The American Flag Foundation, Inc.

Baltimore National Heritage Area

Star-Spangled Banner
National Historic Trail

O say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free or the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep
What is that which the foe's haughty host in денег silence dene

As it fitfully那你's

For full glist'rest

Is the Star-Spangled Banner

O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free or the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntly swore
That the hammer of war is the anvil of peace
A home and a Country should leave us no more?

Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution
From the terror and the gloom of the grave,

O'er the land of the free or the home of the brave.

Thus let it ever be

Between their low or high of the war's desolation
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us

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Praise the power that hath made and preserved us
On behalf of Baltimore's War of 1812 Bicentennial Education Committee, I am pleased to present this Teacher’s Resource Guide, “Defense of Our Nation: Maryland’s Role in the War of 1812.”

This guide serves as a single-source text and reference for conducting classroom history lessons on the War of 1812, and the role that Marylanders played in our nation's second war for independence. It is especially organized for teachers of pre- and post-secondary grade levels. Users are encouraged to also take advantage of the 1812 Virtual Resource Center that is being created by Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and the Living Classrooms Foundation, in partnership with Maryland Public Television (MPT). Once available, the 1812 Virtual Resource Center will be able to be accessed through MPT’s Thinkport www.thinkport.org.

Information provided in this guide will help make teaching this important history easy and accessible. The guide presents the major players in the war, its major battles, direct quotes from eyewitnesses, and information on additional resources.

Worksheets are provided to help students interpret and analyze key causes and results of the war through pictures and documents from primary and secondary sources. Students may conclude, for example, that the war did not produce any “winners,” but America gained international respect in foreign affairs of state.

A guide to the holdings of the Library of Congress is also included for those who wish to conduct research or write a paper on aspects of the war and its subjects. This section also provides an extensive list of websites of interest both to students and teachers. This guide meets the standards set by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Although this guide was created for history teachers, others may also find it useful for sharing the stories of the War of 1812 with a wider audience. The guide’s depth and breadth can be used as a resource for newspaper and newsletter articles to help inform the public, as the state prepares to commemorate the bicentennial.

I would like to especially thank the co-chairs of the committee who made this guide possible — Naomi Coquillon, Kathleen Kreul, Patricia Perluke, and Abbi Wicklein-Bayne — as well as the guide’s author and coordinator, Danielle Taylor. Without their hard work and dedication, this publication would not exist.

Both students and teachers, and even “history buffs,” should welcome this teacher’s resource guide for use during the War of 1812 Bicentennial in Maryland and for many years thereafter.

Jeffrey P. Buchheit
Director
Baltimore National Heritage Area
Office of the Mayor
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Military events in the Chesapeake Bay had far-reaching effects on American society and our country’s cultural identity. America emerged with a greatly enhanced international reputation on the world stage. The new nation, just 30 years after the Revolutionary War, had successfully defended itself against the British Empire, the world’s most powerful navy.

The War of 1812 was a crucial test for the U.S. Constitution and the newly established democratic government. Though the nation was divided on the decision to declare war on Great Britain and was ill-prepared to do so, ultimately, the new multi-party democracy survived the challenge of foreign invasion. The War established clear boundaries between eastern Canada and the United States, set conditions for control of the Oregon Territory, and freed international trade from the harsh restrictions that ignited the war.

In 1812, the Chesapeake Bay region was a significant hub for trade, commerce and government, which also made it a strategic target for the British military. The British entered the Chesapeake Bay in early 1813 and sustained a military presence until 1815. The most concerted military effort in the region was the four-month campaign by the British in 1814, the last full year of the war. This period of intense military action, known as the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814, included many feints (maneuvers designed to distract or mislead) and skirmishes. During the Chesapeake Campaign, the British also invaded and occupied our nation’s capital and attempted to capture the city of Baltimore.

**Causes of the War of 1812**

In the early 1800s, the young United States of America was politically independent from Britain, yet severely hampered economically by Britain’s insistence on unfavorable trade restrictions with its former colonies. British troops continued to occupy American territory along the Great Lakes and were suspected of backing Indian raids against U.S. settlers on the frontier. Most dramatically, the British Navy periodically captured and impressed American sailors into service on British ships on the high seas denying thousands of American citizens their freedom.

By June 1812, overall discontent with Britain’s actions had grown so strong that President James Madison, embroiled in a tight campaign for re-election, acquiesced to the War Hawks’ push to declare war. The American Navy was severely outnumbered, with approximately 50 ships compared to Britain’s fleet of more than 850 vessels. The standing American Army was only about half the size of Britain’s and was widely scattered. However, Americans were emboldened by the fact that the British were also embroiled in the Napoleonic Wars, spanning from 1803 to 1815 in Europe. The United State’s Declaration of War made it necessary for British troops, supplies, and funds to be diverted from that conflict with the French to defend their interests in Canada. Britain saw America as an important market and supplier, and only reluctantly responded to the declaration. U.S. commercial and political interests in New York and New England, concerned about the potential destruction of their shipping industries, opposed the War, and in fact, continued to supply the British until the naval blockades were extended.

In the summer of 1812, American troops attempted to invade and conquer Canada. The poorly planned campaign ended in defeat, and the American troops withdrew. However, several American naval victories on the high seas boosted U.S. morale and contributed to President Madison’s re-election. In response, the British gradually established and tightened a blockade of the American coast south of New York, impairing trade and undermining the American economy.
FOCUS QUESTIONS

How did Maryland’s role in the War of 1812 influence the outcome?

“The war has renewed and reinstated the national feelings and character which the revolution had given, and which were daily lessened. The people... are more american; they feel and act more as a nation; and i hope the permanency of the union is thereby better secured.”

Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin to Matthew Lyon, May 7, 1816
From The Writings of Albert Gallatin, 3 vols., Henry Adams, ed.
BACKGROUND OF THE WAR OF 1812

In 1802, Napoleon became emperor of France. He wanted to conquer most of Europe, and was almost successful. The British declared war on France to put a stop to Napoleon. The British had a great navy, with many warships, but they always needed sailors. Life on-board ship was rough, the food was bad, and sailors could be flogged if they made a mistake. In Britain, young men were captured by press gangs who forced them to join the navy. Then the British started seizing American ships and taking sailors to serve on their own ships. This was called impressment. It was similar to kidnapping. Many Americans grew outraged over the impressment of American sailors.

Americans were angry with the British for other reasons as well. Before the American Revolutionary War, the British built forts west of the Appalachian Mountains. When the Americans won the Revolution, the British promised to hand over the forts. But by 1812, 29 years after the treaty to end the Revolution had been signed, the British still held onto their forts. They would not let settlers move west. The British also protected Native Americans who lived on lands the American settlers wanted. The Native Americans were angry that many whites wanted to seize their land.

The people who wanted to fight against Britain were called “war hawks.” Henry Clay from Kentucky and Andrew Jackson from Tennessee were two leaders of the war hawks. Other Americans did not want to go to war against the British. People who were involved in the sea trade, especially in New England, did not want to see their commerce disrupted.

In 1812, when James Madison was president, the United States declared war on Great Britain. American forces invaded Canada, still a British colony, with high hopes of conquering British territory. Most of the fighting took place along the Great Lakes. Indian nations joined the British in fighting against the Americans. The capital of Canada, York (now known as Toronto), was attacked, and the Americans burned the Parliament building.

Ultimately, the United States was able to keep the northwest land it had claimed, but did not succeed in capturing any part of Canada.

Meanwhile, in Europe, the British defeated Napoleon in 1814. Now they were able to focus their energy against the United States. To get revenge on the United States for burning the capital of Canada, British troops attacked Washington, D.C. First, they burned the home of the U.S. Congress—the Capitol Building—and destroyed all of the books in the Library of Congress. Then, they headed for the White House. Although President Madison wasn’t at home, his wife, Dolley Madison, was about to give a dinner party. When she heard that the British were planning to attack, she packed as many valuables as she could (including velvet curtains, silver, and important papers) into a wagon. She made sure that a portrait of George Washington was safe just before she fled. When the British arrived, they ate the dinner she had planned to enjoy with her friends. Then they set fire to the White House.

After sacking Washington, D.C., the British army planned to attack Baltimore. Baltimore was a very important port, and the home of many American sailing ships that had fought against the British navy. By conquering Baltimore, the British hoped to turn the war into a victory. But Baltimore was under the command of Major General Samuel Smith, who had absolutely no intention of surrendering to the British. Amazingly, he convinced the ship owners in the city to sink their ships in the harbor. These sunken vessels formed an underwater wall that the huge British warships couldn’t sail past.
Baltimore was lucky to have another fine leader, Major George Armistead, who commanded Fort McHenry. Fort McHenry is shaped like a star. At that time, it had cannons mounted at every point. It is located on Baltimore's harbor. In 1813, a year before the British attacked, Major Armistead had hired Mary Pickersgill to sew a huge flag, 30-feet high and 42-feet wide. An expert flag maker, Pickersgill made flags for many ships. But even she had never made such a large flag. Her workshop was not big enough for the job. So with the help of her 13-year-old daughter Caroline and others, she sewed the giant flag in a brewery where there was enough space. Although there were 18 states in the United States in 1813, Mrs. Pickersgill and Caroline sewed 15 stripes and 15 stars on the flag. Each white star was two feet across! (The official American flag, with 13 stripes representing the 13 colonies and one star for each state was not established until 1818.) Now Major Armistead had one of the biggest flags in the country.

A year later, in September 1814, the British prepared to attack Baltimore. An American lawyer named Francis Scott Key, and John Skinner, an American who was in charge of prisoner exchanges, sailed up to the British fleet in a small boat. The British had captured their friend, Dr. William Beanes. Key requested that the British free Dr. Beanes because he was not a soldier. In fact, he helped many people—even British soldiers—when they were sick or wounded. The British agreed to release the doctor, but they required that the three Americans stay on a British ship until they had finished attacking Baltimore.

Mr. Key, Dr. Beanes, and Mr. Skinner had no choice. All they could do was watch as the British navy fired huge 200-pound bombs and rockets at Fort McHenry. Because of the ships sunk in Baltimore Harbor, the warships could not get close enough to land. But they fired upon Fort McHenry for 25 hours. It was very smoky, and darkness fell. The three Americans who were witnessing the bombing from a British ship were afraid that Baltimore would be conquered. They could not see through all the smoke and the dark night.

Finally at dawn, on September 14, 1814, Key looked through his telescope. There, in the early morning light, he saw the huge American flag waving proudly over Fort McHenry. The Americans had won the battle! He was overcome with joy, and was inspired to write poetic lyrics to the tune of a song he knew. In a few days, his completed lyrics were published and titled “The Defense of Fort McHenry.” These words and the tune Key chose would later become our National Anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Americans were very happy and relieved that Baltimore had defeated the British attack. But the war was not over yet. More fighting took place along the Gulf of Mexico. A famous American victory took place in New Orleans on January 8, 1815, where General Andrew Jackson defeated the British. Although the United States and Britain had signed a treaty of peace in Ghent, Belgium on December 24, 1814, news of peace had not arrived in time.

In New Orleans, 6,000 trained British troops fought against Tennessee and Kentucky frontiersmen, two companies of free African-American volunteers from New Orleans, and other American soldiers. By the end of the battle, 2,000 British were killed or wounded and only 13 Americans had died. It was a huge victory for the United States, even if it happened after the signing of the peace treaty, but it was tragic that so many people died needlessly in New Orleans.

The War of 1812 established the United States as an independent nation that even the great powers in Europe had to respect. Francis Scott Key’s experience during the bombing of Fort McHenry inspired the patriotic song, which later became our National Anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The giant
flag that flew over the fort “by the dawn's early light” would become a national treasure. Today, that flag is preserved at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., so that it will last for generations to come.

Source: Smithsonian National Museum of American History
http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/pdf/SSB_History_Overview.pdf

Baltimore and the War of 1812: The Formation of Our National Identity

The following excerpt from the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study has done a great job of bringing into focus the war and its effect on the region and its citizens.


Historic Context
The Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812 was comprised of the four-month military campaign of the British during 1814, the last full year of the war. The events of the campaign are significant to American history because of their pivotal effect on the outcome of the War of 1812 and their effect on far-reaching aspects of American society, including the nation's identity.

The War of 1812
The War of 1812 affected the international political framework and represents what many see as the definitive end of the American Revolution. Although 30 years had passed since the Americans had won freedom from Britain, the young nation continued to be plagued by British occupation of American territory along the Great Lakes; highly unfavorable trade restrictions; the impressment (forcing into service) of American sailors by the British; and the suspicion that the British were backing Indian raids on the frontier. It seemed that Britain continued to regard America as a set of troublesome colonies, rather than a nation of equal standing to Britain.

