

Smallwood's Retreat  
Marbury vicinity  
Charles County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-38

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District of Maryland

Historic American Buildings Survey

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# THE CEREMONIES

AT THE

UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT OVER THE  
REMAINS OF

## MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD

BY THE

MARYLAND SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION



JULY 4th, 1898

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MAJOR-GEN'L WILLIAM SMALLWOOD.

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JULY 4th, 1808

PALES  
712  
MORNING

AT a meeting of the Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution, held at Hotel Rennert on the evening of February 22, 1898, in honor of the birthday of the Great Commander General George Washington, a resolution was adopted authorizing the president to appoint a committee to devise the ways and means to erect over the remains of General William Smallwood, who is buried in Charles County, Maryland, a suitable monument to mark the spot where lies the dust of the foremost military man of the Maryland line, and whose remains have never been marked, although buried one hundred and six years ago. Some days later General Joseph Lancaster Brent, the president, announced the following names as the committee to act under the resolution: Edward Reynolds, Douglas H. Thomas, Charles Thomas Holloway, Edgar G. Miller, Dr. Albert Kimberly Hadel, Edward M. Young, Dr. James Davidson Iglehart, Ira H. Houghton, Lewis S. Elmer, R. R. B. Chew, Henry A. Ramsey and Joseph L. Brent.

The committee was soon after called together and a sub-committee was selected, of which Col. Holloway was made chairman, but before our honored compatriot could fully enter upon the work, he was called to eternal life and was laid away with all the honors of our noble society. The vacancy made by this sad death was filled by the selection of his son, Reuben Ross Holloway.

After several months of labor, the committee meeting every two weeks, they announced at the last meeting, held on June 28, 1898, that the stone, a massive block of granite, which had been contracted for with W. A. Gault & Son, after many drawbacks, had been landed at Grinder's wharf, and by the aid of six yoke of oxen and a day and a half's work, at last reached the old walnut tree which has stood (so says tradition) as a sentinel over the grave of General Smallwood, and the grave so long neglected was marked for all time. The committee decided that the unveiling ceremonies would take place on July 4. The people of Charles County having been notified through the

press of the county, and the following residents of Charles promising hearty co-operation: J. W. Carpenter, who lives upon the Smallwood farm, Albert B. Posey, Adrian Posey, Samuel Cox, Jr., and Rev. William P. Painter.

The monument—a massive block of Woodstock granite, six feet high and broad—was erected entirely by the society, no contributions by others than members thereof being received, and was placed over the grave of the dead hero, about one hundred yards from the old, historic Smallwood mansion in Charles County, about thirty miles below Washington.

INSCRIPTION ON THE MONUMENT.

IN MEMORY OF  
GENERAL WILLIAM SMALLWOOD,  
A HERO OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION,  
AND A NATIVE OF MARYLAND.  
COMMISSIONED COLONEL IN 1776,  
BRIGADIER GENERAL IN 1777; MAJOR  
GENERAL IN 1780.  
ELECTED GOVERNOR OF MARY-  
LAND IN 1785.  
DIED FEBRUARY 14, 1792.  
ERECTED BY THE MARYLAND  
SOCIETY SONS OF AMERICAN REVO-  
LUTION, JULY 4, 1898.

The members of the society who attended the unveiling were General Joseph L. Brent, president; Samuel H. Shriver, vice-president; Dr. Albert K. Hadel, historian; Charles B. Tiernan, Allan P. Gunn, Edward M. Young, James W. Owens, Dr. J. D. Iglehart, secretary, Edward Reynolds, Rev. Henry Branch, D. D., of Ellicott City, chaplain, and also Hon. Wm. M. Marine, representing the Society of the War of 1812. They left Mount Royal Station on the 7.50 A. M. train over the Baltimore and

Ohio, and on arrival at Washington were joined by Mr. Edward M. Grinder, the present owner of the old Smallwood farm, and Dr. Alexander B. Coby. With the party was also Mr. H. M. Gault, of Wm. A. Gault & Son, who cut and erected the monument.

At Washington the party boarded the new tug James O. Carter, specially chartered for the trip down the Potomac. On the way down, when passing Mount Vernon, with uncovered heads, the party joined in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." The tug proceeded on down the river and thence two miles up the Mattawoman creek to Grinder's wharf, where vehicles were waiting to convey the visitors to the Smallwood mansion, a mile and a half distant from the wharf. It was an up-hill climb and very dusty, along a winding road, leading through vast fields, to a high eminence, which overlooks the adjacent country for miles and the Mattawoman creek, nestling at the base of the cliff.

The Smallwood mansion is now unoccupied and in a dilapidated condition. It is a one-story building, with apex or gable roof, built of brick imported from England, but the walls have crumbled away considerably. In one of the upper rooms it is said that George Washington and Smallwood, both of whom were members of the Alexandria (Va.) lodge of Masons, were accustomed at times to hold Masonic gatherings, which were attended by neighbors—members of the fraternity. The present tenant of the farm, Mr. J. W. Carpenter, occupies a farm house which was reached before arriving at the old mansion.

