

oped that a number of these gallant old soldiers were finding refuge in the almshouses of the State, and not a few instances came to light of the burial of dead in the unhallowed graves of potters' fields. After careful consideration, and appropriate methods for engaging public attention, it was suggested to make an attempt to raise an amount of money sufficient to build a cottage at the Richmond (Virginia) Home to which these destitute veterans could be sent, and to appeal to the General Assembly for proper financial or other aid. This proposition was earnestly canvassed, but after mature deliberation, it was determined to make an effort to establish a soldiers' home in Maryland, and to ask that the property known as the Pikesville Arsenal be devoted to that purpose. To this memorial the General Assembly gave ready ear and took prompt affirmative action, and in February, 1888, the above mentioned property was given by the State to the Association of the Maryland Line, for the purpose indicated, and an appropriation of \$5,000 per annum was at the same time voted for the repair of the property and maintenance of the home. This property was singularly adapted to the purpose, by reason of the character of the buildings and convenience of location. The ravages of time and abandonment had, however, sadly marred its fair proportions, and large expenditures were necessary for its rehabilitation. In this connection, it may be interesting to give the history of the establishment of this post, outlining the purposes sought to be accomplished by its location, etc. The following report by Lieutenant Baden, dated United States Arsenal, May 23, 1823, is in the possession of the Home, having been furnished by the War Department in connection with a plat of the property, shortly after the transfer of the same by the State of Maryland to the Association of the Maryland Line :

I will here endeavor to develop in as clear and concise a manner as possible, what I conceive to have been the object of the Government in the erection of this establishment, and its capacity to fulfill the purposes for which it was constructed :

First. It was clearly perceived at the commencement of the late war with Great Britain that our great commercial cities on this seaboard would be proper objects of attack by the enemy, and in many instances would be greatly exposed. Baltimore appears to have been particularly chosen as an object of attack, and from the great extent of the waters of the Chesapeake and the rich and fertile country adjoining, afforded great facility and additional inducement for the enemy to push their operations in that quarter, and the events of that crisis show, from the great deficiency in our military establishment, especially in the Department of Military Supplies, that it was for a length of time before the progress of the enemy could be checked or arrested ; and independent of the causes which have existed, it is believed that in a similar encounter the enemy would renew his design, and as military positions are chosen for general and particular purposes in relation to definite objects, it was found that Baltimore became the natural point for the concentration of the