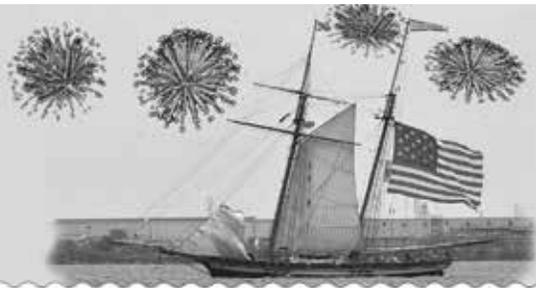


Pennsylvania 1812

October 2016



The Graves of the Pennsylvania Veterans of the War of 1812 Database

By Eugene Bolt

“We, the survivors and descendants of those who participated in that contest [the War of 1812], have joined together to perpetuate its memories and victories; to collect and secure for preservation rolls, records, books and other documents relating to that period; to encourage research and publication of historical data, including memorials of patriots of that era in our National history...” So reads the “objects” of the Society as proposed by our Founders.

For a number of years we have been interested in finding, marking graves and celebrating the service of the veterans of our War.

To that end we have undertaken to create a “Graves of the Pennsylvania Veterans of the War of 1812 Database.” This project seeks to contribute to achieving these objects by gathering, preserving, and sharing information pertaining to the memorials and graves of our 1812 veterans. Our goal is to compose a database repository of locations of all 1812 veteran graves in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Indeed this is an ambitious goal, but we hope it to be an on-going effort over the coming months and years. To our knowledge, such a listing of 1812 veteran graves in Pennsylvania does not currently exist and we seek to rectify this.

Interest in genealogical research continues to

increase as more information becomes digitized and available through Internet records and searches. In order for researchers to find and incorporate historical information, it needs to be available and accessible in the first place. We hope to collect this information and get it out there to be used.

The database hopes to include basic information about our 1812 veteran ancestors: names, dates of birth and death, service during the war, location of the graves and cemeteries, and, when possible, photographs of the graves.

While we are interested in documenting all graves of all Pennsylvania 1812 veterans, we are particularly interested in locating and documenting the graves of the ancestors of our current Society of the War of 1812 membership. We hope to include listings from all 67 of Pennsylvania’s counties.



In May 2016, we honored the veterans at Olde Swedes Church in Philadelphia as part of our church service. Margarete Marvin Photo

We’ll update the database periodically as new information is gathered and post the information on our Society’s webpage. We’ll also periodically highlight information on graves and 1812 veterans that might be of general interest.

In addition, we have held our church service the last two years at venues that also hold our veterans. We have had a small ceremony to honor these men at that time.

How can you help with the project? If you are familiar with any local cemeteries or church graveyards that include 1812 veterans, let us know! If you know the location of your 1812 ancestor’s grave, and have photographs, please share them!

You can share information (or ask questions) by e-mail at PA.1812.Graves.Database@gmail.com.

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Society of the



War of 1812





(left) In 2015, Peter Hill and president Van Gulick mark a grave in St Davids churchyard. (Middle) Bob Marvin stands with veteran Biddle the same day.



In 2016 here are the veterans in Old Swedes Church, in Philadelphia. Rich Blair photo

identified in that cemetery. (NOTE: We are up to 3 identified and honored as of this writing.) The event ended with lunch outside at Merion

The Annual Church Service

As you have seen we have reinstated having an annual church service as part of our program. These started out with a series at Valley Forge military, where we attended their Sunday service, followed by some version of their parade of cadets. A very nice lunch followed in Eisenhower Hall. This was well attended and enjoyed by our membership.

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It was decided to branch out from that, and we then met for worship in Paoli, at The Church of the Good Samaritan as previously reported. Lunch followed at St. Davids Golf Club.

In 2015 we shifted focus a little to look for churches where War of 1812 veterans were buried, tied in with the graves program outlined on page 1. St Davids Church in Wayne, was the first of these. We honored a pair of former soldiers that had been

The church service, the last two years, has been organized by Rich Blair and Peter Hill with help from Bob Marvin and Tee Adams.



Golf Club.

This year as we had identified soldiers in the cemetery of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church, the earliest existing Church in Pennsylvania, our service was held there. On May 15, our event began with a ceremony honoring these men.

For the last two years our Color Guard, Captained by Steve Mark, paraded and showed the flags as we placed wreaths and dedicated metal markers for individual veterans.

While we are on the topic, we thank former president, Bob Marvin, for his efforts to find a new source for the metal 1812 grave markers, of a type as shown on the next page. We now have a these in quantity. You could request one if you know of a veteran who isn't so marked.



US Daughters of 1812 at St David's Church - Private Nathan Brooke.

Lynne Jensen, President of the War Hawks Chapter, National Society United States Daughters of 1812, from Florida, contacted us in early summer. She had found one of her relatives who served in the War, was buried in St David's Churchyard - Wayne, PA. She was planning to come north to have a ceremony to mark his grave. We were excited to hear from her, as it added to our own grave marking efforts you have already read about.

On June 11, 2016 the event began at 11 am. Our Color Guard, led by Steve Mark, with Rick & Renato Di Stefano and Gene Bolt led the procession from the church to the site, near where we had marked other vets the year before. Tee Adams attended to shot stills and video. Those are on our website - video on the opening page, for now, and stills under 2016 events under News. Bob Marvin



Our Color Guard, ready to march out. (below) The flag folding, with help from Steve Mark and Bob Marvin. Flag was provided by Saving Hallowed Ground, Gene Hough.



Organizer, Lynne Jensen (left) with Kathy Wagner singing the Banner, and Connie Taylor. (below) The marker in place, unveiled.



also participated. Our local friend, Connie Taylor, President of the Captain William McGill Chapter, N. S. U. S. D. of 1812 served as Acting Chaplain.

