



Ramparts

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812

September 1, 2011

Vol. 1 No. 3

Defenders Day – Celebrating the 197th Anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore, 2011

Celebrating Defenders Day, September 9-11, 2011

The Star-Spangled Banner Weekend honors Defenders Day, September 12, commemorating the Battle of North Point, Fort McHenry, and the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." This year marks the 197th annual celebration of America's second oldest holiday, with July 4 being our most celebrated.

As we approach the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, the park is busy preparing new exhibits for the Star Fort and new illustrated wayside trail signs to highlight the War of 1812 and other periods of the Fort's history.



"A View of the Bombardment of Fort McHenry, near Baltimore..." circa 1816.

Friday evening begins with a ceremonial procession of War of 1812 "soldiers" from the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House through Harborplace to Federal Hill to lay wreaths at the Samuel Smith and George Armistead monuments. They will begin their annual Tide Point to Fort McHenry, Locust Point march ending the day's programs. Neighbors have been encouraged to display their flags and cheer the troops.

Saturday & Sunday activities include children's programs, military encampments/demonstrations and a "privateer's auction" of "captured goods" at the fort's city dock.

Saturday Evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a concert, a tactical demonstration and a symbolic ship-to-shore bombardment with the artillery of Fort

McHenry and evening fireworks.

The Original Defenders Day Site on the Battlegrounds of North Point – was the original site where the Old Defenders of 1814 celebrated the anniversary from 1839 until the late 19th century when the Old Defenders Association ceased to exist with less than five survivors.

Old Defenders of 1814 Association – In 1842 the surviving defenders of Baltimore organized a "a military society" to commemorate the Battle for Baltimore and to honor those who fought. In the years afterward this "band of brothers" held their annual

commemoration exercises to honor those who had passed away. So honored were these "old defenders" that each passing made headlines in the national papers until the last known defender died in 1898. Today, the legacy of the Old Defenders tradition is carried on by the Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland which sponsors Defenders Day with a calvacade to those sites associated with the War of 1812 in Baltimore.

A Letter from Superintendent Tina Orcutt

What an exciting time to be arriving as the new Superintendent at Fort McHenry National Monument and Hampton National Historic Site! I have been given a warm welcome by the park staff, volunteers, Friends, partners, and community. We've had a special event; a tattoo with the Fort McHenry Guard and Fort George Fife and Drum Corps (Parks Canada); and an earthquake and a tropical storm – all in the first weeks on the job!

What impressed me immediately is how professional and committed the staff is. Clearly the team at Fort McHenry and Hampton is well-equipped to deal with whatever is thrown its way and I am honored to join it.

With the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, I look forward to telling the stories of those who defended our country and showed we could hold our own, even as a young nation. We'll have many new exciting programs, events, and exhibits to share with you in the upcoming months and years. It's going to be an incredible celebration here at the home of "The Star-Spangled Banner".

We're also about to start a period of great improvements at Hampton NHS as we begin work on a visitor contact station and a curatorial facility. These facilities in addition to the work that continues to be done to the mansion, other historic structures, gardens, and exhibits will help us better protect Hampton's tremendous collection and tell the rich stories of the people, free, indentured and enslaved, who lived at Hampton.

I look forward to sharing the many wonderful things that are happening in our two parks with you over the next few years.

Tina Orcutt

Summer - Fall Events – 2011

So far!

MILITARY TATTOO (August 20) –Parks Canada Fort George National Historic Site's Fife and Drum Corps visited the park for an evening tattoo to commemorate the War of 1812. They were hosted by the Fort McHenry Guard with an artillery salute from our 18-pounder. The Deputy Director of Parks Canada served as Honorary Colonel. It is hoped that Fort McHenry's own fifes and drums will return the favor in the near future at Fort George and other 1812 Parks Canada sites.

BIRD WALKS IN THE WETLANDS - Join park ornithologist Jim Peters and others on the following outings for our feathered friends and maybe the bald eagle!

Saturday Mornings: 8 a.m. to 12 Noon. September 17 (Mike Hudson), October 15 (John Landers), November 19 (Wendy Alexander) and December 17 (Erin Lineberry).

Wednesday Mornings: 8 a.m. to 12 Noon. September 7, October 5, November 2, and December 7.

Wednesday Evenings, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. August 24, August 31, September 7, and September 14.



Defenders' Day 2010. From left to right: U.S. Corps of Artillery Fifes and Drums; U.S. Corps of Artillery; and on the far right, the U.S. Sailors. They are on the morning parade muster awaiting the orders of the day to be read by the adjutant.

Park News and History Notes

“NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ACADEMY” HELD AT GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK IN WYOMING –

Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming recently sponsored and organized an innovative program entitled “National Park Service Academy” a course designed to inspire diverse college youth to consider career opportunities with the NPS.

The course was in partnership with the Student Conservation Association and Teton Science Schools. During the week-long course, students participated in seminars, workshops, field trips and activities.

