



The Virginia War Cry

“EVER FORWARD”

The Newsletter of the
SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Volume 18, Number 1 [Summer 2015]

Editor: Ken Williamson



WHAT DO WE DO?

The Objectives of our Society include, “...the encouragement of research and the preservation of historical data, including memorials to patriots of that era in our national history...,” and the below article, written by Dennis Fritts, President of our Society, is an example of **encouragement of research**. President Fritts has presented a very entertaining and historical article about a subject rarely remembered!

The War of 1812 in the Pacific

By Dennis Fritts, President, Virginia Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia

On 18 June 1812, war was declared between the United States and Britain. This war has often been called America’s “Forgotten War” and the role of the U S Navy in the Pacific is virtually overlooked when the war is mentioned.

Most people think of the war as events taking place in Canada, the Great Lakes, the burning of the nation’s capital, British defeats at Baltimore and New Orleans. A few know about the sacking of Hampton, The Hartford Convention and the Treaty of Ghent but virtually no one knows about the Naval War in the Pacific.

When the war began, the U S Navy consisted of 17 warships and roughly 5,000 officers and men. Captain David Porter commanded one of those ships, the Essex. Porter and the Essex were destined to play a very interesting part in the war. Porter had assumed command of the ship in 1811. He was an experienced officer and had served in the Navy since 1798. During the First Barbary War, he was captured and spent time as a prisoner.

At the outbreak of the war, the Essex was assigned as part of a flotilla under the command of Commodore John Rodgers. The Essex was in port at New York undergoing repairs when Commodore Rodgers left on 21 June 1812 in search of British ships. Porter would not set sail until 3 July 1812. His crew consisted of many veterans and several men who had served with him before. The youngest member of the crew was Porter’s “charge” midshipman David Farragut age 11. Farragut would later become the first U. S. Navy admiral.

(Continued on page 19)



Charles Fenton Mercer (1778-1858) is buried near Leesburg, VA in the Union Cemetery. After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army, he was recalled to service as an aide to Virginia Governor James Barbour of Virginia in the War of 1812 and rose to the rank of brigadier general while commanding militia forces in Norfolk. A prominent attorney in Loudoun and Fauquier counties, he served in the Virginia

House of Delegates (1810-1817) and in the U.S. Congress (1817-1839), where he was among the first congressmen to introduce a bill to abolish slavery. He also advocated universal public education and promoted American commerce. [VA Historical Marker T-24]

Picture from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_F._Mercer

This is an official publication of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Visit www.1812va.org for current activities and events. Contact the editor at: Editor1812VA@gmail.com with requests for information.

President's Pen:

DEFENDERS,

Society members have been very active since the publication of our last newsletter and as a result, interest in membership has grown. Our biggest source of new members is from the ranks of current Sons of the American Revolution chapters and I encourage you to continue your recruitment efforts in your SAR chapter. Another source of new recruits comes from people who see us at the events we participate in.

One thing that will help our recruitment effort will be the completion of a Virginia unique recruitment brochure. First Vice President Sheffield is currently leading that effort. Also, if you know of any historical or genealogy fairs let me know and we will try to get brochures to you once they are available.

I'm pleased to announce that the annual muster was held 13 June 2015 in Lynchburg. Seven new members were inducted. After lunch, we presented a Plaque at the Presbyterian Cemetery for the 18 known War of 1812 veterans buried there.

The Kroger Card Program is still bringing in a little money each quarter but that is only because we have 4 members who strongly support the effort.



Member Ken Williamson has identified another organization that will donate to our Society based on the purchase of items. AMAZON has a program located on the web at www.smile.amazon.com and our Society is listed as an eligible organization (Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Randolph,VA) to receive benefits. You need to establish an AMAZON account and select our Society as your choice. Then when you purchase from Amazon at www.smile.amazon.com part of your purchase price will be donated to our Society.

Our next Board meeting will be held 19 September 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Roanoke, Va. We will meet in the Blue Ridge Lounge which is on the 5th floor. Meeting will start at 1 PM. More information will be provided at a later date.

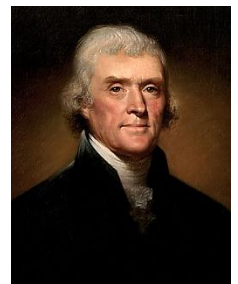
To keep current on Society activities visit the web site often - www.1812va.org. We need your participation at these events.

Have a GREAT SUMMER!
Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Fritts, President

DID YOU KNOW?

American leaders expected that Canadians would greet them as liberators

Political and military leaders in the United States expected that conquering Canada, a British colony with one-twentieth its population and many American-born émigrés, would be, as former President Thomas Jefferson wrote, "a mere matter of marching." Indeed, many Americans assumed that Canadians would be eager to join the United States. As U.S. Secretary of War William Eustis declared, "We can take Canada without soldiers. We have only to send officers into the provinces and the people, disaffected toward their own government, will rally around our standard." However, rather than welcoming them with open arms, Canadians took up arms to successfully repel the Yankee invaders.



General Society News



www.gsw1812.org

Published by the General Society of the War of 1812 in the June 2015 edition of "The 1812 War Cry"



The National Archives holds over 180,000 pension files for soldiers of the War of 1812, all of which are fragile and deteriorating with age. **Our goal is to digitize these unique records and make them accessible online to the public for free!** The value of these records from patriots at a critical time in our history cannot be estimated. They provide a glimpse into the battles, history, and families that the veterans of the War of 1812 engaged in as they struggled to put their lives back together at the end of the war. **The General Society of the War of 1812 has long been the**

greatest champions in defending the memory of the War of 1812. Help us finish this project with your generous donations. Each dollar that you or your chapter donates will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Ancestry.com. Each dollar will save at least 4 records! Please make your tax-deductible gift online at www.preservethepensions.org or by mail. You can also visit our blog or Honor Roll online at the same address. Help us honor those who sacrificed for the "land of the free and home of the brave" over 200 years ago!

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Federation of Genealogical Societies, c/o Preserve the Pensions, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720

GENERAL SOCIETY MERCHANDISE

(From the General Society Webpage)

1812 CUFFLINKS: The Quartermaster General has unveiled a new cufflink design featuring the seal of the General Society. A limited number are in stock and ready to ship for \$65 per set postpaid.



WHAT DO WE DO?

(From the General Society Webpage)

Purposes of the Society

The objectives of the Society are the collection and preservation of rolls, records, books, and other documents relating to the War of 1812; the encouragement of research and the preservation of historical data, including memorials to patriots of that era in our national history; the caring for the graves of veterans of the War of 1812; the cherishing, maintenance and extension of the institutions of American freedom; and the fostering of true patriotism and love of country.

