The Virginia War Cry



"EVER FORWARD"

The Newsletter of the

SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Finding and Preserving History For America

Volume 18, Number 3 [Spring 2016] Editor: Ken Williamson



WHO ARE WE? Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia



Stuart Butler is a member of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. Stuart is the former assistant branch chief of the Military Archives Division, National Archives and Records Administration, where he specialized in early American military Records. Stuart has been researching and writing a history of Virginia during the War of 1812. Readers who would like to know more about the Virginia militia, its units, organization, and history during the war may wish to consult his books: *Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812*, (Athens, 1998; revised and enlarged, 2011); *Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia and Its Militia in the*

War of 1812, (Lanham, 2013); and, Real Patriots and Heroic Soldiers: General Joel Leftwich and the Virginia Brigade in the War of 1812 (Westminster, 2008).

Beginning on page 11 are excerpts from the Introduction for his new publication, *Order Books of the Fourth and First Brigades at Camps Carter and Bottoms Bridge in the War of 1812, September-December 1814, which is scheduled to be published by the New Papryrus Publishing Company, Athens, Georgia, during 2016. The publication is based on the original brigade orders books for the 1st Virginia Brigade, General William B. Chamberlayne, and the 4th Brigade, General John Hartwell Cocke, both in the Library of Virginia, Richmond. These units were stationed just east of Richmond to guard against a possible British assault on Richmond in the fall and winter of 1814. Reading through this Newsletter you will discover many examples of <i>Who Are We*?



Captain Thomas Macdonough, USN
"The Hero of Lake Champlain"
(Gilbert Stuart)

"... In September 1814, the tide of the war turned when Thomas

Macdonough's American naval force won a decisive victory at the Battle of Plattsburg Bay on Lake Champlain. The invading British army was forced to retreat back into Canada. The American victory on Lake Champlain led to

the conclusion of U.S.-British peace negotiations in Belgium, and on December 24, 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was signed, formally ending the War of 1812. By the terms of the agreement, all conquered territory was to be returned, and a commission would be established to settle the boundary of the United States and Canada."

http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/war-of-1812-begins

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: Editor @1812va.org with requests for information.

President's Pen:

DEFENDERS.

The BOD met on 19 February 2016 in Richmond. The focus of the meeting was our plans for the rest of this year and future projects.

I'm pleased to announce that the long awaited Society recruitment brochure is available. It has been reviewed and accepted by the BOD and will be distributed at the June Muster.

Thanks to the efforts of Secretary William Nash we have secured a site for our Annual Muster which will be held in Richmond on 18 June. Please plan to attend. I'm asking that you come and participate as we need a large turnout to welcome new members who will be inducted and our new officers will take the Oath of Office.

Due to the large number of on-going projects, and the many proposed new projects, we will be increasing the amount of funds we are budgetary spending for this fiscal year. In an effort to help rebuild our cash balances you will read about some ways you can help in this effort. In this issue of the newsletter you will read about one way we can secure more funds, and I encourage all members to consider joining in the new effort. Another way of getting funds is by members using the Kroger Cares



Program. We currently only have three members actively involved in this program. Anyone who shops at Kroger or Kroger affiliate stores should consider this program. We started participating several years ago and have gotten a check every quarter.

The winner of the Society glass in the dues payment drawing was Defender John Lynch. He's now the proud owner of his glass.

Our annual muster will be held in Richmond, 18 June 2016. We'll be meeting at the Westwood Club. A follow-up detailed message will be sent to the membership with all of the details. In this Newsletter you will find the Registration form. It is important that you make plans to attend and support your Society this year. To keep current on Society activities visit the web site often. And remember

I look forward to seeing you at the June Muster!

Respectfully submitted, **Dennis Fritts** President@1812va.org

DID YOU KNOW?



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The digital collections of the Library of Congress contain a wide variety of material associated with the War of 1812, including manuscripts, broadsides, pictures, and government documents. This guide compiles links to digital materials related to the War of 1812 that are available throughout the Library of Congress Web site. In addition, it provides links to external Web sites focusing on the War of 1812 and a bibliography containing selections for both general and younger readers. Examples of these types of references and documents are found at https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/1812/#American.

Compiled by Kenneth Drexler, Digital Reference Specialist, Library of Congress

Special Message from President Fritts



It's been my pleasure and honor to serve as the President of our Society. I've represented you at many local, state and national events and, as I start the count down to the end of my tour as President I feel a need to address with you, our membership, one of our most pressing needs we have: **VOLUNTEERS**!

First, I want to thank our core group of members who can always counted on. They attend the meeting, they volunteer to go to grave markings and other Society public events, and they continue to get the work accomplished across the Commonwealth of Virginia, year after year. These are men who find the time to make this one of the most successful and highly acclaimed State societies associated with the General Society of

the War of 1812. THANK YOU! Secondly, there is much more we could accomplish with a few more volunteers. **We Need You!**

For example, at our last BOD meeting we agreed to expand our Senior ROTC medal award program provided we could get someone to lead the effort. One of our members has provided me with a lot of information concerning the number of units in the Commonwealth. All we need is someone to lead the effort. I have contacted, or tried to contact, several members about leading this program. A couple have responded, saying that due to other commitments they can't take on the responsibility; and, honestly, some others have just ignored my request. Please know that I understand that everyone does not have all the time in the world to give, but I also know that some of our members do have some time and just don't realize that **We Need You!**

Another Society endeavor that is coming up very soon, and which needs a volunteer, is our ROTC medal program scheduled at UVA on 12 April. I've reached out to several members asking for a volunteer and not yet been able to locate a volunteer to attend and represent our Society. Obviously, I haven't reached the right person. I know you're there, and I hope you now know **We Need You!**