#### COUNTRY RESIDENTS THERE.

There were about six hundred persons present, mostly residents of Charles County, who had assembled to assist in the ceremony of dedication. They came in all sorts of conveyances, and carried their lunch baskets, so that the gathering rather resembled an old-fashioned woods-meeting. As it was necessary to leave at four o'clock, it was intended to proceed at once with the ceremony, but a quite heavy wind and rain storm, which had set in before reaching the creek, caused a delay of a half hour. The old mansion proved a refuge for the crowd. The skies, however, soon cleared, and the ceremony was proceeded with, the Charles County people taking a deep interest in it.

The ceremonies opened with prayer by Rev. Henry Branch.

D. D., Chaplain Maryland Society Sons of the American Revolution, who said:

"Our Father and our God! By Thee Kings rule and Princes decree justice. Thou art our God and our Fathers' God, the God of Nations, setting up one and casting down another. We are met to celebrate Thy praises on the Anniversary of the Declaration of our National Independence, and we would magnify Thy great and Holy name, seeing it was Thy right hand and Holy arm that begot us the victory.

"We thank Thee for the wisdom and skill that devised that matchless instrument, the Magna Charta of our political privileges. We thank Thee for the courage and patient continuance in well doing that defended its principles and wrested its unequalled rights from the hand of tyranny. We thank Thee for the heroic sacrifices that purchased for us the blessings of civil and religious liberty. We thank Thee for the lives that gave us life, and the glorious record of our noble sires, whose triumph we celebrate this day.

"We thank Thee for the life and virtues of our Compatriot, whom Thou didst honor by endowing him with such manly virtues as were fitted for his country's service in the hour of her greatest need. We thank Thee for all those, from whose loins we have sprung, the noble sires of our great patriotic Fraternity, whose blood purchased for us such a priceless heritage.

"We thank Thee for the record of the glorious past, when times tried men's souls and our countrymen counted not their own lives dear unto themselves that they might finish their course with joy, defending their firesides and family altars and bequeathing to us the heritage of a 'Good Name, which is rather to be chosen than great riches.'

"We thank Thee for the lives of those now battling for their country's honor, enlisted in behalf of a suffering people, within reach of our own shores. We thank Thee that the sons of Revolutionary sires are foremost in rushing to the defence of those claims for free citizenship that make our land the foremost among the nations of the world in the protection of personal rights and privileges.

"We thank Thee for the success that has attended our arms by land and sea, and we humbly pray that a speedy settlement of this fearful struggle may preserve our national honor untarnished and we be permitted to relieve the distress that has called

for the expenditure of so much temporal wealth and so many valuable lives.

"We commend to Thy protection this token of our love for our Compatriot, that no vandal hands may mutilate this simple block of stone and that remote ages may view its silent testimony to his devotion to his country and our devotion to his memory.

"We beseech Thee that Thou wouldst baptize us afresh with the spirit of consecration to our country's weal, such as characterized our Compatriot. May his mantle fall upon some worthy shoulders and a double portion of his spirit be given to some loyal son of this great Commonwealth, that the closing century may find some son of Maryland who shall be worthy to take the sword from the scabbard, where he placed it so trustingly a century ago.

"And now Bless our Patriotic Society, in all its brotherhood; guard and defend our soldiers and sailors in the time of battle, bring them back to us stronger and better for the hardships of the campaign, the weariness of discipline, the temptations of camp and the horrors of war.

"Bless this people to whose personal care we commit to the preservation of this sacred stone, that they may guard it from all injury and draw from its presence an inspiration for exalted patriotism and learn well how to live for one's country with the same patriotic devotion as is manifested by those who are willing to die for their country.

"And now may the God of Nations, the God of Battles, the God of our Fathers and our country's God, bless you all, in the exercise of those civil and religious privileges which were secured by the patriotism of our sires, and open in the future to greater prosperity than we have ever enjoyed.

"May those whom our flag protects be willing to die for its defence, and at home and abroad may it betoken to all the world that we are that 'Happy People, whose God is the Lord.' Amen."

#### THE UNVEILING.

After the prayer, the unveiling took place, Vice-President Samuel H. Shriver, of the society, and Mr. Edward Reynolds, who is a connection of the Smallwood family, handling the cords which loosed the flag. This flag also, it should be said, has a

history. It was the one used by Colonel Wm. H. Watson in Mexico, and covered his remains upon their removal from Monterey to Baltimore. It is now the property of his daughter, Mrs. Dr. J. D. Iglehart, and was never before used upon a public occasion.

