



Ramparts

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812 (2012 - 2015)

Newsletter – Released every other month

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Summer Season Begins - Civil War Weekend

Civil War Weekend. On April 19, 1861, only days from the bombardment of the Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, federal troops arrived at the President Street Station to proceed one mile to the Camden Street Station via Pratt Street. Their arrival was in response to President Lincoln's request for 75,000 troops to aid in the defense of Washington. It was during this march that the infamous Pratt Street Riot occurred. Ironically on that day eighty-six years earlier on April 19, 1775, Massachusetts minute men fired the first shots of the American Revolution on Lexington Green.

In Baltimore, along the Pratt Street waterfront in 1861 southern sympathizers attempted to block the passage of the federalized 6th Massachusetts Regiment. Cobblestones and bricks were thrown – shots were fired, as the young New England troops fought their way to Camden Station to board the trains for Washington.

The national response in newspapers electrified the nation as the southern and northern regions began to mobilize and polarize for what will become the American Civil War.

The 2011 Commemoration Parade held on April 16, celebrated the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War in 1861 with an encampment at Fort McHenry complete with artillery, camp life and special candlelight tours. Despite the rain the troops marched



Fort McHenry's own Civil War garrison band poses for a group portrait with their newly issued 1861 Union uniforms.

along the one mile parade route from the President Street Station rededication to the Camden Street Depot. The soldiers then returned to their encampment at Fort McHenry. The remainder of the day and night, the garrison was deluged with heavy thunder showers. On Sunday the skies cleared with the welcomed rays of sunshine drying out the camp. A record number of visitors made their appearance to an array of activities and the sound of the fifes and drums of the Fort McHenry Guard, the official NPS sponsored fife and drum corps of the Civil War 150th anniversary. The weekend was in partnership with exhibits at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum and the Maryland

Historical Society.

Maryland Historical Society

“Divided Voices, Maryland in the Civil War.” The exhibit vividly tells the stories of a state caught between North and South. A Civil War Exposition will bring the 1860's to life with a “time tunnel” of live performances, music and other exciting features. The exhibit will be open through 2015.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum “War Came By Train”

April 15, 2011 - May 30, 2015

Monday - Saturday (10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Sunday (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.).

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Departure of Superintendent Gay Vietzke

Superintendent Gay Vietzke has accepted an appointment as Deputy Regional Director for the Northeast Region in Philadelphia. Her last official day was April 8.

On April 9, Jim Ireland came on board and will be Acting Superintendent until the new superintendent is selected.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Here are the events of the year - so far!

SUMMER HOURS, May 28 – September 5 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Memorial Day. Monday May 30, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Visit the Fort for a day long program of observances for Memorial Day, to include wreath-laying, flag demonstrations and the National Moment of Silence at 3 p.m. in the Star Fort. Speeches on the meaning of Memorial Day will also be given.

Fort McHenry Guard, 1814- 29th Year of Programs

Starting on Saturday & Sunday, June, 4-5 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. the park's Volunteer-In-Parks living history program will begin the Summer 2011 season. The program also celebrates its 29th summer season.

Flag Day – Tuesday, June 14 – Celebrate the 234th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. flag as our national ensign. Cannon firing, patriotic speeches, a concert and an old-fashioned fireworks display concludes the evening's festivities.

U.S. Army “Old Guard” Military Tattoo, Sat. June 18, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Once again Fort Myers (Arlington National Cemetery) will be presenting their popular program along with the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps and the Continental Color Guard. These are memorable performances of intricate maneuvers and the famous “nine-man rifle toss” make this performance a must see. The Fort McHenry Guard 1814 also performs as their host.

July 4,– Declaration of Independence Day, Noon - 4:30 p.m. Join the 1814 Fort McHenry Guard and assembled citizenry to celebrate America's oldest holiday on the 234th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.



Volunteers-In-Parks Jerry Pech, Rick Manacle, Wayne Cofiell and Howard Koontz prepare the tools for the 18-Pounder naval gun. Baltimore harbor will once again hear the guns of Fort McHenry.

