

*R*esidents of the Hagerstown area have always stepped forward when their community or their nation was in danger. From the earliest days on the frontier during the French and Indian War to recent conflicts in the Middle East, Hagerstonians have proudly served in defense of the colonies, helped to establish the nation, and fought to preserve the Republic.

**June, 2012 begins the bicentennial observance of the war of 1812; a 30-month war with Great Britain, which ended when the Treaty of Ghent was ratified by the U.S. Senate in February, 1815.**

The Treaty of Ghent resulted in the release of all prisoners of war and restored all captured lands and ships to both sides. The treaty made no major changes to the pre-war situation, but did end the British practice of "impressing" U.S. merchant seamen (stopping American ships on the high seas and kidnapping crew for service in the Royal Navy). **Sailors Rights** was one of the principal causes cited by the U.S. when it declared war. The resulting relationship has resulted in two hundred years of peace and partnership between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



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Photo courtesy of USNPS/Fort MCHENRY National Monument



HAGERSTOWN  
*Salutes its*  
**VETERANS**

*The Bicentennial*  
**OF THE WAR OF 1812**

[ 1812-1815 · 2012-2015 ]



Although Western Maryland escaped being a battleground, many area men served in the war. Several local residents served in the army and navy, including Commodore Jesse Elliott, USN; Colonel Charles Boerstler of the 14th U.S. Infantry commanded American forces at the Battle of Beaver Dam, Ontario in 1813. Also, militia infantry companies—the forerunner of today's National Guard—from five Washington County towns were called up by Governor Levin Winder for service in 1812 and 1813. Some local militia units and members saw action at the Battle of Bladensburg and the Battle of North Point in 1814. Local militia cavalry also served in the defense against the British invasions as well.

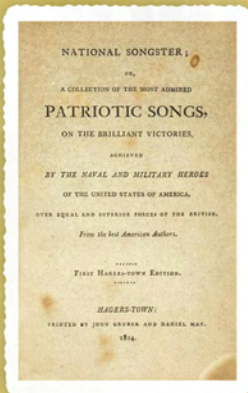
Hagerstown's biggest contribution to the war was the **Hagerstown Homespun Volunteers**. This unit was attached to the 39th Maryland Militia at the Battle of North Point on September 12, 1814. The Volunteers served honorably and several men were wounded while facing down British soldiers who had seen hard combat against Napoleon. Among the Homespun Volunteers' wounded was their commanding officer, Captain Thomas Quantrill (Mayor—1820).

Since word had to be brought to America by sailing ship, combat operations did not end until after Major General Andrew Jackson crushed General Sir Edward Pakenham's Royal Army and Marine forces at the Battle of New Orleans, which was fought on January 8, 1815; two weeks after the peace treaty was signed.

Maryland was more affected by the maneuvering armies than any other state.



# WHAT CAN BE SEEN IN HAGERSTOWN RELATED TO THE WAR OF 1812? MORE THAN *You think...*



## Gruber's Print Shop 21 South Potomac Street

John Gruber operated a printing and publishing business where the entry plaza to the historic Maryland Theatre is today. In late 1814, within a few weeks of the Battle of Baltimore, Gruber published Francis Scott Key's poem *The Defense of Fort McHenry* with the subscript *Tune - Anacreon in Heaven* in the music book *The National Songster*. This was the first professional printing of what became *The Star Spangled Banner* as a musical work.

## Rose Hill Cemetery 600 South Potomac Street

Rose Hill Cemetery is the final resting place of American patriots from the Revolutionary War to the present day. Interred in Section 15 under a prominent monument is Colonel John Ragan. A Maryland militia officer, Ragan commanded the 1st Maryland Militia Infantry Regiment at the Battle of Bladensburg in August, 1814. When the battle turned badly against the Americans, Ragan rode among men, trying to rally them. He was injured and captured when thrown from his horse. Several additional War of 1812 veterans are also interred in Rose Hill.



Grave of Col. John Ragan at Rose Hill Cemetery



## Washington County Historical Society 135 West Washington Street

Occupying the ca. 1825 Miller House, the Historical Society was founded in 1911. The collection contains numerous civilian and military artifacts of the War,

including the muster rolls of a Washington County militia company and a Washington County militia cavalryman's uniform jacket worn by Sgt. Jacob Huyett at the Battle of North Point.

## Public Square | City Center Area

Public Square was the location of the musters and drills of Hagerstown militia companies and other companies from around Washington County. Picture in your mind hundreds of soldiers radiating out Potomac and Washington Streets from Public Square; many attired in uniforms reminiscent of Napoleon and Wellington, while others were dressed in attire more akin to Davy Crockett or Daniel Boone!



Commodore Elliott

## Elliott-Bester House | 207 South Potomac Street

[ PRIVATE PROPERTY. NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ]

Jesse Duncan Elliott was born in Hagerstown on July 14, 1782 and was raised in this house. He entered the navy as a midshipman in 1804 and was aboard USS *Chesapeake* during its 1807 altercation with the HMS *Leopard*. He served in the First and Second Barbary Wars, and won fame at the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813 commanding USS *Niagara*. In 1820, he served as "second" to Commodore James Barron when Barron dueled with Commodore Stephen Decatur near the old battlefield at Bladensburg, Maryland.

## *The City of* **HAGERSTOWN ITSELF!**

Although originally platted in the 1760s, 2013 marks the bicentennial of Hagerstown's original corporate charter of 1813. Many of the early prominent leaders of the City were 1812 veterans.

