

The RECORD

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Evidence of the interest of the younger generation in local history is displayed by the results of recent contests conducted by Southern Maryland Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America and by the Governor William Smallwood Chapter of the Maryland State Society, N.S.U.S. Daughters of 1812.

We have the pleasure to publish winners in each of these essay contests. The Colonial Dames contest was limited to eight grade students in Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. The essay of Rosalie Carrico daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Carrico and a student at St. Mary's School won second place in the contest.

The subject of the contest was Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

In the Daughters of 1812 contest another Bryantown resident was the winner. Miss Amy Gibson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Gibson. The subject of this Essay was THE WAR OF 1812 - America's Second Fight for Freedom.

The Colonial Dames have announced the subject for this years contest to be Leonard Calvert, First Governor of Maryland (Proprietary). The contest starts Nov. 1st and the essays must be in by Dec. 8th.

ESSAY

by Rosalie Carrico St. Mary's School, Charles County, Md.

As I turn the pages of Maryland's History one man is outstanding. That man, an apostle of democracy has such titles as Statesman, First Citizen, Patriot, and Signer. We realize by these titles that this man is the one and only Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Charles Carroll did not suddenly become a statesman, or obtain any of these titles just out of the clear blue sky. No! He worked hard for them.

The parents of Charles Carroll, realizing his need for a good education, sent him to France at the young age of eleven. He was going to be an heir to a great fortune and several plantations one of which was to be Doughoregan Manor with its ten thousand acres. Charles studied at the Jesuit's College of Saint Omer, and then at the college of Louis le Grand in Paris. Next he spent seven years studying law in London, England. After studying in Europe for sixteen years, he returned to Maryland in 1765 as an attractive and cultured young gentleman. When Charles Carroll returned to Maryland from his studies abroad, his father gave him a large plantation in Frederick County called Carrollton Manor. Charles added its name to his own and thereafter signed himself "Charles Carroll of Carrollton."

He was interested in a political life and he joined the Whig party. However, at first, he could not hold office because he was a Roman Catholic and members of the Roman Catholic Church were disqualified by law at that time from holding any public office.

In 1770 there was much dispute in the House of Assembly over renewing the acts fixing fees of the officers of the government and imposing the tax for the support of the Episcopal Church. The Acts expired in that year and the session ended without renewing them. Governor Robert Eden revived these acts by proclamation. The people resisted because they felt this was unjust. Charles Carroll wrote letters to the editor of the Maryland Gazette, the Annapolis newspaper, against the acts of Governor Eden and the proprietary govern-

ton, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence died quietly in his sleep on November 14, 1832 in Baltimore. Charles Carroll of Carrollton's life extended over almost a century of our country's most interesting history. He saw the hopes that he had for his country come true.

* Editor's Note: Seven years.

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ESSAY

Amy Gibson, Notre Dame High School

In 1812 a war was declared, the second war between the United States and England. It was a great war but one that never should have occurred.

The real culprit behind the War of 1812 was Napoleon Bonaparte. France was in the throes of a war with England, and the shrewd Napoleon realized the tremendous advantage to be gained by involving England in a war with the U.S.

Prior to 1812 both England and France had been guilty of capturing and selling American ships. Napoleon issued a decree which stated that France would suspend its Orders in Council (this taking of ships). He also said that England should, at the same time, revoke her Orders in Council, and advised America to stand up for her rights. Of course, America complied and demanded that England repeal the hated Orders. This was where Napoleon's trap closed in. He pitted England and the U.S. against one another while he continued to seize our ships.

It certainly was not a propitious time for England, still hampered by the insane King George, to involve herself in further disputes. Her parliamentary leaders saw the trap Napoleon had set and refused to cancel the Orders until France had proven the validity of her words and no longer molested American ships. England had already taxed America's temper by impressing her seamen and by supposedly inciting the Indians on the frontier to rebellion. This was the last straw on the camel's overcrowded back.

