



THE 1812 WAR CRY

Published by The General Society of the War of 1812 • Founded September 14, 1814

Vol. 51, No. 1
March 2025

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Snow Blankets Jackson Square in New Orleans



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PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Robert D. Pollock, President General

General Society 2025 Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the General Society of the War of 1812 will be held from 2-4pm on **Saturday, March 29** in Natchez Mississippi. The meeting site is the conference room of the Holiday Inn Express at 639 S. Canal Street, Natchez.

We will have an informal social gathering on Friday, March 28 from 5:30-6:30pm in the gathering room of the Hampton Inn & Suites (627 S. Canal Street, Natchez).

Our annual meeting is being held in conjunction with the Mississippi State SAR's multi-day event celebrating the bicentennial of General Lafayette's 1825 visit to Natchez. 1812 Compatriots/Warhawks are encouraged to participate in these bicentennial events which can be found at the following website: <https://www.mssar.org/2025-annual-convention.html>. Lodging information is found at the same site.

Several of the 1812 Officers will be participating in the SAR Saturday luncheon and the Saturday semi-formal dinner at the Natchez Convention Center (online registration is found at the above website.)

If you will be attending the 1812 annual meeting, please let our GSW 1812 Secretary General, Sandy Reisig, know by emailing him at sandyman56@aol.com. Please provide him with your name, office, and state society name.

Is Your State Society Officer Contact Information Correct?

As a reminder, the General Society website is often the first point of contact for persons interested in joining our society. Please check the officer list on our website <https://gswari1812.org/state-societies/>. If updates are needed, please let me know.

Also, if your members need to update their contact information, or wish to opt out of receiving the War Cry in the mail, those forms are also on our website: <https://gswari1812.org/forms/>

Paul Walden, VPG Publications
1812Publications@gmail.com

Publication Requirements

The 1812 War Cry is published three times a year (March, July and November). Submission deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 1. Society news is welcome in MS Word format. Scholarly works specifically tailored to our readership must be properly referenced. Regularly scheduled emails are sent from the General Society three times a year through Constant Contact. Use of copyright protected materials or images without written permission is prohibited. Photos are encouraged as attachments in .jpg or .png format. DPI or PPI must be 300 or higher. Contact VPG Publications Paul Walden with any questions.

The 1812 War Cry | Vol 51, No 1 | March 2025
Official publication of the General Society of the War of 1812
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SURGEON GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Dr. William Ryan Bartz, MD (TN Society)

What Is Deep Vein Thrombosis?

Multiple compatriots asked this topic to write about and I will be having some assistance with writing some historical medical practices from the time around 1812. I thought giving some history with a combination of current practices would be appreciated.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT or venous thrombosis) occurs when a blood clot forms in a vein deep inside your body. DVT mainly affects the large veins in the lower leg and thigh but can occur in other deep veins, such as the arms and pelvis.

DVT can occur suddenly (acute), leading to an urgent or emergency. It can also be a chronic condition, with blood clots gradually causing circulation problems, usually in the lower body. Chronic blood clots can lead to venous insufficiency when your body has difficulty returning blood to your heart.

Thrombosis is a clot in a blood vessel. An embolism or thromboembolism is a clot that moves through your bloodstream. An embolism can become stuck in a blood vessel, blocking blood flow to your lungs, brain, or heart. The embolism can cause severe damage, including pulmonary embolism, stroke, or heart attack.

Causes of Deep Vein Thrombosis

Venous thrombosis is most common in adults over 60, but it can happen to people of any age. Blood clots may form when blood flow in your veins slows down or becomes blocked.

DVT becomes more likely if you have one or more of these risk factors:

- Being sedentary due to bed rest or sitting too long without moving (over 3 hours), such as during travel
- Family history of blood clots
- Having a long-term (indwelling) catheter or a tube in a blood vessel.
- Obesity, polycythemia vera, is a condition that causes bone marrow to make too many blood cells.
- Pregnancy or childbirth in the past six months or a recent surgery or fractures in the hips, pelvis, or legs.

DVT Symptoms and Warning Signs

DVT most often affects large thigh and lower leg veins, usually on one side of the body. If the clot blocks blood flow, it can cause red or darker-colored skin, painful or swollen leg (edema), skin that feels warm to the touch.

Diagnosing Deep Vein Thrombosis

Your doctor does a physical exam to understand what might be causing DVT symptoms. Our doctors often use vascular testing and diagnosis to rule out or confirm venous thrombosis. Your testing may include lab work but most of the time an ultrasound or CT.

Deep Vein Thrombosis Treatment

The first line of treatment for DVT is thrombolytic therapy. This treatment uses anticoagulant (anti-clotting) medication to thin your blood. Medicine can keep clots from growing and help prevent new clots from forming. Most people take blood-thinning medicine for at least three months after experiencing deep vein thrombosis (DVT). Surgery may have to be an option if it is a large blood clot and could move or damage more organs.

Health to your family, and to you!

ROTC Reminder

For over forty years we have supported the Army, Naval and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps Units with our Military Awards Program. This program presents Sophomore ROTC Cadets/Midshipmen with **“The War of 1812 Award of Merit”** certificate and ribbon bar for wear on their uniform. The award is approved by all three Service Departments.

Award Criteria: The awardee shall be personally selected by the Unit Commander. The recipient is the sophomore cadet/midshipman displaying the highest level of leadership and patriotism with a demonstrated aptitude to successfully lead their peers and subordinates.

Minimum academic standards: A grade point average in the top 20% of their institution's class and the top 10% of their ROTC academic studies.

A complete list of the ROTC units participating in our Military Awards Program has been computerized and is updated as requests are received. Should a State Society desire to know what schools within their state are participating, they may request the information from the Vice-President General for Military Awards, William Sekel, gswi1812milawards@gmail.com.

