FORT ERIE

While Washington Burned — The Battle
Along the Niagara River Raged

Triennial Meeting Plattsburg, NY:
Details Page 3
President General's Message

March 2017

Thomas Edward Jacks

It is hard to believe how time flies and that we are well into 2017. In January, I had the honor of celebrating the anniversary of the Victory at New Orleans at the Maryland Society’s Jackson Day Luncheon. A heavy snow fell on the Monumental City, but the fires of the historic Maryland Club warmed the large crowd.

In March, my youngest son and I were the guests of the South Carolina Society. We were treated to three days of fabulous Charleston hospitality. We celebrated the 235th anniversary of the birth of John C. Calhoun, one of the original War Hawks, by placing flowers on his grave at St. Philip’s Church. Later that evening, the Society held its annual meeting at the historic Sasportas house on Queen Street, the one-time home of Abraham Sasportas (1753-1824), French-born Jewish merchant who owned privateers during the War of 1812. Another highlight of the trip was attending a low country oyster roast hosted by the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

It is not too early to begin planning for the upcoming Triennial Meeting of the Society, where we will elect new officers and consider an amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws. This amendment has been properly submitted and approved by the Board and can be found on p. 7. The Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York has a great meeting planned in Plattsburg with plenty of time to enjoy the annual Battle of Plattsburg commemorations. Registration information can be found on p. 3.

As always, it is a pleasure to read about the activities of the General Society across the country and to see the continued efforts of our members to remember those who fought “for our country’s rights.”

Front Cover - Pictured on the front is present day Fort Erie located at 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. www.NiagaraParksHeritage.com. Fort Erie and the Niagara Campaign was the costliest fight between U.S. and British regular troops.

Pictured left is the President General Tom Jacks and son, Clay, and Dr. Mike Hull at the Irish Volunteer Monument in St. Lawrence Cemetery in Charleston on St. Patrick’s Day. The Irish Volunteers saw active service in the War of 1812.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, Sept 7
4:00 - 6:00 Registration, Holiday Inn
4:30 - 5:30 Wreath Laying, Riverside Cemetery
6:00 - 7:00 Welcome Reception, Cash Bar - Holiday Inn
7:00 ----- Dinner on own

Friday, Sept 8
6:30 - 10:30 Hot Buffet Breakfast - Included
8:00 - 12:00 Registration, Holiday Inn
8:00 - 2:00 All day to visit museums, historic sites, events
Re-enactments, 5-K race
2:00 - 5:00 Business Meeting
5:00 - 6:00 Prep for evening and get to Elks Club on the Lake
6:00 - 7:00 Social Hour/ Cash Bar, Elks Club
7:00 - 9:00 Elegant Dinner, Elks – Speakers, neat casual
9:00 ------- Fireworks over Lake Champlain

Saturday, Sept 9
7:00 - 11:00 Hot Buffet Breakfast - included
8:00 - 4:30 All day to visit museums, historic sites, events
12:00 parade participants form up by Elks Club, blazer, tie & khakis
1:00 - 2:00 Parade by City Hall and MacDonough Monument
2:00 - 6:00 Tour Plattsburgh and surroundings, enjoy event
6:00 - 7:00 Social Hour / Cash Bar - Holiday Inn
7:00 - 9:00 Formal dinner, Holiday Inn, white tie, tux, dark suit

Name: ____________________________ Guest: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________ Cell Phone: ____________________________

Total Guests: X $185 PER PERSON (Dinners & Events) TOTAL:

Special Needs: ____________________________________________________________________________

Transportation Needs: ____________________________________________________________________________

MAIL CHECK TO: Walley Francis, 680 Allen Street, Syracuse, NY 13210 Make check out to: SSWWGBSNY

Details online: http://www.nys1812.org
Questions? Email Tim Mabee at tmabee@aol.com
Cancellations after August 20 will be treated as donations.
Washington Society Held late Fall Meeting

The Washington Society held a meeting Late November last year in Bellevue, WA that was well attended and featured the induction of new members.

On the left is Society President and VPG Allen Gray and on the right is Deputy President General Pacific District James Lindley in uniform.

President Allen Gray presents state certificates to new members Gregory Lucas, and Robert Doughty flanked by Deputy President General Pacific Lindley in uniform.

Alabama Society Conducts Grave Marking

A Grave marking for Private Benjamin Johnson, a veteran of the War of 1812, was held on November 5, 2016, at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Morgan County, Alabama. The grave marking was conducted by the Alabama Society.

