



The Ft. McHenry Register

Congress Designates Star-Spangled Banner Trail

We are heading down the right road for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 with the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Signed into law by the President of the United States on May 8, 2008, this new trail represents the culmination of a decade-long effort to highlight the events that led to the writing of the national anthem. "The story is richer when you understand the big picture, the context" says Vincent Vaise, Chief of Interpretation at Fort McHenry NM & HS.

The trail runs through some of the most historically rich land in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Because the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries were central to the British campaign, portions of the trail are water based. The legislation authorizing the trail describes it as: "consisting of water and overland routes totaling approximately 290 miles, extending from Tangier Island, Virginia, through southern Maryland, the District of Columbia, and northern Virginia, in the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, Potomac River, and north to the Patapsco River, and Baltimore, Maryland, commemorating the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812 (including the British invasion of Washington, District of Columbia, and its associated feints, and the Battle of Baltimore in summer 1814)."

In 1999, Congress commissioned the Department of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to assess proposed trail sites and routes. The study explored the locations of

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Summer Twilight Military Tattoos Return to Ft. McHenry

The trill of fifes, the beat of the drum, the patriotic fervor and vigor of military bands, the precision of silent drill teams performing feats of skill and balance - rifles seem to fly above their heads in perfect

unison - words can hardly capture the excitement and pageantry all characteristic of the military tattoo ceremonies that have become a most beloved summer tradition at Fort McHenry.



Navy Band Drum Major, 2008

Those unfamiliar with the concept often raise an eyebrow at the term "tattoo." Doubtlessly they envision ink on skin. However, this type of tattoo is nothing of the sort.

This military sense of the term "tattoo" dates to the seventeenth century in the Netherlands. Each night, drummers began playing thirty minutes before the soldiers' curfews and continued up until all were back in their barracks. "Doe den tap toe" was the Dutch phrase: "Turn off the [beer] taps!"

Over time, the call turned into an

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NILES' WEEKLY REGISTER.

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[VOL. X TO 1816.]

Haec olim meminisse juvabit.—VIRGIL.

Printed and published by H. NILES, South-st. next door to the Merchants' Coffee House, at \$5 per ann.

Superintendent's Welcome

Every time I enter the gates to Fort McHenry and see the Star-Spangled Banner flying over the Fort, I get chills.

As stewards of this very special place, the National Park Service has been entrusted with one of the most significant stories in American history- Americans choosing to defend their homeland and thus inspiring the creation of the Star-Spangled Banner - one of the most potent symbols of our nation even today.

We are thrilled to shared this national park with you and hope it provides a connection from our past to you today.

Enjoy the programs, explore the Fort, and find your own inspiration and sense of the American experience in the waving of the flag over the ramparts.

Have a wonderful visit!

Gay Vietzke
Superintendent

The Fort McHenry Register is inspired by the *Niles' Weekly Register* (1811-1849), a newspaper-magazine published by Hezekiah Niles (1777-1839). This Baltimore-based publication was one of the foremost news journals in America at that time of the writing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* and was widely read by the Defenders of Baltimore.

Above is the banner from the *Niles' Weekly Register* announcing the city's plans to build the Baltimore Battle Monument to honor those who had defended Baltimore barely six months prior.

"Haec olim meminisse juvabit," the motto taken from Virgil's Aenid reads. *"Someday, perhaps, it will be pleasant to remember all this."* Fortunately this wish came true as today we look back on that time of trial for the young United States and consider it a period of triumph for the nation.

Law Enforcement News

This summer, Fort McHenry welcomes Glen Clark as the new Senior Law Enforcement Officer for Fort McHenry NM & HS and Hampton NHS.

He is transferring from the LBJ Ranch in Johnson City, Texas. Prior to his current assignment at the LBJ Ranch, he worked at San Antonio Missions.

Glen is a 2006 graduate of the NPS Land Management Law Enforcement class. He brings with him a strong working knowledge of physical security and a wide variety of other skills.

Some of the duties of the new Senior Law Enforcement Officer will include supervising Rick Apfel and Bill Curtis, Fort McHenry and Hampton's Law Enforcement Rangers. Glen will also be the Safety and Fire Officer for both parks.

Let's all welcome Glen, his wife Sherri and their children!