Updates from Tennessee

Richard D. Hollis, Past President General (2017-20)

Lonesome Cabin

Community Autumn Festival, Burns, Tennessee

Sevier Ranging Company of Clarksville, Tennessee shared educational 1812 period exhibits and demonstrations during the Burns Community Autumn Festival. Attended by hundreds, the festival was held on the grounds of “Lonesome” Cabin, the pioneer home of William Austin who was a veteran of the War of 1812. Participating were Robert Nichols, Rick and Gail Longton, Randy Underhill, and Joe Stagmeir.



General Jackson Returns to the Oval Office

President Donald J. Trump has returned the Marquette of General Andrew Jackson to the Oval Office. Just as Trump 45 had the tribute of General Jackson situated on his credenza, Trump 47 has returned it to a position of honor behind the Resolute Desk.

The statue of General Andrew Jackson was installed in front of the White House in Lafayette Park in 1853.

There are three additional statues of Jackson:

- Tennessee State Capitol Building, Nashville
- Jackson Square, New Orleans
- Jacksonville Landing, Jacksonville, Florida

Information on War of 1812-era Musket

A collector recently contacted our society regarding a War of 1812-era firearm he has in his collection and asked if anyone has any information on it. It is a U.S. Bartlett contract musket known to collectors as the Model 1808. It is marked “US” and “SNY” (State of New York). A crude “H” is carved into the left side of the stock and “N.W. Howell” neatly carved into the right side. The number 14 is stamped on two places. The cartouche is V over CW. “NA” is stamped near the cartouche. “LB” is stamped near the trigger. Also, “R BEEBE” is stamped in small letters below the trigger guard tang. The lock is dated 1811. If you have any information on this firearm, please contact the collector, Mike DeMaria, at blue.ridge.drilling@gmail.com.



Why is the War of 1812 a Forgotten Conflict?

Donald R. Hickey (Iowa Society)

Why is the War of 1812 so little remembered today? There are many reasons. Here are the those I consider the most significant.

First of all, the causes are obscure. This conflict was an outgrowth of the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815), a worldwide conflict that pitted Britain against France in a titanic struggle that would determine which nation dominated Europe and the wider world. Both belligerents and their allies encroached on America's neutral rights and looted its international trade. Because Britain was Mistress of the Seas, her encroachments were deemed worse, and the United States declared war in 1812 mainly to force the British to give up two maritime practices:

(1) From 1807 to 1812, the British seized and condemned some 400 American merchant vessels that violated their Orders-in-Council barring trade with the European Continent.

(2) To man the Royal Navy, British warships stopped American merchantmen on the high seas, mustered their crews, and impressed (that is, conscripted) those deemed to be British subjects. Because it was difficult to distinguish between British subjects and American citizens, some 6,000-9,000 Americans were caught in the British dragnet between 1803 and 1812.

No one goes to war over neutral rights today, and the issues that once loomed so large are all but forgotten today.

Second, our strategy for winning the war is confusing. We could not confront the British on the high seas because of their overwhelming naval power. Instead, we sought redress by targeting Canada. Because we had a 15-1 population advantage, we mistakenly assumed that the conquest of Canada would be, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "a mere matter of marching." Presumably, we would hold Canada as ransom for concessions on the maritime issues, although to keep its options open, the Madison Administration never announced this, which contributed to a myth in the late nineteenth century that this was actually a war of territorial expansion and that the maritime issues were simply a pretext to seize Canada.

Third, the outcome of the war is unclear. The Treaty of Ghent ending the conflict simply provided for returning to the *status quo ante bellum*. Except for the Indians, who were the big losers in this war, the other players could claim victory. The United States could claim that the war vindicated its sovereignty and won the respect of Europe; Canada could argue that it prevented absorption by the United States and thus paved the way for independence; and Britain could claim that its mar-

itime practices were not even mentioned in the peace treaty and thus its authority on the high seas remained intact.

Fourth, this was not a modern war. Rather, it was a contest that involved Native Americans and was waged in the wilderness with muzzle-loading small arms and cannons. As such, it was a war that looked more to the past than to the future. It was arguably the last of the North American colonial wars waged to determine who would dominate the continent. Colonial wars like this rarely loom very large in the public consciousness.

Fifth, the public's memory of the war was dealt a fatal blow by the Civil War, which was so much bigger and freighted with such enormous consequences that it immediately assumed outsized importance, pushing all the lesser wars that had preceded it (except for the equally consequential American Revolution) deep into the recesses of the nation's public memory.

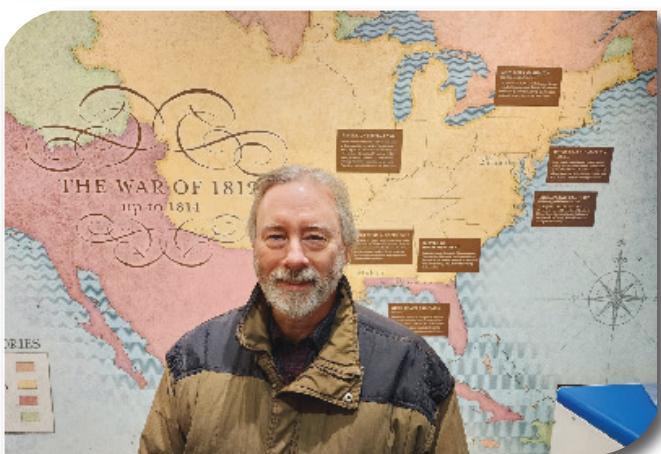
Finally, the very name of the war does its memory a disservice. It tells us nothing about the stakes of the conflict, who the enemy was, or where it was waged. Some wars, like the American Revolution/War of Independence have names that explain their purpose; the names of others, most notably the two world wars, suggest their scope; while still others – the Mexican War, the Spanish-American War, and the Korean War – tell us who the enemy was. The War of 1812, by contrast, does none of these things. In fact, it appears to be a unique example of a war named after a year.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Americans were slow to embrace the name. During the conflict, it was simply called "the war" or "the current war." After it was over, it was referred to as "the late war." Only during the Mexican War did the name "War of 1812" gain traction, and it wasn't until the 1850s, when there was now another late war, that the name really caught on. Even then, Canada did not follow suit until the 1890s, and Britain waited until the 1990s. Even today, to many people in Britain "the War of 1812" refers to Napoleon's invasion of Russia.

