



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 21, Number 3 [Spring 2019]

Editor: David A. Vazquez



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Charles Belfield	John Thomas (Tom) Whetstone III
William (Bill) C. Collier	Kenneth (Ken) D. Williamson
John M. Epperly	

The opinions expressed by the authors of signed articles reflect the personal views of the writers and are not necessarily a statement of Virginia Society policy.

A Message from Stuart L. Butler, our Society President



Defenders:

In a few months I will have completed one year as President of the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped me carry out my duties as outlined in the Society's constitution and by-laws. Your continued support is essential to any president who is chosen by the members of this Society. You know who you are.

In the coming months, the Society will participate in the James Monroe birthday ceremonies at the Westmoreland birth site and at Hollywood Cemetery. I hope as many as possible will attend these events. Any questions about these events can be addressed to Peter Broadbent or myself. In addition, there are a number of grave marking ceremonies coming up in various parts of the Commonwealth. These will be listed in the upcoming newsletter.

Despite attempts to locate our annual muster in the Norfolk area, I have decided to return to our former meeting place at the Westwood Club, 6200 West Club Lane, Richmond, on June 22, 2019. We have much to discuss at this meeting before the luncheon buffet and I hope all who are able to attend this event. I have tentatively arranged for a speaker who will soon confirm with me that they will definitely come. When that becomes a certainty, it will be announced by the time the announcement of the annual muster is sent to all members.

I thank in advance those members who have stepped forward and will be presenting certificates of achievement to those ROTC cadets who have been awarded outstanding recognition by their respective schools. I hope we can continue to increase our participation at such events in the future.

Best wishes to all this coming summer. I hope to see you at some of the listed events.

Stuart L. Butler
President
Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia
srtb@widomaker.com
www.1812va.org



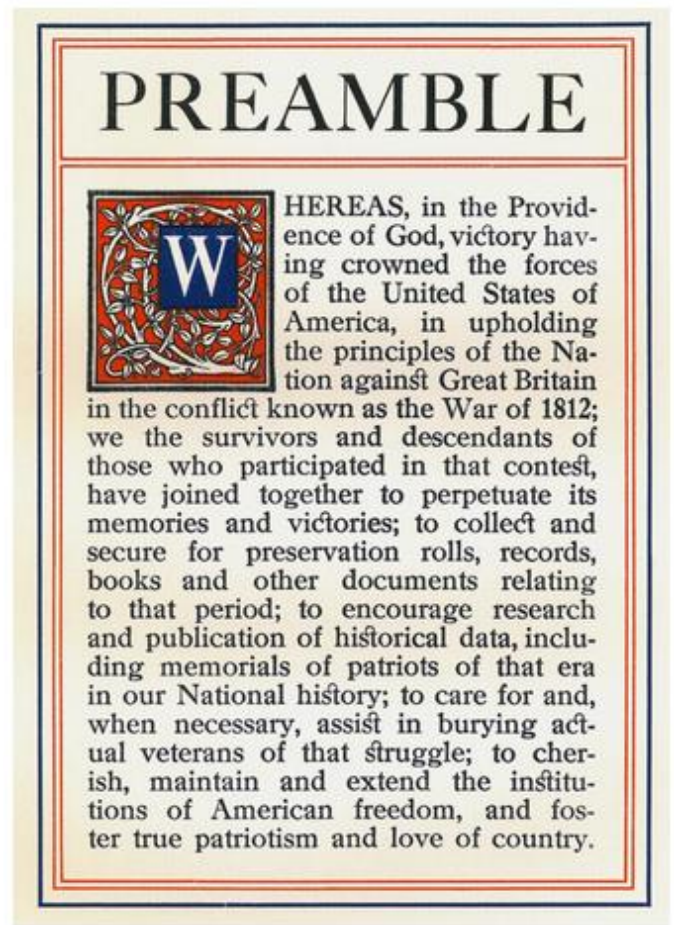


The website of our General Society is found at: www.gsw1812.org

Objectives of the General 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.





From the Editor

Defenders & Friends,

At long last, here is your Spring issue of the Virginia War Cry newsletter. Though, as you may notice, the publication continues to slowly transition away from a simple informational 'newsletter' format, to a more substantial journal-like one similar to a *Civil War Times* style of publication, covering the War of 1812. As stated in the previous issue, the philosophy being that it should encompass far more opinion, scholarly research, and reporting on members' efforts at preservation, genealogy, and uncovering history, rather than duplicating what is already instantaneously posted to the website.

I must apologize for the thinness of the "Field Dispatches" section this issue—due to the challenging weather, little to nothing has been done as far as grave location, clean up, recording, and marking this winter, at least in my corner of the world. Hopefully this spring and summer will be fruitful!

There is exciting news in this issue—we have our first paid ad in our little publication, on page 50. Though I have not yet played the game, *Mr. Madison's War, the Incredible War of 1812* looks like an intriguing tabletop simulation, and I would encourage anyone who can, to support our first 'sponsor'.

At President Butler's suggestion, we also introduce a new section which is hoped will be a series, titled "Defenders' War of 1812 Ancestors". These will be the stories of your War of 1812 veteran ancestors which you are encouraged to send in. President Butler takes the lead on page 9 and tells the story of his ancestor.

In this issue we are honored to bring you three historical articles from three very different contributors. The first, from our member J. Thomas Whetstone, about the exciting Battle of Horseshoe Bend. The second, from Danny Michael, Assistant Curator of the Cody Firearms Museum in Wyoming. Perhaps some of you are familiar with the TV show *Master of Arms*. I was an avid viewer, being impressed by the knowledge of the judges, including Ashley Hlebinsky of the Cody Museum. I contacted the museum with questions about War of 1812 firearms, and her colleague, Mr. Michael, who is quite knowledgeable about armament of this era, has graciously penned a piece for our publication.

The third article comes from young Brandon Fisichella, an Independent Historian and Reenactor with the 54th Regiment of Foot out of New England. He is known for posting free lecture videos at [YouTube.com/BrandonF](https://www.youtube.com/BrandonF), concentrating on British armaments, tactics and uniforms, as well as providing uniformed tours of Boston. He may be contacted at BrandonFYT@gmail.com if anyone has any questions or comments. Said questions and comments and the author's responses may be published in future issues of this newsletter.

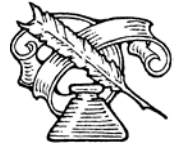
Without further ado, here is your Spring 2019 Virginia Society of the War of 1812 War Cry.

With warm regards,

D. A. Vazquez

Editor1812va@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor



I wish I could bring you a variety of opinions on the newsletter, but alas, a sampling of your comments:

"Nice job, Excellent newsletter."—R. G.

"Congratulations on an excellent edition of the Virginia War Cry... Keep up the great work!"—W. A.

"[The] newsletter was great. I like the new format." —C. P.

Thank you for your readership and support! Your ideas and opinions of our content are always welcome and appreciated—pro and con, and from member and non-member alike. Write to:

Editor1812va@gmail.com

The War of 1812

From the Secretary's Pen

The Society conducted its Board of Direction meeting, the notes and photos from which are below. Reports that were submitted for review and discussion, and pictures from the event may be found at:

<http://1812va.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Society-Holds-Board-of-Direction-Meeting-in-Richmond-Feb-8-2019.pdf>



Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
10:00 am, 8 Feb 2019
Omni Hotel, Richmond, VA

- 1) Meeting was called to order by President Stuart Butler at 10:00 am with 13 members in attendance
- 2) Invocation was given by Jim Thacker

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Chuck Poland
- 4) The minutes from the September 15, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously. Shane Newcombe made motion, seconded by Carter Furr
- 5) Officer Reports
 - a) President Stuart Butler
 - i) Met with Chris Frelke, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities for Richmond on Oct 12. Agreed to allow us to mount grave markers if placed flush against the tombstone
 - ii) Working on updating the society handbook to make it consistent with our practices. Chuck Poland, Dennis Fritts are assisting with this. An example is an officer holding more than one office
 - b) 1st Vice President and Treasurer Shane Newcombe, Treasurer report attached
 - i) Reported that we are still in the black
 - ii) Reminded members that obituaries should be provided to the newsletter editor
 - c) 2nd Vice President James Green, absent, no report
 - d) Registrar Hugh Markham
 - i) Three new members approved since 9/15/18: Philip Montgomery Revene, Henrico, VA; Thomas Alfred Gibson, Alexandria, VA; Cleo G. Hogan, Clarkesville, TN
 - ii) An excel spreadsheet is being maintained of all new members
 - e) Quartermaster James Thacker
 - i) We have the following items for sale:
 - (1) VA Society Neckties -\$30.00
 - (2) VA Society Medals -\$25.00
 - (3) Rosette-\$15.00
 - (4) General Society (large) Bronze gilt-\$135.00
 - (5) Blazer Patch-\$21.00
 - ii) Since our last meeting we have sold 1 Va Society Medal to Cleo Hogan (webmaster General of National 1812) new dual member in our society.
 - f) Chaplain's Report-President Butler stated that Dave Howard will be greatly missed
 - g) Historian Peter Broadbent, absent, no report
 - h) Secretary/Essay Contest chair, Paul Walden, report attached
 - i) Color Guard Chairman, Charles Belfield
 - i) 6 Oct 2018: Lynchburg, VA: Color Guard represented by Mike Lyman and Dennis Fritts at the joint dedication of a plaque honoring 47 veterans of the War of 1812 in the Old City Cemetery
 - ii) 27 Oct 2018: Northumberland County, VA: Mike Lyman, Hugh Markham, George Beckett and Charles Belfield participated in a grave marking for Samuel French at the Henderson United Methodist Church
 - iii) 4 Nov 2018: Northumberland County, VA: Color Guard represented by Mike Lyman, George Beckett, Hugh Markham and Charles Belfield at the plaque dedication at Burnt Chimneys
 - j) Publications Committee, Mike Lyman, Chairman-report attached
 - i) Agreement with Heritage Books regarding the publication of the *Burials of the War of*

1812 Veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia, dated 31 May 2018, are attached and made a part of these minutes

- k) Grave Marking Committee, Mike Lyman, Chairman-report attached
 - i) Motion was made by Chuck Poland, seconded by Jim Thacker: That the society will appropriate \$7,000 for the three proposed grave markings/dedications planned for 2019 at Trinity Episcopal Church-Portsmouth, Prince William County, and Warren County. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer Newcombe stated that there may be a \$400 shortfall in the budget that will need to be covered
 - ii) The correct date for the commemoration at James Monroe's birthplace in Colonial Beach is April 20.
 - iii) Charles Belfield was commended for his years of hard work in the reconstruction of James Monroe's birthplace
 - l) Website Committee, Mike Lyman, report attached
 - m) ROTC (no chairman)
 - i) Medals were presented to cadets at George Mason, VMI, Virginia Tech, University of Richmond, William and Mary, Old Dominion, and Norfolk State
 - ii) Robert Pollack is the National Chair and collects nominations from these schools. Jim Thacker then provides the medals to the presenter. Currently has 9 medals on hand.
 - n) Newsletter, David Vazquez, absent
 - i) David was recognized for his outstanding efforts with the newsletter
- 6) Old Business
- a) Chuck Poland represented the society at the National Meeting in Jacksonville, FL
 - b) Concern that we still aren't getting coverage in the national newsletter, *The War Cry*. Suggestion made that articles of particular importance be sent to the *War Cry* editor for inclusion.
- 7) New Business
- a) Two positions are open: Chaplain and Councilor. Contact President Butler if interested in serving in these positions.
 - b) Need an updated list of committees
 - c) A motion was made by Chuck Poland, seconded by Jim Thacker to hold the annual meeting and muster on June 22 in Norfolk. Motion passed unanimously. Tom Whetstone and Jim Green to look at potential meeting sites.
 - d) Charles Belfield suggested that our society place a quarter page ad in the *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine* at a cost of \$75. This was made into a motion by Hugh Markham, Seconded by Paul Walden. Motion passed unanimously.
- 8) Jim Thacker gave the benediction
- 9) Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Walden
Secretary



Left to right: John T Whetstone, III, Phd, Councilor; Hugh A Markham, Registrar; Charles E Belfield, Councilor; John M Epperly, Past Registrar; Paul A Walden, Secretary; Charles B Poland, Past President; Robert C Vogler, member; Michael Weyler, member; Carter B Furr, Esq, Council; James T Thacker, Quartermaster; Stuart L Butler, President; and J Shane Newcombe, Treasurer & First Vice President. Photo by Mike Lyman, Past President (not in photo), of the BOD meeting.

**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



This is the new marker!

WANTED: Members have previously been alerted that the Society needs to get more publicity in local media throughout Virginia (and West Virginia). That includes every event we participate in and every event where our members are being honored. With the diversity of skills and talents within our membership, we need you to contact President Butler and volunteer to assist with this very important Society function. Email contact may be made to the following email address:

Editor1812va@gmail.com

THANK YOU!!!



Be a part of Finding and Preserving History For America

Defenders’ War of 1812 Ancestors

Matthew Bawsell, Witness to the Bombardment of Fort McHenry

By Stuart L. Butler

Matthew Bawsell was born in Fairfax County, Virginia in 1790, the son of Matthew (1760-1826) and Elizabeth Bawsel (died about 1830). At the time of the War of 1812, Matthew Jr., a millwright, was living at home with his two sisters. In January 1814, Matthew was called up in the 60th Regiment of Militia under the command of Capt. George W. Hunter, and served four months in Norfolk from January 4 until April 11, 1814. Hunter’s company was placed under the 4th Virginia Militia at Norfolk under the command of Lt. Col. James McDowell. Most likely, he was camped near Fort Norfolk in what was then referred to as the Peach Orchard.

