

THE
Chronicles of Baltimore;

BEING A

COMPLETE HISTORY

OF

“Baltimore Town” and Baltimore City

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY

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BALTIMORE:
TURNBULL BROTHERS.

1874.

before the House of Delegates, he was questioned: "What did you intend doing if the mob had broken into the Convent?" and the late Judge Glenn described the effect as "electric," produced by his firm reply—"to have died on the threshold!" He was a devoted Roman Catholic, a brilliant lawyer and an accomplished scholar, a warm friend and a humble Christian. He died on the 7th of April, 1846.

The Baltimore shipmasters and builders, mates and pilots, send an address to President James K. Polk, asking that Baltimore be selected as the location for building ships of war. The address was borne to Washington on the 18th of May, by Captains Wm. Mason, Matthew Kelly, Philip M. Hale, Michael McDonald and Geo. Baker, the committee appointed for the purpose.

On Saturday afternoon, May 23d, an immense "war meeting" was held in Monument Square. The meeting was called to order by Jacob I. Cohen, Jr., Esq., who nominated his Honor Mayor Davies as chairman, and T. Parkin Scott and Thomas Yates Walsh, Esqs., as secretaries. The following named gentlemen were appointed vice-presidents: 1st Ward, Capt. James Frazier; 2d, Col. John E. Stansbury; 3d, Capt. Robert Hutson; 4th, Joshua Vansant; 5th, Col. Sol. Hillen; 6th, Henry McElderry; 7th, Henry F. Turner; 8th, Marcus Wolf; 9th, Gen. John Spear Smith; 10th, Nathaniel Williams; 11th, Hon. John P. Kennedy; 12th, Chas M. Keyser; 13th, Hugh Birkhead; 14th, John King; 15th, William J. Wight; 16th, Geo. W. Krebs; 17th, Charles Reeder, Jr.; 18th, Gen. Geo. H. Steuart; 19th, David Stewart; 20th, Geo. K. Dodge; from the county Samuel Brady, William Tagert, William P. Preston and William G. Howard, Esqs. Col. Davies, in a short and appropriate address, stated the object of the meeting; after which Robert M. McLane, Esq., offered a preamble and resolutions, which he prefaced by a patriotic speech. The resolutions were unanimously adopted. After the adoption of the resolutions the Hon. Reverdy Johnson took the stand, and delivered one of the most eloquent and patriotic addresses that was ever listened to. At the conclusion of Mr. Johnson's address, his Honor the Mayor introduced to the meeting Gen. Samuel Houston, United States Senator from the State of Texas. The announcement of the name of the hero of "San Jacinto" was received by the meeting with prolonged cheers. Hon. Wm. L. Yancey, member of Congress from Alabama, closed the meeting by an eloquent address. During the delivery of the address of Gen. Houston, news from Mexico was received and read to the meeting by Col. Davies. At the mention of the death of the gallant Ringgold, every head was uncovered, and many a manly cheek was suffused with tears.

On Thursday morning, June 4th, the company called "Baltimore's Own" left this city in the 9 o'clock train of cars for Washington, where they were mustered in the District battalion, Col. W. H. Watson. They elected the following officers: Captain,

John R. Kenly; F. B. Schaeffer, 1st Lieutenant; Oden Bowie, 2d Lieutenant; Sergeants, E. W. Aisquith, Wm. H. Hickman, G. Oliver Lansdale, and Thomas Tyson. They were escorted to the cars by the Eagle Artillery, Capt. Kane, accompanied by the band of the "Greys," and moved off from the depot amid the deafening cheers of the crowd congregated to see them depart. Previous to their departure, Capt. Kenly was presented with a beautiful pair of epaulettes by G. D. Spurrier, in behalf of the officers of the third division of Maryland militia. He was also subsequently presented with a handsome sword by Capt. Geo. P. Kane, on the part of the Eagle Artillery, as a testimonial of their respect and esteem.