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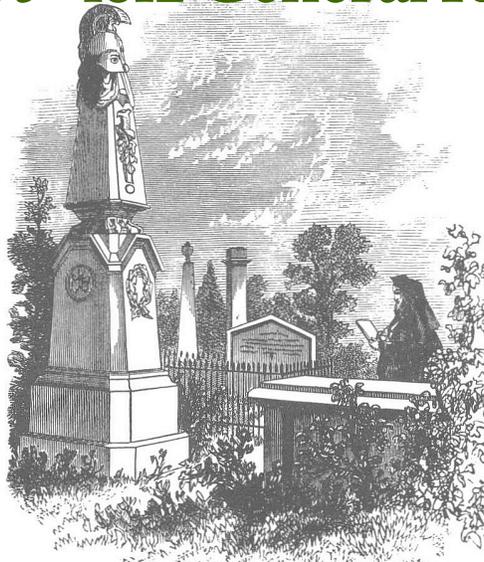
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Tales of the Crypt - 1812 General Reinterred

On Thursday, July 17, 2008, Rangers Scott Sheads and Jack Wilson, dressed in period 1814 uniform attended the reburial ceremony of Major General Alexander Macomb (1782-1841) and his wife Catherine (1786-1822) at the Congressional Cemetery (est. 1807) in SE Washington along the banks of the Anacostia River.

In 1823 the Vestry of Christ Church elected to give 300 burial sites to the U.S. Congress for the internment of high ranking government officials, veterans of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Native Americans. The cemetery became the preeminent burial place for presidents, senators, congressmen, government and military-naval officials, and the nation's leading citizens.

As part of an ongoing \$1.75 million restoration cemetery project, for \$24,000, NPS stone masons restored the impressive 13-foot high marble obelisk stone monument dedicated to Major General Macomb and repaired the collapsed brick vault beneath it which had long housed his remains.



Macomb's Monument, Taken from *Lossing's Field Book of the War of 1812*, published 1869.

Macomb distinguished himself during the War of 1812 in a signal American victory at Plattsburg, New York, September 11, 1814 against a British force of 10,000, ten times the size of his command. This earned him

the rank of Major General and a Congressional Gold medal. He later attained the rank of commanding general.

The National Park Service, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and the Smithsonian Department of Anthropology, hosted the rare ceremony held on the historic grounds. It was attended by 50 visitors, NPS officials and the descendants of the Macomb family.

Following a brief service in the 1903 Chapel, the remains, in a 3-foot mahogany casket, were carried by Scott and Jack to the re-interment site. There they folded the 15 star flag and presented it to the Macomb family "On behalf of a grateful nation and the veterans of the War of 1812."

It was indeed a pleasure for Fort McHenry to be part of this unique and rare ceremony honoring one of American best known War of 1812 heroes.

This article was contributed by Ranger Scott S. Sheads.

Volunteer Spotlight: Joe Burns

Volunteers are essential to the National Park Service! Over 100,000 people of all ages and backgrounds bring their talents and skills to 391 National Parks.

This month we'd like to honor the service of one of Ft. McHenry's finest:

Volunteer Profile

Name: Joe Burns

Age: 70

Hometown: Originally from Idaho, Joe now resides in Baltimore

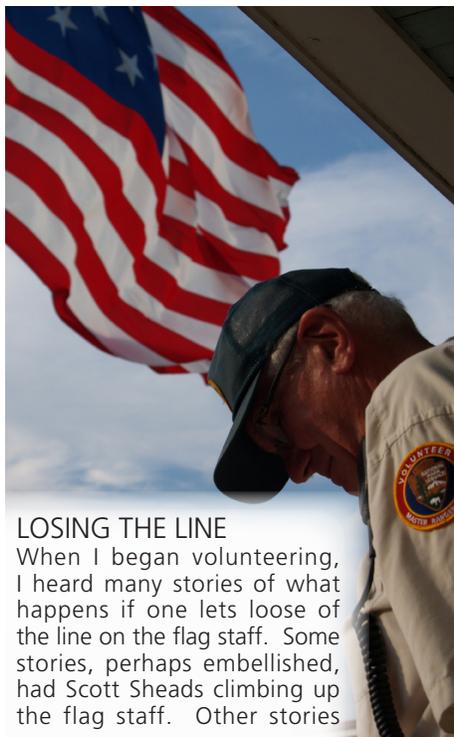
Occupation: Retired Public Accountant

Time of Service: While Joe has volunteered only 1.5 years, he has given 1,000 hours of his time.

Some words from Joe:

BELONGING

Early in my career as a volunteer, I was assigned to the Visitor Center with Ranger Iris Beasley. Iris asked if I was married. I said: "No. I am separated from my wife." At first she turned sad: "That's too bad." But then, brightening, she replied "But, hey, you have us!" Not only did that comment warm my heart; but it turned out to be true. Ft. McHenry has provided not only enjoyable colleagues among the rangers and volunteers, but also a very meaningful ongoing experience in telling the Fort's story.