A new breed of Americans had arisen since the Revolution. Proud, eager, fire-in-the-blood young men had been elected to Congress. They said that the United States should not take insults from any other nation and raised the murmur of displeasure in the U.S. to a cry for war. The "War Hawks," as they were called, led by John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay, finally succeeded in persuading President Madison to support their cause. On June 18, 1812 war was declared against England.

In truth, this war never should have been. The main reason for it, England's Orders in Council, had been removed two days before the war was declared. On June 16, 1812 England suspended her Orders even though she knew Napoleon had not suspended his. England plainly showed that she wanted no part in another war. Our minister in England, William Pinkney, had left England only a few days before in desperation, and there was no English minister in America. America had no way of knowing that England had given in.

The esteemed Vice President of our historical society presented the following interesting material. This is an excellent illustration of the kind of research we would like to have for publication in the Record. Thanks to you Mr. Ferrall.

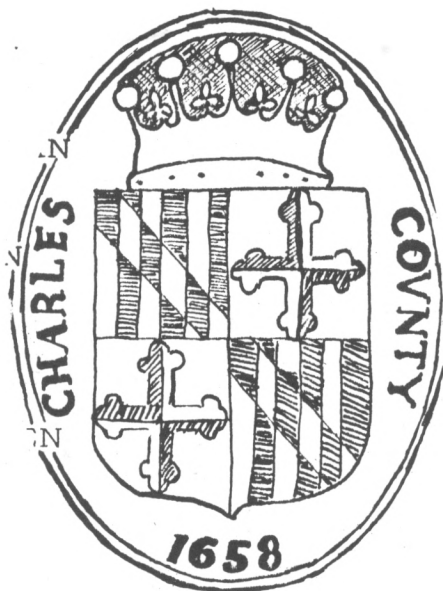


POST OFFICE, BRYANTOWN, MARYLAND

ESTABLISHED 3 JANUARY 1820

LIST OF POSTMASTERS

NAME	DATE OF COMMISSION
JESSE C. COOK	3 JANUARY 1820
WILLIAM N. BEAN	26 OCTOBER 1827
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HENRY A. TURNER	29 NOVEMBER 1869
THOMAS H. MURRAY	1 AUGUST 1870
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GEORGE D. MUDD	23 DECEMBER 1878
JAMES A. LYON	15 MAY 1885
HENRY A. TURNER	20 DECEMBER 1888



ment. Instead of using his name, he signed his letters "First Citizen." People read these letters with great interest for it encouraged them in their stand against the Governor. They later learned that Charles Carroll was the "First Citizen."

Thereafter England took off all taxes except that on tea. This tax was retained only to show the colonies of its right to impose a tax. The colonists were now fighting for a principle. When tea was sent to Boston, a group of men went on board and threw its cargo into the sea. In 1774, the ship, *Peggy Stewart*, arrived at Annapolis with tea. The people were indignant and threatened to burn the tea and the vessel.

The owner, on the advice of Charles Carroll, ran the vessel aground and set it afire. The crowd watched while it burned at the water's edge.

The proprietary government gradually lost its power and ceased to rule except in name. The people themselves began to control their own affairs. Now a temporary government was formed and the authority was in the hands of a Convention, which was made up of delegates from all the counties. The Convention of Maryland met in Annapolis in June, 1774. Charles Carroll was the one of the most active members of this body. The Convention concluded in December 1774 with an appeal to the people to unite in defense of their rights and liberties, and in 1775 the colonies acted. On April 18, 1775 the shot heard around the world was fired. This shot started the battle of Lexington and also started Charles Carroll's work as a great patriot. The battle of Concord, the battle of Bunker Hill, and many other battles were fought. Charles Carroll did not fight as a military man, but fought by giving money and using his great ability, and intelligence in this battle for freedom. The people of Maryland began to look to Charles Carroll for leadership. He was chosen to go to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. In 1776 one of the delegates to the Continental Congress arose and stated that "the United Colonies are and of right ought to be independent states." Most of its members were excited as they considered this idea but some wanted to be more cautious. Charles Carroll approved this idea, and returned to Annapolis to urge the Maryland Convention to join the other colonies in approving a declaration of independence. Consent was finally won and Maryland sent four men to the Continental Congress to vote for independence. They were Charles Carroll, William Paca, Thomas Stone and Samuel Chase.