Although an outpouring of scholarship early in the current century followed by the Bicentennial commemoration elevated the profile of the war, that proved to be fleeting. Despite the good work of all those still interested in the conflict, including the heritage societies, the War of 1812 today is once again in danger of becoming a forgotten conflict.

Don Hickey is a retired history professor and a longtime student of the War of 1812. An award-winning author, he is best known for his book, *The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict*. His latest book, published in 2023, is *Tecumseh's War: The Epic Struggle for the Heart of America*.

In 2024 we took a little trip... down the Mississip to New Orleans



Top Left: Jackson Square (L-R): President General 2017-20 Rick Hollis, Past Vice President General (Public Relations) Williams Allerton III, and President General (2020-23) Tim Mabee

Middle Left: Chalmette Museum: Deputy President General (2023-26) Sumner Hunnewell

Bottom Left: Cannonballs to New Orleans

Unveiling of 1812 historic marker by Gov. Wylie Blount, Chapter President Cleo G. Hogan (L) and Dewey Browder at the location of the wharfs in Clarksville, Tennessee

Top Right: Chalmette Battle Monument (L-R): President General (2017-20) Rick Hollis, Deputy President General (2023-26), Quartermaster General (2023-26) Mark Compton

Bottom Right: Johnny Head (L) and Cleo Hogan (R) point out to President General (2020-23) Tim Mabee where the cannonballs used at New Orleans were shipped on flat bottom boats. The cannonballs were produced at Cumberland Furnace in Dickson County, Tennessee.

The Harrington Boys of Hickman County, Tennessee

Even a soaking rain did not dampen the spirits of a crowd of approximately 50 members of the extended Harrington family and friends as they gathered to observe a special Veterans Memorial Service at the Old Harrington Cemetery near Little Lot.

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Tennessee hosted the ceremony honoring the service of four brothers known in Hickman County as “The Harrington Boys” – Drury, Dempsey, Robert, and William – all of whom answered the clarion call of duty during the War of 1812. Jerry V. Smith, a 4th great-grandson of Drury Harrington, welcomed those present to the Harrington Cemetery and to the Ceremony. Jerry Smith is past Tennessee 1812 President and General Society 1812 Judge Advocate General.

The Sevier Ranging Company Color Guard, dressed in period uniforms, advanced the Colors while bagpiper Todd Boswell accompanied the Colors playing an old Scottish tune, “Flowers of the Forest.” Steven Smartt played “The Star-Spangled Banner” as all those gathered stood silent and rendered the appropriate salute. Even the rain paused. It was indeed a touching, patriotic moment.

Craft Wolcott Smith (age 9), Evans Hoover Smith, Jr. (7), and Anne Bradley Smith (5) all led the Pledge to the Flag. These young Smiths are the grandchildren of Jerry V. and Betty Nicks Wolcott Smith and are all 6th great-grandchildren of Drury Harrington. Then, John E. Walker, Chaplain of the Tennessee Society 1812, gave the invocation.

Smith extended his personal thanks to Robert and Cindi Wolk, the owners of the adjacent farm, and to Merri Parman for their efforts in preparation for the events at the cemetery and to Lionel Barrett for his efforts in preserving the memory of the Harrington Brothers.



Also attending the event were Richard D. (Rick) Hollis of Charlotte, and Douglass M. (Tim) Mabee of Saratoga Springs, New York, both Past Presidents General of the General Society of the War of 1812. Both Hollis and Mabee extended greetings and remarks as did Dr. W. Ryan Bartz, the current President of the Tennessee Society 1812.

Smith then explained that the bagpipe tune was to remind the crowd that these four Harrington Boys were men of the past.

Drury Harrington came to Hickman County in 1809 from Chatham County, North Carolina, and his three brothers, Dempsey, Robert, and William, followed in his footsteps.

The Harringtons were great hunters and trappers and honed their skills as marksmen at local shooting contests. In 1814, they

joined a flotilla of flatboats at Clarksville from whence they headed to New Orleans where they joined General Andrew Jackson’s forces. Jackson’s army was a campsite collection, including both regular and militia troops, backwoodsmen from Tennessee and Kentucky, Native Americans, African Americans, and buccaneers. Their joined efforts inflicted one of the greatest victories in that war and stopped British plans to capture New Orleans.

Smith referred to the military service of two later Harrington descendants during WWII. Chester Harrington was held for three years in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp. As part of the invasion force, A. D. Harrington landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day. After his war-time experience, “Amazing Grace” became his favorite hymn.

In conclusion, Smith encouraged the assembled gathering that “when life seems unfair to remember the perseverance of Chester Harrington, and when the way forward seems dangerous, to remember the courage of A. D. Harrington. In times of uncertainty, remember

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Theodore Roosevelt's *The Naval War of 1812*

Clay Hoffman (Indiana Society)

First published in 1882, Theodore Roosevelt's *The Naval War of 1812* is a classic work of American history. At over 500 pages in length, it is brilliantly written and provides some of the most enlightened analysis of the war ever presented. As Roosevelt points out, "Being a contest for the rights of seamen, the War of 1812 was largely waged on the ocean, but there was also not a little fighting to do on land."