Lynne started speaking, a little nervous as she began, but her planning was well done, and the event went through the listed program provided



by the US Daughters without a hitch. "We have come together today to honor the memory of Private Nathan Brooke." She had a soloist, Kathy Wagner, from the church, who sang the National Anthem, and "Be Thou My Vision."

Her Grandson, and hopefully future member, Arch Morrison read the poem "Old St. David's of Radnor" that was written by Longfellow after visiting here in 1880.

President Jensen read a biographical sketch "Who Was Nathan Brooke?"

Family members, and Bob Marvin gathered and a US flag was folded and presented.

The event ended with refreshments up in the chapel, in St. David's Hall.

The Battle of New Orleans

Remarks made by Thomas E. Jacks, President General, General Society of the War of 1812 at the Annual Meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia, Essington, PA, March 14, 2015.

Of all the episodes in American history, the Battle of New Orleans might well win the award for being the most frequently misreported and inaccurately recounted. When one is not listening to the Johnnie Horton version of the event, there are constant reminders that the battle was fought after the peace treaty was signed. How many times have we been told that the Battle of New Orleans was fought after the War was over? This constant fixation—itsself a falsehood—reduces the battle to a useless, needless coda on what many would have us consider a useless and needless war.

4 However, if the importance of an incident in history is measured by the consequences of an opposite outcome, then the Battle of New Orleans is almost certainly the most important battle of the War of 1812 and perhaps one of the seminal moments in the history of the young nation. Far from being a useless effort, the Battle of New Orleans paved the way for Manifest Destiny and the modern United States.

Like all events in history, there is a back story to the Battle of New Orleans—information that is vital to understanding the motivations and expectations of the players involved. The few books on the Battle of New Orleans devote vastly more ink to this than to the actual events of the military campaign, but I will try to give a snapshot of the situation as it existed in October 1814, the month that Major General Edward Pakenham departed Britain to command the British troops in the New Orleans campaign.

October 1814—the guns of Europe had been silent for six months. Bonaparte had abdicated and been exiled to the island of Elba in April of that year. Across the Atlantic, British blockades were successful in wrecking the American economy, but an invasion from Canada was unsuccessful and operations on the Chesapeake—while burning Washington and looting other ports—had been unsuccessful in capturing Baltimore, which was really the primary objective of that campaign. In Ghent, Belgium,

peace negotiators from both Great Britain and the United States had been at work for several weeks. The American government had dropped the matters of impressment and trade from the negotiations—the peace in Europe had made them moot.

The British had a final gambit. Correspondence that summer between Lord Liverpool (the Prime Minister), Lord Castlereigh (the Foreign Secretary), Lord Bathurst (the Secretary of State for War), and the Duke of Wellington—arguably more powerful than any of the preceding—repeatedly mentioned the “Province of Louisiana” and the focus on British war plans to seize it with the capture of New Orleans.

It probably is worth a moment to recount the history of this territory. Claimed by both Spain and France, it eventually became a French province until it was ceded to Spain in the waning days of the Seven Years War. In 1800, Spain—under duress—retroceded the colony to France in the secret 3rd Treaty of San Ildefonso. Finally—as we all know—Napoleon sold the territory to the United States. This sale, as it turned out, was a violation of the 1800 agreement with Spain and Britain’s position was that this dubious title put Louisiana up for grabs independent of the doctrine of status quo antebellum eventually contained in the final treaty of peace.

As so in October 1814, Major General Pakenham with a ship full of troops and supplies set sail from Britain to rendezvous in Jamaica with the fleet commanded by Admiral Alexander Cochrane—the same fleet that had menaced the Chesapeake weeks earlier. Pakenham carried an important order—signed by his civilian boss Lord Bathurst. In essence it said: A peace treaty will almost certainly be signed during this campaign. The treaty will not go into effect until its ratification by both parties. Though you will certainly hear rumors of the news of the treaty, you are to fight with all efforts until you receive word from London to stop.

In Jamaica, Admiral Cochrane prepared for the invasion. He had long advocated an attack on New Orleans—not for any geopolitical gain for Great Britain, but for the rich booty of stores that were waiting to be seized, his share of which would make him a much wealthier man. As the weeks went on, Cochrane began to lose hope that Pakenham would make the rendezvous in a timely manner and in December set sail to New Orleans with his fleet



with troops that eventually numbered over 10,000.

Now, there are any number of ways to invade New Orleans, but Cochrane had a very specific route in mind. This choice and the method of its execution were the first critical mistakes of the campaign.

The British fleet dropped anchor off the coast of present day Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. It could sail no closer to its target. A little Louisiana geography is needed at this point. The southeast coast of Louisiana is the ancient alluvial delta of the Mississippi River. The Louisiana shore is surrounded by many miles of shallow water—lakes that are contiguous with the Gulf of Mexico. Lake Borgne is a shallow extension of the Gulf with an average depth of 10-15 feet. Navigation of these



President General Thomas Jacks addresses the Annual Meeting.

waters required the British to transfer to small, shallow draft vessels.

On December 14, 1814, the British mini-fleet encountered several U. S. Navy vessels guarding the entrance to the lake. These small ships—part of Jefferson’s “mosquito fleet”—engaged the British but were overwhelmed becoming the first casualties of the campaign.

The sea path now clear, the British ferried the invading army to an island near the mouth of the Pearl River (which separates present day Louisiana from Mississippi). On December 22, 1814, 1500 troops (the capacity of the small boats the British had on hand) embarked across the lake. With information provided to them by local “Spanish fishermen,” the British sailed up the mouth of Bayou Bienvenue, through Bayou Mazant, up the Villere Canal arriving at the Villere Plantation, approximately 8 miles downriver from New Orleans. The trip took 21 cold, miserable hours to make and placed the British on the banks of the Mississippi River on the morning of December 23, 1814, with road running straight to New Orleans with nary a picket impeding their path.

