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Dear Mr. Hancock

The page attached is a sample of what the guide to Fort McHenry data would be like.

Name of Places & Persons will be included and some events, the names of Military organizations.

The dates refer to the pages instead of page numbers. New data can be inserted at any time without interfering with the system of indexes.

All references would have to be made before they can be typed.

There will be two indices one of data on hand and the other what can be secured and where to go for it.

*Post  
Revolutionary  
Period*

Laws of Maryland made and passed at a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of Annapolis on Monday the feventh of November, in the year of our Lord one thoufand feven hundred and ninety-one.

Laws of Maryland, Nov. 1791 - Nov. 1798

RESOLUTIONS affented to November Seffion, 1793

WHEREAS the United States may think it neceffary to erect a fort, arfenal, or other military works or buildings, on Whetstone Point, for the public defence; therefore, RESOLVED, That upon the applicati on of the prefidet of the United States to the governor, for permiffion to erect a fort, arfenal, or other military works, on the faid Point, for the purpofe aforefaid, the governor fhall and may grant the fame, with the confent of the owner of the foil.

Fort McHenry, Additional barracks building of 1795-1-15

Barge men attending on the Fort, pay of 1794 -7 -10

Barracks, cost of locks and bolts for, etc.  
1794 - 7 - 10

Barracks, plan for, 1794 - 4-20.

Battery unprotected on one side, 1795 - 1-15.

Breastworks 4 feet too low, 1795 - 1-15.

Bridge, timber and plank for, cost of 1794 - 7-10.

Carpenters will not work on, 1794 - 9-14

Carriages ( for Guns ) 1794 - 7-8.

Carriages, Timber for 1794 - 5-19

Embrasures in plan, 1794 - 4-20.

Expenditures, 1794 - 99  
1794 - 1805  
1794. B.

Laborers, hard to obtain, 1794 - 9-14.

Laborers lay the platform, 1794 - 9-14.

Lower battery , 1794 - 7-8.

Lower Work, 1794 - 9-14.

Platforms, 1794 - 4-20.

Platforms, laying of, 1794 - 9-14.

Tools for laying platform, 1794 - 9-14.

Turfing badly done and wants repair, 1795 - 1-15.

Upper line, 1794 - 7-8.

Upperworks not commenced, 1795 - 1-15.

Workmen, number needed, 1794, 4-20.

References Prior to 1794.

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See Whetstone Point and Fort Whetstone.

DR. HENRY J. BERKLEY  
1305 PARK AVENUE  
BALTIMORE

June 12th. 1935.

Mr. James E. Hancock,  
521 W. Lombard St.,

Dear Mr. Hancock:

In your investigation of the early history of Whetstone Point did you chance upon the following item, which is the earliest I have found. If you have seen it destroy.

Whetstone Point.

"Vensey's Court. 500 acres. Patented 1667 by George Yates, and the following year assigned to David Peole. North side Patapsco River opposite the land of Hugh Vensey. In 1700 Whetstone Point was in the possession of Hugh Hellingworth." (Calvert Paper, 886).

George Yates was one of the surveyors of A.A. County at this date, and acquired scattered holdings in a number of locations in West. Baltimore County.

I read your article on the early clippers and had to revise my ideas somewhat. There is an old legend that the first clipper was built on the Eastern Shore and a French Fishing boat was used as a model.

The above extract is sent you because it will be months before the Upper Patapsco Hundred is finished. I remain,

Very sincerely,

Henry J. Berkley

Whetstone Point - the site of Fort McHenry - is the tip end of a long tapering peninsula that reaches out for about three miles into the Patapsco and separates the main branch of the river from the harbor along the shores of which old Baltimore was settled. Whetstone Point was first patented, February 24th 1661, by Charles Gorsuch, who later abandoned *it*; probably because its soil was unproductive; and on June 2nd 1702, it was again patented by James Carroll, and became a town and port of entry for Maryland by Act of the Provincial Assembly. *April 15<sup>th</sup> 1706* Although the soil at Whetstone was very poor agriculturally, it contained considerable rich malleable iron ore and in 1725, Carroll sold it to James Giles, who in turn disposed of its mining rights to the Principio Company - an English Corporation-whose holdings were confiscated by the State of Maryland during the Revolution.