Matthew’s second tour of duty was much more interesting and potentially dangerous. When British forces under the joint command of Gen. Robert Ross and Admiral Sir George Cochrane threatened the city of Washington, Matthew’s company, commanded by Capt. Thomas Coffey, a neighbor in Fairfax, was part of the 60th Regiment sent to Washington’s defense. Due to a mix up in the location to which the Virginia forces under Col. George Minor were to report for supply of weapons and ammunition, the regiment did not arrive in time to participate in the battle of Bladensburg.

Following the disastrous defeat of the American forces at Bladensburg and the subsequent burning of the public buildings in Washington, Colonel Minor’s Virginia regiment became part of the American defensive force designed to protect Baltimore. Matthew’s 60th regiment of Fairfax militia was joined by other Virginia militias from Loudoun, Frederick, Jefferson, and Berkeley counties to form the Virginia Brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. Hugh Douglass of Loudoun County. Douglass’ brigade was assigned to the northernmost defenses of Hampstead Hill, located on the eastern side of Baltimore’s directly in front of the British army under Ross.

As Matthew’s position was one of the highest elevations in the city, he could have easily seen and heard the terrific bombardment of Fort McHenry by Admiral Cochrane’s British fleet in the Patapsco River which began September 13 and into the night of the 14th. Although it was a cloudy and rainy night on the thirteenth and into the morning of the fourteenth, he might have made out the very large American flag waving over a defiant Fort McHenry the next morning. If he was able to see through the mists, then Matthew was an eye witness to one of the most momentous events in American history. What he felt or what he thought then is of course unknown. He left no written recollections, or even a poem to memorialized the event.

Following the British withdrawal from Baltimore, Matthew’s company along with other Virginians followed cautiously behind the retreating British lines to make sure they were indeed headed for their ships and a return down the Chesapeake Bay.

Virginia troops remained in Maryland until late November, stationed in and around camps around Baltimore and at Ellicott City.

Matthew Bawsel returned to Fairfax, Virginia, to live until sometime in 1850s, when he and his wife, Jane Calvert Bawsel, moved to Georgetown, Washington, D.C. where he died on September 3, 1861.

Matthew Bawsel's son, William Bawsel, moved back to Virginia and served in the Confederate army, and lived in Richmond near his mother, Jane Bawsel, who died in 1882. William Bawsel's daughter, Annie Bawsel Talley, was the author's great-grandmother

WAR OF 1812.
Claim of Widow for Pension, under the Provisions of Sections 4736 to 4740 inclusive Revised Statutes, and the Act of March 9, 1870.

State of Virginia
 County of Henrico } ss.

On this first day of April, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and Seventy eight personally appeared before me, Robert H. Jolley a Notary Public within and for the county and State aforesaid, (1) Jane K. Bawsel aged eighty three years, a resident of Richmond City, in the State of Virginia, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is a widow of (2) Mathew Bawsel deceased, who was the identical (3) Mathew Bawsel, who served under the name of (4) Mathew Bawsel as a (5) Private in the company commanded by Captain Hunter & Cofer, in the regiment of not known, commanded by officers unknown but Virginia in the war of 1812; that her said husband (6) Voluntarily and without draft Fairfax County Virginia on or about the unknown day of unknown, A. D. 1814, for the term of one year, and continued in actual service in said war for the term of (7) one year, and whose services terminated, by reason of (8) Honorable discharge at Pofoh and Baltimore, on the unknown day of unknown Mathew A. D. 1815. She further states that the following is a full description of her said husband at the time of his enlistment, viz: (9) age 24 years, occupation, millwright, born in Fairfax County Virginia, Black Eye, Black hair, light about 5 1/2 feet. She further states that she was married to the said Mathew Bawsel, at the open Country, in the county of Fairfax, and in the State of Virginia, on the 24 day of September A. D. 1818, by one (10) James Reed, who was a (11) Baptist Congregational and that her name before her said marriage was Jane K. Calvert and that she has not been married since the death of the said soldier; and she further states that (12) she has not been married before, neither had she and that her said husband (13) Mathew Bawsel, died at George Town, District of Columbia, on the 3^d day of September, A. D. 1861, and she further declares that the following have been the places of residence of herself and her said husband since the date of his discharge from the Army, viz: (14) Hammond Va 1st Oct 1818 to 1820, Fairfax County Virginia 1820 to 1850, George Town and Washington D.C. 1850 to 1866 and from 1866 to the present in Richmond Virginia. She makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the pension to which she is entitled under the provisions of Sections 4736 to 4740 inclusive Revised Statutes, and the Act of March 9, 1870, and her constituents and associates believe her true and correct statement, and she further declares that she has heretofore made no other application for her true and correct statement, and she further declares that she has heretofore obtained one

First page of Jane Bawsel's pension application file based on her husband's War of 1812 service. Like many pensions, it contains a treasure trove of family information. (NARA).



Bombardment of Fort McHenry.

1812VA Business Cards and Brochures Available



On-Line Store for Society Merchandise For Our Members Only

An online store for the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia is available where 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.

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

Horseshoe Bend

The Decisive Battle of the Creek War of 1813-14

Background

In the eighteenth century, parts of the current Southeast were claimed by England, France, and Spain. But these European powers actually controlled only small toeholds on the coastal areas, seeking to maintain alliances through trade agreements with the Indians of the civilizing tribes (Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Seminoles). The American Indians held the balance of power during the eighteenth century, managing to maintain a strong, essentially neutral trading position by playing the European rivals against one another (Ethridge, 2003).

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the southeastern Indians were heavily involved in the deerskin trade. Creek (or Muscogee) men had become commercial hunters, selling their pelts to European traders in exchange for European-manufactured goods. Some Indians and metis had become wealthy and the Indians had become dependent upon certain goods including rifles, ammunition, rum, cloth, and metal tools. Southeastern men and women hunted, farmed, gathered plant foods, and provided personal services as guides, translators, mercenaries, and slave catchers. Horse thieving was rampant. As overhunting diminished the deer population, the Creeks increasingly turned to raising hogs, horses, and cattle for trade.

But more and more basic changes were inevitable. The new U.S. Government ended most trade and banking access to England (by the nineteenth century only one British trade company operated among the Creeks—Panton, Leslie, and Company in Pensacola). Most critically, although Creek territory was protected by Federal treaties, many Americans, supported by their state governments, were pressing to expand westward. The Creeks ceded and sold some parcels, but this was never enough.

Tecumseh Visits in 1811

The great Shawnee chief Tecumseh visited Creek Country in the spring of 1811. He sought to form an offensive and defensive alliance between the tribes of the North and those of the South against the American nation and people. He was rebuffed by the Chickasaws and Choctaws, but he greatly impressed some of the already disgruntled Creeks, those who would be known as Red Sticks. (He had earlier lived among the Creeks for two years and his wife was Creek.) Tecumseh urged the Creeks to abandon the ways of the Whites (e.g., clothing, farming with plows, arms, and religion) and to return to the conditions and customs of their ancestors. He feared that as the Whites grew more numerous and stronger, they would enslave the Indians and totally take away the land that the Great Spirit had given them. As an agent of the British, he was also seeking to prepare the southern tribes to join in the approaching war with the U.S. A prophet who came with Tecumseh assured the Creeks that, if they joined the war, not one of them could be hurt by the enemy—the Great Spirit would protect them.

The older Creek chiefs generally opposed war, fearing this would lead to destruction and loss of their houses and wealth. But some younger leaders, such as Red Eagle, or William Weatherford, hated the land-grabbing Americans and feared that they must fight before it was too late.

Red Eagle was a nephew of the wealthy Scottish trader Alexander McGillivray. Although by blood more White than Indian, *meti men* such as Weatherford considered themselves related socially only to their mothers in the matrilineal Creek culture. Weatherford thus identified himself as a Creek. He was a “singularly handsome man” who, although without formal education, proved to be a great leader and strategist, having been well tutored by his two uncles, Alexander McGillivray and the accomplished Frenchman Le Clerc Milfort (Eggleston, 1878, p. 41). Red Eagle influenced many to join the Red Sticks or war party. He allowed Tecumseh’s prophet to “inspire” some Creeks, such as half-breed Josiah Francis, to learn to be prophets (however false) who could instill courage in the warriors.

The Red Sticks (mostly Upper Creeks) repudiated the plan of civilization for the Indians, and set on a path to destroy everything American. They burned corn crops, threw plows and looms into the rivers, and killed hogs, horses, and cattle of peace-seeking Creeks and white settlers. Civil war inevitably erupted between the war-seeking Red Sticks and the White Sticks (mostly Lower Creeks), who wanted to maintain peace.

The War Begins

The first battle involving settlers was at Burnt Corn Creek on July 27, 1813. A force of pioneers, fearing that their militia units would be called away at any time to protect the coast from British incursions, decided to take the initiative against the marauding Indian outlaws. Volunteers, joined by some half-breeds and friendly Creeks, attacked a body of Red Sticks under Peter McQueen, High Head Jim, and Prophet Francis. The Red Sticks were returning from a trip to Pensacola laden with arms and ammunition they had purchased using their plunder from raids. The preemptive attack was initially successful, but some of the undisciplined Americans stopped to secure the pack horses abandoned by the fleeing Indians. When McQueen persuaded his warriors to return, the Red Sticks overpowered the pioneer force.

This victory greatly encouraged the hostile Creeks, who gathered to make war. American settlers appealed for assistance and gathered in scattered posts. A principal fort was Ft. Mims, near the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers. Over 500 White, Black, Red, and mixed people flocked there for safety. These included about 250 fighting men, some sent by General Claiborne, who had been sent from Louisiana with only about 700 men to protect the scattered forts. Tragically, Major Beasley, commander at Ft. Mims, neglected Claiborne’s orders to strengthen the defenses and maintain high alert.

Red Eagle (William Weatherford), whose plantation was nearby, assembled more than 1000 Creeks who totally surprised Ft. Mims. Fierce fighting continued for about five hours; by sunset the men, women, and children in the fort were all butchered, except for about 20 who escaped and a few kept as

slaves. Red Eagle showed great leadership in persuading the Red Sticks to keep fighting (as opposed to their usual “hit and run” tactics), but was unable to control the eventual slaughter (Eggleston, 1878).

Red Eagle’s Strategy

Red Eagle wanted to keep his Red Stick force together and press to take Mobile. However, the Spanish wanted to preserve Mobile for themselves, and the British did not send the conquering army Red Eagle had first expected. Moreover, his loyalty was challenged and his influence weakened due to his attempt to restrain the warriors at Ft. Mims. Unable to overcome his warriors’ habits of fighting in roving bands, he instead persuaded them to establish strongholds from which they could make sudden attacks in force on the American forces that were starting to invade Creek Country.

Southern States Respond to the Ft. Mims Massacre



General John Coffee,
Mounted Rifles.

After the massacre at Fort Mims, appeals for aid were answered by militias and volunteers from Tennessee, Georgia, and the Mississippi Territory. The Federal Government could not do much because of its preoccupation with the war against Britain. Many southerners, including Tennesseans, had already volunteered to fight the British invaders. But “Remember Ft. Mims” was an appeal that promptly inspired additional volunteers, as later would “Remember the Alamo” and “Remember the Maine.” The forces raised were augmented by Cherokees, Choctaws, and White Stick Creeks who favored the plan of civilization, all choosing to side with the U.S. against the Red Sticks. Pushmatahaw was especially important, leading the Choctaw Nation against the Red Sticks. The leaders of the U.S. Creek War movement were men such as Governor William Blount, Andrew Jackson, and John Coffee of Tennessee, who, along with others in Georgia and the Mississippi Territory, were among the land speculators who had been vying for the Creek country for some time (Ethridge, 2003).

Georgia’s response was to send General Floyd with about 950 militiamen, some artillery, and 400 friendly Indians against a large force at Autosse on the lower part of the Tallapoosa River. Fighting was very heavy, but the artillery carried the day for Floyd, whose men burned the town and killed about 200 warriors. Nevertheless, most of the Red Sticks escaped across an unguarded creek. And by the end of January 1814, Red Eagle had defeated Floyd at Calebee Creek. The Red Sticks aggressively forced the Georgians to withdraw all the way back to their Chattahoochee River supply base (Ft. Mitchell).

One of the Red Stick strongholds was Ecunchate or “The Holy Ground,” a place of natural strength on the Alabama River. Prophets declared this spot to be sacred, one where white troops would be kept out by the Great Spirit. General Claiborne, although ordered by his timid commanders not to invade Creek

Country beyond pursuing attackers into neighboring villages, took it upon himself to march 110 miles with about 1000 men (3rd U.S. Regiment, a battalion of militia, Mississippi volunteers, and Pushmatahaw’s Choctaws) to take “The Holy Ground.” On December 23, he ordered his forces to attack. The Red Sticks were defeated, but most escaped. Red Eagle could not rally his warriors and had to flee, riding his gray horse toward the Alabama River. Still on his magnificent steed, he leaped off the bluff (some say it was 10-15 feet high although others reported it as 50-100 feet high) (Tucker, 1924, p. 460). Col. Carson’s Mississippi Regiment of Mounted Riflemen (including the author’s g-g-g grandfather Corporal William McDonald), chased him to the river. But they could only watch as both horse and chief leapt off the bluff, disappeared under the water, resurfaced, and swam to the opposite side of the river and safety. This famous incident is known as “Weatherford’s Leap.”