Park News & Notes

New Bicentennial Wayside Exhibits – Planning and design of visuals and text has already begun on several new waysides to replace those done in 1986 – 25 years ago!

As the new approach road to the fort offers new vistas and interpretive opportunities, there will be one or two to remember the sites of the 1798 tavern, 1808 gunshed, military warehouse and the parade ground.

Star Fort Buildings Exhibits – Along with the new wayside exhibits, planning has already started with Haley Sharpe Design for several exhibits to be installed within the Star Fort. While other rooms will be retained as historic furnished exhibits.

The process for these will be over the next year as we all prepare to begin on June 18, 2012 the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812.



Our Volunteer-In-Parks musicians newest fifes and drums CD now available at the park Visitor Center gift shop.

Defenders' Day, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 9-11. This day honors those who defended the City of Baltimore at North Point and Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

Friday – The Fort McHenry Guard and assembled regional units parade to the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, then to Fort McHenry in the early evening. On

Saturday, our main event continues with fireworks, speeches, military encampments, cannon and musket demonstrations.

Timothy Ertel – the Chief Musician of the Fort McHenry Guard has been recruited as our newest park ranger to oversee the musical program associated with the Fort McHenry Guard Fifes and Drums. His appointment will be to help us celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 through 2015.

His special position may be the only living history musical director in the National Park Service.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

This late 18th century star-shaped fort is world famous as the birthplace of the American national anthem. As the guardian of Baltimore's harbor, the valiant defense of Fort McHenry by American forces during a British attack on September 13-14, 1814 inspired 35-year-old poet-lawyer Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Established as a national park in 1925, it was re-designated as a national monument and historic shrine commemorating the defense and inspiration of a new national song in 1939.

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News Front Line" 200 Years Ago during the War of 1812...

From 1807, five years prior to the declaration of war on June 18, 1812, the United States and Great Britain tried to effect diplomacy to avoid the conflict that was approaching.

March 16, 1811 - HMS *Little Belt* vs. U.S. frigate *President* Affair. On the night of May 16 off the North Carolina coast the U.S. frigate *President*, Captain John Rodgers (44 guns) engaged His Majesty's sloop of war *Little Belt* (20 guns). Having left Annapolis and the Chesapeake, the *President* sighted *Little Belt* heading south along the coast.

The *Little Belt* asked for identification and received none as she continued south. By 3 A.M. the *President* engaged the smaller *Little Belt*, believing in the night she was a British frigate. The ships engaged for about twenty minutes before their guns fell silent. The captain of the *Little Belt*, when asked, refused to lower his colors to the larger American ship.

Later each captain reported different stories of who had fired first. The next morning with the wounded taken care of, both ships parted, the *Little Belt* to Halifax, the *President* to New York. This rather unorthodox naval encounter, left no official end in both naval and diplomatic correspondence, other than it brought the winds of war closer to a declaration of war the following year on June 18, 1812.

Sources: *The Naval Chronicle: The Contemporary Record of the Royal Navy at War; 1811-1815*, ed. Nicholas Tracy (London: Chatham Pub., 1999)



National Park Service
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The newsletter is published six times a year on-line - the first day of March, May, July, September, October and December for our visitors, friends and staff across America. A special issue will be published in September to highlight Defenders' Day .

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150th Civil War Anniversary in Baltimore

Continued - Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum

The American Civil War was the first major conflict where railroads played a prominent role and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was the major rail line that straddled a divided country. Between April 19, 1861 (Baltimore Riot of 1861) and April 21, 1865 (President Lincoln's funeral train leaving Baltimore for Illinois), the B&O Railroad stood witness and participant in the greatest conflict the U.S. has ever faced and changed the course of American history. "The War Came by Train" exhibit will serve as the B&O Railroad Museum's primary attraction for the five- year commemoration of the 150th Anniversary.