One of the main activities of our Society is identifying unmarked grave sites of veterans of the War of 1812, and then helping to conduct a proper ceremony to mark the grave. This is especially important in the western part of the Commonwealth. These events don't happen weekly, but there is usually one every month somewhere in the Commonwealth, and yet we don't get the expected participation. It is my thought that we're not publicizing these "once and a while" activities and that's why we're not getting volunteers and participation from our membership. We're going to do something about that very soon. Now you know – **We Need You!**

Participating in the Color Guard is currently, and unfortunately, an expensive commitment when it comes to acquiring the uniform. We recognize the current issue and we are working on ways to cut the personal cost to the member who wishes to participate. It's such a warm sight at events when our Color Guard is present because the public is always attracted. And, members in uniform always create opportunities for the recruitment of new members. Please know that if you want to help, and need financial assistance for the uniform – **We Need You!**

Activities where you can help include volunteering to help to publicize our activities, helping gather information that we can publish in our Newsletter and on our web site; volunteering to work with our Registrar to help member candidates who need simple guidance to find their patriot ancestors; participation at historical society

and genealogy workshops; and mostly, attending the activities of the Society at our public events – that's the most important, showing your support for your Society. The more we can do to draw attention to our many great and important activities, the more we will stir the interest of men who want to do exactly what you have done – join an organization that is actively involved with:

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.

My request and charge to our membership... **Volunteer!** If we've not kept you informed about our many activities, and if you didn't know we needed you to participate in our Society activities, I hope you will now check your schedules and participate with us. Look for an activity that is in your area of the Commonwealth and spend a couple of hours with us. This is my open invitation to you to **VOLUNTEER – We Need You!**

Write back to me with your thoughts. And, if anyone would like more information about how your specific gifts and talents might help with your Society, I'd count it an honor to talk with you. Your work experience will be very welcome, useful and appreciated. **We Need You!**

Many thanks, Dennis Fritts

Email me: President@1812va.org



January 19, 2016 – Austin, TX. <u>The Federation of Genealogical Societies</u> (FGS) announces the \$2 million dollar mark has been surpassed in 2015 with the support of donors in the fundraising efforts to digitize the 7.2 million pension images for the 180,000 pensioners of the War of 1812 in the <u>Preserve the Pensions</u> project.

This is a landmark project. For every dollar raised, 98 cents goes directly to digitizing the documents. There are no salaries paid for this project—the project

costs are primarily to print materials to publicize the project. Additionally, in 2015 the project raised \$208,401 in total cash donations. This amount, coupled with the generous match from Ancestry.com, doubled the funds raised to \$416,802 bringing the total amount raised for the project thus far to \$2,032,198!

With generous donations and continued help in sharing information about the project, significant progress can be made in 2016—possibly completing the fundraising for the project. The images for pensioners with surnames beginning with the letters "A" through "M" have already been posted on the Fold3 website and will remain free forever thanks to donors! Because of the support of donors, great fundraising progress has been made to complete the project, and further donations can be made on the War of 1812 Preserve the Pensions website.

http://www.fgs.org/upload/files/PTP_2015_2M_Dollar_Milestone_Surpassed.pdf

General Society News



The General Society has reworked their website and published a new look. The picture above is the look of the heading on the web page. Try it out: **www.gsw1812.org**

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.

THE INSIGNIA OF THE SOCIETY

(From the General Society Webpage)

The insignia shall consist of a badge of gold, pendant from a ribbon. Said badge shall be in the form of a Maltese cross (emblematic of faith in the justice of our cause), between four (4) golden eagles (symbolizing the four sections – north, south, east and west of our common country), and resting upon an anchor of gold (representative of the American navy, by which so many glorious victories of the War of 1812 were achieved).

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

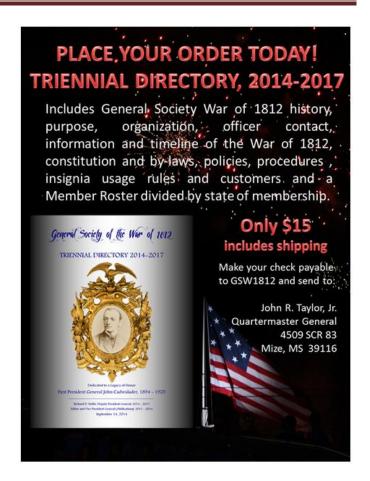


HEREAS, in the Providence of God, victory having crowned the forces of the United States of America, in upholding the principles of the Nation against Great Britain

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.







THE SEAL OF THE SOCIETY

(From the General Society Webpage)

Shall be two and one-half inches in diameter, and shall consist of an eagle displayed in the center of the seal, holding in his talons the American flag of the period (of fifteen stars), with rays of a rising sun above, and wreaths of oak and laurel (emblematic of the valor and victory of our soldiers and sailors), with trophies of cannon, musket, sword and anchor, below. The motto of the Society, "For Our Country's Rights," to be placed above the sun's rays in small Roman capital letters, and the whole to be encircled with a ribbon one-fourth of an inch wide, bearing, in plain Roman capital letters, the legend, "General Society of the War of 1812. Founded 1814." The seal is to be in conformity with the design submitted to the General Society.

