

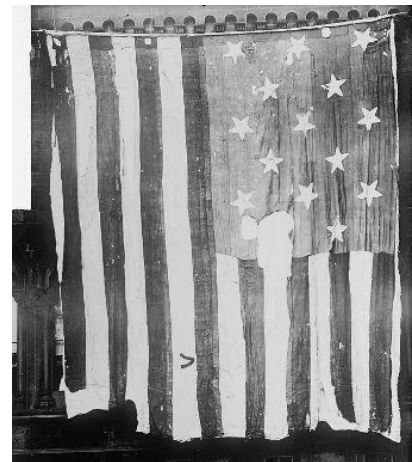


FGS announces plan to fund digitization of War of 1812 pension records

April 29, 5:59 AM - [Baltimore Genealogy & History Examiner](#) - Michael Hait

In conjunction with the beginning of the 2010 National Genealogical Society Conference, the Federation of Genealogical Societies has announced a new fund-raising effort, with the goal of digitizing and making available the pension files for War of 1812 veterans. This effort will help to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

The state of Maryland played [a significant role in the War of 1812](#). The battle of Fort McHenry in Baltimore inspired Francis Scott Key to write what would become our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." Other battles in Maryland lay on the British route from the Chesapeake Bay to Washington, D. C. During the War, the British laid siege to our Capital, even burning the White House before eventually being defeated.



Pension files constitute one of the most genealogically rich record groups. In addition to details concerning military service, often including affidavits from both the applicant and other members of his regiment, many pension files contain personal information about the lives of these soldiers. For example, when a veteran's widow applied for a pension, she was required to prove her marriage and one will often find marriage records, copies of family Bible pages, or affidavits from the minister or witnesses to the marriage. A wealth of other information can also be found in these wonderful records.

The National Archives and Records Administration holds over 180,000 pension files for soldiers who fought in the War of 1812, at its headquarters in Washington, D. C. These files have never been microfilmed, and digitization would greatly improve access as well as protect the originals from daily handling.

With an estimated 7.2 million pages, the cost to digitize the entire collection of War of 1812 pension files will be approximately 3.7 million dollars. A donation of just \$25 can help to digitize about fifty pages.

The FGS provides several options for your donations:

General Donation: You may donate to the preservation project without dedicating your donation in anyone's name.

Tribute Donation: Honor a living person such as a family member, friend, or colleague who appreciates history, genealogy, and preserving historical documents.

Memorial Donation: Honor a family member or fellow genealogist who has passed on who perhaps had an interest in military history, military records, or preservation.

Ancestor Donation: Support at a level that would preserve all of your War of 1812 ancestor's pension records or the pensions of War of 1812 veterans buried in your locale.

Tribute to Marsha Hoffman Rising: As a past president of the Federation, Marsha Hoffman Rising had long supported the preservation of the War of 1812 documents. Donations received in Marsha's name will go towards making these records available online for interested researchers. The names of donors will appear in *FORUM* magazine and a notice will be sent to Marsha's family.

Anonymous Donation: You may make an anonymous donation to the Preserve the Pensions Fund.

For more information and to make a donation, visit the [FGS website](#).