*Port for*

The strategic value of Whetstone *in* the defense of Baltimore was recognized by the local Committee of Observation early in the Revolution and on December 18th 1775 an armed pilot boat was stationed at the entrance of our harbor at Whetstone Point to keep any ship from coming into this port until she had been thoroughly examined and accounted for. In January 1776, the British sloop of War - the Otter - with several tenders came into the Chesapeake and began to seize our shipping and on February 2nd the Council of Safety examined the premises at Whetstone Point to consider the practicability of fortifying it. On March 8th, the Otter came into the Patapsco and two batteries - one of 19 guns and the other of 20 guns were thrown up at Fell's Point on the Baltimore side of the river and boats were sunk in the harbor entrance to obstruct ~~the~~ enemy's passage while Mortical Gist's Battalion was entrenched at Whetstone Point to prevent them from landing.

On July 7th 1776, the location for fortifying Whetstone Point was *selected* designed by Colonel Ware and shortly after a water battery of 18 guns was planned and erected *don* by James Alcock Engineer, and the completed work was

regarded as a competent



regarded as a competent marine defense for the town during the war.

In November 1793, another war was threatened between the United States and Great Britain and acting on the suggestion of President Washington, the legislature of Maryland passed resolutions offering the use of Whetstone Point to the Federal Government as a fort or an arsenal for public defense. In March 1794, General Knox, Secretary of War, requested that carriages and implements be made for the 18 pounders at Whetstone for the fortification of Baltimore and Major J. J. Ulrich Rivardi was appointed to supervise the fortifications at Baltimore, Norfolk and Alexandria.

Major Rivardi suggested certain plans for strengthening the old revolutionary batteries at Whetstone Point, but it is very apparent that as the war scare <sup>subsided</sup> abated the Federal Governments' interest abated, because Major Rivardi in his letter to Governor Stone - January 15th 1795, speaks only of the lower works and a barrack as <sup>being</sup> completed, while the upper works had not been started and \$2500 was needed to complete the work. On January 18th 1796, the Secretary of War reported to Congress <sup>that</sup> the battery and <sup>had been</sup> the barrack erected at Whetstone Point and that seven guns <sup>were</sup> had been mounted, and in his <sup>report</sup> of February 10th 1797, he said that no further work had been done and <sup>suggested</sup> hinted that the work would be stopped unless a garrison was provided. In his report of February 27th 1798, he stated that \$118.90 had been expended at Baltimore during the year and that the total disbursements to that date at Whetstone had been \$9978.00.

Fortunately James McHenry of Baltimore was the Secretary of War at the time and he <sup>knowing</sup> knew the desire of his fellow citizens to obtain a competent fortification, and in the summer of 1798, he directed Major Tousard to examine "the existing works at Whetstone Point and report to the committee of Baltimore citizens what additions he considered necessary for the protection of Baltimore harbor." After examining the <sup>old</sup> works and the proposals for strengthening <sup>it</sup> them, Major Tousard reported that he would not risk his reputation by approving them and submitted other suggestions for

In 1793, President Washington advised his Congress  
to prepare for another war with Great Britain and the  
Congress passed legislation of Maryland passed resolutions  
offering the use of <sup>the</sup> Whetstone Point to the federal government as  
a site for an arsenal for public defense; in March  
1794, General Knox, Secretary of War directed that Congress  
and its agents should be made for the 18 ponds at Whetstone  
for the fortification of Baltimore, while Major D. D. Abner  
Riverson was ordered to supervise the fortifications at  
Baltimore, Norfolk & Alexandria.

a ~~proper~~ defense, while the Secretary of War advised the Committee that the finances of the government would not admit of an appropriation of more than \$20000 for the defense of Baltimore.

However, seven acres and fifty-eight ~~perches~~ of land had been secured from Alexander Furnival July 20th 1795 and on November 6th 1798 another lot had <sup>also</sup> been bought from William Goodman, and on July 24th 1799, the Baltimore Committee <sup>explained</sup> ~~reported the facts of Major~~ <sup>these details</sup> ~~Tousard's report~~ <sup>in a public address</sup> as follows: "thus did your committee see the economy of the government at variance with the safety of the city - and your committee, at every hazard recommended that the fortification should be erected on the most approved and effectual plan. In doing this they have relied upon the well known liberality, patriotism and zeal of their fellow citizens to supply the deficiency. The Secretary of War has complied with their recommendations and under the direction of your Committee the proper quantity of land has been purchased and considerable progress has been made in the necessary work. Mr. Ponein the present engineer and superintendent, in whose skill, industry and economy your committee has perfect confidence, has improved upon the plan of Major Tousard and devotes his whole time to its completion. In the meantime the public funds are nearly exhausted. But these works of defense, which all must admit to be proper - remain incomplete. In this interesting situation you are called upon to supply the deficiency of public appropriation by voluntary contributions." *— Mr. Orr*

ct Fort McHenry was first garrisoned by Federal troops in 1799, whose strength for 1804 is revealed as consisting of 3 officers and 37 enlisted men.

