



Ramparts

Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812

January 1, 2012

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On the Road to the Bicentennial of the War of 1812-1815

On June 18, 2012, the state of Maryland will inaugurate the 2½ year celebration of the War of 1812 and those events in Canada and Europe that defined the military and naval culture of the late 18th and early 19th centuries during the Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815).

The occasion was marked by the launching of the Star-Spangled Banner Operation Sail Celebration that will visit the port this summer. On November 17th, Governor Martin O'Malley gave a press conference to announce the event in front of a Norwegian tall ship visiting Baltimore. The ceremony was attended by park staff and the Fort McHenry Guard.

In the coming months, numerous events of 1812 will be observed during observances in Canada and the United States marking the American invasion of Canada. Among these will be:

January - Indian Raids

June 18 - Declaration of War

June 23 - USS *President* vs. HMS

Belvidera

June 23 - British repeal Orders-in-Council

June 23 - France invades Russia

July 12 - General Isaac Hull invades Canada

YULETIDE SEASON AT FORT

McHENRY. On December 3rd, from 6 to 9 p.m., visitors toured the fort with park staff by lantern light dressed in uniforms and civilian attire. The staff guided visitors through nearly 200 years of the fort's history. Approximately 1000 visitors gained a unique glimpse of the park's other historic periods from the



The Fort McHenry Guard pull lines to raise the mainsail on the *Pride of Baltimore II* on the Patapsco River. "1.2.3 –HEAVE; 1,2,3, HEAVE – Up She Rises" A wonderful time had by all. Left to right – D. Meeter, R. Stewart, T. Ertel, A. Mongoluzzo, M. Smith and D. Garrel.

Civil War, World War I and World War II. The evening was clear and everyone had an "illuminating" time!

Fort Monroe National Monument established by President Obama – On November 1, 2011 the National Park Service received the 396th national park into our system of unique American natural, historic and cultural sites. "Built between 1819 and 1934 the fort occupies a strategic position for coastal defense dating back to the earliest days of the Virginia Colony. It was the place where Dutch traders first brought enslaved Africans in 1619. During the Civil War, the fort remained in Union hands and became notable as an historic and symbolic site of early freedom for

escaped slaves to find refuge. Named after President James Monroe and later known as "Freedom's Fortress," Fort Monroe was the site of General Benjamin Butler's "Contraband Decision" in 1861 that provided a pathway to freedom for thousands of enslaved people during the Civil War. It was also the staging area for General George B. McClellan's 1862 Peninsula Campaign. From the Civil War through World War II, Fort Monroe served as headquarters for coastal defense. The site encloses 170 historic buildings, 200 acres, 8 miles of waterfront and 85 acres of wetlands." Kirsten Talke-Spauding will be the site's first Superintendent.

A Letter from the Superintendent.

Happy New Year! My family and I thoroughly enjoyed our first holidays at Fort McHenry and Hampton. We were fortunate to have good weather for both weekends. The Yuletide tours at Fort McHenry were so well-received we offered extra programs to accommodate more visitors. Holidays at Hampton were a huge success with over 2,000 visitors enjoying programs, decorations, music, and carriage rides over the weekend. If celebrating the holidays with us was not on your calendar in 2011, make sure to put it on your calendar for 2012!

We will have a lot of things to put on your calendar in 2012 ...as it marks the beginning of the bicentennial and a start of three big years for us at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. As you know we have a new visitor center to launch the bicentennial and now we are working on preparing new exhibits in the historic Star Fort and new wayside exhibits throughout the park. When you visit this summer and fall, you'll see new colorful and interactive displays.

In addition to the weeklong celebration of the bicentennial kickoff marked with the arrival of tall ships and grey hulls on June 13th, the Fort's Flag Day celebration on June 14th, the Blue Angels air shows on June 16th and 17th, and the 200th anniversary of Declaration of War commemoration on June 18th, Fort McHenry will offer many exciting programs throughout the year. Follow us on twitter, facebook, or on-line for our calendar of events and activities. Looking forward to seeing you in the new year!

Tina Orcutt

Front Line: 200 Years Ago

Indian Raids Along the Missouri River & Western Territories, January 1812

In 1787 the Northwest Ordinance officially organized the Northwest Territory for settlement which led to what began years of violence along the frontier. The various Indian tribes were losing their native lands as more and more settlers arrived over the Alleghenies.

