



The Maryland Line

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The Newsletter of the Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc.

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The Maryland Military Historical Society Inc.

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The *Maryland Line* is a quarterly publication of the Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc., (MDMHS). The views expressed in this publication are the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the MDMHS, its board of directors, officers, or members. Articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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Attention!

Membership fees are now due for the year 2020. We sent you a reminder to submit your dues back in January.

If you have not yet submitted your dues, please do so at this time.

Individual dues are \$25. Checks should be made payable to **MDMHS** and mailed to:

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With the 29th Division in Germany as the world celebrates V-E Day, 9 May 1945



Minus Lt. Col. William Blandford's 115th Infantry, already on occupation duties in Bremen, the 29th Division had only just begun to settle into its new bivouacs in and around Münster, when an electrifying message from Eisenhower's forward headquarters at Reims, France, arrived at Major General Charles H. Gerhardt's war room in Warrendorf at 8:05 AM on May 7.

"A representative of the German high command signed the unconditional surrender of all German land, sea, and air forces in Europe to the Allied Expeditionary Force and simultaneously to the Soviet high command at 0141 hours Central European Time, May 7, under which all forces will cease active operations at 12:01 AM, May 9," the communiqué began.

"Effective immediately all offensive operations by Allied Expeditionary Forces will cease and troops will remain in present positions. Moves involved in occupational duties will continue. Due to difficulties in communication, there may be some delay in similar orders reaching enemy troops, so full defensive precautions will be taken.

"All informed, down to and including divisions, tactical air commands and groups, base sections and equivalent. No release will be made to the press pending an announcement by the heads of the three governments."

The 29ers were not privy to another much more succinct message Ike had just sent to the Anglo-American Combined Chiefs of Staff: "The mission of this Allied force was fulfilled at 0241, local time, May 7, 1945."

Later that day, an anonymous clerk typed an historic sentence into the "Incidents, Messages, and Orders" column of the 29th Division's "Journal of Latitude Advance," otherwise known as the war room journal. ("Latitude" was the 29th's code name.) The last of tens of thousands of entries that had been recorded since June 6, 1944 on Omaha Beach, the clerk typed: "The war room as such and the war room journal are discontinued." As he had done every evening since D-Day, Gerhardt penciled in his initials, "CHG," in the lower-right corner of the page, indicating his approval.

It was over.

(Continued on page 2)

"It's been a long way"

Gerhardt composed a simple but eloquent message for the 29ers to be included in the following day's edition of *29 Let's Go*. "Omaha Beach to the Elbe River," he began. "Isigny, St. Lô, Vire, Brest, Siegfried Line, Roer River—the objectives taken on the way. We trained hard for a difficult task, have high standards and a record of all missions accomplished. Our success is a direct result of the efforts of all individuals throughout. WELL DONE! 29 LET'S GO!"

Dissemination of the surrender news down the chain of command triggered a brief outburst of celebratory clatter: the crack of gunshots fired into the air; the bellow of vehicle sirens and horns; the banging of metallic pots and pans; the whoops of exultant 29ers. But "V-E Day," as the prospective event had been designated in the civilian and military press well before the German surrender, triggered far more muted emotions within the 29th Division than on the home front.

The 116th Infantry's Maj. Charles Cawthon theorized that a 29er's typical low-key reaction to the news was "keeping with the mood in which he had fought the war: conviction, determination, unstinted effort, no little courage and sacrifice—and little exultation."

PFC Art Plaut of the 115th noted that "somehow the entire event seemed anticlimactic... For almost a month the average soldier had been able to see that the end was not far away, and the fact that the regiment was not engaged in actual combat at the time of the surrender contributed to the lack of enthusiasm. The men were relieved, but they were not overly excited. They had seen too much of war, and they were tired... The attitude seemed to be, 'Let the folks at home celebrate if they want to. We'll wait until we're sure that we have something to celebrate.' The memories of the fighting were still too fresh, the taste of the hardships endured still too bitter, the comforts of home still too remote for any real celebration."

The 175th's Colonel Edward McDaniel phoned the war room and noted, "I suggest we mount the [29th Division] band on trucks and let them visit the various battalions and regimental command post areas to play some martial music." But that was not nearly good enough for Gerhardt. During the general's tenure as 29th Division commander—now twenty-two months—he had always insisted that an essential element of any 29ers' life must be close-order drill, but that requirement infuriated many combat veterans, who did not see the point of toy-soldier rigamarole in their rare respites from front-line duty.