Board of Direction Meeting Meeting Minutes and Reports of Officers and Committees Chairman, and Others 2:00 PM Friday, February 19, 2016 Omni Hotel, Richmond, Virginia Provided by William Nash, Society Secretary

- 1. President Dennis Fritts called the meeting to order promptly at 2:00pm. There were 18 members and 1 new member present at the meeting.
- 2. Chaplain Larry Aaron provided the invocation.
- 3. Past President, LTC Mike Lyman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved as distributed.
- 5. Committee Reports:
 - a. The Registrar reported that we have 5 new members and 3 dual members since the last Muster. Applications sent to 21 potential new members.
 - b. Chaplain Larry Aaron reported that he sent cards to the sick and those who have lost relatives.
 He participated at a couple 1812 functions, one in Pittsylvania Co. Article he wrote re. Craney Island was sent to Newsletter.
 - c. Historian and Legal Counsel had nothing to report.
 - d. Secretary reported that he is updating the Roster, sending out notices and taking the minutes. The topic of Publicity was brought up. General Society has included us in their publication now and promised to continue to do. National officers will be invited to our Muster in June.
 - e. Color Guard Chairman Charles Belfield reported of an event in Warsaw since the Sept meeting Muster and encourages participation in the Color Guard by the members. Certificates will be sent to Charles Belfield's 2 grandchildren for the event in Warsaw.
 - f. Treasurer report was given by President Fritts with us having 141 members. Proposal of putting Life Membership monies collected in a separate fund and was voted on and approved. Assets were reported as \$21,587 in our checking account and \$13,728 in our investment account.

6. Old Business

- a. A recruitment brochure for potential members is needed and someone to assume this duty. Ken Williamson volunteered to develop this brochure and costs were discussed. \$300 was voted on and approved to pay for the printing costs. It is an important tool for recruitment in our Society for potential members. Bob Vogle stated an instance where another member from Illinois visited a grave of their 1812 ancestor in Virginia.
- b. Purchase of a plaque for the Hungerford Cemetery ceremony in Leedstown on May 7th at 2pm was voted on and approved. Plaque will be on the gate of the cemetery. Cost is shared with VSSAR and our cost is \$658. Markers will be placed on 1812 veterans in the cemetery.
- c. ROTC medals are initiated by the General Society and we have presented medals to Va. ROTC people in the past. This year, a medal will be presented to a student at Old Dominion University by Stuart Butler.

It was suggested Bill Collier assume the duty of finding schools in Virginia to present these medals for the future.

- d. Past President and Grave Markings Chairman, LTC Mike Lyman, reported on his ongoing efforts, as follows:
 - The website which will be coordinated with the Newsletter with the help of other members who participate in our events.
 - All 110 Burial Books published by the Society have been sold. A second edition is being finalized
 this year with over 5000 burials from the original 4400 printed. With the second edition, there
 is no cost with Heritage Books, our publisher. Copies will be purchased at a discount and sold
 for a profit. A CD may be available with gravestone photos as well. "Find a Grave" source for
 pictures was discussed. Peter Broadbent will contact the publisher re. the details of the 2nd
 edition.
 - The Society pamphlet "Encounters With the British in Virginia During the War of 1812" has no remaining copies available and a revision is needed. He reported on various grave markings since our last meeting.
 - Upcoming markings include the Blandford Cemetery monument revision in Petersburg for 8
 new names of 1812 veterans. The cost will be \$1,725 along with a new cement walkway was
 voted on and approved. US Daughters of 1812 will be contacted to possibly help out. Mike
 Lyman will pay this cost and will be reimbursed.
 - An American flag will be put between the 1812 and Revolutionary War monuments paid by the SAR.
 - Purchase of a replica 68th Regimental Flag for the Color Guard and other places in the state was
 discussed with various details. The drawings cost was voted on and approved. Potential sites to
 display this flag along with the cost of buying several copies of this flag will be researched by
 members. Resolution will be conducted by email among the BOD.
 - Upcoming wreath presentations for the next few months was discussed. The details will be posted on the website and the newsletter.

7. New Business:

- a. Ken Williamson reported the following:
 - The Virginia Society has contacted the U.S. Navy Memorial, in Washington, DC and has gained
 the tentative approval for the placement of a Navy Memorial plaque to honor the veterans of
 the War of 1812, both sailors and soldiers. The concept will be passed to the General Society to
 approve and fund the project. In addition, the US Daughters will be contacted about their
 possible participation and sharing the \$10,000 cost.
 - "Gift in kind" accounting for donations to our Society as tax deductible, since we are a 501 (3)(C) organization, was presented, voted on and approved.
 - Our newsletter is very successful and sent to around 300 people. Member input to the newsletter is encouraged.

- b. Thad Hartman reported that a slate of new officers for the upcoming year is being worked on. Funding for various veterans support groups was discussed by a one-time donation by the members. Donations by our Society to the Fisher House at Fort Belvoir and Richmond were voted on and approved.
- c. Tom Whetstone reported on the possibility of History Day medal, certificate and monetary presentations by our Society to students. Other possibilities would be judging student presentations. Stuart Butler volunteered to judge and present his 1812 book to a student and possibly a teacher at Va. State University April 23rd. Future presentations could possibly done in the future.
- d. Larry Aaron reported that the Civil Air Patrol should be considered for recognition.
- e. Bill Nash reported on possibilities for the June 18th Muster in Richmond. The Westin Hotel was recommended and its cost. Mike Lyman suggested other places be considered which may lower the cost of the function. By email and more research, a final decision will be made and the membership will be notified.
- 8. President Fritts concluded and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, William Nash – Secretary

Picture from the February 19th BOD meeting:











Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia ANNUAL MUSTER RESERVATION Saturday June 18, 2016 Richmond, Virginia Westwood Club

(Directions: I-64 to Broad St East, go 1 mile then take a right on W Club Lane, Club is on the Left)

<u>Attire:</u> Coat and Tie (James Monroe Tie preferred)

Schedule of Events:

10:00AM – BUSINESS MEETING (members only)

Westwood Club, 6200 West Club Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

11:30 – RECEPTION (Cash Bar)

12:00PM – LUNCHEON (guests welcome)

Buffet options: (Salmon and Roasted Pork Loin) with soup, salads, veggies, deserts and beverages