President James Madison, embroiled in a tight campaign for re-election, acquiesced to Congressional “war hawks” from the south and west, and declared war on Britain in June 1812. Americans were emboldened by the fact that the British were deeply committed to a war with Napoleon Bonaparte that strained the resources of the crown. There was little acknowledgement in Washington that what passed for a standing army was only about half the size of Britain's and stationed in widely scattered outposts; that the American navy totaled about 50 ships to Britain's more than 850; that coastal defenses were limited at best; and that there was no core of trained military officers to lead the poorly trained troops and militia. The British ships were much larger than their American counterparts.

Commercial and political interests in New York and New England, concerned about the potential destruction of shipping, opposed the war and, in fact, continued to supply the British until the naval blockades were extended. Similarly, Britain saw America as an important market and supplier and only reluctantly responded to the declaration of war.
In the summer of 1812, American troops attempted to invade and conquer Canada. The poorly planned campaign ended in defeat and the withdrawal of the Americans. However, two American frigates, the USS Constitution and the USS United States, fared better in naval battles, boosting American morale and contributing to Madison's re-election.

In response, the British gradually established and tightened a blockade of the American coast south of New York, impairing trade and undermining the American economy. The attempts to invade Canada during the spring and summer of 1813 were somewhat more successful than the previous year's, yet these ended in stalemate. By the end of the season, the British blockade had extended north to Long Island. In April 1814, Napoleon was overthrown, freeing some 14,000 experienced British troops for battle in America. The British who were sent to America planned a three-pronged strategy:

1) to attack New York along the Hudson River and Lake Champlain in order to divide New England from the rest of the country; 2) to attack the Chesapeake region, the center of government and pro-war sentiment; and 3) to attack New Orleans to block and control the Mississippi River. The situation was grave; no one believed that America could defend itself against the full force of the British. The country faced insolvency due to the blockade of trade routes and the costs of the war, and in New England, opponents of “Mr. Madison's war” met in political convention to discuss secession.

Remarkably, the young nation prevailed despite a long summer in the Chesapeake region. The British harassed citizens, burned towns and farms, and overwhelmed the scant American naval forces and militia. With the Americans distracted and largely unprepared, the British entered the nation's capital and burned several public buildings, causing President Madison, his family and his cabinet members to flee Washington, D.C. In September, however, an all-out land and sea defense of Baltimore forced the withdrawal of the British from the Chesapeake region. The same month, the British fleet in Lake Champlain was destroyed, leading to the British retreat into Canada. This defeat convinced the British to agree to a peace treaty, known as the Treaty of Ghent, with very few conditions. In January 1815, with neither side aware that the treaty had been signed the previous month, the British decisively lost the Battle of New Orleans.
FELL’S POINT’S ROLE IN SHIPPING AND TRADE

**Historic Context**

Tensions between Great Britain and the newly established United States of America were running high after the Revolutionary War. Americans knew that a firm economic foundation was vital if their fledgling country was to survive and prosper. The key to a successful economy was trade, and international trade depended on shipping. At the start of the Revolutionary War, the Continental forces did not include a formal navy. Privateers, private merchant ships owned by individuals, had been granted Letters of Marque and Reprisal which, in effect, converted them into a naval auxiliary, were relied upon to keep the Americans supplied with wartime necessities. Shipbuilders began to design lighter, swifter vessels with shallow drafts that could outrun bulkier British warships. The birthplace of these sharp-hulled fast ships was the deep-water port of Fell’s Point, in Baltimore. Even after the Revolutionary War ended, there was a market for Baltimore’s schooners (sometimes also called “clippers”). Large mercantile houses began regular trade with Europe and the West Indies. There were profits to be made by neutral shipment of cargo via fast ships.

The British and the French were at odds with each other. Britain could not forget that it was French support that helped the Americans defeat the mother country. The British continued to harass American shipping by capturing and impressing American sailors. The upheaval in France caused by the French Revolution and the subsequent Napoleonic Wars had eroded the relationship between France and the United States. The West Indies became an important part of Baltimore’s developing trade patterns. As a result of European demand, the plantation and slave labor systems of the islands were specializing in such high-priced and easily marketed crops, such as sugar, coffee, cocoa, rice, and tobacco. Islanders were forced to look elsewhere for their food supplies. Baltimore, as the closest foodstuff-producing North American port to the islands, quickly capitalized on this rapidly expanding market. Two-masted schooners built by Chesapeake shipbuilders carried flour, bread, livestock, and barrel staves to the Caribbean. They returned with sugar, rum, molasses, and coffee for local sale or export to Europe. Ranging in size from 40 to 70 feet, an average vessel might carry 100 barrels of flour. France had restricted trade between her West Indies colonies and foreign countries. Maryland merchants began to look to Spanish colonies in the Caribbean as markets for their wheat flour, corn, surplus beef and pork, and iron, and as sources for coffee, sugar, and molasses. (This irritated the French, who were at war with Spain at the time.) They needed fast ships that could carry cargo and outrun British and French vessels. What was a Maryland merchant to do? Why, go to one of the many shipyards in Fell’s Point and commission a fast ship, of course!

Source: The Maryland Historical Society
During the War of 1812, America’s “second war of independence,” President James Madison attempted to overcome the small size of the U.S. navy by issuing Letters of Marque and Reprisal for private ships. These documents were granted to the vessel, not the captain, often for a limited time, expressing the enemy upon whom attacks were permitted, and converted the private merchant vessel into a naval auxiliary, or Privateer. This entitled the crew to honorable treatment as prisoners of war, if captured. However, this also permitted the vessel to be armed, and opened the way, in essence, to legal piracy. Privateers were permitted to prey upon the merchant fleet of Great Britain, and take captured cargo and vessels as prizes. American privateers, many of them sailing out of Chesapeake Bay in Baltimore clippers built in Fell’s Point, captured or sank some 1,700 British merchant vessels during the two-and-a-half-year war. Other Baltimore clippers served as cargo vessels to bring needed munitions and other armaments through the naval blockade that the British imposed on the U.S. coastline, which included Chesapeake Bay.

**USS Chasseur: The Original “Pride of Baltimore”**

One of the most famous of the American privateers was Captain Thomas Boyle, who sailed his Baltimore clipper, USS Chasseur, out of Fell’s Point where it had been launched from Thomas Kemp’s shipyard in 1812. On his first voyage as master of USS Chasseur in 1814, Boyle unexpectedly sailed east, directly to the British Isles, where he unmercifully harassed the British merchant fleet. In a characteristically audacious act, he sent a notice to King George III by way of a captured merchant vessel that he had released for the purpose. Boyle demanded that the notice be posted on the door of Lloyd’s of London, the famous shipping underwriters. In it, he declared that the entire British Isles were under naval blockade by USS Chasseur alone! This affront sent the shipping community into panic and caused the British Admiralty to call vessels home from the American war to guard merchant ships sailing in convoys. In all, USS Chasseur captured or sank 17 vessels before returning home.

On USS Chasseur’s triumphal return to Baltimore on March 25, 1815, the *Niles Weekly Register* dubbed the ship, its captain, and its crew the “pride of Baltimore” for their daring exploits.

**The Chesapeake Campaign and the “Star-Spangled Banner”**

In retaliation for the actions of the Baltimore privateers, the British launched the Chesapeake Campaign in 1814 for the purpose of “cleaning out that nest of pirates in Baltimore.” Its goal: to shut down the shipyards of Fell’s Point and halt the production of the deadly Baltimore clippers. On their way up the Bay, the British captured and sacked Washington, D.C. They burned the Capitol and White House, the only such indignity to our national capital by a foreign power.

Continuing up the Bay, they sought to capture Baltimore by way of a combined land and naval attack. They were rebuffed on both fronts. On September 12, 1814, Baltimore troops fought at the Battle of North Point, a two-hour battle to delay the British land forces before they reached the city. Fort McHenry, at the mouth of Baltimore harbor, withstood a ferocious 25-hour naval bombardment on September 12 and 13, 1814. It was during this bombardment that Maryland lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key spotted “by dawn’s early light” the huge “star-spangled banner” still flying over Fort McHenry. He penned a description of the sight and his patriotic reaction on the back of an envelope. His words
have gone down in history as our National Anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Rebuffed by the Baltimore patriots, the British retreated south to New Orleans, where on January 8, 1815, they were soundly defeated by an army led by General Andrew Jackson. The Treaty of Ghent, signed by the British on Christmas Eve 1814, and by President Madison on February 12, 1815, brought a formal end to hostilities between America and Britain. This time, the armistice held. The victory, although a great triumph for American sailing ingenuity and audacity, signaled the end of the era dominated by Baltimore clippers.

**Baltimore Clippers After the War of 1812**

With the cessation of hostilities, there was little need for fast, armed schooners with limited cargo space. American commerce required larger vessels that could carry more goods. In the 1840s, a new generation of fast large ships evolved that came to be known as Yankee clippers or simply clipper ships. These were three-masted, full-rigged ships; that is, they had square sails on all three masts. Although the design and construction of these vessels is generally attributed to New England shipyards, some were built in Fell’s Point, including the beautiful USS Ann McKim, one of the largest and swiftest clippers ever to sail.

In the meantime, the owners and masters of the fleet of Baltimore clippers built before 1815 searched for ways to keep themselves and their vessels profitably occupied after the war. They had three options: 1) enter the emerging China trade in Whampao (Canton) Harbor, where delivery of even a small cargo of exotic goods from the Orient could bring a profit; 2) continue as armed privateers, only this time in service to one or another of the Central or South American countries in revolt from Spain; or 3) enter the lucrative, but illegal, slave trade.

USS Chasseur’s history is illustrative of the fate of Baltimore clippers. Just three months after its triumphal return to Baltimore from exploits against the British Isles, the vessel set sail for Canton, China. According to the supercargo’s log of the six-month voyage around Africa through the Indian Ocean and up the coast of Southeast Asia, it encountered gale force winds but sailed well. In Canton, it loaded on a cargo of tea, silk, satin, porcelain and other high-demand items for the return voyage. Despite the ship’s deteriorating conditions, it set a speed record from Canton to the Virginia Capes in 95 days. This Orient-to-America record held for 16 years until it was broken by the clipper USS Atlantic in 1832. The cargo of exotic goods did indeed sell for a handsome profit for USS Chasseur’s owners.

Shortly thereafter, USS Chasseur was sold to the Spanish Royal Navy and renamed Cazador. She ended her days as an armed patrol vessel in the Caribbean—ironically in the service of a colonial power.

Thus the era of the Baltimore clipper came to an end. However, the tradition of imaginative ship design and audacious sailing flourished in the shipyards of the United States. Baltimore’s tradition of maritime adventure has been rekindled by the Pride of Baltimore I and the Pride of Baltimore II.

*(The Pride of Baltimore II is a reproduction of an 1812-era Baltimore Clipper privateer. She is Maryland’s working symbol of the great natural resources and spectacular beauty of the Chesapeake Bay region, and a reminder of America’s rich maritime heritage.)*

Baltimore and the War of 1812: The Formation of Our National Identity

**Artillery**: Large-bore, crew-served mounted firearms (as guns, howitzers, and rockets); a branch of an army that is armed with artillery.

**Authority**: The right to control or direct the actions of others; legitimized by law, morality, custom or consent. (MSDE)

**Privateer**: An armed private ship licensed to attack enemy shipping or a sailor on such a ship.

**Confiscated**: To seize, as forfeited to the public treasury or to seize by, or as if by, authority.

**Flotilla**: A fleet of ships or boats; specifically a navy organizational unit consisting of two or more squadrons of small warships.

**Impressment**: The act of seizing for public use or of impressing into public service.

**Citizen**: A member of a political society who therefore owes allegiance to the government and is entitled to its protection and to political rights. (MSDE)

**Embargo**: An order prohibiting trade with another country. (MSDE)

**Free Trade**: Exchange of goods and services without barriers of trade. (MSDE)

**Foreign Policy**: Politics of the federal government directed to matters beyond United States borders, especially relations with other countries. (MSDE)

**Goods**: Physically tangible objects that can be used to satisfy economic wants, including, but not limited to food, shoes, cars, houses, books, and furniture. (MSDE)

**Immigrant**: Those people legally admitted as permanent residents of a country. (MSDE)

**Militia**: A part of the organized armed forces of a country liable to be called on only in emergency or a body of citizens organized for military service.

