

Pennsylvania 1812

December 2012



Fall Event on the Philadelphia Waterfront

1812 PA members journeyed to the Delaware River for a two stop event on Saturday, October 20. First up was lunch on the sailing ship *Moshulu*, tied up at Penn's Landing. We were served a choice of wine, followed by tossed salad, roast pork or crabcake, with mixed vegetables and potato. Dessert was a yummy "three on a plate" combination all seemed to enjoy. The meal got great reviews from everyone.



President Marvin leads us in a toast.

as marksman several times... a task many of us would have liked to try.

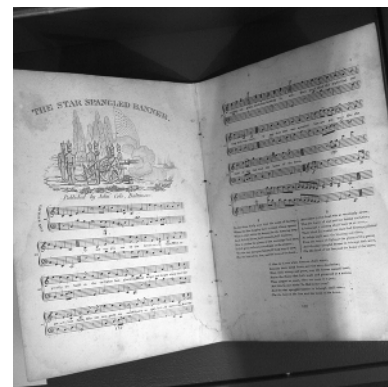
Much of the rest of the exhibit was a mix of naval battle art, and descriptive text and stories that added life to a flat piece of art.

Other artifacts included casualty reports, letters from people who survived the engagements, and a copy of the *Star Spangled Banner* in the early period after it was first published.

The exhibit continues to the end of the year. If you haven't been to see it, we think it is worth your while to do so.

At the show, "Home of the Brave, The War of 1812 in Art, Story & Song" we had as our guide, Craig Bruns, the Curator. He started with a kid-friendly display of a cannon that went off and screens that showed simulated damage a shell might make crashing into a ship (picture bottom right). A young boy served

Right, a copy of the *Star Spangled Banner*. Middle, Stephen Decatur's Commission as a Captain in the US Navy, of 2/6/1804. Left, are members at the lunch. Tee Adams Photos



Museum Curator, Craig Bruns, showed us the treasures in the show. In the case at left, everyone in that era needed battle art on their pottery. Even British makers provided crockery with US victories on the side.



President's Message

The group has been moving forward with purpose this year and I wanted to take a moment to update you on the progress.

The recent luncheon on the ship Moshulu October 20th and the following tour of the Independence Seaport Museum's bicentennial exhibit of the War of 1812 guided by the Curator, Craig Bruns, were quite successful. If you were not able to see this excellent Exhibit, I suggest you do so before it closes at the end of the year.

We are revising the State Society's Bylaws to make them more relevant to the way we operate. Board members will see the new draft at our December meeting and then a version will be provided to the membership in front of a vote to accept at next March's Annual Meeting.

Secretary Jefferson Moak and Vice President Eugene Bolt have made significant strides in updating our membership list information, adding to previous efforts by list manager Tee Adams. For more efficiency in communication, we hope to add E-mail listings of most of our members in the near future. We have some but need many more. You can send your name and E-mail to Tee at videoboss@aol.com. **(Please put 1812 in the subject line.)**

Members are also working to create a classic looking, and informative, website for PA.

We have three new members, and several candidates in the pipeline, but we are always looking for more.

Our Historian, Ray Longacre needs Pennsylvania Society Yearbooks from 1989 and 2005 as well as any relevant Society material from before 1982. Any board meeting notes would be good too. Please contact me if you can help us.

District Deputy President General Showler and I, with our wives, had a very enjoyable time at the Annual Meeting of the General Society in Boston in August. This included a fascinating tour of Old Ironsides before she sailed in the Harbor for perhaps the last time. Next year's Meeting will be in Nashville and will feature a tour of Andrew Jackson's Home. All members and their families are welcome to join us at these Meetings.

Our group's plans for next year's activities include attending a re-enactment on Saturday, June 8th at Fort Mifflin on the Delaware. This should be great for all ages and I urge you to come and bring your young relatives.

Bob Marvin

rmarvin@verizon.net - 610-896-5142



Eugene A. Bolt, Jr. Tee Adams Photos



Board members standing for a photo at the June meeting include: Adams III, Van Gullick, Di Stefano, Marvin, Bolt, Peicker, Weller, Kennedy, Showler and Moak.

Board News

At our June meeting, we continued to move forward. Eugene Bolt, Jr. was elected to the post of Vice President. This position was left vacant at our annual meeting.

We also got the news that Stacy Wood has died. He had just accepted an offer to be back on the board, and then we got word of his passing. He was a great help to the group over the years and a good friend of many.

To fill vacancies on the board, we asked Steven

Mark to step in to one of the open positions. Sam Hoff, who stepped down as Secretary, is now a regular board member.