Luncheon Guest Speaker: Rev. Larry Aaron

Pittsylvania County and the War of 1812

<u>2:30PM – GRAVE MARKING CEREMONY</u> (guests welcome) –20 min from Club & caravans encouraged Shockhoe Hill Cemetery

4th and Hospital Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

Contact J Shane Newcombe, Treasurer, Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia at (804) 322-7623 or email at Treasurer@1812va.org or by RSVP Notice

RSVP Reply Notice	
Respond to:	
Contact J Shane Newcombe, Treasurer, Society of the War	of 1812 in Virginia at
(804) 322-7623 or email at shane@accessoriesabroad.com	
Mail to: J. Shane Newcombe, P.O. Box 59, Randolph, Virginia 23962	
NAME	Number in Party
YES, I will be attending the Muster Luncheon and will be participating with the luncheon. Cost is \$28/per person and have enclosed a check for \$	
Send payment payable to the "Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia" to	
J. Shane Newcombe, P.O. Box 59, Randolph, Virginia 23962 (Treasurer@1812va.org)	
NO, I can't make it but will contribute \$	to the Society for costs.
YES, I am attending from out of town and need Hotel Information. My email address is below:	



SPECIAL CHALLENGE The Winner of a Virginia Society Glass

Defenders,

We have a winner! The challenge was given by President Fritts to the membership last year to have their dues paid by 1 December 2015. And, every member who did so, and every life member who made a donation to the Virginia Society by that date, would have their name entered into a drawing for a Virginia Society glass. The winner of the drawing was Defender John Lynch. **Congratulations John!**





THE ORDER BOOKS OF THE FOURTH AND FIRST BRIGADES AT CAMPS CARTER AND BOTTOMS BRIDGE IN THE WAR OF 1812, SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1814 By Stuart Butler

INTRODUCTION (Excerpts)

Historical Background

In the fall of 1814, a large concentration of British warships and transports was observed sailing through the Virginia capes and into Hampton Roads. Virginia's governor, James Barbour, and his Council reasoned that the armada might be attempting another siege of Norfolk, the goal of several previous British efforts in the past several years. To prepare for such an eventuality, the governor called up additional militia forces from most of the state to augment forces already stationed in Norfolk. The resulting call-up created several thousand new militia that had to be reorganized into new organizations.

These units were called to the Richmond area to be further broken down into companies, brigades, and divisions. These units were stationed temporarily in the Richmond area in camps such as Camp Fairfield and Camp Mitchell's Springs until they were ready to take to the field. Four new brigades were created from these new troops. In early October when it appeared that the British naval forces were heading up the Chesapeake Bay rather than moving towards Norfolk, two of the brigades, the Second and Third, left the Richmond area and marched north to help defend

Washington and Baltimore. The two remaining brigades, the First and the Fourth, remained in the Richmond area to be stationed at Camps Carter and Bottoms Bridge. A third militia force already stationed south of Richmond at Camp Holly Springs, under the command of Brig. Gen. James Porterfield, remained there until February 1815.

Orders issued by the brigades and regiments describe in explicit detail the day-to-day activities of the militia soldier. Most orders covered such camp activities as drilling, target practice, police and sanitary efforts, guard duty, and preparations for mess. Men were often assigned to perform duties that they had done in civilian life. Explicit instructions also detailed how far each tent or hut had to be from one another and the length and width of the "streets' in the post. Detailed instructions on daily drill, reveille, and parade formations were also included in the order books.

Court-martial proceedings for both officers and men occupy large portions of these orders. By far, most courts-martial proceedings and the punishments meted out concerned enlisted men. The most common charges were sleeping on guard, fighting, gambling, intoxication, and insubordination, the latter of which could cover a myriad of charges. Most

enlisted men charged with a violation of the article of war were found guilty, but a surprisingly large number of soldiers charged with infractions were let off lightly depending on extenuating circumstances.

Most punishments consisted of deduction of pay, reduction of whiskey rations, confinement in the guard house or in the "black hole" (solitary confinement), and public humiliation. The latter often took the form of having the offender's head or one eye-brow shaved, the wearing of a sign indicating the prisoner's offense, or "riding the horse", the latter a sawhorse or sorts upon which the offender would be forced to straddle for periods of the day for a week or more.

"Cobbing" was also resorted to which had the guilty run through a gauntlet of men wielding paddles with holes in them. Those charged with serious crimes such as mutiny, sedition, or repeated desertion were subjected to all of the above and confined until the war ended. Officers who were found guilty of the charges and specifications brought against them were cashiered, i.e. removed from service. Charges in these cases usually concerned excessive socialization with enlisted men, fighting with or drinking with enlisted men, malfeasance in performing their tasks, and conduct unbecoming an officer, the latter a charge that included a multitude of infractions.

Higher ranking field officers (Major and above) were tried by a general court martial. These officers faced a board of officers of similar grades, and had their proceedings announced in general orders issued by the Adjutant General's Office. By and large, these officers were acquitted of most of the serious charges against them, and were often more likely to be reprimanded in front of the camp formation. In one case, however, Lt. Col. Pemberton Claughton of the Northumberland County militia was dismissed as unable to command due to intoxication.





SPECIAL SPEAKER AT 2016 ANNUAL MUSTER

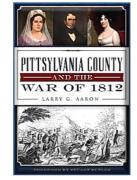
One of our own members

Pittsylvania County, Virginia: A Brief History



Larry Aaron is associate editor of Evince newsmagazine and a published historian from Danville, Virginia. He has received first-place awards for his writing from the Virginia Press

Association and also edited the award-winning book Danville in the Civil War by Lawrence McFall. Among his published works are Aaron Ancestors of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, a genealogical study; Keppy's War, the memoirs of Captain John Kepchar in World War II; The Race to the Dan, a history of events in the southern campaign during the American Revolution; and Pittsylvania County: A Brief History, published by The History Press.