The commander of the British troops, MG John Keane, had no desire to engage with the enemy with this small, exhausted fraction of the total army. The British made camp and awaited the arrival of more



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troops, ferried piecemeal over the lake and bayou.

News of the British arrival reached MG Andrew Jackson around noon. Sensitive to false alarms and misinformation, Jackson had their presence confirmed by members of his staff. He issued a call for the assembly of the army at 4 pm and promptly took a nap. Rest was probably needed for the long night ahead. Jackson's army began their march at dusk, slowly making their way toward the British camp. At the same time, the USS *Carolina*, moored on the Mississippi River at New Orleans, slowly and silently slipped to the shore opposite the fires of the British camps. At 7pm, she opened fire, signaling the American attack. A night attack—which the British considered ungentlemanly—was the last think they were expecting and in the darkness melee ensued. At 11pm, the Americans seemed to be making progress in beating the British back, but Jackson withdrew his forces when the second wave of British arrived by boat. Keane made no attempt to pursue the Americans and despite the American withdrawal, the *Carolina* continued her steady bombardment. Thus ended what is commonly called “The Night Battle”—the first land engagement of the New Orleans campaign—conducted (even accounting for the time difference) before the signing of the Treaty of Ghent.

The dawn of Christmas Eve found Jackson holding a council of war and from these discussions came the critical decision to construct a defensive line between the British army and the city. Jackson's engineers—and he was blessed with several very good ones, including one from the French army—recommended building a work on the Rodriguez Canal, an unused ditch separating the Chalmette plantation from the upriver McCarty Plantation. A call was made to every able bodied man—slave or free—to start digging to widen and deepen the ditch and to mound the dirt. Cypress logs were cut to form the ramparts. While this effort was underway, the British just a couple of miles away hunkered down, avoiding the shelling of the *Carolina* and continuing to await the arrival of their entire army. Line Jackson, as it was called stretched from the Mississippi River to an impregnable cypress swamp—about 1500 yards.

On Christmas Day, the boats that landed near the Villere Plantation carried some special passengers: MG Pakenham, joined by the second in

command MG Samuel Gibbs, finally arrived, their ship eventually catching up to Cochrane's fleet. Pakenham immediately assessed the situation and held his own council of war. The Americans continued to dig.

Pakenham's first priority was to silence the guns of the *Carolina*. He sent for artillery and had a furnace built near the levee. Perhaps realizing for the first time the incredibly poor logistical situation, Pakenham did not have the guns he requested until December 27th. With hot shot from the furnace and the cannon, the tables were turned on the *Carolina*. A red hot cannonball breached her powder magazine and she exploded. All the while, the American kept digging.

The next morning, December 28th, the British attacked the American line their first true offensive measure in five days. The British found themselves facing an extremely well-fortified position: an eight foot tall earthen rampart, lined with cypress logs behind a ten foot wide moat at least a yard deep. Behind this roughhewn citadel were eight batteries of artillery and about 3000 armed men—U.S. Regulars, militia from Tennessee, Mississippi Territory, Kentucky, and Louisiana, including regiments of local citizens, free men of color, and the famous Bratarians of Jean Lafitte.

This is a good point in the battle narrative to give a little backstory on this colorful player in the New Orleans drama. Little factual information is known on Jean Lafitte's background. He was probably born on what is now Haiti, almost certainly from an upper class background. He was well-educated, fluent in several languages, and always had the air of a gentleman. Over time, he assembled a large cadre of captains and ships engaged in piracy in the Caribbean. Operating under the thin veil of “letter of marque” from the so-called independent city of Cartagena, Lafitte's ships never fired on American or British vessels, but mainly preyed on Spanish ships. Lafitte's fleet operated from Baratavia Bay, southwest of New Orleans. There the haul of stolen good was sold duty-free to New Orleans people and businesses eager to avoid the embargo, trade restrictions, and blockades preceding and during the War. The import business was only half of Lafitte's enterprise. His “New Orleans Association” produced—through a series of powder mills—tons of black powder and other military store which were



illegally sold to rebels fighting the Spanish government in Mexico and South America. Lafitte flourished with the cooperation of many officials in the government of Louisiana—most of whom were on the payroll (few things have changed). The War of 1812 had been especially good to Jean Lafitte, as its trade restrictions provided more incentive to smuggle good in.

In September 1814, the British formally approached Lafitte, offering him a commission in the Royal Navy, cash, and land in Louisiana in return for his cooperation in the invasion of New Orleans. Lafitte now had to choose sides and immediately offered his support to the United States in return for a full pardon for himself and his men for any past wrong doings. Jackson was initially reluctant to deal with these “hellish banditti” but soon put aside his reservations when he learned the extent of their vast military stores—arsenals that would rival any of the United States.

So on December 28, 1814, the British approached the line and found well manned batteries with ample ammunition backed by me behind a near impregnable wall. Pakenham attacked, but quickly withdrew after a few unexpected rounds from the artillery. The December 28th engagement is known to history as the “Reconnaissance in Force”—probably so named by the British to explain their quick retreat.

Pakenham knew that he had to soften up the artillery, so he sent for all the available pieces he could get—remember the boat ride to the fleet and back—which did not arrive for several days.

On January 1, 1815, Pakenham could say that he outgunned the Americans. His guns began firing early that morning. The Americans responded. Most shots went into the mud. Thus continued the “Artillery Duel.” Had the onslaught continued for a few days, the British may have made some progress in breaking Jackson’s line. But in the early afternoon, they had run out of powder. The Americans literally had tons to spare.

