAL AFFAIRS
POST OFFICES AND POST ROADS
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

January 16, 1922.

Hon. W. Hall Harris,
Title Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Harris:

Mr. John R. Bland, President of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, has written me that he has been in communication with you relative to the conference on Fort McHenry.

I have been communicating with Mr. Wilson, Corresponding Secretary of your Society, relative to the use of the Hall, and I wish to assure you that I did not in the slightest desire to do anything which would be improper, but thought that the approval of Mr. Wilson would be sufficient. Will you please pardon any seeming neglect on my part to write you, as I certainly do appreciate very much indeed the kindness of the Maryland Historical Society in so generously offering us the use of the Hall for this purpose.

With very kind regards and thanking you for the very kind offer of your Society, I am

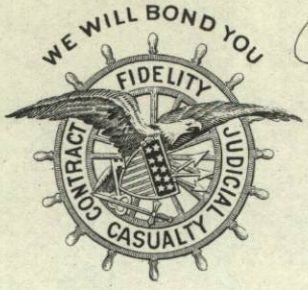
Sincerely yours,

Joseph I. France

G

John R. Bland, President.

Capital Paid in Cash $4,500,000.



United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company

Baltimore, Md.

Office of the Executive

56/956
1.19.22

January 18, 1922.

To the Signers of the Fort McHenry Brochure
and Representatives of Patriotic Societies:-

There will be a public meeting in the hall of the Maryland Historical Society, Park Avenue and Monument Street, at 8 p. m., Tuesday evening, January 24th, to discuss the future of Fort McHenry. Senator Joseph I. France will preside.

It is vital that you attend this meeting or that you be represented. From letters received in acknowledgment of the Fort McHenry brochure, the sentiment of Senators, Congressmen, Governors, and newspapers of every section of the United States is strongly in favor of the United States Government maintaining and preserving Fort McHenry as a national park and memorial, just as has been done at Gettysburg and Yorktown. We cannot succeed unless we impress the Congress of the United States with the fact that the people of Baltimore, as well as those of other sections, want Fort McHenry perpetuated by the United States Government.

Please, therefore, be present so that the weight of our arguments may be overwhelming.

John R. Bland

56/956
1.19.22

His Honor the Mayor, William F. Broening,
The City Solicitor, Mr. Roland R. Marchant,
The President of the Park Board, Mr. J. Cookman Boyd,
Senator Joseph Irwin France, Senator O. E. Weller,
and
Congressman J. Charles Linthicum, Sydney E. Mudd,
Frederick N. Zihlman, Albert A. Blakeney, T. Alan
Goldsborough, and John Philip Hill

Request the pleasure of your company, and that of the other citizens of the State of Maryland who may be interested, at a hearing to be held at the Maryland Historical Society Building, Park Avenue and Monument Street, Tuesday evening, January twenty-fourth, at eight o'clock, in order that your views may be submitted upon the best method of caring for and preserving perpetually

FORT MCHENRY

the birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner, as a national memorial and shrine.

56/956

January 20,1922

Honorable Joseph I. France,

Senate of the United States,

Washington.

My dear Senator France:

Absence from the City has prevented my more promptly acknowledging the receipt of your letter of 16th instant.

The effort to secure the preservation of Fort McHenry as a National reservation, not as a local park, has my most cordial approval and that of the Societies I represent, and The Maryland Historical Society is glad of the opportunity to place its building at your disposal to that end. I requested the Corresponding Secretary so to advise you and understood that he had done so, some time since.

Yours very truly,

President.

J. Cookman Boyd,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
Offices Suite 16,
Builders' Exchange Building,
Charles and Lexington Sts.
Baltimore, Md.

956
1.27.22
Same

January 26, 1922.

Mr. W. Hall Harris,
Title Building,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

As stated by me at the meeting in the Maryland Historical Society Rooms on the 24th instant, I was rather astounded at your remarks concerning my talk on the 9th instant in the Mayor's Reception room to the Society of the War of 1812. The publicity further given to that in the Sun paper of the 25th instant impels me to write you concerning same.

I learned to-day that a stenographic report of the speeches made on that occasion had been taken and a copy of the same filed with Dr. Iglehart, whom I believe is the Secretary of the Society of the War of 1812. I saw and received for the first time to-day a copy of my remarks and have read them carefully. I can find nothing therein except what reflects the greatest credit upon the loyalty and the patriotism of those who engaged in the battle of September 12th, 1814, and I am, therefore, directing your attention to the fact that my remarks can be seen by you in the copy which Dr. Iglehart has, which I understand is for the files of that Society. I further find that Mr. Alfred J. Carr took occasion to congratulate the Mayor and myself and to thank us for what we had said and done, and to endorse what we had said.

You were present on that occasion and remained silent. It seems to me that that was the time to give expression to your views while what was said was fresh in the memory of all of us.

I am, therefore, writing to ask if you will not examine carefully this copy of my remarks, the same being entirely extemporaneous and without previous thought, and point out therein anything that could reflect otherwise upon our patriots of September 12th, 1914, except in the most glowing and complimentary terms.

