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Thurs Feb 24, 1948

Plummer Chairman

Dr John Gardner on 1st Pres Church
and West. Cen

Loy Cabin

John Egan Howard sold Western
Pm 1786 Primary Ground Feb 1787 cemetery
slowed down 1850

1850 Byalls Comit. gave yards outside
of city limits,

Patton minor

Courter on Legal Aspects

Ancient & Honorable Wm. L. L.

Robert Gilmore ⇒

Purvisance.

29th. Div. Ar.

S.

ms Hank. D.A.R.

Miss Roberts, - Mrs. Dowse

Miss Willson - Star Muple D.A.R.
Associates

March 15-16 D.A.R. Belvedere

Plummer 32 public speaker

Warren Buckler ancestor in
Westminster -

Society of the War of 1812



in the State of Maryland

PRESIDENT
WILLIAM HENRY PITCHER
215 LONGWOOD ROAD
BALTIMORE 10, MARYLAND

The Baltimore Sun, the 29th Division of the Army, and other Maryland organizations, are uniting in an effort to secure the restoration of the Westminster Churchyard at Fayette and Paca Streets, Baltimore, where many of our national leaders of the past are buried.

The present condition of this almost unknown shrine is deplorable, and the graves of such men as General Sam Smith, Edgar Allan Poe, and Calhoun the first mayor of Baltimore, and others of equal importance, are practically obliterated. No means, at present, exist to correct this situation, but it is hoped that by concerted efforts this may be accomplished.

In an endeavor to secure general interest in the correction of this situation a meeting has been called for Thursday, February 24th at the Maryland Historical Society building, Park Avenue and Monument Street, Baltimore, at 8 P. M. The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, is giving its fullest cooperation in this effort and, to this end, is advising our more important Civic, Fraternal and Patriotic Organizations of this meeting.

It is hoped that your organization will cooperate in this more than worthy project and that you may be represented at this meeting. It is also hoped that your organization will join in an effort to secure public interest in the preservation of what we feel is a national shrine very closely allied with Fort McHenry and The Flag House in Baltimore.

Very sincerely yours,

The Society of the War of 1812 in Md.

William Henry Pitcher

William Henry Pitcher, President

Thomas Parran Plummer

Thomas Parran Plummer, Chairman
Committee on Westminster Churchyard

Society of the War of 1812



in the State of Maryland

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Very sincerely yours,

The Society of the War of 1812 in Md.

William Henry Pitcher
William Henry Pitcher, President

Thomas Parran Plummer
Thomas Parran Plummer, Chairman
Committee on Westminster Churchyard

MRS. ALEXANDER GORDON • 1009 NORTH CHARLES STREET • BALTIMORE 1 • MARYLAND
TELEPHONE: MULBERRY 4496

February 17, 1949

Mr. William Henry Pitcher, President
Society of the War of 1812
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Pitcher,

I received your letter in regard to the preservation of the Westminster Churchyard at Fayette and Paca Streets. Many years ago when I was **Treasurer** of the Colonial Dames of America, I and other members helped decidedly to restore the old graves there. For a number of years I have been Regent of the Magna Carta Dames here. But that organization is entirely run from Philadelphia and has no money for charities. The membership is \$100 for life and that goes to a member of the family - a daughter, or whomever the member designates in her own family. You can see that this leaves no money for charitable endeavors. But when the time comes, I will be glad to give a small donation myself in the name of the Magna Carta Dames.

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the meeting on February 24th, but I have a previous engagement.

Sincerely,

Elysheth C. Gordon

Mrs. Alexander Gordon

GEORGE L. RADCLIFFE

611 FIDELITY BUILDING

BALTIMORE 1, MD.

February 18th, 1949.

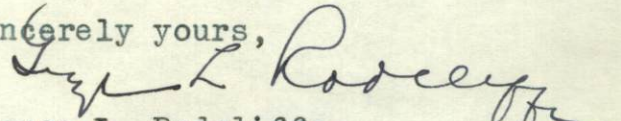
Mr. William Henry Pitcher,
President, Society of the War of 1812
in the State of Maryland,
215 Longwood Road,
Baltimore-10, Md.

Dear Mr. Pitcher:

I am keenly interested in the meeting to be held on the evening of Thursday, February 24th, at the Maryland Historical Society in the interest of Westminster Graveyard. I wish, as President of the Maryland Historical Society, that I could be present on that occasion. However, I have made an engagement to be out of town and it does not seem possible at this time that my plans could be changed. If, however, I can be in the city on that evening, I will certainly be present.

