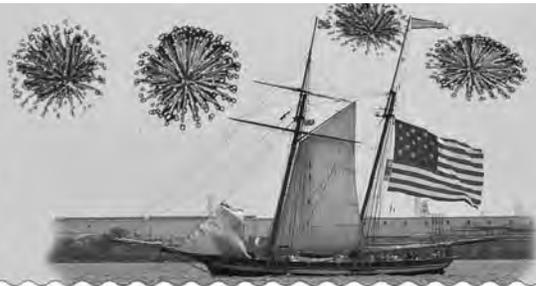


Pennsylvania 1812

November 2014



1814 Celebrating our Bicentennial Year 2014



Pennsylvania 1812 members stand for a photo at our Bicentennial Banquet on September 20. See more on Page 2.

1

What a Year it's Been !!

By Bob Marvin, President

Your Society is ending the year on a big upswing.

Membership in the last year has bounced significantly higher as we welcomed 14 new members. Thanks to Andy Sullivan, who did some major prospecting for us, and Registrar Jefferson Moak for moving prospects to being voted in as active members. We also "found" a few who had been missing a long time.

We reworked the Proposal for Membership, which can now be found on our website to speed up getting you one when you find a prospect. There have been two newsletters and the Yearbook.



Our ROTC program, under Secretary, Tee Adams has kept up the large list of colleges who receive our award. New

this year we have looked for more presenters - members who have gone to the colleges and personally handed off the award. The colleges and recipients are thrilled our representative has appeared, and nearly all the presenters want to go again next year. We continued our outreach by giving a War of 1812 DVD to Girard College. It was shown in class and helped the teacher include "a very under-covered war in our history" in his classes.

Next, we put on more events than in previous years. Starting with our Annual Meeting in March, we then had a nice church service organized by Ashton Blair and Peter Hill. Then we held a joint speaker event with Merion Cricket Club. In July, the BBQ was back at Merion Golf with our largest participation in decades. As shown on page 4, we had an outreach dinner with a couple of members in Pittsburgh. We hope to find more clusters of distant members in the new year to visit.

Finally, as shown above, we gathered back at Merion Cricket for our Bicentennial Banquet. The food and service at the club were top drawer. The group had a great night out.

Many thanks to all who helped organize to make the year a success and to those who came out to celebrate.



Society of the



War of 1812



Our Bicentennial Banquet

September 20 was an amazing night. Society members and guests gathered at The Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, PA to remember the Bicentennial of our War. The weather was perfect to have cocktails on the porch.

Our program began at 6:50 with a member group photo seen on page 1. We went inside and the Color Guard marched in and presented our flags to President Marvin. That was followed with the pledge of Allegiance then the National Anthem. Jim Marvin gave the Invocation before brother Bob introduced our speaker.

As dinner got underway we paused a couple of times for several toasts.



2 *It was a beautiful night for drinks on the porch. Thanks to Steve Mark and Margarete Marvin for the table decorations.*



(Left) Bill Bodine led us in the National Anthem. Tee Adams Photos



Our members and guests listen intently to the lecture.



The flags are presented as the meeting is called to order.

Bicentennial Banquet Pictorial

Dinner started with soup then a special tossed salad. Members chose between Roast Beef or Bronzino (fish) for their main course with green beans and potatoes. Dessert was a trio of sugary items on one plate.

Glenn Williams talked about the battle around Baltimore. He told us about the several generals available to command and how between favorite son General Wynder and General Sam Smith, the experienced veteran, they went with the vet, and good thing they did.

Ft. McHenry myths noted - 1) There were 2 companies of Navy people and seamen who came to help out at the fort but it was an Army facility. 2) The Star Spangled Banner was the garrison flag of an Army post.



As the event came to a close all said it was one of

Glenn Williams gave an interesting talk on events surrounding the battle around Baltimore, MD.





The service and food were top drawer. Here Janice & Tom Showler chat with Miles Deschant, and Aston Blair talked with Margarete Marvin.

our best events ever. Thanks to the committee members who spent the year preparing for a flawless evening.

Each attendee was given a dinner program and a special publication - a rework of a 1960 address by Dr Henry Pleasants, Jr titled **The Six Heroes**. An addendum included the article on page 4-5 about our founding.

New Board Member

We had an opening left on the Board and we filled that in September by adding Matt Dupee, shown with his wife, Susan. Matt has been joining quite a few groups like this lately and we hope he will bring ideas from exposure to various groups to our efforts. Welcome.



