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ORIGIN OF THE MARYLAND ANTHEM, "MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND"

By J. Webster Jones

It is not generally known that it was the wounding of the first person, in the Civil War, which caused the writing of "Maryland My Maryland." That person was a friend of the author. His son recalls the story as told by the writer.

When the Massachusetts regiment on April 19, 1861, fired on Maryland citizens in Baltimore, the first person wounded, was wounded by a bullet which passed through the fleshy part of his right hip and then struck and killed another citizen standing behind him, a Baltimore fireman.

The man who was first wounded was Francis Xavier Ward. His son, Thomas Johnson Ward, reports in a letter dated October 30, 1959, "My father attempted to take the colors away from the color-bearer, and was shot by a guard...."

Mrs. Ward, who was Ellen Topham Evans was third in line as granddaughter of Thomas Johnson, the Revolutionary Governor of Maryland, the friend of the then Col. Washington, of the Virginia Militia. Mr. Johnson nominated Col. Washington to be Commander-in-chief of the Colonial Army of the Revolution, and then had placed Maryland squarely behind him with every resource the state could muster.

When years later Mr. Washington was elected President he appointed Mr. Johnson to the U. S. Supreme Court. Mr. Johnson served a short while and returned to Rose Hill, near Frederick.

Francis X Ward and James Ryder Randall, were friends. Close friends. Mr. Randall then at Poydras College in Louisiana, received the garbled intelligence that, his friend, Mr. Ward had been killed, when the troops fired on the crowd. He, therefore, believed his very dear and close friend was killed.

Thomas Johnson Ward, son of Mr. Francis X. Ward, who was born in his father's home in Baltimore, then at 1814 N. Charles Street, recalls hearing Mr. Randall, tell a family group including Mr. Ward, Sr., in that Ward home, some thirty years after the war, that when he heard Mr. Ward has been "killed", his mind had been triggered to write "Maryland My Maryland." Mr. Randall said, it was this believed death of his friend, which so greatly disturbed him that he had written the poem, under that stress.

Some of the phraseology of the poem is more understandable in light of Mr. Randall's belief when he was inspired to write it.

After the Civil War was over, Mr. Randall was very frequently at the home



of Mr. Ward.

Mr. Randall is described as of medium height, sensitive face, sandy hair, light complexion and full bodied. He became secretary to a Congressman, for awhile. It is believed the Congressman was from Georgia.

Mr. Ward, Sr., some three weeks after this first wounding was with the Maryland Troops in the C.S.A. at the first battle of Manassas or Bull Run.

Mr. Randall died on January 14, 1908 in Augusta, Ga., and is buried there.

Mr. Ward died in Philadelphia on August 9, 1914, and is buried in Greenmont Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland.

"MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND"

By James Ryder Randall

(1839-1908)

The despot's heel is on thy shore,
Maryland!
His torch is at thy temple door,
Maryland!

Avenge the patriotic gore
That flecked the streets of Baltimore,
And be the battle queen of yore,
Maryland, my Maryland!

Hark to an exiled son's appeal,
Maryland!
My Mother State, to thee I kneel,
Maryland!
For life and death, for woe and weal,
Thy peerless chivalry reveal,
And gird thy beauteous limbs with steel,
Maryland, my Maryland!

Thou wilt not cower in the dust,
Maryland!
Thy beaming sword shall never rust,
Maryland!
Remember Carroll's sacred trust,
Remember Howard's warlike thrust,
And all thy slumberers with the just,
Maryland, my Maryland!

Come! 'tis the red dawn of the day,
Maryland!
Come with thy panoplied array,

Maryland!
With Ringgold's spirit for the fray,
With Watson's blood at Monterey,
With fearless Lowe and dashing May,
Maryland, my Maryland!

Dear Mother, burst the tyrant's chain,
Maryland!
Virginia should not call in vain,
Maryland!
She meets her sisters on the plain,-
'Sic semper!' 'tis the proud refrain
That baffles minions back amain,
Maryland!
Arise in majesty again,
Maryland, my Maryland!