But the U.S. Army was assuredly not a democracy, and like it or not, 29ers had learned how to march in perfect step, execute sharp right- and left-wheel turns, and stand at rigid attention in flawless alignment while the brass made speeches. Now was the time, Uncle Charlie proclaimed, for his men to demonstrate those traits; V-E Day provided plenty of opportunities, and after witnessing or participating in a couple of impressive parades, most 29ers had to admit that Gerhardt had been right when he avowed: "It is those superficial things that you are judged by."

Nothing radiated the 29th Division's soul better than a triumphal review in the heart of the enemy's country, carried out by hundreds—sometimes thousands—of combat veterans marching in perfect step behind fluttering colors and guidons to the beat of the top-notch music of the 29th Division band. "I never liked parading in the States," Lieutenant Robert Easton, 116th Infantry Co. K platoon leader, wrote to his wife, "but I do now. Marching with these fellows with whom I've shared so much brings us all closer, like good conversation, only much, much better. And we all feel this and silently respect it. In step, easy, tested, strong, we are right as never before and perhaps never again."



115th Infantry Senior Command: From Left to Right; Lt Col John P. Cooper (110th Field Artillery); Capt. William Bruning; Lt Col Louis Smith; Major Glover Johns (VMI class of 1931); Major Anthony Miller, Jr.; Major Harold Perkins; Major Randolph Millholland; Major William Bratton.

The word came down from Ike's headquarters that American units on the Western Front would observe Wednesday, May 9, as Victory-in-Europe Day. As the 116th's May 1945 monthly report remarked with a twinge of contriteness: "It was, after all, a great day," and every unit in the 29th Division must therefore put on some form of martial display that fittingly would include memorial services honoring all 29ers who had lost their lives since D-Day—a total of 3,720 men, not counting hundreds more still unaccounted for on the voluminous roles of the missing, as well as those many GIs who had died from non-combat causes.

At 3:45 PM on May 9, "a brilliantly sunny day," the full 500-man complement of Lt. Colonel John P. Cooper's 110th Field Artillery Battalion paraded in "a fine meadow" just outside Hoetmar, twelve miles southeast of Münster. The event, Cooper remembered, "was a dramatic and fitting end to the long fight. The most prevalent feeling was one of gratitude to God for a victorious peace in Europe at last and an end to the slaughter."

In the presence of Gerhardt's chief artilleryman, Brig. Gen. William Sands—who had worn the blue-and-gray yin-yang patch longer than anyone in the 29th Division—the 110th's adjutant, Capt. Bill Boykin, read Cooper's General Order Number 6 to the rapt cannoneers. "On February 3, 1941, this battalion, then the 1st Battalion, 110th Field Artillery Regiment, Maryland National Guard, was inducted into the service of the United States," Boykin intoned. "Since the assault landing in Normandy on June 6, 1944, the officers and men of the battalion have maintained relentless pressure toward the defeat of Germany and carried out their primary mission, support of the 115th Infantry Regiment, to the utmost of their ability."

"Never in history has the infantry of our army, which bears the brunt of land warfare, received such fast, accurate, and massive artillery support when and where needed, than in this war. Never has an enemy been more relentlessly pounded around the clock..."

"Remember our comrades who have made the supreme sacrifice and upheld the standards and ideals for which they died. You are a member of a fine division and a fine battalion. I am proud of you, and I know that your generals and the nation share that pride. As to the past: Well done! As to the future, tackle it with the spirit of the division's old battle cry: 29, Let's Go!"

The ceremony concluded with a perfect march-past by the battalion's five batteries—Headquarters, A, B, C, and Service—as the 29th Division band blared *Maryland, My Maryland*. Led by an officer and a veteran enlisted man carrying a fork-tailed red guidon, each battery passed

Cooper and Sands on the reviewing stand with a perfect “eyes right,” as the guidon dipped in salute. An emotional Cooper noted that the moment “created a memory that never can be erased.” Later, each battery organized a party— “with schnapps from a nearby plant at Freckenhorst supplied with the compliments of the burgomeister.”