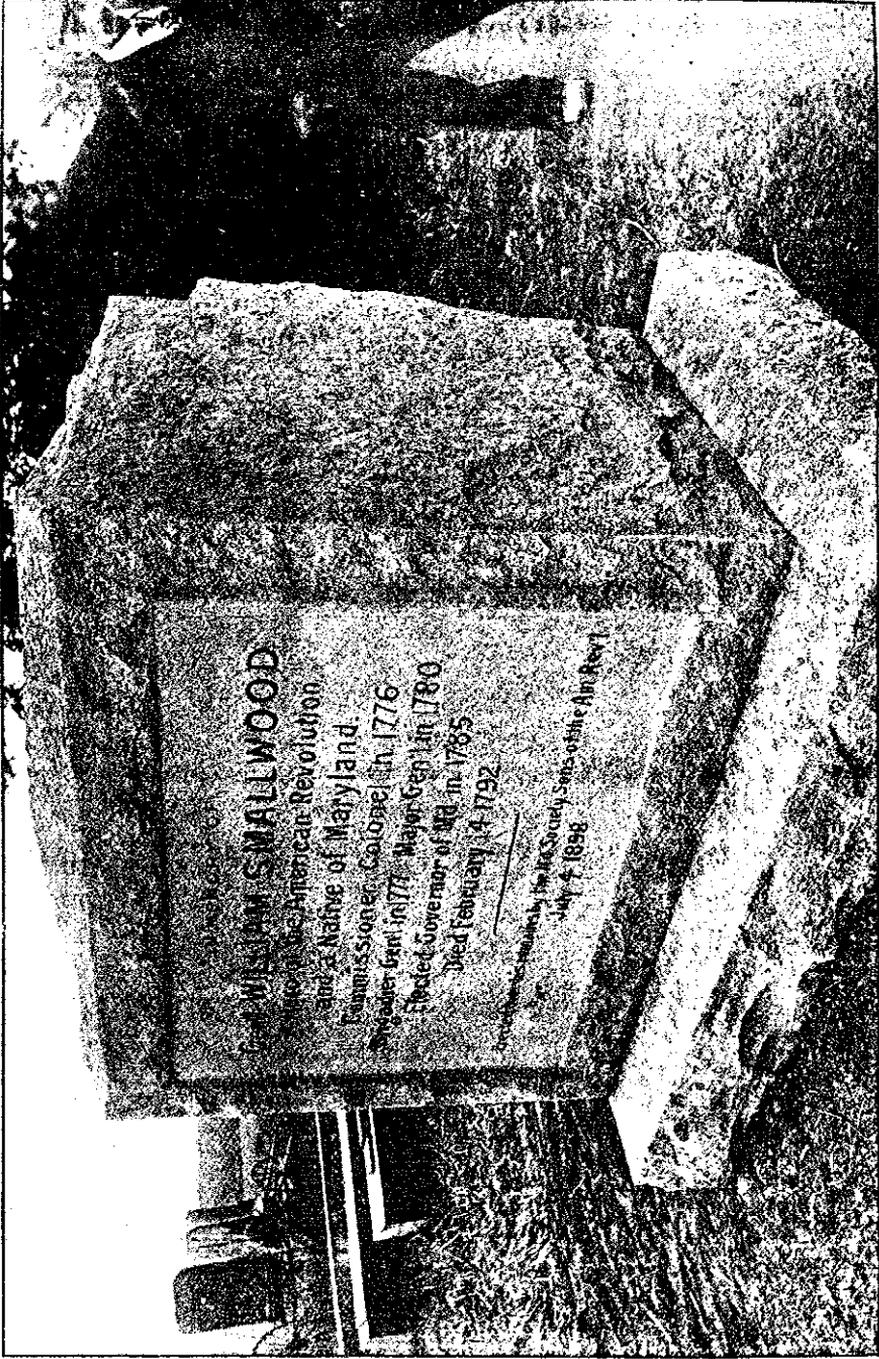
As the unveiling took place, the choir, composed of voices from the Nanjemoy Baptist and the Pisgah Methodist Episcopal Church, united in singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

Dr. James D. Iglehart then stepped forward and said:

*Mr. President*.—At a meeting of the Maryland Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held February 22, 1898, a resolution was adopted authorizing you to appoint a committee to devise ways and means and to erect a monument over the remains of General William Smallwood, who was buried in Charles County, Md., in 1792, and whose grave has never been marked by a stone. You appointed the following committee: Edward Reynolds, Douglas H. Thomas, Edgar G. Miller, Dr. A. K. Hadel, Reuben Ross Holloway, Edward M. Young, Ira H. Houghton, Louis S. Elmer, R. R. B. Chew, Henry Ashton Ramsey, Joseph Lancaster Brent and J. D. Iglehart. The result of their work is now before you. The funds for its accomplishment have been subscribed by the members of the society. The monument will now be unveiled by Edward Reynolds, a near connection of the Smallwood family, and our vice-president, Samuel H. Shriver. Mr. President, I now place the monument in your hands.

After the conclusion of Dr. Iglehart's remarks, General Joseph L. Brent, president of the society, spoke as follows:

Standing now in the presence of all that is mortal of William Smallwood, a hero, a soldier and a statesman, whose influence upon his contemporaries began over a century and a quarter ago, I, as the president of the Maryland Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and in obedience to its directions, hereby declare that we, in this remote generation, acknowledge that we owe a debt beyond human estimate to the mind and soul and strong will of William Smallwood, who, in his life, wrought and fought and planned in the service of his country, and that we come here, where reposes all of that perishable casket which once held his mind and intelligence, to place over it in ever-



**WILLIAM SMALLWOOD**

Hero of the American Revolution  
and a Native of Maryland.

Commissioner, Colonel in 1776  
October 1777 - Mayor, Captain 1780

Elected Governor of Md. in 1785  
Died February 2, 1792

Monument erected by the Md. Society, Sons of the Am. Rev.  
July 4, 1898

THE SMALLWOOD MONUMENT.

lasting granite, a memorial which confesses our debt to him and will attest to future ages our declaration that we salute and revere him as a founder of our republic.