According to Roosevelt, the U.S. was poorly prepared for battle, writing, "The only activity ever exhibited by Congress in materially increasing the navy previous to the war had been in partially carrying out President Jefferson's ideas of having an enormous force of very worthless gun-boats." When Congress declared war on 18 June 1812, Great Britain was a true naval power, while the American navy included only half a dozen frigates, and a similar number of sloops and brigs. As the war proceeded, the United States added significantly to its navy.

In Roosevelt's opinion, the American sailor was outstanding. "There was no better seaman in the world than the American Jack." When rating the American single-ship captains, he considered Isaac Hull, commander of the heavy frigate U.S.S. *Constitution*, to be without peer, citing his escape from Sir Philip Broke's five enemy ships, as well as his defeat of HMS *Guerriere* on 19 August 1812, southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

After Hull, Roosevelt wrote, "Almost all the American captains deserve high praise – Macdonough, Decatur, Jones, Blakely, Biddle, Bainbridge, Lawrence, Burrows, Allen, Warrington, Stewart, Porter. It is no small glory to a country to have such men upholding the honor of its flag."

Naval combat in the War of 1812 took place during the Age of Sail – lasting from the 16th to mid-19th century – when many ships were armed with more artillery than armies. Because of the dependence on the wind for propulsion, sea battles were often bloody close-range brawls between combatants.

Near the island of Madeira off the coast of North Africa, one of the most important early American victories took place. On 25 October 1812, the U.S.S. *United States*, a heavy frigate mounting 44 guns, under the command of Captain Stephen Decatur, defeated the newly commissioned frigate HMS *Macedonian*.

On 1 June 1813, the capture of frigate U.S.S. *Chesapeake* by the Royal Navy frigate H.M.S. *Shannon* occurred off Boston Harbor. The brief but intense action took the lives of 71 men, and included the famous order of Captain James Lawrence, commander of the *Chesapeake*, to his men: "Don't give up the ship!"

With the invasion of Canada, the United States made the Great Lakes a major theatre of the war. Though most of the individual actions were small, they took place frequently, not only on the water but also against the many fortifications that dotted the coast on either side of the border. Fought on 10 September 1813, off the coast of Ohio, the Battle of Lake Erie resulted in the defeat and capture of six vessels of the British Royal Navy, and made Commander Oliver Hazard Perry an American hero. The victory ensured control of the lake for the rest of the war, and enabled the Americans to recover Detroit and win the Battle of the Thames, breaking the Indian Confederation of Tecumseh.

Theodore Roosevelt's *The Naval War of 1812* greatly impacted the formation of the modern American Navy. In 1886, just four years after being published, the U.S. Navy ordered a copy to be placed on every ship. The experience of writing the book influenced Roosevelt's later career. As Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he helped modernize and build the American Navy. As President, he took a strong interest in the Navy, including dispatching the Great White Fleet, which circumnavigated the world between 1907 and 1909, and overseeing America's rise as a world power.

1812 Gunboats on the Ohio River Valley

Eric Johnson (Ohio Society)

Thomas Jefferson believed that the United States did not need a large navy during peacetime, so when he became President in 1801, he launched a gunboat building program as a cheap naval defense for our nation. Congress approved the building of 278 gunboats before the War of 1812, but only 166 were completed. By December 1809, 148 of these vessels had been laid up or were dismantled, leaving 18 vessels in commission.

Three firms in Ohio were awarded contracts to build seven of these gunboats. These vessels had been built between 1805 and 1808. John Smith of Cincinnati built gunboat numbers 13, 14, 17, and 18, while Thomas Reagan of Cincinnati built gunboat number 24. Ed Tupper and Thomas Vail built gunboat numbers 21 and 22 at Marietta, Ohio.

Other gunboats were built at Charleston, Virginia (now West Virginia), Louisville and Eddyville, Kentucky. All of these vessels were 60 feet long by 18½ feet wide by 5 feet deep. They were propelled by oars and were sloop rigged (single mast). They mounted a 24-pound cannon at each end of the vessel. All of the Ohio River Valley gunboats were sent to New Orleans, Louisiana for the protection of this city and to serve as custom ships.

By December 1809, there were a total of 22 gunboats at New Orleans. Some of these gunboats were built on the east coast and they had been sent to New Orleans.

Gunboat number 13 had been condemned and was being used as a hulk. Gunboats 14, 17, and 21 were unfit for service were slated to be disposed of in 1810. Only two of the seven Ohio-built gunboats would survive to the start of the War of 1812. Nearly all of the Ohio River Valley gunboats were built using green wood and not seasoned wood.

In 1813, gunboat number 24 was serving on Lake Ponchartrain, Louisiana, while gunboat number 22 was at Mobile, West Florida, now Alabama. By 18 March 1814, only six gunboats were in service at New Orleans, and five would be captured by the British during the Battle of Lake Borgne on 14 December 1814.

Gunboat 23, built at Charleston, is the only Ohio River Valley gunboat to be used in this battle. It appears that

gunboats 22 and 24 did not survive the war. They did not participate in this battle.

Other gunboats were built during the War of 1812 on Lake Erie, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, New York harbor, Chesapeake Bay, and a few other places on the east coast. The four gunboats that were laid down at Erie, Pennsylvania for Lake Erie Squadron had the same dimensions as the Jeffersonian gunboats, but they were converted to schooners before they were commissioned. The U.S Army built three gunboats at what is now Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio for Major General William Henry Harrison's Canadian invasion in late 1813. These last three gunboats probably had the same dimensions as the U.S. Navy's gunboats.

Jefferson's gunboat policy was a total failure. It was costly and it did not achieve the purpose it was intended for. Public monies could have been better spent on building frigates and ships-of-the-line. These warships were badly needed during the War of 1812.