The advance of General Andrew Jackson and his Tennessee volunteers proved the most decisive response to the Red Sticks. After the legislature authorized the call up of 3500 militiamen, Jackson marched to the southernmost point of the Tennessee River where he established Ft. Deposit as his supply base in late October 1813. A man of strong will and directness, Jackson built a 50-mile military road to the Coosa River, and quickly constructed Ft. Strother from where he planned a series of quick dashes (“search and destroy missions”) southward designed to break the power of the Red Sticks (Holland, 1968). The Creeks made a stand at Tallushatchee but General Coffee’s 900 cavalymen and mounted riflemen defeated them and burned the town (186 Creeks were killed, whereas Coffee lost only 5 killed). Jackson then marched to relieve several hundred friendly Creek Indians who were besieged at Talladega. Here, on November 9, the American frontiersmen gained another resounding victory, killing about 300 Red Sticks with the loss of only 15 killed and 85 wounded, with about 700 escaping.



General Andrew Jackson

Jackson’s Woes

As 1813 closed, it seemed that Jackson could promptly finish the war and dictate a peace. But this was not to be. A lack of food and other supplies and tragic miscommunications with another militia force halted Jackson’s advance. On November 13, Major General Cocke’s nearby independent force of 1000 East Tennessee volunteers and Cherokees attacked and burned the towns of the Hillabee Creeks, who were at that time negotiating peace with Jackson. The Hillabees were outraged and joined with the Red Sticks, thereafter fighting with desperation to the finish.

Even more devastating for Jackson was the loss of most of his army. The “Old Volunteers of Tennessee” went home, claiming their term of service had expired after 12 months. Moreover, the West Tennessee and East Tennessee troops left in January. Jackson desperately appealed for replacements, receiving about 900 raw recruits. With these and his remaining force, he went down the

Coosa River almost to the Tallapoosa. Desperate struggles took place at Emuckfau Creek (January 22, 1814) and Enotochopco, a Hillabee village (January 24). Jackson held the fields but was forced to retreat to Ft. Strother. The Red Sticks claimed, correctly, "We whipped Jackson and ran him to the Coosa River" (Sanders, 1828, p. 195; Rowland, 1926, p. 193).

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend

The most important post established by the Red Stick Creeks was at Tohopeka or the Horseshoe on the Tallapoosa River, called Cholocco Litabixee or "Horse's Flat Foot" by the Creeks. The bend in the river enclosed about 100 acres. The Creek women and children lived in huts on the southern portion, guarded by the river. The warriors built a strong barricade across the landward end. About 100 canoes were on the riverbank, if retreat were necessary. From this central stronghold Red Eagle successfully sent forces of warriors against Jackson and against Floyd, who both outnumbered the Creek warriors.



Horseshoe Bend



Colonel John Williams, 39th
U.S. Infantry Regiment

But General Jackson was reinforced. Four thousand new volunteers were recruited in Middle and East Tennessee. And the 39th Regiment of U.S. Infantry (600 regulars), commanded by Colonel John Williams, was reassigned to serve under Jackson. On March 26, 1814, Jackson's striking force of about 2000 infantry, 700 cavalry under Coffee, and 600 Indians (500 Cherokees and 100 friendly Creeks) arrived and encamped six miles northwest of Horseshoe Bend. Old Hickory could now "crush the Creek Nation" (Heiskell, 1929, I, p. 496).

Nevertheless, the Red Sticks awaited the attack with extreme confidence. In a letter to Maj. Gen. Thomas Pinckney, Andrew Jackson described the defenses he faced:

I found the strength of the neighboring towns collected; expecting our approach, they had gathered from Oakfuskee, Oakehoga, New Yaacau, Hillibeas, the Fish Pond and Eufalee

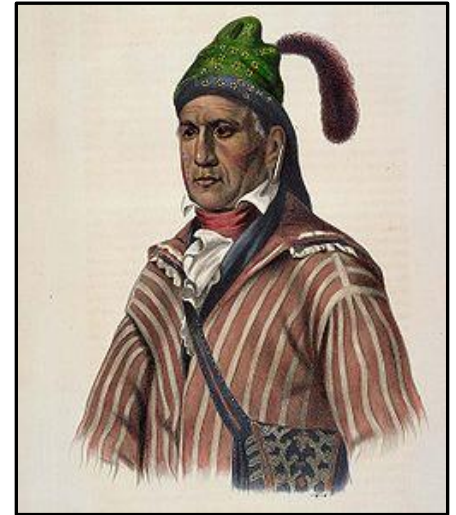
towns, to the number it is said of 1000. It is difficult to conceive a situation more eligible for defence than the one they had chosen, or one rendered more secure by the skill with which they had erected their breastwork. It was from 5 to 8 feet high, and extended across the point in

such a direction, as that a force approaching it would be exposed to a double fire while they lay in perfect security behind. A cannon planted at one extremity could have raked it to no advantage. (Jackson, March, 28, 1814, p. 52)

Menewa, or "Great Warrior," a renowned chief of the Oakfuskee towns, led the Creek fighting force. The principal prophet, Monahee, incited the warriors, who would all desperately fight to the end, refusing quarter. Jackson's general orders admonished his men sternly: "Any officer or soldier who flies before the enemy without being compelled to do so by superior force ... shall suffer death" (Holland, 1968, p. 22).

In the morning of March 27, Jackson sent Coffee's 700 mounted troops and 600 Indians across the Tallapoosa River opposite the horseshoe to cut off retreat by the Red Sticks. With 2000 infantry, Jackson then moved toward the fortified breastwork. Two small cannon and riflemen began to fire on the thick breastwork, but with little effect other than to make the Creeks yell more fiercely. Some of the Cherokees and friendly Creeks with Coffee, apparently on their own initiative, swam across the river and captured the Red Stick canoes. They then ferried more Cherokees and some of Coffee's men back across the river. Together, totaling less than 300, they burned the Indian village and attacked the Red Stick fortification from the rear.

At 2:30 pm, Jackson ordered his infantry to storm the breastworks. The assault party was Col. Williams' 39th Infantry Regiment and an East Tennessee brigade. Under heavy fire, they bravely reached the nearer side of the log fortification. At close range, they returned the fire of the Creeks through the port holes cut in the logs and some of the infantry mounted the breastworks with bayonets fixed (Tucker, 1924, p. 465). The close quarter conflict raged "muzzle to muzzle through the port holes, in which many of the enemy's balls were welded to the bayonets of our musquets" (Jackson, March 31, 1814). Major Lemuel P. Montgomery, first man to stand on the parapet, was killed by a shot to his head. (Montgomery County, Alabama is named for him.) Twenty-one-year-old Ensign Sam Houston was severely wounded (later he became President, Senator, and Governor of Texas). The



Chief Menewa of the
Oakfuskee Creeks



Assault of the US 39th Infantry on the Creek Breastwork,
March 27th, 1814

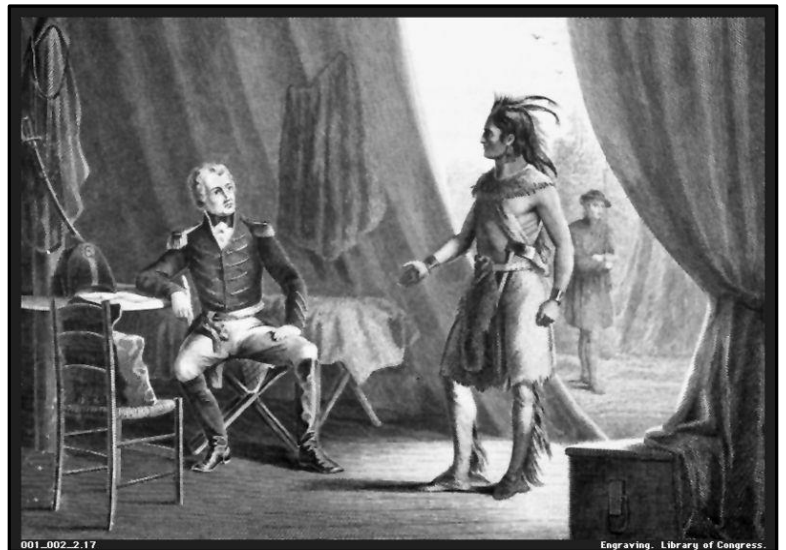
author's ancestor, 19-year-old Private Peyton Madison, and his elder brother Corporal John Madison, were among others of the 39th Infantry who were wounded in the bloody assault.

The breastwork was carried. But the Red Sticks refused to surrender, even when seriously wounded. They fought desperately for every inch of ground. Eagleston (1878) observed that this may have been due to their hate and distrust for Jackson, believing he was responsible for the Hillabee Massacre. Jackson's men had to kill or be killed; butchery was the result. The Americans little by little drove the Red Sticks to the river bank where a surviving remnant made a last stand under a strong cover of timber. When finally driven out by a fire set by Jackson's men, they still resisted and had to be shot down like wild beasts. Nightfall ended the slaughter on the 27th. But sixteen warriors appeared from hiding the next morning and had to be shot because they refused to cease fighting.

The Red Sticks saw no dishonor in escaping, however. Few succeeded because Coffee's men shot 250 to 300 of them as they ran and attempted to swim the river. A careful body count after the battle came to 557. Adding the number killed in the river, the total Red Stick loss was approximately 800-850 killed. Jackson's army units lost 47 killed and 159 wounded (Borneman, 2004). The friendly Indians lost 23 killed and 47 wounded (Ibid.). The principal Creek prophet Menahee died during the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (possibly killed by Menewa), as did two other prophets.

The War Ends

Ten days after the battle, Jackson marched to the confluence of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers (Ft. Jackson) where the southern army joined with his forces. But Jackson no longer had a viable opponent to fight. He communicated that he wanted to make peace but he would not grant it until Red Eagle was brought captive to him, to be hanged as a punishment for the massacre of women and children at Ft. Mims. Although he could have joined other Red Sticks who escaped to Spanish Florida, Red Eagle chose to surrender. He rode alone on his famous gray horse into the enemy camp, dismounting outside Jackson's tent. He offered himself to be killed but pleaded for the women and children of the war party, who were scattered and starving in the woods. Jackson was impressed with his former adversary's courage and commitment to sacrifice for his followers. He promptly invited Red Eagle to a glass of brandy and conversation in his tent. Red Eagle presented Jackson with a deer and the two heroes became good friends.



Red Eagle (William Weatherford) surrendering to General Andrew Jackson

In August 1814, the headmen of the Creek Confederacy were forced to sign the Treaty of Fort Jackson. The general refused to allow Benjamin Hawkins, the U.S. Indian agent for the Creeks from 1796 to 1816, to participate in the negotiations. Jackson engineered terms that forced the Creeks to cede twenty million acres (two-thirds of their territory). According to Jackson (1814), this was "the best unsettled country in America."

Pre-war Creek Country came to an end and soon was transformed to a world of planters, slaves, and cotton (Ethridge, 2003, p. 241). Many of the runaway slaves and freedmen who lived in Creek Country moved to Florida, and with those Creeks who refused to surrender, eventually joined the Seminoles. In the 1830s, most of the remaining Creeks, Upper and Lower, were removed to Oklahoma Territory.



Benjamin Hawkins

Postlude: What happened to some of the key people involved?

Andrew Jackson (1765-1845). Elected to two terms as the seventh U.S. President as a Democrat. Heiskell (1920, I, p. 478) wrote, "Fort Mims led Jackson, by way of New Orleans, to the Presidency of the United States." Holland (1968, p.38) adds that New Orleans was reached by way of Horseshoe Bend.

John Coffee (1772-1833). Led his mounted troops in covering Jackson's left flank at the Battle of New Orleans. Served as a public surveyor and treaty negotiator and grew wealthy in real estate investments, being a principal founder of Florence in North Alabama. Andrew Jackson and John Coffee were close friends and were among the land speculators, including Tennessee Governor William Blount, who long sought to exploit the rich Alabama lands of the Creeks (and other nations), although these were protected from settlement by Federal treaties.

Peyton Madison and his brother John were awarded grants to land in Alabama for their service and as compensation for their wounds.

Chief Red Eagle, aka William Weatherford (1765-1824). As he promised General Jackson when he surrendered, Red Eagle used his influence to secure a prompt acquiescence of the Creeks to the terms of peace. He sought to return to his plantation near Ft. Mims, but his foes among the half-breeds (metis), Indians who had sided with the Whites, and American friends of those slain at Ft. Mims, all threatened to assassinate him. He sought and received protection from his new friend Andrew Jackson, who took Red Eagle with him to the Hermitage in Nashville as his house guest. Red Eagle thereafter returned to his Alabama property and again became a man of considerable wealth and an influence for law and order (Eggleston, 1878).

Chief Menewa (c1765-c1836). After fighting as long as he could at Horseshoe Bend and being wounded (by seven balls) severely, he saved himself by jumping into the river and holding onto a root. While submerged, he breathed through a joint of cane until nighttime when he made his way to the forest (Eggleston, 1878, drawing on Menewa's account recorded in Pickett's *History of Alabama*). McKenney and Hall (1851) raise some doubts as to the details of his escape but confirm that he did get away and regain his health, once again becoming an important leader in the Creek Nation. He served on the delegation to Washington to remonstrate against the Treaty of Indian Springs. Forced to relocate to what is now Oklahoma, he died somewhere on or after the "Trail of Tears." Some of Menewa's descendants still live in Alabama (Fowler, n.d.). The sites of his Oakfuskee towns now lie under Alabama Power Company's Lake Martin.

