

# Muskets & Bayonets for Maryland:

*How the State Armed Its Militia  
for the War of 1812*

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*Presented 21 April 2012  
for the  
Company of Military Historians*



# J. Richard Marsden



Dick displaying at a recent SABC annual meeting, and in his collection room. Part of his collection of 650 different socket bayonets with American associations is in the background.



# The Baltimore United Volunteers at the Battle of North Point, September 1814, with their Harpers Ferry Muskets



*John Pendleton Kennedy (1795-1870)*

# Thomas Ruckle And His Paintings

No 7  
Patterson March 1<sup>st</sup> 1814  
Received of Captain George H Stuart  
one Musket Bayonet to be returned in  
good order on demand under a penalty  
of twenty Dollars. Tho: Ruckle  
48

Thomas Ruckle was a sign and house painter with no formal training. However, he fought at North Point and his paintings of the events he witnessed are among the best records of the battle of Baltimore. His 1814 receipt for arms is one of the few known copies of his signature.

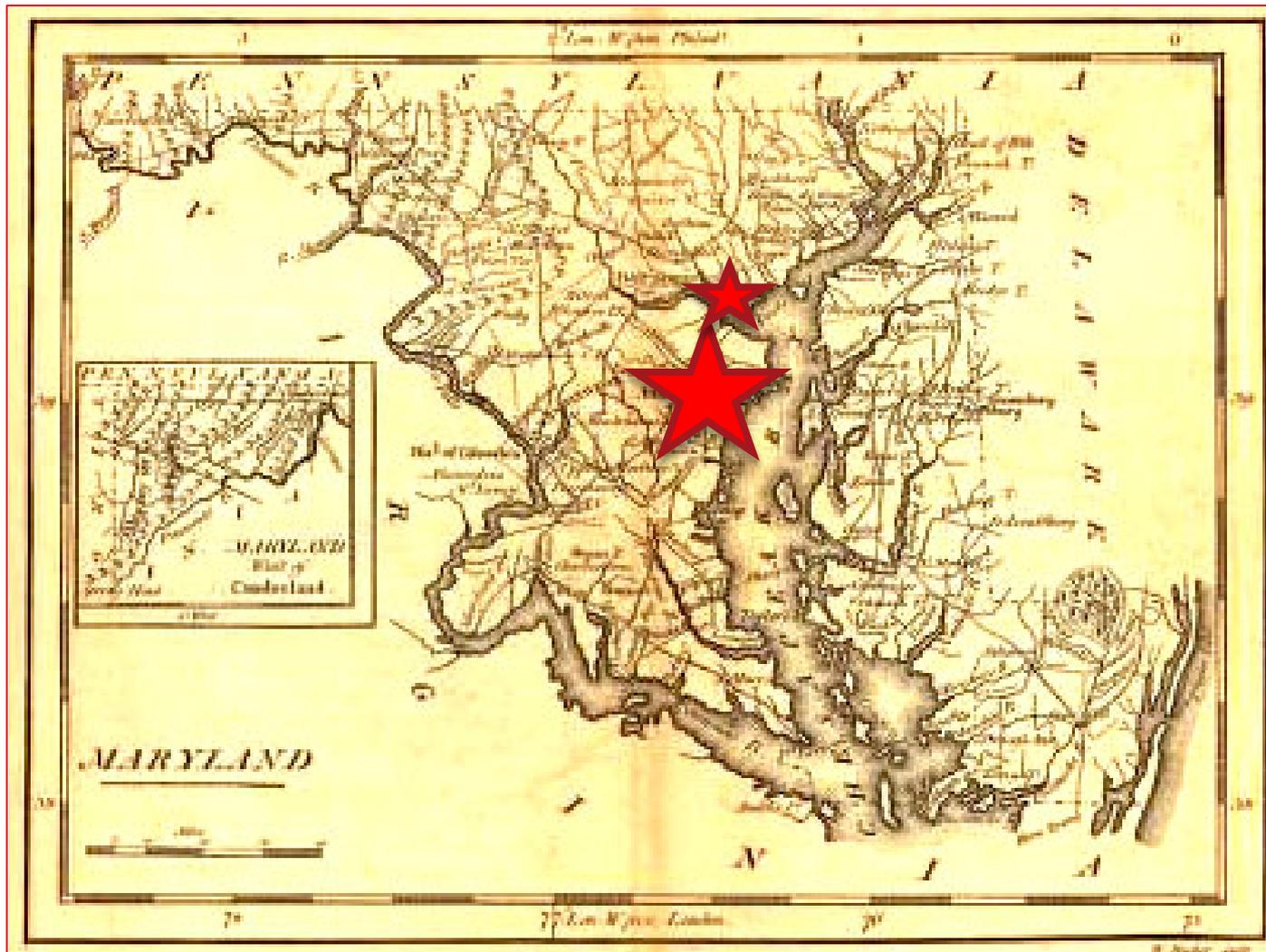


*The Battle of North Point, Lithograph based on the original painting by Thomas Ruckle, ca. 1814*