The 121st Engineer Battalion’s V-E Day affair in Bremen was more of a somber memorial service than a triumphal review. The 121st had come a long way since its days as a District of Columbia National Guard outfit, as its executive officer, Capt. Henry Lewis, noted with some emotion at the event: “This battalion, with the 116th and 115th, assaulted Hun-infested Europe. From Omaha Beach to Les Foulons, where, after blowing hedgerows, clearing mines, performing night and day every engineer task possible to assist the doughboy, you went into the line as infantry—through all of Jerry’s machine gun fire, burp guns, mortars, and 88s, plus rain, cold, and mud—and you held this line until relieved...”

“The 121st Engineer Battalion performed every engineer task in the book and many not covered in the book. V-E Day, May 9, 1945, finds us on the outskirts of Bremen. On this Memorial Day we are assembled here first to give thanks to God in heaven for the victory; second, to pay solemn tribute in honor of those men of the battalion who paid the supreme sacrifice in breaking the bonds of the enslaved nations in order for all peoples to have the inalienable rights of liberty, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. May you and I always remember that only by the grace of God and the sacrifices of such men are we present here today. May we and those at home ever be worthy of the cause for which these ninety-two men gave their very lives.”

In a pasture outside Isselhorst, Bingham’s 116th Infantry— “3,000 men standing with bowed heads,” according to Easton—sang hymns and listened to psalms read by solemn Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish chaplains before tramping in review past Gerhardt, “by columns of companies so he could get a good look.” Later, in the gloomy Lutheran church in Isselhorst, Easton’s 3rd Battalion held a memorial service, which kicked off with a rendition of the stirring 1756 hymn *Come, Thou Almighty King*.

*Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise!
Father, all glorious, O’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of days!*

In one pew Easton noticed two Company K members—whom he categorized as “boys”—reading from the same hymnal. “I saw them sharing the same frozen foxhole on an outpost along the Roer River,” Easton wrote, “and when we jumped off and crossed the river, they came one behind the other on the footbridge... These two men have eaten, slept, prayed, gotten drunk, argued, laughed, bitched about the Army, and gone to the latrine together for six months, and they’ve fought together, if there is such a thing.”

A chaplain closed the service with *My Country ‘Tis of Thee*, and as Easton filed out of the church, he overheard two veterans reminiscing about the old days at Fort Meade when the 29th Division had been mobilized in early 1941. One veteran murmured, “It’s been a long way.”

Replied the other: “Yeah.”

Editor’s note: Thanks to Stackpole Books and Joseph Balkoski for allowing us to present the last chapter of Joe’s most recent book, “The Last Roll Call: The 29th Infantry Division Victorious.” The book, which was published in 2015, is available on Amazon.com or direct from Joe.

In Memoriam



John R. Schaffner

August 11, 1924 – March 3, 2020

On 3 March, the Round Table and the Maryland Military Historical Society lost our last World War II veteran, John Schaffner. We will miss him dearly. He represented all that was great about “the greatest generation.”

John was a corporal in the 589th Field Artillery Battalion of the 106th Infantry Division. He saw extensive action in the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944. We were honored to publish a part of John’s memoirs from the battle in our Winter edition of *The Maryland Line*. For those of you who are interested in reading more of his war-time memoirs, they are available at <http://indianamilitary.org/106ID/SoThinkMenu/106thSTART.htm>.

John worked tirelessly to perpetuate the history of American soldiers who fought in World War II. He was president of the 106th Infantry Division Association and served as its historian until his death. He was a prolific writer and his memoirs are an example of his narrative skills. He was interviewed many times for books and documentaries that were focused on the largest battle on the Western Front during WWII.

The Round Table was very privileged to have John speak at a December meeting several years ago. Fortunately, his presentation was digitally recorded and the CD is now in the archives of the Maryland Museum of Military History at the Fifth Regiment Armory.

It is now up to us – the next generation to carry forward the torch that he bore so ably for so many years.

John – may you rest in peace. You will always be remembered.

Frank Armiger, Editor

Curtis B. Vickery Round Table of Military History

Due to the COVID – 19 pandemic, the March meeting of the Round Table was cancelled. We are planning to hold a meeting in July and will probably move the April meeting to August. Stay tuned for updates.

The current schedule for the Round Table:

April 16 One of our favorite speakers, member Joe Balkoski, 29th Division Historian, will return to present "The Road to D-Day," emphasizing some of the little-known stories of the early stages of D-Day planning, such as the Tehran conference and FDR's appointment of Eisenhower. As the preeminent authority on D-Day, Joe will dig deep into his knowledge base to present these unique and compelling stories that ultimately shaped the largest amphibious invasion in history.