I hereby declare this memorial of enduring granite over the remains of General William Smallwood is well and appropriately set as a permanent monument capable of resisting the forces of nature so long as the sun shines; and for its protection against the efforts of human neglect or malice, I earnestly and confidently invoke the care and patriotic affection of the good people of this old and noble Charles County, of which he was a native, and which has given, through her heroic sons, such frequent evidence of her ability and disposition to serve the country.

The choir then sang the "Red, White and Blue," after which General Brent introduced the orator of the day, and historian of the society, Dr. Albert Kimberly Hadel, who said:

*Ladies and Gentlemen of Charles County, and Compatriots of the Maryland Society of the Sons of the American Revolution:*

We have made a pilgrimage on this glorious anniversary from the highest motives, those of duty and patriotism, to the grave of this brave soldier, General William Smallwood. The work of pointing the way and providing the means was left to a committee of our society, and in placing this modest but substantial stone over this long neglected grave, it is but fair to all that the credit for our work shall be placed upon shoulders worthy to wear it, and while each one of the committee did what he could, yet to the unceasing labors and unswerving loyalty of our secretary, Dr. James Davidson Iglehart, do we owe this tribute to our hero.

This monument and the erection of our monuments and tablets is but carrying out the purposes of our great organization, which is to mark the graves of Revolutionary heroes and other historic spots, to perpetuate all that is good in our institutions, and to keep alive memories which are valuable as lessons even in this hour of our greatness.

In the whole calendar no more appropriate day could have been selected for this ceremony, for on this day the colonies declared themselves free of the power which had oppressed them and rose in their indignation and threw down the gauntlet of defiance to their merciless oppressor, and by that act roused to action the thinking people of the world and made

it impossible for any despot to repeat the crime. They gave a new impetus to struggling manhood, and in the confines of their own beloved America, elevated the humblest man to a state of sovereignty not known or enjoyed by any other people upon the face of the earth; shook by their wonderful achievements the tottering empires of the old world and laid the foundation of a great nation.

General William Smallwood was the foremost military man of the Maryland line, and a distinct agent in this struggle.

He threw his influence and fortune in a cause which made him a hero in the eyes of his fellowman, a cause which became so vital in its important relation to every one in the colonies that upon its success they staked their lives, knowing well the responsibility of their act and believing that they were fighting for that which would in time affect the future of the whole human race. Little did they dream that they lived in the most heroic age of man and the most momentous period of American history, or that the tread of their soldiers and the voices of their statesmen would echo along the highway of Anglo-Saxon civilization; for these men, although unconscious of it, had worked out the problem which no other age had accomplished.

They not only secured to themselves personal liberty, but paved the way for its enjoyment by all the people in the world, and human rights owe to them what civilization owes to Alfred the Great.

We read upon this stone that William Smallwood was commissioned colonel of a Maryland regiment in 1776, brigadier-general in 1777, major-general in 1780 and was elected Governor of Maryland in 1785.

History tells us that he was brave, generous and courteous, so good a citizen was he, so well were his excellent qualities known to his fellow-citizens, that for years he represented them in many movements for which the people of Maryland were noted.

His father, Bayne Smallwood, was a merchant and planter and for many years represented his district in the Assembly of Maryland, and for a long time was justice of the peace or esquire, an honorable position as well as a social distinction which in the evolution of our political system has almost passed away.

No man was more respected than Bayne Smallwood, and in Priscilla Hebard, of Virginia, a lady of family and fortune, he found a worthy companion.

At an early age William Smallwood was sent to England to be educated, and in 1754, then about 21 years of age, he returned to America to assist his father in the general management of his estate, which was called by its original Indian name "Matta-woman." He never married.

An historical and official record reads that William Smallwood was a gallant and fearless soldier in the Revolutionary Army of the Maryland line, commanding the Maryland forces, and came home after an eight years' struggle for American freedom covered with glory; was wounded at White Plains on October 14, 1778, and received, by an act of Congress, October 14, 1780, a vote of thanks for bravery and good conduct at the battle of Camden, in South Carolina. He sheathed his sword only when the liberties of his fellow-citizens were assured.

He had at all times the confidence of General Washington and corresponded with that great man to the last days of his life. Tradition tells us that he was frequently the guest of the first President, and on several occasions had him as a guest in this historic house which stands before us, and on the 14th day of February, 1792, he passed away, about sixty years of age.

This is but a brief sketch of the man whose grave we have marked to-day, who sleeps beneath this hill almost overlooking the tomb of his beloved Washington, and whose memory we desire to honor, and in this act of unselfish patriotism in bringing this stone to this quiet spot far from the view of the busy world, we have not only done what we believed to be our duty as an organized body of descendants of the Revolutionary Army, but a tribute as well to the statesmen who were the architects of our glorious government, who saw rising about them as the result of battle a temple wherein should dwell the liberties of their people which, by elevating man, could offer a home to the oppressed of all nations, and with a scope and magnificence unknown before, dazzle the whole world, and with the guarantees of her marvellous Constitution, be recognized as the highest conception of man.

Memorials like these shall speak with a silent tongue to the millions of Americans yet unborn, and when our dear country shall become so great and powerful, as it will, that it will obliterate the world's past achievements, the statesmen of the day will turn to the pages of the history of the American Revolution for inspiration, and upon altars like these renew their allegiance

to the structure which gave life to liberty and to them an untarnished flag.