**Primary Source**: A first-hand account of an event, such as a government document, diary, or letter. (MSDE)

**Shipwright**: A carpenter skilled in ship construction and repair.

**Tariff**: A list or system of duties imposed by a government on imported or exported goods. (MSDE)

**Trade**: To engage in the exchange, purchase, or sale of resources, goods, or services. (MSDE)

Source: The American Flag Foundation, Inc. [http://www.americanflagfoundation.org](http://www.americanflagfoundation.org)
The War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner

**Appalachian Mountains**: Mountain chain in the eastern United States.

**Baltimore**: A port city in Maryland.

**Brewery**: An establishment for the manufacture of beer.

**Capitol Building**: Building in Washington, D.C. occupied by the Congress of the United States.

**Disrupt**: To interrupt or impede progress.

**Emperor**: The male ruler of an empire.

**Flogged**: Beaten.

**Frontiersmen**: Men who live on the frontier, an unsettled area.

**Generation**: All the people born in the same period of time.

**Gulf of Mexico**: A large body of water partially blocked by land, south of the central United States and east of Mexico.

**Impressment**: The act of seizing people or property for public service or use.

**Ironically**: Directly opposite what is expressed or expected.

**Library of Congress**: A research library of the United States Congress, and defacto national library of the United States.

**National Anthem**: The song which represents a particular state or nation.

**National treasure**: A person, place or thing revered by a nation.

**Needlessly**: Unnecessary.

**New Orleans**: A port city located in Louisiana.

**Overcome**: To overpower or be victorious.

**Parliament**: A national representative body having supreme legislative power.

**Patriotic**: Feeling love for and loyalty to your country.

**Port**: A town having a harbor for ships.

**Press gangs**: A company of men under an officer detailed to seize men and put them into military or naval service.

**Publish**: To prepare and produce printed material for public distribution.

**Represent**: To stand for or represent something or someone.

**Revenge**: To inflict punishment in return for injury or insult.

**Revolution**: A sudden or momentous change; the sequence of actions taken by American colonists from 1763 to 1775 protesting British rule culminating in the Revolutionary War, the American Revolution.

**To sack**: To attack and cause destruction in a city or place.
Territory: Land or waters owned by a country.

Tragic: Dramatic and disastrous.

Treaty: A formal agreement between two or more parties.

Vessels: Watercraft larger than a row boat.

Fell’s Point’s Role in Shipping and Trade

Bill of lading (or laden): A list of goods or cargo that a ship is carrying.

Blockade: The isolating of a port by ships and troops to prevent entrance or exit.

Cargo: The load of goods carried by a ship.

Draft: The depth a loaded ship is immersed; for example, a ship with a seven-foot draft needs to be in at least seven feet of water or else it will run aground.

Fell’s Point: A deep-water harbor in Baltimore that once had a thriving shipbuilding industry.

Hogshead: A large barrel.

Impress: The act of taking sailors by force to work on ships owned by other countries.

Letter of Marque: A government commission granted to a private merchant ship, not its captain, converting it to a naval auxiliary ship, and permission to capture enemy ships.

Mercantile: Relating to trade.

Primary source: A first-hand account of something or someone from the past.

Proclamation: An official or public announcement.

Privateers: Civilian (non-military) ships carrying Letters of Marque.

Schooner: A sailing vessel having two or more masts and fore and aft sails (sails in the front and back).

Sharp hull: When a ship has a narrow bow (or front).

Trade: Exchange of goods.

War of 1812: A war between the United States and Great Britain fought from 1812 to 1815.
## TIMELINE OF THE WAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1811</td>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>War Congress convenes.</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td><strong>Battle of Tippecanoe</strong>.</td>
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<td>1812</td>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>United States declares war on Great Britain.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June - August</td>
<td>Baltimore Riots.</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
<td>United States doubles customs duties.</td>
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<td>July 12</td>
<td>General William Hull enters Canada.</td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td>Fort Michilimackinac surrenders to the British.</td>
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<td>August 15</td>
<td>Fort Dearborn massacre.</td>
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<td>August 16</td>
<td>General William Hull surrenders to General Isaac Brock at Detroit.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>The USS <em>Constitution</em> defeats HMS <em>Guerrière</em>.</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>General Isaac Brock is killed at the Battle of Queenston Heights.</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>The USS <em>Wasp</em> defeats HMS <em>Frolic</em>.</td>
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<td>October 18</td>
<td>The USS <em>Wasp</em> captured by HMS <em>Poictiers</em>.</td>
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<td>October 25</td>
<td>The USS <em>United States</em> defeats HMS <em>Macedonian</em>.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Madison wins re-election.</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>British blockade South Carolina and Georgia.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>November 23</td>
<td>Americans retreat from eastern Canada.</td>
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<td>November 27</td>
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<td>December 3</td>
<td>William Eustis resigns as Secretary of War.</td>
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<td>December 3-February 5, 1813</td>
<td>Monroe serves as Secretary of War.</td>
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<td>December 26</td>
<td>Great Britain proclaims blockade of Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.</td>
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<td>December 29</td>
<td>The USS <em>Constitution</em> defeats HMS <em>Java</em>.</td>
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<td>December 29</td>
<td>Paul Hamilton resigns as Secretary of the Navy.</td>
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<td>1813</td>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>William Jones assumes his duties as Secretary of the Navy.</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>Battle of Frenchtown.</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>River Raisin massacre.</td>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td>John Armstrong becomes Secretary of War.</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>The USS <em>Hornet</em> defeats HMS <em>Peacock</em>.</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Captain David Porter of the USS <em>Essex</em> rounds Cape Horn and sails into the Pacific to prey upon British whaling ships.</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>Oliver Hazard Perry arrives at Presque Isle, Pennsylvania, to assume responsibility for constructing a fleet on Lake Erie.</td>
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<td>March to December</td>
<td>British naval forces raid in the Chesapeake Bay region.</td>
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<td>March 30</td>
<td>British blockade extended from Long Island to the Mississippi.</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Americans occupy part of west Florida.</td>
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<td>April 15</td>
<td>Wilkinson occupies Mobile.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Americans capture York (Toronto).</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>British burn Havre de Grace.</td>
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<td>May 1 and ends on May 5</td>
<td>Siege of Fort Meigs.</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>British blockade additional middle and southern states.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>Americans capture Fort George.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>British forces repulsed at Sackett’s Harbor.</td>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>HMS Shannon defeats the USS Chesapeake.</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>Detachment of Americans defeated at Stoney Creek.</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Battle of Norfolk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Battle of Beaver Dams.</td>
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<td>June 26</td>
<td>British attack Hampton.</td>
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<td>July 27</td>
<td>Battle of Burnt Corn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Major Croghan successfully defends Fort Stephenson against British</td>
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<td>August 2</td>
<td>British attack.</td>
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<td>August 4</td>
<td>Admiral Perry gets his fleet over the bar at Presque Isle and into</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Fort Mims massacre.</td>
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<td>September 10</td>
<td>Battle of Lake Erie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Harrison lands in Canada.</td>
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<td>October 5</td>
<td>Battle of the Thames.</td>
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<td>October 16-19</td>
<td>Battle of Leipzig.</td>
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<td>October 25-26</td>
<td>Battle of Chateaugay.</td>
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<td>November 3</td>
<td>Battle of Tallushatchee.</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>Great Britain offers United States direct peace negotiations.</td>
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<td>November 9</td>
<td>Battle of Talladega.</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>Battle of Chrysler’s Farm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 16</td>
<td>British extend blockade to all middle and southern states.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Fort George evacuated and Newark burned by Americans.</td>
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<td>December 18</td>
<td>Fort Niagara occupied by British.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 19-31</td>
<td>Lewiston, Fort Schlosser, Black Rock, and Buffalo destroyed by the British.</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>Battle of Emuckfau.</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>Battle of Enolachopco.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27-28</td>
<td>Battle of Horseshoe Bend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>HMS Phoebe and HMS Cherub defeat the USS Essex.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Napoleon abdicates French throne.</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>United States repeals Embargo and Nonimportation Law.</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>HMS Orpheus defeats the USS Frolic.</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
<td>The USS Peacock defeats HMS Epervier.</td>
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<td>June 28</td>
<td>The USS Wasp II defeats HMS Reindeer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July - September</td>
<td>British occupy eastern Maine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Americans capture Fort Erie.</td>
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<td>July 5</td>
<td>Battle of Chippewa.</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>Battle of Lundy’s Lane.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>U.S. banks suspend specie payments.</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Public credit collapses in the United States.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>Peace negotiations begin in Ghent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>Great Britain outlines initial peace terms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>The Creeks sign a treaty at Fort Jackson ceding much of their land.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>Siege of Fort Erie begins and ends September 21.</td>
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<td>August 14</td>
<td>British occupy Pensacola.</td>
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<td>August 15</td>
<td>Battle of Fort Erie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>British land near Benedict, Maryland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 24</td>
<td>Battle of Bladensburg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 24-25</td>
<td>British burn Washington.</td>
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<td>August 28</td>
<td>British capture Alexandria, Virginia.</td>
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<td>August 28</td>
<td>Nantucket declares Neutrality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>General George Prevost moves south toward Plattsburgh.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>Armstrong resigns and Monroe takes over as Secretary of War.</td>
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>Battle of Plattsburgh.</td>
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<td>September 12-16</td>
<td>British repulsed at Mobile.</td>
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<td>September 12-14</td>
<td>Battle of North Point, near Baltimore.</td>
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<td>September 13-14</td>
<td>British bombard Fort McHenry, near Baltimore.</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>Francis Scott Key writes “The Star-Spangled Banner.”</td>
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<td>September 14</td>
<td>British abandon attempt to take Baltimore.</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>Americans sortie from Fort Erie.</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>British squadron captures General Armstrong.</td>
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<td>October 21</td>
<td>Great Britain offers peace on basis of uti possidetis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Americans evacuate Fort Erie.</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Jackson seizes Pensacola.</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>Jackson returns to Mobile.</td>
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<td>November 22</td>
<td>Jackson leaves for New Orleans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>British fleet sails from Jamaica for New Orleans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Great Britain drops the uti possidetis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 14</td>
<td>British overwhelm American gunboats on Lake Borgne.</td>
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<td>December 15 - January 5, 1815</td>
<td>Hartford Convention.</td>
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<td>December 15 - February 27, 1815</td>
<td>United States adopts additional internal taxes.</td>
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<td>December 23</td>
<td>British land their troops below New Orleans.</td>
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<td>December 23</td>
<td>General Andrew Jackson attacks in a surprise night battle.</td>
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<td>December 23 - January 1, 1815</td>
<td>Preliminary battles around New Orleans.</td>
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<td>December 24</td>
<td>Treaty of Ghent signed.</td>
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<td>December 28</td>
<td>United States rejects conscription proposal.</td>
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<td>January 8</td>
<td>Americans defeat British in the Battle of New Orleans.</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td>United States adopts second enemy trade law.</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>United States rejects national bank proposal.</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>Ratifications of the peace treaty exchanged and President Madison declares the end of hostilities.</td>
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Source: The War of 1812
http://www.thewarof1812.com/Warof1812Almanac/timelineofthewarof1812.htm
James Madison

At his Presidential inauguration in 1809, James Madison, a small, wizened man, appeared old and worn; Washington Irving described him as “but a withered little apple-John.” But whatever his deficiencies in charm, Madison's buxom wife Dolley compensated for them with her warmth and gaiety. She was the toast of Washington.

Born in 1751, Madison was brought up in Orange County, Virginia, and attended Princeton (then called the College of New Jersey). A student of history and government and well-read in law, he participated in the framing of the Virginia Constitution in 1776, served in the Continental Congress, and was a leader in the Virginia Assembly.

When delegates to the Constitutional Convention assembled at Philadelphia, the 36-year-old Madison took frequent and emphatic part in the debates.

Madison made a major contribution to the ratification of the Constitution by writing, with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, the Federalist Papers. In later years, when he was referred to as the “Father of the Constitution,” Madison protested that the document was not “the off-spring of a single brain,” but “the work of many heads and many hands.”

In Congress, he helped frame the Bill of Rights and enact the first revenue legislation. Out of his leadership, in opposition to Hamilton's financial proposals which he felt would unduly bestow wealth and power upon northern financiers, came the development of the Republican, or Jeffersonian, Party.

As President Jefferson's Secretary of State, Madison protested to warring France and Britain that their seizure of American ships was contrary to international law. The protests, John Randolph acidly commented, had the effect of “a shilling pamphlet hurled against eight hundred ships of war.”

Despite the unpopular Embargo Act of 1807, which did not make the belligerent nations change their ways, but did cause a depression in the southern seaboard of the United States, Madison was elected President in 1808. Before he took office the Embargo Act was repealed.

During the first year of Madison's Administration, the United States prohibited trade with both Britain and France; then in May, 1810, Congress authorized trade with both, directing the President, if either would accept America's view of neutral rights, to forbid trade with the other nation.

Napoleon pretended to comply. Late in 1810, Madison proclaimed non-intercourse with Great Britain. In Congress, a young group, including Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun, known as the “War Hawks,” pressed the President for a more militant policy.

The British impressment of American seamen and the seizure of cargoes compelled Madison to give in to the pressure. On June 1, 1812, he asked Congress to declare war.
The young nation was not prepared to fight; its forces took a severe trouncing. The British entered Washington and set fire to the White House and the Capitol.

