

THE 1812 WAR CRY



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KEN ROACH, EDITOR



PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE—JUNE 2015

Earlier this year, I was honored to be present at some of the final commemorations of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. I joined N.S.U.S.D. 1812 President National Virginia Apyar at a ceremony at the Octagon House in Washington, DC marking the 200th anniversary of President Madison's signing of the Treaty of Ghent. This event was held in the very room—an oval office on the second floor—where President Madison signed the document on February 17, 1815 following the Senate's passage the previous day.

I had the opportunity to attend meetings of societies in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Alabama. While in Philadelphia in March, I paid a visit to the graves of two prominent leaders of our organization—Joel Barlow Sutherland, who presided over the first meeting of the Society of the War of 1812 in 1854 and John Cadwalader, who presided over the reorganization of the Society in 1894.

In April, many General Society officers gathered in Washington for meetings of various hereditary societies. At that time, I had the chance to meet with newly elected N.S.U.S.D. 1812 President National Jacque Lynne Schulman. I look forward to working with Lynne on several opportunities to honor our War of 1812 ancestors.

The Society mourns the death of one of our officers, Donald Peter Herrick Rowley, Deputy District President General (Gulf). Peter was an active member of the Society in Texas, regularly attended General Society meetings for a number of years, and was enthusiastic about presenting programs on the War of 1812. He was a devoted family man, a successful engineer, and a patriot.

Earlier this year, the Executive Committee voted to support the Preserve the Pensions project. This effort, a partnership of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Archives, fold3, and Ancestry.com, is to digitize the War of 1812 pensions and make them available to researchers for free. Over 50% of the pensions have been digitized to date (and growing by the day) and are available at <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions> This is an amazing resource and a worthy project.

Quartermaster General John Taylor has been especially busy this year. The General Society's Bicentennial Medal has been sold out—just in time for the end of the Bicentennial. The funds raised by the sale of these medals was used to partially fund various Bicentennial commemorations, events, and projects.

I commend the great work of our State Societies and their members in continuing our mission of preserving the history of the War of 1812. As we move beyond the Bicentennial, I look forward to many great projects and efforts throughout the country to honor our ancestors and nation.



Above—President General Tom Jacks with N.S.U.S.D. 1812 President National Virginia Apyar at a ceremony at the Octagon House in Washington, DC



Right - President General Tom Jacks standing at the table on which President Madison signed the Treaty of Ghent.

Alabama Society Participates in Dedication and Holds Annual Meeting

On March 19, 2015, members of the Society of the War of 1812 in Alabama participated in the dedication of a commemorative marker in Huntsville, Alabama which marked the location of the crossing of the Tennessee River by the army of Gen. Andrew Jackson during the Creek War in October of 1813. The marker was placed at Ditto's Landing on the north bank of the Tennessee River by the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, marking the spot where James Ditto used his ferry to transport large numbers of soldiers, horses, cannon and equipment to the south bank. Included in those crossing at Ditto's Landing were Gen. John Coffee and David Crockett. The battles of Tallushatchee, Talladega and The Hillabees followed shortly after the crossing in November of 1813.

Vice President Jim Alexander of the Alabama Society presented the wreath of the Alabama Society and brought greetings on behalf of the Society. N.S.U.S.D. 1812 President National Virginia Apyar was present for the dedication of the marker and participated in the dedication.

Annual Meeting

The Society then held its annual meeting in Huntsville on March 21. Society President Price Legg presided over the meeting which included updates on current projects within Alabama and election and installation of new officers. James Alexander was elected president. President General Thomas E. Jacks spoke on the history of the General Society, emphasizing its founding by actual veterans of the War of 1812.



Pictured left to right above are President General Jacks, newly installed Alabama Society Officers: President Jim Alexander, Vice President Jim Maples, immediate past president Price Legg and Registrar Richard Smallwood.



Pictured in the photograph above are, from left to right, are Alabama Society members George Stone, George Royer, John Graham, Jim Alexander, N.S.U.S.D. President National Virginia Apyar, and Alabama Society members Jim Maples and Richard Smallwood.

Fort Bowyer Remembered

On February 11, 1815, Fort Bowyer surrendered to the British *after* the Battle of New Orleans. This Fort had held off the British in September 1814 and forced the British to change plans.

Mary Collins, President of the Major Uriah Blue Chapter, U.S.D. of 1812 and former Alabama State President and the then Alabama Society President Price Legg pictured below laid wreaths to commemorate the battle.



EDITOR'S CORNER

The publication schedule follows: September 1 (deadline for submission August 1); December 1 (deadline for submission November 1). Keep sending in those articles.

Black Regulars in the War of 1812 by Eric Eugene Johnson

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Ohio has released its newest book, *Black Regulars in the War of 1812*. This book can be obtained from Heritage Books, Inc. (<http://www.heritagebooks.com>). Heritage Books has also published the other books produced for the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Ohio.

The Black American soldier was a rarity between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. When Congress passed the Militia Act of 1792, it required that "every free able-bodied white male citizen" join his state militia. It was implied that non-whites could not participate in the militia but it left open the possibility that non-whites could join the U.S. Army.