I do hope you will find encouragement and that a plan can be devised which would be helpful in the preservation of historic Westminster.

Sincerely yours,


George L. Radcliffe.

GLR:MC

BALTIMORE PARCEMENT

100% F.A.G. U.S.A.

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MARYLAND ANTIQUITIES

201 W. MONUMENT STREET
BALTIMORE 1, MD.

MUlberry 1911

OFFICERS

Robert Garrett
President

George Sadtler Robertson
Vice-President

Mrs. Harry R. Slack, Jr.
Vice-President

John H. Scarff
Secretary

Robert G. Merrick
Treasurer

Mrs. Lester Helfrich
Historian

Garrett Building
Redwood & South Sts.
Baltimore-2, Md.
February 18, 1949

Mr. William Henry Pitcher, President
The Society of the War of 1812 in Md.
215 Longwood Road
Baltimore 10, Md.

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Mrs. Norman H. Angell
Miss Rosa Baldwin
Frank F. Beirne
Philip A. Carroll
Mrs. H. Rowland Clapp
Mrs. Howard C. Davidson
James R. Edmunds, Jr.
Maj. Herbert C. Fooks
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Mrs. Blanchard Randall, Jr.
Mrs. Edward Shoemaker
J. Alexis Shriver
Mrs. Walter L. Simpson
Mrs. Robert F. Skutch, Sr.
H. Alexander Smith, Jr.
Mrs. Gideon N. Stieff
Dr. I. Ridgeway Trimble
Mrs. John L. Whitehurst

Dear Mr. Pitcher:

I have your notice with regard to a meeting to be held on Thursday, February 24th at the Maryland Historical Society building at 8:00 P.M. with reference to the restoration of Westminster Churchyard at Fayette and Paca Streets, Baltimore.

I am interested in this subject but unfortunately shall not be able to attend the meeting owing to another one of importance to which I have promised to go.

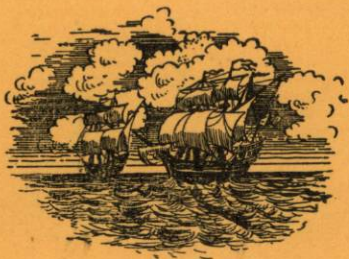
With best wishes for success in your important efforts, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert Garrett.

RG:D

1634



1940

The Society of the Ark and the Dove
of Maryland

132 Charles St., Annapolis, Md.,
February 19, 1949.

Mr. William Henry Pitcher
Pres. Soc. of the War of 1812:

Dear Mr. Pitcher,

I will not be able to attend the meeting in re The Westminster Churchyard, although interested in the undertaking.

Please contact Mr. Albert A. Davis, Jr., First National Bank Building, who should represent The Society of the Ark and the Dove.

Cordially yours, James M. Magruder.



SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

February 21, 1949

Mr. William H. Pitcher, President,
Society of the War of 1812,
215 Longwood Road
Baltimore 10, Md.

My dear Mr. Pitcher:

The Governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maryland, Capt. George P. Brewster Jr. (USN Retired) has asked me to reply to your letter to him.

We have tried to contact one of our leading officers to see if our Society could be represented at the meeting this coming Thursday, but without success.

If you will let us know after the meeting, just what plan has been formulated, we might see if there is any way in which we could cooperate, but our position is a bit unique. Our Society if not allowed by its Constitution, to assess any of its members for any cause whatsoever and as there is a huge project just being launched by the Mayflower to restore some of the old landmarks in Plymouth, it is extremely doubtful if our society could be of any financial assistance. Our dues are only two dollars a year, one of which has to be paid to the General Society as a Per Capita tax, and as our membership is naturally small, we have almost no working capital on which to draw.

And there are so many demands on the general public at this time with the numerous "drives" being launched daily, that, as I say I doubt if our Chapter could be of the least financial assistance.

But we are interested and sympathetic in the matter of these patriotic restorations and we would be glad to know just what program you have in mind, so after your meeting, would you be kind enough to write me full particulars and we will bring it before our Board on our next meeting night, which will be March 10th.