Gunboat 13 – Cincinnati, Ohio, John Smith, condemned at New Orleans in December 1809 and used as a hulk, built from green timber, mounted two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 14 – Cincinnati, Ohio, John Smith, condemned at New Orleans in 1810, mounted two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 15 – Eddyville, Kentucky, Matthew Lyon, mounted two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 16 – Eddyville, Kentucky, Matthew Lyon, broken up at New Orleans in June 1810, mounted two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 17 – Cincinnati, Ohio, John Smith, condemned at New Orleans in 1810, mounted two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 18 – Cincinnati, Ohio, John Smith, mounted two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 19 – Louisville, Kentucky, two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 20, Louisville, Kentucky, John Jordan and James Morrison, condemned at New Orleans in 1810, two 24-pound cannons

Gunboat 21 – Marietta, Ohio, Edward W. Tupper

Gunboat 22 – Marietta, Ohio, Edward W. Tupper, mounted two 6-pound cannons, condemned in April 1812

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STATE SOCIETY NEWS

Alabama 1812

John Killian, President

Alabama Society Vice President Curtis W. Posey with Congressman Gary Palmer at the 77th Annual Veterans Day Dinner in Birmingham. The first national celebration honoring veterans was held in Birmingham in 1947. The U.S. Senate passed a resolution proposed by Patriotism in Action in 2012 recognizing Birmingham as "home to the first and longest running celebration of Veterans Day."



Missouri 1812

**Sumner Hunnewell,
Deputy President
General**

The St. Louis Pioneer Chapter, United States Daughters of 1812, extended an invitation to members of the Missouri Society for a commemorative grave marking. Richard Morton (as honor guard) and Sumner Hunnewell of the General Daniel Bissell Chapter attended. On October 19 at the Sappington Cemetery in Crestwood, one cenotaph and two graves were marked by the Daughters. The men honored were Jonah Parke (1780-1846) and Mark Sappington (1784-1854), both who served in the Louisiana Territory militia, as well as Achilles Smith (1793-1883), who served in the First Infantry Regiment of Tennessee volunteers.



Indiana 1812

Mark Kreps, Treasurer

National General Society of the War of 1812 Robert Pollock gave greetings at a multi-era veteran grave marking commemoration which included three War of 1812 veterans. The ceremony was held at the Hawpatch-Liberty Pioneer Cemetery located near Columbus, IN on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024. With assistance from Indiana President T. Rex Legler II, the three War of 1812 veterans – Benjamin McQueen (ancestor of actor Steve McQueen), Thomas Stoughton and William West – each received the 1812 Society's brass veteran grave marker. There were approximately 120 individuals from various heritage societies who participated in the event.



War of 1812 Society members L-R: Mark Kreps, Robert Pollock, H. Allen Boyd, Dennis Babbitt, T. Rex Legler II and Luke Jackson. Present but not photographed was George Frantz.

Iowa 1812

Mike Rowley, VPG

On the second weekend of December 2024, members of the GSW 1812 in the State of Iowa participated in the Wreaths Across America program at Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. 1,364 graves were marked for veterans from the War of 1812 and every conflict through Vietnam.

Iowa 1812 member Donald Richardson, a retired 30-year veteran, and his daughter Sgt. Sarah Richardson (active) served as two of the honorary wreath presenters for each branch of the service. Iowa member Mike Rowley assisted with the coordination of the event.

Maryland 1812

Louis Giles, President

The Maryland Society refurbished and rededicated a 110-year-old military marker in a ceremony in Baltimore. The marker was donated to the Society in 2020 when the property on which it was located was being demolished. The marker features a Maryland militia cannon used at the Battle of Baltimore, which was originally donated by the Society to Baltimore City in the late 1800's. In partnership with the developers of Baltimore Peninsula, the marker was placed at the original location of Fort Covington. The marker honors the sailors and militiamen who fought at Fort Covington and nearby Battery Babcock to repel a British midnight attack on the morning of September 14, 1814, after British sailors and marines had passed by Fort McHenry unobserved.

After a five-year effort, the Maryland Society, in partnership with St John's Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland, installed a gravestone on the grave of Samuel Neale, the only black American militiaman



(L-R): Sgt. Sarah Richardson; Des Moines Fire Chief John TeKippe; Exec. Dir. Polk Co. Veteran Affairs Pat Sweeney; Navy veteran Mike Nothdorff; Marine veteran Jessica Nothdorff; Army veteran Terri Barbaccio; Army veteran Donald Richardson; Marilyn Rittel, daughter of WWII POW Robert Eckman; and Mike Rowley with the General Society of the War of 1812 in Iowa



to have received a Maryland pension for his service in the War of 1812. The Society's efforts were initially reported in the July 2022 issue of the War Cry when the United States Department of Veterans Affairs refused to acknowledge Mr. Neale as a veteran. The VA stated that although Mr. Neale was "armed and equipped as a soldier" at the Battle of Bladensburg and was "on the ground, fully armed" at the Battle of Baltimore, where he was wounded, his rank as written on the muster roll was that of a "servant" to the regimental surgeon and thus he did not serve "in a military capacity."



The ceremony received local and national press coverage and was attended by over sixty people, including representatives from federal, state and local government agencies as well as representatives from the NAACP and local organizations. A few days after the ceremony, the Society was notified by the VA that an Appeals judge had reversed the department's position and deemed Mr. Neale a veteran. This decision by the Appeals judge is quite important, effecting thousands of black American soldiers who served as officers' servants or waiters from the Revolutionary War up to the Civil War.

South Carolina 1812

D. M. Hull, President

On 27 October, 2024, the South Carolina Society gathered at the Confederate Cemetery on Carr Street in Mount Pleasant.

At this burial ground is a monument listing twelve soldiers who died while stationed at Haddrell's Point during the War of 1812. None of these soldiers died in battle, but perished from infections such as dysentery, malaria, or yellow fever. They served under Lt. Col. John Rutledge, Jr., who commanded the Third Regiment of State Troops.