Your board hopes you, as a member, have an interest in more activity from this group than you have been accustomed to. We are working on a variety of events for the next several years. That may culminate in a big bash in early 2015 to celebrate the end of our war.

This last year 17 ROTC Awards and Medals were distributed and/or presented at PA colleges.



Bicentennial Meeting - GS 1812

Several of our members went north this summer for the General Society's Annual Meeting in Boston. They included the Showlers and Marvins. As you can see there was a tour of the USS Constitution. Some also went out to see her annual cruise in the port. The traditional meetings and parties were well organized.



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Stacy B.C. Wood Jr., 78, Died April 28

Mr Wood spent a lot of his life in Lancaster, but he passed away near his family in South Philadelphia. He was a long-time board member in 1812 PA and the General Society. For the GS, for many years he handled the monumental task of providing our ROTC awards to college ROTC programs across the country.

He was also well known as a clock maker. He wrote several books and dozens of journal articles on the subject, and his book *Clockmakers of Lancaster County and Their Clocks 1750-1850*, published in 1977, is considered an important work in the field.

Members Attend Plaque Unveiling

A new plaque honoring the bicentennial of the War of 1812 was installed on the northwest corner of the Soldiers and Sailors statue in Penn Square, Lancaster, PA. The statue is at the intersection of King and Queen Streets. This plaque was sponsored by the United States Daughters of 1812, with whom we have been sharing events with this year. This was on "Capital Day" celebrated annually in Lancaster. Several from our group attended the dedication on September 27. They included President Marvin, and local members including Ray Longacre and Ed Miller. The ceremony was at 11 am. A luncheon followed at the Press Room Restaurant on West King Street.



Above, the plaque installed - ready to dedicate. Bob Marvin and USD President Beth Calhoun, at the event. Below, the site of the dedication at King & Queen Streets in Lancaster, PA. Ray Longacre Photos.



The 10 Things You Didn't Know About the War of 1812

By Tony Horwitz and Brian Wolly - *Smithsonian.com*

1. The War Needs Re-Branding

"The War of 1812" is an easy handle for students who struggle with dates. But the name is a misnomer that makes the conflict sound like a mere wisp of a war that began and ended the same year.

In reality, it lasted 32 months following the U.S. declaration of war on Britain in June 1812. That's longer than the Mexican-American War, Spanish-American War, and U.S. involvement in World War I.

Also confusing is the Battle of New Orleans, the largest of the war and a resounding U.S. victory. The battle occurred in January, 1815—two weeks after U.S. and British envoys signed a peace treaty in Ghent, Belgium. News traveled slowly then. Even so, it's technically incorrect to say that the Battle of New Orleans was fought after the war, which didn't officially end until February 16, 1815, when the Senate and President James Madison ratified the peace treaty.

For roughly a century, the conflict didn't merit so much as a capital W in its name and was often called "the war of 1812." The British were even more dismissive. They termed it "the American War of 1812," to distinguish the conflict from the much greater Napoleonic War in progress at the same time.

The War of 1812 may never merit a Tchaikovsky overture, but perhaps a new name would help rescue it from obscurity.

2. Impressment May Have Been a Trumped-Up Charge

One of the strongest impetuses for declaring war against Great Britain was the impressment of American seamen into the Royal Navy, a not uncommon act among navies at the time but one that incensed Americans nonetheless. President James Madison's State Department reported that 6,257 Americans were pressed into service from 1807 through 1812. But how big a threat was impressment, really?

"The number of cases which are alleged to have occurred, is both extremely erroneous and exaggerated," wrote Massachusetts Sen. James Lloyd, a Federalist and political rival of Madison's. Lloyd argued that the president's allies used impressment as "a theme of party clamour [sic], and party odium," and that those citing as a *casus belli* were "those who have the least knowledge and the smallest interest in the subject."

Other New England leaders, especially those with ties to the shipping industry, also doubted the severity of the problem. Timothy Pickering, the Bay State's other senator, commissioned a study that counted the total number of impressed seamen from Massachusetts at slightly more than 100 and the total number of Americans at just a few hundred.

Yet the Britons' support for Native Americans in conflicts with the United States, as well as their own designs on the North American frontier, pushed Southern and Western senators toward war, and they needed more support to declare it. An issue that could place the young nation as the aggrieved party could help; of the 19 senators who passed the declaration of war, only three were from New England and none of them were Federalists.