Benjamin Johnson was born October 12, 1795 in Greenville County, Virginia. He served in Captain Pescud’s Company of the 6th Regiment Virginia Militia during the War of 1812. He married Martha Elizabeth Hinton and in 1822 the couple, along with two small children and his father and mother apparently traveled by wagon train from Virginia to Morgan County, Alabama.

Private Benjamin Johnson was the son of David Johnson, a Revolutionary War Patriot.

Benjamin became a prominent farmer in Morgan County amassing over 400 acres of land which included 80 acres of bounty land he received for his service in the War of 1812. Benjamin fathered four sons and seven daughters before he died in Morgan County, Alabama on July 25, 1853, at the age of 57.

Nearly 60 people attended the ceremony including twenty-two direct descendants. Some came from over one hundred miles away to attend. The color guard of the Tennessee Valley Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution also participated in the ceremony.

Pictured above is the Private Benjamin Johnson monument and the new 1812 Grave Marker.

Pictured above is descendant Angela Minor describing life and service of Private Benjamin Johnson and Organizer Compatriot Bob Doherty.

See more ceremony pictures on page 7.

Credit for all photos belongs to Bob Doherty of the Society of the War of 1812 in Alabama.
The 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment’s Distinctive Unit Insignia Cotton Bale
By Lieutenant Colonel William C. Collier, USA (Ret)

In July 1921, The U.S. Army’s Quartermaster Department approved the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment Distinctive Unit Insignia as a crest in the shape of a horseshoe. Official correspondence reads; “Crest: On a wreath of the colors a horseshoe gules pierce sable.” This design was to commemorate the distinguished service the Regiment performed during the 1814 Battle of Horse Shoe Bend, Alabama during the War of 1812 (U.S. Army Document; 424.5 Coats of Arms, (Miscl.Div.)CCW*AMS*58, dated July 5, 1921). The new design changed the 7th Infantry Regiment’s Distinctive Unit Insignia that was adopted in 1912 when the Regiment was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (Headquarters, 7th U.S. Infantry, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, General Orders No. 15, dated Nov 20, 1912). When this correspondence arrived at the headquarters of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment, stationed at Camp Lewis, WA, it caused much consternation.

The Colonel of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment at the time was Colonel Thomas M. Anderson, Jr. He descended from a long line of Army Officers. His father was a Major General who had served in the Civil War and The Spanish American War. His grandfather has served in the War of 1812 and his great grandfather has fought in the American Revolution. Colonel Anderson served as a noncommissioned officer with the 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment before being commissioned. As a young officer, he served with the 13 U.S. Infantry Regiment as Lieutenant and with the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment as a Captain. He too served in the Spanish American War, the Philippines Insurrection and in World War I (Arlington Cemetery Website: http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/tmanders.htm). He had served several tours of duty in the Regiment and knew the history of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment, particularly how the Regiment had distinguished itself at the Battle of New Orleans. (From Fedala to Berchtesgaden; A History of the Seventh United States Infantry in World War II, Nathan W. White, page xx)

After reading the War Department directive, Colonel Anderson called for the Regimental Operations Officer, Captain William A. Collier. After a short discussion Colonel Anderson issued very specific guidance for the design of the unit insignia. It was to be a cotton bale with 1815 superimposed, over two crossed bayonets, surrounded by the motto “Volens et Potens.” Captain Collier took this guidance and returned to his office, where the Regimental draftsman prepared a design. The newly designed Distinctive Unit Insignia request was sent to the War Department. Several weeks later the War Department denial of the request was received, replying that the present 7th U.S. Infantry was not a descendent of the 7th U.S. Infantry that participated at New Orleans.

Example left of the unit insignia that was probably submitted by the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment

Colonel Thomas M. Anderson, Jr., USA Regimental Commander, 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment 21 Dec 1917 -1 Aug 1918 And again from 3 Sep 1921 – 5 Aug 1923

Regimental Staff Officers, 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment picture taken about 1922. Col Anderson (seated first row center) Capt. W.A. Collier, Regimental Operations Officer (seated first row far left)

Continued Page 6
Colonel Anderson was angered at the War Department’s response. He again called for the Operations Officer. During their discussion Colonel Anders asked if there was an officer whose home was near Fort Leavenworth, who would like to go on leave. If there was a volunteer, then the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment’s Officers Fund would pay for expenses. A volunteer was found. Prior to this officer’s departure, Colonel Anderson instructed the officer: while on leave, he was to go to a specific building number on Fort Leavenworth, go into the basement to a particular corner and he would find a locked room. Colonel Anderson handed the officer a sets of keys for that room and issued further guidance to have all the crates and boxes in that room be shipped to the Regimental headquarters. These crates and boxes contained all of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment property and historical items. Weeks later these crates and boxes arrived at Camp Lewis and the Headquarters of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment.