Pakenham began planning his final assault, which involved splitting his force, capturing a battery of artillery on the opposite side of the river and turning it on Jackson’s line, and filling in the Rodriguez ditch with cane bundles, on which scaling ladder could be used. In the meantime, 500

reinforcements arrived with Major General John Lambert. Lambert and his men were put in the rear as reserves. On January 8, Pakenham executed the plan. Nothing went right. The west bank effort was delayed and no guns attacked Jackson’s rear. The scaling ladders and bundles were inexplicably left behind and were delayed in being deployed and the artillery fire was particularly withering. Seeing his line waver, Pakenham—on Jackson’s left (the swamp side) rode to the front encouraging his men. His horse was shot from under him and he was wounded. He found another horse, managed to get on, but was mortally wounded. As he fell dead, MG Gibbs, now in command was about to call in the reserves when he was struck by a bullet and killed. A messenger was sent to General Keane on Jackson’s right (the river side), but Keane was seriously wounded. Command eventually went to MG Lambert, who called for the troops to withdraw. The entire battle lasted 25 minutes. The British suffered about 2000 casualties—350 dead (including the two ranking generals) and the remainder wounded or captured. By stark contrast, the Americans had 6 dead and 7 wounded.

The British called for a cease fire to bury the dead. Jackson—ever mindful of enemy duplicity—ordered that no British troops were to get within 300 yards of his line. The British dead and wounded were carried by the Americans to the 300 yard marker. Not a single British soldier who was carried to the line made it with his gun or his boots. Following the cease fire, the British withdrew to their camps. Jackson called for a council of war, but decided not to pursue. January 8—that is the day we all remember.

The following day, January 9th, word arrived that a British flotilla had sailed up the river and had begun to bombard Fort Saint Philip. Jackson braced for another attack... it never came.

Fort Saint Phillip suffered a few casualties including two defenders killed, but withstood 10 days of fire. On January 18, the British flotilla withdrew. About the same time, a lone British officer under a white flag appeared before Jackson’s line. He was a regimental surgeon and bore a note from General Lambert asking for care for 80 wounded soldiers who could not be evacuated. The British was gone from the soil of Louisiana. The battle of New Orleans was over.

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So how did it happen? How did it happen that in the span of a month, 10,000 well-armed British regulars were so handily beaten by smaller rag-tag force of Americans? It is important to observe that those two armies—in their totality—never engaged with each other on an open battle field. Jackson basically built a fort — with a limitless supply a material directly at his back defending against an army that, due to its distance from its supply base, was essentially the ones under siege.

Of all the approaches to New Orleans, Cochrane seemed to have made a bee line for this one, an obscure approach that would be difficult to find for many today with modern equipment in daylight in good weather. I believe—though cannot prove—that Cochrane had some sort of inside help in charting this route. But then again, was this informant actually trying to help the British or lead them into a trap? Some questions of history must remain unanswered.

“What if’s” are a game of fiction writers and not historians, but there are many in this campaign. They all boil down to this— what if the British had won? Once invested with by Royal Navy vessels, New Orleans and the Mississippi River would have been nearly impossible to wrestle back, especially with the nearest significant American army over a 1000 miles away. And would it have been a stretch to imagine the British, once New Orleans was in hand to occupy Mobile and perhaps eventually to acquire Florida? In such an alternate history, would it have been Lord Kitchener on San Juan Hill instead of Teddy Roosevelt. Such is speculation, but suffice it to say that American history, and the history of the North American continent, would have been vastly different if the outcome at New Orleans had been reversed.

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Each year we celebrate the holiday season with the signing of Christmas cards at our December Board Meeting. We like to see each member and prospect receive one. Here, Rob Van Gulick, Steve Holt and Andy Sullivan finish off a box in 2015.



Defense of Philadelphia 1814-1815

By Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr.

Highlights from the Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on the Minutes of Committee of Defense of Philadelphia 1814-1815, published September 1867. Presented by Robert R. Van Gulick, President of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the Society's Annual Meeting on March 12, 2016 at the Merion Cricket Club.

At about 8 p.m. on the evening of August 24, 1814, British troops under the command of General Robert Ross marched into Washington, D.C., after routing hastily assembled American forces at Bladensburg, Maryland, earlier in the day. Encountering neither resistance nor any United States government officials--President Madison and his cabinet had fled to safety--the British quickly torched the White House, the Capitol, which then housed the Library of Congress, the navy yard, and several American warships. However, most private property was left untouched.

An attack on the capital of the United States was highly symbolic, but Washington, DC was not the largest or the most important city strategically or economically at the time. Port cities like Baltimore, Boston, New York, New Orleans and yes Philadelphia were the where business was done and large populations of citizens resided. Not surprisingly, the attack on Washington, DC created great concern in amongst the populace of these cities. We heard last year at this meeting about the Battle of New Orleans. Most of us know about the battle for Baltimore, the valent defense of Fort McHenry, and the scene that lead to the writing of our National Anthem. But what of Philadelphia. The British never came, they attacked Baltimore instead, and so much of the history of what happened here during that uncertain time has been forgotten or worse ignored.

August 26, 1814 — Two days after the burning of the White House: At the State House yard in Philadelphia an unusually large meeting of citizens is convened. The purpose of that meeting to appoint a committee for the defense of the City. Philadelphia would not be unprepared as Washington had been. An occupation of such a crucial commercial center could not be permitted. Men from well-known

Philadelphia families like: Ingersoll, Biddle, Reed, Sergeant, and Cadwaladar came forward and were appointed to the Committee. Biographies of all of the members of the Committee are included in the publication. Thomas McKean was unanimously elected its Chairman. McKean seemed an apt choice.