When the names of Cæsar, Alexander, Hannibal, Napoleon and Wellington shall have been forgotten, Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, Hancock and Smallwood will be the incentives for all that is good and true and noble, for in the leaders of that struggle was realized all that was truest and best in statesmanship, and awoke to liberty from a despotic power which was now about to be laid upon them with a mailed hand, but which would soon reach human endurance, and in declaring war upon their mother-country they were actuated by the same inspirations which have evolved every momentous event and brought to battle every great issue since the creation of man. In the breast of man has burned the fire of human liberty, while sometimes dimmed by the elevation to power of a despot, and although not able to analyze it, but man thus early in his existence realized that there was a condition to which he could aspire, and an aspiration which could not be extinguished.

It was the unquenchable thirst for something better which prompted the impetuous Gaul to over-run Rome. It was the same spirit which led the roving Saxon to conquest. It burned brightly in the breast of the followers of Pym, Hampden and Cromwell when they dyed the soil of Runnymede and Marston Moor with the blood of the Britain; where the barriers set up by a despotic king were thrown down and crushed. It lived and breathed again in the men who followed William III to England and in those who beheaded Charles II.

It animated those who embarked in the Mayflower, little dreaming for what they contended except the right to worship God in their own way without interference, but conscious that even in the wilds of North America there was something better, and when thrown upon their own resources, and being compelled to make laws for their self-preservation and having enjoyed for a time the happiness of self-government, they then realized that that for which humanity had contended for centuries was now theirs in the enjoyment of personal liberty, and when, after years of privation and sacrifice and struggle, they had maintained themselves and were building up a new nation of Americans, they found the doors of the executive, judicial and financial departments of their mother-country to whom they had been loyal in heart, closed to their appeal, and in their midst

were soldiers with loaded muskets to enforce laws which meant the destruction of their every right, they then knew the value of what they had enjoyed, and determined that the sacrifices which the human family had made for generations should not be lost, and they took up arms for what they believed to be just before God and man, and those who stood up to be shot down at Lexington and those who, following panther-like, and swept away in their fury the retreating British along the road from Concord, those who stood upon Bunker Hill and those who burned the Peggy Stewart, defied injustice, and were willing to sacrifice their all upon the altar of their country's welfare.

Some have said that it was an impetuous zeal which prompted these deeds. Call it what you may, it was carrying out that law, that truth and right shall survive all things, and until the hour shall come when all men will have equal rights before the law, the din of battle shall fill the ears of man, and it shall never cease until liberty becomes the corner-stone of every nation and the people alone become sovereign. It is the demand of the human soul.

I believe that the republic of North America is destined to play a great part in the world's history; as one of the great living, progressive nations, she could not afford to remain passive and inactive while at her very door a brave and deserving people were being exterminated by an inhuman warfare.

The tragedy of the treacherous destruction of a gallant ship was the signal for armed intervention. Whether the results of this conflict will broaden our policy; whether we shall form alliances, moral or physical, with any of the great nations, must depend on events; yet it will be our duty as a Christian people to make those alliances which will redound to the good of the whole people, not only of America, but of the world.

At this time it is clear that a union of effort and interest between the two great English-speaking nations, who have a common interest in the promotion of Christianity, education and a higher civilization, to say nothing of commerce, would be the solution of a question which has come after years of deep prejudice and not without some reason. England and America must stand together in this hour of the death of the Latin races.

I quote here an interesting paragraph from Francis Wharton's Diplomatic Correspondence in support of this union:

" Benjamin Franklin, wise philosopher, statesman and diplo-

mat, who stands to-day in the world's history without a peer, who captivated France of the 18th century by his sentiments and ideas for the liberation of man, also won the wise by his good sense and his genius. He won the enthusiastic by the brilliancy, boldness and originality of his rôle; for he knocked at the doors of an absolute monarchy to maintain a republic, one the deadly enemy of the other; he who had triumphed as no other man had, was about to leave France amidst the plaudits of crown, nobility and honored by the people, in that hour his eyes turned toward his beloved America, his heart full of gratitude to France for her generous assistance in the hour of need; yet he declined to enter into a commercial treaty with France which would give her a monopoly. He had not forgotten the insults which had been heaped upon him in Parliament or by Lord Stormount in Paris, the envoy of Great Britain. He remembered that the British arms had been stained by the employment of Hessians in a mercenary warfare, and the instigation of atrocious Indian onslaughts upon defenceless women and children.

“He could not have forgotten that the war had been protracted by false information and inflammatory statements with which the refugees in England had filled the ears of those in authority. Yet with all this still fresh in his mind, his devotion to his people, his gratitude to France, he looked forward as early as 1783 to a permanent alliance with Great Britain, believing that greater benefits could be derived from her than any other nation. He not only believed this to be essential to our progress, but he encouraged a physical alliance, but the continued imbecility of the crown and his successor made this an impossibility.”

And now, after a century and a quarter, the barriers of prejudice are broken down, and the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack can wave together over people who have a common interest in the cause of humanity.