In carrying out these objectives, the State Societies hold meetings for their members and guests at which programs relating to the War of 1812 and intelligent patriotism are presented. Over the years, the membership has been fortunate in attracting gentlemen of high caliber, intelligence, and gracious demeanor. The General Society and its affiliated State Societies are sensitive to the high ideals espoused by our Founding Fathers and they feel the duty that ever vigilant defense of our nation and its Constitution entails.

GENERAL SOCIETY MERCHANDISE

(From the General Society Webpage)

THE 1812 INSIGNIA: The ribbon shall be of watered silk, dark blue in the centre, with white and black stripes on the sides successively, and edged with scarlet; the entire ribbon to be one and one-half inches in width and the same dimensions in displayed length.



PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, in the Providence of God, victory having crowned the forces of the United States of America, in upholding the principles of the Nation against Great Britain in the conflict known as the War of 1812; we the survivors and descendants of those who participated in that contest, have joined together to perpetuate its memories and victories; to collect and secure for preservation rolls, records, books and other documents relating to that period; to encourage research and publication of historical data, including memorials of patriots of that era in our National history; to care for and, when necessary, assist in burying actual veterans of that struggle; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and foster true patriotism and love of country.

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!
TRIENNIAL DIRECTORY, 2014-2017

Includes General Society War of 1812 history, purpose, organization, officer contact, information and timeline of the War of 1812, constitution and by-laws, policies, procedures, insignia usage rules and customers, and a Member Roster divided by state of membership.

Only \$15
includes shipping

Make your check payable to GSW1812 and send to:

John R. Taylor, Jr.
 Quartermaster General
 4509 SCR 83
 Mize, MS 39116

General Society of the War of 1812
 TRIENNIAL DIRECTORY 2014-2017

Dedicated to a Legacy of Honor
 First President General John Caldwell, 1804 - 1925
 Richard D. Hulla, Deputy President General, 2014 - 2017
 Editor and Vice President General John Caldwell, 2014 - 2016
 September 14, 2014

ANNUAL MUSTER**Executive Committee Meeting, Luncheon, Guest Speaker****10:00 AM Saturday, June 13, 2015****Meeting Minutes and Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen****Lynchburg College**

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks – President Dennis Fritts
2. Invocation – Chaplain Larry Aaron
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Past President, LTC Mike Lyman
4. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed. President Fritts appointed the 1st VP to take the minutes for the meeting
5. A quorum was made – there were 22 present: President Fritts; 1st VP Sheffield; 2ndVP/Treasurer/Quartermaster Newcombe; Chaplain Aaron; Councilors: Epperly & Butler; Past Presidents: Lyman, Hartman & Maxwell; Deputy Councilors: Green, Williams, Williamson & Simmons; members: Baker & Howard; and new members: Miesen, Swartwood, Whetstone, Guillot, Wiggins, Wood & Peterson.
6. Reports of Officers and Committees
 - a. Treasurer’s Report - Treasurer Newcombe reported that we have 139 members and submitted his report showing \$12,008.50 in savings and \$18,420.05 in checking for total assets of \$30,428.55. His report was unanimously approved.
 - b. Budget – Councilor Williamson then presented a three-year budget for the Society. After lively discussion, it was unanimously approved. President Fritts thanked both the Councilor and the Treasurer for their detailed reports. President Fritts requested Councilor Williamson to look at the possibility of a safe investment possibility.
 - c. Grave Marking – Past President and Grave Markings Chairman, LTC Mike Lyman, reported on his many efforts and provided the assemblage with a list of upcoming events.
 - d. 1st VP Report – Walt Sheffield reported that he had distributed a draft of a three panel Society brochure on line and that it had drawn numerous comments. At his request, President Fritts appointed Past President Hartman, Chaplain Aaron and Registrar Poland to work with the 1st VP to finalize the brochure.
7. Old Business: Deputy Councilor Green was asked to look into a central location for upcoming annual musters and report back at the September meeting. Deputy Councilor Williamson reported on the Society’s vastly improved newsletter.
8. New Business:
 - a. President Fritts acknowledged and thanked the following members for recent donations: Councilor Belfield, for his donation of two, 15 star American flags with poles and indoor stands. President’s donation of outdoor flag stands; and Deputy Councilor Williams donation of beautiful Society glassware. It was unanimously approved that those attending the muster would be able to take keep their glasses and that those remaining glasses would be sold by the Quartermaster for \$10 each.
 - b. President Fritts led a discussion about upcoming wreath laying events. Coordination was made to provide those attending these events would have Society wreathes. It was also noted that our Society does not have a banner for use at such occasions.

- c. President Fritts indicated that he wanted to create a “President’s Award” to recognize members for their participation, and efforts for the Society. The Executive committee approved the concept of the award and it was referred to the President for formalization of the criteria with nominations to be submitted to the Past Presidents for the selection of honorees.
 - d. A discussion concerning late dues was led by the Treasurer who urged those in attendance to promptly pay their dues when billed in October. Valuable time and effort is wasted in having to pursue forgetful members!
 - e. President Fritts mentioned that our Society has five graduates of Lynchburg College. President Fritts and member Howard are among the five. The President then thanked David Howard for his efforts in coordinating our meeting with the college.
 - f. The President then recognized Deputy Councilor Simmons for his assistance with grave markings.
 - g. Finally, the President recognized and thanked Deputy Councilor Williamson for his outstanding work on the budget and newsletter.
9. Benediction – Chaplain Aaron led the Council in the Benediction, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Sheffield – Acting Secretary

Pictures from the Executive Meeting





Pictures below are from the Luceon, Induction of New Members, Awards, and Speaker



1812VA Society Commemorative Toasts

President Fritts reintroduced the Society Toast to the Annual Muster and a request was made to continue the tradition at future Annual Muster events. A designee at each table poured a small amount of apple juice into the glasses and after the toast and response, the bottom of the glass was slammed to the table, in salute.