A few notable naval and military victories, climaxed by Gen. Andrew Jackson’s triumph at New Orleans, convinced Americans that the War of 1812 had been gloriously successful. An upsurge of nationalism resulted. The New England Federalists who had opposed the war—and who had even talked secession—were so thoroughly repudiated that Federalism disappeared as a national party.

In retirement at Montpelier, his estate in Orange County, Virginia, Madison spoke out against the disruptive states’ rights influences that by the 1830s threatened to shatter the Federal Union. In a note opened after his death in 1836, he stated, “The advice nearest to my heart and deepest in my convictions is that the Union of the States be cherished and perpetuated.”

Source: The White House http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/jamesmadison
For half a century, she was the most important woman in the social circles of America. To this day, she remains one of the best known and best loved First Ladies of the White House—though often referred to, mistakenly, as Dorothy or Dorothea.

She always called herself Dolley, and by that name the New Garden Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, in Piedmont, North Carolina, recorded her birth to John and Mary Coles Payne, settlers from Virginia. In 1769, John Payne took his family back to his home colony, and in 1783, he moved them to Philadelphia, city of the Quakers. Dolley grew up in the strict discipline of the Society of Friends (Quakers), but nothing muted her happy personality and her warm heart.

John Todd, Jr., a lawyer, married Dolley in 1790. Just three years later he died in a yellow fever epidemic, leaving her with a small son.

By this time, Philadelphia had become the temporary capital of the United States. With her charm, her laughing blue eyes, fair skin, and black curls, the young widow attracted distinguished attention. Before long, Dolley reported to her best friend that “the great little Madison has asked...to see me this evening.”

Although Representative James Madison of Virginia was 17 years her senior, and Episcopalian in background, they were married in September 1794. The marriage, though childless, was notably happy; “our hearts understand each other,” she assured him. He could even be patient with Dolley’s son, Payne, who mishandled his own affairs and, eventually, mismanaged Madison’s estate.

Discarding the somber Quaker dress after her second marriage, Dolley chose the finest of fashions. Margaret Bayard Smith, chronicler of early Washington social life, wrote: “She looked a Queen...It would be absolutely impossible for anyone to behave with more perfect propriety than she did.”

Blessed with a desire to please and a willingness to be pleased, Dolley made her home the center of society when Madison began, in 1801, his eight years as Thomas Jefferson’s Secretary of State. She assisted at the White House when the president asked her help in receiving ladies, and presided at the first inaugural ball in Washington when her husband became president in 1809.

Dolley’s social graces made her famous. Her political acumen, prized by her husband, is less renowned, though her gracious tact smoothed many a quarrel. Hostile statesmen, difficult envoys from Spain or Tunisia, warrior chiefs from the west, flustered youngsters—she always welcomed everyone. Forced to flee from the White House during the War of 1812, she returned to find the mansion in ruins. Undaunted by temporary quarters, she entertained as skilfully as ever.

At their Virginia plantation, Montpelier, the Madison’s lived in pleasant retirement until he died in 1836. She returned to Washington in autumn 1837, and friends found tactful ways to supplement her diminished income. She remained in the capital until her death in 1849, honored and loved by all. The delightful personality of this unusual woman is a cherished part of her country’s history.

Source: The White House [http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/jamesmadison]
Lieutenant Colonel George Armistead (1780-1818)

On September 13-14, 1814, in the third year of the War of 1812, this Virginia-born artillery officer ordered an American flag raised over the ramparts of Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor following a 25-hour British naval bombardment. The flag itself inspired Maryland lawyer Francis Scott Key to write what would become the National Anthem on March 3, 1931.

George Armistead was born near Bowling Green in Caroline County, Virginia, on April 10, 1780, to a well-established Virginia family along the Rappahannock River. He was one of six sons and three daughters born to John and Lucinda (Baylor) Armistead.

He entered the U.S. military in 1799 and rose through the ranks, serving at Fort Niagara in New York and Fort Pickering in the Arkansas Territory. He arrived in Baltimore in January 1809 to serve as second-in-command at Fort McHenry. In Baltimore, he wedded Louisa Hughes, daughter of a wealthy Baltimore silversmith. In 1812, he returned to Fort Niagara, where on May 27, 1813, he distinguished himself during the American siege of Fort Niagara by capturing the British flags. For his gallantry, he was appointed a major in the Third Regiment U.S. Artillery. Armistead returned to Baltimore in June 1813, and remained there until his death five years later.

Armistead’s name has been immortalized in U.S. history because of one simple act. In August 1813, he ordered “a flag so large that the British would have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance.” It was this 42-feet by 30-feet, fifteen-star, fifteen-stripe flag, made by Mary Pickersgill, that gave inspiration to the defenders of Baltimore and inspired a new national song. Ever since, he has been known as the “Guardian of the Star-Spangled Banner.”

After the Battle of Baltimore, President James Madison brevetted Major Armistead to the rank of lieutenant colonel to date from September 12, 1814. Upon this promotion, Armistead remarked to his wife that “he hoped they would both live long to enjoy.” Four years later, at the age of thirty-eight, Armistead died of causes unknown, and was buried with full military honors by a grateful city at Old St. Paul’s Cemetery in Baltimore.

Two monuments honor Lieutenant Colonel George Armistead in Baltimore. The earliest, erected in 1882, stands atop historic Federal Hill overlooking Baltimore’s downtown waterfront; the other, at Fort McHenry, was dedicated during the Battle for Baltimore Centennial Celebration in September 1914.

Scott S. Sheads
Fort McHenry

Source: Maryland Encyclopedia Online  http://www.mdoe.org/armistead.html
The Defenders

The 1,000 men who defended Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore were members of three fighting units. The first group were members of the U.S. Army “Corps of Artillery.” These men lived at Fort McHenry and were paid eight dollars a month for their services. The “Corps of Artillery” uniform consisted of a dark blue jacket called a “coat.” It had a high red collar trimmed with yellow and a single row of brass buttons down the front. In addition, the men were given a linen shirt, one pair of white summer trousers, and one pair of blue wool trousers. A stiff felt hat, called a “shako,” protected the soldier’s head, much as a helmet would.

Another group of defenders was the “Maryland Militia,” private citizens who felt it necessary to aid in the defense of the city. Militiamen were volunteers who were not paid until April 1813, when the militia was federalized for 30 days and released. From early August through September 20, 1814, the militia was given rations. These men came from all walks of life: bakers, tailors, shipbuilders, merchants, bankers, and lawyers. The uniform was a blue wool jacket with a red collar and cuffs, a white linen shirt, and white trousers. Militiamen wore large, black felt hats, trimmed in yellow and adorned with a large red feather.

The third group were sailors from Commodore Joshua Barney’s Chesapeake Flotilla, which formed in 1813 to provide naval protection for the Chesapeake Bay. Sailors did not have a regular uniform. Sometimes, the ship's captain would decide what the crew would wear. It is likely, however, that many sailors wore blue wool jackets and vests. Their trousers, usually white, but sometimes blue striped, may have been made from linen or heavy canvas. Sailors wore hats that had been waterproofed with “tar” to protect the hat while at sea.

In spite of their different uniforms, the three groups of men had one thing in common—the protection of Baltimore from destruction. The bravery of these men and their skill in operating the cannons helped defend Baltimore. Cannon firing was a difficult and dangerous job. Artillery soldiers drilled long and hard, until they could load and fire the guns four times in one minute. There was always the possibility that a cannon might explode, killing the crew members. Often, men lost their hearing from the frequent, loud cannon blasts.

Source: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
http://www.nps.gov/archive/fomc/tguide/Lesson5.htm
A Black Soldier Defends Fort McHenry

William Williams is listed with the names of other recruits on the muster roll of the 38th U.S. Infantry, and should not warrant a second glance. But this recruit is different. Williams was a 21-year-old runaway slave laborer.

No. 203 William Williams

William Williams, alias “Frederick Hall,” ran away from his owner, Benjamin Oden of Prince George's County, Maryland, in the spring of 1814. On April 14, Williams enlisted as a private in the 38th U.S. Infantry. Federal law at the time prohibited the enlistment of slaves into the army because they “could make no valid contract with the government.”

The officer who enlisted Williams did not question him. A reward notice, by his owner, described Williams as “a bright mulatto… and so fair as to show freckles.” Nevertheless, Williams received his enlistment bounty, and was paid a private's wage of eight dollars per month, to serve five years or the duration of the war.

In early September 1814, the 38th U.S. Infantry was ordered to Fort McHenry where, during the bombardment, Williams was severely wounded, having his “leg blown off by a cannon ball,” and died two months later. Williams was not the only person of color to serve in the War of 1812. There are numerous documented records of others at Baltimore.

Michael Buzzard served at Fort McHenry in the U.S. Corps of Artillery.

George Roberts, a free black, served aboard the private armed schooners USS Sarah Ann (1813) and USS Chasseur (1814).

Charles Ball served as an ordinary sailor aboard Commodore Joshua Barney's Chesapeake Flotilla, as did flotilla cook Caesar Wentworth.

Gabriel Roulson served as an ordinary sailor aboard the sloop of war, USS Ontario. Many other skilled free blacks, such as John Allines and James Ambly, worked as naval mechanics in the Baltimore naval yards building ships and helped build the city’s defenses.

All Marylanders can take pride in the contribution of Williams, and others whose names may be lost to history, but who fought beside their neighbors, friends and owners to help save Baltimore during its time of crisis during the War of 1812.

Resources


Prepared by Scott Sheads and Nancy Bramucci, 03/02/08

Source: Maryland State Archives
Mary Pickersgill (1776-1857)

Mary Young Pickersgill was born in 1776, in Philadelphia. In 1807, Mary and her mother moved to a corner rowhouse on Albemarle Street in Baltimore, Maryland. Mary worked as a “flag, banner, and pennant maker.” She made flags for local ship owners.

Mary Pickersgill made the Flag for Fort McHenry in 1813. Following the wishes of the Fort’s Commander, Major George Armistead, the Flag was made “so large that the British will have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance.” The Flag was 30-feet by 42-feet. It contained 400 yards of bunting, and was so big that it had to be assembled in a nearby malt-house.

It was delivered to Fort McHenry on August 19, 1813. The night of the Battle of Baltimore was a stormy one, with rain showers and low clouds. The Flag flown at Fort McHenry that night was a smaller storm flag. The Flag that Francis Scott Key saw at dawn, from the prisoner-of-war exchange sloop moored eight miles southeastward of the Fort, was the large Flag made by Mary Pickersgill. It was raised at the Fort in the morning, as the British were retreating. A replica of Mary Pickersgill’s Flag flies over the Fort periodically.

Mary Young Pickersgill’s home is a National Historic Landmark, and is known as “the Flag House.” People interested in learning more about the making of “The Star-Spangled Banner” are welcome to visit.

The original Flag is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Mary Young Pickersgill continued a family tradition. Her mother, Rebecca Flower Young, made the first American Flag displayed by General George Washington. Mother and daughter are both remembered for their patriotism, and their skills in creating important symbols of the United States.
Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)

Poet, lawyer, district attorney, ardent Episcopalian, and anti-slavery advocate, Francis Scott Key is remembered as the author of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the National Anthem of the United States. Key was a descendant of the Maryland Federalist elite of the colonial period, and moved in elevated political circles for most of his life. During the War of 1812, Key suffered the rigors of battle first-hand as a member of the District of Columbia militia, and there found inspiration for his famous work. Key was successful in the legal field, arguing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and was appointed, three times, U.S. district attorney for the District of Columbia.

Family History

Francis Scott Key was born on August 1, 1779 in Frederick County, Maryland to John Ross Key (1754-1821) and Anne Phoebe Penn Dagworthy Charlton (1756-1830). His father was a successful planter, who served under George Washington in the Revolutionary War. Key was much impressed by General Washington, who visited his father’s estate to acknowledge and thank veterans from Frederick County. He spent much of his youth living with relatives and attending school and college in Annapolis. Key graduated from St. John's College and began to practice law in Frederick in 1801. During school, Key became life-long friends with one of his fellow students, Roger Brooke Taney, future chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who later married Key’s only sister, Anne Phoebe Charlton Key (1783-1855).

While in Annapolis, he fell in love with one of the belles of the town, Mary Tayloe Lloyd. She was the granddaughter of Edward Lloyd, royal governor of the Maryland colony in the 1720’s and sister to Edward Lloyd V, 13th governor of the Maryland colony. The two were married in Annapolis on January 9, 1802. Together, they had 11 children.