Captain Collier displayed all crates and boxes so that Colonel Anderson could see them. Colonel Anderson arrived and walked around looking at each crate and box before pointing to one particular crate and instructing, “Open this one!” This particular crate contained all of the old colors of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment. Several of the colors had been in the 7th U.S. Infantry from its earliest days. Some of the colors were so old and worn that they seemed to fall apart when unpacked.

In the early period of American history, Regiments carried only the National and Regimental Colors. Regiments embroidered the names of their meritorious battles on the stripes of their national colors. After the civil war this system was changed to the use of silver rings on the regimental flag staff with inscription of the meritorious battle. Some regimental color flag staffs were all silver rings and no exposed wood, much like the U.S. Marine Corps flag staff. This changed again in 1920 where the regimental color would bear the modern day streamers. (U.S. Army Campaign Streamers: Colors of Courage Since 1775)

These old 7th U.S. Infantry Regimental Colors had the Regiments campaign history embroidered on the stripes of the National Flag. Sure enough, there was New Orleans 1815! Colonel Anderson then directed that photographs of the colors be taken and that these pictures accompany a resubmission of the request to change the Regiments Distinctive Unit Insignia. He also directed that these colors be refurbished and preserved. This new request was returned back to the War Department for action.

On 18 August 1923, the War Department replied to the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment’s second request by the following endorsement:

“3. However, the crest of the 1921 shield, the horse shoe, while good symbolism, is perhaps more suited to be an element in the arms of a mounted organization. It is, therefore, suggested that the horseshoe crest be replaced by the old cotton bale with the two bayonets crossed behind. The symbolism is complete without letters or numerals and letters are not permitted. The motto “Volans et Potens” is of course to be retained. . . . CREST: - On a wreath of the colors a cotton bale argent bended sable in front of two bayonets in saltire or.”

[War Department Letter, dated August 18, 1923, AG 424.5 Coat of Arms (7-5-23) (Misc.) D]

Colonel Anderson and the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment had won its case for the cotton bale, but lost the superimposed 1815. He was satisfied. Continued Page 10.
Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the General Society of the War of 1812 as amended through October 2, 2010

Summary

The purpose of this amendment is to remove the requirement that the Chaplain General be a “licensed ordained clergymen.”

Rationale

As evidenced by many State Societies and other national organizations, the organization’s chaplaincy can be executed successfully by a lay person. The Board of Directors of the General Society voted unanimously to submit this amendment for approval to the next Society meeting.

Proposed Amendment

The following changes are proposed to the Constitution of the General Society of the War of 1812 as amended through October 2, 2010. Strike text indicated by strikethrough (——):

ARTICLE III – Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1 - The officers of the General Society shall consist of a President General; a Deputy President General who shall perform the duties of the President General in case of disability of the President General or of a vacancy in the office; such District Deputy Presidents General representing regions encompassing State Societies as authorized; a Vice President General for members-at-large; a Vice President General for public relations; a Vice President General for publications; a Vice President General for each State Society and who shall be nominated by his respective State Society; a Secretary General; a Treasurer General; a Registrar General; a Genealogist General; a Historian General; a Surgeon General; a Judge Advocate General and who shall be an attorney-at-law; a Chaplain General and who shall be a licensed ordained clergymen; a Marshal General; a Quartermaster General who shall acquire, store and sell merchandise for the general society and such additional general officers and assistant general officers as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to add or discontinue any general officer titles. They shall be elected at the Triennial Meeting of the Society, by and from members in good standing, and shall serve until the next Triennial Meeting or until their successors are duly chosen.

The President General shall be ineligible for re-election after serving the full three-year term to which he has been elected. Completion of two years or less of the term of the previous President General wherein a vacancy occurred shall not render the incumbent ineligible for election to a full term of three years.

Alabama Society Grave Marking Continued

The Color Guard of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the SAR is pictured left and the Descendants of Private Benjamin Johnson are pictured above.
Maryland Society Holds Their Annual Cavalcade Bus Tour

Maryland Members held their annual all-day Cavalcade Bus Tour of historic 1812 sites this year including visits to the graves of several 1812 heroes at Westminster Church, stopping at Clifton Mansion for a tour and lunch by Nelson Bolton after a 6 million dollar renovation, and made visits and participated in wreath laying and memorial ceremonies at Battle Acre and the North Point Battlefield with the National Park Service. Members of the Color Guard (Chris Christou, Dave Embrey and Gary Neal) carried flags while President Cato Carpenter presented wreaths at each of the stops.