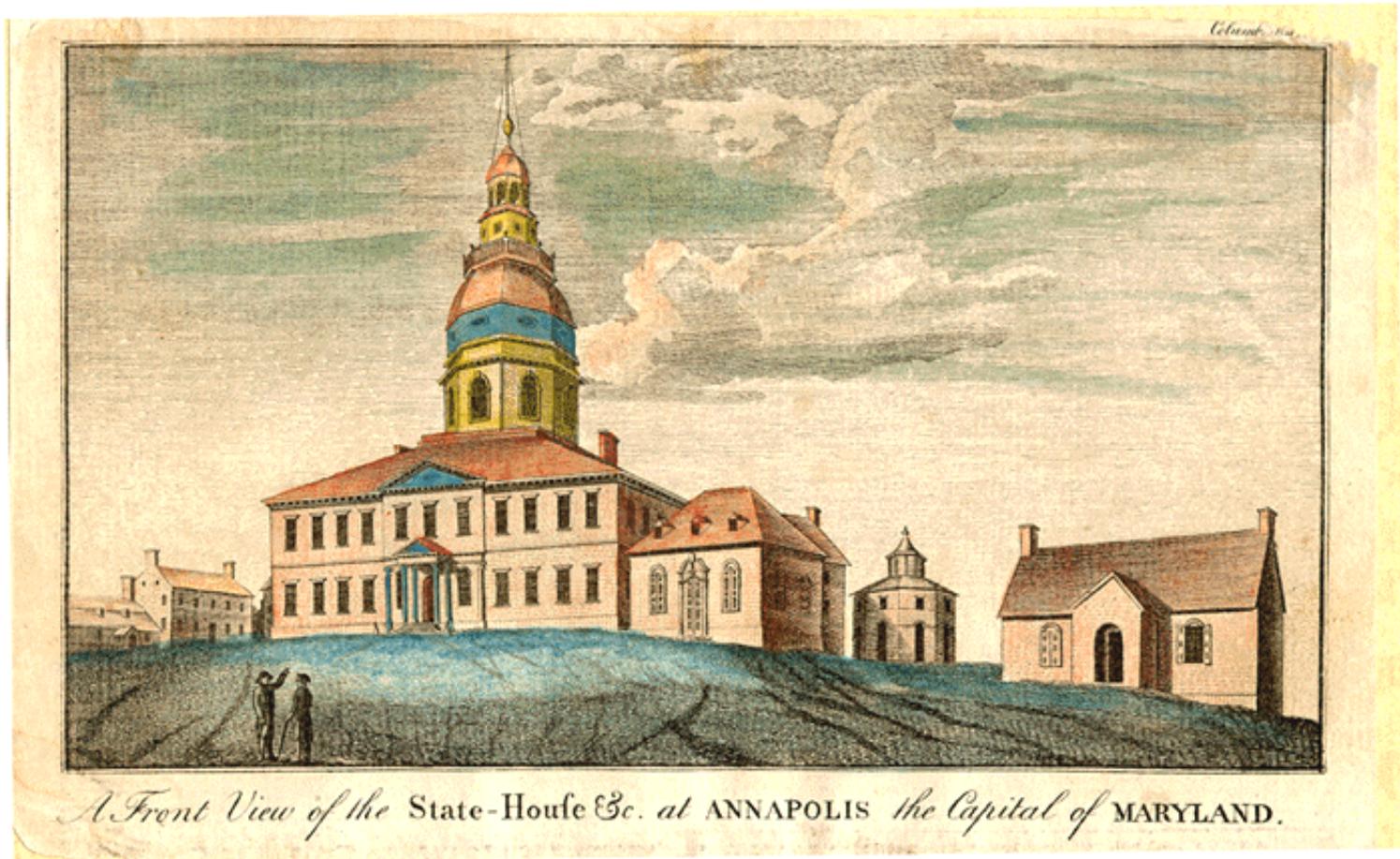
*Assembling of the Troops, Thomas Ruckle, ca. 1814 or 1815*

