

Fort McHenry

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
Maryland



Researching War of 1812 Ancestors @ Fort McHenry & Baltimore

Library Field Guide No. 4

Databases

Due to incomplete records and the ravages of times, the names of all soldiers will never be known. Nevertheless it is appropriate we compile as complete a record as possible. The following are guidelines for researching your 1812 ancestor who may have served at Fort McHenry or Baltimore. It is best to start with the soldier's full name, his military unit (i.e. regiment, company commander, etc.) and the county he enlisted in from the following sources.

In September 2005 the park began a working database of 15,000 soldiers & sailors entitled *The Battle for Baltimore, September 12-14, 1814 Soldiers, Citizens and Sailors of Maryland in the War of 1812* comprising those Maryland and federal units who fought at Baltimore during the August-September 1814 period. (Completion date 2006)

Published Sources & Muster Rolls

- *Flotilla: Battle for the Patuxent* by Donald G. Shomette (Calvert Marine Museum Press, 1981) Muster rolls, U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla, 1813-1815. (Out of Print.)
- *The British Invasion of Maryland, 1812-1815* by Wm. M. Marine (Genealogical Publishing Co., 1913).
- *The Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, Sept 13-14, 1814* by James Young (Baltimore, 1822, 1889) . Federal & militia muster rolls.
- *Maryland Militia: War of 1812* by F. Edward Wright (3 volumes).
- *Military Service Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm publications* (National Archives, 1985).
- *Register of Enlistments, U.S. Army, 1798-1815* (National Archives, Microfilm M-233, Rolls 1-13).

Archival Institutions

The primary repository is the **National Archives References Services Branch (ATTN: NWCTB)**, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20408. www.nara.gov
Request copies of Form NATF-80. You will need to fill out a separate form for each piece of information. Fill out two copies, one for **military records** (Form 86) and one for **pension and land bounty records** (Form 86). The archives will search and let you know the results, then you may purchase copies. It is recommended you visit the archives. It is easier to do your research in person.

For repositories of genealogical research on Maryland soldiers we recommend these archival research institutions:

- **Maryland State Archives**, 350 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, MD 21401
archives@mdarchives.state.md.us
- **Maryland Historical Society**, 210 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-4674
410-685-3750 , www.mdhs.org,