He was, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, served with Washington as a Colonel in the Militia at the Battle of Perth Amboy, was a former Delegate to the Continental Congress, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania and had retired as Governor of the Commonwealth during 1812. Thomas McKean was over six feet tall. Frequently he was seen wearing a large cocked hat, fashionable at the time and was never without his gold-headed cane. It is said that he had a quick temper and a vigorous personality. He had a thin face, hawk's nose and his eyes would be described by some as 'hot'.

In addition to electing members of the Committee during the first meeting the gentlemen adopted the purpose of the Committee

... be a Committee for the purpose of organizing the citizens of Philadelphia, of the Northern Liberties, and Southwark, for defense, with powers to appoint committees under them, to correspond with the Government of the Union and of the State, to receive the offers of service from our fellow-citizens in other parts of the State and Union, to make arrangements for supplies of arms, ammunitions and provisions, to fix on places of rendezvous and signals of alarm, and to do all such other matters as may be necessary for the purpose of the defense.

They also established some basic resolutions about oversight of local forces, procuring funds and appropriations and to make provision for the families of drafted militia and volunteers.



In a time before twenty-four hour news services and the ability to get just in time updates on your phone, there was great uncertainty and concern. Perhaps it was the fact that the City had been invaded and occupied by the British during the Revolutionary War, perhaps it was the prominence of the City in the economic livelihood of the new nation. To give a sense of what people were feeling, one need just refer to articles that appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette and the Aurora.

From the Pennsylvania Gazette

At length our citizens appear to be aroused from their delusive slumbers. The forbearance of the enemy had not only deceived the mass of the people, but had likewise deluded the Government into an idea of complete safety. This fatal delusion is now dissipated; and the capital of our country, which was last week occupied by the President and the heads of departments, is now in the hands of the enemy! We can have no correct account of the actual force of the enemy; but surely it cannot be of the magnitude sufficient to keep possession of Washington for any length of time. We rather ought to believe that the spirit of our Southern fellow-citizens would rise up in its mightiest force, and by a well-connected and unanimous operation, either totally overwhelm or disgracefully expel the audacious invaders of our country.

While we are all burning with solicitude to hear of the progress of the enemy, and deeply sympathizing with our fellow-citizens who are now experiencing all the horrors of invasion, do we sufficiently examine our own situation? Do we recollect that it may next, and that very soon, too, be our turn to meet the brunt of battle? Have we active and intelligent officers at the head of this military district? Is there reciprocal confidence subsisting between the United States and the State's authorities?

From the Aurora

Every man who can, ought to aid in a prompt and efficient organization of the militia; every man liable to militia duty ought to acquire the knowledge of firing with precision; no officer ought to flatter himself with having knowledge enough, but should search for infor-

mation from every accessible source.

Those whose houses are to be defended by men in humble life — those who have wealth — should aid the wives and children of such are in want of it. A wise man, said Dr. Franklin, will throw a few barrels of water into a pump in order to be able to make ample use of the well.

So there was a sense that an attack could be imminent and that the citizens of the City would need to stand up and repel the invaders. But there were obvious issues. The City was ill-prepared for a battle with a professional army. The regular army assigned to defend Philadelphia numbered only 256 men, the United States Government and the State had not provided funds for its defense and might not be able to be relied upon to do so. So the Committee took it upon itself. Members were sent out to organize volunteers for the militia, to find seamen to help with the defense of the Delaware, to raise funds from businesses, individuals, and to ask for support from the Governor and the neighboring states of New Jersey and Delaware.

Initially the Committee met daily. A total of 82 meetings were held between August 26, 1814 and August 16, 1815.

Defense of the Delaware was a high priority as it provided the easiest access for an attack by the British Army and Navy. Three gun boats and a barge fitted with armaments were to be manned by a group of 70 Marine Artillery. Placing a number of small boats near Fort Mifflin that could be quickly scuttled to block the river was part of the plan. The Governor of New Jersey was contacted to secure permission to build a fort at Red Bank and the feasibility of erecting fortifications on the New Jersey side of the river near the mouth of the Mantua Creek was considered. Additional fortifications and batteries on Pea Patch and Province Islands and at Newbold's Point were proposed, and on barges, to supplement the existing fortifications at Fort Mifflin. These plans were thought to be adequate to harass approaching enemy vessels and prevent their passage. The estimated cost of these fortifications was nearly \$100,000, a very large sum of money for the time. The Committee authorized the construction of the fortifications and advanced the funds for their construction.

Benson J. Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of the War



of 1812 provides some additional information on these undertakings.

“To construct these works required much labor, and, under the circumstances, they could not have been built without the voluntary assistance of the citizens. A hearty enthusiasm was shown in the service. Companies, societies, and the artificers of the different trades organized themselves for the purpose. Day after day these parties assembled, and left the city at from five to six o’clock in the morning, and, with knapsacks or handkerchiefs containing a supply of food, marched out to the fortifications to a day of toilsome labor at an occupation to which but few of them were accustomed. Labor commenced on the 3d of September, and from that time until about the 1st of October, when the field-works were finished.... When the fortifications were completed, it was found that about fifteen thousand persons had labored on them. In lieu of work, many who were unable or unwilling to assist in that manner gave money. The collections from this source amounted to about six thousand dollars.

“Arriving at the fortifications, the citizens, having been previously divided into companies, were put to work. At ten o’clock the drum beat for ‘grog,’ when liquor sufficient for each company was dealt out by its captain. At twelve o’clock the drum beat for dinner, when more ‘grog’ was furnished. This was also the case at three and at five o’clock in the afternoon. At six the drum beat the retreat, when it was suggested in General Orders, ‘For the honor of the cause we are engaged in, freemen to live or die, it is hoped that every man will retire sober.’ “

Defense of the Delaware was considered so important that the Committee considered requisitioning the construction of a “floating steam battery” at a cost of \$150,000. The War concluded before that ship was built, but it received serious consideration with requests issued to the Defense Committees of Wilmington and New Castle, Delaware to help underwrite the cost.