ROTC

This is our down season, but we are looking forward to next year. The main effort is winter into spring with most presentations in March into May. If you have a relationship with any of the PA colleges with ROTC programs listed on the website or previous newsletters, we would like to hear of your interest to present for the group.

One step forward is Military Awards Vice President General, Colonel Robert Pollock has provided us with the ribbons that go with the medals. Next spring, they can go together which will save some organizing and double mailing.

Our Annual BBQ



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It was a sticky day so we got upgraded into the brand new, air conditioned, Pavilion party space Merion Golf has built. As you can see below, it's a beautiful room. Food and service were wonderful and we all look forward to the next summer event.



Pennsylvania 1812

Created (Photos also unless mentioned) by F. T. Adams III
Text editing by Steve Mark & Bob Marvin

Battle of Baltimore

It Was More Than Just Fort McHenry
Glenn F. Williams

BALTIMORE

- ▶ Preparations began in 1813
- ▶ Committee of Vigilance and Safety
- ▶ Militia drilled regularly
- ▶ Citizens pressed into service
- ▶ Financial Support
- ▶ Clear chain of command
- ▶ Inter-service cooperation
- ▶ Winder subordinated

History of the Founding of The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

By PA Registrar, Jefferson M. Moak, 2014

The Society of the War of 1812 exists to cultivate and maintain sentiment and a love of country; to preserve all records relating to a war (rightly designated as our Second War for Independence) waged by an infant government to celebrate the glorious victories achieved by our ancestors in such an apparently unequal conflict; to honor the memories and perpetuate the spirit of those who completed the work of the American Revolution, and to hand down to posterity a feeling of reverence for their heroic forefathers, who risked their lives and hazarded their fortunes for their country's sake.

Although some date the beginnings of the Society of the War of 1812 to the bombardment of Ft. McHenry in 1814, the Pennsylvania Society has two births during its existence: the creation of the original Soldiers and Defenders Society in 1857 by the veterans and its reincarnation as the Pennsylvania Society of the War of 1812 in 1891 by the descendants of eligible veterans.

4 As the Society exists to commemorate the conflict of the War of 1812, it originally came into existence during a different fight: the battle to obtain pensions for the veterans of that war. Shortly after the conclusion of the War with Mexico, Congress passed legislation allowing veterans of that struggle and their widows not only to receive bounty land but the opportunity to sell their warrants, in the same manner as Congress had honored veterans of the original War of Independence. Judge Joel B. Sutherland, of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, and former 5-term member of the House of Representatives, expressed his desire to see veterans and widows of the War of 1812 receive the same benefits as Revolutionary War and Mexican War veterans, including the right to sell bounty land warrants and pensions for their service.

Sutherland's open letter of 17 December 1850, which was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer on 19 December 1850, struck a responsive chord throughout the United States and empowered the veterans of the War of 1812 to begin meeting and advocating for changes. On 11 December 1852, a large meeting of the War of 1812 veterans occurred at the County Court House, chaired by Judge Sutherland. Numerous resolutions were passed pertaining to the inequities of the current bounty and pension laws relating the veterans of the army and navy of the War of 1812.

Conventions of veterans then occurred periodically, including several in July 1853 in New York and Philadelphia. The attendees of the meeting in Philadelphia on 15 July 1853 called for a national convention of veterans to

meet in Philadelphia on 8 January 1854, the 39th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans.

According to a local account, "the great gathering of the Soldiers of 1812, and the resolutions adopted on the occasion, are everywhere noticed in terms of approval . . . The Convention was in truth, one of a truly remarkable character, and the movement cannot but excite an enthusiastic feeling among the old soldiers, and their children throughout the length and breadth of the Union. Kindred Association, as we understand, are about to be formed in each State, and it is probable that another National Convention will be held at some future period." Judge Sutherland again took the chair at the 1854 National Convention. Numerous resolutions were passed: many requesting changes to the bounty and pension laws. There was a call for annual conventions to be held on or about the 4th of July.

Among the other resolutions passed at the National Convention was the resolution "that with a view of doing full justice to the vast interests we represent and of understanding the condition of our friends in every portion of the Union, it is respectfully recommended to the Soldiers of the War of 1812 to form a Society in each of the States of the Republic."

According to the surviving records of the Pennsylvania society, "the soldiers of the War of 1812, residing in Pennsylvania, held meetings from time to time when it was resolved that a permanent organization should be formed and a Committee was appointed to draft a Constitution and Code of By-laws, for the Government of the Association." Such a meeting took place in July 1854 at Independence Hall with similar resolutions passed for the benefit of the veterans and their families.