3. The Rockets Really Did Have Red Glare

Francis Scott Key famously saw the American flag flying over Fort McHenry amid the "rockets' red glare" and "bombs bursting in air." He wasn't being metaphorical. The rockets were British missiles called Congreves and looked a bit like giant bottle rockets. Imagine a long stick that spins around in the air, attached to a cylindrical canister filled with gunpowder, tar and shrapnel. Congreves were inaccurate but intimidating, an 1814 version of "shock and awe." The "bombs bursting in air" were 200 pound cannonballs, designed to explode above their target. The British fired about 1500 bombs and rockets at Fort McHenry from ships in Baltimore Harbor and only succeeded in killing four of the fort's defenders.

4. Uncle Sam Came From the War Effort

The Star-Spangled Banner isn't the only patriotic icon that dates to the War of 1812. It's believed that "Uncle Sam" does, too. In Troy, New York, a military supplier named Sam Wilson packed meat rations in barrels labeled U.S. According to local lore, a soldier was told the initials stood for "Uncle Sam" Wilson, who was feeding the army. The name endured as shorthand for the U.S. government. However, the image of Uncle Sam as a white-bearded recruiter didn't appear for another century, during World War I.

5. The Burning of Washington was Capital Payback

To Americans, the burning of Washington by British troops was a shocking act by barbaric invaders. But the burning was payback for a similar torching by American forces the year before. After defeating British troops at York (today's Toronto), then the capital of



Upper Canada, U.S. soldiers plundered the town and burned its parliament. The British exacted revenge in August 1814 when they burned the White House, Congress, and other buildings.

Long-term, this may have been a blessing for the U.S. capital. The combustible “President’s House” (as it was then known) was rebuilt in sturdier form, with elegant furnishings and white paint replacing the earlier whitewash. The books burned at Congress’s library were replaced by Thomas Jefferson, whose wide-ranging collection became the foundation for today’s comprehensive Library of Congress.

6. Native Americans Were the War’s Biggest Losers

The United States declared war over what it saw as British violations of American sovereignty at sea. But the war resulted in a tremendous loss of Native American sovereignty, on land. Much of the combat occurred along the frontier, where Andrew Jackson battled Creeks in the South and William Henry Harrison fought Indians allied with the British in the “Old Northwest.” This culminated in the killing of the Shawnee warrior, Tecumseh, who had led pan-Indian resistance to American expansion. His death, other losses during the war, and Britain’s abandonment of their native allies after it, destroyed Indians’ defense of their lands east of the Mississippi, opening the way for waves of American settlers and “Indian Removal” to the west.

7. The Ill-Fated General Custer Had His Start in the War

In 1813, by the River Raisin in Michigan, the British and their Native American allies dealt the U.S. its most stinging defeat in the War of 1812, and the battle was followed by an Indian attack on wounded prisoners. This incident sparked an American battle cry, “Remember the Raisin!”

William Henry Harrison, who later led the U.S. to victory in battle against the British and Indians, is remembered on his tomb as “Avenger of the Massacre of the River Raisin.”

George Armstrong Custer remembered the Raisin, too. He spent much of his youth in Monroe, the city that grew up along the Raisin, and in 1871, he was photographed with War of 1812 veterans beside a monument to Americans slaughtered during and after the battle. Five years later, Custer also died fighting Indians, in one of the most lopsided defeats for U.S. forces since the River Raisin battle 63 years before.

8. There Was Almost a United States of New England

The political tension persisted as the war progressed, culminating with the Hartford Convention, a meeting of New England dissidents who seriously flirted with the idea of seceding from the United States. They rarely used the terms “secession” or “disunion,” however, as they viewed it as merely a separation of two sovereign states.

For much of the preceding 15 years, Federalist plans for disunion ebbed and flowed with their party’s political fortunes. After their rival Thomas Jefferson won the presidency in 1800, they grumbled sporadically about seceding, but mostly when Jefferson took actions they didn’t appreciate (and, worse, when the electorate agreed with him). The Louisiana Purchase, they protested, was unconstitutional; the Embargo Act of 1807, they said, devastated the New England shipping industry. Electoral victories in 1808 silenced chatter of disunion, but the War of 1812 reignited those passions.

Led by Senator Thomas Pickering, disaffected politicians sent delegates to Hartford in 1814 as the first step in a series to sever ties with the United States. “I do not believe in the practicality of a long-continual union,” wrote Pickering to convention chairman George Cabot. The North and South’s “mutual wants would render a friendly and commercial intercourse inevitable.”

