

# Pennsylvania 1812

December 2013



## President's Message

In September, my wife Margarete and I traveled to Erie for their Tall Ships commemoration of Commodore Oliver Peary's victory September 10th, 1813, giving control of the Great Lakes to the United States.



*One of the 9 ships at Tall Ships at Erie on September 5th. President Marvin talking with Captain Adele Arlitt and her 1st Mate at the Tall Ships Erie Captains' Dinner in September.*

Margarete Marvin Photos



Peary Medal and the Decatur Plate which are now back on display at the Seaport Museum.

We were happy to approve an additional six new members at our recent Board Meeting. That brings to 12 the list of new members for the year. With just two passing this year, that's a major jump up for us in members. We look forward to a number of additional new members coming in based on the large list of proposed members in the pipeline. Now is a propitious time to propose family members or eligible friends.

We are excited over next year's Pennsylvania Society's Bicentennial functions for 2014. Our Annual

The replica of the ship Niagara was very impressive as is the Flagship Museum. (We also saw Drake's Oil Well the next day.)

We are working to broaden our outreach. In October several of us attended the Musket Ball, celebrating the 125th Anniversary of our colleagues' Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution.

This Summer Julia Baker completed a fine restoration of our

*A Society ROTC medal was presented to a Drexel student for the first time: Dr. Marvin awarded it to Army Cadet David Leach on April 25th at the First City Troop Armory.*



Meeting on March 8th will have Elizabeth Laurent, Director of the fascinating historic objects at Girard College to speak on Stephan Girard's important role in the 1812 War. This will be followed by a talk in the Merion Cricket Club Speakers' Series from an excellent speaker, Professor Jeremy Black from Exeter University in England, on the international perspective of the 1812 War, during, and subsequent to it. Later in the spring, we plan to have our annual church Service.

Saturday Evening on September 20, 2014 our celebration of the Bicentennial will culminate in dinner and a talk on the conclusion of the War and the Treaty of Ghent. Glenn Williams, Historian of the National Museum of the U.S. Army Project at Fort Belvoir, VA has agreed to speak and his talk will be a very good one.

These activities promise to be unique and I urge you to attend each of them if at all possible.

Feel free to contact me at [rmarvin@verizon.net](mailto:rmarvin@verizon.net), or through our Web.

## OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTION 2013-14

### PRESIDENT:

Robert F. Marvin, MD

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### MARSHAL:

William Steven Mark, M.D.

### CHAPLAIN:

Rev. Gregory F. Dimick

### GENEALOGIST:

Kay Haviland Freilich (non-member)

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## 1812 Lost a Good Friend

VIOLA BEMENT died peacefully Saturday April 27, 2013 at Beaumont, Bryn Mawr. She was 91. Viola was the wife of Russell Bement, Jr our late president from 1980-1985. If you are part of these groups you know she was a force of nature. She was there to help and participate always with good humor.



Your editor remembers her responding to "How are you" with "I'm ornery!" That became a thing. I used to call the select group of "girls" (Dames who participated) to remind them to come to events at another group. After a bit I would start the call with "Hello ornery! How are things?" She thought that was great. It also came back from the other "girls" that she loved being thought of as one of that group's "girls."

She was born Viola Marston Jack Black. Viola attended Friend's School - Haverford, then graduated from Agnes Irwin - class of 1940. She was predeceased by her husband Russell Bement Jr. and son Russell Bement III. She is survived by brother E. Newbold Black IV and niece Alexandra Black. Services were Friday May 3rd, at the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr. Your editor, Tee Adams, and treasurer, Rob Van Gulick, were among the mourners.

In one last act of entertainment, women attending the funeral were offered any of Viola's vast collection of hats. Quite a few went home with new owners.



## Board Changes

### Martin Peicker Steps Down

By Bob Marvin

Martin Peicker has stepped down as Registrar of the State Society after many years of committed service. He joined the Society in 1993 and came on the Board as Registrar in 1997, taking over from Andy Sullivan.



He has traveled regularly from Reading to attend Society functions and has assisted many applicants to the Society over the years. In fact, he was responsible for firmly establishing my gateway ancestor in the militia during the 1812 War.

He has added much information on Membership questions, often with E-mail comments. We will miss his attentiveness but hope he can continue to participate regularly in our functions. We thank him very much for his service.

### Other Changes

As a result of Martin's decision, we have shuffled a few of our Board members into new positions. Your Registrar is now Jefferson Moak. All membership information can be passed to him. Contact Jefferson here, or through the website (address on P4)



8411 Anderson St., Philadelphia PA 19118-2801

215-242-5264 (H)

[jefferson.moak@verizon.net](mailto:jefferson.moak@verizon.net)



With that change, we needed a new Secretary. Our new board member, Jonathan Jacobs has stepped in to fill that post.

## Bronze Star Installed

A Bronze Star marker was recently installed on the War of 1812 gravestone of Captain Benjamin Snyder, ancestor of members Bob, Jim and William Marvin. Captain Snyder served in the Pennsylvania Militia from Bustleton and is buried in All Saints Cemetery, Torresdale (Philadelphia).