National Conventions of the Soldiers of the War of 1812 were held until at least 1861, each convention still attempting to solicit Congress to pass legislation for appropriate pensions. Most of these conventions were held in Washington, D.C.

At a meeting of 22 February 1857, a committee was appointed by the Pennsylvania society to draft the Constitution and By-Laws. The committee reported back at the meeting of 4 July 1857 and their work was adopted creating a permanent association known as the Soldiers and Defenders of the War of 1812. As had been done at every meeting of the veterans, Judge Joel Sutherland was elected President of the Society under the terms of the new constitution.

The preface to the Constitution reads:

Believing that every association that tends to encourage a love of country or to inspire youth with sentiments of attachment to its institutions is promotive of the cause of human liberty, believing that the



sufferings and privations and dangers endured by the Soldiers of the War of 1812, have given, and will continue to give birth to sentiments of fraternal regard, honorable to the parties engaged therein, and believing also that it is our duty to inspire, cherish and perpetuate those sentiments: We the subscribers, surviving soldiers of the war of 1812 of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby agree to form ourselves into an association, and to adopt the following constitution, for our rule and government, and do solemnly pledge ourselves to use our best exertions to carry the same into full and perfect effect.

Annual meetings of the survivors continued until 1886. In 1885, four of the ten members attended the 4th of July celebrations. In 1887, two members attended the Washington's Birthday celebrations but held no actual meeting. According to the obituary of John Stallman in 1890, last President of the Veteran's Society, "he was the last surviving member of Capt. John Huston's company and president of the Association of the War of 1812 until it was dissolved by the death of nearly all the members."

Although the membership was quickly passing on, the spirit which motivated these soldiers to form such an association moved into succeeding generations. On 8 January 1891, a meeting was held of the survivors and their descendants. John Cadwalader was elected the new President. On 19 June 1891, a reconstituted Society of the War of 1812 met. According to the newspapers, "it is composed of veterans of the last war with Britain, their sons and grandsons and numbers 300 members, including five veterans of the war, who live in this city." The membership rolls do not indicate that 300 men actually were members in 1891: it took until 1895 to reach that number.

The Society continues to honor and respect our ancestors who participated in the War of 1812 as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the repulse of the British at Baltimore and the creation of the song which eventually became the National Anthem.

Outreach - Pittsburgh

Your board has been working hard over the last several years to expand the group in a variety of ways. It has been well noted that a good sized percentage of our



membership live out of the state, and out of an area we can regularly expect you to drop everything to venture out to one of our events. As we move forward we hope to reach out and offer opportunities to connect with the group.

Our first such event was held on September 5, 2014. Your secretary, Tee Adams, was invited at the last minute, to play in a lawn bowling event in Pittsburgh. I went through the list and identified six 1812 members who might be within driving distance. I heard from four. Two had other things to do but they are both ROTC presenters so we had chatted previously. Two were able to come for dinner.

Outback Steakhouse in Monroeville, PA was our venue. As shown in the picture, I met with Diane McVicker, Don Inman, and Woody McVicker.

This was a very pleasant visit and the board was pretty happy to hear it occurred. One unexpected outcome is one of these gentlemen might consider presenting an ROTC medal at the place I've been unable to get one for this or the previous group. It would be great to get someone to Gannon University way up in the Erie, PA area.

Next step is to identify other clusters of members then see if we can have a visit, maybe with a bit more notice in the coming year. For lawn bowling, I might have events in NYC, Poconos or Williamsburg, VA. Hopefully other board members will consider places they are headed off to where we might meet other members.

OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTION 2014-15

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General Society Triennial in Baltimore September 12 & 13, 2014

The National group has a big event every three years and this time they had their meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. They tied in with the great effort the state and city put on to remember our war. Our members were included in all the best events and got VIP space to see everything.

President Marvin and wife, Margarete (at right) attended with former President Showler and wife Janice.

(By the way, if any of you receiving this attended separately and have pictures or a story to tell we would like to hear about it.) During the several day event the General Society installed a new President General. Following, is his acceptance speech.

ten Conflict. While I don't believe that the War of 1812 is forgotten, I will concede that it is certainly unappreciated, under taught, and misunderstood. Rampant historical revisionism, especially during this

Bicentennial period, suggests that the war was fought for nothing, was really a draw, or more incredibly that we didn't even win. There really isn't time this evening—and besides, I would be preaching to the choir—to refute those assertions, but it is a point worth making that the events that we have commemorated this week and will continue to mark through the first week in January, are among the most important in the history of our nation.