1. President's Toast to our Country

- a. Compatriots' Response: ***TO OUR COUNTRY – HEAR, HEAR!***

2. First Vice President's Toast to our Society

- a. Compatriots' Response: ***TO OUR SOCIETY – HEAR, HEAR!***

3. Second Vice President's Toast to our Departed Virginia Society Compatriots

- a. Compatriots' Response: ***TO OUR DEPARTED VIRGINIA SOCIETY COMPATRIOTS – HEAR, HEAR!***

4. Past President's Toast to our Armed Forces

- a. Compatriots' Response: ***TO OUR ARMED FORCES – HEAR, HEAR!***



Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia
ANNUAL MUSTER
Saturday, June 13, 2015 - Lynchburg, Virginia
 Drysdale Center Lynchburg College

Attire: Coat & Tie (James Monroe Tie: preferred for members)

Schedule of Events:

10:00AM – Business Meeting members only Drysdale Center Lynchburg College (East Room)
 1501 Lakeside Drive
 Lynchburg, Virginia 23803

12:00 noon– LUNCHEON (guests welcome) Drysdale Center Lynchburg College (West Room)
 1501 Lakeside Drive
 Lynchburg, Virginia 23803

Guest Speaker: Mr. Tom Whetstone
 Topic: The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

2:00PM – Grave Marking and Wreath Laying Ceremony (guests welcome)
 Presbyterian Cemetery
 (only 10 minutes from Lynchburg College, convoys encouraged)
 2020 Grace Street
 Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

Our Society will be unveiling a large monument listing 18 War of 1812 Veteran burials in Presbyterian Cemetery.



1812VA Society Activities April - July



EVENTS:

April

- 17 Unveiling of Virginia Historical Highway Sign Marker (Virginia Governor James Barbour).
- 25 James Monroe's birthday celebration at his boyhood home in Westmorland County – with plaque dedication and ceremony.
- 28 Special presentation event for 257th birthday of 5th U.S. President James Monroe – conducted at the President's Circle portion of the Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA.

May

- 16 Joint VASSAR and 1812VA plaque dedication ceremony at the Masonic cemetery in Fredericksburg, VA.
- 17 Unveiling of Virginia Historical Highway Sign Marker (John Randolph of Roanoke).
- 23 Unveiling of Historical Monument Ceremony at Fort Meigs, OH.

June

- 7 Marker dedication at the Shockoe Hill cemetery, Richmond, VA, commemorating Petersburg Volunteers and Virginia Brigade soldiers.
- 13 1812VA Annual Muster meeting at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA.
- 13 Plaque Dedication at Lynchburg Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Honoring Eighteen War of 1812 Veterans
- 20 Joint VASSAR and 1812VA grave marker unveiling ceremony commemorating War of 1812 and Rev War veterans at the Ware Episcopal Church, Middlesex County, VA (with Thomas Nelson SAR chapter).
- 20 Unveiling of Virginia Historical Highway Sign Marker at Plum Point, Norfolk, VA (The War of 1812 Harbor Defense Forts).

July

- 25 Joint VASSAR and 1812VA plaque dedication ceremony commemorating War of 1812 and Rev. War veterans at the Old Augusta Stone Church, Fort Defiance

New Members (and others) are asking - "Is there an official uniform of our 1812VA Society?"

Dress Code: Navy blue blazer; Tan, khaki or grey slacks; the Official 1812VA neck tie; Society of the War of 1812 rosette worn on the left lapel; Society blazer patch; Full size 1812VA medal on neck ribbon or on the jacket; Name tag. Although not officially enforced, this is the "official uniform" for our Society.

Rosette – The rosette is a round insignia covered with cloth worn only in the left buttonhole of a member's blazer or suit coat, and is never worn with a rosette of another organization.



Neck Tie – The Official neck tie for our 1812VA is shown in the picture. Our 1812VA Society has a specific necktie that is different from the General Society tie.



Progress is being made to have all items available for sale on the webpage below:

<https://squareup.com/market/society-of-the-war-of-1812-in-virginia>

**President James Monroe’s 227th
 Birthday Celebration Event
 Westmorland County, VA
 April 25, 2015**

Members participated at the birthday celebration of President James Monroe’s 257th birthday. This event was conducted at his boyhood home in Westmoreland County, VA. Member Peter Broadbent, Jr. delivered the Declaration from Virginia Governor McAuliffe.



The James Monroe SAR Chapter, VASSAR and members of the War of 1812 Society in VA and a member of the VASSAR assemble for presenting the colors for the ceremony.



Above members of the War of 1812 Society gathered for a photo. L/R: Charles E. Belfield, George Beckham (SAR), Mike Lyman, Bill Nash. Stuart L. Butler, Peter E Broadbent, Jr., and Walt Sheffield.



**Society Participates in Joint Grave Marking
 Ceremony with SAR
 Ware Episcopal Church Cemetery
 Gloucester, VA
 June 20, 2015**

Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter
 Sons of the American Revolution
 and the
 Society of the War of 1812 of the
 Commonwealth of Virginia

Joint Grave Marking Ceremony

American Revolutionary Patriots
 Armistead Smith
 Lieutenant Thomas Muse Yeatman

Veterans of the War of 1812
 Ensign Thomas Smith
 Private Phillip A. Smith

Ware Episcopal Church Cemetery
 Gloucester, Virginia
 10:00 AM June 20, 2015


10:00 AM Call to Order	President Bruce Meyer SAR Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter
Invocation	The Reverend T. Grant Ambrose Rector Ware Episcopal Church
Posting of Colors	The Society of the War of 1812 Files & Drums of York Town Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter 7 th Virginia Regiment
Pledge of Allegiance	President Bruce Meyer
National Anthem	Files & Drums of York Town
SAR Pledge	Graves Chairman Gerald Runyan
Opening Remarks	President Bruce Meyer
GREETINGS	
The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia	Past President Mike Lyman
Life and Service of Honored Patriots and Veterans	President Bruce Meyer Past President Mike Lyman
UNVEILING OF THE MARKERS	
Patriots	Immediate Past President Ken Wood Graves Chairman Gerald Runyan
1812 Veterans	Past President Mike Lyman Charles Belfield
PRESENTATION OF WREATHS	
Musket Salute	7 th Virginia Regiment VASSAR Compatriot Jeffery Brown The Society of the War of 1812 Charles Belfield
Taps	Thayer Meyer
SAR Recessional	Immediate Past President Ken Wood
Benediction	Chaplain Gary Hodges Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter

The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution conducted a joint grave marking ceremony at the Ware Episcopal Church in Gloucester County. Individual grave markers were unveiled for two Revolutionary War patriots and two War of 1812 veterans.



Society Participates in Joint Plaque Dedication Ceremony with SAR Masonic Cemetery, Fredericksburg, VA May 16, 2015

Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution
Society of the War of 1812 in the
Commonwealth of Virginia
Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4 A.F. & A.M.