An interesting letter was received by the Committee from Robert Fulton the inventor of a form of torpedo that he suggested could be used for various

modes of attack or defense. Citing a law passed by the Congress “granting half of the estimated value of all vessels of an enemy that shall be destroyed by means other than vessels of the Government” and his labor of “fifteen years to introduce the practice of sub-marine explosions” he offered his services, but not to give up any right he might have to such funds. The Committee authorized experiments with a torpedo they had purchased. Later Fulton contacted the Committee about his new invention a “torpedo-boat.”

Land approaches were analyzed to see if they could be better secured, with engineers in particular demand. Thirty members of the First Troop of City Cavalry, were called into action to form a chain of videttes from the City down to the mouth of the Elk River in Maryland. The members of the Troop to provide intelligence and rapidly convey the enemy’s movements.

Contingency plans were made to rendezvous enrolled citizens at Broad and Chestnut where they would be armed in case of the issuance of a sudden alarm. The alarm would be six guns fired in quick succession at Fort Mifflin, the Navy Yard, the Arsenal and the beating of drums in Northern Liberties indicating the approach of enemy troops. Available arms did not initially appear to be an issue, with over 9,000 muskets fit for service and an adequate supply of cartridges,

musket balls and other necessary equipment available at the U.S. Arsenal. Additional powder stores, bayonets and other armaments were identified at locations, both public and private that could be drawn upon as necessary. Offers to sell armaments were regularly received by the Committee from enterprising merchants. Nevertheless, requests were sent to the Secretary of War requesting additional weapons from Albany and Harpers Ferry.

Troubling news came to the Committee on September 4. A communication was received from the War Department indicating that the enemy fleet with troops on board was spotted at the mouth of the Patuxent. While it was thought that the force was looking to protect the return of the British units from the Potomac the communique suggested that it was

...equally possible that the force at the mouth of the Patuxent has already moved, ei-



ther against Baltimore, Philadelphia, Norfolk or Richmond. That it will soon move against some one of those places cannot be doubted. Desolation is its object, and the wider it is spread the more completely will that object be accomplished. It is known that the enemy promise to themselves, from the waste of our country and distress to our people, a base submission to their will. Little do they understand the true character of this virtuous and free nation. They deceived themselves by those visionary calculations in our Revolution, and the result of this contest will prove that the American people are not less faithful to their principles than the British Government is to its vindictive and barbarous policy

Should either of these cities be invaded, all possible support will be given by the Government. The force already organized for the defense of each will be relied on principally especially in the first instance, for the purpose...

The City of Philadelphia, I am aware, offers by its wealth a strong inducement to the enemy to make an attempt on it. Its population, however, being great, its organized and well-trained force considerable, much confidence is entertained that it will make a defense worthy the high character which it sustains with the nation.

To repel such danger, it will be necessary for you to have your force in the best possible preparation for action; to watch the enemy's movements in every direction, and to communicate to me, without delay, every circumstance deserving of attention.

Men and money were an issue. The Committee estimated that it would need a fighting force of 20,000 men to repulse an attack by a British force of 10,000 men, perhaps less if they could establish camps some distance from the City to blunt any attack.

Suggestions were made for citizens to write their friends in the country and to have meetings to further organize militia support from those areas. Competing requests by the Governors of Delaware, New Jersey and New York to the Secretary of War for support of Pennsylvania militia from outlying counties to protect various sites made access to these forces less feasible. A proposal was received

to raise a force of people of color to be call the Black Legion and commanded by white officers. The Committee declined that offer suggesting that people of color could support the defense in other ways such as supplementing the City's defenses. Some volunteers had concern about being classified as drafted militia, particularly those older or younger than permitted for that classification. The Committee was careful to acknowledge these concerns and seek all ways to induce men to sign up in whatever form they chose.

Members of the Committee went to Washington, DC to deliver letters to and request meetings with the President, and the Secretaries of the Navy and War, but received no commitment for the requested seasoned commanding officers, additional troops or funds. On several occasions the Committee requested a complement of 2,000 regulars be encamped near the City. There were hopes that 5,000 militia that had been marched towards Baltimore would ultimately be stationed near Philadelphia as well. Competing demands from Baltimore, New York and other coastal locations left the U.S. Government struggling to meet all such requests.

On August 27, General Bloomfield had reported that there were 1,488 men, including 802 volunteers and 430 drafted militia "marching". He hoped to muster two brigades, 3,000 men, which he wished to encamp as soon as possible. Ultimately, the First Brigade, First Division, Pennsylvania militia would look to enroll 6,527. Considering current volunteers and artillery they were only about 5,500 short of their goal. By September the 13th, the numbers were a bit better,

General Bloomfield reporting the First Brigade at a strength of 1,520, the Second Brigade at 1,686 with an additional quota of 2,950 by order that day. Delays in having the volunteers and militia take the field also involved inadequate supplies of necessities such as blankets and tents.

According the Lossing, several camps were organized the first near Kennett Square.

Kennett Square, in Chester County, thirty-six miles southwest from Philadelphia, was the designated place of rendezvous, and there, at the close of August, a camp was formed, under the direction of Captain C. W. Hunter, and named Camp Bloomfield.



By the end of September the drafted militia had been ordered by General Bloomfield to rendezvous at Marcus Hook. Plans continued in earnest through early September to strengthen defenses and grow the ranks of the defenders. Unaware of the British plans to attack Baltimore and the ensuing battle there from the 12th to 15th. Finally, on the 22nd a letter was received from Governor saying he had received communications from the Secretary of War on 19th of September. The War Department had sent word that a detachment of Pennsylvania militia under the command of General Watson would march to the neighborhood of Philadelphia, but that very same order was countermanded just two days later as a result of the British fleet having anchored near the Patuxent and likely over concerns that the British could return to Baltimore, unaware of the significance of the victory there just days before. In early October a letter was received from Corporal Harrison of the videttes from Baltimore. The Committee was informed that British Admirals Cochrane and Cockburn had departed for Bermuda and Halifax respectively, but they were expected to return with reinforcements for the fleet that remained in the Potomac under the command of Admiral Malcomb.