Very sincerely yours,

Eleanor S. Rowe

Secretary
Eleanor S. Rowe, Secretary (Mrs. Geo. H.)
8 Oak Grove Ave
Catonsville, Baltimore 28
Md

March 4, 1949

Mr. Thomas Parran Plummer
118 N. Lakewood Avenue
Baltimore 24, Maryland

Dear Mr. Plummer,

The committee appointed on Thursday,
February 24, 1949 at the Maryland Historical Society meeting on the
Restoration of Westminster Churchyard are as follows: -

- William H. Pitcher - Society of the War of 1812
President, 215 Longwood Rd., #10 - Hopkins 1179
- Thomas P. Plummer - Society of the War of 1812
Chairman, 118 Lakewood Ave., #24 - Orleans 7379
- Hon. Samuel K. Dennis - Legal Advisor - 100 B. Ridgewood Rd., #10
- Charles E. Rieman - Western National Bank
Treasurer, 14 N. Rutaw St., #1 - Plaza 7650
- Dr. John H. Gardner, Jr. - First Presbyterian Church
Madison & Park Aves., #1 - Lexington 5545
- Joseph J. Philbin - 29th Division
3425 Guilford Terrace, #18 - Belmont 8787
- Miss Florine Judik - Daughters of 1812
3906 St. Paul St., #18 - Belmont 0238
- Mrs. J. Edward Duker - President, Daughters of Founders & Patriots
3816 Beech Ave., #11 - Belmont 1269
- Hugh J. Hazelhurst - Sons of American Revolution
1746 Park Ave., #17
- Dr. Bruce H. McDonald - Westminster Church
515 W. Fayette St., - Lex. 4010
- Mrs. Francis J. Parran - Colonial Dames of America - Southern Md. Society
(President) 144 N. Lanvale St., #17 - Lafayette 3905
- Stanley Demead Kolb - Sons of American Revolution
110 N. Division St., Salisbury, Md.

You have suggested that others who will work
toward this goal be added to the board. That I think quite desirable.

Sincerely,

March 21, 1949

Mr. Stanley Denmead Kolb
110 N. Division Street
Salisbury, Maryland

Dear Mr. Kolb:

Enclosed please find letter to Mr. Plummer
which is self-explanatory.

The Westminster Churchyard Restoration is moving slowly. Mr. Plummer has made several speeches and we have had many promises. The plans are as follows. Get money from individuals in the amount of \$1.00 each (we stress the one dollar each); if anyone feels very deeply on the subject we will be glad for them to contribute more. We do feel that many would gladly contribute one dollar who would not want to contribute five or ten dollars and might feel that a \$1.00 contribution would make them look small. The object is to get so many \$1.00 bills that it represents a truly community desire to remember those men and women who not only saved the nation but made Maryland a great state. It may not be overlooked that a large number of small contributions represents voting power.

If our most politically astute Mayor recognizes that the completion of this project is desired by the people of Baltimore and Maryland it is entirely within the realm of possibility that the City will see to it that that part of the whole not subscribed by individuals may be made up by the City of Baltimore. However, please note that in order to achieve this end there must be a large number of small contributions. In passing, I may say that our present Mayor, before he ran for election, went before the City Council and argued for and got the City to subscribe \$80,000 for restoring the Flag House and making a park around it.

It would appear that it is well to play down the 1812 Society as the father and make it a truly patriotic, civic and fraternal action.

I am enclosing some clippings. After you have extracted from them what you wish, I would appreciate it if you would return them to me as I have no copies of most of them.

Sincerely,

William Henry Pitcher, President

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

ORGANIZED APRIL 30, 1889

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS JUNE 9, 1906

PRESIDENT GENERAL
CHARLES B. SHALER
146 UNION TRUST BUILDING
PITTSBURGH 19, PENNSYLVANIA



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
1227 16TH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

S. DENMEAD KOLB, CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE
110 N. DIVISION STREET, SALISBURY, MARYLAND

SECRETARY GENERAL
FRANK B. STEELE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Salisbury, Maryland
March 23, 1949

William Henry Pitcher, Esquire
President, Society of War of 1812
215 Longwood Road
Baltimore-10, Maryland

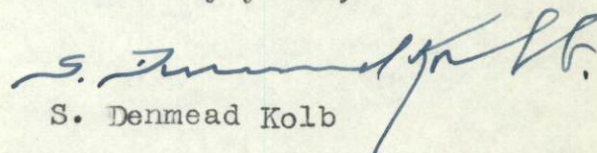
Dear Mr. Pitcher:

Your letter of March 21st, enclosing clippings, is greatly appreciated. It is kind of you to make available this informative material, which is being returned, as requested.

I am also sending along a check in the amount of \$5, toward more than worthwhile endeavors. I shall try to arouse some interest over here on the Shore but being so far removed from Baltimore, I am afraid our people will not be too enthused, especially as we are having so many drives at the moment on local projects but, again, I assure you, as one interested in the preservation of our cherished Maryland Heritage, I will do my very best.