The earlier landing and battery at Haddrell's Point were destroyed in the Hurricane of 1804, and this fortification was rebuilt prior to the War of 1812. As an aside, from this site President Washington boarded a boat to ferry him to Charleston on his 1791 tour.

No soldier is buried here, and this monument was moved to a safer location further away from the harbor in the early stages of the War Between the States. Originally this marker stood at the corner of Pitt and King streets.



Wisconsin 1812

Greg Heal

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Wisconsin was a hosting Society for a Holiday Luncheon held in Milwaukee on December 7, 2024. The Program included a Toast to the Society by Wisconsin 1812 President Thomas Curtis followed by a spirited singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," followed by a comment that our National Anthem ends with a question: Is America still the home of the Free and Brave? Pearl Harbor Day was remembered. We then discussed the only Battle of the War of 1812 fought in Wisconsin: The Battle of Prairie du Chien. Also discussed was Chief Black Hawk and his British Band who fought for the British in America's 2nd War for Independence. In 1832 Chief Black Hawk led his people in the Black Hawk War in Wisconsin which coincidentally involved two 23-year-old future Presidents by the name of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis.



Pictured L-R: Duane L.C.M. Galles and Michael Swisher (from Minnesota), Wisconsin 1812 President Thomas Curtis, Wisconsin 1812 Treasurer William Erbes, Greg Heal (from Wisconsin) and Stuart Rice (from South Dakota).

Mississippi 1812

Ben Block Jones II

The Society of the War of 1812 in Mississippi held its annual meeting in Madison, Mississippi, on January 18, 2025. Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Keith Goodfellow reported continued membership growth and excellent finances. New members in attendance were recognized and new officers were elected. Attendees enjoyed camaraderie and lively fellowship with a lunch of southern soul food and barbecue from Mama Hamil's Buffet in Madison. 1812 Daughter Darla Goodfellow received surprise birthday honors complete with cake.

With the new officers installed in due form from the 1894 Society ritual, attendees enjoyed a delightful large screen presentation recounting highlights of the 2022-2024 Battle of Bay Saint Louis marker project accompanied by period music and video replays of local television and public relations coverage, along with extensive video and photo coverage of the event. The Society's new officers for the 2024-2026 term are: Chad Couch, President; Dr. Keith Goodfellow, State Vice President; Jerry Lilly, Secretary-Treasurer; John Taylor, State VPG; Mike Schenk, Past President; Thomas Lilly, Judge Advocate; Charles Garrison, Registrar; and Charlie Carlisle, Chaplain.



(L-R) Front: Registrar Charles Garrison and Judge Advocate Thomas Lilly. Back: Past President Michael Schenk, Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Lilly; President Chad Couch; Vice President Keith Goodfellow; and State Vice President General John Taylor. (Not Pictured) Chaplain Charlie Carlisle. Photo courtesy of Darla Goodfellow.

A Remembrance of the USS *Seahorse* and the Battle of Bay Saint Louis

Ben Block Jones II

Forty years ago, it was a challenge to find any information on the Battle of Bay Saint Louis. Heralded in the mid-1970s for its readability and attention to detail, British author Robin Reilly's "The British at the Gates" was considered the most reliable history of the New Orleans campaign. Written from a decidedly British point of view, the Royal Army and Navy would certainly have won the Battle of New Orleans and taken the city except for an unfortunate series of events – in spite of Jackson's decisive victory. In the era of Vietnam, Plutarch's "winning the battle and losing the war" was becoming the *en vogue* sentiment in the American conversation. Overshadowed by the American losses at Lake Bourne and Jackson's success, this small but significant naval action at "Pass Christian" along the Mississippi Gulf Coast was seemingly lost amid stacks of wartime correspondence, a board of inquiry convened to investigate a young Lieutenant, Thomas ap Catesby Jones, and the mist of myths and legends.

From its modest beginnings as a small remote Spanish gunboat anchorage some 52 miles east of New Orleans, with no bridge across its bay, Shieldsborough or Shieldsboro – later named Bay Saint Louis – maintained its close connection to its Spanish, French, and itinerant Choctaw roots, renown as a summer beach town retreat for its French New Orleans cousins, a trading center for Mississippi Territory, and an occasional flirtation with Lafitte's Louisiana Baratarians. Due in no small part to the research and correspondence of Charles Harry Gray, director Hancock County Historical Society, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History erected a state historical marker to commemorate and officially correct the misnamed "Battle of Pass Christian" to the Battle of Bay Saint Louis in 1993. The marker was placed near the former pier anchorage of the USS *Seahorse* at Ulman Avenue and North Beach Boulevard in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi.

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Battle of Bay St. Louis, cont. from p. 13

In 2003, the historical society published Paul Estronza La Violette's *Sink or Be Sunk*, the definitive account of the battle. As a military and academic oceanographer, his powerful book thoroughly documented the fascinating story of the battle and included side-scan sonar mapping of the debris field. At one time, Bay Saint Louis hosted bus tours from across the country and 723 houses on the National Register of Historic Places. Following the unprecedented devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the small beachfront marker survived and came to represent something larger to Katrina hero and Mayor Eddie Favre and other local residents: a symbol of resilience, rebuilding, and hope for the future.

In early December 1814, the Battle of Bay Saint Louis and the subsequent Battle of Lake Borgne were a David-and-Goliath naval struggle in the American South theater for control of the entrance to the Mississippi River, ultimately aimed toward supporting the Federalists' objections and Britain's own challenge of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase Agreement. Based on an anonymous letter, Commodore Daniel Patterson dispatched Lieutenant Jones' small flotilla to patrol and monitor the movements of British vessels moving across the Mississippi Sound. Patterson instructed Jones to "sink or be sunk" in any possible confrontation. Discovering a fleet of 42 armed longboats and barges sailing westward, Jones withdrew his gunboats, weaving through the barrier islands and hugging the coastline.