Lossing indicates a significant contingent did make their way to Marcus Hook, not just from Philadelphia, but other locations in Pennsylvania, though the actual number camped there has been subject to some debate.

In the meantime a body of almost ten thousand men was assembled near Marcus's Hook, on the Delaware, twenty miles below Philadelphia, which was at first organized by Adjutant General William Duane, under the command of Major General Isaac Worrall. It was composed of Pennsylvania militia and volunteers. Its rendezvous was called Camp Gaines, in honor of General E. P. Gaines, who succeeded Bloomfield in the command of the Department, in September. This camp was broken up on the 5th of December, 1814.

The United States Government was unable to provide them with the needed tents and equipment so it fell upon the State Arsenal and the Committee to provide such supplies. The minutes indicate that "the volunteers having good quarters, while the

ordinary militia were destitute, justice and humanity required that every possible provision should be made to furnish them with tents and equipment necessary for their comfort and defense."

The General also reported that he had no funds from the U.S. Government to support this volunteer army. Funds would need to be raised locally. The City Councils immediately authorized \$300,000 and the Bank of Pennsylvania offered to loan an additional \$300,000 to the Committee. Many citizens made contributions, some in lieu of service. Requests for funding were many, everything from the purchase of the small ships to be sunk near Fort Mifflin to uniforms, shoes, blankets and tents for the militia and other volunteers. Apparently, providing a sufficient supply of whiskey was also of great interest to the Commanders at Marcus Hook. Both General Gaines and Major Roberdeau indicated that "a supply of whisky would be of very great importance." The Committee promptly sent "two hogsheads "and three barrels of whisky. Even funds to pay troops that had been garrisoned and unpaid for months by the U.S. Government was requested.



\$100,000 was loaned to General Bloomfield with the hope that it would be repaid from loans offered by Philadelphia banks in the amount of \$200,000 that they authorized the Committee to negotiate with the Secretary of War. James Monroe, that same Secretary requested the release of another \$50,000 for the supply of the militia at Marcus Hook. The Government had no funds in any of the Philadelphia banks to pay for such expenses. The Committee ultimately authorized up to \$250,000 to assist troops at Marcus Hook.

The Committee enacted or considered a number of actions that would seem inconceivable in our time and might even be said to infringe upon the Liberties of its citizens. Secrecy about the strength of the City's defenses was considered paramount. Despite numerous requests to have information about



preparations for the defense of the City published or circulated to the citizenry, the Committee felt it would be too dangerous to do so. Information was shared with the ward leaders for their dissemination to only the most trusted throughout the City. Concern of those sympathetic to England sharing information with British Forces lead the Committee to consider issuing a request the Postmaster of Philadelphia “stop and open any letter or letters that may be supposed to be treasonable, or to be intended to aid or inform, in any manner to further the view of the enemy.” The Committee also received a report on “some efficient plan for detecting spies.” One of the suggestions from that report was an invitation to “...report all persons of suspicious character to the mayor of the city of some justice of the peace in the county, to be legally proceeded against.” This approach was thought to be effective “as it would make every citizen the guardian of his own rights, and strike terror into the minds of incendiaries which now infest our city with impunity.” Other suggestions included contacting stage-coach and steam-boat operators to obtain passenger lists and to detain any person who cannot “give a good account of himself.” The Committee also considered asking the Governor for the authority to move all animals or provisions that could be used by an invading army into the interior or to destroy them to keep them out of the reach of the enemy, disabling wells and pumps, felling trees to impede roads and removing parts from mills to prevent their use if captured.

As we all know the City of Philadelphia was never invaded by the British during the War of 1812. The Treaty of Ghent was signed December 24, 1814, though not authorized by the United States Government until February 1815. During that time, the battle of New Orleans was of course fought in January of 1815. Even though some in the City thought with the War at a conclusion, the Committee’s purpose was at an end, it continued to improve the defenses at Pea Patch just in case, ultimately transforming a marshy island into what would become Fort Delaware. They continued to make disbursements for all sorts of expenditures and seek repayment from the Commonwealth and the United States Government. Finally, in August of 1815, the Committee held its last meeting, though it can be said that the City maintained a watchful and wary eye towards Great Britain for some years there-

after. I will conclude my talk as Lossing concluded his commentary on the defense of Philadelphia. “So did Philadelphians prepare for the invader. Happily the enemy did not come, and their beautiful city was spared the horrors of war.”

Generation Five

We are pleased to announce to you that one of our member families has moved into the fifth generation of being members of the group. Congratulations to the extended Clements family, here and in Texas. I believe there are third to fifth generation, living family members.

PA has one member, living overseas, and we would like to show him to you. Here is Steve Mark Jr, who resides in Singapore with his family.





Rich Blair and Peter Clement find plenty to eat.

Let There Be BBQ !!

Each summer, we are invited to attend one of the weekly Barbeques held at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore Pa. The event, hosted by the Adams family, has been a great party. We have a core group of regular attendees and new people every year.



We get more people nearly every year. For the last several years we have been inside in the nicely air conditioned Hugh Wilson Pavilion.

This year the offerings included half a lobster, roast beef, fried chicken, burgers and dogs, corn on the cob, club made potato chips, a variety of summer salads (in racks, to the left) and desserts.



(above) We have been inviting the US Daughters of 1812 and here are four who joined us in 2016 - Barbara Gillis, Connie Taylor (mother of a new member this year), Elizabeth Jacobs and Marion Lane.