If I can aid further at any time on any of your projects, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,


S. Denmead Kolb

SDK:VL

Enc.

April 6, 1949

Mr. S. Denmead Kolb
110 N. Division St.,
Salisbury, Maryland

Dear Mr. Kolb,

Thank you so much for returning my clippings
and the check for \$5.00 for the Westminster Churchyard Restoration
Fund.

I hope and feel that you will be able to get
in a great many good licks down on the Eastern Shore. Please do not
forget about it. It will be a long, hard struggle.

Sincerely yours,

William Henry Pitcher

WHP/hlb

April 27, 1949

Mrs. Harvey G. Beck, Treasurer
Maryland Society, Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America
215 Northway, Guilford
Balto. 18, Md.

My dear Mrs. Beck:

Enclosed you will please find a receipt from Mr. Charles E. Rieman for the donation of \$5.00 received from the Maryland Society Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America toward the Westminster Churchyard Restoration.

We cannot tell you how much we appreciate your cooperation and trust that you will continue talking this proposition up to your members and friends. It is only through a large number of small contributions that the restoration may be achieved.

Very truly yours,

William Henry Pitcher, President

WHP/hlb
Enc. 1

Estreeck
May 3, 1949

Mrs. Adelbert W. Mears, Treas.,
Society of Daughters of Colonial Wars in the State of Md.,
3102 Hilton St.,
Balto. 16, Md.

Dear Mrs. Mears:

Enclosed please find receipt for five dollars (\$5.00) contributed to the Westminster Churchyard Restoration by the Maryland Daughters of Colonial Wars.

I trust that you will all keep this project, in which we are all so interested, in the fore front of your objectives and try to get your members not only to subscribe at a dollar a piece but also their friends. The only way this job can be done is by the action of the individual people of Baltimore and the State of Maryland. If we can get enough individual subscriptions of one dollar each, we would be able to get the municipal help necessary to complete the job.

Sincerely,

William Henry Pitcher,
President

WHP/hlb
Enc. 1

The enclosed check for 5⁰⁰ for Preservation of
Westminster Churchyard has been contributed by
Ma Soc Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America
A receipted bill will be appreciated

Katherine C Beck

Mrs. Harvey G. Beck *news*
215 Northway, Guilford
Baltimore 18, Maryland

May 11, 1949

Mr. Thomas Parran Plummer, Chairman
Westminster Churchyard Restoration
118 W. Lakewood Ave.,
Balto. 24, Md.

Dear Tommy:

Will you please try to be at the next meeting on Tuesday, May 17th and give a complete report on developments. So far we have gotten twenty or twenty-five dollars and some good publicity.

Will you also outline to the board your plans for the future and recommendations for putting this job over.

Sincerely yours,

William Henry Pitcher, President

WHP/hlb

333,55



SOCIETY OF
Daughters of Colonial Wars
in the State of Maryland

February 13, 1950

Dear Mr Pitcher:-

I thank you for your help in seeing that the enclosed check will reach its proper destination. I had only your address in the check book, so your aid was again needed.

Sincerely yours
Ellen Emmenich Meade.

February 17, 1950

Mrs. Adelbert W. Mears
3102 N. Hilton St.,
Balto. 16, Md.

Dear Mrs. Mears:

The Committee for the Restoration of the Westminster Churchyard wish to thank your Society of Daughters of Colonial Wars in the State of Maryland for the contribution of five dollars (\$5.00) for the work of restoration, and enclose a receipt for your gift.

This is a most important job and one that will of necessity be slow of accomplishment. We hope that you and your friends will keep it in mind for some time to come.

I hope you will express to your organization our sincere appreciation.

Cordially yours,

William Henry Pitcher,
President

WHP/hlb

March 20, 1951

Mrs. Adelbert W. Mears, Treas.
The Maryland State Society of the
Daughters of Colonial Wars
3102 Hilton St.
Baltimore - 16, Md.

Dear Mrs. Mears:

Will you please extend our appreciation to your Society for their continuing donation to the Westminster Churchyard Restoration Fund. Enclosed is your receipt signed by Mr. Rieman, our treasurer.

Again let me thank you on behalf of the committee.

