

THE FORT MCHENRY GUARD



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We are a group of volunteers with an interest in history. Our deep interest in history has led us to assume the roles of the people, citizens and soldiers, who lived during our nation's infancy. We have five different units: The Citizens--such as the visiting wives; Field Music--the fife and drum players who learn the signals to order soldiers' drills; U.S. Corps of Artillery--the regular army soldiers; Baltimore Fencibles--volunteer soldiers from the Baltimore area; and Sea Fencibles--a group of fighting mariners and civilians.

As members of the Guard we need to know a lot of history. Training sessions are held regularly at the Fort, and we do individual research which we share with one another. We study the details on soldiers' uniforms, the early history of Baltimore, and recipes for preparing camp meals.

At the Fort we set up displays, and we present programs at schools, fairs and libraries. We bring bayonets, uniforms, pictures, cannon balls and history to the public. A group of us travels to other War of 1812 sites. Once a year Fort McHenry holds a Tattoo and we lead the drill and ceremony.

Each year the Guard holds a War of 1812 weekend at Fort McHenry. Reenactor units from Ohio and Virginia join the Guard, camping out on the Fort grounds reliving the life of a soldier of 1812. The public is invited to visit and learn about the history of Fort McHenry.