BATTLE OF NORTH POINT

In August of 1814 British Troops, under General Robert Ross, made their way up the Potomac to take Washington D.C. There they burned most of the public buildings including the White House and Capitol. Turning his attention north to Baltimore, Ross' troops made the short sail up the Chesapeake Bay to the mouth of the Patapsco River.

With the main British anchorage in Olds Roads Bay between Sparrow's Point and North Point the British Army planned a two-prong attack by sea and land. On September 12, 1814 General Ross' troops landed at North Point and made their way toward Baltimore.

Over 10,000 citizen soldiers amassed at Hampstead Hill (the area in east Baltimore now Patterson Park) and under the command of General John Stricker a column was dispatched to meet the invading British Troops at North Point. After General Ross' was killed in the skirmish at North Point, the U.S. militia was able to block the advancing British troops before they reached the city. Fort McHenry also withstood the bombing from the British that occurred shortly after the battle. Baltimore was saved.
The following is a selection of some of the available resources on the Battle of North Point located at the Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center:

**Primary Sources**

The citizen soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, September 12 and 13, 1814. Resolves of the citizens in town meeting, particulars relating to the battle of, official correspondence and honorable discharge of the troops. Baltimore: N. Hickman [J. Young, printer], 1858. MD XF 175.19.H5

This includes a muster roll of the names of the General, Staff and Company Officers, and Privates of the Maryland Militia who were involved in the Battle of North Point and Fort McHenry. This book also includes excerpts from the Niles Register of Town Meetings relating to the battle, official correspondences, and honorable discharge of the troops.


The Edinburgh Annual Register. Volume 7 - Parts I and II. James Ballantyne and Co. Edinburgh: 1814 EARF1299 1814

The above two registers from the United Kingdom are interesting as they offer the British perspective on the conflict.


Includes the transcripts and correspondences of the committee leading up the British attack.


A British perspective of the conflict including a discussion of the attack on Baltimore and North Point.


A beautifully embossed volume that includes fantastic illustrations of the War of 1812 along with a historical narrative.
War of 1812 in Maryland. Typewritten Excerpts from Books, Newspapers, etc. MDXF 175.1.W3q
Brings together some of the most important primary sources on the War of 1812 in Maryland.

**Periodicals**

Newspapers and magazines are great primary sources for information about the Battle of North Point as they reflect contemporary reports of the Battle as it unfolded. As periodicals tend to reflect a bias, reading the American accounts reveals a clear predisposition towards the United States, and the British periodicals refer to the United States as the enemy. The London Times goes as far as to call Baltimore “a nest of pirates.”


One of Baltimore’s earliest and most important periodicals the *Niles Weekly Register* offers an excellent account of the Battle of North Point although they did not publish the week during the battle as Niles and his staff was "being disturbed by the enemy".

Federal Gazette. September 1814. Baltimore. (microfilm-Periodicals Department)

American & Commercial Daily Advertiser. September 1814. Baltimore. (microfilm-Periodicals Department)

London Times. 1814. London, United Kingdom. (microfilm-Periodicals Department)