## How To Order Your 1812 General Society Bicentennial Yearbook

The General Society is producing a Bicentennial Yearbook. When completed, you can order one for your collection. It will include the history and purpose of the General Society, lists officers with contact information, member roster by state, timeline of the war, current constitution and By-laws, and other lists.

Orders for BICENTENNIAL YEARBOOKS will be taken by Treasurer General Thomas E. Jacks, 327 Devon Drive, Mandeville, LA 70448-3316. The \$10 cost includes shipping costs. Make your check payable to GSW1812.

### UPDATE: Preserve the Pensions of the War of 1812

In our previous newsletter and at our annual meeting we introduced the Preserve the Pensions Project which is working to get the records of our ancestors scanned for posterity and made available for the public to view.

Hopefully some of you have contributed to that effort. At our September board meeting we voted to add a

\$1,000 gift to keep the program going.

They have now announced that any contribution made towards the project will be initially matched by the Federation of Genealogical Societies and then the ensuing amount doubled by Ancestry.com, making any contribution of \$1.00 be raised to \$4.00. Here is a chance to make your gift really count and

help with an effort related directly to our mission as a society. Our Secretary reminds us that this Society came into existence in the 1850s primarily in a struggle with the United States government to get these pensions. This then is completing a circle of involvement with their pensions and the records.

Please visit this website to add your donation to support this great project.  
[www.preservethepensions.org](http://www.preservethepensions.org)



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*At our September 2013 board meeting, we note that four former presidents appeared as they are all on the board now. L-R: Current president Marvin; with former presidents Hill, Sullivan, Di Stefano, and Showler. Ashton Blair Photo*

### EVENTS IN 2014

#### Spring Speaker from the UK

We are finalizing plans to share a speaker jointly with Merion Cricket Club's series they hold each year. The date would be April 2. Cost is about \$10 for a drink and to hear the speaker. After the speaker, we might host dinner at Yangming or another area dining establishment. More details will come in the new year and you will receive the full information on the announcement that will be mailed as we get closer.

After all that maybe we should tell you about the speaker. Jeremy Black is his name and his book is titled *The War of 1812 in the Age of Napoleon*. He comes to us from the UK and we will tie into a regular spring visit he makes to this side of the Atlantic. Our President, Bob Marvin, has heard him speak and has been the spearhead to getting this event organized for us and the Cricket Club. You can look up the book and more on Mr Black on the web.

#### Annual Meeting



Remember our annual meeting is held in March each year. We return to The Corinthian Yacht Club, on the Delaware River on March 8, 2014 at 10:30 am. Note this is a bit earlier than previous years so we can get more done before lunch. Our speaker will be Elizabeth Laurent, Director of the collection of historic objects at Girard College, who will speak on Stephan Girard's important role in the 1812 War. Shown here, Registrar Jefferson Moak stands with her in one of the rooms that house their collection.

## Important Events In The War - 200 years ago 1814

DATE	OCCURRENCE
January 22	Battle of Emuckfau,
January 24	Battle of Enotachopco
March 27-28	Battle of Horseshoe Bend
March 28	HMS Phoebe and HMS Cherub defeat the Essex
April 11	Napoleon abdicates French throne
April 14	United States repeals Embargo and Nonimportation Law
April 20	HMS Orpheus defeats the Frolic
April 25 — May 30	British extend blockade to New England
April 29	The Peacock defeats HMS Epervier

## 2014 National Group's Bicentennial Event

You are invited to join the General Society in Baltimore MD, on September 10-14 for the Triennial Meeting of the General Society membership. The event is planned to coincide with the Bicentennial of the bombardment of Ft. McHenry, which Baltimore plans to celebrate in style.

Our group will hold a Banquet on Thursday September 11, at Ft McHenry. Reenactments are scheduled at Ft McHenry on Friday and Saturday. A public fireworks display is scheduled for Saturday Night. See the National website or the War Cry for sign-up information.



*This summer our items on loan to the Seaport Museum - the Decatur Plate and Perry Medal - were returned to us for cleaning and restoration. This work was completed in August and the items were brought in to our September board meeting. Here, your Editor, Tee Adams, holds the Perry Medal. The items are all back at the Museum now. Incidentally, a similar medal recently sold for \$18,500 at a Chicago auction.*



### Largest BBQ Ever !

Many thanks to the well over 40 members, Daughters and guests who joined us for the Barbeque this year. This has been a great event for all with a loyal following that grows each year. Merion Golf outdid themselves offering half a lobster this special weekend, in the mix of tasty morsels. As your host, it has been a pleasure to offer this club activity to our Society. Tee Adams Photos



### Mark your calendar

Saturday, March 8, 2014 - Annual Meeting.

Note the new time - 10:30 am

April 2 Speaker at Merion Cricket Club

Wed Sept 10 through Sun Sept 14 - Triennial in Baltimore, Maryland (See above left)

September 20 - Bicentennial Dinner

Look on our website for more.

### On The Web

PA site:

<http://www.societyofthewarof1812pa.org/>

General Society site:

<http://societyofthewarof1812.org/>



Need more? Contact



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