Colonel John Williams (1778-1837), a lawyer and statesman, represented Tennessee in the US Senate from 1815 to 1823, when he was defeated by Andrew Jackson, his former commander at Horseshoe Bend. He accused Jackson of giving too much credit to General Coffee and not enough to his regulars of the 39th US Infantry, who led the main charge overwhelming the Creek breastworks (the hardest fighting). He, along with Davy Crockett, opposed President Jackson's program for removal of the five civilized tribes (Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole) to what is now Oklahoma.

A notable direct descendant of Col. Williams is **Rear Admiral Richmond P. Hobson** (1870-1937), who was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading a mission in 1898 under heavy fire to sink the collier *Merrimac* to block the channel and trap the Spanish fleet in Santiago Bay, Cuba. He became a hero of the American press while a captive of the Spanish. After his exchange and return, he went on a nationwide speaking tour, becoming a sex symbol known as "the most kissed man in America." He served as a Democratic Congressman from Alabama (1907-1915), being a firm advocate for naval expansion and the only Deep South Congressman to vote for women's suffrage in 1915.

Anecdote: In the 1960s, the author visited Hobson's antebellum birthplace, Magnolia Grove, in Greensboro, Alabama. A sweet elderly lady gave a personal tour. After showing portraits of Col. Williams and Hobson, she revealed that she was the Admiral's sister.

J. Thomas Whetstone, D.Phil.

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William Weatherford

Firearms of the War of 1812

By Daniel Michael, Assistant Curator, Cody Firearms Museum

The War of 1812 was fought just at the cusp of new technology. Early percussion locks, breechloaders, and interchangeable parts would all play a role in the near future, but soldiers still carried arms that looked much like those used in the American Revolution a generation before. Infantry and militia carried a variety of muskets, riflemen carried both arsenal-built and gunsmith-made rifles, and single shot flintlock pistols saw service on land and sea.

For the New American Republic, its nascent government arsenals had taken heavy influence from France and the first military longarm adopted by the new nation, the Model 1795¹, was a copy of earlier French muskets. From the caliber, .69, to the barrel bands, lock, and shape of the stock, the gun replicated features of the muskets that France had sold to the Continental government years earlier.



U.S. .69 caliber musket built at Springfield Armory, dated 1802. 1988.8.797 – From the Collection of the Cody Firearms Museum

For the rifle companies and volunteers, more firearms may have seen use. In addition to muskets, the Army also put rifles into production, and the Model 1803 was the first U.S. government produced rifle. Made to be lighter and more accurate than the regular infantry musket, the gun had a shorter barrel, 33 inches, smaller caliber, .52, and a half stock. The Secretary of War initially ordered 2,000 and then raised the number to 4,000. Later, the guns were put back into production and around 15,000 more were built. In addition to these rifles, the American forces had the 1814 Common Rifle, built by contractors, and a variety of American longrifles built by gunsmiths all over the country and carried by volunteers.

¹ The name, Model 1795, is a more recent name, originally the gun was known simply as the "Charleville Pattern" after the French Charleville Arsenal, one of several French arsenals that had supplied muskets for American forces during the American War for Independence. Yet another strong indication of the French connection to early American martial arms. For more information on American muskets see, *Springfield Armory Infantry Muskets 1795-1844* by Kent W. Johns.



U.S. Model 1803 Rifle, serial number 94 with an 1803 dated lock. 1988.8.1584 – From the Collection of the Cody Firearms Museum



American Longrifle signed by J.P. Beck, circa 1800. 1988.8.1044 – From the Collection of the Cody Firearms Museum

Kentucky volunteers would make the longrifle famous as the Kentucky rifle, after a song, *The Hunters of Kentucky*, attributed Andrew Jackson's success at the Battle of New Orleans to rifles carried by Kentucky volunteers at the battle. While the style emerged in Pennsylvania and was replicated all over the United States, the song popularized the name, "Kentucky Rifle"², making it an early American pop icon.

Sailors, dragoons, officers, and anyone else who might need a pistol, carried a single shot flintlock, or maybe two. Handguns across services were generally around .68 caliber, and for horsemen, were issued in pairs, or made with belt hooks for ease of carry for the navy. American pistols had initially copied French designs, like the 1799 North & Cheney, but by the war of 1812, a variety of contractors and even Harper's Ferry Armory had built handguns for the military and so a wide mix of pistols could have seen action in American hands. The British designs reflected their own lineage and a sea service or dragoon pistol carried in the War of 1812 was not too different from earlier guns, and likely a mix of old and new guns saw use.

² At the Cody Firearms Museum we typically use the term American Longrifle but consider either Pennsylvania or Kentucky Longrifle correct. The museum collection includes pieces from several states, and their production wasn't limited to Pennsylvania or Kentucky. The song that started the Kentucky vs. Pennsylvania debate was so popular that Andrew Jackson used it during both of his presidential campaigns.



This cartridge box is attributed as being carried in the War of 1812 by Deacon Collins of North Guilford, CT.
1988.8.678.1 –
From the
Collection of the
Cody Firearms
Museum

U.S. Model 1808 Navy
Pistol made by Simeon
North.
1988.8.2506 – From the
Collection of the Cody
Firearms Museum





British Light Dragoon Pistol made by Barnett & Sons of London. 1988.8.2618 – From the Collection of the Cody Firearms Museum

British forces in America and Canada shouldered a version of the Brown Bess, a musket with a service life nearing a century long by the time of the conflict. Their Native allies likely carried a mix of military and commercial guns supplied from a range of sources. European powers had long been smuggling or openly selling muskets to Native peoples, and the range of names for these firearms shows it. From "Carolina Muskets," "Northwest Guns," "Fusee," or "Mackinaw Gun," the source and quality of muskets used by Native Americans varied, but the style stayed similar.³ They were flintlock smoothbores, useful for hunting or fighting, full stocked, and often with a distinctive serpent side plate.



Trade gun with the Hudson Bay Company logo, post War of 1812, but of the style made for trade with Native Americans. 1988.8.1328 – From the Collection of the Cody Firearms Museum

The venerable Brown Bess musket, first standardized as the Pattern 1730, had gone through a number of changes in its lifespan, denoted by the various pattern designations. By the time of the War of 1812, the Pattern 1809 was the most recent change, although older guns saw use in America. The Pattern 1793 and 1809 muskets are also referred to as India Pattern guns⁴, after the British Board of Ordnance's use of

³ For more information on Native American use of firearms and the firearm trade between Europeans and Native peoples see, *Thundersticks: Firearms and the Violent Transformation of Native America* by David Silverman.

⁴ For a detailed look at British 18th century muskets consider *The Brown Bess: An Identification Guide and Illustrated Study of Britain's Most Famous Musket* by Erik Goldstein & Stuart Mowbray.

East India Company Muskets. The Board of Ordnance had incorporated the India Company's style of musket into the official standard due to shortfalls in government production during periods of war with France.

Regardless of pattern, the Brown Bess was a .75 caliber musket as opposed to the American and French use of .69 caliber guns. It lacked the barrel bands of American guns as the barrel was pinned in place, which gave the Brown Bess a distinctive clean, smooth look. Soldiers in rank had little time to consider its aesthetics however, as loading and firing a musket three times a minutes takes full concentration.

It also explains why, given the greater accuracy of rifles available, smoothbore guns were still the standard. While a musket may not have been able to hit a target as far away as a rifle, it had a much greater rate of fire and came standard with a bayonet for close quarters fighting. A rifle on the other hand took roughly three times as long to load, the round ball had to fit the grooves of the rifling very tightly, making loading more time consuming, while musket balls were typically undersized to facilitate quick loading.

Another distinction between the arms of the opposing sides was American ammunition. While both sides used paper catridges with a pre-measured powder charge and roundball, U.S. troops also made use of "Buck and Ball." This ammunition type consisted of the normal round ball with additional buckshot pellets, usually three to six .30 caliber lead balls. The additional projectiles created an increased chance to wound or kill an enemy soldier, especially at close range.

Whether immortalized in song like the longrifle, personalized like the cartridge box, or arsenally built like every other gun in the regiment, the soldiers of the War of 1812, just like those of every conflict, depended on their firearms—arms that now tell part of their story within our museum collection.



British Pattern 1809 or India Pattern Musket. 1988.8.1619a – From the Collection of the Cody Firearms Museum

A Forgotten Narrative of 1812, Part One

By Brandon Fisichella

Introduction

Whenever the War of 1812 is considered from the British perspective, it is often in an impersonal sense. The narrative focuses on the state of the British Empire as a whole: its geopolitical position in North America, what it stood to gain or lose in war with the United States, and particularly, the fact that this conflict was overall quite small, even insignificant, when compared with the existential threat Britain faced in the Napoleonic Wars. This is understandably not the case in Canada and the United States, where the War of 1812 continues to represent an early formative cultural experience. In the former, the conflict helped distinguish a uniquely Canadian national character against both its colonial master and southern neighbor; and in the latter, it has largely been held up as a 'Second War of Independence,' which- despite not being a clear victory- demonstrated the new republic's ability to survive the pressures of war. Even despite the war being relegated as a mere 'sequel' of the Revolution in American popular history, symbols like the *USS Constitution* and *Star Spangled Banner* continue to hold immense cultural value. In Canada, the heroism of people like Laura Secord and Isaac Brock, and of Canadian militiamen, in repelling repeated American invasions are still widely remembered and honoured. For the United Kingdom, however, the War of 1812- despite being, as with any other colonial war, significant to the nation's history- was not a terribly formative one. The result of this lack of cultural investment by the British is that a very significant aspect of their war is forgotten: the *personal* aspect. The stories not of the individuals most invested in the war, but of those sent to a foreign land to fight a foreign foe in the defence of strangers for reasons altogether alien: those of the British regulars.

The purpose of this article is to draw attention to this forgotten narrative. The author holds no pretension of offering a comprehensive study of the perspective of those Britons sent to North America to fight in the War of 1812. Instead he hopes that this brief look at two particularly intriguing accounts will provide some initial insight to the genuine sufferings, apprehensions, and privations suffered by those men so far from home.

The Sources

For this purpose, two memoirs of the war are to be considered, which the author feels are of distinct enough natures and tone to justify examination. The first account is that of an officer, George Robert Gleig, who wrote of his experiences in North America with the 85th Regiment of Foot in his book, *A Narrative of the*

Campaigns of the British Army at Washington and New Orleans, Under Generals Ross, Pakenham, and Lambert, in the Years 1814 and 1815. Gleig was a prolific writer, not only of military accounts but also of fiction, as well as a priest and a scholar, and his writing style reflects this. While he generally provides great detail on military activity such as the position of troops, orders of march, and construction of fortifications, his mind is strongly oriented towards readability and accessibility by the layman. This principle is well introduced when, in describing the fortifications of a European town, before his being sent to America, Gleig writes:

...I have already pledged myself, nor do I mean to withdraw the pledge, to attempt no military description of this important city. To do so with exactness, and at the same time to render the description intelligible, and what is still more difficult, interesting, to a man of peace, is a task to which I acknowledge myself incompetent. Yet to pass it by with the observation that it was as strong as the nature of the ground, and the labour of man could make it, is not, I am inclined to believe, what you would desire. I shall therefore endeavor to steer a middle course, by giving you something like a general idea of the whole, avoiding, at the same time, as much as possible, all technical terms, and prolix details.⁵



George Robert Gleig, 1796-1888. An ensign with the 85th Light Infantry, he saw service in Iberia and southern France before being sent to North America. A prolific writer, he authored books on his experiences in both of these theatres. Source: Shropshire Regimental Museum website.

That Gleig was so interested in ensuring his narrative was both 'intelligible and interesting' to civilians is of great benefit to modern readers as well. His account, as shall be seen, is a deeply personal and emotional one. He writes at length of the suffering and privations he suffered while campaigning with the army, including a great deal of moralizing on the nature of his enemy and the war as a whole. In attempting to better understand the character of the British regulars, and their attitude towards the war, it is precisely these personal aspects- rather than the tired technical details- which are most valuable. However, it must also be understood that such popular writing always conveys certain risks. While Gleig does not shy from displays of emotion and hardship,

⁵ Gleig, George Robert. *A Narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army at Washington and New Orleans under Generals Ross, Pakenham, and Lambert, in the Years 1814 and 1815; with Some Account of the Countries Visited*. 2nd ed., London: John Murray, Albemarle-Street, 1826. Page 15

he was a known author writing for a wide audience. It is entirely possible that aspects of his narrative are exaggerated, misremembered, or better reflect the author at the time of writing, than the time of his actual experience. Whether any such potentially material misrepresentations were purposeful, would be for individuals far more experienced with Gleig's work to determine.

The second account to be considered is the memoir of Shadrach Byfield, titled *A Narrative of a Light Company Soldier's Service*, published in 1840. Unlike Gleig, and most authors of such accounts, Byfield was a mere private soldier. As his title suggests, he was a light infantryman in the 41st Regiment of Foot, and fought in Canada from the start of the war until 1814 when he was severely wounded. As one of the few 'common' soldiers from this period to have written about his experiences, his account is immensely valuable. For the purposes of this article however, Byfield's piece is also remarkably sparse. He does not offer the same moralizing and depth which can be found with Gleig, but is brief, direct, and only rarely touches on the more emotional aspects of war. Perhaps Byfield felt that his emotional state was simply uninteresting to the public, or, indeed, maybe the old veteran was just not accustomed to giving sorrowful feeling much weight. Whatever the reason, Byfield seems more interested in giving the physical account of where he went and what he saw rather than how it made him and his comrades feel, and generally places more stock on the opinion and personality of his officers than his fellows. Indeed, only twice in his narrative are the names of non-commissioned officers listed: of a sergeant major, Keynes⁶, and a sergeant, Smith.⁷ On only two accounts are privates referred to by a name, and there both times in quotes as "Bill."⁸ As shall be shown, on numerous occasions Byfield seems either hesitant or altogether uninterested in writing on his own grief, but will take great care to mention praises and commendations offered by particular officers, their positioning during engagements, and their dispositions during a campaign. At the Battle of Frenchtown in 1813, for example, Byfield recounts repeated failed attempts of the British to charge an American line. Despite the battle's harshness he offers very little description- not even of the man killed at his side- but is sure to mention the fate of his officers.