Plaque Dedication Ceremony
Honoring
Revolutionary War Patriots
and
War of 1812 Veterans
Saturday, May 16, 2015
3:00 PM
Masonic Cemetery
Charles and George Streets
Fredericksburg, Virginia

CALL TO ORDER: Dave Hazel, CFL Chapter, VASSAR
 INVOCATION: Bob Bailey, CFL Chapter, VASSAR
 ADVANCING THE COLORS: VASSAR/1812 Color Guard
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mike Lyman, Society of the War of 1812
 PLEDGE TO THE SAR: Mike Elston, 2nd VP, VASSAR
 WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS: John Hamilton, President, CFL Chapter, VASSAR
 GREETINGS: Honorable William C. Withers, Jr., Vice Mayor, City of Fredericksburg
 Scott H. Harris, Director, James Monroe Museum
 Reverdy E. Wright, PhD, President, Virginia Society, SAR
 C. Dennis Fritts, President, Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia
 MONUMENT UNVEILING AND DEDICATION:
 John Hamilton, President CFL, VASSAR
 Bob Bailey, Chaplain CFL, VASSAR
 Reverdy Wright, President, VASSAR
 Dennis Fritts, President, Society of the War of 1812
 Jeff VanCuren, Worshipful Master, Masonic Lodge #4
 WREATH PRESENTATIONS: Wayne Rouse, VASSAR Secretary
 MUSKET SALUTE: VASSAR/1812 Color Guard
 TOAST TO THE AMERICAN FLAG: Jeff VanCuren, President, National Sojourners Chapter 545
 TAPS: Dave Hazel, CFL Chapter, VASSAR

President Fritts presented greetings and remarks from the Society. The 1812VA Color Guard was in attendance.



Historical Highway Marker Dedication for John Randolph of Roanoke Unveiled with the Help of the Society Randolph, VA Sunday, May 17, 2015

Members of the Society participated in the unveiling of this roadside marker for John Randolph.




Left to Right Society President, Dennis Fritts; Douglas Powell; Registrar, Chuck Poland; Larry Aaron; and, Treasurer, Shane Newcombe.

1812 In commemoration of the Bicentennial of America's Second War of Independence

John Randolph of Roanoke
Historical Highway Marker Dedication

2:00PM - Sunday, May 17
 Dedication will take place along highway.
 David Johnson, Guest Speaker (Randolph Biographer)
 Unveiling of Randolph's Highway Marker
 Reception to follow
 Roanoke Station Depot, Randolph



Directions
 Route 360 (Kings Hwy.) Charlotte County, approximately 1.09 miles East of Route 607 (Roanoke Station Rd).
 Historical Highway Marker site is located at a shoulder off the eastbound lanes. Reception will follow in Randolph.

Event Sponsored by: Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.
 P.O. Box 1, Randolph, Virginia 23982 • info@HistoricStauntonRiverFoundation.org • 434-608-1021

**Society Participates in Monument Unveiling Ceremony
Fort Meigs, OH
May 23, 2015**

Members traveled to Fort Meigs, Petersburg, OH for the unveiling of a granite monument that lists Virginia’s war dead in Ohio who were with both General Joel Leftwich’s Virginia Brigade and the Petersburg Volunteers. The design, approved by Fort Meigs, was funded by the Virginia Bicentennial Commission. The War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia was represented by Society Councilor Stuart L. Butler and past President of the Society Lt. Col. Thadeus L. Hartman. Butler, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Virginia Bicentennial Commission, had performed significant research to identify the veterans that are named on monument. Butler also represented the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission and was also the keynote speaker for the event.



Stuart Butler and Thadeus Hartman pictured on each side of the monument. The women are members of the Ohio Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812. The National Executive Secretary, U.S. Daughters of 1812, is standing next to Stuart Butler (light blue coat).

**Friends of the Shockoe Hill Cemetery and 1812VA Society
 Conduct Grave Marker Dedication Honoring War of 1812 Veterans
 Midshipman Frederick Gibbon and Sergeant George Howard
 June 7, 2015 Richmond, VA**

The Friends of the Shockoe Hill Cemetery conducted a grave marker dedication with the Society of the War of 1812 remembering ten military veterans buried in the Richmond cemetery. New Veterans Administration gravestones had been provided. Two of the veterans were War of 1812 veterans. Several lineage society color guards and descendants of the honored veterans were in attendance. Representing our Society were three members – Past President Myron (Mike) E. Lyman, Sr. (who presented the Society’s wreath), Society Historian, Peter E. Broadbent, Jr, Esq. (who arranged for our society participation), and member, L. Taylor Cowardin with his son, Lewis Turner Cowardin II, who was proudly wearing the society’s badge.



Veteran Howard protected Richmond and was part of Richmond City’s 19th VA Militia Regiment in Captain Andrew Stevenson’s Company. He received a pension and a bounty land warrant for his service. A direct descendant of Sergeant George Howard, Deborah Crockett New, spoke about his service. Howard was born in 1792 and died 27 Oct 1860 in Henrico County.

Veteran Gibbon achieved the rank of Midshipman in 1811 and after the war the rank of Lieutenant in 1818. The gravestone indicates he died on December 03, 1825.



Pictures L to R: Taylor Cowardin with son Turner, Member Peter Broadbent, Howard Grave Marker, Group Photo, Gibbon Grave Marker



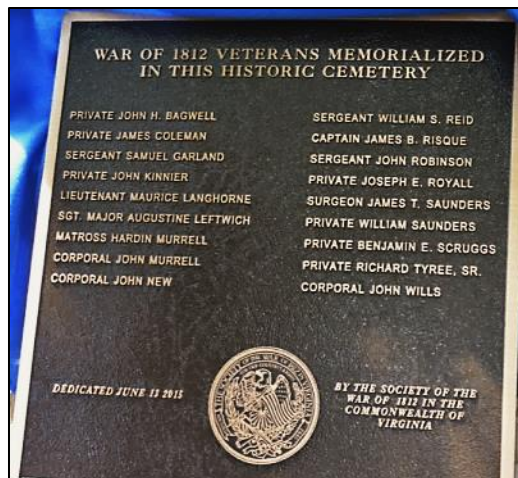
**Eighteen Veterans of the War of 1812 Honored
June 13, 2015, at the Lynchburg Presbyterian Church Cemetery**

**PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY
June 13, 2015 2:30 pm
LYNCHBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CEMETERY
Lynchburg, Virginia
Honoring Eighteen Interred War of 1812 veterans
Conducted By The Society of the War of 1812 In the Commonwealth of Virginia**