And England can rejoice with us to-day for the seeds which brought forth the tree of liberty in America also took root in her dominion, yet it did not flourish until death removed the blight of that Tudor race, and her own emancipation began by the removal forever of that narrow and imbecile influence which had held her down.

It was a glorious hour for old England when that voice, although hushed in death, was again heard throughout the land,

and Pitt, who would have made his country great while he lived, yet could not live to realize his dearest wish, honor to his memory, his countrymen adopted that colonial policy which had been his and which was to lift England to colossal greatness. And the men of the American Revolution also felt the inspiration of that great man's influence, and in their determination not to submit to the tyranny of George III, did not create a new order of things but a new declaration of principle for the people of the whole world, which not only resulted in their own independence but a step in the direction of the liberation of the masses of England, the adoption of a constitutional form of government and an era of progress and prosperity for the people of both countries.

The Society of the Sons of the American Revolution have recognized that upon it is placed a great work.

It is not our desire to keep before the people the pictures of an unhappy experience; but by perpetuating the deeds of our brave fathers we shall be true to them and to ourselves, and make us better and truer citizens.

It shall be our duty from time to time to point to the fundamental principles of our Government, and year after year we will be found worshipping at some shrine made sacred by the men of the American Revolution, not only to glorify them, but to teach the rising generation their duty as citizens of our glorious country, and to the end that the government made by our fathers, loved and honored by their descendants, shall never perish from the earth.

The closing address was made by Hon. Wm. M. Marine, Historian of the Maryland Society of the War of 1812.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

The Society of the War of 1812 in Maryland, feel a patriotic concern in all that pertains to the Revolutionary era. They have sent me here to represent them on this auspicious and instructive occasion. The interest in our common country binds patriotic hereditary societies together in bonds of indissoluble sympathies; we honor the names of each epoch that has advanced our nation's glory and its fame.

This is an anomalous Fourth; we are at war with the most unenlightened kingdom on the continent of Europe; we are

waging a contest for priceless liberty as our fathers taught us by their example one hundred and twenty-two years ago; we celebrate a phenomenal Fourth; always we have slugged England with oratory; we shall not do so to-day; there will be an absence of stirring invective against that people. Lo! our war has made us friends. Ties of kindred and blood are asserting themselves, and here by the couch of a martial chieftain who gained his renown in war with the government of our new-found friends, we can consecrate the better understanding at which we have arrived with them without detriment to our past history. By cultivating mutual friendly relations with Great Britain we are not remiss in gratitude to him who sleeps in that grave; nor is England ungrateful to Andre and her chieftains who repose in Westminster Abbey in consequence of her filial love which yearns toward us.

In McSherry's History of Maryland the author furnishes a narration of the military and civil career of General William Smallwood, and then takes leave of him by delivering this mournful valedictory: "His memory seems nearly forgotten; and on his paternal estate, now in the hands of strangers, he sleeps in a lonely grave, by the waters of the Potomac, almost within sight of the tomb of his great leader at Mount Vernon—near him in death as he had adhered to him in life. Faithful, modest, brave and patient in his life, he sleeps there in death, unhonored, without a tombstone to mark the spot or an enclosure to protect his last resting place from desecration—seldom remembered by those who pass between the graves of the two generals to the capital of the nation."

A tombstone is not essential to remembrance, else Marshal Ney, "bravest of the brave," would not astound with delight the students of history. Its absence does tell of the ingratitude of the living, hence an unmarked grave suggests neglect and is a reflection on those who permit it.

During a period of 106 years, since Smallwood's death, the Fourth of July has, that number of times, greeted our thankful nation. We have not forgotten during the passing of those years that Smallwood was most famous of the officers in the Revolutionary War from Maryland. McSherry's record of his achievements is demonstrative evidence of the position he occupies in history. Stars do not cease to shine through the hours of the day, and during certain seasons they are more brilliant

than at others. At this distance from the eventful period in which Smallwood acted his part, his fame has widened and his unmarked grave is rendered no longer possible. Pilgrim feet have invaded this wilderness; hereafter storms of winter shall beat on the adamant rock, which the sons of the sires of the Revolution have dedicated to its mission of affectionate perpetuation and remembrance.

In the Revolutionary struggle, few soldiers rendered more efficient service than Maj.-Gen. William Smallwood, who received his commission as such after the death of the lamented De Kalb, at Camden. Smallwood at one time was second in command of the Southern army. Early at the dawn of war, he obeyed the behest of his State authorities, who had placed the Maryland troops at the disposal of Congress, marching, on the 10th of July, from Annapolis, by way of the head of the Elk river, to New York.