On December 10, 1814, Jones' forces moored and received provisions at Bay Saint Louis before sailing westward to Lake Borgne as forces approached Pass Christian some five miles to the east. On the morning of December 13, 1814, after the capture of Pass Christian, Jones sent the American schooner USS *Seahorse* to Shieldsborough to remove or destroy the remaining stockpile of powder, ammunition, and other supplies stored in the public storehouse, as

well as a shore battery of two 6-pound long cannons. Commanded by Sailing Master Johnson, the *Seahorse* had a fourteen-man crew armed with muskets and one long 6-pound cannon. The schooner's shallow draft allowed it to easily maneuver in the bay and sail close to the shoreline.

On the afternoon of December 13th, advance elements of the British longboat divisions spotted the *Seahorse* sailing the bay and halted their advance. Three

longboats rowed toward the *Seahorse* to capture it. The *Seahorse* engaged the longboats with grapeshot and turned them away. The three longboats were then joined by four more, who rowed into the bay toward the town's pier where the *Seahorse* docked. Between the winter winds and the tides, the longboats pressed forward but were drawn into range of the small shore battery. All of this activity drew the attention of locals. Noticing that the British were now in range, one "Miss Claiborne from Natchez" yelled at the artillery officers, took a lit cigar from one of the

men, and fired one of the long cannons. Seeing that the British were now in range, the *Seahorse* and the shore battery engaged the enemy for the next thirty minutes. The British longboats were once again turned away.

The British made a third attempt to capture the *Seahorse* while the main force pursued Jones to Lake Borgne. As night fell, the *Seahorse* was loaded but the longboats returned after nightfall. Trapped and facing capture, Master Johnson beached and burned the schooner along with public storehouse.

Although Jones recounted the fire and explosion in his reports, British records have no account of the battle. According to the American accounts, one longboat was damaged and several British sailors were wounded or killed. The United States lost two dead and two wounded, along with the loss of the *Seahorse*. An almost

continued on p. 15



The Mystic Krewe of the *Seahorse* prepares to fire the opening ceremonial salute. Photo still courtesy of Marc Berman, Mystic Krewe of the *Seahorse*

Battle of Bay St. Louis, cont. from p. 13

unknown yet important aspect of the Battle of New Orleans, this battle was the last naval battle between U.S. naval ships and a foreign naval power in U.S. territorial waters – the only battle in the State of Mississippi during the War of 1812. Together with the nearby Battle of Lake Borgne, the Battle of Bay Saint Louis delayed the British landing at Isle aux Pois and bought General Jackson valuable time to assemble the American defense of New Orleans.

In recent years, the Battle of Bay Saint Louis and the *Seahorse* have become a focal point for local celebration. Co-founded by brothers and history buffs Donald and Rory Rafferty and friends, the Mystic Krewe of the *Seahorse* debuted in March 2014 to annually celebrate the history of Bay St. Louis and the 200th anniversary of the battle with parades, costume balls, and fundraisers – complete with cannon fire. In 2024 with the partial funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Hancock County Historical Society produced a unique one-act play, “Sink or Be Sunk!” based on La Violette’s book.

Extending back to January 2022, the Mississippi Society initiated a project to replace the beaten marker with a replacement. With the blessings of Gray and Favre, the Society submitted its application to the state for approval. Led by then-Mississippi Society President Ben Jones, the project continued with the assistance of President Michael Schenk and then Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Keith Goodfellow. Two years later, the marker was approved by state and delivered. In conjunction with summer auditions and publicity for the September 2024 performance of the play, the Mississippi Society and the gift marker received extensive local media coverage. The new plaque was featured prominently in the printed program, which was distributed to local Mississippi history students at a special performance. The cast included Mississippi Society member Col. John McCaige, USAF (Ret) as narrator and Gen. Andrew Jackson, along with his son Trey portraying Lt. Thomas Jones. In attendance at the evening performance were Council board member and Daughters of 1812 Past State President Kathy Henry and her husband Mark, Marvin



Mississippi Society officers, members and Color Guard. (L-R) Past President Ben Jones, Foster Harris Day, Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Keith Goodfellow, Vernon LaCour, President Michael Schenk, Dr. Bryant Boswell, Jerry Lilly, State Vice President General John Taylor, and Chad Couth. Photo courtesy of Darla Goodfellow.

Russell of the Louisiana Living History Foundation and Louisiana Society of the War of 1812, and Past President Jones.

With the assistance of the City of Bay St. Louis, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, and the Hancock Chamber of Commerce, the groups collectively celebrated the 210th anniversary of the battle on December 14, a sunny brisk Saturday afternoon, with a dedication ceremony for the new marker. Noticeably absent and missed were the dearly departed Messrs. Gray and Favre. Officers and members from the Mississippi and Louisiana Societies and Daughters of 1812 were in attendance. Mississippi Society members provided a four-men color guard unit in period regalia, courtesy of Bryant Boswell. Along with our hosts, Presidents Schenk and Jones spoke on the significance and history of the battle and the plaque. Mayor Mike Favre honored the Society with a proclamation thanking the Mississippi Society for its gift. The unveiling ceremony was followed by a parade march south on Beach Boulevard to “Krewe Central.”

The ceremony was enjoyed by all. Celebrations lingered into the night and members received numerous accolades and praise well into January. Given its notable history and significance, the original marker will be permanently displayed at the Hancock County Historical Society.

Harrington Boys, cont. from p. 7

the example of those four brothers, The Harrington Boys, who answered the call to duty, and remember that at the end of our lives, only Grace will take us home, and that is truly amazing."