WAR OF 1812 PLAQUE UNVEILING PROGRAM

CALL TO ORDER:PRESIDENT C. DENNIS FRITTS, WAR OF 1812 SOCIETY IN VIRGINIA
 INVOCATION: CHAPLAIN LARRY G, AARON, WAR OF 1812 SOCIETY IN VIRGINIA
 FORWARD & PRESENT COLORS:SOCIETY COLOR GUARD
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:LED BY DEPUTY COUNCILOR, CRANSTON WILLIAMS, JR
 POST COLORS:.....SOCIETY COLOR GUARD
 WELCOME:PRESIDENT C. DENNIS FRITTS, WAR OF 1812 SOCIETY IN VIRGINIA
 INTRODUCTIONS AND REMARKS BY:
 REPRESENTATIVE VA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION.....ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER, STUART L BUTLER
 REPRESENTATIVE VA STATE SOCIETY, U.S. DAUGHTERS OF 1812.....TBA
 REPRESENTATIVE LYNCHBURG PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY.....EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EDIE LIGHT
 OTHER REPRESENTATIVES:TBA
 KEY NOTE SPEAKER: LYNCHBURG AREA UNITS IN THE WAR OF 1812:AUTHOR, STUART L BUTLER
 VETERANS TO BE HONORED:MYRON (MIKE) E, LYMAN, SR, SOCIETY GRAVE MARKING CHAIRMAN
 AND DEPUTY COUNCILOR KEN WILLIAMSON
 UNVEILING RITUAL:PAST PRESIDENT THAD HARTMAN, CHAPLAIN LARRY G. AARON
 PLAQUE UNVEILING:PRESIDENT FRITTS, VICE PRESIDENT WALTER J. SHEFFIELD
 WREATH PRESENTATIONS REPRESENTED BY:.....ANNOUNCED BY SOCIETY TREASURER, SHANE NEWCOMBE
 VA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION.....STUART L BUTLER. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER
 WAR OF 1812 SOCIETY IN VIRGINIA.....C. DENNIS FRITTS, PRESIDENT
 VA STATE SOCIETY, U.S. DAUGHTERS OF 1812TBA
 OTHERS.....TBA
 TAPS.....IN HONOR
 BENEDICTION.....CHAPLAIN LARRY G. AARON, WAR OF 1812 SOCIETY IN VIRGINIA
 CLOSING REMARKSPRESIDENT FRITTS
 GROUP PHOTOS

Private John H. Bagwell
 Private James Coleman
 Sergeant Samuel Garland
 Private John Kinnier
 Lieutenant Maurice Langhorne
 Sgt. Major Augustine Leftwich
 Matross Hardin Murrell
 Corporal John Murrell
 Corporal John New



Sergeant William S. Reid
 Captain James B. Risque
 Sergeant John Robinson
 Private Joseph E. Royall
 Surgeon James T. Saunders
 Private William Saunders
 Private Benjamin E. Scruggs
 Private Richard Tyree, Sr.
 Corporal John Willis



Fourteen members of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia gather around the plaque that was presented to the cemetery director, Edie Light.

Below, various pictures from the Plaque Dedication Ceremony at Lynchburg



**Virginia State Historical Highway Marker
 “War of 1812 Elizabeth River Defenses”
 Dedication Ceremony
 June 20, 2015**

At Plum Point in Norfolk, VA, a Virginia Historical Road marker was unveiled for the War of 1812 Harbor Defense Forts. Attending from the Society were member, Steve Forest dressed in War of 1812 attire, Councilor, Stuart Butler, and Legal Counsel, Carter Furr. A wreath from 1812VA was presented. Also attending were Jennie Lou Pringle, President of the Fort Norfolk chapter U.S. Daughters of 1812 and Navy Captain, Christopher Melhuish, who officiated.

War of 1812 Elizabeth River Defenses

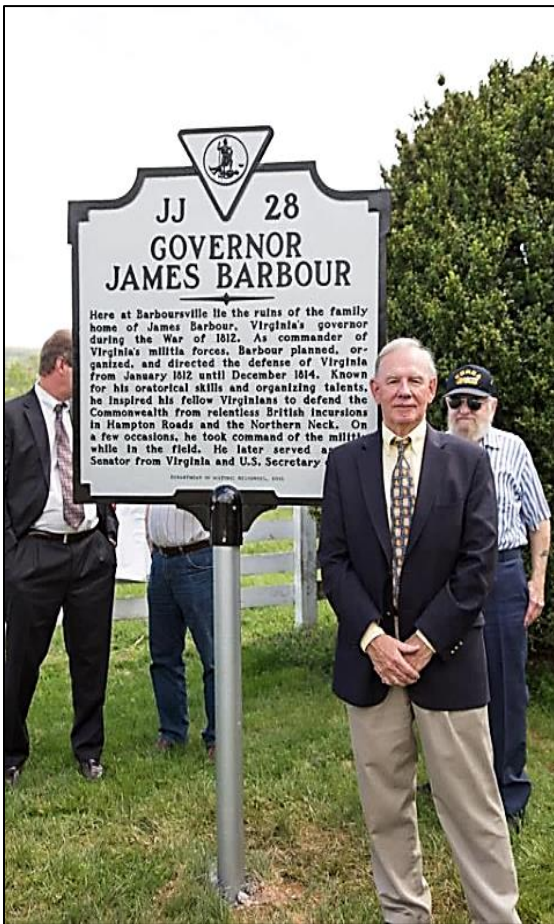
President George Washington authorized the construction of 19 coastal defense fortifications in 1794. Nearby Fort Norfolk, which mounted 37 guns, and Fort Nelson, armed with 10 cannon, were constructed by 1810 to guard the Elizabeth River approaches to Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Gosport Navy Yard. Additional defensive works, Forts Barbour and Tar, were later added and a blockhouse was built on Craney Island. Because Craney Island successfully defended against the British on 22 June 1813, Forts Norfolk and Nelson never fired their guns during the war. Of these fortifications, only Fort Norfolk survives.

Impressment of Americans into British service and the violation of American ships were among the causes of America’s War of 1812 with the British, which lasted until 1815. Beginning in 1813, Virginians suffered from a British naval blockade of the Chesapeake Bay and from British troops plundering the countryside by the Bay and along the James, Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers. The Virginia militia deflected a British attempt to take Norfolk in 1813 and engaged British forces throughout the war. By the end of the war, more than 2,000 enslaved African Americans in Virginia had gained their freedom aboard British ships.



