

THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Report of the 1812 Veterans' Graves Database Committee September 5, 2017

The Committee continues to grow the database. At our Annual Meeting we reported that the database had 2,400 entries. Now, as of September the total number of entries stands at just over 3,000.

During the last quarter the Committee visited 26 cemeteries in Allegheny, Bedford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster Luzerne, and Philadelphia Counties. Some visits were planned, some were by random chance. All proved interesting and enlightening.

Interesting (Trivia) Notes:

- Bigler Cemetery, South of Greenville, Mercer County (several 1812 veterans), "Jacob and Susan Bigler parents of 2 governors are buried here. Their son William was Governor of Pennsylvania 1852 - 1855 and son John was Governor of California 1852 - 1856.";
- Similar tombstones have been provided for all veterans of the 135th Pennsylvania Militia, War of 1812 from Mercer County;
- James Gettys, for whom Gettysburg, Pennsylvania was named, was an 1812 veteran (Vice Brigadier, Pennsylvania Militia)

Related research that we're working on:

- Virtual Cemeteries (for War of 1812 veterans and Society of 1812 members) on Find-A-Grave.com;
- Further investigation of the display of 1812 flags and swords at the U.S. Sanitary Fair held in Philadelphia, 1864;
- Diary kept by Sgt. Greenberg Keen (Detre Library and Archives, John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh);
- Greenville, Mercer County Memorial Day programs from 1910 and 1915 that list all of the 1812 veterans from Mercer County;
- Rich Vance and Shirley McMunn, responsible for hundreds of 1812 veteran entries on Find-A-Grave.com;
- Were those men who worked on building Perry's fleet in Erie part of a military unit?

Volunteer opportunities:

- Find-a-grave look-ups for early entries to the database;
- PA Veterans Burial Cards are posted on Ancestry.com and we could use some transcriptions of those for various counties.

Thanks to Jefferson Moak, Bob Marvin, and Tom Showler for their additions to the database.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene A. Bolt, Jr., Committee Chair

I propose a General Society Marker and Grant for the Grave of Captain Charles Stewart in Woodlands Cemetary, Philadelphia. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1798 on the frigate United States under John Barry. In 1800 he commanded the small schooner Experiment which captured many French ships, while securing the safety and release of many American merchant ships.

In 1803 he became commander of the cruiser SIREN in the squadron of Commodore Edward Preble during the First Barbary War(1801-05) He took part in all actions in the war with Tripoli including the destruction of the captured U.S.S. PHILADELPHIA. In 1806 he took command of the CONSTELLATION.

In the War of1812, under Commodore Bainbridge he commanded the ARGUS, HORNET and the CONSTELLATION, skillfully evading and English blockade on the Constellation. In1814 he became captain of the Constitution, "Old Ironsides" and with skillful maneuvering escaped the British blockade in Boston and in 1815 captured the CYANE and LEVANT. The combatants did not know that the Peace Treaty had been signed a short while before. He was greeted as a national hero.

After a distinguished career as a naval officer, including Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, he retired in 1861, dying later that year.

Robert Marvin, M.d.

Vice President General's Report September 5,
2017

On Sunday, July 16th I attended the commemoration of Bishop Absalom Jones' and James Forten's services in mobilizing Free Blacks for erecting defenses on the Waterfront of Philadelphia against an expected British attack in September of 1814 after the Burning of Washington. This was organized by Dr. Marion Lane of the National Daughters of the War of 1812, Captain William Magill Chapter of Bucks County and celebrated at St. Thomas' African Episcopal Church in Overbrook, Philadelphia at their Communion Service

A number of our State Society's members attended including Andrew Sullivan, who led the Color Guard, Peter Hill, Eugene Bolt and Rich Blair. Bill Bodine played the National Anthem on his fine new Trumpet.

Eugene gave a fine talk on the War and the efforts of those who defended our Country which was very well received by the Congregation.

I plan to attend the General Society's Triennial Meeting at the end of this week. It will be held in Plattsburgh, New York on Lake Champlain.

Robert F. Marvin, M.D.

THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Report of the Registrar
5 September 2017

Membership

	3/1/2014	3/1/2015	3/1/2016	9/1/2016	12/1/2016	3/1/2017	6/1/2017	9/1/2017
Total Life	75	78	82	82	82	82	82	82
Regular	77	86	80	83	84	84	86	87
Total Reg.	152	164	162	165	166	166	168	169
Jr/Life	2	2	0¹					
Total	154	166	162	165	166	166	168	169

Pennsylvania residents – 116
Non-Pennsylvania residents – 53

Necrology

None reported.

¹ Upon review of the General Society Constitution and By-Laws, it was found that a minimum age limit no longer existed. The current junior members were added to the total membership numbers.

The Society of the War of 1812

September 5, 2017 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report - A. William Bodine

Please note correct mailing address:

A. William Bodine
222 Rittenhouse Square #904 (Not #805)
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Cash Balances:

Cash Balance in PNC Account as of 7/31/2017:	\$3,185.58
Check Issued:	
#392 to Jefferson M. Moak, II (Invoice of August 29, 2017)	\$312.00
Dues Payments Received:	
Total Number unpaid as of June 13, 2017 = 19	
Two Paid at \$30 each = 17 Outstanding as of September 5, 2017	<u>\$60.00</u>
Implied Cash Balance	\$2,933.58

Investment Account: Information not yet available

Pending Item:

Flagship Niagara League Membership Renewal (\$250 Recommended)
Philadelphia Club – Luncheon Payments (See Reverse)

Treasurer Transition Items:

Bank Account Signature(s)
Address changes
Accounting Software
