

## U. S. Daughters of the War of 1812, Rappahannock Chapter 493 and Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia publish historical pamphlet

National Society United States Daughters of 1812, Rappahannock Chapter 493, and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia have recently published *The War of 1812 Northern Neck of Virginia Driving Tour*. The pamphlet, reproduced below, highlights the many historical sites in the Northern Neck where British marines clashed with Virginia militia during the War of 1812. The Northern Neck of Virginia was especially hard hit during the war because it could be easily reached by British naval vessels using the many creeks and waterways in the peninsula. A map of the area along with historical narratives associated with each site will be a useful guide for anyone wishing to know about Virginia in the War of 1812.

### Kinsale JT-8 (449 Kinsale Road, Kinsale, VA 22488)

On July 14, 1813 sixteen warships chase the American schooners Scorpion and Asp up the Potomac. The Scorpion escapes. The Asp turns into the Yeocomico River and is captured. Midshipman James B. Sigourney, who commanded the Asp, was killed after he surrendered. The enemy set the Asp on fire and left. The militia re-captures the burning Asp. The tomb of Midshipman Sigourney is located at The Great House, old home of the Bailey family.

### War of 1812 Poisoning Inquiry at Yeocomico Church JT-93 (Yeocomico Episcopal Church, 1219 Old Yeocomico Rd. Kinsale, VA 22488)

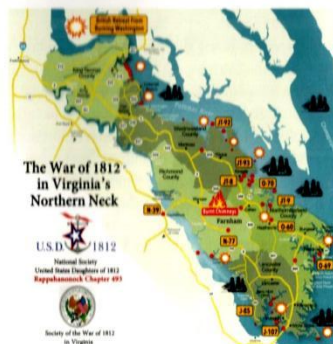
In Spring 1814, a detachment from the 36th U.S. Infantry camped near Yeocomico Episcopal Church to guard against British raiding parties. The British landed at nearby Nomini Ferry in July 1814. They found poisoned wine at the Thompson house and accused the Virginia Militia of uncivilized warfare. Gen. John P. Hungerford held a court of inquiry in the church and found the accusations "utterly without foundation." The British accepted the finding. In 1816, William L. Rogers, a soldier from the 36th Regiment, returned here from New Jersey, married Ann Murphy of Ayrfield, and coordinated the 1706 church's restoration. Department of Historic Resources, 2011

### British Landing at Nomini Ferry JT-92 (3589 Cople Highway, Montross, VA 22520)

On 20 July 1814, Admiral Sir George Cockburn sent about a thousand marines ashore at Nomini Ferry to attack the Westmoreland County militia under the command of Lt. Col. Richard E. Parker. Parker's Virginians bravely defended their positions but were soon outflanked by superior British forces and forced to retreat to Westmoreland Court House (Montross). Before they left the next morning, the British marines burned and destroyed a number of houses and several plantations in the immediate area, such as Bushfield, and ransacked nearby Nomini Church. Department of Historic Resources 2010

### Burnt Chimneys ( 68 Gibeon Road, Callao, VA 22435.)

On August 3, 1814 Captain William Henderson with forty militia and one cannon, faced 500 British Marines at Mundy Point. The overwhelmed militia retreated to Lottsburg. The British burned 15 homes on the way to Village where Henderson's home and store was located. The chimneys still stand today with a new house erected between as reminder of the devastation inflicted by the British on the citizens of the Northern Neck during the War of 1812.



Design: Bob Casazza

Please visit the following websites for more detailed information  
<https://www.northernneck.org/suggested-itineraries/>  
<https://vcris.dhr.virginia.gov/HistoricMarkers/>  
Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia  
<http://1812va.org/>  
Recommended Reading:  
*The Internal Enemy* by Alan Taylor  
*Encounters With The British In Virginia During the War of 1812* by Myron (Mike) Lyman & William Hankins  
*Slave Flight in The Northern Neck During the War of 1812* by Stuart Butler  
Rosalie Coultrip N.S.U.S.D. 1812  
Rappahannock Chapter 493

National Society  
United States Daughters of  
1812  
Rappahannock Chapter 493



Society of the War of 1812  
in Virginia

**The War of 1812  
Northern Neck  
of Virginia  
Driving Tour**

During the War of 1812 the British blockaded the Chesapeake Bay. British warships roamed up and down the Bay, sending raiding vessels into the rivers and creeks to plunder and destroy property. Because there were no Federal troops, counties had to rely on militia men. The Virginia militia was ill equipped to protect the Northern Neck. Guns and ammunition were in short supply. Long travel time around the numerous creeks, where few roads or bridges existed, made defending the waterfront villages difficult. The British used captured sloops and schooners to raid waterfront warehouses. The ships were loaded with stolen goods and sent to Bermuda or Halifax for sale. The profits were divided among the capturing officers and crew. Plantation slaves ran away to the British during the raids and were given freedom. Slaves also used small boats or canoes in the dead of night to paddle to the warships anchored in the Potomac or Rappahannock Rivers. Virginia County ordinances were enacted to keep all small vessels locked up at night. Former slaves were offered positions in the British Navy and were trained on occupied Tangier Island. Known as the Colonial Marines they were familiar with the paths through the forests and swamps. They led the British to the plantations of their former masters and were given a portion of the plunder. About 2400 enslaved African Americans in Virginia escaped to the British warships and were granted freedom. After the war the British would not return the fugitives to their former owners. The diaspora of runaways were settled in three colonies: Nova Scotia, Trinidad and New Brunswick. Of the 3,400 Chesapeake Bay region runaways only 9 returned to American slavery.