The Harrington descendants present assembled at the Memorial Marker for those four departed American Heroes, as American Legion Chaplain Andy Coates, a Harrington descendant, led the group in a prayer for those four fallen heroes and for veterans then and now who serve and have served our country.

The program concluded with the Color Guard retiring the Colors as the piper's melody of "Amazing Grace" played softly while Chaplain Walker reverently offered his prayer of benediction.

1812 Gunboats cont. from p. 9

Gunboat 23 – Charleston, (West) Virginia, John Connell and Peter Mills, mounted one 32-pound cannon and four 6-pound cannons, captured by the British

Gunboat 24 – Cincinnati, Ohio, Thomas Reagan, mounted one 32-pound cannon and two 6-pound cannons, under repair at New Orleans on October 1812

Gunboat 25 – Cincinnati, Ohio, Thomas Reagan, mounted one 32-pound cannon and two 6-pound cannons, condemned in April 1812

Gunboat 26 – Eddyville, Kentucky, Matthew Lyon

Gunboat 27 – Eddyville, Kentucky, Matthew Lyon, mounted on 24-pound cannon and two 6-pound cannons

Silverstone, Paul H., *The Sailing Navy 1775-1854* (Naval Institute Press: Annapolis, MD 2001), Gunboats, pp. 56-58.

Tucker, Spencer C., *The Jeffersonian Gunboat Navy* (University of South Carolina: Columbia, SC 1993), Service Record of Individual Gunboats, pp. 185-186.

Supplemental Applications

Supplemental #	Member Name	Ancestor
SI	John Ross Tatum	Corporal Caleb Wood
S2	Edwin Prentice Dierdorff, Jr.	Corporal Lewis Dulin, Sr.

Necrology

Member	Date	National #	State Society
Wayne Alan Cofiell	May 4, 2024	5911	MD
Jimmie Dean Coy	December 1, 2020	5876	MO
Thomas S. Daniels	November 1, 2024	5095	MI
Herbert McMurray Gould	August 31, 2024	6763	TN
Morgan David Howard	October 23, 2019	6993	VA
Harry A. Hughes, Sr.	March 17, 2021	2028	DC
Robert Donald Inman	December 5, 2023	7057	PA
Rev. Ronald Curtis Lawson	December 20, 2022	4733	DC
James Charles McHargue	August 14, 2024	5247	CA
Barrett Lee McKown	November 25, 2024	4905	MD
Dr. Robert Bruce Schmidt	September 30, 2024	5711	VA

New Members Since Last War Cry

Member Name	National #	State Society	
Kevin Duane Fravel	8513	MAL 513	Private Jesse Fravel
Jared Benjamin Grady Fravel	8514	CO 81	Private Cornelius Brewer
Kyle Christopher Brewer	8515	MD 1071	Private Elzy Dodd
Thomas Johnson	8516	IA 81	Private Christian Sager
Edward Thomas Sager	8517	PA 1364	Private John Hamel
Stephen Benjamin Damer	8518	PA 1365	Captain/Lieut. Colonel Abraham Eustis
Billy L. Jeffries	8519	LA 906	Private Joseph Ozier LeJeune
Joseph Patrick LeJeune	8520	IN 111	Private Thomas D. Maples
Henry Louis Townsend	8521	OH 249	Private Samuel Alton
Stephen Edward Ruf, III	8522	MD 1072	Private Amos Neer
Donald Edward Couchman	8523	MD 1073	Private Samuel Hall
Robert August Hall	8524	NC 100	Private Francis Carter
Jeffrey Davis Whitehead	8525	SC 72	Private William Walters, Jr
Thomas Frederick Page	8526	TX 570	Private Jeremiah Willison
Mark Stephen Van Fossen	8527	TX 571	Private Simon Derrick
Michael Alexander Worthen	8528	FL 170	Private Elijah Blades
Donald Robert Willis	8529	MA 346	Seaman Samuel Hutchins
Larry Gene Denning, Jr.	8530	IA 82	Private Jasper Stoddard
Howard Phelps Hoelscher	8531	DE 69	Surgeon John White
Donald Geoffrey Bidmead Born	8532	DE 70	Corporal Levi Bowen
Joseph Peter Gamble	8533	DE 71	Corporal Noah Sinclair
Kenneth Alton Wheelock	8534	OH 250	Private Barzillai Pierce
Stephen Thornton Clark	8535	MD 1074	Sergeant/Private Booker Miller
Zander Liam Dail	8536	MD 1075	Private Cloudsberry Collier
James Patrick Hoffman	8537	MD 1076	Private William Ray
Frank Robertson Howard, II	8538	TX 573	Private John McGinnis
John Derek Dawson, Jr.	8539	MA 347	Sergeant Iddo Kimball
Joe Lynn Ginsberg	8540	MAL 514	Major James Warne
Timothy Allen Warne	8541	MAL 515	Private John Alexander Pierce
Matthew Landis Baxter	8542	MI 226	Private/Corporal Nathaniel W. Dopkins



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Bicentennial Roster of Members & Their Ancestors <i>Hardbound (roster of members through GS #7254), won't be reprinted</i>	\$ 40.00		\$
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State President's Star (Sterling Silver) + 35¢ per letter engraving	\$ 510.00		\$
Insigne Cufflinks (Gold/Silver)	\$ 220.00		\$
Seal Cufflinks	\$ 170.00		\$
State President and General Society Officer Sash	\$ 145.00		\$
Rosette	\$ 20.00		\$
Blazer Patch	\$ 50.00		\$
Emblem Silk Tie <input type="checkbox"/> Necktie <input type="checkbox"/> Bowtie	\$ 45.00		\$
Striped Silk Tie <input type="checkbox"/> Necktie <input type="checkbox"/> Bowtie	\$ 45.00		\$
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	GRAND TOTAL		\$

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