atb In the meantime Baltimore was growing by leaps and bounds, its population of less than 8000 in 1780 had increased to 31514 in 1800, which was further increased to 46555 by 1810.

This brick and mortar fortress is constructed in the shape of a five pointed star with a distance of 300 feet between each of its points and

The City was then divided into districts & two  
members of the Committee called upon the inhabitants of  
each district to secure their subscriptions to vote  
this money more land was purchased by the Star  
Garbin Fort - which on cell Fort McHenry - was  
built in 1798 - 1799 again in the fall of 1798  
by <sup>purchase</sup> purchase in 1801 as ~~offense to the Federal Govt.~~  
A small garrison of Federal troops was placed there  
established there in 1799, the size of which is included  
in the entry of Davis's report for 1802 as Company of  
3 officers & 37 men, <sup>officers</sup> in jurisdiction of the fort was  
not assumed by the Federal Govt until 1816

4. *which can be seen from the fort & the outside battlements of our masonry*

was surrounded by a moat on all sides. The outer wall was built of Baltimore made brick and is, over two feet thick and fourteen feet high coped all around with granite and sand stone slabs. Twenty feet back of this, another brick wall was built and fifteen feet back of it a stone wall facing inside of the fort was erected and stone rip rap was packed between these retaining walls and the whole covered with dirt and sodded to make a protection wall 35 feet thick around the fort. The second section of this wall however is 4 feet lower than the outer wall within the star points to provide a platform for the guns and to serve as a protection to the men that man them.

The thickness of this wall is best observed in the porte or entrance to the fort where there is ample room for two dungeons thirty five feet long, eighteen feet wide and nine feet high that extend on either side of under the fort walls, besides space for the guard rooms of the garrison inside the entrance. The archway of the Porte is 12 feet high and 9 feet wide with heavily iron studded doors at both ends, the parallel sides of the fort are 45 feet long, with 125 feet between the bases of the star points whose sides are 75 feet long and the structure in itself is a mount to the brick masons who built it.

The houses for the garrison are elliptically arranged within the inside area of the fort. To the right of the entrance stands the headquarters building 75 feet long and eighteen feet deep, a two storied brick structure that housed the Commander and his family on the second floor while the adjutant and his staff were quartered on the lower floor where the office was also located. The rooms in this building are connected by corridors and like the other buildings in the area are well lighted and faced by two story colonial porches that run the full length of each building.

Next to the headquarters building is the old powder magazine whose walls are eight feet thick on all sides, enclosing a room 12 x 12 x 20

Each dungeon is connected to the ground level  
~~with a series of~~ <sup>along</sup> ~~tubular holes about 1 foot in diameter~~  
with a series of tubular holes about 1 foot in  
diameter for purposes of ventilation ~~to~~  
~~these tubular cases~~ ~~located~~ ~~the~~ ~~right~~ ~~and~~ ~~inside~~  
to the left of the guard room my ~~to~~ ~~the~~  
iron frame cells for the more valuable prisoners.

feet that is entered by a heavy wooden door 4x6 feet and further protected with an iron barred door. Flanking this was the officers building and then two buildings originally tenanted by enlisted men, although when the garrison grew larger the enlisted men were quartered in barracks that were built outside and one of these barracks was given over to the additional officers <sup>white</sup> and the other <sup>was</sup> used for storage purposes. Each of these three buildings confers <sup>one</sup> to a general architecture with ~~the two storied porches running along their full length~~, but differing from the administration building or headquarters ~~one~~ building <sup>by the</sup> is divided into three sections up stairs and down and connected by individual stairs <sup>each section is</sup> and a well was sunk in the oval of the area to provide water for the garrison, ~~in time of need.~~

With the ~~exceptions of the dungeons for prisoners of war, with their tubular holes about 1 foot in diameter which ran down from the ground level for ventilation purposes and which incidentally was the only ingress of day light to the inmates,~~ <sup>one of the most interesting features of the fort</sup> is a one man passageway that <sup>was</sup> under the full width of the ~~fort~~ walls and which was used for communicating with the outside batteries when the gates were locked at a time of seize. Through the passage amunition could also be carried to the out works if needed.