Faithfully yours,

(William Henry Pitcher)

Contributions to Westminster

	1949	1949	1950	1951	1952
4 6	A. Denmark Kolt 110 W. Division St Salisbury Md.	500			
5 3	Ass of Gen of Col Wars in the State of Md. Mrs A. W. Dean Treas. 3102 Hilton Pl. 16 Balto Md	500 ^{2/10}	500	5	2/14/52 5
4 27	Md Ass Gen of Founders & Patriots of Am. Mrs Harvey B. Beck. 215 Northway, Guilford Balto 18 Md.	500			
	Confed. Gen.				
	Mrs Baylin	10			

February 19, 1952

Mrs. Adelbert Warren Mears
3102 Hilton Street
Baltimore 16, Maryland

Dear Mrs. Mears:

I enclose a receipt for the donation of five dollars made by the Maryland Society Daughters of Colonial Wars to the Westminster Church Yard Restoration Fund. It is very much appreciated.

I also enclose a card which I believe was intended for your files, but found itself in the envelope for me.

I trust that you and your society are well and flourishing in body and spirit. This is a time when a strong spirit is much needed in all things.

Respectfully,

(William Henry Pitcher)

First Presbyterian Church

Park Avenue and Madison Street

Baltimore 1, Maryland

JOHN H. GARDNER, JR., D. D.
MINISTER

October 8, 1954.

Mr. William Henry Pitcher,
215 Longwood Road,
Baltimore 10, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Pitcher:

In connection with your recent conversation with Mr. W. Hall Harris, III, regarding the fund for the restoration of the Western Burying Gound, the Executive Committee of The Committee (Board of Trustees) of the First Presbyterian Church has authorized me to enclose attached check for \$40.00. It is the balance held in this fund.

It is our understanding that you desire to terminate the action of our group in connection with this restoration work and turn over this sum to the Reverend Bruce H. McDonald of the Westminster Church.

Very truly yours,

Nathan R. Smith

Treasurer of the First
Presbyterian Church.

*Westminster Church
Exp 9-4010
CHS*

*Marble
Frederick Ave*

Keep

1+3
mailed. 7, 1956
May

Dr Bruce H. McDonald
Westminster Presbyterian Church
515 W. Fayette St. Balt. 1 Md
Dear Dr McDonald.

I have had on my desk a check from Mr Nathan R Smith Jr Treasurer, First Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$40⁰⁰ for the purpose of restoring Westminster Church Yard. The check is dated October 28, 1954. I have been in touch with you innumerable times about the disposition of this money.

Will you please send me a letter explaining its proposed use so that I may turn this check over to you for restoration purposes.

If I do not hear from you in thirty days I will have no recourse but to return the check to the First Presbyterian Church to be added to the permanent fund for maintenance of Westminster Church Yard.

Copy to Mrs Hall Harris III + Nathan R Smith Jr

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FAYETTE AND GREENE STREETS
BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

REV. BRUCE H. McDONALD, D.D.
MINISTER

TELEPHONE:
LEXINGTON 9-4010

May 7, 1956

Mr. William Hanry Pitcher
215 Longwood Road
Baltimore 10, Maryland

Dear Mr. Pitcher:

I had made arrangements with the man who was doing the final work on Samuel Smith's tomb to send you a statement, but evidently he did not carry through as per agreement.

The matter now stands as follows:

I have on hand \$10.00 to cover a \$50.00 item which will be the final cost on restoring the tomb of Samuel Smith. If you are of the same mind regarding this matter I shall be very glad to have you forward the check for \$40.00, which, with the \$10.00, will be the final payment on the restoration.

I am grateful to you for your interest in this matter and trust that this may meet with your approval.

Cordially yours,

Bruce H. McDonald

BHMcD:ems

July 6th, 1956.

Rev. Bruce H. McDonald, D.D.
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Fayette and Greene Sts.
Baltimore 1, Md.

Dear Dr. McDonald,

Enclosed please find check for \$40.00, the monies collected by the Westminster Churchyard Restoration Fund.

It is understood that this money is to be used for the restoration of the Samuel Smith Tomb, or other such work in the cemetery.

Faithfully yours,

William Henry Pitcher

WHP/v

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAYETTE AND GREENE STREETS

BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

REV. BRUCE H. McDONALD, D.D.
MINISTER

TELEPHONE:
LEXINGTON 9-4010

July 19, 1956

Mr. William Henry Pitcher
215 Longwood Road
Baltimore 10
Maryland

Dear Mr. Pitcher:

Please accept my sincere thanks for the check of \$40.00 collected by the Westminster Churchyard Restoration Fund for the restoration of the Samuel Smith Tomb, or other work in the cemetery.