Larry will be speaking about his recently released book, sharing history about Pittsylvania County and the time surrounding the book. Register now to reserve your place at the Annual Muster. (See page 10 for the registration form)





1812VA Society Activities December - March



EVENTS:

December

7 Society Participates in Christmas Parade in Warsaw, Richmond County, VA



February

- 17 Member Belfield speaks to Potomac chapter of the retired Military officers of America, Little White House.
- 20 Board Meeting in Richmond, VA
- 20 Certificates of Appreciation presented to Belfield grandchildren for participation in Christmas parade
- 21 Member Hartman, past president 1812VA, speaks at SAR meeting in Richmond, VA
- Society participates with application submission to Virginia Department of Historic Resources for a historic road marker, 69 Slaves Flee to a British Ship and Freedom
- 27 Member Belfield participated at the remembrance of the signing of the Westmoreland Resolves
- 28 Member Belfield participated at the remembrance of the signing of the Leeds town resolution

March

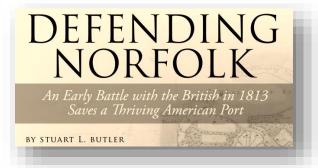
- 16 Society presents wreath at the James Madison 265th birthday ceremony
- 16 Member Belfield presents at Mount Vernon Genealogy Society
- 19 President Fritts, and other 1812VA members, attend Huguenot Society

Excerpts from the Article:

https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2013/spring/norfolk.pdf

"Governor James Barbour of Virginia was getting nervous. Very nervous. Could he get help from Washington to defend the port of Norfolk against any attempt by the British to seize it and gain a foothold in the American South? ". Then Barbour

took off on a tour of several weeks to inspect Virginia's Tidewater area,



the commonwealth's southeast portion, and in particular the exact strength of Norfolk's defenses. He had very good reason to worry about Norfolk's defenses.

They were important not just to Virginia and northeastern North Carolina but to the United States of America, then in its 36th year of independence from Great Britain. They (Britain) knew that if they could capture Norfolk, they could destroy the USS Constellation, one of two American frigates in the Chesapeake Bay. And they could seize large quantities of goods headed overseas and halt Virginia's and North Carolina's foreign trade.

The United States declared war on Great Britain on June 18. It was now clear to Barbour that no regular U.S. forces would be sent anytime soon and that Virginia, for the time being, would have to rely on its own "internal resources." The 500 militia troops arrived in Norfolk on August 11, 1812. They would be the first of many militia troops called into federal service to bolster Norfolk's defenses during the war. Commanding what regular troops there were in the Norfolk area—mostly artillery—was Lt. Col. Constant Freeman, an experienced Revolutionary War artillery officer."

Society Encourages and Assists With Work for a New Virginia Historical Roadside Marker

From Mike Lyman, past Society President

"Defenders:

Stuart Butler and I have been working with and supporting Lois Williams on the future Virginia Historical Road sign for Lancaster County. This will be an event that our society will need to support when it reaches time for dedication. I attended her presentation on this subject. She has identified and is using real good primary sources."

Proposed Front of Marker: 69 Slaves Flee to a British Ship and Freedom

British policy during the War of 1812 offered freedom and resettlement in "His Majesty's colonies" to slaves reaching a British ship. British barges picked up three runaway male slaves 14 April 1814 from Corotoman, a plantation two miles west of here. Guided by the runaways, the barges returned four days later to carry off their families and friends, including 45 children. This was the largest group of slaves escaping from a Chesapeake Bay plantation during the war. Most were settled in Nova Scotia, some in Trinidad. In 1828 the Corotoman owners received British reparations for lost slaves.

68TH Regiment Flags

From Mike Lyman, past Society President

The Society is purchasing five specially sewn 68th Regiment flags at \$180 each. These will not have any added fringe attached per vote at the last BOD meeting because the original flags did not have any. An order will be placed with expected delivery by May first. The Society will be purchasing additional flags to be used by the color guard, along with poles with pointed tops and indoor stands. The total extra cost has not been determined. An extra cost of \$150 was paid to have the needed drawings made.

We know what the front of the original flags will look like based on images we have, but we are not sure how the cap of liberty and the stripes were on the back of the original flags.

As far as we have determined, this is the only War of 1812 regimental flag from Virginia units.

Belfield Family and 1812VA Members Participated in Christmas Parade in Warsaw, Richmond County, VA December 7

Four members of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia dressed in the color guard uniform marched in the Christmas parade in Warsaw, Richmond County. They were George Beckett, Charles Belfield, Mike Lyman and Hugh Markham. Two grandsons of Charles Belfield carried street signs introducing the society to the parade participants.





Belfield Speaks to Retired Military Officers February 17

Member Belfield had the opportunity to speak to the Potomac chapter of the retired Military officers of America. There were thirty-two people in attendance. He spoke mainly on the Battle of the Little White House.

Below Charles is pictured with President Jester of the Potomac chapter of the retired Military officers of America



Belfield Family Participated with the Celebration for the Signing of the Leeds Town Resolution February 28

Charles Belfield was honored to be able to play the part of John Belfield, who along with his son Thomas, were signers of the resolution.



Belfield Grandsons Receive Special Award February 20

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to two grandsons of Charles Belfield who led the War of 1812 contingent in the December 7 Christmas parade in Warsaw, Richmond County, VA. The Society honored Cayden and Colt at the Omni in Richmond. They received awards for rendering service to the society.

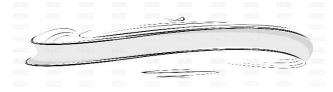
Pictured below are past Presidents Mike Lyman and Thad Hartman presenting the boys with their certificates of appreciation with granddad Charles Belfield.



Society Attends SAR Banquet February 20



Thad Hartman, past Society president, spoke and presented greetings at the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution banquet at the Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA on February 20, 2016, representing the Society.