⁶ Byfield, Shadrach. *A Narrative of A Light Company Soldier's Service, in the 41st Regiment of Foot, During the Late American War; Together with Some Adventures amongst the Indian Tribes, from 1812 to 1814*. John Bubb, Bradford, 1840. Page 18

⁷ Byfield, page 15

⁸ Byfield, page 29, 51



A modern rendering of a battalion man in the 41st Regiment of Foot by Don Troiani. The 41st was Shadrach Byfield's regiment, though Byfield was a light infantryman, not a battalion man. The 41st was in Canada when war broke out, and fought in many battles, including at Detroit, Fort Meigs, and Fort Niagara.

It was on the 22nd day of January, 1813. Before day-light, we had charged them several times, thinking that we were close upon their line; but our men were so cut up that after every attempt we were obliged to retreat to the cover of a rising piece of ground, with considerable loss. The men at the three guns in our front line were all killed or wounded, with the exception of one man. One of our lieutenants (Clemon) received three or four wounds by musket balls; and a field officer, I think a lieutenant-colonel, fell having received several shots, but was not killed, four of our men advanced to defend him, one of whom took him up and carried him into the rear. As the day approached, we discovered that what had been supposed to have been the enemy's line was a made fence behind which they were sheltered, with holes in it through which they fired at us. About this time my comrade on my left hand was killed.⁹

Similarly, Byfield will occasionally offer the opinion of his officers on the various campaigns and strategies engaged, and report conversations he had overheard or been informed of, but only very rarely offers his own opinion on events, or those of other enlisted men. This,

again, stands in stark contrast with Gleig's account, where the officer would purposefully dedicate entire sections of his narrative to critique and praise of the campaigning he witnessed. This general lack of emotion and drama in the Byfield narrative implies that the times when he does offer some level of personal perspective are exceptionally significant; particularly on how his wartime experiences impacted his mental state. Despite

⁹ Byfield, page 22-23

the relative simplicity of Byfield's account when compared with the more literary Gleig, it is this sense of simple honesty which provides such immense value for an inquiry into the 'forgotten narrative' of British regulars in the War of 1812.

Gleig's View of the War

As may be expected, there were as many perspectives to the beginning of war with America as there were men to hold them. But for the part of George Robert Gleig and his fellow Peninsular War veterans, the news seems to have been well received. Gleig describes a general air of excitement at the prospect of new conquests, and particularly relevant for the officer class, of avoiding the half-pay of commissions in peacetime. When describing the war-weariness which must come after so many years of hard campaigning in Spain, only to be immediately followed-up by further conflict half a world away, Gleig wrote, "...we, who had begun to dream of the society of fathers, sisters, wives, and friends, now looked forward with equal, if not greater satisfaction, to a renewal of the hardships and enjoyments of active warfare."¹⁰

This eagerness to avoid reduction was also accompanied by a confidence all-too-common at the beginning of a new campaign that the war would be a quick one; a glorious affair which would finally see Britain visit due justice to another republican upstart. Gleig describes this patriotic zeal in the lead-up to war,

England, it was argued, is now at peace with all the world, except this her most implacable enemy, against whom she has the justest cause of irritation; nor is it at all probable that she will let slip an opportunity so favourable of severely chastising her, for her perfidy and ingratitude. It was the general opinion, therefore, that a large proportion of the Peninsular army would be transported to the other side of the Atlantic, that the war would there be carried on with vigour, and that no terms of accommodation would be listened to, except such as a British general should dictate in the Republican Senate House. It has often been remarked, and not with greater frequency than justice, that men are extremely ready to believe what they wish to be true.¹¹

Given the overall course of the war, and the mixed results of the expeditions Gleig would take part in, his final words ring particularly true.

¹⁰ Gleig, page 4

¹¹ Gleig, page 2

Even if Gleig were merely repeating a commonly-held sentiment, it should come as no great surprise that his view of the American people and nation- at least during the conflict itself- was not terribly great. He describes them as possessing a certain “low cunning,” with a “desire to over-reach and deceive” being “so universal among the people of that nation.”¹² Indeed, his first encounter with armed Americans came when he and a party of troops took two men armed with muskets and bayonets by surprise. He took the men prisoner, but not before they attempted to escape his grasp by convincing him they were merely hunting squirrels. “When I desired to know whether they carried bayonets to charge the squirrels, as well as musquets to shoot them, they were rather at loss for a reply;” Gleig wrote, “but they grumbled exceedingly when they found themselves prisoners...”¹³ It should be noted however that later in Gleig’s campaigning, he detailed what may be described as a far lower form of cunning on the part of the British, though with less censure than he offers to the Americans. During a confusing and disorderly period of night-fighting before the Battle of New Orleans, Gleig describes how a friend of his attempted to deceive an American line into surrendering. Feigning an American accent, he bade the foreign officer to come forward that some news might be delivered. Upon the American’s approach, “an elderly man, armed with a huge dragoon sabre,” the Briton “seized his sword, and desired him to surrender, declaring that he and his regiment were surrounded...The man was completely confounded, and resigned his sword immediately...”¹⁴ The success of Gleig’s crony may have been assured, had it not been for a younger American officer refusing to surrender, instead striking with his blade, at which point a general firing was commenced by both lines.

Gleig’s poor opinion of the American character was not lost in his critique of their military abilities, either. This was particularly the case in the Battle of Bladensburg, the loss of which ultimately led to the British burning down Washington and the White House, a building which Gleig described as “...remarkable for nothing, except the want of taste exhibited in its structure.”¹⁵ Despite taking heavy losses from assaulting a superior enemy position, the British army threw back the Americans; something which Gleig attributes more to the incompetence of the latter than the skill of the former, some of whom Gleig actually censures for “rash impetuosity” alongside gallantry in pushing against their foes.¹⁶

¹² Gleig, page 101

¹³ Gleig, page 102

¹⁴ Gleig, page 290

¹⁵ Gleig, page 135

¹⁶ Gleig, page 122

...had they (the Americans) conducted themselves with coolness, and resolution, it is not conceivable how the day could have been won. But the fact is, that, with the exception of a party of sailors from the gun boats, under the command of Commodore Barney, no troops could behave worse than they did. The skirmishers were driven in as soon as attacked, the first line gave way without offering the slightest resistance, and the left of the main body was broken within half an hour after it was seriously engaged.¹⁷

Gleig later provides a full commentary and critique of the battle, including the folly of American positioning and how they could better have hindered the British advance along the roads before crushing them at Bladensburg. He ends this note of critique as such,

Of the personal courage of the Americans, there can be no doubt; they are, individually taken, as brave a nation as any in the world. But they are not soldiers; they have not the experience nor the habits of soldiers...and it is on this account that I repeat what I have already said, that the capture of Washington was more owing to the faults of the Americans themselves, than to any other cause.¹⁸

This general refusal on Gleig's part to acknowledge the Americans as 'soldiers,' and as such equals worthy of certain honours and decorum, seems to carry throughout the entirety of the war. Even in defeat in the later campaign against Louisiana, Gleig repeatedly emphasizes the role of climate and the natural defences of New Orleans, perhaps at the detriment of allowing sufficient credit to the American forces. While the terrible conditions faced by the British army in that theatre, including freezing rains and terrible sickness, certainly played an incredibly significant role in the British army's loss at New Orleans, alone they are insufficient to explain it. Indeed, while Gleig does compliment the Americans on their positioning at New Orleans, which he admits were far better engineered than those he had come up against earlier at Bladensburg, he owes the defeat more to mismanagement by certain British officers and outright bad luck. In the former, of Colonel Mullens of the 44th Regiment not bringing ladders and fascines he had been ordered to advance with, and in the latter, of a canal- by which the British attempted to move large numbers of troops by boat for a flanking maneuver during the battle- collapsing and preventing General Pakenham's plans from being executed properly.¹⁹

¹⁷ Gleig, page 122

¹⁸ Gleig, page 154

¹⁹ Gleig, page 370

Though despite Gleig's general dismissive attitude towards the American soldiery, it must also be acknowledged that Gleig was on some level aware of this tendency to underestimate his foe. While not apparent throughout most of his narrative, within its last ten pages Gleig offers a more humble perspective. Again, it must be noted that he does not in any way censure the ability or courage of the Britons. Still, he does admit that by not respecting the Americans as worthy foes the British had repeatedly shown themselves incapable of humbling the republican state, as had first been so eagerly expected. Gleig writes that, of the entire war, "we shall find little that is likely to flatter our vanity, or increase our self-importance,"²⁰ citing lacklustre performance at sea and unsuccessful amphibious descents.

From what cause does this proceed? Not from any inferiority in courage or discipline, because in these particulars the British soldiers and sailors will yield to none in the world. There must, then, be some other cause for these misfortunes, and the cause is surely one which has continually baffled all our plans of American warfare.

*We have long been habituated to despise the Americans, as an enemy unworthy of serious regard. To this alone it is to be attributed that frigates half-manned were sent out to cope with ships capable of containing them within their hulls; and to this, also, the trifling handfuls of troops dispatched to conduct the war by land. Instead of fifteen hundred, had ten thousand men sailed from the Garonne under General Ross, how differently might he have acted!*²¹

It might be assumed that such sentiments were far more common after the War of 1812 than before, because despite the British securing a *status quo ante bellum*, technically a victory for the defending party in any conflict, they were far from achieving the absolute triumph that may have been expected at the heels of their much harder fought campaigns against France. But all the same, not much has been revealed in this narrative thusfar which is particularly shocking. That a British officer should underestimate his foes and view Americans with contempt is a common historical trope. Looking to a more common perspective shows that the British population may have been less "habituated to despise the Americans," than Gleig claims.

²⁰ Gleig, page 374

²¹ Gleig, page 374

Byfield's View of the War

Shadrach Byfield was already in Canada when war was declared between his country and the United States. Unlike Gleig, Byfield- who began his military career in the militia before volunteering for the 41st Regiment- did not see any combat before the War of 1812, and was there from its start. Consequently, one might assume that Byfield should offer an excellent perspective into the young mind of a private soldier going to war for the first time- particularly a one who had been so thoroughly surrounded by conflict with Revolutionary and Imperial France for the majority of his young life. On the contrary, however, in a fashion which shall become quite common in Byfield's narrative, he offers very little detail on the momentous occasion. After recounting a story of having at one point fallen into some ice from a boat, he states simply: "Soon after this, we heard that war was proclaimed between England and America."²²

Then, shortly after, he offers the story of his first action- presumably an immensely impactful moment in the life of the young soldier, but again, Byfield seems to have either repressed such early memories, or believes the audience disinterested in hearing more about his emotional state.

*One Sunday morning, being on sentry on the bank of the river St Lawrence, I saw a boat drifting down the river without any person in it; a party of men was warned to go and bring in the boat. While the men were out, the Americans fired on them, which was the first shot I saw fired in anger.*²³

After this, Byfield offers an account of General Brock's being informed of the affair and ordering the men back to claim the boat, promising support from the batteries should the Americans fire on them. Later, he refers to Brock as a general "much beloved; he used to come out and talk very familiarly with us,"²⁴ another case of Byfield specifically mentioning his officers, their movements, and his relationship with them, as opposed to giving similar attention to either himself or his fellow privates.

Not only is Byfield's account on the beginning of war rather limited from his personal perspective, but he also offers no wider moralizing on its causes or justification. Nor, unlike Gleig, does he discuss an overall opinion of the soldiery on how the war would proceed- with a British general exacting terms in the Senate or

²² Byfield, page 9

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.



Men of the 85th Regiment in 1808 during the wars with Napoleonic France, with whom George Robert Gleig served. The 85th saw much fighting before 1812, including at the 2nd Siege of Badajoz and the Walcheren Campaign, and was later involved in the Burning of Washington and the Battle of New Orleans in America. Source: Brown University Library website.

otherwise. He does, however, seem to share one similar interest with Gleig- a financial interest. While Gleig spoke of the fears among officers of reduction, Byfield at least hints at his own financial concerns, and presumably, prospects of gain from the conflict. While he never makes a positive claim to such, Byfield is sure to note that after the Capture of Detroit early in the war, despite having "shared in the dangers of this capture," due to a clerical error he was not included in the prize list, and as such lost out on two separate prize payments made, "amounting to several pounds each man."²⁵ Byfield mentions his financial state again towards the end of

²⁵ Byfield, page 12

his narrative, where he compares his lot to others in complaining that the pension he received after the war, nine-pence a day. Not only was this insufficient, he claims, but also less than was being received by a bugler, "a young soldier, who had been but in one action, and had lost a fore arm about the same length as mine," who was receiving a shilling every day. Though, after appealing to a field officer in his town, whom Byfield describes as "a soldier's friend," and the officer making entreaties on his behalf, Byfield's pension was increased by another three pence daily.²⁶ While he never outright says it, these mentions of economy do imply, as is sensible for a 'poor old soldier,' that financial wellbeing and compensation for his sufferings were important to Byfield. Certainly, that his undesirable pension was given as much- if not greater- attention than the loss of his arm, speaks to what Byfield felt appropriate for a man of his time to issue complaint about.

