

Contact Us!

Bayside History Museum

4025 4th Street

North Beach MD, 20741

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www.baysidehistorymuseum.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 348

North Beach, MD 20714

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 of the American Revolution & War of 1812
- USS Constitution 1797
- The Don Shomette Naval & American Revolution Library
- Revolutionary War Trivia Contest

Shipwrecks and Revolution

One of Maryland's
3 tea parties





The *Totness* and the *Johnson*

James Gildart and his business partner John Gawaith owned a successful merchant company based in Liverpool, England. They owned several ships including the *Totness* and the *Johnson*. In the lead up to the American Revolution, Maryland committees of Safety and Correspondence issued edicts against goods shipped to the colony from England, so-called “Non-Importation Agreements.”

On June 28, 1775 the *Johnson* was boarded by the Talbot County Committee of Observation who declared that no goods could be offloaded in Maryland. The *Johnson* returned with most of its cargo to England

Totness was built in 1765 and was 130-tons burthen, square-sterned. She participated in the Liverpool-Baltimore trade from her construction to 1775 usually carrying produce to England and dry goods, salt, and convict labor to Maryland. She had a crew of 11.

Tea Parties

Totness entered the Chesapeake Bay on July 7, 1775 and grounded on the Three Sisters islets about 12 miles below Annapolis on July 9. The Three Sisters were located near the mouth of the West River but have since eroded completely away. She was commanded by Thomas Waring who had taken over as captain in February 1774. The cargo consisted of four thousand bushels of salt, a large quantity of cheese, and an assortment of dry goods and earthenware. Waring did nothing to remove his ship from the shoals and would not budge without orders.

The Baltimore Committee of Safety was worked into a fervor by rumors of illicit cargo onboard the *Totness*. The citizens of Baltimore determined to do something about the ship themselves and a group seized Johnson Gildart. A separate group left down the Chesapeake to find *Totness* and burn her. On July 19, 1775 an Anne Arundel County militia group boarded *Totness* and forced the crew to abandon the ship along with personal possessions. The militia set fire to the ship after removing all useful supplies.



“This has been the conduct of the Marylanders, who I hope will adorn the annals of Fame.” (anon)

Local Militia

During the American Revolution, the Anne Arundel County Militias were extremely active. If these militias were to be present today many would come from the local areas of:

Annapolis, Bay Ridge, Highland Beach, Arundel on the Bay, Carr’s Beach, Londontowne, Edgewater, Mayo, Beverly Beach, Galesville, Shady Side, Churchton, Deale, Tracy’s Landing, Leitch, Fairhaven, Friendship and Rosehaven.