Several of Fort McHenry’s staff - Robert Stewart, Yolonda Brown and Jazmine Gibbs took advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see one of the most popular and beautiful national parks in the United States.

FORT AVENUE BRIDGE – Construction has finally began on the Fort Avenue bridge over the CSX railroad tracks.



Joseph Hopper Nicholson (1770-1817).

Construction will take a year and is scheduled to open before next Defenders Day in 2012. While work progresses, a pedestrian bridge will allow Locust Pointers to cross over to the shopping center. Alternate vehicle route will be via Key Highway, past Tide Point to Hull Street to Fort Avenue towards I-95 to Key Highway.

BIOGRAPHIES OF OLD DEFENDERS

Joseph Hopper Nicholson (1860-1817) a native of Kent County, Eastern shore of Maryland, rose to become one of the outspoken members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1800, Nicholson, a supporter of Jefferson gave the final ballot for Jefferson’s election as the nation’s third U.S. President. In 1807 it was Nicholson who introduced the Embargo Act, then known as the “Nicholson Act.” In 1813 he organized a U.S. Volunteer company known as the Baltimore Fencibles of merchant- tradesmen who defended Fort McHenry in 1814.

He was also the brother-in-law of Francis Scott Key and it is to Nicholson as tradition holds, whom Key showed the song to and had it published. Nicholson is buried at Wye House plantation on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Talbot County.



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Fort McHenry is the birthplace of the U.S. national anthem “The Star-Spangled Banner” written during the War of 1812 in Baltimore harbor. Here, literally, “by the dawn’s early light” on September 14, 1814, following a 25 hour naval bombardment by the British navy, Maryland attorney Francis Scott Key, while on the deck of an American flag-of-truce vessel, witnessed the raising of the fort’s great garrison flag over the ramparts of the Star Fort.

Fort McHenry was established as a national park in 1925, and then in 1939 was re-designated as a national monument and historic shrine commemorating the defense and inspiration for a new national song “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Address

Fort McHenry National Monument
and Historic Shrine
2400 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230

Phone

(410) 962-4290

Front Line: 200 Years Ago – The Battle of Tippecanoe, and by the way Tyler too!

In the years prior to the War of 1812, the Shawnee Prophet Tenskwatawa and his brother Tecumseh encouraged resistance against U.S. land demands in the Northwest. Tecumseh argued the lands were owned in common by all the tribes, not a few. This argument became Tecumseh’s bid for an Indian Confederation.

On November 7, 1811, U. S. forces and militia led by Governor William Henry Harrison while encamped on the confluence of the Tippecanoe and Walbash Rivers awaiting a meeting with tribal leaders, was attacked by Tecumseh and the confederation. The victory allowed Harrison to destroy Tenskwatawa’s village of Prophetstown and scattered its inhabitants. The Tippecanoe defeat dealt a devastating blow to Tecumseh’s Indian confederacy which never fully regained its former strength.

The battle was the culmination of rising tensions in a period sometimes called Tecumseh’s War that continued until the collapse of tribal resistance with Tecumseh’s death in 1813. It was later revealed the British in Canada had supplied Tecumseh’s force with firearms and munitions. This suspicion led to further deterioration of American relations with Great Britain and served as a catalyst to the War of 1812 which began only six months later.

The battle made Harrison a national hero that led him to the presidential election of 1840 with John Tyler his running mate – thus one of the great American campaign slogans on Presidential elections came about from the Battle of Tippecanoe and of course Tyler too!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine
2500 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

First Class Mail
Postage and Fees
PAID
City, State
Permit Number



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

This late 18th century star-shaped masonry fort is world famous as the birthplace of the U.S. national anthem. As the guardian of Baltimore harbor during the War of 1812, the valiant defense by American forces led Francis Scott Key to write the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Newsletter Editor

Scott S. Sheads, Park Ranger/Historian.

Chief of Interpretation

Vince Vaise

Contributors / Assistant Editors

Genna White
Nancy Bramucci

Comments? Write to:

Scott S. Sheads, Park Ranger/Historian
Fort McHenry National Monument
and Historic Shrine
2400 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 962-4290, x 203

RAMPARTS is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS - U.S. Flag flies 24 hours a day.

Fort McHenry, July 2, 1948. President Truman.

U.S. Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, June 12, 1961. President Kennedy.

The White House, September 4, 1970. President Nixon.

U.S. Ports of Entry, May 5, 1972. President Nixon.

Washington Monument, July 6, 1971. President Nixon.

U.S. Flag Is Flown By Congressional "Public" Law.

Flag House Square, Baltimore. March 26, 1954. President Eisenhower.

Lexington Green, Massachusetts, November 8, 1965. President Johnson.

Memorial Arch, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Pa., July 4, 1975. President Ford.

Washington Monument., July 6, 1971. President Nixon.

U.S. Flag Flies By Custom

U.S. Capitol – Since World War One, the flag flies over both houses of Congress on the east and west wings. This was due to requests for flags to be flown over the Capitol a tradition that continues today.

U.S. Flag etiquette allows the flag to be flown at night as long as it is illuminated.