I will send you notice on the rededication of the Samuel Smith Tomb.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce H. McDonald

BHMcD:ems



MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL SMITH

Maj. Gen. Samuel Smith, American

"NOW LIES HE THERE WITH NONE SO POOR TO DO HIM REVERENCE." Shakespeare tells us that so spoke Marc Anthony shortly after the Ides of March in the year 44 B.C. over the dead body of his friend Julius Caesar, in the Roman Forum.

Baltimore's own Maj. Gen. Samuel Smith was a fine soldier in the Revolutionary War. Twice wounded, he won commendation and a sword from the Congress. He commanded a company in the immortal Maryland Line, which saved Washington's army during the retreat from Long Island, and all the way to White Plains. His defense of Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River below Philadelphia, was of the highest order. During this defense, he wiped out more than two-thirds of a storming force of Hessian mercenaries, including their hated leader.

In August of 1814, when the National Capital had been plundered and burned, and the invading British declared they would "wipe out that Nest of Pirates" (Baltimore) on their victorious march to join the British General Prevost coming south by way of Plattsburg, whom did the City Fathers call on to meet this peril? None other than good old Sam Smith, now 62 years old.

Gen. Ross and Admiral Cochrane had with them Wellington's Invincibles and Nelson's veteran seamen of Trafalgar and the Nile, and they were armed with the terrible Congreve rockets; but Sam Smith's men were fighting for their homes, and they were armed with rifles and the red badge of courage. In Sam Smith they had a commander who was used to knocking off redcoats, and he knew the inveterate habit of the army to depend on the fleet. He knew he had to anticipate their strategy and meet the enemy within a limited area, as he had neither the forces nor the defenses to protect the entire

perimeter of Baltimore Town. This he did, and without committing his entire force to a pitched battle, he forced the retreat of the British. Meanwhile, Lt. Col. George Armistead with a small Regular force, reinforced by Maryland and Washington, D. C. men, had withstood the terrific bombardment of Ft. McHenry, and the British were licked.

Baltimore's proud boast is that of all the important eastern cities, she alone never has been conquered by an enemy. Sam Smith preserved this record in 1814.

Although we had sent our best to the peace conference at Ghent (John Quincy Adams, Gallatin, Bayard and Henry Clay), the British Commissioners were fourth-raters, who acted as mere messenger boys for the British Government. They delivered their arrogant ultimatum and said take it or leave it. The terms were humiliating, and if accepted would have reduced us to a minor nation. However, when news of the twin defeats of Plattsburg and Baltimore reached the British Ministry, they quickly came down off their high horse and concluded a reasonable treaty, which was ratified on December 24th, 1814. (At this very moment 26 delegates from the New England states, except Maine, were meeting in the secret, ill-famed Hartford Convention.)

The defeated British sailed away to take part in the widely publicized Battle of New Orleans, where Andy Jackson soundly thrashed them. The battle was fought January 8th, 1815, two weeks after the Treaty of Ghent was ratified, and while we proudly praise Jackson and the Americans, the battle had no effect on the treaty. Maryland has been lax in claiming the credit due her sons; but be that as it may, *old Sam Smith changed the course of history at Baltimore in mid-September, 1814.*

Yet, in the year of grace 1948, in the quaint Westminster Churchyard at Fayette and Green Streets, in a crumbling tomb, NOW LIES HE THERE WITH

NONE SO POOR TO DO HIM REVERENCE. No, don't say NONE, for the Civic Affairs Committee of the 29th Division Association has undertaken this labor of love and appreciation, — to restore his last resting place; and they have invited all Marylanders to participate. Modest contributions are solicited. The names of contributors will be recorded and preserved in the restored tomb. You may send subscriptions to the undersigned at 3425 Guilford Terrace (18).

As always, Twenty-niners will serve without pay and will meet their own expenses; and contributors may rest assured that every dollar subscribed will go entirely towards the restoration of Sam Smith's tomb.

JOSEPH J. PHILBIN, *Chairman*

J. A. MULLENDORE, *Vice Chairman*

The Veteran Corps, 5th Regiment Infantry, M.N.G. has joined in this work with the 29th, and has named Brig. Gen. Frank A. Hancock, Chairman, and Herman I. Sterner, Co-Chairman of its Committee. They will gladly accept subscriptions at 823½ W. Lombard St. (1).