On the eve of the War of 1812, British outposts, still an influence in the western territories along the Upper Mississippi and Missouri rivers, again encouraged the Native American tribes of Sac and Fox to take up arms against American settlers by supplying arms and munitions. These attacks were the result of new lands being opened by the United States for settlement and persuading the tribes to sign treaties that more than often were abused by the government, forcing indians off their ancestral lands.

As a result of the increase of Indian raids, the United State organized in January 1812 six companies of U.S. Rangers (mounted infantry). Guarding the frontier were Fort Belle Fontaine (St. Louis) on the Missouri; Fort Osage (Kansas City); and Fort Madison on the Upper Mississippi and Arkansas rivers.



"A Scene on the Frontier as Practiced by the HUMANE BRITISH and their WORTHY ALLIES." The British officer to the Indian says "Bring me the Scalps and the King our master will reward you." In the background a British officer and his Indian allies perform a war dance around a campfire.

History Notes & Old Defenders.

NEW 1812 BOOKS –

A Most Warlike Appearance: Uniforms, Flags and Equipment of the United States in the War of 1812.

By Rene Chartrand (Service Publications, Ontario, Canada, 2011, 195 pp.illus.).

Rene Chartrand, former curator of Canada's National Historic Sites, Parks Canada (retired in 1995) has reintroduced this popular reference work originally published by the Old Fort Niagara Association in 1992. Two copies have been acquired for the library.

Flotilla: The Patuxent Naval Campaign in the War of 1812

by Donald G. Shomette (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009, 500 pp., illus.). This thoroughly updated and enlarged edition of *Flotilla: Battle for the Patuxent* (1981) is the result of impressive research. Copies of the book are available in the park gift store.

OLD DEFENDER- Brigadier General John Stricker was a veteran officer of the Revolution and member of the



Brigadier General John Stricker (1753 - 1824) , Third Brigade, Baltimore. (Maryland Historical Society)

revered Society of the Cincinnati. His 3rd brigade confronted the British army on September 12, 1814 at the Battle of North Point.

“Maryland in the War of 1812: Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812.” Earlier this year Ranger Scott introduced his personal

blog that will help Marylanders find unique stories and relevant information about Maryland's role in the war. At present he has 138 articles that range from the Eastern to the Western Shores of Maryland and along the bay. To view the blog go to Maryland1812.wordpress.com/category/introduction/

OSPREY BOOKS – Scott Sheads has entered into an agreement with Osprey Publishing, Ltd. of London for one of their campaign series publications to be entitled *Chesapeake Campaigns, 1813-1815: Middle Ground of the War of 1812.*

It will cover Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and those naval skirmishes upon the bay.

Release: 2013.



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, then in 1939 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 & Historic Shrine, National Park Service
2400 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21230

Phone

(410) 962-4290

Upcoming Events – 2012

February 18-19 – First Maryland Civil War Encampment.

March 11 – Fort McHenry Guard participates in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

April 20-22 – Annual Conference of The Company of Military Historians in Baltimore.

April 20-22 – Civil War Weekend.

May 26 – Fort McHenry Guard takes the field for 2012 with a visit to Old St. Paul’s Cemetery to honor the gravesite of Lt. Col. George Armistead.

June 13 – 19 – **The Star-Spangled Banner 200th state-wide commemoration** will kick off an international maritime tall ship festival with an air show by the world famous U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels squadron and fireworks – all to be seen from Fort McHenry and the Inner Harbor. Continuing throughout 2012-15 Maryland will also host a series of events along The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Flag Day on June 14th will also be observed as we celebrate the history of the U.S. Flag, especially our own Star-Spangled Banner. The Fort McHenry Guard & Fifes and Drums will introduce music of the War of 1812 and fire patriotic artillery salutes throughout the summer weekends.



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Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine
2400 East Fort Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

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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."

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"YULETIDE AT HAMPTON NHS" The popular annual Hampton National Historic Site evening "Candlelight Tours of the Mansion" held on December 9 -11 was a success. Hampton Mansion, described in the late 18th century as "a palace in the wilderness", opened its doors for visitors to tour the holiday splendor of the rooms and Great Hall. Each room reflects a different period in the history of the Mansion. Holiday music was performed in the Great Hall of the Mansion while authentic reproduction Yuletide decorations were to be seen in each room. Lively holiday music and sing-along were performed in the Orangery by Doug Jimerson with The Junior League of Baltimore.