1814

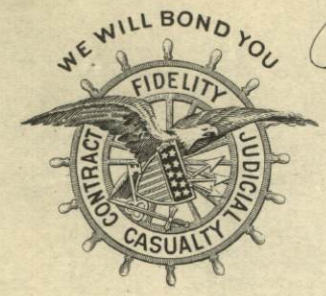
The question of our ideas as to the custody of the Fort would have no bearing, of course, upon what was spoken concerning those who took part in that splendid battle.

Very truly yours,

J. Cookman Boyd

John R. Bland, President.

Capital Paid in Cash $4,500,000.



United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company

Office of the Executive

Baltimore, Md.

956
1.28.22
30
returning papers

January 27, 1922.

Honorable W. Hall Harris,
Title Building,
Court House Plaza,
City.

Dear Mr. Harris:

Is it presuming too much on your good nature and time to set straight on Fort McHenry Congressmen Hawes of Missouri and Kahn of California?

Our good ally in the cause - Mayor Marshall of Saint Joseph, Missouri, wrote to every Missouri Congressman and received assurances of support for us from all except Mr. Hawes. I believe a letter over your signature would have more weight with him and Mr. Kahn than ours. Should you do this, will you not send a copy to Mayor Marshall and a copy to me?

Sincerely yours,

Clarke J. Fitzpatrick

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January 27, 1922

J. Cookman Boyd, Esquire,

Builders Exchange Building,

Baltimore.

My dear Mr. Boyd:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 26th instant and reply immediately to express regret that misapprehension should have arisen in the matter to which it refers.

The stenographic report of the meeting of 9th instant has not come to my knowledge and it did not appear to me then, nor does it now, that the occasion was one upon which discussion of the Fort McHenry matter was appropriate.

My apprehension was that over-emphasis of service rendered to the City by the patriots of eighteen-fourteen tended to obscure the far higher motives by which also they had been actuated, and my reference was to that only. With newspaper comment I have, of course, no connection, directly or indirectly.

Yours truly,

January 30, 1922.

Mr. Charles J. Fitzpatrick,
U.S.Fidelity & Guaranty Company.
Baltimore.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of the 27th instant with enclosures of letters from Representative Hawes to Mayor Marshall and from the latter to Mr.Bland, both of which are returned herewith.

Chairman Kahn has heretofore expressed somewhat the same view as that which Representative Hawes quotes and I think it would be much better that the matter be straightened out with both the Members of Congress by Senator France, whose statements would carry very much more weight than anything we could say.

The Act of 1914 is still in effect and it does provide that the Secretary of War may permit the City of Baltimore under license to use the Fort and grounds provided the City puts the same in repair, maintains it at its own expense, and turns over to the Government any buildings which it, the City, may erect, at any time the Secretary of War shall require the return of the property, without any cost whatever to the Government. The City, by the action of its Board of Estimates (as I am informed) declined to accept the property under these conditions, which involved a very large expenditure of money and an entire uncertainty as to whether, and when, the property with its improvements, might be taken back by the Federal Government. The City did, however, make an occasion of occupying the Fort in connection with the Star Spangled Banner Celebration, but so far as I know did nothing more with it and the Government took the property back for hospital purposes during the War, and retains it for these purposes to this time.

The City does not want the property under the terms of the Act of 1914. It would like to have the property turned over to it completely with no provisos whatever and in that case would expend Park Funds upon it.

The contention of Mr.Bland, Mr.Compton and those of us who are interested in the matter is that the Fort and Grounds should be maintained in the possession of the Federal Government and in the shape of a National Park, so that the services of the Defenders of 1814 may be recognized by the Nation which they contributed to save and not merely by the City, the protection of which was an incident of their more altruistic efforts and sacrifices. This was the sentiment of the meeting held a few days since at the call of Senator France and it was the purpose of the Bill which the Maryland Delegation and its sub-committee was to prepare and lay before the House Committee on Military Affairs. That its

accomplishment would involve the repeal of the Act of 1914 does not seem to me,or to others, to constitute an obstacle to the attainment of an end so greatly desired by so large a representation of the Nation as has been shown by the letters received by Mr.Bland.

Yours truly,

"FOR THE CIVIC AND COMMERCIAL WELFARE OF THE CITY AND STATE"

MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE

956
3.14.22

Baltimore, Md., March 13th, 1922.

My dear Sir:

I beg to enclose herewith a copy of Joint Resolution No. 1, passed by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Maryland and approved by the Governor, regarding the restoration of Fort McHenry to its original status and its maintenance by the United States Government as a National Park.

No doubt you have recently seen in all the Baltimore papers strong editorials on this subject, urging our Senators and Representatives in Congress to take the necessary action.

I hope if there is anything you can do in this matter that you will act promptly.

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. W. Hall Harris,

Baltimore, Maryland.

JOHN PHILIP HILL
3D DISTRICT MARYLAND

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Feb. 19, 1923.