(below) One of our tables from the 2015 event. We have xxxxx, US Daughter Barbara and Dan Gillis, and the Moak family.



(below) The Peppel extended family, including Ray Longacre, regularly get a table of their own.



ROTC Spread

Plenty of pictures from each year as we have on the website.

List of colleges and presenters, and awardees... as many as we know, as we don't have them all.

Wonder if I can make one list that somehow combines the 2 years. Hummmmm.....

=====

V1 of text from last year ... just dropped here. ... not anywhere near final.

Our state does a great job covering most of the colleges with ROTC programs with awards for deserving cadets. When Sam Hoff passed the program off to our Secretary, Tee Adams, the thrust has been to find presenters who could attend the events and personally deliver the award. This has generally been very successful. This year we had X colleges we were able to cover, of the X who accepted our award. We couldn't get to several, because we haven't found a member close enough to go. Then a couple we could get to last year didn't move forward due to scheduling issues of college and previous presenter.

On the down side, we had two college who chose not to take our award this year. The hint was that they didn't have a large enough program to had "that many" awards to hand out. Hopefully as staffs change at the colleges they will come back on board.

We also have identified two other programs, U Penn, and Villanova, we will try to contact next season to see if we can present there. I'm pretty sure I have tried both before, so we will see.

See the list of colleges and presenter pictures, here and the website. We thank them for taking the time to go out for us. Most are now repeaters doing this, and I think most enjoyed it as much as I did, so will go again next year.



ROTC Spread

Hummmmm... this text might be long for here.

Presenting an ROTC Award.

I have been handling ROTC awards for this group for a couple years now. Before that I had the job at another, similar group for a bunch of years. Never before this year did I go out to personally hand off an award. So this season, I took the plunge. I couldn't find a person willing to get up before dawn to attend the event at St Josephs University, which begins at 07:00. So I went. Parking was announced to be behind their building, in spaces marked for us, and I figured the location out using Google Maps. Once there, I was greeted at the door by one of the students who went on to receive a number of the days's awards. The unit commander also made the rounds to greet each presenter and thank us for appearing. At the appropriate time we were escorted across to the auditorium where the event took place. We were given seats at the front of the group with the cadets behind us.

The event began with flags marching in. I had been chatting with a guy from another group and we made a plan to take presentation pictures for the other. The college usually shoots as well, but it's nice to walk out with your own shots, just in case. They started presenting some college awards and worked into a list of similar groups with various awards. While some of the awards were presented by college staff, a majority had someone from the group to present. My feeling was it meant more to have a representative there, rather than staff handing off a box and certificate. When called, I went out front and was handed the award (we mail them ahead so the college has them). The cadet walked up from his seat and saluted. Some presenters saluted back. Then we moved together and I handed the cadet our award. We shook hands then smiled for a picture or two. Then we turned and returned to our seats. After, the cadet came up and said thanks for the award. Several of the officers made the rounds thanking us. Then we departed.

That event was so nice that when our VFMA presenter had to bow out, I went to that event in his place. Only major difference in events was we gathered in the meeting room before it began rather than another place. The staff and cadets were as happy we were there. Here and at the other col-

lege many of the presenters knew each other from doing this here and at other places for years. I sat next to a guy who was at St Joes and his wife. Took the big camera this time, and as I am used to, just shot away as the awards were presented. When the event as over, I was asked for my shots because the appointed person from the college hadn't appeared. So next day I made a disk and handed the shots off. Hopefully wherever used, the credit line will be - Compliments of the Society of the War of 1812.

Something about WEST PA Chapter

At least mention of discussion last year and offer to hear back from that side of interest in more movement in that area... Could offer them list to sift through to find the current locals.



An E-mail From A Viewer

Subject: A quick "thank you" to the Society from my students!

Date: 7/31/2015 11:43:50 A.M.

I wanted to send you a quick 'thank you' for your webpage. I am a mentor for a group of teens at an after school program, in El Paso County, Colorado, and we've been using your page as a resource to help them learn more about social studies. Your page has been a great help, thank you for your helpful information!

One of the children (Sarah) found a great resource that I thought would fit in well with your page, and help other kids learn more about how our nation's capital moved to Washington DC. The article is "The Story of the Building and Rebuilding the White House" - <http://www.improvenet.com/a/story-of-building-and-rebuilding-white-house>

Would you mind including the article on your page for me? Sarah would be happy to see that you liked her idea! Let us know if you get the chance to update, and thanks again for the helpful information!

Have a great day, ~Debbie

Hello. Show Sarah the Links page - middle column. Thank her for us. Other War of 1812 related links from your crew are welcome. I just don't have time to hunt the way I would like.

Tee Adams, Secretary, Society of the War of 1812 - PA



There are a couple other little things.

Haven't mentioned any of the deaths. Dad, Smith and Fenner ought to have something for their service, at the very least.

Currently 20 pages. We could go to 24 and include that.

No More Junior Members

What? ... No, really. The General Society has changed their membership standards. You no longer have to be a certain age to be a full member of the group. The category has been discontinued, and we have done the same.

For many years PA was the only branch of the organization that would take in young members.

At our 2016 annual meeting, we elevated our two current junior members to full status. Welcome to Renato and Paul Di Stefano.

If you have children or grandkids, now is a great time to put them up for membership.

Maybe Jefferson has a better text for this?? Can be longer.





SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
IN THE COMMONWEALTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA
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Label & postage on this page.

>>> Need to add the page numbers

Overflow space.... maybe in case P1 about graves has more info I can add????

Top half is the mailing and needs to be kept free. Stamp top right.

On The Web

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

General Society site:

<http://societyofthewarof1812.org/>

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

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

Mark Your Calendar

The Annual BBQ - July 26