LOSING THE LINE

When I began volunteering, I heard many stories of what happens if one lets loose of the line on the flag staff. Some stories, perhaps embellished, had Scott Sheads climbing up the flag staff. Other stories

told of the fire department roaring in with hook and ladder. As a result, I trembled when I first had to fly a souvenir flag for a visitor. My confidence was further shaken when someone actually did lose the line last autumn.

Finally, my turn came on a windy day when I agreed to fly a flag for a visitor. Ignoring all cautionary advice from the Old Ranger (Paul Plamann), I went ahead with the raising. We raised the flag successfully. I lowered the flag and carefully hooked the ends of the line together. I then looped the line over the rail of the flag staff platform and went to help the visitor fold his flag. Suddenly, the visitor said: "UH! OH!" I turned to see the empty line sailing over the sallyport!

My first reaction was to utter something that was both unprofessional and unprintable. My second reaction was to calm myself by saying that the line was tied together and that it would come down once the wind died. My third reaction was to imagine the line coming to rest on one of the arms of the pole – well above Scott's climbing ability.

Following my third thought, I climbed up on to the ramparts and then to the roof of the Civil War guard house. I managed to grasp the line as it came sailing by. I lowered the end of the line to my bemused visitor and then carefully secured the line to the flag staff. All turned out well, and I learned a valuable lesson.

Star-Spangled Banner Trail

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well-known events and movements, but also many that are near-forgotten. Consequently, when the study was completed in 2004, it offered numerous possibilities and many exciting findings. There are places and roads in Southern Maryland that look exactly as they did when the British marched through in 1814. Other sites, such as the battlefield at Bladensburg, are almost completely covered by urban sprawl. Except for a few locations, there are no interpretive markers, signs or anything to interpret the significant events leading up to the Battle for Baltimore.

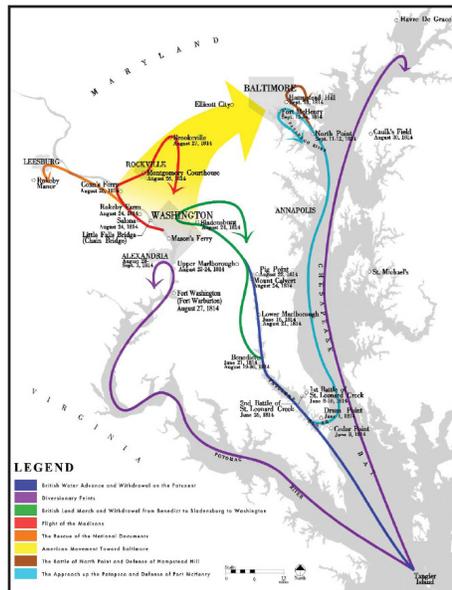
The National Park Service believes that the designation of these routes as a National Historic Trail will serve as a means to encourage preservation of the trail's history and physical remains. Furthermore, the NPS explains, the trail will:

- Allow all of its visitors to envision and experience, in a coherent and interpretable way, the heritage and struggles that ensued during the War of 1812.
- Serve as a reminder of the importance of the concept of liberty to all who experience the Star

Learn more about the Star-Spangled Banner NHT

For more information, please visit these websites:

- National Trails System
<http://www.nps.gov/nts/>
- 2004 Feasibility Study
<http://www.nps.gov/phso/jstarspan/>



American and British Routes during the Chesapeake campaign, taken from the 2004 Feasibility Statement.

Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.

- Give recognition to the patriots whose determination to stand firm against enemy invasion and bombardment preserved this liberty for future generations of Americans.

Over the next two years, the National Park Service, led by staff from Fort McHenry and the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, will undertake a Comprehensive Management Planning effort to craft strategies and mark sites that allow the public to visit and learn about the Chesapeake Campaign and its nationally significant impact on the American experience. There will be many opportunities to get involved and provide ideas and input.

As the birthplace of the trail's namesake, Fort McHenry looks forward to the continued development of this project and the heightened awareness of our history this trail will bring to the nation.

Teaching in the Parks An Eye on Education at Fort McHenry

Fort McHenry is deeply committed to promoting education at every level throughout the nation. Here are a few updates on some of our education projects:

Young Defenders' Day

This September, as in years past, in conjunction with the anniversary of the Battle, Fort McHenry will dedicate the Friday of Defenders' Day Weekend to children and school groups.

On June 19-20, thirty Baltimore City school teachers came for a two day workshop to help prepare them for Young Defenders' Day. The workshop was hosted by Fort McHenry at the Naval Reserve Center. Teachers were supplied with lesson plans and training to help them prepare their students to get the most from the coming field trip.