**Virginia State Historical Highway Marker
“Governor James Barbour”
Dedication Ceremony
April 17, 2015**

Members of the Society participated in the unveiling of this Historical Highway Marker and presented a wreath from the Society. Society Councilor and historian Stuart L. Butler (pictured below), was the main speaker. Butler, the author of, *Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia and Its Militia in the War of 1812* and *A Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812* is probably the most knowledgeable person about War of 1812 Virginia Governor, James Barbour.



QUESTION:

Would you like to honor a family ancestor who is buried in another state, and who participated in the War of 1812?

You can!!! Purchase a grave marker from the 1812VA Quartermaster General and we'll help you plan your event. Take a lot of pictures and send a report and pictures for our newsletter.

Contact the editor at:
editor1812VA@gmail.com



Virginia War News from the Summer of 1814:

Jun 1 1814 Chesapeake Bay Joshua Barney sailed from Baltimore with 18 gunboats to attack the British on Tangier Island: While sailing down the Bay, he was spotted by the British in the neighborhood of the Potomac River and chased back north where the Battle of Cedar Point occurred. He eventually sought refuge in the Patuxent River where his boats remained until they were destroyed prior to the Battle of Bladensburg. [NHC III p76; TC p68; EW p95, Map #5]

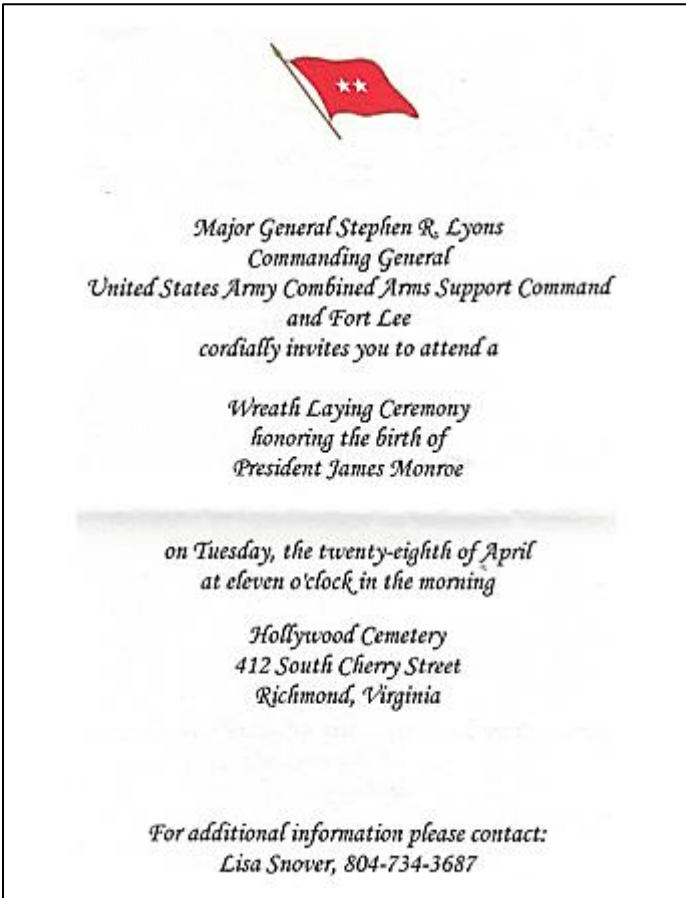
Jun 2 & 3 1814 Hampton at mouth of Harris Creek onto Back Creek “two barges of sixty enemy attempted to land at the mouth of Harris creek, but were repulsed by about six militia and armed citizens. The next day, four barges arrived at the same location. To oppose them was Armistead’s mounted infantry from Elizabeth City militia. The British were forced to return to their barges without landing or causing damage” (Butler from Richmond Enquirer article of 6/15/13)

Jun 21 1814 Norfolk Captain Gordon in Norfolk devised a plan to take several schooners out to create a diversion which would draw the British away from the Patuxent and allow Barney to get his boats out of the river. He had his ships positioned and ready to advance when Captain Kerr of the *Acasta* sent “... in a flag with a frivolous excuse of enquiring for one of his midshipmen and two men who were driven ashore.” On June 18 Cockburn received word from Kerr that several of Gordon’s ships were planning to leave Norfolk. This “flag” action by the British caused Gordon to abandon his plan. Throughout the war there are instances of flags being used to gain intelligence –sometimes on purpose and sometimes by accident. [NHC III p93, 119; Map #1]

From: *Encounters With the British in Virginia During the War of 1812*, By Myron Lyman, Sr. and William Hankins
<http://1812va.org/?p=1085>

**James Monroe Birthday Celebration
Wreath Laying Ceremony Attended by Society Members
Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA
Apr 28, 2015**

The 257th birthday of 5th U.S. President, James Monroe was conducted at the Hollywood Cemetery’s President’s Circle. The presidential wreath was presented by the Commanding General of Fort Lee. A separate ceremony was also continued by the James Monroe Memorial Foundation.



Above, members Ronald Depue and Peter Broadbent speak after the wreath presentation. Below, a group photo of 1812VA members at the Monroe tomb and of the ceremony.



(The War of 1812 in the Pacific Continued from page 1,)

At the outbreak of the war the *Essex* was assigned as part of a flotilla under the command of Commodore John Rodgers. The *Essex* was in port at New York undergoing repairs when Commodore Rodgers left on 21 June 1812 in search of British ships. Porter would not set sail until 3 July 1812. His crew consisted of many veterans and several men who had served with him before. The youngest member of the crew was Porter's "charge" midshipman David Farragut age 11. Farragut would later become the first U. S. Navy admiral.

The *Essex* was by all accounts a small frigate and had been built in Essex County, Massachusetts as a result of a plea by President Adams in 1798. Adams had asked that the ship be built in response to anti-French feelings at the time. The construction cost was about \$75,000 and paid for by the citizens of the town of Salem and the county of Essex. The government incurred additional cost for equipping the ship.

Porter's orders were to search for a British convoy that was under the protection of the frigate *Thetis*. He was to look for the convoy in an area around St. Augustine, Florida. If he was unable to find the convoy he was to use "sound judgment" if he felt it necessary to deviate from the "letter of these instructions." If he was unable to find the flotilla he was to use "sound judgment" if he felt it necessary to deviate from the "letter of these instructions."

Porter captured several vessels but never was able to make contact with the flotilla. By mid-February, he was in the waters of South America near Rio de Janeiro. He learned from an American whaling ship Captain that the British knew he was in the area and had ships looking for him.

The enlistments of many of his men were due to expire. Porter decided to see if his men would stay on while he ventured into the Pacific in search of British Whaling ships that would result in prize money for the crew. He told his men. "The unprotected British commerce.... Will give you abundant wealth; and the girls of the Sandwich Islands, shall reward you for your suffering during the passage around Cape Horne."