# Maryland in 1814



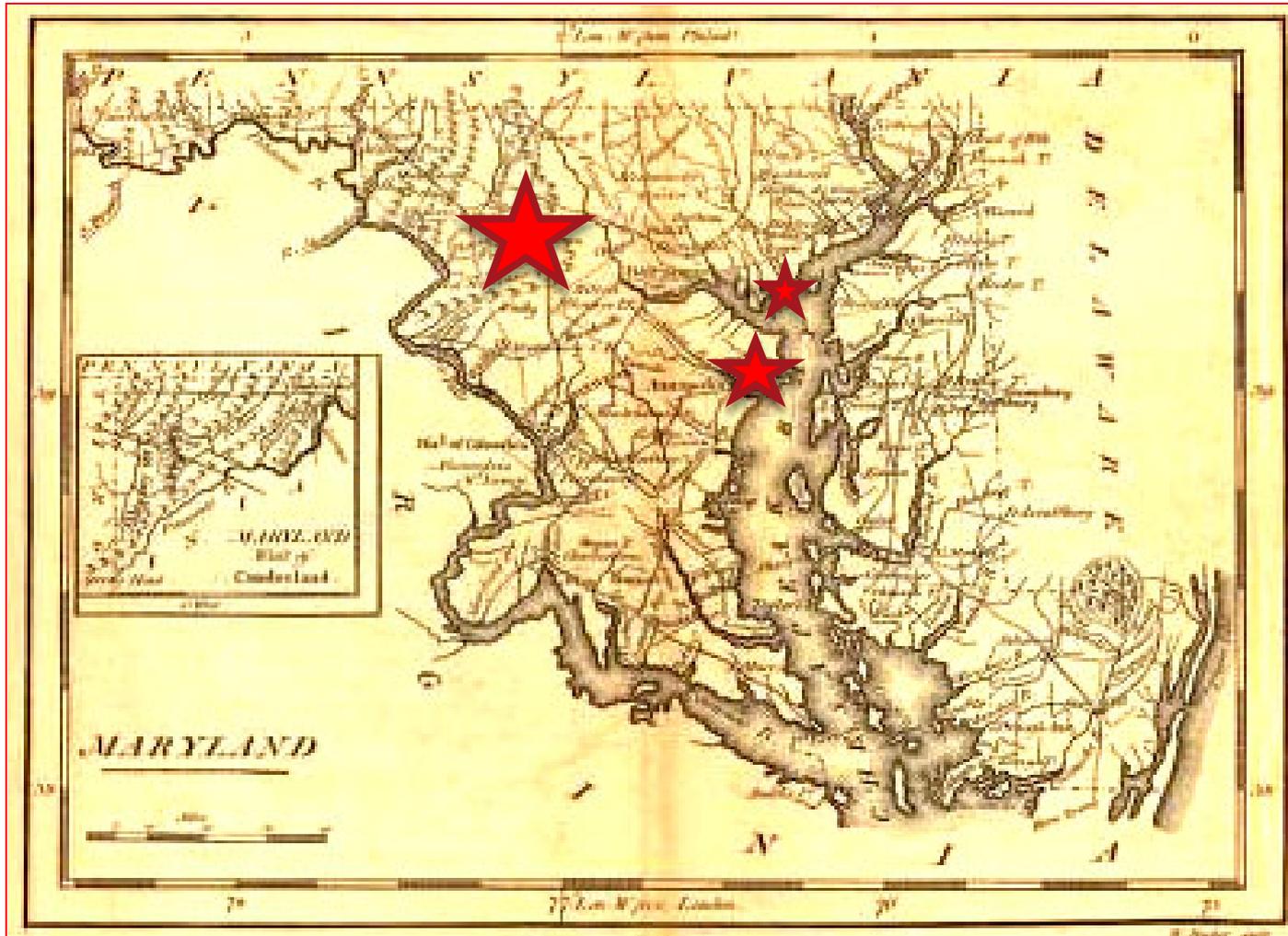
Annapolis, Capital of Maryland, on the Western Shore. The smaller star represents the temporary sub-depot in Baltimore.

# Capitol of Maryland and Annapolis Armory, ca. 1780



Familiar to Marylanders, the capitol building towers over the 1670 armory in the background and Old Treasury Building at right.

# Maryland in 1814



The Frederick Barracks, the other armory on the Western Shore.

# Hessian, or Frederick, Barracks, ca. 1861



## **FREDERICK BARRACKS.**

*Build before the Revolution and used as a prison for Cornwallis' army. Now occupied by the Maryland Home Brigade.*

*From a sketch by Corporal Henry Bacon (Company D, 13<sup>th</sup> Mass. V.M.).*

Sketch by Corporal Henry Bacon, Co. D,  
13<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Militia



# June 1812 Inspection of Arms at Frederick Armory

FROM THE BALTIMORE WHIG.

QUALITY OF THE PUBLIC ARMS, &c.

Extract to the editors, from an officer in the United States  
army, dated

“ Frederick Town, June 21.

“ As war is declared, and hostilities must soon commence, I think it necessary for public information to state, for your paper, the condition and order of the muskets furnished the greater part of the troops in service. At this place, we have several hundred stand of arms, sent from the factory at Springfield. They at first appeared serviceable guns, highly burnished; but, upon personal inspection and trial, I find them very indifferent. The barrels uneven, not of the same thickness, and very flawy; the locks badly finished, the pans particularly soft, the main springs rough, stiff, and at the same time very brittle, after being snapped once or twice with a wooden snapper, the pan becomes rough and in ridges; the screws of the locks are not made to fit. A double charge I am convinced would burst half of them. The bayonets, the only and last resort after snapping, are made of old, indifferent iron, rather blunt, and badly fixed on the musket. At night our guard mount with loaded guns, and every other morning we attempt to discharge the muskets at a target, but it is all in vain—they snap, flash, catch half cocked, and if by accident they fire, the lock is so very indifferent, that it sustains considerable damage from the working of the springs. We are not furnished with pickers, gun screws, brushes, or ball screws for the ramrods—so that we are obliged to take the guns to pieces, and knock out the breeches, in order to unload, and clean them. We are also furnished with large clumsy cartridge boxes, and many of the balls not run to the calibre of the gun. These muskets cost the government sixteen dollars apiece; they have passed inspection, and have been issued as good serviceable guns! I do not know who are the inspectors for the Springfield factory. Such sir, are the arms with which we are to defend our country.”

The unnamed officer reported they “at first appeared serviceable guns, highly burnished; but upon personal inspection and trial, I find them very indifferent. ... A double charge I am convinced would burst half of them. The bayonets, the only and last resort after snapping [the locks], are made of old, indifferent iron, rather blunt, and badly fixed on the musket[s].... Such sir, are the arms with which we are to defend our country.”