**British Raid on Tappahannock N-39 (218 Water Lane, Tappahannock, VA 22560)**

On Dec. 2, 1814, British Naval Forces shelled and three companies of Colonial Marines seized the town of Tappahannock. The Militia retreated to a higher vantage point outside of town. The British burned the courthouse, jails, the customs warehouse, and private homes. The British desecrated the burial vault of the Ritchie family.

**North Farnham Episcopal Church J-77 (231 N. Farnham Church Rd., Farnham, VA 22460)**

A skirmish was fought here between Admiral Sir George Cockburn's raiders and the Virginia Militia. One militiaman was killed. Twelve drunk enemy soldiers were taken as prisoners.

**Corotoman J-85 (Campbell Memorial Presbyterian 3712 Weems, Rd. 22576)**

Former home of Robert (King) Carter. On April 18, 1814, three slaves ran away to British warships in response to a proclamation offering them freedom and resettlement in "His Majesty's Colonies". Several days later they guided British barges back to carry off 69 friends and relatives, including 46 children, the largest group of slaves to leave a Chesapeake Bay plantation during the war.

**Capture of the Dolphin J-107 Willaby's Restaurant, 327 Old Ferry Rd., White Stone, VA 22578**

On April 3, 1813, one of the largest naval engagements in Virginia waters during the War of 1812 took place at the mouth of the Corrotoman River. 105 British naval and marine forces managed to subdue 4 American Privateers: Arab, Dolphin, Lynx, and Racer. The largest ship Dolphin, out of Baltimore, had twelve guns and 100 men commanded by Capt. William Stafford. Stafford refused to give up and defended his ship until he was severely wounded and his ship boarded. 6 killed, 10 wounded, 70 captured. The next day Major Chowning and 100 militia beat off 3 enemy barges that attempted to land at Chowning's Point on the Corotoman River. They also tried to retake the Arab but failed to do so.

**African Americans in the War of 1812 O-69 (Buzzards Pt Marina, 468 Buzzards Pt. Rd., Reedville, VA 22539)**

East of here on Tangier Island, at the British base of Fort Albion, the British trained former slaves to serve in the Colonial Marines. From Fort Albion, the Colonial Marines, along with British troops, engaged the Virginia militia in numerous landings along with the Northern Neck and Eastern Shore throughout the summer of 1814. Impressment of Americans into British service and the violation of American ships were among the causes of America's War of 1812 with the British.



**Hughlett's Tavern O-60, (73 Monument Place, Heathsville, VA 22473) British Raids on the Coan JT-9, (end of Rowe's Landing Rd. Heathsville, VA)**

August 6 & 7, 1814 British warships capture 3 American schooners. The overwhelmed Northumberland militia retreated. 1000 of the enemy marched inland on both sides of the Coan River burning houses, seizing 3 schooners and tobacco. The Lancaster Militia arrived and prevented the enemy from entering Heathsville. Then on October 4, 1814, a detachment of 1000 Royal Marines landed on the Coan River and marched to Heathsville. The town was defended by 100 Northumberland Militia. Again the militia was overwhelmed and retreated after fierce fighting. The British occupied the courthouse for several hours and plundered homes and businesses.

**British Attacks at Kinsale and Mundy Point O-70 (Mundy Pt & Locust Lane)**

Aug. 3, 1814. 500 Royal and Colonial marines under Admiral Sir George Cockburn landed at Mundy Point. Captain William Henderson and thirty Northumberland County militiamen opposed the enemy with a twelve pound cannon. Henderson's company was forced to retreat inland. Henderson slipped through the forest to the vicinity of Lottsburg while the British marched 6 miles inland to Henderson's residence in Village. His home "Burnt Chimneys", warehouse and store were burnt to the ground. Later that day, British forces took Kinsale, burned the town, and seized tobacco. Three days later, they began raids along the Coan River. Among the British troops were about fifty formerly enslaved African Americans, referred to as Colonial Marines, who were among the thousands who gained freedom by fighting or working for the British. The Colonial Marines were familiar with the countryside and directed the British to plantations for plunder and destruction. Admiral Sir George Cockburn praised them as "the best skirmishers possible for the thick woods of this country".

