



## The street names have meaning in Locust Point

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Locust Point is a perfect reflection of the new Baltimore—an amalgam of old and new, of heavy industry and finance, of corner stores and big business, of Formstone row houses, restored brick, and glossy condominiums.

Baltimore would be vastly different without Locust Point, because on the night of September 13, 1814, the British Navy rained shells and shot on Fort McHenry for 25 hours, and a young attorney named Francis Scott Key, held prisoner on a British ship near the present-day Key Bridge, took notes.



We all know the rest—after Washington folded like an accordion, Baltimore saved the day, and the Locust Pointers at the fort helped save the nation.

The streets of Locust Point are named for some of the defenders.

### **Andre Street**

Not much is known about poor Gregorius Andre, a lieutenant with the Union Yagers, an independent infantry company attached to the Fifth Maryland Regiment. Andre turned to get a last shot fired during his company's retreat in the Battle of North Point and was himself shot dead.

No one knew it then, but someone in the small band of volunteers sent forth to harass the British advance had just fired the shot that won the Eastern arm of the Battle of Baltimore.

Andre was with Major Richard Key Heath's volunteer brigade of 250 riflemen who crept ahead of the main force, which was quartered at Bouldin Farm near what is now Dundalk.

The company quickly—and unexpectedly—found some British soldiers, an advance party from their base at the Gorsuch farm, and the shooting began.

They were near the intersection of Long Log Lane and Trappe Road when the fighting began. Long Log Lane is now North Point Road.

Sometime during this skirmish one of the Baltimore militiamen shot and mortally wounded the British commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Ross, a hero (to the Brits, anyway) and veteran of the Napoleonic Wars. Ross had ridden forward to see the action and was shot as he turned back to go for reinforcements.

No one knows who fired the shots that wounded General Ross. Legend gives that honor to Daniel Wells and Harry Gough McComas, privates in Aisquith's Sharp Shooters, a brigade of militiamen led by the aristocratic Captain Edward Aisquith.

Some say that Ross was killed by a combination of musket ball and buckshot, which would make it impossible for Wells and McComas, who were riflemen, to have fired the shots. That would point to someone in the Fifth Regiment—Andre's regiment.

We may never know.

Andre Street is pure Locust Point, part brick, part Formstone; full of steady, down-to-earth lifelong—heck, multi-generational—residents who love to fly the flag. Andre Street is an avenue of steps-sitters, people who listen to the Orioles on the radio and know their neighbors well. To them, “the Point” does not mean Fells Point.

“My aunt Fern used to live on Andre Street,” says photographer Maggie Allen, a lifelong Locust Pointer who was a frequent visitor to Andre Street, since many of her aunts and uncles lived there. Aunt Fern took part in the historic Living America Flag that was organized in 1914 to celebrate the centennial of the Battle of Baltimore and the Defense of Fort McHenry. Thousands of Baltimore schoolchildren have played a part in the Living American Flag over the decades, but Aunt Fern, now deceased, was part of the first.