May 21 Cory Pfarr, author of "Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment," will be our speaker. Mr. Pfarr's publication is the first book-length analysis of Lieutenant General James Longstreet's actions at Gettysburg. After the war, and especially after Robert E. Lee's death, his contemporaries, as well as many historians roundly criticized Longstreet in the succeeding decades. He was vilified and blamed for the defeat.

Although his critics accentuated his stubbornness and sluggishness during the greatest battle fought on American soil, Mr. Pfarr's meticulous research disproves these critical theories. This is a fascinating study to "set the record straight" and view Longstreet's actions at Gettysburg in a much different light.

June 18 Our speaker will be Mitch Yockelson, author of the soon-to-be-released book: *The Paratrooper Generals: Matthew Ridgway, Maxwell Taylor, and the American Airborne from D-Day through Normandy* (Stackpole). His presentation is "Who Were the American Airborne on D-Day?" A discussion about the more than 13,000 American soldiers who volunteered to become paratroopers and spearheaded the Normandy Invasion.

Mitch directs the National Archives and Records Administration-Archival Recovery Program where he leads investigations of thefts of historical documents and museum artifacts. Additionally, Mitch is a professor of military history at Norwich University and the author of five books and numerous articles and reviews.

He also regularly leads tours of the Normandy battlefields for the *New York Times Journeys* and *Smithsonian Journeys* and frequently lectures on military history. He lives in Annapolis, Maryland.

July 16 Another member and favorite speaker, David Ginsburg, will provide a presentation on General Paul von Lettow-Vorback who was one of the most spectacular generals in the history of guerrilla warfare - and perhaps one of the most unknown. His eastern African campaign in WWI was designed with one purpose - to tie down as many allied troops as he could for as long as he could. Four years later, he was undefeated and left 300,000 allied troops frustrated across the continent.

September 17 There is a famous Civil War photograph that was taken in Frederick, MD showing Confederate troops on the march in the streets of the town. For many years, historians believed that the picture was taken in September 1862 during Lee's Maryland Campaign.

This photograph fascinated Paul Bolcik, whose writings, investigations and photographs have appeared in such publications as *Life Magazine*, *Civil War Times* and *The Washington Post*, and Erik Davis, a digital cartographer who is an avid history enthusiast and lifetime resident of Frederick, and spurred them to conduct a detailed investigation of the photograph. The results of the investigation will be the subject of their talk, historic, and photographic detective work leading to a surprising conclusion.

October 15 David Ginsburg will return for a presentation on another little-known, but interesting unit from World War I. The Czechoslovak Legion was a volunteer armed force primarily of Czechs fighting on the side of the Entente Powers in WWI.

They fought in the Russian Imperial Army against the Central Powers, fought the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution, at times controlled the Trans-Siberian Railway and were finally evacuated from Vladivostok in 1920.

November 19 Many know about the bloodiest day in US military history – the battle fought along Antietam Creek near the town of Sharpsburg and the precursor, the Battle of South Mountain. Certainly, this battle fought on Maryland soil was a critical turning point in the Civil War in 1862.

However, less well known was a battle fought near Frederick in 1864 along the Monocacy River about 50 miles north of the District of Columbia. A hastily formed "army" under the leadership of General Lew Wallace, better known as the author of *Ben Hur*, met a veteran Rebel corps under the leadership of Jubal Early. Frank Armiger is the speaker and he will tell us about the significance of the Battle of the Monocacy.

December 17 Returning for an encore performance, Mary Ann Jung, who enthralled the group at the 2019 holiday dinner party with her first-person rendition of Clara Barton, will portray "Rosie the Riveter." Mary Ann will interpret the fascinating story of Rosie through Rose Leigh Monroe who worked at the largest factory in the world – Willow Run in Michigan. Join us in the fun as we meet, and maybe even play, Charles Lindbergh, Walter Pidgeon, and Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt, all of whom toured Willow Run. Discover which came first – the Rosie posters, song, or the real women who sacrificed and worked in factories to help America win the war. Who was the real Rosie? The answer is riveting!

Other MDMHS News

Director Brian Becker is working with President Pete Hinz to develop a three-year budget for the Society.

We are planning a quarterly release updating the MDMHS website to streamline the dues paying process, add descriptions to the links to other sites, and other enhancements.