On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress met in Independence Hall, Philadelphia. Thomas Jefferson stood up and read the Declaration he had written. Then slowly and solemnly the delegates signed their names to the Declaration of Independence. As Charles Carroll was about to sign his name many men reminded him that there were many Carrolls; therefore, he signed his name, "Charles Carroll of Carrollton."

This declaration said "...that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and Independent States. . . ." It was one thing to declare the colonies independent but another to win independence. For five * years the Revolutionary War dragged on. During this time Charles Carroll continued his work in the Continental Congress. He served on many committees which helped George Washington and the army to carry on the war.

In 1776 Charles Carroll of Carrollton with his cousin John Carroll, Samuel Chase and Benjamin Franklin went to Canada hoping to enlist the help of the Canadians in the revolt against England, or least to prevail on the Canadians to be neutral.

At last, on October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia. With peace came the independence, for which the signers had hoped and planned.

Charles Carroll had served his State and County faithfully. At the age of sixty-three he retired from public office. Now he spent more time with his family. He had given each of his three children, now married, beautiful estates; and after his wife passed away, he spent his time visiting his children. At the age of ninety-five, Charles Carroll of Carroll-

The first battles of the war failed miserably for America. She plunged rashly into war with only 8,000 troops and practically no funds. With the failure of her invasion of Canada some of her military bravado was lost. At sea, though, it was a different matter. In battle after battle she defeated her British counterparts. American seamen, especially her captains, demonstrated great courage and bravery. Finally she began to gain strength in her land forces. Once again, America showed the military ingenuity for which she was famous.

By this time enthusiasm was fast waning on both sides. After two years of war England and the United States were ready to negotiate; but not before the British had ransacked Washington. They had set up a blockade around the coast and had been making small skirmishes ashore to burn farms and villages. In August of 1814 they sailed up the Patuxent River and landed at Benedict, Md. They then marched on the unguarded capital. The few raw recruits that were guarding the capital fled at the first encounter and the whole of Washington was evacuated. It is a well known story that President Madison and wife, Dolly, rescued some of the treasures of the White House while Washington was in flames about them.

Finally a peace treaty was signed on December 24, 1814. Unfortunately, again because of poor communication, one of the bloodiest battles of the war was fought a few days later on January 8, 1815. The great Andrew Jackson defeated over 10,000 British troops and an armada of fifty vessels at the famous "Battle of New Orleans." In this encounter 2,000 English lives were lost to only 13 American. The futility of this battle makes the great loss of life even more tragic.

In 1812 a war occurred -- a war which need not have occurred -- a war which caused great loss of life and resources to both England and the United States. However, this was not a completely futile war. The people in the United States were the first in over 2,000 years to support democracy. They had established a government of, by, and for the people, a precious right which they would not give up easily. The brash, young country which had set up a government only a few years past and had presumed to defeat his majesty's forces on land and sea had again ousted the forces of tyranny. In so doing they had strengthened the foundations of freedom for the whole world. Our country can remember the War of 1812 with much pride and can honestly say, "By George, we've done it again!"

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ANGELA BOARMAN
CHARLES A. BOWLING
THOMAS E. BOARMAN
ELIZABETH A. BOARMAN
WM. EUGENE SUMMERS (ACTING)
MARION B. SUMMERS
WM. EUGENE SUMMERS (ACTING)
WM. EUGENE SUMMERS
WM. T. BOWLING (ACTING)
WM. T. BOWLING

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RESEARCHED & PRESENTED BY F. L. FERRALL

LA PLATA, MD.



Mr. & Mrs. John M. Candland
2610 Lindell St.
Silver Spring,
Md