

Contact Us!

Bayside History Museum
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Mailing Address:
PO Box 348
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Hours of operation
Wednesday- 9:00am-12:00pm
Thursday- 9:00am-12:00pm
Friday- 9:00am-12:00pm
Saturday- 9:00am-12:00pm
Sunday- 9:00am-12:00pm
Additional times available upon request.

America's 250th Anniversary

The Bayside History Museum is excited to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence. Some of the items featured this year are:

- The Maryland 400
- Rousby Hall
- The *Totness*
- American Revolutionary Clothing
- Powder Horn used during the American Revolution and the War of 1812
- USS Constitution 1797
- The Don Shomette Naval & American Revolution Library
- Revolutionary War Trivia Contest

The Maryland 400

Maryland's First Militia



Partnership with the Bayside History Museum and Huntingtown High School students under the leadership of Eden Klahr.

Senior Leaders

Mordecai Gist

Major Mordecai Gist formed the Baltimore Independence Company in December 1774, five months before the first shots of revolution were fired in Lexington, Massachusetts. Gist was a wealthy merchant but had a revolutionary spirit, participating in Maryland's own tea party in Annapolis in October 1774. This company would be known as Maryland's first militia, and would go on to participate in the Battle of Long Island in 1776.

William Smallwood

Colonel William Smallwood, the Commander of the Maryland 400, always had a revolutionary spirit. He was a part of the Maryland Non-Importation Association, protesting against the taxation of English tea. In 1776 he was appointed to the rank of Colonel in the newly formed First Maryland Regiment.

Francis Ware

Lieutenant Colonel Francis Ware was a military veteran, having served as a Captain for Maryland troops in the Seven Years War. In 1774, Ware served in the Pro-Independence Convention, an *ad-hoc* legislature. With his political leanings and previous military experience, he was an obvious choice for a leadership position of Maryland's troops in early 1776.

Neither Col. Smallwood nor Lt. Col. Ware engaged in the Battle of Brooklyn as they were participating in a court martial trial as jury members. Leadership was given to Major Gist.



Maryland 400

In the summer of 1776 the First Maryland Regiment marched to New York to join with the Continental Army under the command of Gen. George Washington. The defense of New York City was of the utmost importance. On August 27, 1776, the Americans and the British fought the Battle of Brooklyn, sometimes called the Battle of Long Island, the first major battle of the Revolutionary War. The Americans would not win this battle, being forced to retreat from General Howe's forces.

Despite knowing they would not win as the British army overwhelmed the inexperienced and poorly-trained Americans, Maryland troops made a series of charges against the much larger British force. These men, now known as the "Maryland 400," took heavy casualties, but were able to hold the British back long enough to allow the rest of the Continental Army to escape complete destruction.



The Man Who Made the Difference

William Alexander

Also known as Lord Stirling, he was appointed Brigadier General in March of 1775. He was a New Jersey man previously serving as a Colonel in the first regiment of the New Jersey Militia. At the Battle of Long Island, Lord Stirling led the 1st Maryland Regiment in repeated attacks against the British forces. The brigade was overwhelmed taking heavy casualties and Lord Stirling was captured. He would later be returned in a prisoner exchange.