The Key family soon moved to Georgetown where Francis Scott Key began a law practice with his uncle, Philip Barton Key. Despite having fought for the British during the American Revolutionary War, Philip Barton Key was a successful politician and served in the U.S. House of Representatives. With his uncle’s connections, Francis Scott Key soon established a successful legal practice. Under Presidents Jackson and Van Buren, he served as U.S. district attorney for the District of Columbia from 1833 to 1841.

War of 1812

As a committed Federalist, Key opposed the War of 1812 against Great Britain, and thought the invasion of Canada was a foolhardy venture. When the British Navy brought the war to the Chesapeake region with attacks across tidewater Maryland, Key joined the District of Columbia volunteer militia. His unit was a “flying battery” of horse-drawn artillery commanded by veteran officer Major George Peter of Georgetown. The artillery was mustered to defend the Capitol from July 15 to July 26 in response to a British foray up the Potomac River. Along with Key, the unit boasted many notables from Georgetown, including financier George Peabody. In 1814, Key served again from June 19 to July 1 defending the Patuxent River following the first Battle of St. Leonard’s Creek, and supporting Commodore Joshua Barney’s flotilla.
The role Key played in the Battle of Bladensburg remains controversial, but it is clear that he was not mustered into his unit, and was acting in a semi-official capacity. There is evidence to support the contention that he was an aide-de-camp of General Walter Smith, the newly promoted head of the militia. Key witnessed the destruction of the Capitol and other federal buildings from the heights above Georgetown, and returned home after the British withdrawal on August 25, 1814. Key most likely was involved with the subsequent building of defensive works in response to the arrival of the British fleet at Alexandria, within sight of his home in Georgetown. No sooner had this threat sailed off down the Potomac than he was enlisted to undertake a mission to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes, taken prisoner by the British army. Key met with British officers to help secure the release of Dr. Beanes, and witnessed the combined land and sea assault on the city of Baltimore. To celebrate the successful defense of Fort McHenry, he wrote words that would be remembered as “The Star-Spangled Banner” and become the National Anthem of his country.

Poetry
Francis Scott Key was an amateur poet, and his works were published by his grandson after his death. The popularity of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” in combination with his reputation as an orator, brought him many requests to speak publicly after the war. He was also asked to write the epitaphs for a number of grave markers—a lasting tribute to his poetic ability.

Slavery
As a slave owner, and an advocate for a solution to slavery, Key was in the middle of a contentious issue during a period of re-evaluating the benefits and costs of human bondage. As a lawyer, Key was involved in a number of slave cases on both sides of the issue. He represented slave owners in their battles over property rights and also advocated, without pay, for free blacks who were unjustly being sold back into slavery. Key joined the growing colonization movement that sought to establish African colonies where American slaves and free blacks could form an enlightened black republic. In December 1816, Key was on the committee that wrote the constitution of the American Colonization Society, and later became a member of its board of managers. In early 1819, Key was chosen as one of thirteen collections agents who were tasked with trying to raise money to pay for the cost of starting the colony. Key called it “the begging business,” and solicited money as a part of his travels. He remained involved in the colonization society for more than 25 years, advocating for the development of Africa, the suppression of the slave trade, and the use of American military resources to protect the new black colonies. Despite his advocacy for the colonization movement, he opposed abolitionists, and as the U.S. district attorney of Washington, D.C., went so far as to prosecute an abolitionist “agitator.” Nonetheless, he emancipated his own slaves and maintained his free black servant, Clem, his entire life.

While visiting his daughter Elizabeth in Baltimore, Francis Scott Key fell ill with a cold, and died of pleurisy, complicated by pneumonia, at her Mount Vernon Place home on January 11, 1843. He is remembered with four national monuments.

Peter Hansell

Source: Maryland Encyclopedia Online http://www.mdoe.org/armistead.html
Francis Scott Key and The Star-Spangled Banner

The Battle of Baltimore was one of many American victories in the War of 1812. It was made special by the words written about the battle, the Flag, and the feelings of people about the victory. The author was Francis Scott Key.

Francis Scott Key was born in 1779 in Frederick County, Maryland. After attending college in Annapolis, he practiced law in Georgetown. During the War of 1812, Key was a lieutenant and quartermaster in an army field company.

In September 1814, Key was approached by friends with a special problem. A Maryland doctor had been unjustly arrested by the British, and Key was asked to arrange for the doctor’s release. With the permission of President Madison, Key sailed towards the British fleet, where the doctor was being held prisoner.

Key boarded the British warship in the Chesapeake Bay, and persuaded the British to release the doctor. Since the Americans might give information about British movements towards Baltimore, they were ordered to remain with the fleet until the Battle of Baltimore was over. Francis Scott Key watched the attack on Fort McHenry with the British!

After the battle on the morning of September 14, Key saw the Fort's Flag over the battered Fort. He began to write the words for “The Star-Spangled Banner” on the back of an envelope. He jotted down notes aboard the ship, and finished them a few days later when he returned to Baltimore.

The words were set to a well-known English tune, printed on handbills, which were like posters, and became very popular in Baltimore. Within months, the song appeared in newspapers, magazines, and books. During the Civil War, “The Star-Spangled Banner” became the most popular national song. It was used by both Northern and Southern forces, and was frequently used as an “unofficial” anthem during military ceremonies.

During World War I, a campaign was begun to make “The Star-Spangled Banner” our National Anthem. It was not easy to win Congressional approval. Many people thought that “America the Beautiful” or “Yankee Doodle Dandy” were better choices. The supporters of “The Star-Spangled Banner” worked hard, and on March 3, 1931, they finally won. On that day, President Herbert Hoover signed Public Law 823, designating “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the National Anthem of the United States.

Source – the 3rd Grade Resource Guide The American Flag Foundation, Inc. www.americanflagfoundation.org
Privateers

Privateering developed when the need arose in a self-governing state for a naval force to supplement a small national navy. Governments licensed privately owned vessels (called privateers), crewed by private citizens to prey upon the enemy’s merchant fleet. Without the official license, called Letters of Marque and Reprisal, the privately-owned vessel was considered to be a pirate. The first letters of Marque and Reprisal were issued by Mediterranean nations as early as the 12th century. In English history, Sir Francis Drake is probably the most famous privateer.

Privateering Technique

The objective of the commander (also called a privateer) was his enemy’s merchant fleet. Because the only way for ship owners to gain a profit, or for masters and crews to be paid, was through the capture and sale of enemy ships and their cargo, there was no point in a privateer confronting any enemy cruiser (such as ships of war). The tactic of the privateer captain was to overtake a merchantman, fire off a broadside, and then attempt to board the enemy vessel, thus capturing both the ship and its cargo. If this maneuver was successful, the enemy crew (except for perhaps the captain and several crew members) was transferred aboard the privateer itself. The privateer commander would then place a prize master and skeleton crew aboard the prize, so that the prize might be sailed to a friendly port. This was the financial risk in privateering: If the prize (cargo) did not reach port for one reason or another, it could not be sold and no profit could be realized. Compounding this problem during the American Revolution and the War of 1812, was the fact that the British blockaded the major American ports. A prize master had to run this blockade in order to bring his prize safely to port.

Privateering: For Country and Profit

Upon arrival at a port in the privateer’s country, the prize vessel and its cargo were immediately turned over to a representative of the local naval court. Next, a representative of the owners, known as the prize agent, would file a libel against the prize vessel and its cargo. The court would then examine the captured ship’s papers and crew to determine if the ship and its cargo were enemy property. If the court found in favor of the privateer, the court would condemn the prize vessel and its cargo. The court would then sell the vessel and its cargo at public auction. After the deduction of governmental fees and taxes, the net profits from the sale were split, half going to the owners of the privateer and half to the privateer’s officers and crew on a shares basis, which had been determined before the vessel’s cruise had begun.

Privateering during the Revolutionary War

Between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, Baltimore, and especially the Fell’s Point section of the city, was the fastest growing port in the United States. The merchants, ship owners, and captains developed a thriving trade with the Caribbean islands. The knowledge of this area made British merchant vessels easy prey for Baltimore privateers. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the government of Maryland issued Letters of Marque and Reprisal. This function was quickly taken over...
by the Continental Congress. Although records are limited, it appears that about 225 privateer licenses were issued to vessels registered in Maryland. One of the earliest and most successful of Baltimore’s Revolutionary privateers was the schooner USS Harlequin, captained by William Woolsey.

Baltimore’s most famous privateer during the Revolutionary War was Commodore Joshua Barney of Bear Creek in Baltimore County. Barney served on both privateers and Continental Navy vessels during the Revolution. In April 1782, when in command of the privateer sloop USS Hyder Ally, Barney engaged and defeated sloop of war HMS General Monk at the mouth of Delaware Bay.

**Privateers and the War of 1812**

With the outbreak of the War of 1812 in the summer of that year, Baltimore and Fell’s Point merchants again sought Letters of Marque and Reprisal in order to attack British merchant shipping for both national pride and personal gain. Estimates suggest that over 500 privateers were commissioned during the War of 1812, of which at least 122 were commissioned in Baltimore. Fifty-five Baltimore vessels were lost to the British Navy or to the sea. The 250 private armed vessels of the United States captured between 1,300 and 2,500 British ships. Of this total, Baltimore privateers captured 556 British ships, of which 169 finally made it to port for adjudication.

Just how did the business of privateering affect the citizens of Baltimore? In 1812, Baltimore’s population was 55,000. Between 4,250 and 7,500 individuals were directly connected with privateering. These individuals ran the gamut, from the great merchants who purchased the shares to build and outfit the schooners, to the newspapers who printed the advertisements of the sale of captured goods. With the Chesapeake Bay blockaded from early 1813, it was the money brought into Baltimore from the sale of captured vessels and cargoes that kept the merchant houses from financial ruin, and thereby kept the city from ruin.
The first privateer to sail from Baltimore in 1812 was the USS Rossie, commanded by Joshua Barney, who would make two successful cruises before joining the U.S. Navy to command the Chesapeake Flotilla. The most famous of all the War of 1812 privateers was Captain Thomas Boyle of Fell's Point. Boyle would make three successful cruises in the schooner USS Comet, and then enter into his most famous privateering escapades aboard the schooner USS Chasseur.

While in command of USS Chasseur, Boyle sailed to the shores of Great Britain and announced a one-ship blockade of the British coasts. Boyle was so successful that the proud citizens of Baltimore began calling USS Chasseur “the pride of Baltimore.” Privateers, like Boyle and Barney, all preferred to sail a vessel called the Baltimore clipper schooner. Barney’s USS Rossie and Boyle’s USS Comet and USS Chasseur were all built in Fell’s Point by shipwright Thomas Kemp. On USS Chasseur’s triumphal return to Baltimore on March 25, 1815, the Niles Weekly Register dubbed the ship, its captain, and its crew the “pride of Baltimore” for their daring exploits.

With the end of the War of 1812, the Baltimore privateer captains found returning to regular merchant service rather unrewarding. Their services soon found a demand with the Spanish colonies in Mexico, Central America, and South America that were seeking independence from Spain. About three dozen Baltimore captains eventually sailed for the colonies, through 1821. The most famous of these was Captain John Daniel Daniels, well-known for commanding a few Baltimore ships and as a hero of the Columbian navy in 1818.

Privateering eventually died out as nations increased the sizes of their regular navies. In 1856, the maritime nations of the world signed the Declaration of Paris that outlawed privateering. Three nations—Mexico, Spain, and the United States—did not sign.

Fred Hopkins
Linthicum Heights, Md.

Resources
Pride of Baltimore II, website

Source: Maryland Encyclopedia Online http://www.mdoe.org/armistead.html
Joshua Barney

Joshua Barney's life paralleled that of the emerging United States. He embraced the revolutionary cause at an early age, and interspersed commercial and maritime pursuits with service to his country, culminating in his volunteering during the War of 1812. A proliferation of periodicals during and after that war attests to the new nation's desire to extol its heroes, and Joshua Barney was just one among a pantheon.

Early Years

A seafaring life began early for Barney, who at 11 joined the crew of a Baltimore pilot boat. By 16, he distinguished himself by assuming command of a merchant vessel whose captain, Barney's brother-in-law, died during an Atlantic crossing. The nautical skills and commercial acumen Barney developed just prior to the American Revolution were redirected to serving his country.

As an officer in both the Continental and Pennsylvania State navies, Barney engaged the British in numerous battles, was captured three times, and successfully implemented a daring escape from Mill Prison in England. Employing several disguises, he returned to America, whereupon the state of Pennsylvania appointed him to command the USS Hyder Ally. While conveying merchant vessels in Delaware Bay, Barney engaged the superior HMS General Monk and succeeded through skillful naval tactics and a ruse to capture this British ship. Barney's wartime exploits established his place in the pantheon of American heroes.