Cabot and other moderates in the party, however, quashed the secessionist sentiment. Their dissatisfaction with “Mr. Madison’s War,” they believed, was merely a consequence of belonging to a federation of states. Cabot wrote back to Pickering: “I greatly fear that a separation would be no remedy because the source of them is in the political theories of our country and in ourselves.... I hold democracy in its natural operation to be the government of the worst.”

9. Canadians Know More About the War Than You Do

Few Americans celebrate the War of 1812, or recall the fact that the U.S. invaded its northern neighbor three times in the course of the conflict. But the same isn’t true in Canada, where memory of the war and pride in its outcome runs deep.

In 1812, American “War Hawks” believed the conquest of what is today Ontario would be easy, and that settlers in the British-held territory would gladly become part of the U.S. But each of the American invasions was repelled. Canadians regard the war as a heroic defense against their much larger neighbor,



and a formative moment in their country's emergence as an independent nation. While the War of 1812 bicentennial is a muted affair in the U.S., Canada is reveling in the anniversary and celebrating heroes such as Isaac Brock and Laura Secord, little known south of the border.

"Every time Canada beats the Americans in hockey, everybody's tremendously pleased," says Canadian historian Allan Greer. "It's like the big brother, you have to savor your few victories over him and this was one."

10. The Last Veteran

Amazingly, some Americans living today were born when the last veteran of the War of 1812 was still alive. In 1905, a grand parade was held to celebrate the life of Hiram Silas Cronk, who died on April 29, two weeks after his 105th birthday.

Cronk "cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson and his last for Grover Cleveland," according to a newspaper account from 1901.

After nearly a century of obscurity as a farmer in New York State, he became something of a celebrity

the closer he came to dying. Stories about his life filled newspaper columns, and the New York City Board of Aldermen began planning Cronk's funeral months before he died.

When he did, they marked the event with due ceremony. "As the funeral cortege moved from the Grand Central Station to the City Hall it afforded an imposing and unusual spectacle," reported the Evening Press of Grand Rapids, Michigan. "Led by a police escort of mounted officers, a detachment from the United States regular Army, the Society of 1812 and the Old Guard in uniform, came the hearse bearing the old warrior's body. Around it, in hollow square formation, marched the members of the U.S. Grant Post, G.A.R. Then followed the Washington Continental Guard from Washington, D.C., the Army and Navy Union, and carriages with members of the Cronk family. Carriages with Mayor McClellan and members of the city government brought up the rear."

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/The-10-Things-You-Didnt-Know-About-the-War-of-1812.html#ixzz2ADsXamLT>

Baltimore Sailed into June with a fleet of Sailing Ships Visiting.

One of our Editor's Facebook friends in Baltimore, Veronica Salisbury, went out to see the sailing ships when they visited in mid June. The event was partially to celebrate the memory of our war, and was made bigger because several extra tall ships happened to have a hole in their schedules so decided to appear. Here are several of the vessels tied up downtown. As part of our masthead, is the replica of *Pride of Baltimore*, to which I added a few bombs bursting in air. She is a reproduction of an 1812-era topsail schooner, called *Baltimore Clippers*, that helped America win the War of 1812 and finally secure its freedom. You can read more about these ships at the *Pride's* website: www.pride2.org/



Our Annual BBQ - June 24

Our annual mid-summer barbeque was well attended. We chose from a wide variety of tasty morsels presented by Merion Golf Club's chefs. Below you see a couple of our tables. Above, President Marvin greets the attendees. Tee Adams Photos





1812 Visits Valley Forge Military

On May 6, we attended an annual church service and parade at Valley Forge Military Academy & College, followed by lunch in their banquet hall.

It was overcast, but otherwise a perfect day to venture out to Valley Forge Military for a parade, church service and lunch. As shown above, we were called to worship in an impressive way, with all the horns blowing. The non-denominational service in Alumni Memorial Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion was led by Valley Forge Chaplain Captain Hale. 1812 members sat up front during the service.

Afterwards, it was a short walk to the parade field. We were given VIP seats at the front, and the corps of cadets marched in and around to a stirring beat from their band. During the parade several cadets received awards. This included the ROTC medal we provide each year. Bob Marvin and Peter Hill marched onto the field to present that to a deserving Junior College student.

The day ended with a nicely prepared lunch in Eisenhower Hall, their banquet facility. Several cadets from the Junior College, including our award recipient ate with us.

We plan to do this again in the spring of 2013. Peter Hill has it well in hand.