Outside the fort walls <sup>are</sup> lay the upper and lower batteries, in the construction of which <sup>the</sup> ~~Breastworks~~ the earth is backed by <sup>and provide</sup> bomb proof grick walls, upon which platforms were built for their guns, ~~with~~ magazines under each separate battery.

<sup>at last</sup> When one thinks of its defense in 1814, note its flag flying from the pole ~~in the~~ southeastern bastion as Key's inspiration for the Star Spangled Banner, one almost feels that the Baltimore Committee's insistence for the strongest fortification in the United States at that time, was almost a <sup>at last</sup>

~~The guard~~  
~~connected with the guard room and the iron~~  
~~barred cells~~

~~the~~  
And one of the most interesting features in the fort  
is a long narrow passageway that runs under  
the full width of its walls, by means of which  
ammunition was carried to the outer works when needed  
and to serve as a one man entrance to the fort when  
the doors of the port were closed in time of siege.

This was the fact that Baltimore deserted as when  
 one half of its service in the War of 1812, one almost  
 feels that the Committee that insisted upon its location  
 was almost foresight. It was unquestionably the strongest  
 fortress of the ~~land~~ <sup>time</sup> in the United States as the flagpole  
 at the north corner stands still stands on the  
 same spot as that where flew the Stars & Stripes  
 that were the ~~inspiration~~ Key's inspiration for our  
 National Anthem.

The population of Baltimore had ~~grown~~ <sup>increased</sup> from  
 8000 in 1780 to 31514 in 1800 as further increased  
 to 46535 in 1810. The ~~center~~ <sup>center</sup> of the ~~population~~  
~~in the United States was just 18 miles~~  
~~west of Baltimore.~~ When Fort Mifflin was built  
 was the infant in the family of nations whose ~~population~~  
 of ~~4000~~ 4000000 ~~population~~ was just 18 miles west  
 of Baltimore. The ~~great~~ <sup>great</sup> Revolution had occurred  
 in ~~France~~ <sup>France</sup> Napoleon Bonaparte as France was ~~fallen~~  
 against the old monarchial ~~governments~~ <sup>governments</sup> of Europe. In  
 1803 Napoleon crossed the Alps to conquer  
 Italy as to ~~finance~~ <sup>help</sup> his war he sold Louisiana  
 to the ~~United States~~, ~~wholly~~, at one stroke of the  
 pen, ~~the~~ <sup>this</sup> ~~country~~ <sup>country</sup> doubled its available territory & secured  
 its expansion ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> beyond the Mississippi into the  
 great west & continents. By 1812 Napoleon  
 controlled all of Europe except England & Russia.  
 In the years that were going on we had been called

you to supply the Caribby nations with food stuffs  
 or supplies as we had to do during the <sup>war</sup> ~~war~~ <sup>people</sup> ~~war~~  
 Bill of Commerce & England objected to what our <sup>people</sup> ~~people~~  
 considered to be a justifiable <sup>or</sup> a humane course.  
 French Emperor Napoleon forbade us to trade with  
 England & British Orders of Council forbade us to trade  
 with France; but Napoleon saw that it was profitable  
 to ~~force~~ <sup>overawe</sup> us, while England, who had reneged upon  
 her idea of attacking our her lost Colonies in America  
 tried to coerce us. On June 18th 1812, we declared  
 war upon Britain because of her injustices. <sup>Immediately</sup>  
 Galtmore began to send privateers to sea to help our  
 little navy in the fight against England's greatly superior  
 fleet. This method of warfare was so effective  
 that the British ordered the Chesapeake to keep our  
 ships from sailing so in April 1813, their fleet under  
 Admiral Warren came into the Potomac to attack this  
 city. The people of Galtmore began to throw up entrenchments  
 around the town & the amount of shot & powder was  
 quickly strengthened with the 4 1/2 inch guns for a  
 7 inch length that lay in our harbor. Our defenses  
 were promptly drawn up to the British Commander with our  
 arms crossed the upper Chesapeake while late in the fall  
 derelicty tons on both sides of the bay & terrorizing the  
 Maryland coast. That year we built a flotilla of  
 gunboats which were sent down the Chesapeake under the  
 command of Commodore Barry in the spring of 1814  
 But in the meantime things were changing in Europe

Napoleon had been so broken by his unsuccessful Campaign against Russia that when he returned to France he was compelled to abdicate & was sent to Elba in April 1814. This obliged many British Ships & Soldiers from the war against Spain to this fleet in the Channel was nearly disarmed.