As students of the War of 1812, we know that 1812 and 1813 had notable American victories, but we also acknowledge that for each of those victories, there were terrible defeats, for each triumph, there was an embarrassment. By the spring of 1814, the British and their Allies had defeated Napoleon (or so they thought), and the full force of the British military might was aimed at the United States. A very successful British blockade had crippled the American economy; the United States Treasury was broke and defaulted on its loans. In August the Capitol and



Showlers & Marvins at the banquet. Left is the special medal the General Society made for the occasion.



Above, The unfurled flag is a replica of the original 30x42 foot Star Spangled Banner. Right, The Blue Angels perform. Margarete Marvin photos

Remarks made by President General Thomas E. Jacks upon his installation, September 12, 2014, Baltimore, Maryland

President General Casey, President General Worthington, President General Brooke, President National Apyar, President General Dean, Fellow Defenders and Guests:

It is a great honor for me—as President General—to take office of this esteemed group during the closing months of the Bicentennial Celebration of the War of 1812.

A display of camp life at Fort McHenry



Many people call the War of 1812 America's forgotten war. Professor Donald Hickey's seminal history of the war is in fact titled *The War of 1812, A Forgot-*



Above, General officers unveil the historical marker of our General Society's founding at an Inn on the Fort McHenry grounds.

White House were set to the torch and were left in ruins. The country was at the nadir of its short existence.

The British were poised to execute their plan to invade from the north, capture seaports on the east coast, and take

New Orleans and with it the control of the vast Mississippi valley. The plan was, as Lord Castlereigh—British Foreign Secretary—put it, “to make the Americans prisoners in their own country.” But in that dark hour, our ancestors answered the call—at Plattsburg, here in Baltimore, and in New Orleans—not only turning back the invading



armies, but securing for us a permanent place in the family of nations. We truly had won—without question—our independence from the old world.

Among the books in my small collection is a small volume of the Proceedings of the Tenth Biennial Meeting of the General Society of the War of 1812 held at Baltimore, Maryland, September 12, 1914.

One hundred years ago this very hour, over four hundred members and guests sat down at the Hotel Belvedere here in Baltimore to a sumptuous feast of Crisfield Crab Cakes, Planked Squab Chicken, Southern Maryland Ham, Green Corn Fritters, and Fried Tomatoes which was washed down with various wines, sherry, two kinds of Champagne and finished with cigars and 1876 cognac. Among the speakers that evening were Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan—the Great Commoner himself—and Society President General John Cadwalader, who that evening was sworn in to his 11th term in office. Sadly the remarks of Bryan—the great orator of his time, less than 20 years removed from his Cross of Gold speech—were not transcribed, but President Cadwalader’s words are preserved and a century later bear repeating:

We are going to try... to cut a niche in the history of America that will tell to future generations what was done... to crush tyranny and keep peace... We want [the world] to realize that one hundred years after our forefathers--plain, ordinary citizens, without having had the experience or education for war--met the enemy... and that we [built] monuments to them to stay. With the aid of sister societies... we dedicated on that sacred spot a monument to the heroes of that occasion who saved that fort and let the flag still fly, the flag that brought to the mind of Key from the hearts of angels that inspiration which enabled him to write the anthem and let the Star Spangled Banner wave... Today closes the one hundredth anniversary of that great occasion and our hope is to continue the rearing of patriots, sons and daughters that will bring forth a still greater America whose watchword shall be freedom...

I close tonight with much the same sentiments as my predecessor. As we conclude the Bicentennial celebration



Members gathered at the statue of the Commander of the Baltimore defenders.

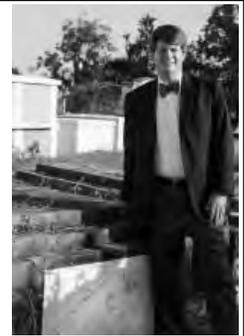
of the War of 1812, we should ever strive to remember the sacrifices, the resolve, and the fight of our ancestors and work to pass to future generations those noble traits so that one hundred years hence—long after we have passed—a future President General may speak of the glory of their deeds to a greater America whose watchword is freedom.

God bless you all, God bless the General Society of the War of 1812, and God bless these United States of America!

Thomas Jacks - Bio

From the New Orleans Advocate

Thomas Jacks, the newly-elected president general of the General Society of the War of 1812, stands next to the tomb of Gen. David Morgan in the Madisonville Cemetery. Morgan defended the west bank of New Orleans under the command of Gen. Andrew Jackson in the war of 1812.