Fort McHenry Education Coordinator Ranger Jim Rogers anticipates over thirty bus loads of inner city children will attend the September 12th event. "Most of these students would never be exposed to their cities history without the help of their teachers and the park staff," Rogers explains. "But on Young Defenders' Day, with numerous visiting living history units and on-going ranger programs, the students will be presented with a real and meaningful experience tailored to them. Through this, they will hopefully be inspired to learn more."

Young Defenders' Day will be held on Friday, September 12th from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

America's Best Classroom

This August, Fort McHenry is pleased to join Unilever, the National Park Service's longest-standing corporate partner, in their America's Best Classroom (ABC) summer program. The

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History Highlight

Basilica Hill:

Last Stand at Baltimore, 1814

On September 6, 1814, nearly two weeks after the capture of Washington by the British expeditionary forces, Captain Samuel Babcock, U.S. Corps of Engineers made a list of recommendations for Baltimore's eminent defense. Upon that list he recommended to Major General Samuel Smith; "The new Cathedral from its commanding situation and the materials of which it is composed would I think be a valuable place to occupy; in a short time it could be rendered susceptible of a good defense." The high elevation of Basilica Hill was the most logical site for what military parlance would regard as "the last stand," the last redoubt, of the American defenders at Hampstead Hill.

In 1814, the cathedral's unfinished state of construction resembled a silhouette of some ancient Roman temple ruin. Its massive silver-grey gneiss blocks of quarried stones from Ellicott Mills stood out against the landscape, not resembling the final neoclassical form we view today. Encamped on its heights during the bombardment were citizen-soldiers of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland all viewing the serene fiery bombardment in the distance upon Fort McHenry and Lazaretto Batteries. There perhaps was the site to offer a prayer for Baltimore and the nation during "the perilous fight."

The cornerstone of the Cathedral of the Assumption, the first Roman Catholic cathedral in the nation, laid on July 7, 1806. The building was completed and consecrated in 1821 and elevated to the status of Basilica in 1937. It is a masterpiece of architect Benjamin H. Latrobe and is regarded as one of the finest structures in North America.

*This article was contributed by **Ranger Scott S. Sheads.***

Juneteenth at Fort McHenry

June 22, Fort McHenry, joined by the National Juneteenth Museum, commemorated the role of people of African descent throughout the history of the United States, particularly at Fort McHenry.

Juneteenth marks the anniversary of the presentation of the Emancipation Proclamation to Galveston, Texas to the last group of slaves to be liberated. Despite these provincial origins, Juneteenth has come to symbolize the abolition of slavery throughout the United States.

The Fort McHenry ceremony included many presentations. Among them were commemorations of William Williams, a black soldier killed in the defense of



Above: Danielle Taylor portrays Harriet Tubman.

Below: Morning Sunday, Director of the Juneteenth Museum and Ranger Vince Vaise, Chief of Interpretation at Ft. McHenry.

Below Left: Seasonal Ranger Robert Scott portrays Private William Williams.



Fort McHenry, and Charles Ball and other black sailors who served with the Chesapeake flotilla. Francis Scott Key, whose connections with the foundation of Liberia and the African Colonization Society revealed an often unheard view of slavery and emancipation.

The program successfully provided fresh insights into the vital role played many men and women of African descent in the story of the nation.

An Eye on Education (continued from page 4)

program is committed to the belief that the parks are the best classrooms in America and that it is essential to connect students with them.

To date, over 25,000 school children from across the nation have participated in the ABC program. This August, two groups of local youth attending programs hosted by the Salvation Army's Boy & Girls Club will come to Fort McHenry and spend a day exploring our history. They will participate in ranger presentations and junior ranger programs.

Fort McHenry is proud to be a part of these and many other educational initiatives and we look forward to welcoming all those committed to education.

Twilight Tattoos

(continued from page 1)

elaborate evening ritual signaling the end of the day.

Each summer Fort McHenry proudly continues this tradition with a series of tattoos. The tattoos rotate between the branches of the military and living history units.

This summer, Fort McHenry is pleased to host the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force. The Navy took center stage on June 27 inside the historic Star Fort. The Navy marching band provided excellent music for the crowd and the silent drill team took the field and amazed spectators with their skill.

Saturday, August 2, at 6:00 p.m., the U.S. Air Force, will undoubtedly display no less (perhaps greater), talent. We look forward to watching the *Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team* and hearing *three fife and drum corps* showcase the military music of the War of 1812 and American Civil War.