The MDMHS is planning to develop a new logo that will represent the full scope of the Society's mission. To that end, we have received a proposal from a highly experienced graphic artist to develop and create a high-resolution digital image logo that can be used for all purposes, e.g., letterhead, presentations, and merchandise.

Todd's Inheritance in the War of 1812

"Todds [Inheritance] is a commodious two-story frame house, with a large stable capable of accommodating in it and under its sheds at least thirty horses." Major

William Barney to Brigadier General John Stricker, March 23, 1813.

Why was Major Barney describing the Todd house and stables to Brigadier General John Stricker in 1813? Because he and Stricker knew the British Royal Navy would soon be raiding shipping and settlements along the Chesapeake Bay in order to destroy as much American commerce and materiel as possible during the War of 1812. The Americans planned to track Royal Navy movements in order to better defend themselves against British pillagers and incendiaries.

Why was stabling for 30 horses important? Because fast-moving mounted militia dragoons, like Major Barney, needed to be posted at key locations where they could observe and report Royal Navy maneuvers on the Bay. Today, Todd's Inheritance affords a view from the tip of the North Point Peninsula at least 14 miles down the Chesapeake to the Bay Bridge. It was a wonderful vantage point for watching Royal Navy vessels moving up and down the Bay and for quartering forces to resist British landings. But it also put Todd's at risk for retribution by British forces should they effect a landing on the North Point Peninsula.

The head of the Todd family at this time was 46-year-old Bernard Todd, descendent of the Todd family who settled on North Point in 1664, when Maryland was still an English colony and yet over a century away from declaring independence from Great Britain. By 1813, the Todds were a moderately wealthy plantation family and thoroughly Americanized.

Baltimore City was the third largest city in the U.S. at the time and one of the busiest and most profitable ports in America. It was also thoroughly anti-British and outfitted many privateers who were licensed to raid British shipping on the high seas. Thus, it was a prime target for British attack. With most of what little regular American troops there fighting on the American-Canadian frontier, local people in the Chesapeake were largely left to their own designs to defend themselves with their militias. President James Madison is said to have remarked, "It can't be expected that I can defend every man's turnip patch".

Luckily for the Baltimore community, its leadership was leavened by veteran officers of the War of Independence, such as U.S. Senator and militia Major General Samuel Smith, Brigadier General John Stricker, former mayor Colonel John Eager Howard, and naval hero Commodore Joshua Barney, whose son William, the militia dragoon, was keeping a keen eye out for the Royal Navy. Fort McHenry, guarding the entrance to Baltimore harbor, was commanded by U.S. regular officer Major George Armistead, who would prove a stalwart.

When the British started raiding the Chesapeake in 1813, these men rightly figured that an attack on Baltimore was a distinct possibility, so they planned accordingly. They knew from their experience in the military academy of hard knocks that such an attack would likely be a pincer movement, one by land and one by sea,

and exactly that would happen in 1814. While the sea assault would have to pass Fort McHenry, the land assault, they figured, would come via the North Point Peninsula and its main thoroughfare, North Point Road, which provided a convenient line of march directly into the city's eastern flank. That's why the city defenders posted militia videttes on the peninsula, at Todd's and other farmsteads. The British, watching from their ships with telescopes, could easily see all this military activity.

Finally, in September 1814, after having swept away American militia at Bladensburg and burning the public buildings in Washington City, a combined force of British troops, Royal Marines, and sailors from the Royal Navy landed at the tip of North Point in the wee hours of the 12th. While the navy then moved closer to Fort McHenry to prepare for the bombardment, the land force of about 4,500 men commanded by British Major General Robert Ross, a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars, with naval Rear Admiral James Cockburn alongside him, formed along North Point Road, outside Todd's Inheritance, to commence their march. Meanwhile, Major General Smith had dispatched Brigadier General John Stricker with a force of at least 3,200 militiamen to interrupt the British. Stricker formed his men just ahead of the fork between North Point Road and Trappe Road, farther up the peninsula. Once the British reached that point, they could take either—or both—roads into the city. The site was also a pinch point on the North Point Peninsula, where Stricker could anchor each of his flanks on water, a strategic place to resist the British.