Above left, the horns came alive to announce the service was starting. Beth Calhoun and Elizabeth Miller joined us from the National Society United States Daughters of 1812. Right, some of our members join in a hymn during the church service. Below, Bob Marvin presents the 1812 ROTC award to Valley Forge cadet Robert Markunas on the parade ground.



Above, COL David R. Gray, USA, greeted us at lunch. Below left, the assembled men of 1812 pose with cadets and CAPT Hale before sitting for lunch. Below, watching the parade from ringside seats. Tee Adams Photos



Society of the

PA

War of 1812



For those on Facebook...

<https://www.facebook.com/GSWarOf1812>

This is the new page put up by the General Society.
Please like the page if you're a Facebooker.

REMEMBER to send an E-mail to videoboss@aol.com so we can
add you to the list for information we will send that way.

Six Naval Heroes buried in the Phila. area.

*This is a start on a list of notable participants
in our war.*

Charles Stewart, Captain of the Constellation and
Constitution during the War of 1812 - buried at Wood-
lands Cemetery

Isaac Hull, Captain of the Constitution in the bat-
tle with the Guerriere - buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery

William Bainbridge, Captain of the Constitution
in the battle with the Java - buried in Christ Church
Burial Ground

David Porter, Captain of the Essex during the War
of 1812 - buried in Woodlands Cemetery

James Biddle, 1st Lieutenant of the Wasp and
later captain of the Hornet - buried in Christ Church
Burial Ground

Stephen Decatur, Jr., Captain of the United States
and the President - buried in St. Peter's Churchyard.

Monuments, Collections, and Preservation Projects of the Society of the War of 1812 In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

*(This is a new addition gathered from old yearbooks
donated by Richard Weller. We are looking for more.)*

■ May 30 1988 - Re-internment of Susan Decatur,
widow of Commodore Stephen Decatur, St Peter's
Churchyard, Philadelphia.

■ May 20, 1989 - Commodore David Porter
monument restoration, rededication, Woodlands
Cemetery, Philadelphia.

■ April 29, 1990 - 1812 grave plaque for President
James Buchanan, soldier, in Woodward Hill
Cemetery, Lancaster, PA

Mark your calendar:

Tuesday, December 4 - Board Meeting

Saturday, March 9 - Annual Meeting
The Corinthian Yacht Club

Saturday, June 8th - Re-enactment at Fort Mifflin

■ Oct 27, 1997 - Capt. Charles Ross monument
refurbishment and rededication Old Pine Street
(First Presbyterian) Church

■ Oct 10, 1999 - Capt. John Morin Scott and his
wife, relettered and rededicated grave monument,
Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia.

■ Oct 10, 2004 - PA Society 150th Anniversary,
wreath ceremony after church service at St. Peter's
Episcopal Church on Pine St, at Commodore
Stephen Decatur's memorial graveside.

■ Oct 16, 2010 - Lamb Tavern, Springfield, PA
(Del. Co.), commemorative marker for being the site
of an important encampment of thousands of troops
defending Marcus Hook in 1814.

■ Treasures on loan to the Independence Seaport
Museum as of 1979 (See National newsletter for info in
2011 or early 2012, or some of the older yearbooks.)
The Decatur Tray & Perry Medal.

Important Events In Our War - 200 years ago

DATE	OCCURRENCE
1812 Nov	James Madison reelected
1812 Nov	British blockade South Carolina and Georgia
1812 Nov 9	Escape of HMS Royal George
1812 Nov 10	Commodore Isaac Chauncey attacks Kingston Harbour
1812 Nov 22	Spur's Defeat
1812 Nov 23	Americans retreat from Eastern Canada
1812 Nov 27	Americans attack Fort Erie redoubts
1812 Nov 28	Skirmish at Frenchman Creek
1812 Dec 3	William Eustis resigns as Secretary of War
1812 Dec 3	James Monroe serves as Secretary of War
1812 Dec 18	Battle of the Mississinewa
1812 Dec 26	Great Britain blockades Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay
1812 Dec 29	Sinking of HMS Java
1812 Dec 29	Paul Hamilton resigns as Secretary of the Navy

1813

DATE	OCCURRENCE
1813 Jan 12	William Jones serves as Secretary of the Navy
1813 Jan 22	Battle of Frenchtown
1813 Jan 23	River Raisin massacre
1813 Feb 5	John Armstrong serves as Secretary of War
1813 Feb 6	Raid on Elizabethtown
1813 Feb 16	104th Regiment commences march from Fredericton to Upper Canada
1813 Feb 22	Battle of Ogdensburg
1813 Feb 24	Sinking of HMS Peacock