Post Revolutionary Period

Barney's post revolutionary years reflected his peripatetic lifestyle. He undertook various business ventures, engaged in partisan politics as a Federalist supporter, and in 1794, almost joined the ranks of the fledgling republic's first naval officers, until a perceived slight forced him to decline an appointment. Returning to merchant service briefly, Barney soon succumbed to the lure of naval life, but this time as a commodore in the navy of the French Republic. No doubt, animosity toward his former British captors enticed Barney to serve with the French.

War of 1812

After serving in the French navy for several years, Barney returned to Baltimore in 1802 and continued a business career while dabbling unsuccessfully in politics. When war broke out with the British in June 1812, Barney chose privateering rather than naval service. His success at commerce-raiding was spectacular—capturing, during a 90-day cruise, some 18 vessels valued at $1.5 million. Why then did Barney, two days before his 54th birthday, propose a plan to defend the Chesapeake Bay against an anticipated British invasion, and offer to create and command a flotilla of barges and gunboats to serve as the core of that defense? Perhaps Barney was a true nationalist whose disaffection with the British, beginning during the American Revolution when he suffered three stints of British captivity, was never forgotten.

After spending nine months superintending the construction, purchase, manning, and outfitting of a
squadron of barges, Barney was ready by April 1814 to face the British forces in the Chesapeake. A far superior British force eventually blockaded and destroyed the Chesapeake flotilla. But Barney’s loss of his vessels did not deter him from continuing to serve his country. As the British invaders marched toward Washington in late August 1814, the American forces hastily chose Bladensburg, Maryland as the place to confront them. Although the seasoned British regulars eventually overwhelmed the Americans, it was the contingent of flotilla-men and marines under Joshua Barney’s command who stood longer than the American regulars and militia.

Barney’s steadfast courage during the War of 1812 assured his continuing place as an American hero. Several engravings of Barney attest to his continued fame during the 1800s.


Source: Joshua Barney’s Chesapeake Bay Flotilla http://mason.gmu.edu/~chughes3/images1.html
The art of war is the same throughout; and may be illustrated as readily, though less conspicuously, by a flotilla as by an armada. - Alfred Thayer Mahan

Maritime issues of neutral shipping rights, and the impressment of American seamen divided Britain and the United States during the first decade of the 1800's and, eventually, led to war in June 1812.

The Chesapeake Bay's trade and commerce, and its proximity to the U.S. capital, attracted the interest of British war planners. By March 1813, the British Admiralty had sufficient resources to send a squadron of ships, under Rear Admiral George Cockburn, to blockade the mouth of the bay, and to raid the coastal ports and towns. From April to September 1813, the British Navy had free reign throughout the bay from Havre de Grace in the north to Norfolk in the south.

Except for the successful defense of Craney Island at Hampton Roads, Virginia, the Americans experienced hit-and-run raiding by British seamen and marines who formed amphibious landing parties to steal and destroy tobacco, grain, and livestock along the shoreline of the bay. Respite came only in September, when the bulk of the squadron sailed to Bermuda to refit and replenish. Admiral Cockburn left behind a small force to maintain the blockade of the mouth of the bay.

On July 4, 1813, Joshua Barney, an American Revolutionary War naval hero, proposed a plan to the U.S. Navy to build, purchase, outfit, man, and command a flying squadron of 20 barges to defend the Chesapeake Bay from further British incursions. While this flotilla's engagements at Cedar Point and St. Leonard's Creek during June 1814 did not stop the invading forces, their battles did divert British resources and bought some extra time for Washington and Baltimore to bolster their defenses. Faced with imminent capture, the flotilla-men scuttled their vessels at Pig Point, Maryland in August 1814, but valiantly joined the militia at Bladensburg in an unsuccessful last ditch effort to save Washington from capture.

Source: Joshua Barney's Chesapeake Bay Flotilla [http://mason.gmu.edu/~chughes3/projecthome.html]
Samuel Smith (1752-1839)

At the onset of the War of 1812, Samuel Smith began repairs on Fort McHenry, instituted regular militia drills, and built fortifications. British Admiral George Cockburn blockaded the Chesapeake Bay in early 1813, giving increasing importance to Smith's defensive preparations. Smith established a system of coast watchers and scouts and began a successful search for large cannon.

In April 1813, Cockburn arrived in the Chesapeake Bay causing an initial flurry of mobilization, but it soon became clear he did not possess the strength to do more than scare Marylanders. However, the following summer brought a British offensive under Admiral Alexander Cochrane and General Robert Ross aimed at the Chesapeake Bay. These forces landed in Maryland, routed U.S. forces at the Battle of Bladensburg on August 24, 1814, and burned Washington, D.C. The British command then decided to take Baltimore. Samuel Smith, receiving word of the British presence, immediately began preparations, mobilized the militia of Baltimore, defeated a challenge, and ordered additional fortifications built. By early September, Smith had 15,000 men under his command.

The British, led by Ross (until his death), landed on North Point on September 12, 1814 with 4,000 soldiers and encountered a delaying force led by Brigadier General John Stricker. Stricker retreated to Hampstead Hill, a fortified position east of Baltimore, where Smith had stationed thousands of militiamen. Smith foiled a flanking maneuver and then positioned his troops so that a British frontal assault would be exposed to crossfire. Convinced the position was too strong to take, the British retreated on September 14.

At the same time, the British Navy attempted to bombard Fort McHenry, which, if silenced, would allow the British to destroy Smith's line at Hampstead Hill. Cochrane bombarded the fort throughout the day on September 13, but the fort and its covering forts (Covington and Babcock) proved too strong. The following day, Cochrane rejoined the troop transports holding the unsuccessful British army and left for the West Indies.

Although bravery and initiative in the defense of Baltimore were widespread, most of the credit for its successful stand must go to Smith, whose preparations, determination, and direction caused Baltimore to be too formidable an obstacle to the British.


Related sites:
Maryland Historical Society  http://www.mdhs.org/
Patterson Park  http://www.pattersonpark.com/
Westminster Hall and Burying Ground  http://www.westminsterhall.org/

Source: Star-Spangled 200  http://starspangled200.org/History/Pages/Smith.aspx
The Battle of Bladensburg

In July 1814, after the British fleet had been in control of the Chesapeake Bay for more than a year, a separate military command was created under Brigadier General William Winder, for the defense of Washington, Maryland, and eastern Virginia. General John Armstrong, the Secretary of War, thought this was more than enough to protect the capital.

On August 20, 1814, over 4,500 seasoned British troops landed at the little town of Benedict on the Patuxent River and marched fifty miles overland bent on destroying the Capitol and other federal buildings.

President James Madison sent Secretary of State James Monroe out to reconnoiter, and on August 23rd, Madison received a frightening dispatch from Monroe...

“The enemy are in full march to Washington, Have the materials prepared to destroy the bridges, PS - You had better remove the records.”

To the later regrets of President Madison and his advisers, Monroe’s reports were ignored. Incorrect deductions were drawn on the fact that the British troops maneuvered to give the Americans the impression that Baltimore was their destination, and General Armstrong could not be convinced that Washington would be the target of the invasion and not Baltimore, an important center of commerce. As a precaution, two bridges across the Anacostia River were destroyed to protect the capital, thus leaving a route through Bladensburg as the logical approach. General Winder sent troops to Marlborough to intercept the British, but they hurried back when they learned the enemy was already entering Bladensburg. Finally, several regiments of the Maryland Militia were called from Baltimore to defend the capital.

The strongest repulse against the British was made by Commodore Joshua Barney and his almost 600 seasoned Marines and sailors. They were valiant fighters, however, the authorities in Washington did not alert Barney for several days. Without orders, they were tardy arrivals on the field of contest. Had they been supplied with sufficient ammunition and supporting infantry, the course of the battle could have been changed.

Even though the Americans numbered about 7,000, they were poorly trained, equipped and deployed. The determined sweep of the British was so strong that a general rout began, which swept the defenders back to Washington. By four o’clock, the battle was over and the Americans were defeated.

The British then moved on toward the capital. By the end of the same day, the Capitol building, the President’s Mansion and many other public buildings were in flames. The following day, more buildings were burned. At about noon, a tremendous storm of hurricane force descended upon the city halting further destruction.
Battle of North Point (September 12-14, 1814)

After the invasion and burning of Washington, D.C. in August 1814, Rear Admiral George Cockburn reloaded the British troops of Major General Robert Ross, to prepare for seizing Baltimore, a chief privateering nest in the United States. The location of Baltimore made it necessary to defend the city from both land and sea attack. Major General Samuel Smith was placed at the head of the city’s defenses. The Baltimore harbor defenses rested on Fort McHenry. On September 11, 1814, the British fleet appeared off North Point in Baltimore County. The British strategy was to approach the city from North Point and enter Baltimore by way of Hampstead Hill, now known as Baltimore’s Patterson Park. The attacks by land and water would be simultaneous.

Smith ordered General John Stricker’s Third Brigade, of about 3,200 militia, down the North Point Road to the narrow neck of the peninsula. A stronger fortified line ran along Hampstead Hill. Stricker intended to execute a delaying action along North Point Road before withdrawing into Hampstead Hill’s fortifications.

On the morning of September 12, Major General Ross’ troops advanced slowly yet confidently up North Point Road. Ross predicted that the American militia would run when fired upon, and initially they did pull back. However, significantly, a major casualty was General Ross. Legend has it that two sharpshooters, Daniel Wells and Henry McComas, made Ross their target. Whether they actually fired the shots will never be known. The boys fell almost immediately to British bullets. A monument immortalizes their valor. Carried to the rear, Ross died a few hours later.

The British forces advanced and, that afternoon, Colonel Arthur Brooke, Ross’ second in command, charged. The center and right wing of Stricker’s line held before retreating to the reserve units a mile behind the lines. Stricker then moved his forces to the fortification on Hampstead Hill to reorganize.

Colonel Brooke, lacking confidence in his new position, halted his troops. The British fleet, commanded by Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane, maneuvered into the Patapsco River in preparation for the attack on Fort McHenry. While the fleet fired on Fort McHenry during the day, Colonel Brooke prepared for a night assault on Hampstead Hill. Brooke was again certain that the militia would flee. Later that night, he cancelled the plan upon seeing the fortification. Admiral Cockrane’s fleet would need to subdue Fort McHenry before they could help the land forces take the Hill. The tactic failed. The dawn of September 14, immortalized in the National Anthem, showed the success of the American defense. September 12 continues to be celebrated as a Maryland legal holiday, Defender’s Day. An annual reenactment of the battle takes place at Fort Howard Park in Edgemere, Maryland.
Francis Scott Key and the National Anthem

During the British return through Upper Marlboro after the occupation of Washington, a few deserters began plundering nearby farms. Dr. William Beanes and other American civilians seized six or seven of the deserters and confined them to a local jail. When one escaped and informed his superiors of the arrest, a contingent of British marines returned to Upper Marlboro and arrested Dr. Beanes and the others. They held them in exchange for the release of the British prisoners, threatening to burn the town if they did not comply. The Americans released their prisoners, and the Americans being held were subsequently released, except for Beanes, who the British officers considered the instigator of the incident. He was placed in confinement aboard the HMS Tonnant.

Francis Scott Key, U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, was urged to seek Beanes’ release, since his detention was a violation of the existing rules of war.

Francis Scott Key and the U.S. Agent for Exchange of Prisoners, John Stuart Skinner, set sail on a truce ship in September 1814 to meet the British fleet, and boarded the HMS Tonnant under a flag of truce. They showed the British letters that were left behind, written by their own wounded soldiers after the Battle of Bladensburg, giving testimony to the kindness and treatment given them by U.S. hands. This so moved British General Ross, who had ordered Beane’s arrest, he suggested to Admiral Cochrane that Beanes be released after the planned attack on Baltimore.

Beanes and Key became witnesses to the bombardment of Fort McHenry from onboard the truce vessel. Key was so moved by the scene that he composed new lyrics to the popular tune To Anacreon in Heaven by John Stafford Smith. This British melody had become extremely well-known in America, and Key had previously written lyrics to it in 1805. Key, Beanes and the other Americans were released as the British withdrew down the Patapsco. That night, Key refined his lyrics to reflect the impressive display of courage unfolding before his eyes. Handbills were quickly printed, naming the called-for melody, but not Key by name. The first newspaper to print Key’s lyrics was The Baltimore Patriot and Evening Advertiser on September 20 with the title The Defence of Fort M’Henry. By the end of the year, the song had been reprinted across the country in handbills, newspapers and sheet music form as a reminder of the American victory. Renamed The Star-Spangled Banner in October 1814, the new version would become the National Anthem through an act of Congress in 1931.
The Chesapeake Region of 1812

Examining the economic and political significance of the Chesapeake region is an important complement to exploring the military events of the Chesapeake Campaign. Prior to the British blockades of 1813, the Chesapeake Bay played a pivotal role in international trade, maritime-related commerce, shipbuilding and government, much as it does today. In addition, the excellent soil, favorable climate, and extensive network of navigable waters provided a strong foundation for a thriving agricultural and slave economy. Because of the region’s prominence, it was selected for the nation’s capital, which was relocated to Washington, D.C. in 1800. It’s clear why the Chesapeake region was viewed by the British as the central hub of decision-making, political power, and hostility, making it a strategic target.