# Maryland in 1814



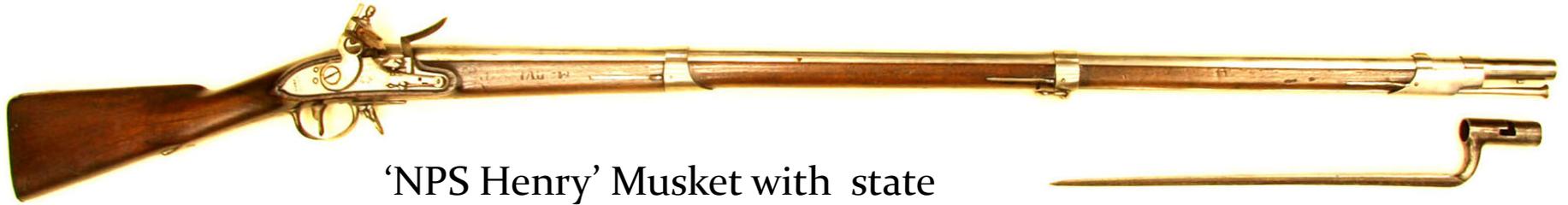
The armory at Easton was the only one on the Eastern Shore.

# Easton Armory, ca. 1900



A rare view of the armory as the municipal firehouse a few years before being demolished in 1904. The sloped roof at right was the 'cannon shed,' added in 1823.

# What Makes an Arm 'Maryland'? *Markings!*



'NPS Henry' Musket with state name branded on fore stock.



Another MARYLAND branded on a fore stock, this time on an Evans.

Smaller MARYLAND stamped on flat opposite lock, seen on several of the Bartlett and Ghriskey muskets.



# The Large MARYLAND Brand



The large MARYLAND brand can be found in other locations, like under the stock on this Brooke-made musket.

Also, Federally-made arms were branded, as on this 1800-dated, Springfield Armory-made musket, again on the fore stock.



# Regimental Markings of the Third Brigade, Baltimore City, Maryland Militia



Two 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
brands are on this  
Harpers Ferry -made  
musket.

A 39<sup>th</sup> regimental brand is  
shown on a Barlett-made  
musket. Both regimental  
numbers were assigned to  
Baltimore City in 1792.



# Other Markings in Stocks



This 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Maryland Militia , brand is on a Maryland-marked musket used by a Baltimore City company.

## Gun Manufactory.

**JAMES HASLET, GUN MAKER,**  
RESPECTFULLY informs the public, that he has commenced the Gun Business, at No 64, north Gay-street, where he intends carrying it on in all its various branches.

Having served a regular time to one of the first gun makers in Europe, and been inspector of arms for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, (which he resigned in consequence of his removal to this city) he flatters himself to be able to execute his work equal to any imported.

Any state in the union desirous of contracting for muskets, may be supplied with any number (the Charlevill pattern) at 10 dollars and 50 cents each, being 50 cents less than they have been manufactured for in the United States.

June 3.                      tu&f3t||

James Haslett of Baltimore City repaired this surplus Revolutionary War French musket for the state before the War of 1812.



# Receipt for 4 "M" Stamps made by J. Joseph Henry for Maryland, delivered November 1813

1813 November 12  
~~1813~~ Copy of J. Henry's bill for sundries  
 Sent to Colo Richard Waters Baltimore viz

422 Muskets	-----	@ \$12.75	-----	5405.50
110 Swords	-----	9.50	-----	1045.00
14 Pair of Pistols	-----		-----	189.00
690 Wipers 110 screw drivers 100 bullet drawers	-----	@ 25 Each	-----	225.00
54 Boxes	-----	@ 1.00	-----	54.00
Coopering bill	-----		-----	10.80
				<u>\$ 10729.30</u>

Room Sent to Colo Waters viz by Mr Henry

15	280 Muskets 20 of them makes up the Engagement			3830.00
	Entered into with J Shaw (the remainder @ 13.75)			
	108 Swords	@ \$9.50		1026.00
	22 Boxes	@ 1.00		22.00
25	436 Muskets	13.75		5995.00
	205 Swords	9.50		1947.50
	93 Pistols	6.75		627.75
	25 Bayonets	0.89		22.25
	34 Boxes	1.00		34.00
	1 Bayonet reamer			2.00
	Coopers Bill			11.00
	4 Stamps letter M			1.50

A deduction was made for over charge in the muskets viz 696<sup>th</sup> a dollar on each

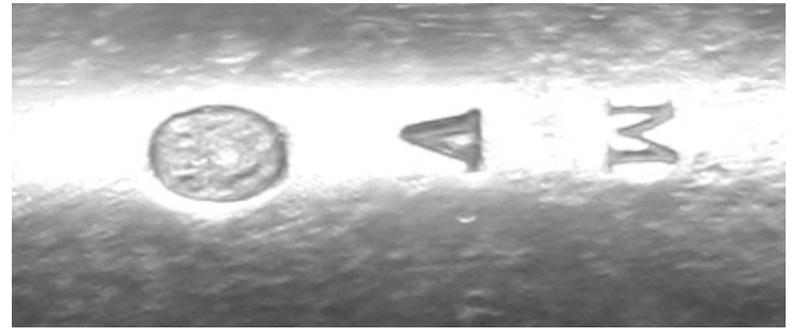
				<u>13519.00</u>
				696
				<u>12823.00</u>



Two Henry-made cavalry swords with the 'Maryland M' on blades.