After the tour, the members enjoyed a wonderful meal under the large tent at Ft. McHenry and then watched fireworks with wonderful band music performed. Members were given VIP seating at the stage and acknowledged during the ceremonies as the direct descendants of the heroes of 1812.

Ceremony at the Grave of General Samuel Smith. Smith served in the Revolutionary War, was a Maryland politician and served as a Major General of Maryland militia during the War of 1812

Maryland Society at the Armistead Monument

Nelson Bolton at the Clifton Mansion

Maryland Society Wreath Laying at the War Monument

Tents at Fort McHenry
Maryland Society Participates in Grave Marking

Members of the Maryland Society 1812 Color Guard (James Battles and Dave Embrey) and Officers of the Society (George Owings and Chris Christou) participated in a Daughters of 1812 grave marking ceremony for War of 1812 soldier Richard Owings. His grave was found on private property but that was once his former farm in Carroll County Maryland. The resident allowed the Daughters of 1812 to mark the grave and were proud of their patriot buried on their property.

Owings descendants from all over the United States attended the ceremony. A descendant, Teresa Oyler of the Daughters of 1812, initiated the research and the project to mark his grave. Maryland Society members spoke during the ceremony including George Owings and Chris Christou. Dave Embrey and James Battles performed in uniform in the incredibly hot day of over 100 degrees “in the shade”.

Teresa Oyler, pictured above and an Owings descendant, addresses the group. Below is the newly marked grave of Richard Owings.

GSW 1812 and USD of 1812 Members Attend Nebraska’s Heritage Dinner

Pictured left to right back row John Braisted, Merle Rudebusch, Robert Knott, Judy Moore, Kathy Ocasio. Seated left to right William Webb, Mary Hanke, and Louise Travers.
Continued from page 5:

In addition to receiving authorization for the Cotton Bale on the Distinctive Unit Insignia, the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment also received instructions to forward all colors in its possession to the War Department for proper disposition as these colors were Army property and not Regimental property. Colonel Anderson’s reply was, “Over My dead Body!” Those colors remained with the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment. In fact, the colors were refurbished and mounted on flag staffs. Those colors whose condition were so poor that it made it impossible to mount on a flag staff, the color was wrapped and secured around a separate flag staff. The Regiment also purchased a cotton bale, which weighs approximately 500 pounds, and mounted it on a machine gun cart. At all Regimental reviews the old colors and the cotton bale was paraded along with the troops.

7th U.S. Infantry Regiment officers, previous Regimental colors and ceremonial cotton bale after a Regimental review circa 1922. Regimental Commander, Colonel Anderson is located front row to the right of the cotton bale and the Operations Officer, Captain Collier is to Colonel Anderson’s left.

Editor’s Note: The above article is based on the reflections of the late Brigadier General William A. Collier, USA (Ret), former 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment Operations Officer, 1920 – 1924. The pictures are from his photograph collections.

The Author is a member of the Virginia Society. His account of how the cotton bale appeared on the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment Distinctive Unit Insignia or unit crest is interesting as we know the 7th Infantry fought and earned distinction at the Battle of New Orleans with Major General Andrew Jackson.

Maryland Society Participates in Defenders Day Celebration

On Defenders Day, tables and displays were set up and manned at Fort Howard by the 1812 Society by members Nelson Bolton, Chris Christou, Bob Cummins, Chris Smithson, and Bob von Lunz. They answered questions and worked with other 1812 enthusiasts to inspired visitors and the younger generation on the events of the War of 1812 in Maryland. Re-enactors performed every hour and replicated the Battle of Baltimore with British fighting on one side and the American Citizen soldiers on the other, even firing one of the cannons loaned from Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Dave Embrey and wife Vicki Embrey appeared in period costume for the event. The Society made a large donation placing our Group at the highest level of General’s Club to ensure this annual event continues. Hundreds of people attended the all-day event.
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For complete roster of
General Officers, visit:
societyofthewarof1812.org

Publication Requirements

The 1812 War Cry is the official publication of The General Society of the War of 1812. Published three times a year in March, July and November, submission deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 1. Society news is welcome in MS WORD format. Scholarly works specifically tailored to our readership must be properly annotated; use of copyright protected materials or images without written permission is prohibited. Photos are encouraged as attachments in jpg or tiff formats – not pdf. Smartphone images that lose focus when enlarged or converted to black and white will not be used.

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