The War of 1812 became the first time the U.S. Congress authorized enlisting African-Americans in the Navy. Free blacks established themselves in the Baltimore area, and enslaved Africans were often brought there in exchange for tobacco. They played a significant role in the War. With a growing population in general, and the second largest population of African-Americans in the country, Maryland found itself torn between the slave-based economy and the free states to the north. The British recognized this vulnerability and took advantage of it during the Chesapeake Campaign. The British liberated 4,000 slaves and used several hundred in their forces to create a special unit known as the Colonial Marines. Others were taken to freedom in Canada and the West Indies.

The growing city of Baltimore, with its versatile deep-water port, also developed an international reputation as a “nest of pirates.” Ship captains based in Fell’s Point operated privateers or private vessels licensed by the government under a “Letter of Marque” to attack enemy ships, including the British. Many privateers were built in Baltimore shipyards, such as Fell’s Point, and because of their significant presence, the British viewed them - and the city - as a military and commercial threat.

Forging a National Identity

With their independence secured following the Revolutionary War 30 years earlier, Americans in 1812 were still forging a national identity. The War of 1812, and particularly the Americans’ success in the final months of the Chesapeake Campaign, had lasting cultural impacts on the young nation. The events of 1814 gave many citizens a reason to pause and consider what it meant to be American. They took great pride in their victory at the Battle of Baltimore, which dramatically helped unite them as a nation and secured America’s place on the world stage.

The Star-Spangled Banner became a cherished symbol, around which citizens could rally. The survival and hoisting of the Star-Spangled Banner after the bombardment of Fort McHenry inspired a special reverence for the Flag as a national icon.

Though it would take almost 120 years for the song to officially become our National Anthem, Francis Scott Key’s new lyrics quickly gained popularity and were recognized by the Navy for official use in 1889, and by the President in 1916. Through a tenacious grassroots effort, the official designation of the Star-Spangled Banner as the National Anthem of the United States was signed into law on March 3, 1931.
Protecting Baltimore from Hampstead Hill

Patterson Park is one of the oldest parks in Baltimore, spanning 300 years of the city’s spirited history. The first known resident of what is now Patterson Park was Quinton Parker, in 1669. At that time, it was possible to navigate a small boat up Harris Creek from the Patapsco River right into Patterson Park. In 1708, the land was conveyed to Nicholas Rogers, and in 1792, William Patterson purchased the 200-acre Harris Creek Rogers estate at auction for $8,500.

On Hampstead Hill, the ridge where the pagoda now stands, Baltimoreans rallied on September 12, 1814 to protect the city from the threat of a British invasion. By water, British troops entered the Patapsco River and bombarded Fort McHenry. By land, they amassed forces at North Point. As they marched on to Baltimore and looked up to Hampstead Hill, they saw Rodger's Bastion – including 100 cannons and 20,000 troops. This sight led the British to return to their ships and leave the Baltimore area.

With its historic significance and fine view of the harbor, the area became a popular place for citizens to stroll and picnic. In 1827, in an effort to re-create the public walks that he had seen in Europe, William Patterson offered the mayor of Baltimore six acres of land on the hill. In 1850, the city purchased another 29 acres from Patterson's heirs and on the evening of July 13, 1853, 20,000 citizens witnessed the park's formal introduction as a public space.

Eventually, the city purchased an additional 30 acres of land and began planning for park structures fashioned after those in Central Park. However, on the eve of the Civil War in 1861, all parks and open spaces were earmarked for troop occupation. Camp Washburn was established on Hampstead Hill and later a hospital, Camp Patterson Park, was set up. Once again, Hampstead Hill was a strategic military lookout and fortification.

When the hospital was dismantled in 1864, the park was in deplorable condition. George A. Frederick was hired to build structural elements within the park, enhancing the park's beauty by introducing the Victorian character that remains today.

The pagoda, originally known as the observation tower, was designed in 1890 by Superintendent of Parks Charles H. Latrobe. In 1905, Baltimore enlisted the help of the famous Olmsted Brothers, who created plans for a recreational design for the eastern section of the park, believing that only through its use, would the park remain healthy and vital. Public pools, sports fields, and playgrounds became more important to a growing urban population.

Source: Friends of Patterson Park http://pattersonpark.com/history-nature/general-history/
The Battle for Baltimore

As events unfolded in Bladensburg and Washington, Baltimore’s citizens, including free blacks, worked feverishly to establish defenses in Baltimore. More than a mile of earthworks stretched north from the harbor to protect the approach from the bay. Hulls were sunk as barriers to navigation: a chain of masts extended across the primary entry to the harbor area. Fort McHenry, the star-shaped fort that protected the water approach to Baltimore, was seen as the cornerstone of the American defense.

On September 12, Baltimore citizens observed, in terror, as the British fleet approached the city at North Point, near the mouth of the Patapsco River. About 4,500 British troops landed, and began their 11-mile march to Baltimore. As the troops marched, the British warships moved up the Patapsco River toward Fort McHenry and the other defenses around the harbor. The ships opened a 25-hour bombardment of the fort, but failed to force its commander, Major George Armistead, and the other defenders to surrender. As the British fleet withdrew down the Patapsco, the garrison Flag, now known as the Star-Spangled Banner, was raised over Fort McHenry, replacing the smaller storm Flag that flew during the bombardment.

On land, during a skirmish referred to as the Battle of North Point, there were heavy British casualties, including Major General Robert Ross. The British troops reached Baltimore’s impressive defensive earthworks, manned by 15,000 Americans. Hearing of their navy’s failure to take Fort McHenry, the British troops prudently decided to withdraw. With this defensive victory for the Americans, the Chesapeake Campaign essentially ended.

Beanes and Key had witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry from onboard the truce vessel. Key was so moved by the scene of the battle that he composed the words that eventually became the National Anthem. Key chose the tune, “To Anacreon in Heaven” by John Stafford Smith, because it was a popular American and British melody, and he had previously adapted it to another set of lyrics. Key, Beanies, and the other Americans were released as the British retreated, and that night Key worked on his song. Handbills of the lyrics were quickly printed and copies distributed to every man who was at Fort McHenry during the bombardment. Key’s song was first printed on September 20 in the Baltimore Patriot and Advertiser under the title, “The Defence [sic] of Fort McHenry.” By the end of the year, the lyrics and the tune were printed across the country as a reminder of the American victory. In 1931, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation that made “The Star-Spangled Banner” the official National Anthem.

The British Land March and Withdrawal from Benedict to Bladensburg to Washington
The American Movement Toward Baltimore; The Battle of North Point and Defense of Hampstead Hill; & The Approach up the Patapsco and Defense of Fort McHenry

Maps from Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement, [www.nps.gov/stsp](http://www.nps.gov/stsp)
The man standing on the deck of the sailing ship had opposed the war. Now, he watched helplessly as ships of the greatest navy in the world rained shot and shell on the little fort protecting the city of Baltimore, Maryland. He found he cared very much about the outcome. The bombardment had lasted for more than 24 hours. He strained to see through the morning mist. What he saw was a huge Flag, big enough to show the enemy that the fort had survived. Francis Scott Key was overcome by “joyful triumph” and began to jot words down on a piece of paper: “O say can you see ... .”

Key wrote his lyrics in 1814, in the last year of the War of 1812. The United States had declared war on Great Britain in June 1812. At first, the British were too busy fighting the French to devote much energy to the pesky Americans. Once Napoleon abdicated in April 1814, the British set out to teach their former colonies a lesson. In August, fifty ships sailed up Chesapeake Bay. After occupying Washington on August 24, and burning the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings, the British turned their attention northward. Fort McHenry stood between the British navy and the city of Baltimore. When the fort refused to be subdued, the ships sailed away, to the cheers of the defenders. For many Americans, the War of 1812 was the “Second War of Independence.”

Few people remember the War of 1812 today, but the words it inspired were almost immediately set to music. *The Star-Spangled Banner*, has become the National Anthem of the United States and a potent source of inspiration and community for Americans in times of crisis.
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## Supplementary Resources

Source: “The Rockets’ Red Glare”: Francis Scott Key and the Bombardment of Fort McHenry
http://www.nps.gov/history/NR/hwhp/wwwlps/lessons/137FOMC/137FOMC.htm
All sources provide a window to past events and people's lives. How clear these windows are, and how wide a view they give, depends upon the types of sources historians use to investigate the past. These worksheets will allow you and your students to investigate a variety of primary sources.

This instructional set includes worksheets to teach students how to:

- distinguish between primary and secondary sources;
- interpret different types of sources (e.g. broadside/ads, documents, maps, pictures, objects, and oral histories); and
- take an idea and turn it into a research project.

The worksheets guide students in a thorough examination of all facets of the sources, so that they are prepared to make strong conclusions, supported by the source. All of the worksheets are reproducible.

In addition to serving as “tools for decoding “primary sources” in the MdHS Primary Source Kits, the worksheets are designed to work well with a variety of primary sources, including materials teachers might borrow from another cultural institution or bring from home.

Primary vs. Secondary Sources: A Comparison  
http://www.mdhs.org/sites/default/files/PrimaryVsSec.pdf

How to interpret an ad or broadside  
http://www.mdhs.org/sites/default/files/AdorBroadside.pdf

How to interpret a document  

How to interpret a map  

How to interpret a newspaper article  
http://www.mdhs.org/sites/default/files/How%20to%20interpret%20a%20newspaper%20article.pdf

How to interpret an object  

How to interpret an oral history  
http://www.mdhs.org/sites/default/files/How%20to%20interpret%20an%20oral%20history.pdf

Ideas to projects  
http://www.mdhs.org/sites/default/files/Ideas%20to%20projects.pdf

How to interpret a picture

Battle of North Point, Near Baltimore
http://www.marylandartsourcing.org/artwork/detail_000000262.html

The Bombardment of Fort McHenry
http://www.marylandartsourcing.org/artwork/detail_000000263.html

A View of the Bombardment of Fort McHenry
http://americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/baltimore-in-the-balance.aspx

How to interpret a document

Encountering Maryland’s Past Primary Source Kit: Volume II

*Primary Source #13 1814*
Key, Francis Scott. Manuscript of “The Star-Spangled Banner” [14-16 September 1814].
Manuscripts Department, Maryland Historical Society Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

http://www.mdhs.org/education/toc2.html

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/hh/5/hh5h.htm

http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/british/images/vc65.jpg

*Primary Source #14 1814*
Bell, John and S. Letter from John and S. Bell to Thomas Bell [14 November 1814].
War of 1812 Collection, MS.1846. Manuscripts Department, Maryland Historical Society Library,
Baltimore, Maryland.

http://www.mdhs.org/education/toc2.html
Embargo Act- December 22, 1807

Be it enacted, That an embargo be, and hereby is laid on all ships and vessels in the ports and places within the limits or jurisdiction of the United States, cleared or not cleared, bound to any foreign port or place; and that no clearance be furnished to any ship or vessel bound to such foreign port or place, except vessels under the immediate direction of the President of the United States; and that the President be authorized to give such instructions to the officers of the revenue, and of the navy and revenue cutters of the United States, as shall appear best adapted for carrying the same into full effect; provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the departure of any foreign ship or vessel, either in ballast, or with the goods, wares and merchandise on board of such foreign ship or vessel, when notified of this act.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That during the continuance of this act, no registered, or sea letter vessel, having on board goods, wares and merchandise, shall be allowed to depart from one port of the United States to any other within the same, unless the master, owner, consignee or factor of such vessel shall first give bond, with one or more sureties to the collector of the district from which she is bound to depart, in a sum of double the value of the vessel and cargo; that the said goods, wares, or merchandise shall be relanded in some port of the United States, dangers of the seas excepted, which bond, and also a certificate from the collector where the same may be relanded, shall by the collector respectively be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury. All armed vessels possessing public commissions from any foreign power, are not to be considered as liable to the embargo laid by this act.

Declaration Of War 1812

Be it enacted, That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories; and that the President of the United States is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the United States to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the United States, commissions or Letters of Marque and General Reprisal, in such form as he shall think proper; and under the seal of the United States, against the vessels, goods, and effects of the government of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the subjects thereof.

Primary Images

Portrait of George Washington

This portrait was saved before the British burned The White House in 1814.

George Washington (Lansdowne portrait) by Gilbert Stuart, oil on canvas, 1796

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.
Acquired as a gift to the nation through the generosity of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Source: Smithsonian National Gallery  http://www.georgewashington.si.edu/portrait/index.html
Receipt for the Star-Spangled Banner

Mary Pickersgill was paid $405.90 for the flag that became the Star-Spangled Banner, more than most Baltimoreans earned in a year.