From his entrance in the army to the close of the war his services were constant; they were valuable and evinced cool discriminating judgment and unfaltering courage. If the evidences of history had permeated the minds of the commissioners who recently banished his mute presence from the Statuary Hall, his immortal perpetuation in bronze or marble would hereafter be recognized in the grouping of the greatest men of the nation. The discriminating commissioners rejected him and his comrades in soldierly rank, and in the domain of statecraft ignored Samuel Chase, of whom Bancroft has thus written: "It was throughout the continent a subject of regret that the zeal of Dulaney had grown cool. As he kept silent, the foremost man in Maryland was Samuel Chase, like Dulancy, a lawyer; less circumspect and less careful of appearances, but strong, downright, brave and persevering, capable of error from rashness or selfwill, but not capable of faltering in the cause which he approved. Vehement, even to a fault, he did not always speak softly or shun coarse invective; but his undaunted spirit; his firm independence of mind; his unbending energy; his scorn of semblance without substance, of servility, of plausible hypocrisy that glossed servility over, his eloquence, which sprung from his heart and expressed the vigor of his nature, his uncompromising energy, justly won for him the confidence of Maryland." Commissioners neither make nor unmake history, and sometimes they do not prove its correct interpreters. Without

a desire to detract from the noble character and patriotic conduct of the selections made by the commission, it is not unjust to say those whom they have chosen were not the greatest men Maryland produced of their period; they were among those who deservedly ranked in popular favor. Words found in Corinthians can be applied to them and their compatriots, "One star differeth from another star in glory," so one notable man in a group of shining men may enjoy among his fellow-men pre-eminence. Smallwood, without use of disparaging contrasts, was our pre-eminent soldier.

We are not wanting enlightenment as to the military history of General Smallwood. It is full, glowing, ample and brilliant. In nearly every leading engagement after Brooklyn Heights to the last scene in the Southern drama of British discomfiture it is a headland which is seen prominent on a coast of numerous projections. The history of Maryland's graphic and irresistibly brave participation in the War of Independence is Smallwood's history in the main. The strange feature is that we are in dense ignorance in reference to certain parts of his life up to the date of his entrance into the army. The mentioning of his earlier years by biographers is to this extent: He was born in Kent County, Maryland, in 1732, and died in Prince George's County in the same State in 1792. His father was Bayne Smallwood, a merchant and a planter, once a justice of the peace, and he was also member of the Assembly and a presiding officer of the Court of Common Pleas. His mother was Priscilla Heberd, and not, as historians have it, Headherd, of Virginia, descended of an excellent family and possessed of fortune. The son William had as his earliest schoolmaster Thomas Reback, in Kendale, Westmoreland, England. He was subsequently entered at Eton. He took part in the French and Indian wars, and it is intimated that he had seen service in the British army. This latter suggestion may be apocryphal.

From the meagreness of such a sketch we are unable to be delivered. Whether he left Kent to settle in Prince George's County or was taken there by his parents, no one has told us. It would not be a flagrant presumption to indulge in that he resided early in life in Prince George's, and, being the son of a distinguished man of affairs, that he was prominently connected with the military organizations of his neighborhood, and in the ranks and by promotion learned the science of war. If he had

been educated in the British military service such an important fact would hardly have become obscured. His education at Eton and his absence from America while there throw some light upon why it is we are without information as to his earlier life. From the date of his birth to the stirring year of 1776 was a period of 44 years. In these years he grew to manhood, was educated and engaged in the French and Indian wars; the part he took, when or where, is concealed from our knowledge. The time spent in such service could not have been long. It is certain he was a disciple of Cincinnatus, and walked in early manhood a like path with Washington, as did in private life many sons of favored men of the Colonial period.

The bugle blew its notes, the clouds of night overcast the sky, they broke and disappeared, and lo! the firmament was filled with stars, and Smallwood's, in silent splendor, shone with the brightest.

When he retired from military service he returned to his home in Prince George's. He was elected to Congress in 1785, and during this year Governor of Maryland. He held that high office three years, the full limit any one could retain it under the then constitutional restriction, and thereafter we lose sight of him, until death removed him from "the bloom upon life's barren shore," and from the precincts of his mansion hallowed by his visible presence.

A brief announcement of his death was published in the *Maryland Gazette* of February 21, 1792, couched in these words:

"On Saturday the 12th inst., departed this life at the Wood-yard in Prince George's County, aged about sixty years, the Honorable Major-General William Smallwood, formerly Governor of this State. Prominent as a soldier, wise and decided as a statesman, inflexible as a patriot, he uniformly distinguished himself in the Cabinet and the field, and through the various vicissitudes of a long and doubtful war, maintained and possessed the confidence and applause of his country. While in the private walks of life he was highly revered for his probity of heart, the enduring ardor and steadfastness of his friendships and for his candid social deportment towards all ranks of his fellow-citizens."

Thanks to the unknown writer for that portraiture. In visions of bliss one glance of ecstatic rapture is evidence of heaven.

General Smallwood was an ideal man. We wish to learn no more; it matters not who stood by the open grave that yawned here 106 years ago. The names of pall-bearers and attendants, of officiating clergymen and friends may have perished, they were incidents of the occasion; but the name and fame of the hero survives, and hereafter in this lonely spot the traveler may turn aside and on that stone read the lettered name and resume his journey with the thrill of a devotee who has been to Mecca.

Greater oblations than those rendered here cannot honor the Fourth. You have relighted the lamp which went out in darkness in yonder home, when its famous inmate forsook it. You have blazed a path, along which mourning footsteps can move on pilgrimages to this lonely tomb.

"Who at this shrine will worship give  
Shall from its altar good receive;  
The breath here breathed shall ever live,  
And love enduring homage weave."

Such a reverence shall be rendered no longer by the birds in the breaking morning, filling each tree with music's melody, but by the added voices of men who, however tardy, at last remember him who has honored them.