Society Participates in the 265th Birthday Celebration for President James Madison March 16

The commemoration of the 265th anniversary of the birth of President James Madison at Montpelier in Orange County was attended by members of the society and they participated by presenting a wreath in the Madison Cemetery there. James Madison was president during the War of 1812 and as such was Commander-in Chief of all the military.

Pictured below are presenters and guests



Pictured below are (I to r) Registrar Charles Poland, President Dennis Fritts, and past president Mike Lyman



Belfield Participated at the Signing of the Westmoreland Resolves February 27

The remembrance of the signing the Westmoreland resolves was held at Stratford Hall. A full house took in the event. In the year 1766 February 27 th 115 brave men from this area signed the resolution against taxation without representation. Richard Henry Lee penned the document leading the way to our nation's independence. The event was sponsored by the northern neck historical society.

Pictured below are presenters and guests with Charles Belfield dressed for the occasion





Huzzah!
1812VA Business Card and Brochure
Coming Soon



Date to Remember Founder's Day and Jefferson's Birthday Celebration

April 13



Montechello

931 Thomas Jefferson Parkway Charlottesville, VA

Monticello was the primary plantation of Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, who began designing and building Monticello at age 26 after inheriting land from his father.

Wednesday, April 13, Monticello will mark the 273rd anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth with a celebration and ceremony on the West Lawn, featuring a keynote address by Marian Wright Edelman, the 2016 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Citizen Leadership. A livestream of Edelman's address will be available at monticello.org/marian-edelman-live.

Eugene Van Sickle, Assistant Professor of American History University of North Georgia, has published a paper and quoted (www.bandyheritagecenter.org) stating, "Often called the Second American Revolution or "Mr. Madison's War," the War of 1812 could just as easily be termed Mr. Jefferson's War. As the third President, Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) attempted to protect and defend American sovereignty and commerce against Europe's two major powers, Britain and France. Jefferson struggled to maintain neutrality between the new nation and Europe's bullies, although he viewed the British as the greater threat. His economic and diplomatic policies were aimed at the protection of American interests, but when Jefferson left office his strategies proved a failure—and one result was the declaration of war against the British on 18 June 1812.

Upcoming Date to Come out and Participate Unveiling of Cemetery Plaque Birthday Celebration

May 7

The photo below shows the War of 1812/VASSAR plaque on the cemetery gate where it will be permanently installed and unveiled in a joint James Monroe Chapter-War of 1812 Society ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled for May 7 at Leedstown, Westmoreland County. The plaque depicts veterans and patriots interred in this Hungerford cemetery. This cemetery gate is generally locked by the property owners so this plaque will be presented in such a manner that will allow visitors the opportunity to view the location at which these veterans of two wars are buried.





QUESTION:

Do you know where one of your patriot ancestors is buried? Would you like to honor that family ancestor who participated in the War of 1812, but they are buried in another state?

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: Editor@1812va.org



THE MADISON WHITE HOUSE:

The destruction of the White House was physical, emotional, and symbolic. There were rumblings that the nation's capital should be moved to a more secure location. But from the ruins the will emerged to keep the government in Washington, in temporary quarters, until the damaged public buildings could be restored and rebuilt. In 1817, after the Madison's had retired to their Virginia home, a new president, James Monroe, moved into the White House and restored

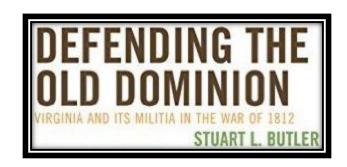


HTTPS://WWW.WHITEHOUSEHISTORY.ORG/TEACHER-RESOURCES/SAVING-HISTORY-DOLLEY-MADISON-THE-WHITE-HOUSE-AND-THE-WAR-OF-1812

War of 1812 Realities

- 1. On September 10, 1813, Oliver Hazard Perry led an American victory on Lake Erie. After the battle, he wrote his famous message to General William Henry Harrison: "We have met the enemy, and they are ours."
- 2. U.S. sailors were more experienced and better trained than U.S. soldiers during the War of 1812. While U.S. soldiers generally had little experience and training, many sailors had fought against pirates in North Africa and some had been impressed and served aboard British naval ships.
- 3. During the War of 1812, more soldiers died of disease than were killed in battle. Common diseases included malaria, measles, smallpox, infections from unclean operating equipment, and pneumonia.
- 4. During the War of 1812, the muzzle-loading musket that fired a lead ball was the main weapon. Muskets could hit targets that were only about 100 yards away. However, many U.S. citizens also owned rifles, which could shoot as far as 300 yards—an advantage over British muskets. Other weapons included cannons, swords, pistols, pikes, bayonets, crude bombs, and cutlasses.
- 5. After British troops set fire to the White House, the Capitol and other federal buildings, the next day a huge storm and a rare tornado put the fires out. According to the National Weather Service, debris from the tornado killed more British soldiers than Americans did with their guns during their occupation of Washington, D.C.

http://facts.randomhistory.com/war-of-1812-facts.html



YOU CAN HELP OUR SOCIETY WITH A FEW CLICKS OF YOUR COMPUTER MOUSE

Perpetuate the Memories of Your Patriot Ancestor

---- HERE'S HOW ---- WWW.SMILE.AMAZON.COM

From: AmazonSmile [mailto:no-reply@amazon.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 2:06 PM

To: J. Shane Newcombe, Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia

Subject: Welcome to AmazonSmile. Customers shop. Amazon gives.



Dear J. Shane Newcombe,

Thank you for registering **The Society Of The War Of 1812 In The Commonwealth Of Virginia** on org.amazon.com and welcome to the AmazonSmile program, where **Amazon donates 0.5%** of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organizations selected by our customers.

