The Society of the War of 1812

in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Report of the 1812 Veterans’ Graves Database Committee**

**December 5, 2017**

The Committee continues to grow the database. Growth was a little slower this past quarter as the project transitioned from lists provided by county Veterans Affairs offices and historical societies to the digitized scans of the Veterans Affairs Burial Cards. We currently just over 3,150 entries in our Pennsylvania database.

These Burial Cards, housed in the Pennsylvania Archives in Harrisburg, were digitized and are now available for viewing through Ancestry.com. Ancestry currently has 5,576 Burial Cards for War of 1812 veterans scanned. While the Burial Cards are generally helpful, some counties were better than others in their accuracy. To assist with accuracy, the Burial Cards are being cross-checked with Find-A-Grave.com information, which seems to have a better accuracy rate. The organization of the digital scans could be better, making searches a bit cumbersome, but the work continues, if at a slower pace.

A copy of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia was received this past quarter and I’ve been reviewing it to see how its listings compare to our current database categories (very similar. I’ve reached out to Virginia’s editor and committee to learn some more about their process, including costs and responses that they’ve received since their publication. This will help us to decide if we eventually might wish to publish a version of our database, or just keep it in digital form on the website like the Ohio Dames Society.

Interesting (Trivia) Notes:

* William Barclay Foster, Mayor of the City of Allegheny (now part of Pittsburgh’s North Shore where the sports stadiums are located) and father of American songwriter Stephen Foster, was an 1812 veteran;
* Two more veterans who served both in the American Revolution and the War of 1812 were discovered: John Johnston of Allegheny County (who lived to over 100 years old) and General Samuel Finley, one of the leading citizens of Bedford County.

Related research that we’re working on:

* Virtual Cemeteries (for War of 1812 veterans and Society of 1812 members) on Find-A-Grave.com (I’ve discovered someone who has created such for 1812 veterans from Erie and surrounding NW counties);
* Discovery of Interment.net website.

Volunteer opportunities:

* Find-a-grave look-ups for early entries to the database;
* Transcriptions of the PA Veterans Burial Cards.

Thanks to Jefferson Moak and Bob Marvin for their assistance this quarter. Respectfully submitted, Eugene A. Bolt, Jr., Committee Chair