

## War of 1812

### Booklist

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2013



The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain from June 18, 1812 through February 18, 1815, in Virginia, Maryland, along the Canadian border, the western frontier, the Gulf Coast, and through naval engagements in the Great Lakes and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

In the United States frustrations mounted over British maritime policies, the impressments of Americans into British naval service, the failure of the British to withdraw from American territory along the Great Lakes, their backing of Indians on the frontiers, and their unwillingness to sign commercial agreements favorable to the United States. Thus the United States declared war with Great Britain on June 18, 1812. It ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814, although word of the treaty did not reach America until after the January 8, 1815 Battle of New Orleans.

An estimated 70,000 Virginians served during the war. There were some 73 armed encounters with the British that took place in Virginia during the war, and Virginians actively fought in Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio and in naval engagements. The nation's capitol, strategically located off the Chesapeake Bay, was a prime target for the British, and the coast of Virginia figured prominently in the Atlantic theatre of operations.

The War of 1812 helped forge a national identity among the American states and laid the groundwork for a national system of homeland defense and a professional military. For Canadians it also forged a national identity, but as proud British subjects defending their homes against southern invaders.

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## Adult Nonfiction

The following list is selected nonfiction by award-winning authors, recent best sellers, and books that provide important insight to the history of the War of 1812 from several perspectives. For additional titles, search the online catalog.

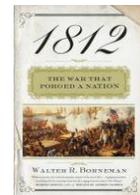
### 1812: The Navy's War

(George C. Daughan) With only 20 ships at the beginning of the War of 1812, America's ability to fight the experienced and vast British navy seemed bleak. Daughan recounts the stories of the brave Naval captains and their crews who lead the country to victory.



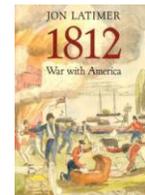
### 1812: The War That Forged a Nation

(Walter R. Borneman) In his narrative history of the War of 1812, Borneman chronicles the major events of the war while including rich personal stories of key individuals such as James Madison, Winfield Scott, James Wilkinson and more.



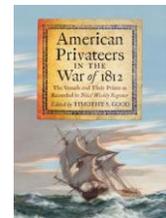
### 1812: War with America

(Jon Latimer) In this British perspective to the War of 1812, Latimer takes on the popular myth that this was a second war of independence and a total victory for the United States, stressing that America did not achieve any of its primary goals. Instead the British government merely conceded a truce in order to concentrate on more pressing Continental concerns, namely, Napoleon. The British victory in Canada, which eliminated future U.S. threats and set Canadians on the road toward confederation, remains the most significant result of the war.



### American Privateers in the War of 1812: The Vessels and Their Prizes as Recorded in *Niles' Weekly Register*

(Timothy S. Good, ed.) Although American privateers had a far greater impact on the British merchant marine and the economy of Great Britain than the U.S. Navy, they have received relatively little scholarly attention. This work addresses this shortcoming by providing an accounting of all 241 American privateers during the war and a comprehensive list of all captures made by American forces.



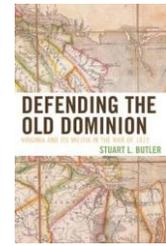
### The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, and Indian Allies

(Alan Taylor) Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Alan Taylor writes from the perspective of Great Britain as a civil war between the loyalists Britons in Canada and the revolutionaries in the United States. Rather than a sweeping history of the entire war, he focuses on the borders of Detroit and Montreal and how the landscape and people groups of the region influenced the war.

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## **Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia and Its Militia in the War of 1812**

*(Stuart L. Butler)* describes historical events in Virginia during the War of 1812, examining how Virginia's militia was organized, supplied, and financed by the Commonwealth including the fascinating story of nearly two thousand former slaves who fled to British ships to fight in Virginia with British forces.

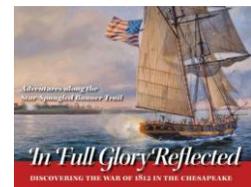


## **Flotilla: The Patuxent Naval Campaign in the War of 1812**

*(Donald G. Shomette)* During the War of 1812, the British Royal Navy invaded and attacked all along the Chesapeake Bay including much of Tidewater. In an effort to stop the damages, the Americans organized the Chesapeake Flotilla under the command of Captain Joshua Barney. Barney's flotilla was ultimately defeated, but their efforts resulted in a number of successes.

## **In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake**

*(Ralph E. Eshelman and Burton K. Kummerow)* Much of the fighting of the War occurred in the Chesapeake region and this new book, *In Full Glory Reflected*, uncovers its gripping stories of devastating raids, heroic defense, gallant privateers, fugitive slaves, and threatened lands.



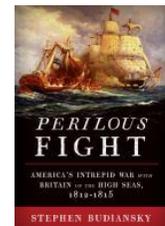
## **The Negro in the American Rebellion: His Heroism and His Fidelity**

*(William Wells Brown)* As the first military history of the African Americans, first published in 1867, it recounts the experiences of Kentucky-born Brown, who escaped from slavery and later became a physician, author, speaker and abolitionist. Brown also examines the sacrifices of African Americans in America's wars.