Porter, who was very popular with his men, convinced the crew that the wealth they would acquire would be

worth the risk and they set sail around Cape Horn. The trip was anything but easy. Storms battered the ship and forced Porter to anchor on the island of Mocha for repairs.

Now for the first time in history a U. S. naval ship was operating in the Pacific. Porter had no idea if there were British ships of war in the region. However, his biggest concerns were how would he and the *Essex* be received in the ports of countries like Chile and Peru. Both countries were technically neutral.

His first port of call was 14 March 1813 at the Chilean port of Valparaiso where he and his crew were welcomed. Here he learned that there were no British warships in the Pacific. He did learn that there were Peruvian privateers capturing any ship regardless of its nationality.

Soon after leaving Valparaiso Porter would capture the Peruvian privateer *Nereyda* and found a number of American prisoners who had been crew members of American whalers captured by the *Nereyda*. For the next several months, Porter would sail in the area and capture British whalers. His biggest prizes were captured off the coast of Chile, Peru and the Galapagos islands. Many of these ships were sent to port and their cargo sold as prize money. One of these was under the command of the now 12-year-old David Farragut. Some of the ships would be converted to U. S. war ships and sail with Porter looking for more ships. One of these ships would be the *Hammond* and for the first time in U.S. naval history, would be commanded by a U. S. Marine, Lieutenant John Gamble.

In late September, Porter learned that three British naval ships had arrived in the Pacific with the mission of finding Porter and ending his attacks on the British whalers. Porter now decided he needed to find safer waters and set sail to the Marquesas Islands nearly 3,000 miles to the south and west of the Galapagos. On 25 October 1813, the *Essex* and several accompanying ships anchored off the coast of Nuka Hiva. An island inhabited by nearly 50,000 people from several different warring tribes.

Porter soon became friendly with the Talis tribe and was allowed with the help of the natives to empty the *Essex* of all its supplies, conduct repairs and do refits.

(The War of 1812 in the Pacific, Continued from page 19.)

One report states that over a thousand rats were cleared from the ship.

While the ship was being refitted and repaired Porter built a small housing area that he named Madisonville. Porter soon became involved in local tribal wars and after several armed conflicts with the natives, peace was restored. Several of Porter's men were killed and buried on the island.

On 19 November 1813, Porter 'annexed' the island in the name of the United States and renamed it 'Madison Island'. He then built a fort above the town and called it 'Fort Madison'. When Porter finally returned to the United States, he tried to get the government to officially annex the island but it never happened. Porter left the island in mid-December 1813 with another ship headed to Valparaiso. Remaining at Nuka Hiva was Lieutenant Gamble and 21 volunteers with three ships. Gamble had orders to remain on the island until Porters expected return in May 1814.

Porter hadn't been gone long when several members of the crew mutinied and the local Talis tribe attacked Gamble. Gamble was forced to leave the island with only seven other crew members and they were soon captured by HMS Cherub somewhere near Hawaii.

Porter arrived in Valparaiso on 3 February 1814 where he learned that British naval ships were in the area and looking for him and his crew. Within a week HMS Phoebe, a much larger ship than the Essex, under the command of Captain James Hillyar sailed into the port of Valparaiso. Ironically, Porter and Hillyar knew each other from their days in the Mediterranean. Since Valparaiso was a neutral port both commanders decided to respect the neutrality arrangement.

On 28 March 1814, a strong wind came up and Porter decided to use the wind to try to escape the port. Shortly after leaving, the Essex encountered a strong storm that tore off the main topmast throwing it and several crewmembers into the sea. Porter was able to anchor near the Chilean shore.

Hillyar had followed the Essex out of port with the Phoebe and another warship the Cherub. When they found the Essex anchored off the Chilean coast they

attacked even though the Essex was still in neutral waters. The ensuing battle lasted for several hours but the Essex was eventually forced to surrender with a loss of 58 dead, 65 wounded and 31 missing. Porter and his surviving crew were paroled and by 6 July 1814 were back in the United States. Porter would soon join American forces in time to participate in events around the nation's capital and Baltimore.

The Essex would be repaired and become part of the Royal Navy for the next 19 years.



Dennis Fritts sitting on the site of Ft. Madison, on the island of Nuka Hiva

Source documents are available upon request to
Editor1812@gmail.com

Do you have a similar research project about the War on 1812? If so, please contact the Editor to coordinate publication of your article. (Editor1812VA@gmail.com)



How is your certificate presented? Don't have one, ask our Quartermaster General for details.

USS Livermore Named After War of 1812 Chaplain

By: Larry Aaron, State Chaplain, Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia



In October 1940, the U.S. Navy commissioned the *USS Livermore*, a Gleaves-class destroyer, the first naval vessel to be named for a navy chaplain, who also served in the War of 1812.



Livermore, a lawyer, a Harvard graduate and an already published legal scholar, was a personal friend of Captain James Lawrence, the captain of the *USS Chesapeake*, built in 1799 at Gosport naval yard near Norfolk, Virginia. When Lawrence was hastily putting together a crew in Boston to challenge the *HMS Shannon* on 1 June 1813, Livermore signed on as "Acting Chaplain."

This now famous battle between the ships resulted in the capture of the *Chesapeake*, but is best remembered for the dying words of Captain Lawrence: "*Don't Give Up the Ship.*" These words inspired Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry who soundly defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie a few months later.

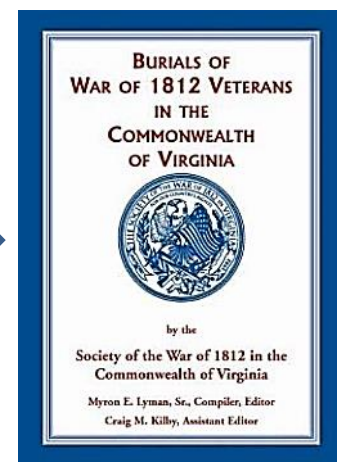
During the battle between the *Chesapeake* and *Shannon*, after the wounded Captain Lawrence was carried below deck, Samuel Livermore, in an act uncharacteristic for a chaplain, delivered a blow to the *Shannon's* captain Phillip Broke, whose crew had boarded the *Chesapeake*. USS Livermore

Livermore either shot Brooke with a pistol or slashed him with a cutlass. Livermore was also wounded in the confrontation, was captured and imprisoned in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He soon returned to America in a prisoner exchange and continued to serve in the Navy as a ship's purser until 1816.