Come! for thy shield is bright and strong,
Maryland!
Come! for thy dalliance does thee wrong,
Maryland!
Come to thine own heroic throng,
Stalking with Liberty along,
And chant thy dauntless slogan-song,
Maryland, my Maryland!

I see the blush upon thy cheek,
Maryland!
For thou wast ever bravely meek,
Maryland!
But lo! there surges forth a shriek,
From hill to hill, from creek to creek,
Potomac calls to Chesapeake,
Maryland, my Maryland!

Thou wilt not yield the Vandal toll,
Maryland!
Thou wilt not crook to his control,
Maryland!
Better the fire upon thee roll,
Better the shot, the blade, the bowl,
Than crucifixion of the soul,
Maryland, my Maryland!

I hear the distant thunder hum,
Maryland,
The Old Line's bugle, fife, and drum,
Maryland!
She is not dead, nor deaf, nor dumb;
Huzza! she spurns the Northern scum!
She breathes! She burns! She'll come! She'll come!
Maryland, my Maryland!

(Pointe Coupée April 26, 1861)

Editor's Notes

Thomas Johnson Ward is a charter member of the Maryland Society of Pennsylvania. In a chance conversation with Mr. Jones he mentioned that James Ryder Randall had been a close friend of his father, and during the ensuing conversation the facts above were developed. Although there was no relationship between Mr. Ward and Mr. Randall their friendship was such that Thomas Johnson Ward called Mr. Randall "Uncle" and remembers him well. We are most grateful to Mr. Jones and Mr. Ward for making this "eyewitness account," so to speak, available because it is important in the history of Maryland during that period.

James Ryder Randall was a student at Georgetown College in 1856 but did not complete his education there. He was the namesake of the Reverend James Ryder, S.J., who was Rector of the College 1840-1845 and 1848-1851. Francis Xavier Ward received an A.B. Degree at Georgetown in 1859 and an M.A. in 1867. Undoubtedly, Randall and Ward, both of whom were natives of Baltimore, entered Georgetown together or at least both of them were students there in 1856. In later years Mr. Randall was Professor of English literature in Poydras College.

SELECTIONS FROM THE COAD PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE
(Part 2)

Robbery and Desecration at St. Inigoes, 1814

This account of the robbery of St. Inigoes Manor House and desecration of the Manor House Chapel by the British was found among the papers of Mr. J. Edwin Coad. It undoubtedly was written by Brother Joseph Moberly, S.J., and possibly Mr. Coad's grandfather, Mr. Joseph Coad made a copy of his report. On the day of the robbery, October 31, 1814, Brother Moberly reported the matter in a letter to Father John Grassi, S.J., of Georgetown University and the two accounts are very similar. Subsequent letters to Father Grassi concerning the raid are dated November 5, 14, 20, and December 4, 1814. These letters maybe seen at the Archives of Woodstock College (Correspondence File) The letter of November 14, 1814 contains a detailed list of the stolen articles and is appended to this account. An account of the raid is reported also in Niles Weekly Register, dated December 10, 1814, p. 214.

In this account, and in his letters Brother Moberly does not mention St. Inigoes Church (a brick edifice which was situated not far from the Manor House) and it seems strange that the British did not rob and desecrate it also. However, in his letter of October 31, 1814, Brother Moberly states, "We have now been plundered and robbed twice within a few weeks...." Perhaps the church had already been plundered. Father Joseph Carbery, S.J. began making extensive repairs, including "covering" the church after he came to St. Inigoes in 1816. The church was built in 1788 and the ordinary wear and tear of 28 years should not have made extensive repairs, including a new roof, necessary. There is no record of a fire damaging the church, but it was damaged extensively and was not in use from about 1814 to about 1823 when Father Carbery completed the necessary repairs.

Brother Moberly's reference to having been robbed and plundered twice within a few weeks could not have referred to St. George's Island, which was owned at that time by the Jesuits, because the Island was devastated by the British in 1813,