As regards the Americas and Americans, again Byfield offers little. It seems safe to assume that for a young man who had presumably never left his home country, Byfield's arrival in Canada- and the many lands which he likely saw on the journey- would have been extraordinary, or at least remarkable. But unlike Gleig, who provides a full account of the various islands he saw, the people who occupied them, even their customs, nature, and architecture, Byfield offers no detail here. He merely states of the journey that the passage was good, and lasted nine or ten weeks.²⁷ Similarly, of the Canadian people, their character and disposition, Byfield offers nothing. This is the case even as regards their militia, whom Byfield saw service with on numerous occasions, which is particularly intriguing given Byfield's own militia service. This is also the case with the Americans, who are only ever mentioned at the most basic of levels as required for Byfield's narrative. Initially this is unremarkable. Given Byfield's lack of detail in so many other categories, it would not be expected he says much on the condition of the local populations, no matter how strange or interesting he may have genuinely found them in his youth. However, in the case of Britain's Native American allies this is not the case. While Byfield delves little into Native American culture or traditions, he is very keen to discuss their behavior on campaign; particularly, and rather exclusively, their vicious behavior. On six different occasions Byfield discusses, sometimes at considerable length, either an atrocity committed by Native troops or their apparent propensity to do so. This includes the abuse and murder of American POWs, such as an occasion in which a Native attempted to burn a wounded man alive, resulting in the offender being shot by a British soldier,²⁸ one account of a British soldier being killed for attempting to stop a massacre,²⁹ and the terrible treatment of American civilians by the Native soldiers. Indeed, some of Byfield's only mention of American dialogue,

²⁶ Byfield, page 54-55

²⁷ Byfield, page 6

²⁸ Byfield, page 48-49

²⁹ Byfield, page 19

beyond the most simplistic, takes the form of complaint against suffering caused by the Natives. In one example, which also happens to be one of precious few cases where Byfield admits his emotional state, he was speaking with a prisoner whom he was guarding, and who recounted the sad plight of his family.

'A party of Indians surrounded our place, and told us that the British troops were near, and would undoubtedly destroy us and take away our property; but if we would admit them, they would protect us and our property. Thinking that this reinforcement would be the means of preserving myself, my family, and my property, I consented, and gave them possession; when they began the work of destruction. They killed first my associates, and then cruelly murdered my children. Not satisfied with this, they took my wife, who was in a forward state of pregnancy, and murdered her before my face; they then ripped her up, and exposed the unborn infant, after which they took me off, a prisoner.'

This was a very affecting relation; for hard and unfeeling as I then was, I could not help shedding tears on hearing it, and seeing the distressed state of him that related it.

On another occasion Byfield mentions some Americans with whom he had been well acquainted from an earlier period, and how he at one time went to call on them, only to find them "reduced to a state of extreme poverty," resulting from a raid.³⁰ That Byfield offers no account of the mannerisms of the Canadians or Americans is, in light of his opinion on the Native population, not terribly surprising. While certainly different from his own people, they were mostly descended from the same cultural stock, and even in Quebec would not have represented so alien a people as the Native Americans did.

Given Byfield's tendency for brevity it makes sense that he did not dedicate much effort to describing fellow white men and Christians, or even the untamed land they occupied. That he does deem these accounts of Native cruelty worth recounting, however, is certainly significant and betrays what may have been a common sentiment among many of the British soldiers; an uneasiness about the use of Native American allies and a fear of their methods in waging war. Indeed, when comparing the conduct of their enemies with those of their allies, men like Byfield may have felt a stronger sense of kinship with the Americans than is popularly portrayed.

This has been the first part of a two-part article on the perspective of British regulars during the War of 1812. In the second part, the author shall examine in greater detail the terrors, sufferings, and privations experienced by these men, and how they reacted to them, as well as what these reactions might tell us about the wider culture of the British Army during this period.

The author may be contacted for questions at BrandonFYT@gmail.com. Questions & comments may be published.

³⁰ Byfield, page 31-32



Book News & Reviews

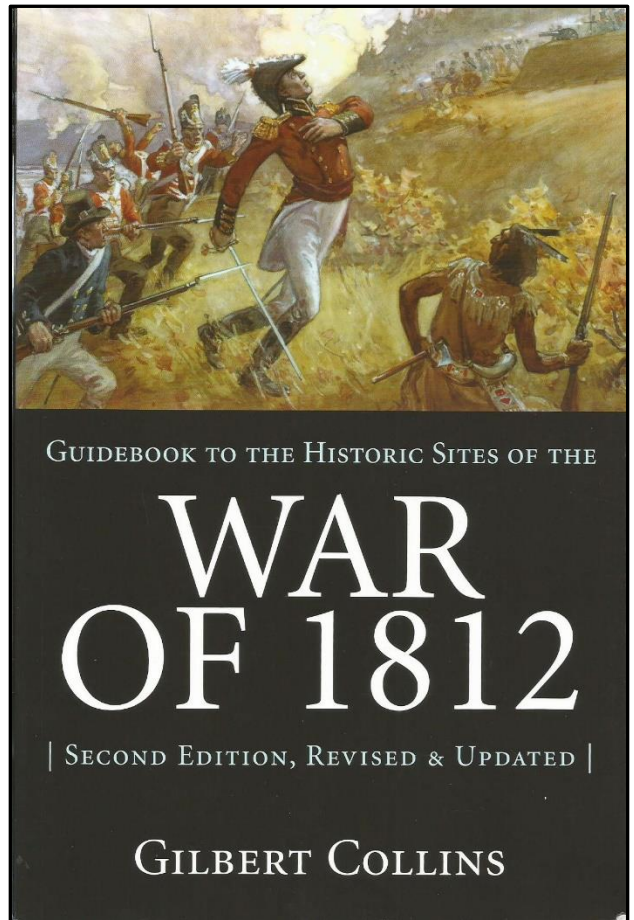
If you're looking for a good overall introduction to the history of the War of 1812, you can't do much better than Gilbert Collins' substantial tome.

The book is the product of 20 years of the author's travels to War of 1812 sites in Canada and the US. At 389 pages, it's quite meaty, and its layout as a guidebook lends itself well to the busy reader's occasional perusal of its pages. Even a brief one of which results in a thorough understanding of a particular battle, skirmish, ship, personage, fortification, or even relic's history—for example Colonel Campbell's raid on Ontario; the Battle at Horseshoe Bend; or the story of British privates Hancock and Dean-- the first casualties of the war. All the major (and many minor) players are here, from Harrison to Tecumseh. And the minute details: not only is the final resting place of General Isaac Brock described, but even the location of his displayed cocked hat. From descriptions of Colonel Campbell's raid in Ontario, to the story of the "French Castle" at Fort Niagara, to Hull's Headquarters, to the Battle of Fort George, it's difficult to pick a favorite.

The book is organized not chronologically but geographically. It begins in the Detroit area and proceeds generally eastward across southern Canada and the northern and midwestern US, to New York, Maryland, DC, and even south to Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Georgia. The naval war is well-covered, including details of many ships of both sides, and efforts at their restoration or reproduction—for example at Discovery Harbour, Ontario.

One of the merits of the book is that its descriptions are easy to follow and provide just enough detail to spark a further curiosity about the people and places mentioned. What was the relationship between the families of General Hull and Francois Baby, prior to the war? Why did Joseph Brant, Chief of the Six Nations, fight for the Americans during the Revolution—and why did his son John fight for the British in the War of 1812? What exactly took place during the Ancaster Assizes?

The author is Canadian, and it's refreshing to read accounts and perspectives of the war that one might not get from other sources. The reader also might enjoy being triggered by a passage in the New Orleans chapter on



Guidebook to the Historic Sites of the War of 1812, 2nd Ed.

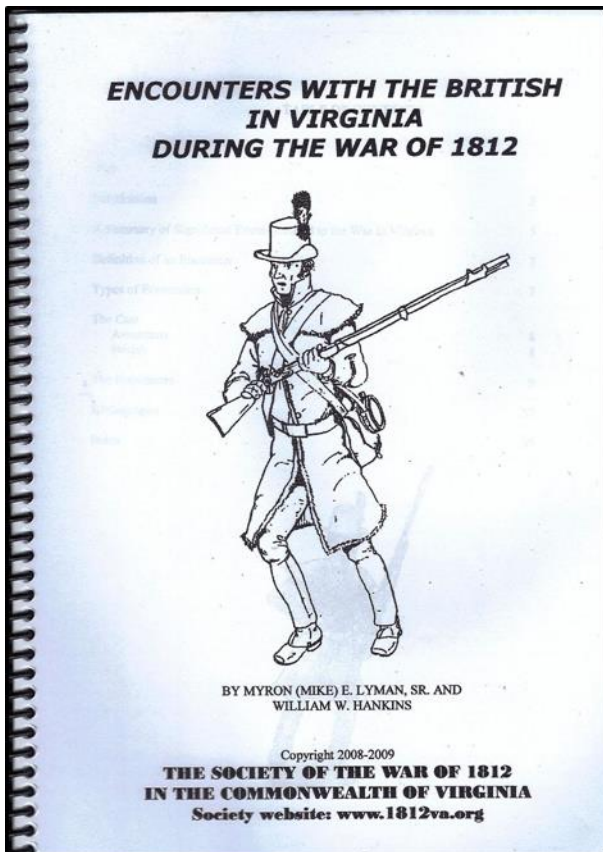
By Gilbert Collins
Dundurn Press, 2006.

page 356: "[The Battle of New Orleans] shaped American mythology on the war of 1812, for in time they came to believe that they had actually won the war."

The book is partly illustrated with sketches by Benson Lossing, who drew many of the locations in pen and ink in the 1840s to 1860s. Juxtaposed next to many of these are modern photos of the same locations, so the reader might compare them. This is a nice touch. In every chapter are line maps of the locations, with the sites marked according to their nature—be they monuments, buildings, naval vessels, cairns, museums etc. These maps, though informative and adequate for the time the book was published, seem a bit primitive today. Another minor gripe, predictably, is that very little of Virginia (and none of West Virginia) is covered—only four pages, lightly covering only the Hampton Roads area. Also, the reader is bound to be curious about how far some of the projects mentioned have progressed today, 13 years later. For example, has the uncovering of the *General Hunter* in Southampton been completed?

Perhaps the author can be persuaded to complete a 3rd edition, or at least an addendum. In the meantime, one must be content with ordering a copy of this outstanding book from Amazon, which I purchased for \$8.62.

■ D. A. Vazquez



In the Fall newsletter, there was speculation about whether this out-of-print book could or would be reprinted.

Mr. Lyman, the co-author, responded:

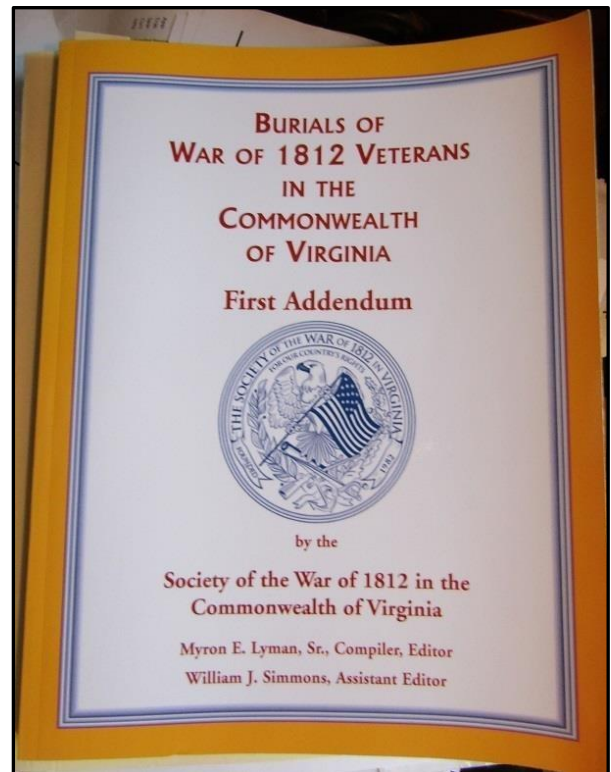
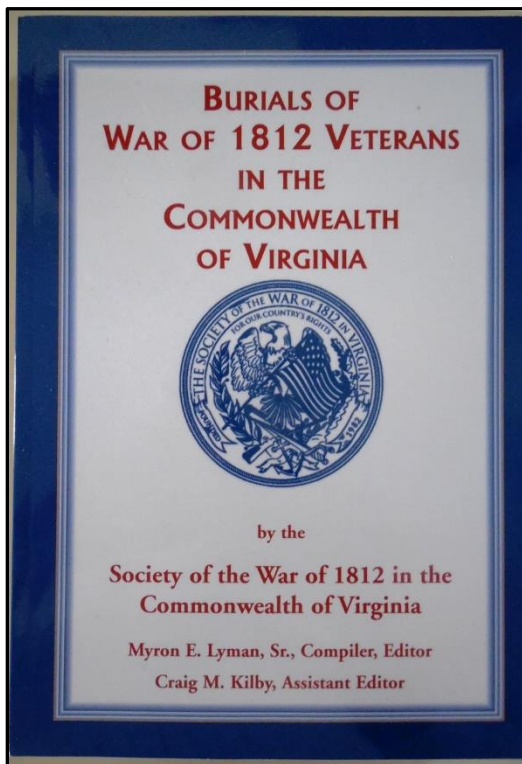
- a. The book needs a revision to add some 60 or more encounters, which would require re-doing all the maps, sources used, etc. Quite a task.
- b. If I did revise and reprint it, I would have to quit adding to the additional burials not in the book and the addendum which has increased to about 86 now. It is a work in progress as several counties have placed new burials on a published on-line site
- c. I feel it is more important for me to work on the additional listing.
- d. Stuart Butler's book *Defending the Old Dominion* has most of the encounters not in the *Encounters* book, so this makes the revision a duplicate task.

