

Charles Guildener

Charles Guildener was born circa 1766 in Germany and made passage to the port of Baltimore (circa 1803) upon a merchant ship. His means of travel was fitting, as he established “Guildener & Spott”, a merchant import/export business, located at 13 Commerce St. in Baltimore City, Maryland.

On April 23rd of 1813, Captain Joseph H. Nicholson placed a notice in the newspaper to recruit volunteers for the defense of Baltimore at Ft. McHenry. Charles answered this call, and became a Private in the Baltimore Fencibles



Among the approximate 1000 men that served at Ft. McHenry, the Baltimore Fencibles were made up of approximately 75 prominent Baltimore citizens, merchants, and business owners. During the bombardment, the Baltimore Fencibles manned the 24pdr garrison guns on the Fort's bastions. They clearly endured some of the heaviest impact of the British guns and had two of their members killed in the battle (2nd Lieutenant Levi Claggett, and 3rd Sargent John Clemm).

After the war, Charles became active in the establishment and a member of the Association of Defenders of Baltimore; the first 1812 Society in the U.S. In addition, Charles was also one of the founding 149 members of the German Society of Maryland, and subscribed the Society Constitution and By-Laws in 1817

Charles' home was located in Baltimore at 73 N. Liberty St. This address no longer exists today, but was near the corner of N. Liberty and W. Fayette St. He was a member of the Zion German Lutheran Church in Baltimore and was first married to Susan Sheidel in 1819. Susan died at 31 years old, leaving Charles and their three small children: Henry, Louisa, and Amelia. In 1824, Charles was remarried to Hannah Herwig, and together had four children: Friedrich, Antoinette, Leonora, and Eliza. Charles died in 1830 at the age of 67, and his burial location is currently unknown. The Society of the War of 1812 members and descendants of Charles and Hannah Guildener are Sean K. Guildener, and William "Bill" H. Guildener.