# More Metallic Markings



*Above: M with Contract Insp Marks.*

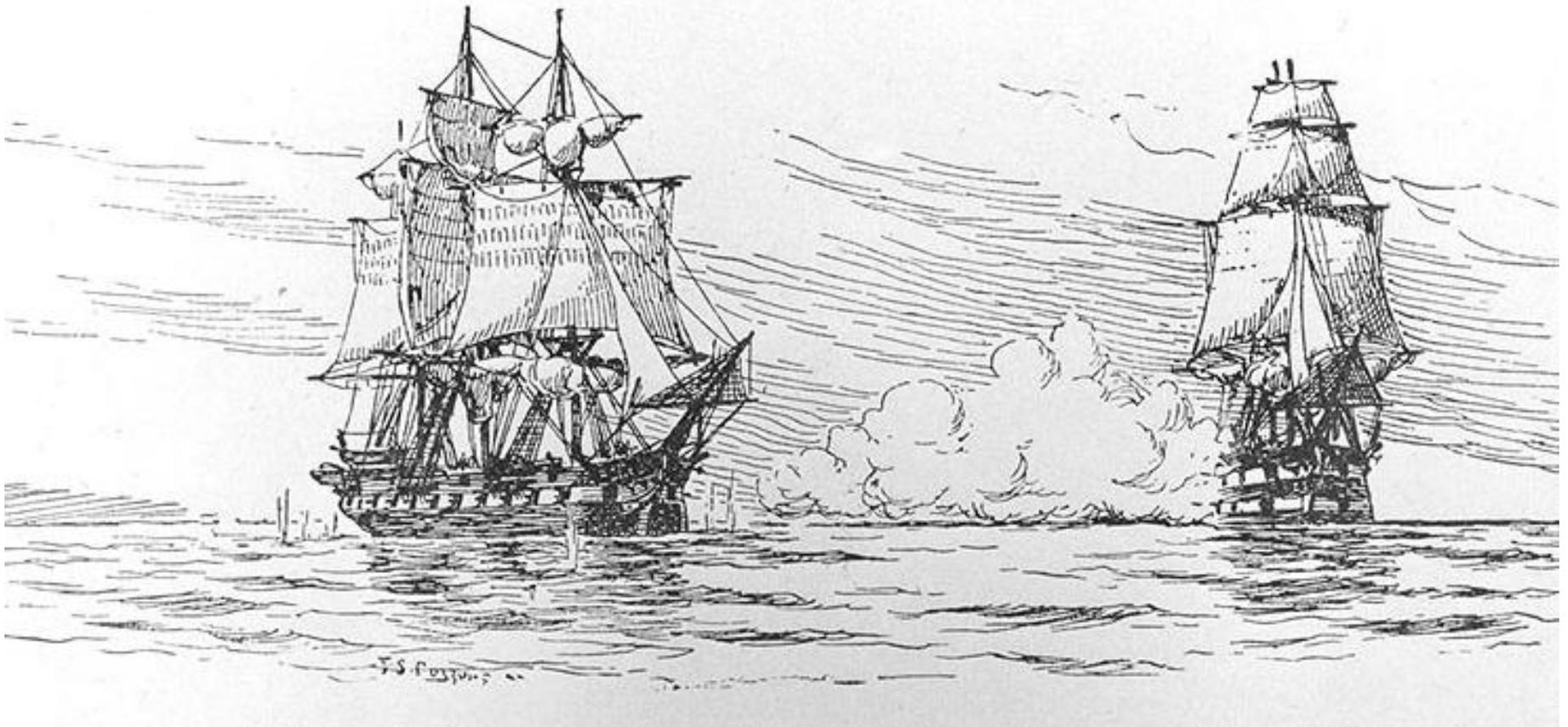
*Left: NPS Henry with Sunken P and M.*

*Below: Bayonets with Maryland M's.*



# The *Chesapeake-Leopard* Affair

22 June 1807



The HMS *Leopard* stopped and boarded the USS *Chesapeake*, removing four deserters from the Royal Navy. The British citizen among them was later hanged. Interestingly, the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812, never mentioned impressment.

# French M1763 Mauberge-made Musket



Lock with US surcharge.



Stock with Post-Revolutionary Marks of Joseph Perkins (IP) and John Nicholson (IN), both of whom were paid frequently for cleaning, repairing and **Stamping** muskets, as well as bayonets. This particular receipt for their work is dated 28 May 1784.



Large Maryland brand on fore stock.

*Estimate of the Sum necessary for the payment of the  
Undermentioned Account ..... May 28<sup>th</sup> 1784  
Mess<sup>rs</sup> Perkins & Nicholson, for cleaning Stamping &  
Repairing 1000 Muskets & Bayonets @ 2/6 each ..... £100.  
paid*

# Rev War Musket With 100 Years of Service!

Another M1763 Charleville-style musket, made at the St. Etienne armory.



Maryland brand on opposite fore stock.



Alteration to percussion, ca. 1860.



Markings indicating Continental ownership.

# 1810 Harpers Ferry Musket



Several muskets made at Harpers Ferry Armory with Maryland markings are known. This one is dated 1810.

The 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment was assigned in 1792 to Baltimore City.