Mr. T. Murray Maynadier,
105 Bourse Building,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Maynadier:

I have your letter of the 15th. At the present time, Fort McHenry is being used as a hospital for disabled ex-service men, and we have had a very hard time to keep it from being immediately abandoned for this purpose. So long as it is being so used, we should do nothing to further aid those who favor its immediate abandonment, and the transfer of all our disabled men away from Baltimore. As soon as the proper time comes, I will do everything possible along the lines of making Fort McHenry a National Park.

Can you tell me whether your records show that the services of Captain Philip Clayton, of Annapolis, in the war of 1812, as Captain of the Annapolis Blues, are sufficient to entitle me to membership in your Society?

Sincerely yours,

John Philip Hill

M. C.

J. CHAS. LINTHICUM
FOURTH MARYLAND DISTRICT

COMMITTEE:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BALTIMORE
LINTHICUM BUILDING
20 E. LEXINGTON STREET
BY APPOINTMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 28, 1923

Mr. T M. Maynadier,
105 Bourse Building,
Baltimore, Md.

My dear Mr. Maynadier:

Your letter of the 15th regarding the condition of legislation for McHenry duly received. There is pending a bill to make Ft McHenry a National Park Reservation, but owing to the Muscle Shoals proposition and other very large matters, it is impossible to get the Committee to consider it.

We sincerely hope at the next session, it being a long one, the Committee will have more time to devote to these matters, which are of great importance to our people.

. Under present legislation, as you are perhaps aware, Ft McHenry would revert to the City of Baltimore to be used for park purposes, and may I say, when this Bill was passed it was deemed by everybody very desirable, and certainly for the time it was so used thousands of people enjoyed that water front.

I entirely agree with you that Ft McHenry is a great landmark in the history of our country, and I sincerely hope there will not be much trouble in making it a National reservation. I feel now as I have always felt, that it will be very difficult to get the large appropriation which many of our people think will be necessary in order to put the grounds in proper shape.

With best wishes, I remain

Very truly yours,

Chas Linthicum

United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

February 28, 1923.

T. Murray Maynadier, Esquire,
105 Bourse Building,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Mr. Maynadier:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th instant relative to the status of legislation in regard to the conversion of Fort McHenry into a national park.

I have always been heartily in favor of this legislation, and have discussed the matter with the late John R. Bland, Key Compton, and others. On October 27, 1921 a meeting was held in my office of the Congressional delegation from Maryland, and after thorough discussion it was unanimously agreed that Senator France, Congressmen Hill and Linthicum, should constitute a committee to prepare and introduce bills in the Senate and House, to provide for making Fort McHenry a national park. It was also agreed that these bills, when introduced, should be vigorously pushed. In accordance with this agreement, Senator France introduced a bill in the Senate and Congressman Hill in the House, copies of which I am enclosing herewith for your information. These measures were referred respectively to the Military Committees of the Senate and House.

In view of the fact that these bills were placed in the hands of these gentlemen, I am embarrassed to interfere with their handling the situation. As there are now only three working days remaining before the adjournment of this Congress, with about 14,000 measures pending, it is extremely unlikely that any action can be secured on this matter at this late hour. I regret that the outlook is not more favorable, but I have done all that I could in this connection.

With very kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

O. E. Weller

E

1924.

address Mrs Albert Sioussat March 25th
armistice club - Baltimore Md

The Maryland Society,
of the
Colonial Dames of America

Richard Corbett Bernard Esq
Secretary Maryland Society
War of 1812

My dear Sir -
At the request of our President Miss Elizabeth Chew Williams - I am sending you the enclosed Resolutions - and hope you may find them useful -
A set had already been sent some time ago. But they were returned in very bad shape and

I am sorry for the delay which this has caused us -

I saw Mr Finkiewicz in Washington lately - and he promises to let us know how the Bill progresses.

With cordial wishes for your speedy success, I am

very sincerely yours.

Annie Leakin Sioussat

Historian Maryland Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN MARYLAND

Preamble and Resolutions

Society of the War of 1812, in Maryland

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Preamble and Resolutions

When, in the year 1814, the City of Washington had been burned and the attack upon Baltimore by land and water had been planned in the confident hope that upon success crowning this effort the "nest of pirates at the head of the Chesapeake" would be captured and Annapolis and other cities would soon thereafter come within the control of the British;

And when the massing of the British Fleet of fifty ships and an army of trained soldiers about six thousand in number, against the people of Baltimore, had stirred her citizens to as high a pitch of patriotism as ever inspired the sons of any land—and many of them left their offices and places of business and hurried to Fort McHenry and other defenses, anxiously took up whatever arms there were at hand and assumed their positions, determined to resist the invader or die in the attempt.

And Whereas, the principal part of the action which inspired the Star Spangled Banner (that grand Marseillaise of our Country) and finally drove the British power from our land forever—was fought from Fort McHenry, which was thereby sanctified by the bravery as well as by the blood of the sons of Maryland;

And Whereas, the citizens of this State in general and