Youthful Abbeys Dig Graveyard Scene

By RICK WRIGHT
Young World Reporter

Who dresses in black, is young and works with nearly 1,000 people under him? The answer, which is almost as confusing as the question, is simply a Westminster Abbey. The Westminster Abbeys are a group of high school and college age individuals who volunteer some of their time to conduct tours through, and help restore the highly historical Westminster Church and cemetery, located at Fayette and Greene streets just west of downtown Baltimore. The black robes they wear are almost as mysterious looking as the catacombs under the church.

"We found the robes one day in an upstairs room of the church, and we believe

them to be at least 50 years old," said Joe Clocker (not Crocker), a 22-year-old Abbey. Along with Louise Butterfield, Mark Lance, Jim Thiess and Jeff Jerome, Joe and his 16-year-old brother Bob are determined to help Sam Porpora, the church's historian, make people realize that the Westminster Church is more than just the place where Edgar Allan Poe is buried.

"I was gathering information for a speech I was going to deliver at a class at Towson State, and I needed to find out some things about Poe, so one of the places I decided to visit was his grave. When I walked into the church, I couldn't believe what I saw. It was like walking into a book. Therefore, I took up a real interest in the place and became an Abbey," Joe said.

After Joe told his brother Bob about the

place, he too became an Abbey. "By conducting tours and lecturing here, I've really learned a lot about history," Bob said.

And history abounds in, around and beneath the church. After showing you Westminster's main sanctuary, with the original stained glass windows handmade in 19th century England, and the area where slaves would wait for their masters attending church on pre-Civil War Sundays, the Abbeys take you down into the dark, damp confines of the catacombs.

When burials began here in 1775 it was an open air cemetery, but in 1849 the Baltimore Council passed an ordinance saying that any cemetery within city limits would have to be moved, unless there was a church on the grounds. Therefore, members of the Presbyterian church in Baltimore

built the structure on top of the 1.5 acre graveyard.

The first thing that you're shown underground is "the suicide chamber." This is the bottom of the church's bell tower, appropriately named because four people have hanged themselves here. Inside the chamber Joe Clocker and his friends have set up a mannequin that at first glance looks like a fifth suicide fan, with a rope placed around his neck ready for his adventure.

Next, you move to the grave of Lucia Watson, a girl who died at the age of 16 on Feb. 7, 1816. Although her tombstone credits her as having been "blessed with a peculiar sweetness," Abbey Mark Lance tells a story that makes Lucia seem anything but sweet. It seems that she's been known to raise the unemployment rate.

"In the 19th century, the caretaker of the grounds actually lived downstairs in the catacombs. On three different occasions, separated by about 30 years, caretakers quit their jobs because they claimed to have seen Lucia's ghost. You can't deny that it was a coincidence that three men who lived at different times would quit their jobs for the same reason," he said.

Adds Joe Clocker, "Myself, I don't disallow for people leaving behind a spirit when they die, but I do think that there's a lot of difference between ghosts and spirits. For instance, when John Kennedy died, he left behind a spirit that was transferred to other people helping them make it through the 60s."

Joe's brother Rick agrees, and also says, "I have to admit that when I first started working here, the place seemed kind of spooky, especially when I had to do things like go downstairs to shut off lights by myself."

As the tour progresses, you look at a walled-up tunnel that once was a passageway leading from an outside tomb, used by slaves escaping through the underground railroad.

"The slaves were moved in during the day, so that they could hide in the catacombs. At night they were brought out and were transported away by wagon," Porpora said.

Since the inside entrance to the tunnel is located inches away from several pine box coffins that have partially broken open from age, Joe Clocker can relate an interesting story about the blocked off passage.

"On the first night I was here, a few other people and myself decided to try to hammer through the cement to get to the tunnel. Whoever built that wall was a good mason because even though we tried as hard as possible, we couldn't break through. While I was down there chiseling, every once in awhile my elbow would bump one of the coffins. I'd look next to me occasionally and see one of the skulls rocking back and forth."

After stopping at the graves of a long list of people including dozens of revolutionary war heroes, the tour winds up outside, near the burial site of Edgar Allan Poe.

"It's our theory that Poe spent some of his last days alive here at Westminster. This is because for some unknown reason he decided to stop off in Baltimore on his way to Virginia. At the time he was still heavily grieving for his dead wife who is buried here. Therefore we guess that he spent some time at her grave before he was found dead five days later at 44 West Lombard St.," Lance said.

Besides promoting the history of Westminster Church by conducting tours and lecturing to groups, the Abbeys have also been featured on the Allan Christian Show, a late night talk program on WBAL radio.