While Stricker had posted advanced troops lower down the peninsula, they melted back to Stricker's main line without offering resistance to the invaders. Disgusted by that, Stricker sent another force of about 200 infantrymen, riflemen, and artillery back down North Point Road. When the British encountered this force and bullets began to fly, General Ross advanced to the head of his column to assess the situation. A Maryland militia bullet found and killed him. Two militia riflemen, Daniel Wells and Henry McComas, are credited with firing the fatal shot, but this isn't certain. Nevertheless, the British pushed on with their senior colonel, Sir Arthur Brooke, in command. Stricker's brigade put up a spirited defense at the fork in the road, then made a strategic withdrawal. This fight stopped the British for the night and thus bought General Smith, back in Baltimore, another 24 hours to complete defensive works and pour more militia into Baltimore's eastern flank. He hadn't expected Stricker to stop the British assault, just to bloody its nose and slow it down, which, with the killing of Ross and stopping the British march for the day, Stricker certainly accomplished.

The next day, Colonel Brooke resumed his march toward Baltimore, eventually gaining the high ground where today's Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital stands. From there, the British could see a mile and a half-long earthen embankment built by the Baltimoreans,

stretching from the area of Canton on the harbor all the way to today's U.S. Rte. 1, the road to Bel Air, MD. The center of that line is today's Patterson Park in the city. The British counted about 100 cannon and spied at least 15,000 American militiamen waiting for them to attack. With rain falling and the fresh earth of the embankments turning to slippery mud, and hearing the Royal Navy's bombardment of Fort McHenry was unsuccessful, Brooke decided against an assault and began the march back to the tip of North Point to rendezvous with the fleet and sail back down the Bay. Baltimore was saved.

And what of Todd's Inheritance? After Major Barney sent his 1813 report singling out Todd's as a place worthy of military occupation, and after the British commenced operations in the Bay, General Smith ordered a force of Maryland militia cavalry, artillery, riflemen, and infantry to take command at "Headquarters, Todd's House", and Todd's remained a hub of Maryland military operations until its demise in September of the following year. Though he was above the age of militia service, Bernard Todd volunteered, along with a lot of other men not eligible for militia service, to join the ranks anyway. He rode out for a month's service with Stansbury's dragoons during the crisis of late summer 1814. His sword (below) is preserved at the Flag House in Baltimore.

While Bernard survived the British attack on North Point, his house, outbuildings, crops, and livestock did not. The rest of his family had joined their cousins, the Ridgelys at Hampton north of Baltimore. But because the Todds' house was used as an American military post, the British destroyed everything they could before leaving. American dragoons nipping at the British heels during the retrograde reported that the enemy had "fired the dwelling and out-houses" at Todd's. Everything of value, even livestock and crops, "were entirely consumed."

The Todds rebuilt by 1818. The brick house and attached frame structure that stand today are the dwelling and kitchen they rebuilt. While they petitioned the Federal government for recompense, they didn't receive it until the 1850s, decades after losing it all.

Two people benefitted from the Todds' disaster, slave men. An affidavit signed by Todd neighbors after the war stated that at the



time of the invasion, the British "took two Slaves—one named Abel . . . The other named Sam . . . both Slaves to Bernard Todd, of Patapsco Neck . . ." This is consistent with British policy during the American war. They offered freedom to slaves who abandoned their masters and joined them. Liberated black men of military age and fitness were offered enlistment in a force Admiral Cockburn called the "Colonial Marines", who were uniformed, equipped, and trained exactly like the Royal Marines with the fleet. A couple of Colonial Marine companies were at the Battle of North Point. After the war, the British settled former American slaves in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in the Caribbean. Their descendants flourish yet today.

Sam had tried to gain his freedom as a younger man when he and a woman named Hagar fled from Bernard's father Thomas Todd, who ran a classified newspaper ad seeking their return in 1783. In 1814 Sam, along with Abel, apparently succeeded in his flight. In 1828 Bernard Todd was compensated \$580 for losing the men.

*Submitted by Ross M. Kimmel,
Todd's Inheritance Historic Site volunteer.*

Update on the Status of the Pikesville NCO Club

In our Autumn edition we reported on the status of the Governor's Commission to determine the future of the Pikesville Military Reservation property. MDMHS Director David Ginsburg represented the veteran's and military history groups on the Commission.

Our Round Table has been meeting at the NCO Club on the property for several years. It is a comfortable and easily accessible location for most of our members and we plan to continue meeting there for the foreseeable future.

On 9 March, Director Ginsburg facilitated a meeting for all those in Post 110, The NCO Club, the 121st Engineers, the Warrant Officers Association and the Round Table (the key occupants of the NCO Club) to talk about our options for the Pikesville NCO Club and go over the status of the 501c (3) we are setting up.