Have you read and enjoyed a book and want to tell others about it? Here we publish your reviews, comments and opinions on War of 1812-related books and publications, or your announcements about upcoming releases. Anyone may submit a review. Also, any news you may have about books published by our Society or its members. We look forward to publishing your book-related comments in future issues.

Please submit reviews to: editor1812va@gmail.com.

Society of the War of 1812 Books for Sale:

Please consider purchasing these books from our Society and donating them to libraries. The first book is \$45 for non-members (for personal use), \$37.50 for members (ditto), and \$25 to be purchased for donation. The Addendum is \$22.50 for non-members, \$17.50 for members, and \$12 for donation. If purchased for donation, shipping to you is **free**!



Society News

Society Member Presents Book to DAR Library:

On January 4th, 2019, Paul Walden, Secretary, presented the *War of 1812 Veterans Burials in the Commonwealth of Virginia-First Addendum*, to the Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington, DC. In the picture below, Librarian Gerald Walker receives the book on behalf of the DAR.



Society Officer is Guest Speaker in a Ceremony on February 12th 2019:

Charles Belfield, Councilor of the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia spoke to the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees Virginia Federation of Chapters, Chapter 595 serving the town of Colonial Beach, Westmoreland County and King George County on February 12th, 2019. His topic was the War of 1812 through the eyes of Private Thomas Belfield Shackleford's Company of Richmond County, Virginia. He portrayed his ancestor in a militia uniform returning from the War of 1812 and told

them about the encounters with the enemy that took place on the Northern Neck of Virginia.

He is pictured below with the attendees of the ceremony following the event:



War of 1812 in Society in Virginia Participates in James Madison Birthday Celebration

On Mar 16th at Montpelier in Orange County, Society officers participated in President James Madison's birthday remembrance ceremony at the cemetery where he is buried. Madison was president of the United States during the War of 1812. At the ceremony, President of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Stuart L. Butler presented the society wreath, and Quartermaster of the Society James T. Thacker performed the duties as a photographer.

Nicholas J. Freitas, Virginia House of Delegates 30th District, was the guest speaker. It was an excellent presentation in which Delegate Freitas drew parallels between President Madison's time and our present-day state of affairs. This Commemoration,

in honor of President James Madison's birthday, is growing each year, as some 34 wreaths were presented.



Society Quartermaster James T. Thacker and Society President Stuart L. Butler with the wreath that was presented at the ceremony.



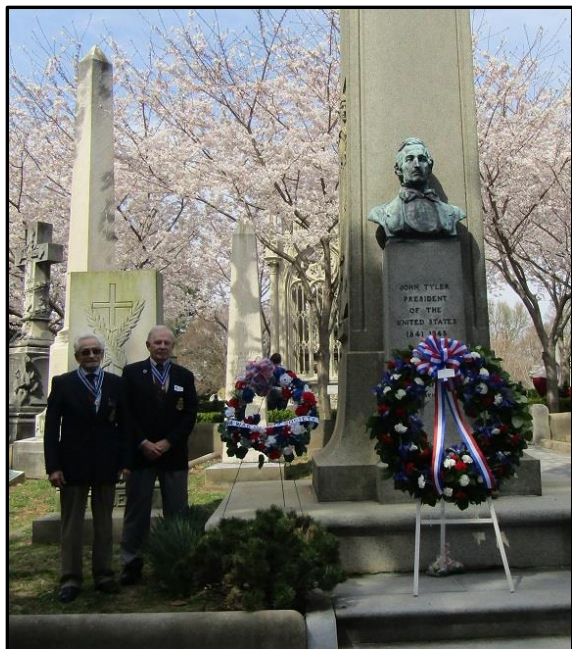
Society Participates in President Tyler's Birthday Ceremony on March 29th, 2019:

President Stuart L Butler and past president Mike Lyman of the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia participated in the birthday ceremony for President John Tyler at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond by presenting a wreath. President John Tyler was a Captain in the Charles City Militia during the War of 1812. He was born in 1780 and died in 1862.

President Butler, after the presidential wreath was presented by the commanding General of Fort Lee, spoke to the descendants that attended the ceremony and discussed Tyler's War of 1812 service. Attending was his **grandson** Harrison Tyler. This is not a typo, as he is a grandson not a great or great, great, grandson.

Both the President and his son from their second wife fathered a child while in their eighties that made this possible. One can get President Tyler's genealogy online that shows the details. President Tyler's second wife, Julia Gardner who died in 1889 applied for a pension for his service and the application file from NARA (National Archives) shows that she received the pension as a widow and that he received the bounty land warrant. Descendants at the ceremony indicated the pension amount was for \$18. The bounty land warrant was issued in 1855 before he died and it was for 160 acres.

WAR OF 1812		
NUMBERS	SOLDIER	BOUNTY LAND
NO. 28-172	Tyler, John	Int # 261-160-55
N.C. 10007	Widow Tyler, Julia Gardner	
	SERVICE Capt. of Co, 52 nd Reg. Va. Mil.	
Remarks (President of the United States)		



Above: Messrs. Lyman and Butler with Society and Presidential wreaths.

Below: The President's grandson, Harrison Tyler, and his granddaughter.



Society Member Gives Talk on Western Virginians in the War of 1812:

On April 4th, Virginia Society member David A. Vazquez gave an hour-long talk at an "Ancestry Academy Class" for members of the Marion County Genealogical Society in Fairmont, WV. He covered

the history of the Virginia Brigade, made up of militiamen from counties that now form part of West Virginia. A Powerpoint presentation, with photos and maps was utilized.

This 'class' was the culmination of a 10-session program offered by the Genealogical Society that covered techniques for researching ancestors' military records, from the Revolution through World War II. As there are many War of 1812 veterans buried in West Virginia who served from her counties, it is hoped that this was only the first of a series of presentations that the Virginia Society will offer in West Virginia.

Eleven War of 1812 Members Participate in James Monroe Birthplace Ceremony on April 20th, 2019:

As shown below in a photo taken by Society member Dick Fickling, eleven members of the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia participated in the James Monroe Birthplace Celebration in Colonial Beach in Westmoreland County.



From left: Stuart Butler, Jim Thacker, Michael Weyler, Jim Russell, Josh Wilberger, Mike Lyman, Peter Broadbent, Paul Walden, Dick Fickling, Pete Davenport, and Hugh Markham. The Society wreath and eight-foot Star Spangled Banner flag is shown.

The James Monroe
Memorial Foundation
presents the



**261st Birthday Celebration
Ceremony
for
Fifth President
James Monroe**

James Monroe
Birthplace and Park
Westmoreland Co., VA
April 20, 2019
10:30 a.m.



The ceremony program and the almost-completed rear of the Monroe house. On a nearby historical marker, is the following: "In this vicinity stood the Monroe home, where James Monroe, 5th President of the United States, was born..."

**Society Color Guard Supports Little League
Season Opening**

On Friday evening, April 12th 2019, the combined color guard of the James Monroe and the Richard Henry Lee Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the War of 1812 Society in Virginia presented the colors for the Northumberland County Little League opening ceremony. The photo below shows the members of the color guard with one of the league's teams.



L/R Jim Russell, President of the Richard Henry Lee Chapter; George Beckett, Vice President of the James Monroe Chapter SAR and also a member of the War of 1812 society; Hugh Markham, Registrar of the War of 1812 society; and Charles Belfield, President of the James Monroe Chapter SAR and a Councilor in the War of 1812 society pose with one of the League's teams.



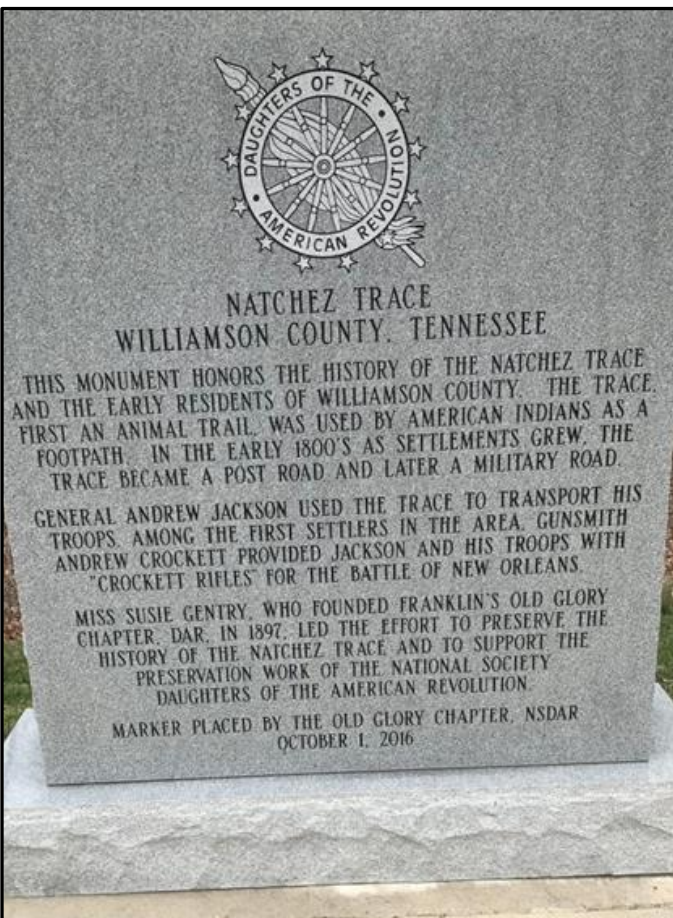


FIELD DISPATCHES



Virginia Society Member Travels the Natchez Trace:

I recently traveled the Natchez Trace from Nashville to Natchez, MS. Photos of several monuments of interest are below. Notice, within the text of the monuments, that Andrew Jackson used the Trace coming and going to the Battle of New Orleans. In fact, he paid \$70,000 from his own pocket to ferry his troops across the Tennessee River in Alabama where the Trace crosses on his way home. Additional information is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/natr/learn/historyculture/war-of-1812-and-the-trace.htm>.



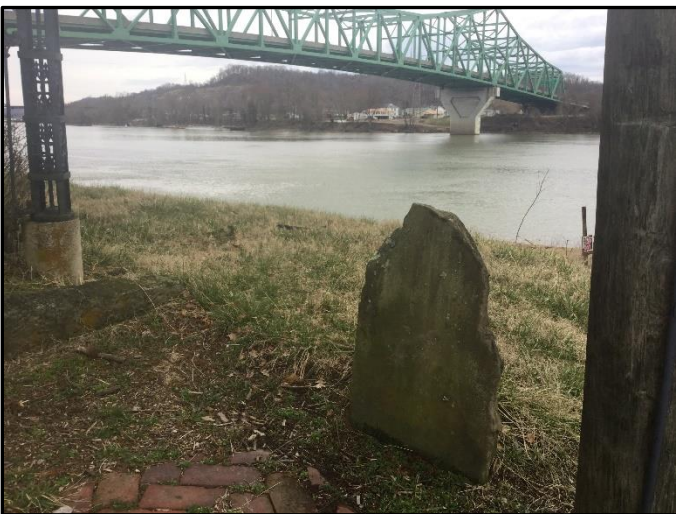
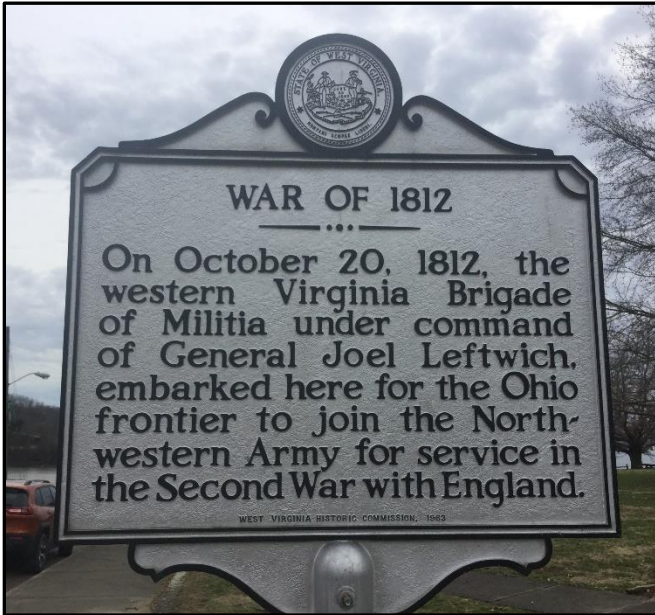
Another interesting historical note is that it was along the Natchez Trace that Meriwether Lewis was either killed or committed suicide. I also learned that the Trace was used extensively to move slaves from the northern states (like Virginia) to the south after it was illegal to import slaves and cotton had become a major crop in the south.

--- Hugh A. Markham

A Visit to Point Pleasant:

By D. A. Vazquez

Few sites have more to offer the amateur historian, on more periods and events in US history, than Point Pleasant, Mason County, West Virginia. This historical marker, located near the embarkation point, and the monument, is briefly informative:



Only able to spend one cold, rainy evening and morning in the town, I was only able to skim the surface. Above is the view from the embarkation point, with a spooky, unreadable lone gravestone

protruding from the end of the sidewalk, near the shore of the Ohio River.