All are invited to come and attend this memorable event and join in the proud tradition of the Military Tattoo.

Find out more on page 7 under Upcoming Events



The Navy Band proudly played patriotic pieces, June 29



Rifles fly with grace and precision at the June 29 Navy Tattoo

Honorary Colonel Profile: Michael Reynolds

At the August 2nd tattoo ceremony, Michael Reynolds will be given the rank of Honorary Colonel of the Fort McHenry Guard.

Traditionally the Guard grants this honor to a distinguished person at each tattoo in gratitude for their service to Fort McHenry and the National Park Service.

Michael Reynolds assumed the post of Deputy Regional Director for the National Park Service's Northeast Region on March 1, 2008.



NPS Photo

Reynolds has worked for the Department of the Interior for 22 years, serving as a seasonal ranger, firefighter, biologist, and natural resource manager. He has been stationed throughout the nation from Curecanti National Recreation Area to Cape Cod National Seashore, Mojave National Preserve to the Denver Service Center, and from Yosemite National Park to the Bureau of Land Management and Office of the Secretary of the Interior in Washington D.C.

Reynolds joins a proud list of other notable honorary colonels.

More Snapshots of a Fort McHenry Summer



Above: Fort McHenry Guard Members proudly sport their new ballcaps generously donated by Chaplin Fr. Winthrop Brainerd (foreground)



Above: Volunteer Jerry Pech leads the Chesapeake Flotilla in cutlass drills



Left: Musicians of the Fort McHenry Guard in Civil War uniform



Far Left: Two young girls help roll the Star Spangled Banner

Upcoming Events at Ft. McHenry

Throughout the year, Fort McHenry provides a number of special events and programs for the public. All of them are free and require no reservations.

Be sure to put these exciting events on your calendar!

Please call the park for more information about any of our special events.
410.962.4290

Fort McHenry Guard - Defenders Return to the Fort

Saturdays and Sundays
11:00am-4:00pm
Last weekend is Defenders' Day

Experience the daily life of the War of 1812 soldier, sailor, and citizen through presentations by the Fort McHenry Guard. Dressed in replica clothing of the early 19th century, the Guard conducts drills, barracks activities, artillery and musket firing demonstrations. The Guard also boasts civilian activities and children's programs.

Twilight Tattoo Ceremony and Concert

Saturday, August 2, 2008; 6:00 -8:00 pm

The United States Air Force will perform at Ft. McHenry! The Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team travels America and the world to inspire Air Force awareness among military and civilian audiences alike. The team personifies teamwork, professionalism, and discipline of every airman through precision drill maneuvers and representation. For over forty years the team has visited all 50 states and many foreign countries.

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team will be joined by three fife and drum corps: Liberty Hall and the 119th New York will portray field music of the American Civil War, while the fifes and drums of the Ft. McHenry Guard will showcase music of the War of 1812.

Defenders' Day The Star-Spangled Banner Weekend!

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
September 12-14, 2008; all day

Join us for Ft. McHenry's flagship event! This three-day encampment and extravaganza is celebrated with over 100 War of 1812 reenactors, parades, military bands, fireworks, a symbolic ship-to-shore bombardment and much more!

The Star Spangled Banner Weekend honors Defenders' Day, Baltimore's oldest holiday commemorating the bombardment of Ft. McHenry and the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner!"

Events begin with a Friday evening ceremonial procession from the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House to the Inner Harbor for a ceremony at the amphitheater. After the ceremony, reenactors will board boats and return with the 30'x42' replica flag to Ft. McHenry.

Saturday and Sunday activities include children's programs, historic boats, military encampments and demonstrations, and a "privateer's action" of "captured goods."

Saturday evening's program, begins at 6:00pm and features a concert, a musket firing tactical demonstration, a symbolic ship-to-shore bombardment, and evening fireworks show.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort McHenry NM & HS
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Baltimore, MD 21230

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Fort McHenry Register is the official news bulletin of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. It is produced quarterly and distributed to park friends, supporters, and visitors.

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Maintenance Spotlight: Repointing Brick



Lynn Hemmingson and Amanda Klapka repoint the brick of the sallyport ramp.

This summer the Fort McHenry Maintenance Division is working hard to repoint all of the bricks in the walkway of the Historic Fort. Recently they have been working around the ravelin, bombproofs and sallyport. The repointing process involves the replacement of mortar in between the bricks due to the weakening and disintegration caused by the wear of use and time. Lynn and Amanda explained that one of the hardest sections lies just ahead in the sallyport. There the mortar has almost entirely disappeared and so the team must dig up each brick and essentially relay them all to ensure that the task is properly completed.