Early in August, Garry was driven into the Port of Brest as the British ships followed him so closely that he was compelled to burn his gunboats to prevent from being captured. The British landed their troops & followed him to Gladstone when they defeated the American Army & entered the City of Norfolk, where they burned the National Capital, the White House, the Navy Yard, the Treasury & other public buildings. The British then returned to their ships and sailed for Baltimore with threats of burning the City.

Sunday Morning, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 1814 - a seasonably hot and humid day for Baltimore. For two weeks before ~~the~~ the militia from the surrounding County had been coming into town and had been drilled & acquainted with their stations. I have heard my grandfather tell about it so often that sometimes I ~~could~~ I have felt that I could visualize it. ~~He was at church until the fire~~ The whole family was at church when suddenly the alarm given at the Court House square boomed forth its clamor. The British fleet had been sighted ~~from~~ <sup>got up</sup> the bay. The men were to get the hastily learned to get their equipment and report to their regiments & a short prayer is said in the Congregation.

dismissed. ~~The garrison at Fort Mifflin is supplied by~~  
~~troops assigned to supplement the garrison at Fort Mifflin~~  
~~report at this post.~~ Early in the afternoon the 3rd  
 Brigade under General Stricker marched out the Philadelphia  
 Road to Old Log Lane on their way to North Fort, the  
 troops assigned to supplement the garrison at Fort Mifflin  
 report for duty on the breastworks at Harford Hill  
 are named. ~~On the day before Sept. 12th the~~  
 Day the enemy, the British fleet under Admiral Boscawen  
 Roads Bay of 70 sail anchors in Old Roads Bay inside  
 of North Fort or before Bayshore, their troops are  
 landed to begin their march on Gettysburg. General Smith  
 Key is ~~sent back to his flag post~~ sent from the 22 Guns  
 is sent back to the flag of honor for vessel upon which  
 he left Gettysburg to go to the British fleet while the  
 lighter ~~and~~ bowley vessels or the lighter draft over  
 ships move up the river to attack Fort Mifflin.

At one O'Clock, Sept 12th the armies contact  
 on the North Fort Road or General Ross. The British Cavalry  
 is killed. Shortly after the engagement starts a general  
 charge Stricker holds the enemy at bay until the 5th  
 Regt on his left is outflanked. He then retreats on his  
 march - the 6th Regt which is posted in his rear or that  
 night falls back to Montoye's Mill for breastworks.  
 Next morning on the morning of Sept. 13th, the enemy begins  
 its frontment of Fort Mifflin so Stricker falls back  
 on the left of Harford Hill. The British army  
 advances to within one mile of the breastworks and

their next march to what is now Clifton Park.  
 While their headquarters are at General Strout's house  
 near Reynolds. All day they fled towards Fort  
 McHenry without making an impression upon the  
 works on the river shores. Late in the afternoon  
 General ~~Strout~~ <sup>McHenry</sup> ~~brings up a~~ <sup>brings up</sup> a brigade  
 of Virginia Militia to the right of the British line.  
 The crew observing the boats which they find, judge  
 that they have not been deceived by this  
 manoeuvre. That night their Commodore held a  
 conference on board a brig of Virginia Militia  
 which had been stationed in the northern section at Ferry Bar so supported  
 by British artillery. He moves to the right of the  
 British line. The crew, observing this manoeuvre which  
 has not reached the focus at Payer's Bastion along their  
 front, begin to wonder. That night there is a hurried  
 conference on the Admiral's ship <sup>Jefferson</sup> ~~on~~ 1200 men  
 in long boats or barges <sup>are sent up</sup> the main channel in  
 an effort to get behind Fort McHenry & assault it from  
 the rear. But the attempt is discovered before they can  
 make a landing & under the fire from Fort Mifflin,  
 The Sir, San Geronimo, The Lagotto & Fort McHenry they  
 hastily return to their ships. & crew that they might  
 be outflanked on their right, the British return  
 from their advanced position & under follows them to  
 Point when the British army go on board their transports.