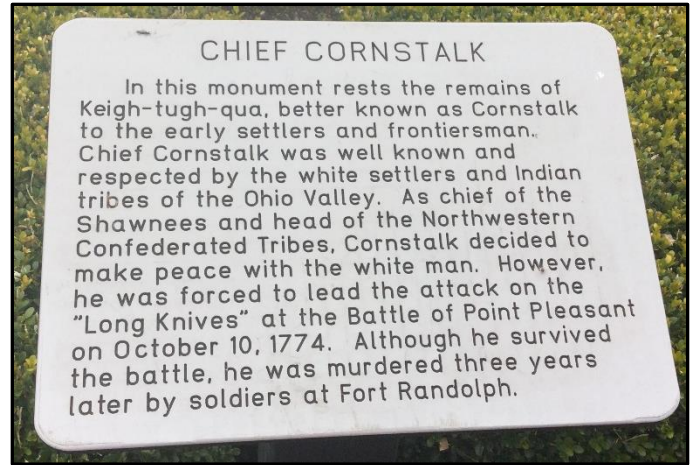
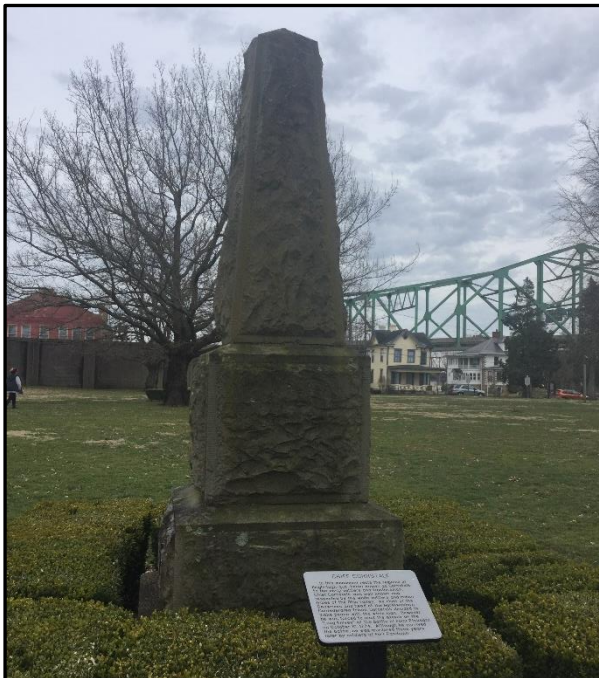


Above is the 1909 84-foot granite "Tu Endie-Wei" ('land between two waters') monument, commemorating the frontiersmen who fought and died in the Battle of Point Pleasant, 1774. The battle is often debated, as to whether it was the first battle of the Revolutionary War, or a part of 'Dunmore's War'.

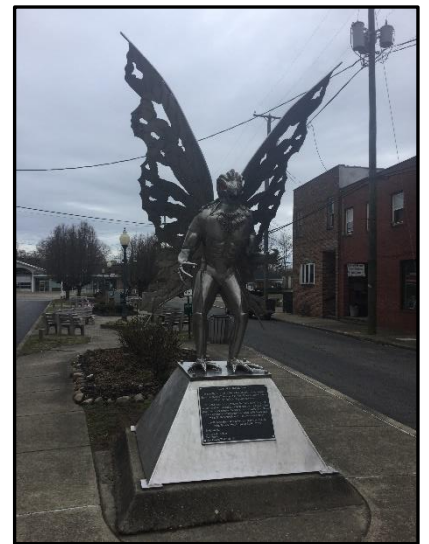
Speaking of Dunmore, behind the flood wall near the monument is a very long, very intricate mural depicting the events of the battle, as well as the leaders involved. One of them was of course Dunmore, depicted here in the form of a metal statue. It is only one of a series of interesting statues of varying quality, at the location. I am especially interested in learning about Dunmore, because my own Revolutionary War ancestor, Lt. Samuel Templeman, helped defeat his troops at Great Bridge (1775), which ultimately led to his abandonment of Virginia.



Though far afield from the War of 1812, I cannot leave out the grave of Chief Cornstalk, at the same



location, whose murder is supposed to have started the "curse" of Point Pleasant. Also (above) is an ancient Shawnee petroglyph, or altar stone, made by Cornstalk's clan. Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to include a photo of the infamous Point Pleasant "Mothman", who according to some, was the physical manifestation of Cornstalk's Curse.

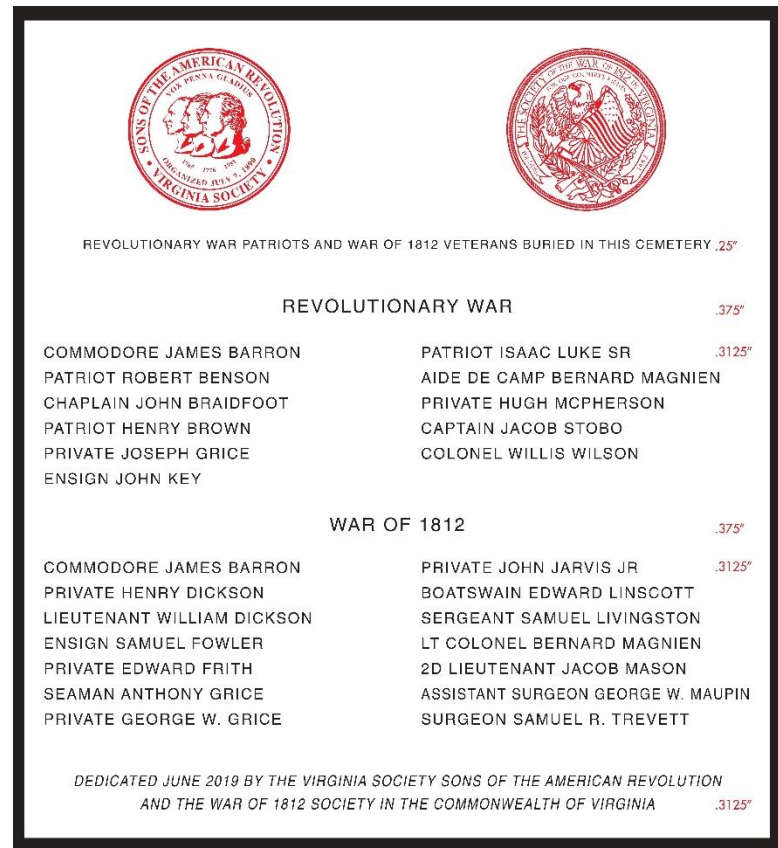


Notices & Business

1812 Society to Unveil Plaque on June 1st in Portsmouth:

A plaque listing eleven Revolutionary War patriots and fourteen War of 1812 veterans interred or memorialized in the Trinity Episcopal Church cemetery in Portsmouth will be unveiled in a duel ceremony at 11:30 AM on June 1st, 2019. Both the War of 1812 Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Norfolk Chapter Sons of the American (SAR) Society will participate in the ceremony. The public is invited to the ceremony. Any descendants of the men listed on the plaque will be recognized if they attend. The plaque is planned to be installed on the wall of the church where it can be readily seen by visitors to the cemetery. Below is a photo and draft of the plaque.

Past president of the society, Mike Lyman, researched the names and had the plaque made.



NOTICE:

The venue for the annual 2019 Virginia Society of the War of 1812 meeting, previously planned for Norfolk, VA, Has been **CHANGED**.

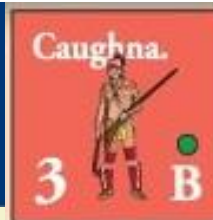
Tentatively, it is planned for **June 22nd** in **RICHMOND**, VA at the Westwood Club.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and hope to see you at the meeting.

C3i REVIEW

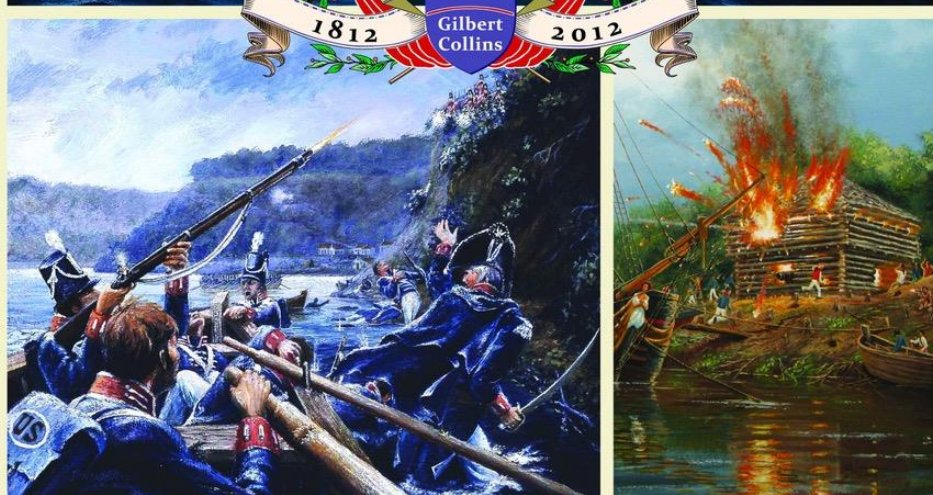
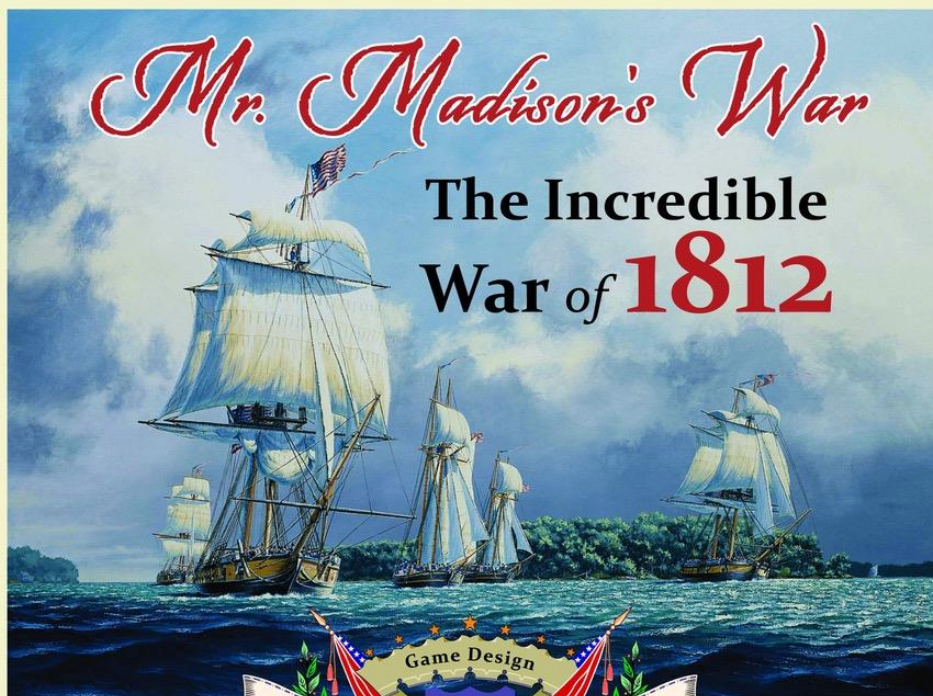
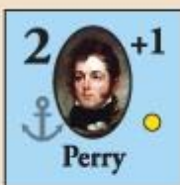
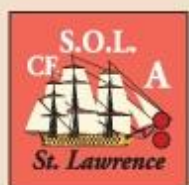
Mr. Madison's War | Armchair General Review

By Sean Stevenson | February 28, 2013



"Overall, Mr. Madison's War is a nice little simulation of early 19th century warfare. It serves as a good introduction to the wargaming hobby as well as a fast and fun game for veteran players—a good value for the money and a great way to pass the evening with gaming buddies."

— By Sean Stevenson



GMT Games LLC ©2012

Paintings by Peter Rindlisbacher



Available at GMTgames.com,
Amazon, Ebay,
Boardgamegeek.com, etc.

Mr. Madison's War is a tabletop simulation game designed by Gilbert Collins that depicts the War of 1812 on the northern frontier of the United States and Canada. It is a two-player game with players taking the forces of either the United States or Great Britain. The game features over 203 counters that represent regiments and battalions-- including militia and Indian units. Also included are individual Schooners, Brigs, and Frigates that fought the naval war on the great lakes. The principal leaders of the war are also featured in the game.



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Questions about how you can participate?

Please contact:

Shane Newcombe, Info@1812va.org

NEW MEMBERS

Member	Ancestor
Thomas Alfred Gibson	Solomon Twombly
Cleo H. Hogan	Pvt. Reuben Hold, Jr.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS





UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 28, 2019 at 11am: James Monroe Birthday ceremony at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA. A presidential wreath will be placed at the final resting place of James Monroe followed by presentation of wreaths from many patriotic societies including the War of 1812 Society.

May 19, 2019: Joint SAR and War of 1812 grave marking at 2:30pm at 9905 Godwin Drive, Manassas, VA, 20110. Recognize the service of Thomas Thurman, 89th Virginia Militia, War of 1812.

June 1, 2019 at 11:30am: Trinity Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, VA. Plaque with Revolutionary and War of 1812 veterans buried or memorialized at the church will be dedicated.

June 22, 2010: Annual muster at the Westwood Club, 6200 West Club Lane, Richmond, VA. BOD Meeting 10am; luncheon 12 noon.

June 29, 2019 10am at Wren-Darne cemetery at Falls Church 2615 Hillman Street. Revolutionary War and two War of 1812 veterans will be honored

Ad space is available in our publication! Prices are: \$25 for a small (1/4 page) ad; \$50 for a half-page ad, and \$75 for a full-page ad.



Society of the War of 1812 In the Commonwealth of VA

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