Jacks and his family – wife, Tara, and four children – live in Mandeville LA. He is a native of New Market, Alabama, northeast of Huntsville, and was raised on a family farm settled more than 200 years ago by his ancestor, Benjamin Bragg, a veteran of the Mississippi Territorial Militia during the War of 1812.

“I was the seventh generation of my family to live there,” he said, commenting it is still the residence of his parents, David and Barbara Jacks.

In addition to Benjamin Bragg, Jacks has several other War of 1812 ancestors. They include Thomas Bragg, John Bayless and Jacob Broyles (Mississippi Territory); William Hurst and James Gill (Tennessee); and William Murphy (South Carolina).

Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Jacks attended Auburn University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, summa cum laude, and a Master of Science (mechanical engineering).

A 15-year veteran of NASA, Jacks works at the John C. Stennis Space Center and is currently the lead of the Mechanical and Component Design Group within Stennis’ Engineering and Test Directorate. He has been recognized for his work in the agency’s rocket propulsion testing programs with numerous awards and commendations, including the NASA Silver Snoopy Award and the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal.



A BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

Who was your qualifying Ancestor? Where is he Buried?

As the Bicentennial year comes to an end, we look to continue the forward motion we have made with additional projects. We started casually, but now we need you to add your information to a growing list.

1) We are trying to establish a list of the veteran ancestors of our members for our web site. This will be just a list of the ancestors, not of the current members.

We would like to include your ancestor. Could you send us the name, state from which he served, and if possible,

his rank, the branch/unit that he served in during the War of 1812?

2) Where is your War of 1812 ancestor buried and date?

We have several goals for this project. First is to create a complete list. A future goal is making sure as many as possible have War of 1812 markers. Another thought heading to be a goal is providing a list of **Qualifying Ancestors of Members** (without current associated member name) on our website so people searching might match up their relatives to it, to see if they might be prospective members. Please use the contact info at the bottom to send this along. For those without Internet, PO Box 328, Devon PA 19333-0328

Mark Your Calendar

Our Annual Meeting - Saturday, March 14, 2015
 Speaker: President General Thomas Jacks
 Topic: Battle of New Orleans

Annual Church Service - May 17, 2015 11:15 am
 St. David's Episcopal Church (1715), Radnor, PA

On The Web

PA site: <http://www.societyofthewarof1812pa.org/>
 General Society site:
<http://societyofthewarof1812.org/>

NEW On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GSWarOf1812?fref=ts>

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Celebrate the Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans America's Victory of the War of 1812.

You are invited to attend the General Society's Annual Meeting and Celebration of the Grand Military Victory in New Orleans on January 7-10, 2015. Vice President General William Allerton III is planning an outstanding observance in New Orleans — you will not want to miss this truly once in a lifetime event that will Celebrate the Grand Military Victory in New Orleans. We hope you will be able to attend.

See the website: <http://www.neworleanscvb.com/1812/>
 See links for "housing" and "registration" on the top left.

Schedule of Events

Wed, Jan 7	4-5:30 PM	Registration Westin Hotel Business Casual
	4:30-5:30 PM	Welcome Reception Westin Hotel
Thurs, Jan 8	7:30-8:00 AM	Bus Loading Westin Hotel
	9:00-11:00 AM	Official Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans Chalmette Battlefield (U.S. National Park) Business Casual
	11:45 AM	Assemble for Procession to Jackson Square The Cabildo (Louisiana State Museum)
	12:00-12:45 PM	Wreath Laying Ceremony Jackson Square
	12:45-1 PM	Return to Cabildo
	1-3:00 PM	Luncheon Buffet hosted by U.S. Daughters of 1812/View State Museum Collections The Cabildo
	3:00 PM	Load Buses The Cabildo
	3:30-4:30 PM	Wreath Laying Ceremony Honoring Veterans of the Battle of New Orleans St. Louis Cemetery #1
Fri, Jan 9	6:30-7 PM	Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar) Westin Hotel
	7-9 PM	1812 Victory Banquet Westin Hotel Black Tie
Sat, Jan 10	6-9 AM	Farewell Breakfast Buffet Westin Hotel
	10-Noon	General Society of 1812 Board Meeting Westin Hotel Business Casual
Sat, Jan 10	8 PM-Midnight	Louisiana Society Grand Military Victory Ball New Orleans Country Club White Tie



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