# J. Joseph Henry (1786-1836)



*John Joseph Henry*

The Henry family of Boulton, Pennsylvania, was involved in the manufacture of firearms for a century and a half. William Henry and his son, William Henry II, worked for the colonies during the Revolution. William Henry II's oldest son was John Joseph Henry. By 1807 the son was experienced enough in the gun trade to open his own shop in Philadelphia. He delivered a variety of weapons, swords, pistols and, of course, muskets to the Ordnance Department, the U.S. Navy and several states. While he no doubt manufactured some of his own weapons, his business acumen helped him organize deliveries from other gun makers (the so-called 'consortium') so all could benefit from the 1813 contract with Maryland.

# The NPS Henry-Made Musket, ca. 1813



Single X-marked bayonet fits the bottom stud barrel on this Henry perfectly.



# Bartlett-Marked Musket, 1813



The lock on this Bartlett musket has full Federal markings, even though on a musket diverted to Henry and one of the 917 delivered to the state of Maryland.

Besides the Maryland M, note the four markings comprising the barrel proof required by the state of Massachusetts for any barrel made in the state *not* intended for the Federal Government. These markings confirm this musket went directly to Maryland and was *not* intended to be delivered to the Government.



# Brooke Manufactured Musket



The only known surviving Brooke-made musket with Maryland markings, this is one of the 183 delivered to Henry and subsequently to the state. Note the unusual placement of the brand on the bottom of the stock, rather than on either side of the fore stock.



# Evans-Marked Musket



With both the large MARYLAND brand and an M on the barrel, this is the only known example from among the 433 muskets delivered to Henry for the state.



The same single X-marked bayonet fits this Evans perfectly as well.



# Lewis Ghriskey-Marked Musket



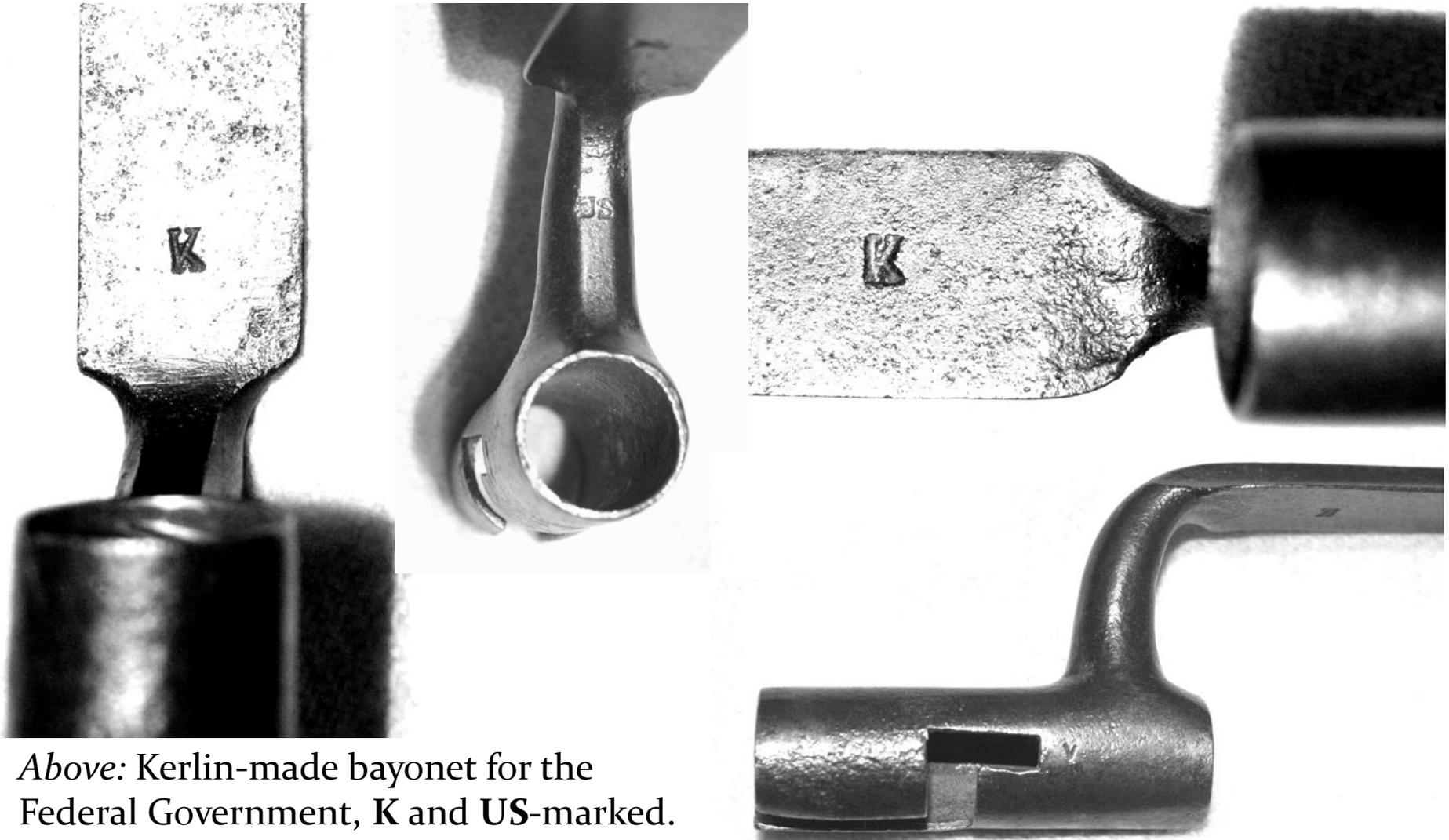
Although not a recognized member of Henry's contract 'consortium,' Ghriskey was well known in the arms community and likely used subcontractors to make the parts for these muskets, which he assembled. The total number delivered to Henry remains unknown. The two muskets examined were nearly identical, with an **M** on the barrel and small **MARYLAND** stamped opposite the lock.