Jane Roger, Chief of Land Acquisition & Disposal for the Mary-

land Department of General Services briefed the group on a carve-out of the building, some land and a right of way that could be leased to us. Governor Hogan supports giving the property to an organization that will benefit the community. In addition, she advised that from her discussions with the Maryland Military Department, they are interested in giving us the property, as well.

The key groups involved feel strongly that losing the building would adversely affect the organizations that use the NCO Club as their primary meeting venue. Consequently, the establishment of a 501 c (3) organization to accept charitable donations is vital to the continued maintenance and usage of the facility.

Based on the strong support that emanated from the meeting, David has already received pledges of \$12K for one-time donations and \$6K for ongoing donations. If you are interested in supporting the cause and retaining the facility for our Round Table meetings, please contact David at dginzu@gmail.com.

However, donations alone will not be sufficient to operate the

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Todd's Inheritance Historic Site

9000 North Point Rd, Sparrows Point, MD 21219

Calendar of Museum Events for 2020

April 18 th & 19 th	Pearl Gintling and Elmer Cook Honored
May 16 th & 17 th	Native American Life in Maryland Then & Now
June 13 th & 14 rd	Flag Day/Armed Forces Day Celebration
July 18 th & 19 st	Lighthouses of the Patapsco & Chesapeake Bay
August 15 th & 16 th	Remembering Fort Howard & Veterans Hospital
September 19 th & 20 th	Celebrating Defenders Day/War of 1812
October 10 th & 11 th	Bay Shore Park & North Point St. Park Celebration
November 14 th & 15 th	Veterans Day Celebration
December 12 th & 13 th	Christmas at Todd's Inheritance

Hours: 10 AM TO 3 PM

ADMISSIONS COSTS:

Seniors	65 & over	\$ 7.00
Adults	16+	\$10.00
Children	under 16	FREE

MEMBERSHIPS: Unlimited admissions for One Year

\$30 Basic	\$50 Donor	\$100 Sponsor
\$250.00 Patron	\$500.00 Benefactor	\$1,000 Defender

***Make checks payable to: Todd's Inheritance Historic Site Inc.

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facility going forward. Consequently, Director Ginsburg is leading the effort to develop a revenue plan so that the NCO Club can be self-sustaining.

In addition, we are meeting with the Military Facilities Department to discuss the preference of a leasing arrangement over ownership and for potential help in paying the utilities. We are also reaching out to the Mary-

land Defense Force to get some expertise in conducting the inspections for the facility and in estimating the short- and long-term costs.

We will continue to keep the MDMHS membership posted on the status of events as they evolve over the upcoming weeks. The Society and the Round Table are fully committed to retaining the use of the Pikesville NCO Club.

Frank Armiger, Editor

In Freedom's Name Update

The *In Freedom's Name* exhibit just began a run in the Enoch Pratt free Library system in Baltimore city. It was shown in the Central Hall of the main branch on Cathedral Street this February.

After that it will rotate through a dozen other branches for several months; last year at this time it rotated through 12 branches.

The exhibit has just finished a multi month run in the Frederick county library system. We received a request from the Maryland Department of Transportation to display the entire exhibit at the Motor Vehicle Administration office in Glen Burnie on February 26, for a special event to honor black history month.

At the time, the MVA was expecting Colin Powell to be the keynote speaker. Unfortunately, General Powell cancelled, but in his place Ricky D. Smith, Executive Director/CEO of the Maryland Aviation Administration, spoke about his career as he moved up through the ranks of the Department.

On February 28, the exhibit went back out to Frederick for the Frederick County (Western Maryland) Annual Master Docent Workshop. Dr. Glenn Johnston accompanied the exhibit and provided a one-hour curator's talk.

We also are exploring the possibility of having the exhibit rotate for several months through the Prince Georges county library system, and plan to reach out to them in the near future.

In addition, we would like to see the exhibit that is currently in the Enoch Pratt Library System shift into another large system such as the Baltimore County library system or the Montgomery county library system after it finishes in Baltimore City.

Frank Armiger, Editor



The Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc.
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441 Chalfonte Drive
Baltimore, MD 21228-4017

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MUSEUM HOURS

Our museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 9am to 3pm by appointment only.
Please contact First Lieutenant Mary Lyons at 410-576-1496, to schedule a visit to our museum.
Visit our website at: **www.marylandmilitaryhistory.org**