1. What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for YOU to support **OUR VIRGINIA SOCIETY** every time you shop with **WWW.SMILE.AMAZON.COM**, at no cost to you. You'll get the exact same low price with the added bonus of knowing that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to OUR VIRGINIA SOCIETY. Get your entire family involved... no cost you, and YOU HELP PERPETUATE THE MEMORIES!

2. How do YOU select The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia as my chosen charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

WHEN YOU SHOP, USE SMILE.AMAZON.COM. On your first visit (www.smile.amazon.com), you will receive the opportunity to select a charitable organization that will receive the donations. If this does not occur, you will search for our Virginia Society and make that selection before you begin shopping. Your selection of our Society will be automatically applied for every eligible purchase you make.

You must be logged into Amazon Smile at this website: www.smile.amazon.com.

3. How much of YOUR purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

4. Can YOU use YOUR existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

THIS ISN'T HARD... IF YOU SHOP ON AMAZON, AND HAVE NOT SELECTED ANOTHER ORGANIZATION THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT YOU MUST LOG INTO WWW.SMILE.AMAZON.COM.

Questions about how you can participate?

Please contact:

Shane Newcombe, Treasurer

Treasurer@1812va.org

How To Tell Your Family 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

\$19.00 Including Sales Tax and Shipping - Available in Local Gift Shops

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.



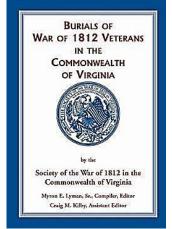
Charles Belfield, appearin as his ancestor, Joseph Belfield (1700-1720)

26th Street Media © Copyright 2014 Charles Belfield All Rights Reserved 36.26 Minutes



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

Have you purchased your copy? A limited number remain.



Oooops. It's too late, they're now all sold out. The original publication and Appendix G of *Burials of War of 1812 Veterans In The Commonwealth of Virginia* is not available at this time. The good news is that the work continues! Newly discovered veterans, corrections, and some deletions to the lists are underway. A revision is underway and will include over 5,000 veterans. Mike Lyman and Billy Simmons are in the process of gathering final details and preparing the publication for its next printing. As the Editor, I ask you to join me in thanking these men for their tireless work in discovering these 1812 veterans and cataloging them into the book.

The War of 1812---Why It Matters Today By Larry Aaron

The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia is not just a group of men who relish their connection with a past ancestor who served in America's second war of independence. We are about much more that is relevant today to this generation and our country's well-being.

The war of 1812 was a steppingstone in the history of our nation's rise to prominence and influence in the world. It gave permanence to the idea of democracy and republican government, which now flourishes where once it was a foreign idea. With history sometimes playing second fiddle to social studies in today's schools, our Society's activities maintain before the public eye the importance of that conflict over 200 years ago.

Our Society also encourages a concept that some Americans might consider outdated---patriotism. By recognizing and commemorating the veterans of that war with grave markings and memorials, while participating in reenactments and events that mark great engagements of that war, we do our part to keep the flame of liberty and love of country alive.

Furthermore, we cannot forget that the war of 1812 was fought primarily over sovereignty. Winning the American Revolution did not win us respect especially with Great Britain, but also her foresworn enemy France.

Britain, which was at war with France, continued her long history of impressing sailors off our ships after stopping our vessels, and also interfering with our neutral trade, confiscating our ships and any cargo they designated as contraband of war.

In the end it took the war to get Great Britain and other countries to allow us equal status on the world stage, and recognize our sovereignty.

Today, our nation's sovereignty is again threatened, but in a different way. Globalization, augmented with the advances in technology that have given us the world wide web and satellite communication, has served to "fragment national identities" across the globe.

As political and economic systems of nations become joined together under multi-national agreements, territorial boundaries are being undermined, culture is being eroded, and state sovereignty being set aside for the so-called greater good. Nationalism as a principle is being downplayed, which is tantamount to saying that America is no longer exceptional.

Also, when we went to war with Great Britain we risked everything by not having a strong military--- a few thousand troops, mostly militia when needed, and a navy of seven frigates, against Britain's warships numbering in the hundreds, with veteran sailors and soldiers. That the war ended with both sides basically declaring a truce is truly remarkable in that we didn't lose.

If we learned nothing else from the war of 1812, it is that to guard our borders, our freedoms, and liberties from hostile countries, and after 9/11, especially terrorist groups such as ISIS, we need to maintain the capability to defend ourselves with a strong military.

Among the great moments of inspiration in the war is the Battle of Fort McHenry, which gave us the Star Spangled Banner. Every time we sing that national anthem at ballgames on July 4th we remind ourselves of who we are, a proud nation, a free nation, and a can-do people in whom the American spirit still thrives.

Lastly, national unity also resulted from the War of 1812. Instead of "the United States were" it became "The United States was" as the jealous differences between the states subsided for a time. In today's climate of political intransigence and dissemblance and cultural divisions that separate us, that war showed the value of people uniting, which led to greater prosperity and the Era of Good Feeling.

Thus, the importance of patriotism, our sovereignty, the American spirit, a strong defense, and national unity are principles and concepts vital to our nation's existence. Our Society, the War of 1812 in Virginia, and our participation in it, serves as a reminder that we not take what we have for granted.

Biography Larry Aaron, State Chaplain

I graduated from Virginia Tech majoring in Biology then received bachelor, master and doctoral degrees in religious areas from various seminaries.

My career varied from pastoral and church staff ministries to chairman of the Science Department at Chatham High School in Pittsylvania Co. Virginia, then to Gifted Resource Teacher. I have written several books on war history such as *The Race to the Dan, Keppy's War* (memoir of WWII), and *Pittsylvania County and the War of 1812*.

I am presently Chaplain of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia, and the State Historian for the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution. My War of 1812 ancestor was Corporal Samuel Mitchell, who served at Craney Island in 1813 with Samuel Calland's Artillery of the Pittsylvania militia.