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## **Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1815**

*(Stephen Budiansky)* Military historian Budiansky enlivens the back story of the War of 1812 where the Federalists and Republicans argue the necessity of an American Navy, mistakes are made by the American Army on land, and the superior British navy smugly bullies American merchant ships. Ultimately, the heroics of the American navy proved its worth. A gripping, exhaustively researched naval history.

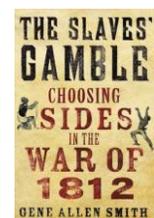


## **Six Frigates: The Epic History of the Founding of the U.S. Navy**

*(Ian W. Toll)* Toll chronicles the six frigates that launched the U.S. Navy including the political backstory, early 19<sup>th</sup> century diplomacy, the shocking defeat of the British navy, and the frigates' role in the War of 1812.

## **The Slaves' Gamble: Choosing Sides in the War of 1812**

*(Gene Allen Smith)* Explains the political circumstances that offered diverse possibilities to slaves in the early 1800s, revealing how many found freedom by supporting British, Spanish, and Native American forces in wars fought in the century's first two decades and yet the way the young nation responded sealed the fate of slaves for the next half century until the Civil War.



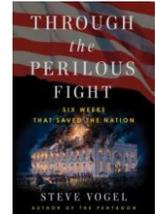
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## **The Star-Spangled Banner: The Making of an American Icon**

*(Lon Taylor)* More than just the tale of one flag and one song, *The Star-Spangled Banner* is the story of how Americans—often in times of crisis—have expressed their patriotism and defined their identity through the “broad stripes and bright stars” of our preeminent national symbol, a tradition that still thrives today.

## **Through the Perilous Fight: Six Weeks that Saved the Nation**

*(Steve Vogel)* A rousing account of British invasion of the Chesapeake Bay in the summer of 1814, one of the critical turning points in American history. It tells the gripping story of the burning of Washington and the improbable last stand at Baltimore that helped save the nation and inspired its National Anthem.



## **The U.S. Navy Pictorial History of the War of 1812**

*(Don Philpott)* Combining a fresh historical narrative with over 130 dramatic illustrations, many in color, to celebrate this war on its bicentennial, this book focuses on the naval battles of the War of 1812, which tended to be the most important, and proved influential in determining the fate of each of the nations involved. Pictures depict historic battles scenes, impressive naval vessels, and important historical figures, many of whom we remember specifically for their actions in the War of 1812.

## **War in the Lower Chesapeake & Hampton Roads Area, 1812-1815: As Reported in the *Norfolk Gazette & Publick Ledger* & the *Norfolk & Portsmouth Herald***

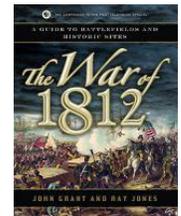
*(Transcribed by Jno. C. Emmerson, Jr.)* Explore the local perspective of the War of 1812 through the periodicals and newspapers of Hampton Roads and the lower Chesapeake.

## **War of 1812**

*(Paul Clancy, et al.)* Originally published May 6, 13, and 20, 2012 in the *Virginian-Pilot*, a history of the War around Hampton Roads.

## **The War of 1812: A Guide to Battlefields and Historic Sites**

*(John Grant and Ray Jones)* Richly illustrated and detailed, this documentary companion to the PBS miniseries explores the important battles, relevant sites, key figures and the importance of America’s victory to the identity of the new nation.



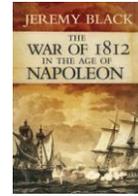
## **The War of 1812 and the Rise of the U.S. Navy**

*(Mark Collins Jenkins and David A. Taylor)* A visual history of the War of 1812 includes hundreds of photographs and illustrations, original and contemporary maps, historic documents, letters, ephemera, and artifacts.

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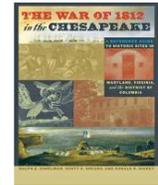
## The War of 1812: In the Age of Napoleon

*(Jeremy Black)* Jeremy Black, a British military historian, provides an international perspective on the War of 1812 by placing it in the context of the Napoleonic War in Europe.



## The War of 1812: In the Chesapeake: A Reference Guide to Historic Sites in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia

*(Ralph E. Eshelman, Scott S. Sheads, Donald R. Hickey)* With the more than 800 historical sites in the Chesapeake Bay region, the authors gather both American and British accounts to compile this comprehensive reference guide.



## The Weight of Vengeance: The United States, the British Empire, and the War of 1812

*(Troy Bickham)* Provides a provocative new account of America's forgotten war, underscoring its significance for both sides by placing it in global context.

## Sargeant Memorial Collection

### An Impartial and Correct History of the War Between the United States of America, and Great Britain ...

*(Thomas O'Connor)* This 3<sup>rd</sup> revised edition was published in London in 1816 and is the earliest book on the War owned by the Library.