That faithful tree! Grandly has it stood sentinel over our hero's sleeping dust for a century past; may the axe of the woodman never inflict upon it wounds and scars; may the lightning spare it when it bounds in the arch above us; may its leaves never wither nor its branches decay; may it flourish and continue its sacred associations with the shades of the dead whose burial was its birth.<sup>1</sup> In the future it must divide honors with this speaking stone in its vigils. The stone torn from the hills of Maryland is not a rival but a companion, set to testify to the merits and sterling patriotism of the chieftain, worthy of our homage and adulation.

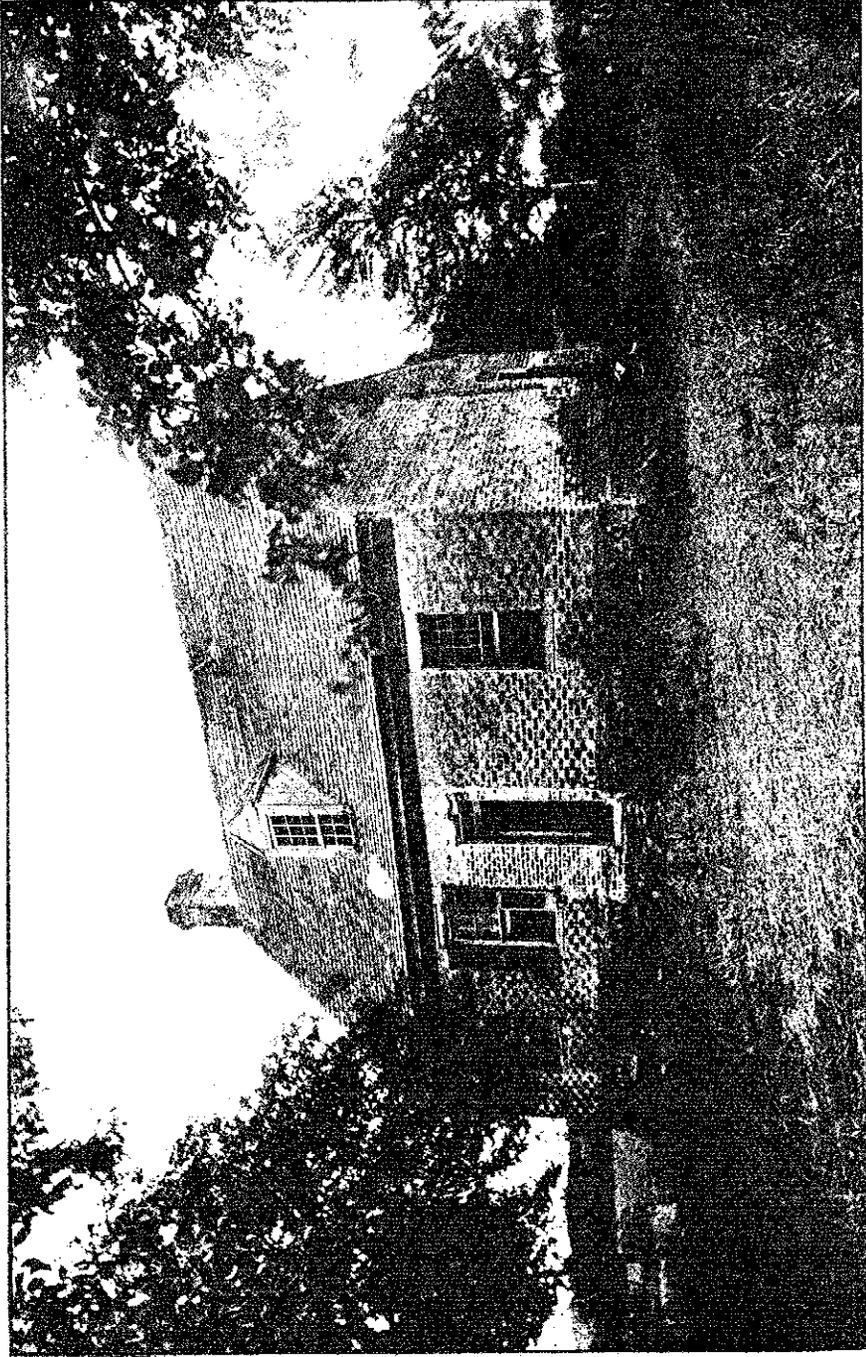
Rev. Dr. Payne, of the Durham Protestant Episcopal Church, which General Smallwood attended, replying to General Brent, pledged the people of the county to take care of the monument. He also took occasion to say how much they had enjoyed the

<sup>1</sup> There is a tradition, that at the burial of General Smallwood an attendant dropped a walnut in the grave at the head of it when nearly filled and that the tree then grew from it.

patriotic treat, as it was to them, and with what kindly feeling they welcomed the visitors in their midst. The county people, it should be added, had prepared a timely luncheon in the old mansion for the society, consisting of sandwiches, iced-tea, etc., and it was much enjoyed.

#### THE RETURN TRIP.

Upon the return trip to Washington a severe squall was encountered, which made the rather small tug jump about considerably. Upon the whole, it proved a very delightful occasion to those of the society and others who made the trip.



THE SMALLWOOD MANSION WHERE SMALLWOOD DIED.