After the war Livermore continued to practice law and published other legal works, which are still relevant today. One of his works was quoted in a 2006 opinion by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Domino's Pizza v. McDonald*.

The *USS Livermore* entered WWII as an escort ship in Atlantic troop crossings and then participated in 1944 in the Allied landings at Anzio, Italy and in the invasion of Southern France. It was decommissioned in 1947. Not only was this the first naval vessel named for a chaplain, but Livermore is also credited with being the first recorded U.S. naval chaplain, and also the first to be captured, all of which occurred during the War of 1812.

Have you purchased your copy? A limited number remain.



The original publication and Appendix G of *Burials of War of 1812 Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia* are in circulation. The good news is that the work continues! Newly discovered veterans, corrections, and some deletions to the lists are underway. Appendix G has been updated to include 321 new veterans and 14 deletions. There remains an additional 98 veterans that Mike Lyman and Billy Simmons are in the process of adding to Appendix G. After this is complete, the total number of War of 1812 Veterans listed in the book will be 4,847. As the Editor, I wish to thank these men for their tireless work in discovering these 1812 veterans and cataloging them into the book – and I'm sure you join me saying a big **THANK YOU!**

How To Tell Your Family's History
By Charles Belfield

THE BELFIELDS OF VIRGINIA
A Journey Through Time
DVD STARRING CHARLES BELFIELD



SHOWING HOW TO TELL YOUR FAMILY'S STORY IN A FASCINATING MANNER

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Have you ever wondered who your ancestors were, where they came from, and how they made a living? Five years ago, I asked those very same questions about my family. Then I started to research, and what I discovered amazed me. In this DVD, I introduce you to eight generations of my ancestors. By my portrayal of them, you will learn who they were and their role in American history. My hope is that you will be inspired to begin your own family research.

Charles Belfield

Charles Belfield was born on the Belfield family farm in Richmond County, Virginia. Charles, his father, and generations of grandfathers have resided on the same land since 1700. Charles and his wife, Brenda, have two children, Brennan and Megan, and three grandchildren.



Charles Belfield, appearing as his ancestor, Joseph Belfield (1700-1720)

20th Street Media
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36:28 Minutes

1812VA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Member	Ancestor	Admitted Date:
Kenneth E. Wood	John Wood	11APR2015
Dennis C. Peterson	Alden Hewitt	03JUN2015
David J. Hazel	Jeremiah Hazel	09JUL2015

A warm welcome to these new members!

Virginia's Historical Highway Markers For The War of 1812

Markers To Be Erected – Dates Not Yet Available

Dinwiddie County: Winfield Scott (1786-1866) K-322*

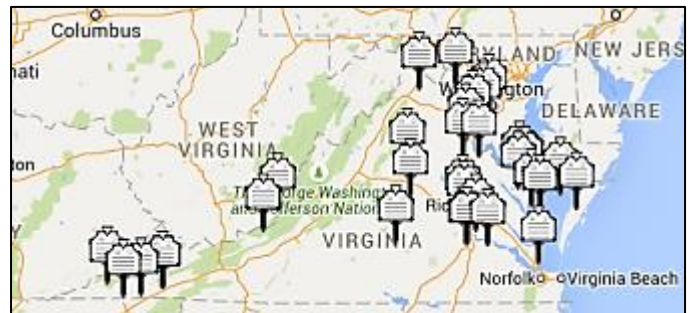
Virginia Beach: British Naval Blockade and Cape Henry Lighthouse KV-17*

For the complete list of War of 1812 Markers:

http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/War%20of%201812%20Markers%20publicationFINAL.pdf and <http://www.markerhistory.com/tag/war-of-1812/>

For a description and directions to each:

<http://leg5.state.va.us/markup/HwMarkups.htm>



On-Line Merchandise Store Available For Members Only

An online store has been established to purchase various items for members of the Virginia Society. This site currently accepts credit cards, but you can also mail an order. Paste this link into your browser:

<https://squareup.com/market/society-of-the-war-of-1812-in-virginia>

UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOTE: REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR SOCIETY WEBSITE
BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS FOR OTHER UP TO DATE EVENT NEWS
[WWW.1812VA.ORG]**

July 25 (Saturday)

Joint Plaque unveiling ceremony

At the Old Augusta Stone Church at Fort Defiance. With VASSAR and Society 1812VA, marking 21 War of 1812 and 42 Rev. War Veterans.

*Compatriots,
Please see the announcement below for the 1812 grave marking and ceremony on July 25th at the Old Presbyterian Church at Fort Defiance in Augusta County, VA. All members are encouraged to attend. It should be a terrific event. Put it on your schedule and plan to attend. With best regards,*

*William Nash
Secretary*


Location:
28 Old Stone Church Lane, Fort Defiance, Augusta County, VA 24437
Phone: 540-248-2634
<http://www.augustastone.org/52...>

It is located on U.S. Rt. 11, 7 miles north of Staunton in the community of Fort Defiance, VA. Its 1/4-mile south of the traffic signal in Fort Defiance, P.O. Box 118, Fort Defiance, Virginia 24482

Founded in 1740, this is the oldest Presbyterian house of worship in continuous use in Virginia. The old section is 1/4 miles down the road from the current church and new cemetery location. It is believed to be the site of the original meeting house for this church. Latitude: 38.23925, Longitude: -78.97356

**WAR OF 1812 VETERANS MEMORIALIZED IN THIS
HISTORIC CEMETERY**

PRIVATE JOSEPH BEARD
SECOND LIEUTENANT JAMES BELL
MAJOR WILLIAM BELL
PRIVATE JAMES CRAIG, JR
PRIVATE GEORGE CRAWFORD
PRIVATE JAMES CRAWFORD
LIEUTENANT SAMUEL CRAWFORD, SR
CORPORAL SAMUEL CURRY
SERGEANT ROBERT CUY
PRIVATE SILAS HENTON
PRIVATE JOSEPH KERR
PRIVATE JAMES NELSON
PRIVATE WILLIAM POAGE
PRIVATE JACOB STOVER
SERGEANT JOHN A. TATE
PRIVATE JACOB VAN LEAR
CORPORAL JOHN WALKER
CORPORAL JAMES WILSON DIED 1838
SURG. MATE JAMES WILSON DIED 1839
PRIVATE JAMES WILSON DIED 1854
PRIVATE ANDREW YOUNG



DEDICATED JULY 25 2015 BY THE SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812 IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA





Society of the War of 1812 In the Commonwealth of VA

PLACE
STAMP
HERE