The news from Mexico was received in this city on the 11th of October, that Monterey, after three days' hard fighting, had capitulated. The rejoicing for this great victory was alloyed by the mournful intelligence of the death of so many brave officers and men, among the former the gallant Col. Watson of the Baltimore battalion. He fell fighting bravely at the head of his men, in attempting to storm a battery of artillery and musketry, which was pouring a deluge of grape and cannister shot at the distance of sixty yards. The announcement of the death of Col. Watson cast a gloom over the entire city. In the gallant Watson our State suffered the loss of as brave a heart as ever beat, and the Baltimore bar, of which he was one of the brightest ornaments, a valuable member.

The mortal remains of Maj. Samuel Ringgold were brought to this city on the 17th of December and placed on a catafalque at the Exchange, under military escort; and on the 22d he was buried with grand and imposing military honors. He died on the field of Palo Alto, at the moment of a victory which his skill and courage contributed to achieve. Almost his last words were uttered to exhort others to perform their duty. In the death of Maj. Ringgold, Maryland lost one of her brightest and most chivalric sons, and his country the services of as brave a heart as ever palpitated, and as true a patriot. The annunciation of his death cast a gloom over our city and State, and, with praiseworthy unanimity, it was resolved to pay to his remains the highest mark of respect. For the few days which his body remained in the rotunda of the Exchange it was visited by thousands of both sexes, who pressed eagerly to drop the sympathizing tear over the bier of one who, whilst living, was all that was manly, brave, generous, and patriotic. Citizens from a distance vied with those of Baltimore in testifying their respect to the deceased; and the streets, during the procession on the 22d, presented a throng of spectators and a parade of military seldom before witnessed. It was a grand and imposing spectacle, worthy of the heroic spirit to whom it was offered, as the tribute of grateful hearts.

Official report of Captain James E. Stewart, commanding officer of the battalion of Baltimore and Washington volunteers:

"CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, MEXICO, *September 26th, 1846.*

"The battalion of Maryland and D. C. volunteers, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Watson, connected with the first regiment of infantry, the whole under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Watson, were ordered to march at about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 21st, for the attack on Monterey. The battalion were out in their full strength, save Company C, Captain Bronaugh, which was ordered to remain on guard-duty at camp, and Lieut. Owen, of Company A, with a detachment of twelve men, were ordered on picket-guard by General Twiggs. The battalion marched towards the city, and charged in the most gallant manner on a battery under a galling fire, in which it sustained some loss. The point of attack was then changed by order of Colonel Garland, and we entered the city exposed to a destructive fire from several batteries, supported by a large number of infantry, which raked the streets. We remained in the city for nearly half an hour, when we were ordered to retire. In doing so, the battalion became separated. Colonel Watson fell by a musket-shot whilst gallantly leading on to a second assault on the city. A portion of the battalion was then formed under Captain Kenly, and remained on the field of battle until it was ordered back to camp by General Twiggs, having been under a heavy fire nearly nine hours, losing in action, killed six, wounded eighteen. I take pleasure in noticing the gallant conduct of the battalion throughout.

"JAMES E. STEWART, Captain Commanding."

We will here add that Captain Kenly, after the battalion came out of the town, finding himself the senior officer present, assumed command, and kept it in action and fought with it until ordered at nightfall to return to camp. The battalion lost nine killed. General Taylor speaking of this battle in his congratulatory order, says: "The General begs to return his thanks to his commanders, and to all his officers and men, both of the regular and volunteer forces, for the skill, the courage, and the perseverance with which they have overcome manifold difficulties, and finally achieved a victory shedding lustre upon the American arms. A great result has been obtained, but not without the loss of many gallant and accomplished officers and brave men. The army and country will deeply sympathize with the families and friends of those who have thus sealed their devotion with their lives."

On the 24th of November, Brevet-Major Robert C. Buchanan, of the Fourth Infantry U. S. A., a native of Baltimore and a citizen of Washington, was assigned by order of General Twiggs to the command of the battalion of Baltimore and Washington volunteers. The battalion having distinguished itself in many hard-fought battles, and gained a name worthy of the State from which it came, and the term of enlistment having expired, was honorably