# Miles-Marked / Kerlin-Made Muskets

Both of the known Maryland Miles-marked muskets were made by John Kerlin, who placed a distinctive Miles ribbon mark on the locks. No bayonets are known similarly marked, suggesting that K-marked bayonets accompanied the 25 known muskets Kerlin delivered to Henry.



# Kerlin-Marked Bayonets



*Above:* Kerlin-made bayonet for the Federal Government, K and US-marked.  
*Right:* Kerlin-made bayonet for Henry and the state of Maryland, with only a K.

# X and XX-Marked Bayonets



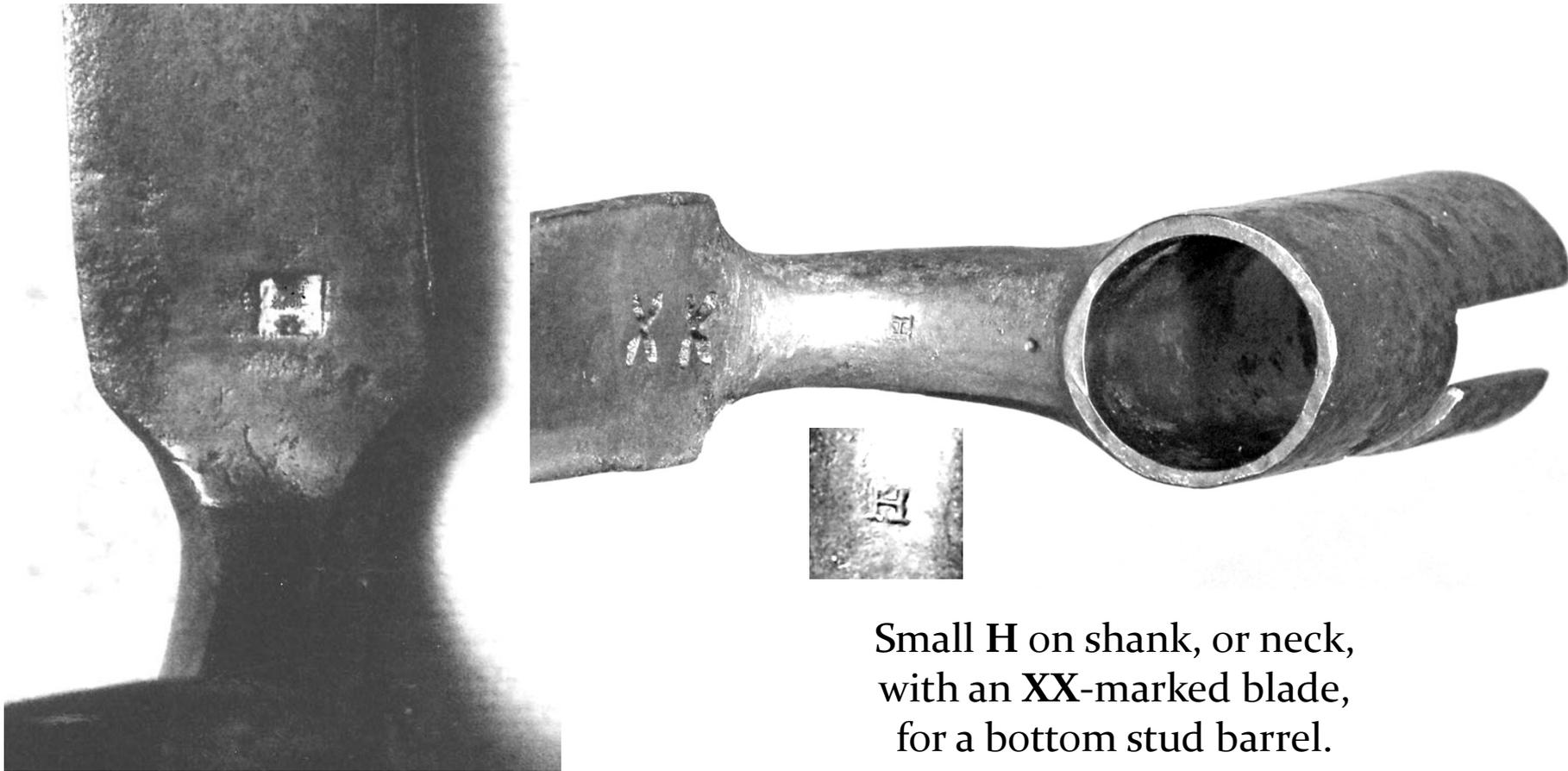
On the bottom stud barrel of  
a Ghriskey-marked musket.



One, at left below, made for a top stud barrel.



# Possible Henkel's Bayonets



Large H on face of blade.