Who Are We?

1812VA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS Member Ancestor **Admitted Date:** Richard J. Fickling William Rice Nov 8, 2015 Robert C. Vogler **Blagrove Taylor** Nov 28, 2015 David W. Newcombe Thomas Newcombe Nov 29, 2015 Elijah Allen Dec 15, 2015 Verne A. Grav* Joseph W. Dooley* John Moyer Jan 9, 2016 Robert L. Hadden Alexander Bassett Mar 13, 2016 Note: * designates dual member A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



1812VA Personal History By Dennis Fritts

I joined the Society in September 2005 and was inducted at the Annual Muster in 2006. A few minutes after being inducted I was sworn in as the Society Registrar and have been actively involved ever since.

This involvement not only includes serving in several elected positions but being in the Color Guard and conducting talks about the War of 1812. When I give a talk I always go dressed in the Color Guard uniform and take a copy of Societies Burial book with me.

I have given talks and presentations to Historical Societies in Alleghaney, Bedford and Wythe Counties and DAR chapters in Floyd, Montgomery and Roanoke Counties.

One of the more interesting things I have done is conduct research about the War of 1812 in the Pacific. My research in this area is on-going and one day may result in plaques being placed in Chile and on the island of Nuku Hiva.

Who Are We?

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*

Henrico County: Richmond's War of 1812 Defensive

Camps V-53*

Norfolk: War of 1812 Elizabeth River

Defenses KV-23*

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%200f%201812%20Markers%20publicationFINAL.pdf and http://www.markerhistory.com/tag/war-of-1812

On-Line Merchandise Store For Members Only By J. Shane Newcombe, Quartermaster General

I am pleased to announce that an online store for the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia has been created. These items are for members only.

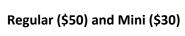
Paste this link into your browser... https://squareup.com/market/society-of-the-war-of-1812-in-virgini

You will find an array of items that are available for sale to members of the Virginia Society. This site currently accepts credit cards, but you can also mail an order by visiting the Society's website. Take a look, and treat yourself to something special.

Completely versatile, mobile, and above all else, a great way to get the items you've been looking for.

Regards, Shane Treasurer@1812va.org

Examples of items available: Bicentennial Medals ->>>>







MIRS ...IT'S TAX TIME!...

The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia has a tax exempt status with IRS as a 501(c)(3) Organization. IRS Publication 557 says, "Contributions to domestic organizations described in this chapter, except organizations testing for public safety, are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return." Your dues are tax deductible because members receive no goods or services in return for their dues payment. Make sure you ask your tax professional to verify for your tax situation.



War of 1812 - Old Ironsides August 19, 1812

The 44-gun frigate USS CONSTITUTION was actually outfitted with 55 guns when she encountered the 38-gun frigate HMS GUERRIERE (armed with 49 at the time) off the coast of Nova Scotia, at about 2 p.m. Closing the distance of several miles between the two warships, HMS GUERRIERE raised three British ensigns as an invitation to a duel; USS CONSTITUTION's Capt. Isaac Hull answered with four American ensigns.

Aboard HMS GUERRIERE, Capt. James Dacres ordered his small but highly experienced crew to begin firing broadsides early. USS CONSTITUTION's commanding officer chose to hold fire until just after 6 p.m., Hull wrote soon after the engagement, "...within less than a Pistol Shot, we commenced a very heavy fire from all of our Guns."

In the course of this 35-minute battle, an astonished sailor observed British 18-lb. iron cannonballs, bouncing harmlessly off USS CONSTITUTION's 25inch oak hull, and he cried out, "Huzza! Her sides are made of iron!" Henceforth, USS CONSTITUTION carried the nickname "Old Ironsides."

USS CONSTITUTION's 24-lb. shots were devastating, bringing down the English warship's masts, and entangling the two ships when they collided.

http://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/ships/uss-constitutionamericas-ship-of-state/history.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 13 (Wednesday)

Founder's Day and Jefferson's Birthday Celebration Monticello will mark the 273rd anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth with a celebration and ceremony on the West Lawn

April 20 (Wednesday)

Outstanding ROTC student award
Presentation to the student at Old Dominion University,
by Stuart Butler

April 23 (Saturday)

Virginia History Day

Stuart Butler will be a judge for senior High School and his book will be a prize *Defending the Old Dominion:*Virginia and its Militia in the War of 1812

April 23 (Saturday)

President James Monroe 258th Birthday Celebration West Moreland County, VA Gravesite

The next celebration will be Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Birthplace located at 4460 James Monroe Highway, Colonial Beach, VA. Celebration begins 10:00 a.m. View previous year's event pictures with the 1812VA at: http://www.monroefoundation.org/birthday-celebrations.html

April 28 (Thursday)

President James Monroe Wreath-laying Celebration, Richmond, VA

Thursday, April 28, 2016 there will be a <u>wreath-laying</u> <u>ceremony</u> at 11:00 a.m. at the Hollywood Cemetery, 512 South Cherry St., Richmond, VA.

See previous year's pictures with the 1812VA at: http://www.monroefoundation.org/memorial-celebrations.html

May 7 (Saturday)

Leedstown Historical Cemetery Dedication Ceremony Dedication ceremony for War of 1812 & Rev War veterans buried. Stuart Butler will be speaking.

June 18 (Saturday) Society Annual Muster

This is a must attend annual meeting for all members of the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. This meeting will include a full schedule to include the introduction of the new officers. Will be held at the West Wood Club in Richmond. Featured speaker will be member Larry Aaron. Complete your reservation form (found on page 10 in this Newsletter) and send it in ASAP.





Society of the War of 1812 In the Commonwealth of VA

PLACE STAMP HERE