

was more widely and more deeply appreciated in France in the early days than in his own country. And I know also that the esteem the French and the Americans in common hold for the great poet has strengthened the bond of friendship between France and America—between France and Maryland.

For to us in Maryland, Edgar Allan Poe is ever a Marylander. His great-grandfather lived in Cecil County. His grandfather, General David Poe, was a Baltimorean. He lived, was married and wrote some of his best works here in Baltimore. Appropriately, he is buried in a churchyard in our city here.

As Governor, I extend the heartiest welcome to our French visitors, and to them, and to the members of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore, may I say that I deeply regret that it was impossible for me to be with you in person to honor the 150th anniversary of the birth of our beloved poet.

ADDRESS, GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812,
DEFENDERS' DAY, FORT McHENRY

September 13, 1959

The war we fought with the British from 1812 to 1814 was neither so destructive nor so spectacular as many of the other engagements this country has had with foreign enemies—the war of the Revolution which preceded it and the conflicts which followed it, climaxed in the two great world wars. Its historical significance lies in the fact that the young Republic, still struggling in the pains of growth, was able to repulse the first concerted attack upon its integrity. Its condition as a free and independent state thus was assured in this second contest of arms with the mother nation which as yet regarded it as no more than a loose alliance of undeveloped and sparsely populated colonies. The *London Times* at the outbreak of the war, actually called the Americans “savages”.

But the War of 1812 has a peculiar significance to Marylanders, not only because of the drama associated with the battle fought here on this ground, but because it was the destiny of our State to play a pivotal role in the outcome of that war. From 1813 on, Maryland bore the brunt of that struggle with the invading forces. It was Maryland soldiers bearing Maryland arms and fighting on Maryland soil that won the battle that turned the enemy from our shores.