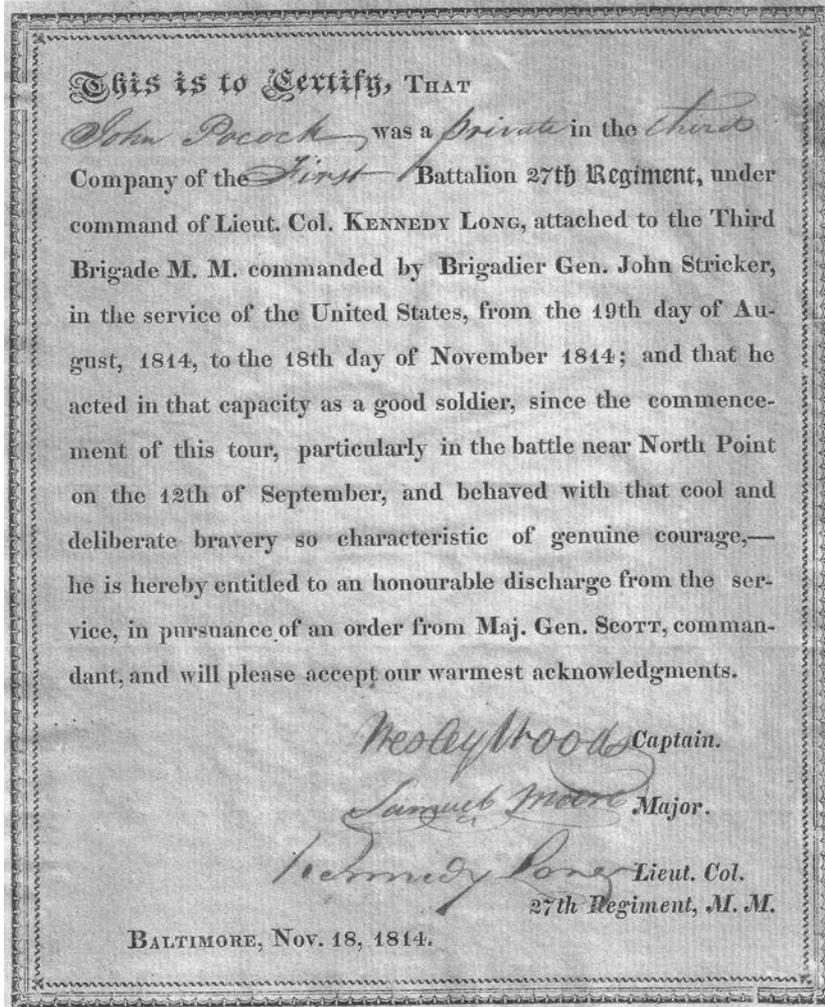
Small H on shank, or neck,  
with an XX-marked blade,  
for a bottom stud barrel.

# Bayonets From the Federal Government



Most of the ~10,000 muskets purchased from the Government would have been accompanied by bayonets, and those made at the National armories or under contract would have had bayonets with US letters on them. Subsequently a number had the Maryland M applied, using one of the Henry supplied stamps. Here are two, with the one at upper right recovered from the battlefield of Gettysburg. What a story it could tell about how it got there!

# 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment Harpers Ferry Musket



Preprinted discharge of Pvt. John Pocock from Lt. Col. Kennedy Long's 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment, M.M., 18 November 1814

# Maryland Canteen, ca. 1810-20

To indicate some accoutrements were also marked for state ownership, this wooden hooped canteen dates from the era of the War of 1812. The Maryland mark was stamped into the wood before final assembly and, being somewhat larger, is not the same as seen branded on the stocks of state-owned muskets. From 1784 through 1824 the archival record indicates a total of only 1,900 canteens were procured by the state. That would indicate most volunteer companies and enrolled militiamen were expected to furnish their own containers for carrying any 'refreshments of choice.'



# Post-War of 1812 Recoveries

		Muskets	Bayonets	Cartridges	Swords	Pistols	Engl. Pistols	Robt. Pistols	Rifles	Amphibians	Carbines	
1818	Amount of military stores Recd. of B. Pindell up to the 1 <sup>st</sup> of Dec <sup>r</sup> 1818	1513	1068	1286	106	81	38	94	5	7		
	7	--	--	--	6	5	5	--	--	--	--	--

1819										
August	16	56	37	40	32	32	32	1		1
September	14	127		78	7	3	7			
TOTALS:		1,696	1,103	1,404	149	121	82	95	5	8

With 8,534 muskets and an unstated number of bayonets “remaining uncollected” after the war, Maryland subsequently conducted an active bounty program to recover state-owned arms, paying 50 cents per musket. Benjamin Pindell was among the most active, with a total of 1,696 recovered muskets between 1817 and 1819. In addition he recovered 1,103 bayonets and other types of military arms and equipment, as summarized above. How appropriate that his last delivery to the state armory in Annapolis was exactly five years after the battle of Baltimore, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 1819.

# “Defenders of Baltimore,” 1814



BG John Stricker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div.  
(1758-1825)

General Sam Smith  
(1752-1839)

LTC George Armistead  
(1780-1818)

Commodore Joshua Barney  
(1759-1818)

*Portraits by Rembrandt Peale (1778-1860), “Defenders of Baltimore,” Commissioned by the City of Baltimore, 1817, MHS*

# The Bombardment of Fort McHenry, 1814

*And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,  
gave proof through the night that our flag was still there*



*The Bombardment of Fort McHenry, 1814*  
Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874), 1829