

**This proclamation prepared by Walter Sheffield, 2d Vice President and approved by the Society was issued by the Mayor of Fredericksburg and Prince William County and perhaps others**

PROCLAMATION

Commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WAR of 1812

WHEREAS – By 1783 the American colonies had won their freedom from tyranny on the battlefield and then forged a unique and enduring form of Democratic government dedicated to equal justice, free trade and the rule of law; and,

WHEREAS – By the end of the century, this nation's prosperous role in international trade was blatantly restricted by European powers as they fought in what became the Napoleonic Wars; and,

WHEREAS – American shipping became the target of Britain as it sought to prevent our ships from trading with France or her allies, subjecting our vessels to search and seizure as well as the impressment of our seamen; and,

WHEREAS – In 1807, off the coast of Virginia and without provocation, HMS Leopard violated this country's sovereignty by firing on the USS Chesapeake killing and wounding several sailors, boarding her and removing seamen; and,

WHEREAS – Britain continued to pursue a belligerent policy calculated to restrict and destroy the United State's international trade through diplomatic and economic means to the extent that it could no longer be tolerated; and,

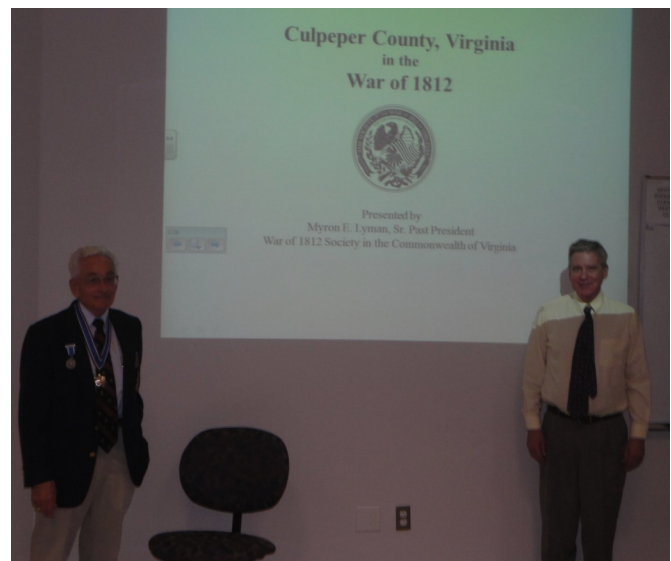
WHEREAS – Britain also failed to recognize the United States' western territorial rights, and armed and incited Indian tribes to oppose United States' citizens' trade and settlement on the western frontier; and,

WHEREAS – In January of 1812, the Virginia General Assembly issued a Resolution in support of President Madison's admonition to arm the nation for possible war; and,

WHEREAS – by April, Governor Barbour had responded to the call by organizing 12,000 militia to fill the Commonwealth's quota of troops; and,

WHEREAS – through the crucial leadership roles of Virginian President, James Madison, and James Monroe, his Secretary of State and later Secretary of War, on June 18, 1812, our young Congress formally declared war against the strongest nation on earth, Great Britain. This led to two and one-half years of bloody conflict during which Virginia counties and cities along the Chesapeake Bay were subjected to British attacks and destruction. Other distinguished Virginians such as William Henry Harrison, Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, Arthur Emmerson, Armistead Mason, Joel Leftwich and the Petersburg Volunteers provided the military leadership and resolve necessary to maintain our national sovereignty and republican form of government.

Be it hereby RESOLVED that \_\_\_\_\_ hereby commemorates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of War on June 18, 1812 and memorializes the sacrifices of those brave men and women who in the ensuing war, defended the honor and principles of the United States of America.



**Mike Lyman, assisted by projected member, Craig Kilby presented a PP Presentation on the role Culpeper County had in the War to attendees of the Germanna Historical & Genealogical Conference on July 14th 2012**