Source: Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum [http://www.flaghouse.org](http://www.flaghouse.org)
“To have shrunk, under such circumstances, from manly resistance, would have been a degradation blasting our best and proudest hopes; it would have struck us from the high ranks where the virtuous struggles of our fathers had placed us, and have betrayed the magnificent legacy which we hold in trust for future generations. It would have acknowledged that on the element which forms three-fourths of the globe we inhabit, where all independent nations have equal and common rights, the American people were not an independent people, but colonists and vassals.”


“I believe that in four weeks from the time a declaration of war is heard on our frontier, the whole of Upper Canada and a part of lower Canada will be in our power.”


“We have met the enemy and they are ours.”


“My husband left me yesterday morning… beseeching me to take care of myself, and of the cabinet of papers, public and private… he desires I should be ready at a moment's warning to enter my carriage and leave the city; that the enemy seemed stronger than had been reported and that it might happen that they would reach the city, with the intention to destroy it.”

First Lady Dolley Madison, Written at the White House, Washington, D.C. August 2, 1814

“Alas, I can descry only groups of military wandering in all directions, as if there was a lack of arms, or of spirit to fight for their own fireside!...I insist on waiting until the large picture of General Washington is secured.”


“The war has renewed and reinstated the national feelings and character which the Revolution had given, and which were daily lessened. The people... are more American; they feel and act more as a nation; and I hope the permanency of the Union is thereby better secured.”


“Tell the men to fire faster! Don't give up the ship!”

Captain James Lawrence: the dying command of Lawrence in 1813 aboard the USS Chesapeake.
**Defense of Baltimore: Assembling of the Troops, September 12, 1814 c. 1814-1815**

Thomas Ruckle (1775-1853)
Oil on canvas
37 x 62 13/64 in. (94.0 x 158.0 cm.)
Gift of J. Henry Stickney
Holding Institution: Maryland Historical Society
Accession: 1879-2-1

**Bombardment of Fort McHenry c. 1828-1830**

Alfred Jacob Miller (1810-1874)
Oil on canvas
41 57/64 x 96 9/64 in. (106.4 x 244.2 cm.)
From the estate of George U. Porter
Holding Institution: Maryland Historical Society

Accession Source: Maryland Historical Society
http://www.marylandartsource.org/collections/collection_1_bydate.html
Hail Columbia, c1798

Hail Columbia, happy land!
Hail, ye heroes, heav’n-born band,
Who fought and bled in freedom’s cause,
Who fought and bled in freedom’s cause,
And when the storm of war was gone
Enjoy’d the peace your valor won.
Let independence be our boast,
Ever mindful what it cost;
Ever grateful for the prize,
Let its altar reach the skies.

Chorus
Firm, united let us be,
Rallying round our liberty,
As a band of brothers joined,
Peace and safety we shall find.

Immortal patriots, rise once more,
Defend your rights, defend your shore!
Let no rude foe, with impious hand,
Let no rude foe, with impious hand,
Intrude the shrine where sacred lies
Of toil and blood, the well-earned prize,
While off’ring peace, sincere and just,
In Heaven’s we place a manly trust,
That truth and justice will prevail,
And every scheme of bondage fail.

Chorus
Behold the chief who now commands,
Once more to serve his country stands.
The rock on which the storm will break,
The rock on which the storm will break,
But armed in virtue, firm, and true,
His hopes are fixed on Heav’n and you.
When hope was sinking in dismay,
When glooms obscured Columbia’s day,
His steady mind, from changes free,
Resolved on death or liberty.

Chorus
Sound, sound the trump of fame,
Let Washington’s great fame

Yankee Doodle, c1767

Yankee Doodle went to town
A-riding on a pony
Stuck a feather in his hat
And called it macaroni.

Yankee Doodle, keep it up
Yankee Doodle dandy
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy.

Father and I went down to camp
Along with Captain Gooding
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty pudding.

Yankee Doodle, keep it up
Yankee Doodle dandy
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy

There was Captain Washington
Upon a slapping stallion
A-giving orders to his men
I guess there was a million.

Yankee Doodle, keep it up
Yankee Doodle dandy
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy.

http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics
The Star-Spangled Banner, c.1814

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream:  
Tis the star-spangled banner: O, long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O' er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: “In God is our trust”  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And days of auld lang syne?

Chorus  
For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne  
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet  
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes  
And pu'd the gowans fine  
But we've wander'd mony a weary foot  
Sin' auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl't in the burn  
FRAE morning sun till dine  
But seas between us braid hae roar'd  
Sin' auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint stoup  
And surely I'll be mine  
And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet  
For auld lang syne.
Defending Fort McHenry

**Equipment:**

- Rubber playground ball
- Chalk or painted circles in gym or on playground
- Indian Club (you may substitute using bowling pins)

For the fort, place the Indian Club inside a 24” circle. The students stand around a 20’ outside circle.

**Objective:**

To elude the guard and take the defended fort.

One player defends the fort. The players on the outside circle attempt to hit the fort by rolling the ball which the defender kicks away. When the ball enters the fort and knocks the club over, the defender changes places with the player who rolled the ball.

**Physical Education Program**

Upper Elementary

Department of Education

Baltimore, Maryland
A GUIDE TO THE WAR OF 1812

Wonderful Websites

The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner
http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/

Use this Website to answer questions like:

Who made the flag?          When was the flag made?
What war was going on when the flag was made? Where did the flag fly?
Who wrote the song The Star-Spangled Banner? Why is the flag important?

The War of 1812
www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/thewarof1812.htm
http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/the-war-of-1812.aspx

Use these Web sites to answer questions like:

Who fought in the War?        Why did they fight this War?

Mary Pickersgill and the Making of the Flag
www.americanflagfoundation.org/_media/pdf/educationalresources/historicalbios/
http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/making-the-flag.aspx

Use these Web sites to answer questions like:

Why did Mary Pickersgill make the flag?      How was the flag made?
What did the flag look like?

Fort McHenry and the Battle of Baltimore
www.nps.gov/fomc
http://library.thinkquest.org/22916/baltim.html

Use these Web sites to answer questions like:

What happened at the Battle of Baltimore? Where is Fort McHenry?

Francis Scott Key
http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/anthem.html

Use this Web site to answer questions like:

Who was Francis Scott Key?         Why is he important to the story?

What happened to the Star-Spangled Banner after the Battle of Baltimore?
Use these Web sites to answer questions like:

What happened to the **flag** after the War of 1812? How did it get to the Smithsonian Institution?

**ON-LINE LESSONS FOR THE EDUCATOR**

Baltimore History War of 1812 Lesson Plan Inventory
[http://www.nps.gov/stsp/forteachers/upload/LP%20Inventory%202017%20Dec%2009.doc](http://www.nps.gov/stsp/forteachers/upload/LP%20Inventory%202017%20Dec%2009.doc)

The Dolley Madison Project: The Washington Years
[http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/madison/overview/wash.html](http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/madison/overview/wash.html)

The Lester S. Levy Collection of Sheet Music
[http://levysheetmusic.mse.jhu.edu/index.html](http://levysheetmusic.mse.jhu.edu/index.html)

Maryland with Pride
[http://www.pride2.org/NewPrideSite/MD/Lesson10/Lesson10_1.html](http://www.pride2.org/NewPrideSite/MD/Lesson10/Lesson10_1.html)

National Museum of American History
[www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner)

Read, Write, and Think
[http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/timeline](http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/timeline)

Star-Spangled 200
[http://starspangled200.org/Resources/Pages/ForTeachers.aspx](http://starspangled200.org/Resources/Pages/ForTeachers.aspx)

The Star-Spangled Banner Song Collection
[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/loc.natlib.ihas.100000006/default.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/loc.natlib.ihas.100000006/default.html)

Thinkfinity.org
[www.thinkfinity.org](http://www.thinkfinity.org)

Treasures of Congress

The War of 1812: American Military History Army Historical Series
[http://www.history.army.mil/books/AMH/AMH-06.htm](http://www.history.army.mil/books/AMH/AMH-06.htm)
FABULOUS FIELD TRIPS

The Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum
At the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, you’ll find something quite rare: A fun-filled, interactive experience where you and your entire family will become part of one of the most important stories of our nation’s history— the sewing of the flag that inspired our National Anthem.

Teachers can expand their students’ experience by selecting from a menu of specially-designed tours and activities. We also offer discounted admission to groups, making it possible for more people to take part in the story.

http://www.flaghouse.org/

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
Birthplace of the National Anthem

*O say can you see, by the dawns early light,* a large red, white and blue banner? *Whose broad stripes and bright stars... were so gallantly streaming!* over the star-shaped Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore, September 13-14, 1814. The valiant defense of the fort inspired Francis Scott Key to write The Star-Spangled Banner.

An introductory film welcomes visitors to the site of a War of 1812 battle that gave birth to our National Anthem. Tours may need to be scheduled up to 6 months in advance.

http://www.nps.gov/fomc/

Friends of Patterson Park
The Friends of Patterson Park is a non-profit membership organization formed in 1998 to promote, protect and advocate for our treasured common ground so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come.

http://pattersonpark.com

Maryland Historical Society
Enrich your students’ study of history with a visit to the Maryland Historical Society. Interactive tours, led by trained museum teachers, focus on specific objects in the collection. All tours are designed to address the Maryland State Social Studies curriculum.

http://www.mdhs.org/

Pride of Baltimore II
Climb aboard Maryland’s *Pride* for an exciting learning adventure. *Pride of Baltimore II* can take you to far off places like China and Scandinavia, or to interesting places right around the corner in Maryland.

http://www.pride2.org/education/index.php
Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
The bicentennial of the War of 1812, from 1812-1815, provides an important opportunity to educate the K-12 audience about the Chesapeake region's role in this pivotal moment in American history. The National Historic Trail will continue the legacy of the bicentennial for years to come through ongoing implementation of Trail projects and programs.

http://www.nps.gov/stsp/

USS Constellation
Historic Ships in Baltimore is pleased to offer a compelling menu of educational programming, ranging from half-day experiences to overnight adventures.

Many programs are aligned with the outcome indicators described in the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum. Assessment tools are also available for some programs.

http://www.historicships.org/available_programs.html

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Children's Books


Childress, Diana. The War of 1812: Chronicle of America's Wars. Minneapolis : Lerner, c2004

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Speir, Peter. The Star-Spangled Banner. New York, 1973

Adult Books


Borneman, Walter R. *1812: The War That Forged a Nation* (2004), popular


George, Christopher, *Terror on the Chesapeake: The War of 1812 on the Bay*. White Mane Books, 2000

Heidler, Donald & Jeanne T. Heidler (eds) *Encyclopedia of the War of 1812* (2nd ed 2004) 636pp; most comprehensive guide; 500 entries by 70 scholars from several countries


Hitsman, J. M. *The Incredible War of 1812* (1965), survey by Canadian scholar


MOVIES ON THE WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 Starring Mark D. Hutter, Sally E. Bennett, Dave Fagerberg, et al. (DVD - 2005)

War of 1812 Kenneth Welsh (Actor), Brian McKenna (Director) | Rated: NR | Format: DVD

The War of 1812 (DVD - 2008)

Patriotic War Film: The War of 1812 (DVD) (1955)
The USS Constitution War of 1812 Naval Battles & A Brief History of The Star-Spangled Banner and Francis Scott Key (DVD - 2007)

Mail Call: The War Of 1812 (DVD - 2009)

The War Of 1812: The Chesapeake And The Shannon (DVD - 2009)
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


Baltimore History  http://www.nps.gov/stsp/forteachers/upload/LP%20Inventory%20Dec%202009.doc

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine  http://www.nps.gov/fomc/

Friends of Patterson Park  http://pattersonpark.com

HistoryCentral.com  http://www.historycentral.com/documents/Embargo.html

A History of Baltimore County  http://www.bcplonline.org/info/history/hist_bacohistory.html

Joshua Barney’s Chesapeake Bay Flotilla  http://mason.gmu.edu/~chughes3/images1.html


Maryland Encyclopedia Online  http://www.mdoe.org/armistead.html


Maryland Humanities Council  http://www.mdhc.org/


Maryland with Pride  http://www.pride2.org/NewPrideSite/Other/OtherPrivate.html


Patriotic Songs  http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/hailcolumbia.htm

The Pride of Baltimore  http://www.pride2.org/history/1812.php


Star-Spangled  200  http://starspangled200.org/History/Pages/Smith.aspx

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail  http://www.nps.gov/stsp/

The War of 1812  http://www.thewarof1812.com/Warof1812Almanac/timelinofthewarof1812.htm

The White House  http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/jamesmadison