"All of these young people are getting a great lesson in public speaking by working here at the church. Before they came along, I had to do all of the tours and lectures by myself, which got to be rather hectic," Porpora said.

When you talk to any of the Abbeys, they all speak enthusiastically about their activities at Westminster, but when the subject turns to that of the financial situation at the church, the enthusiasm becomes what might best be called determined anger.

"It's a crying shame that we don't have

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the money that we need. After all, we have one of the few interest packed guided tours in Baltimore. People just don't realize all the history we have here," Lance said in a vehement tone.

"We've taken the mayor and members of the city council on a tour of the church, and they seem to be very enthused with what we're doing, but the city just isn't helping us to restore the site. I'd like to see the church become the number one historical spot in Baltimore, but we need the funds to make it happen."

The city does not dole out sums of money for repairs but instead tries to get people interested in the community in which they live, said Jim Beek, a press aide to Mayor Schaefer. Community leaders are advised where to look for foundation money so they can apply for funds.

Barbara Hoff, an official of the city's Community for Historical and Architectural Preservation, says, "There are very few sources of funds available and there are very specific qualifications for applying for loans, one of them being the place must be either commercial or residential. However, since Westminster Church is listed in *The National Register of Historical Places*, state money is available through the Maryland Historical Trust in Annapolis. However the Western Bearing grounds (burial grounds) are not listed and would not qualify."

"Westminster Church is on our list of properties that qualify for our funds," said Jack Finglass, an official of the Maryland

Historical Trust. "The federal government supplies the money but out of 300 applications for restoration work we can fill only 25 a year. I say restoration because maintenance does not qualify. It's sometimes difficult to explain to people the difference."

"Ownership of the property is important because there must be private ownership as publicly owned properties do not qualify. Any funds available are matching, that means whatever private money is raised we match that amount. As far as I know no one from Westminster Church has applied."

The whole area around Westminster Church is in for massive redevelopment. Jim Beek says, "Metro West is the newspeak terminology for this part of Baltimore. There has not been high visibility (publicity) but the new plans are about to be blitzed on the public consciousness."

"Groundbreaking for a new Social Security complex has recently taken place just north of Westminster Church. Seton Hill will have housing redevelopment. To the south the University of Maryland's schools and hospital will be redeveloped and new highways will snake through."

"This whole area is expected to be the next Charles Center-type development in the next eight years."

Just before this article went to press, a mysterious note was found lying on the Young World desk. Here it is verbatim:

The Abbeys are waiting
With history in store
On Fayette and Greene streets
In Baltimore

Sincerely,
E. A. P.

REV. HARRY A. COLE,
MINISTER

Westminster Abbeys: Guides To Otherworld

FOR TOUR ARRANGEMENTS CONTACT:

HISTORIAN AND TOUR DIRECTOR - SAM PORPORA
547-8413 (EVENINGS)-OR

LOUISE BUTTERFIELD 366-8751

TOUR GUIDES: JIM THIESS 866-1159
JOE CLOCKER 488-0979

JEFF JEROME BUS. PHONE: 252-2800
RES. PHONE: 678-7973

WESTMINSTER UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CATACOMBS AND CEMETERY
A NATIONAL HISTORIC SHRINE

PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF GUIDED TOURS

- 200 YEAR OLD CATACOMBS IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT.
- A VIEW THROUGH A BURIAL VAULT OF TUNNEL (UNDERGROUND RAILROAD) USED TO SMUGGLE SLAVES.
- HUGE HAND PUMPED ORGAN.
- SLAVES GALLERY, GOTHIC STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.
- DESCRIPTION OF OUR ENGLISH GOTHIC CHURCH BUILT ON BRICK STILTS OVER THE CEMETERY IN 1852.
- TOMBS OF EDGAR ALLAN POE - GENERAL DAVID POE, HIS GRANDFATHER - SIX OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POE FAMILY.
- TOMBS OF 15 REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 GENERALS.
- GRAVES OF 80 LESSER OFFICERS OF THESE WARS
- AN EGYPTIAN TOMB, A ROMAN TOMB AND THEIR MYSTERIES.
- MASS COMMON GRAVE OF 100 REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS. (YOU LOOK INTO THIS PIT)
- THE MYSTERY OF THE GHOST OF THE PRAYING TEEN AGE GIRL.
- UNEXPLAINED OCCURANCES AT THE POE GRAVE,
- THE INFLUENCE THAT WESTMINSTER CHURCHYARD HAD ON POE'S PHILOSOPHY AND WORKS.

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