The U.S. Army did permit Blacks to serve in the army, but only as cooks or officer's servants between the two wars. Cracks in these restrictions appeared for a short time during the War of 1812. Congress passed An Act for Completing the Existing Military Establishment on December 24, 1811 in which is stated that only "able bodied men" may be recruited in the army. No restrictions for race will appear in any military legislation passed during the War of 1812.

Without specific rules and regulations governing this issue of recruiting Black soldiers, some commanders in the army did recruit Blacks. This work identifies 398 Black men who did enlist in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812 and another fifty-two men who may have been Black due to their physical descriptions as found in their enlistment papers. The majority of these men were soldiers and not cooks or servants.

Mr. Johnson is a lineal descendant of five veterans of the War of 1812 and he is the past president of the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Ohio (2008-2011). He is currently the Archivist General for the General Society of the War of 1812.

Pennsylvania Society Annual Meeting

The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania held its annual meeting on March 14, at the Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia. President General Thomas E. Jacks provided the keynote address on "The Battle of New Orleans." Society President Dr. Robert Marvin presided over the meeting and the election of new officers. Long-time Society Treasurer Robert Van Gulick was elected President.

Maryland Annual Meeting

The Maryland Society had its Annual meeting at the historic 1854 Maryland Club with over 100 members and guests in attendance. President Christos Christou, Jr. who has served as President for the 3 years of the Bicentennial turned over the symbols of office to his successor J. Patrick Warner. As a token of his thanks, he presented coins to those who provided significant help during the 3 years. Members enjoyed libations and a wonderful meal. New members were inducted and presented their certificates and rosettes. Several VIPs attended the event including President National of the U.S.D. of 1812 Virginia Apyar and Past President Generals Dan Brooke and Hall Worthington. Fort McHenry Ranger Scott Sheads was the guest speaker at the function giving a talk on "Schwarztzauer's Tavern at the Fort: A History, 1790-1837" where the society was formed. The Maryland Society held its May Social event (Old Defenders' Day) at Brookeville the home where President Madison fled with the government when the British burned Washington. This private residence was opened for the society to meet and tour on May 23rd.



Past MD Society President receiving congratulatory applause for his work the last 3 years

New York Society

The Society of the Second War with Great Britain in the State of New York presented the General Society Bicentennial Metal to State of New York Society U.S.D. of 1812 President Jan Johnpier for her exemplary service commemorating the Bicentennial. Jan has been active across the state from the Niagara Frontier to Plattsburgh to Central Park in New York City and all points in between dedicating new plaques and monuments, rededicating veterans graves and 1812 Peace Gardens, and rededicating Centennial plaques and monuments that were installed 100 years ago. No one has done more than Jan on behalf of the War of 1812 in New York State. The presentation was made at the 111th annual Heritage Luncheon commemorating the 283rd birthday of George Washington held at Drumlins Country Club in Syracuse, NY on February 21. The event was attended by 80 people from across the state.

The National Archives holds over 180,000 pension files for soldiers of the War of 1812, all of which are fragile and deteriorating with age. **Our goal is to digitize these unique records and make them accessible online to the public for free!** The value of these records from patriots at a critical time in our history cannot be estimated. They provide a glimpse into the battles, history, and families that the veterans of the War of 1812 engaged in as they struggled to put their lives back together at the end of the war. **The General Society of the War of 1812 has long been the greatest champions in defending the memory of the War of 1812.** Help us finish this project with your generous donations. Each dollar that you or your chapter donates will be matched dollar-for-dollar by *Ancestry.com*. Each dollar will save at least 4 records! Please make your tax deductible gift online at www.preservethepensions.org or by mail. You can also visit our blog or Honor Roll online at the same address. Help us honor those who sacrificed for the “land of the free and home of the brave” over 200 years ago!

Federation of Genealogical Societies, c/o Preserve the Pensions, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720



Pictured left is the Grand Victory Ball Favor commissioned for the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans Victory Ball held by the Louisiana Society. The Favor is a gold plated pin 1-1/2” X 1-1/4”. 68 were sold at the Grand Victory Ball in January. The Favor is still available for purchase. The cost of each is \$40.00 and the shipping is \$5.95 for 1-4 units by US Postal Service. To obtain one please contact Warren J. Milan, Treasurer, The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Louisiana at winwar1812@att.net or 504-836-2470.

Louisiana Society Holds Annual Grand Military Victory Ball

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Louisiana held its Grand Military Victory Ball on January 10, 2015 at the New Orleans Country Club. The annual celebration of Jackson’s victory at the Battle of New Orleans is typically one of the highlights of the New Orleans social calendar and invitations were particularly coveted this year owing to the celebration of the Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans, hosted by the General Society, held just days before. Fifteen demoiselles were presented to Society President Shannon Walgomotte, Ball Chairman Edward Gros, Jr., and President General Thomas Jacks.





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GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812

Founded September 14, 1814

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