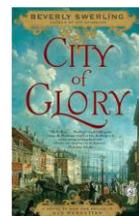


## Adult Fiction

The following selected fiction includes titles by award-winning authors, recent best sellers, acclaimed novels, or books that provide important insight to the War of 1812.

### City of Glory: A Novel of War and Desire in Old Manhattan

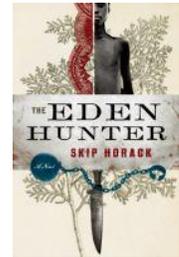
*(Beverly Swerling)* In her sequel to *City of Dreams*, Swerling dives into the New York City of 1812 suffering from the British blockades and political upheaval. Amidst this backdrop, Patrick Turner, a surgeon who lost his hand to a British shell, seeks his fortune in the China trade. To succeed he must brave the British blockade in this swashbuckling thriller.



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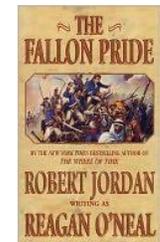
## The Eden Hunter

*(Skip Horack)* At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, escaped slave Kau encounters a “Negro fort” in the wilds of Florida on the Apalachicola River constructed by a General Garçon. After the British defeat in the War of 1812, the Americans target Garçon, a British loyalist. Kau must choose to stand with Garçon and the other escaped slaves or find his own path to live peacefully in Florida.



## The Fallon Pride

*(Robert Jordan writing as Reagan O’Neal)* Captain of the Osprey Robert Fallon sails across the globe to distance himself from a woman he dare not love. But the drums of war call him back to South Carolina where Great Britain attempts to recover their lost colonies. A swashbuckling tale of forbidden love and war.



## Fire Along the Sky

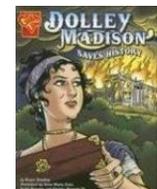
*(Sara Donati)* In the 4<sup>th</sup> installment of Donati’s bestselling Wilderness Saga, Hannah Bonner returns to her family home in Paradise after the tragic loss of her husband and son. As the War of 1812 nears, the young men of Paradise, including Hannah’s young brother Daniel, take up arms against the British. When the British imprison Daniel, Hannah must chose to live and maybe love again in an attempt to save him.

## Juvenile and Young Adult Nonfiction

The following list of selected nonfiction about the War of 1812 by award-winning authors, recent best sellers, acclaimed titles, or books that provide important insight for young people.

### Dolley Madison Saves History

*(Roger Smalley; ill. by Anna Maria Cool, Scott Rosema, and Charles Barnett III)* In this graphic novel Smalley recounts the actions of the First Lady, Dolley Madison, during the War of 1812 when the British occupied Washington, D.C.



### Francis Scott Key’s Star-Spangled Banner

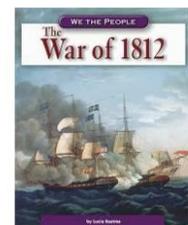
*(Monica Kulling; ill. by Richard Walz)* Early readers will learn about the man and the story behind America’s national anthem.

### Primary Source Accounts of the War of 1812

*(Helen Koutras Bozonelis)* Read the letters, newspapers, and songs written by those who lived through the turmoil of the War of 1812.

### The War of 1812

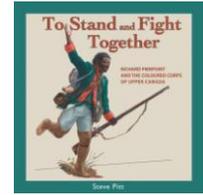
*(Lucia Raatma)* Learn about why the War of 1812 started, ended, and even fun facts such as why the White House is white.



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## To Stand and Fight Together: Richard Pierpoint and the Coloured Corps of Upper Canada

(*Steve Pitt*) A fascinating, regimental history of a black United Empire Loyalist who helped raise Captain Runchey's Corps of Coloured Men who fought for the British during the War of 1812 in Upper Canada (present day southern Ontario).



## Washington Ablaze: The War of 1812

(*Randy Schultz*) Schultz recounts the burning of Washington D.C., the shelling of Fort McHenry, and other fiery events of the War of 1812.

## Juvenile and Young Adult Fiction

The following selected fiction is to inform young people about the War of 1812 through contemporary and historical fiction novels by award-winning authors, recent best sellers, acclaimed novels, and titles that provide important insight.

### Caroline Takes a Chance

(*Kathleen Ernst; ill. by Robert Papp*) While Caroline is out fishing, she sees a British warship about to capture an American boat. With only an instant to decide what to do, Caroline takes a daring risk to try to save the day. (American Girl Series: Caroline, 1812.)



### Crossing the Panther's Path (YA)

(*Elizabeth Adler*) During the War of 1812, sixteen-year-old half British, half Mohawk Billy Caldwell leaves his Jesuit boarding school to join Tecumseh in his efforts to prevent the Americans from taking any more land from the Indians in the Northwest Territory. A gripping tale of adventure and war.

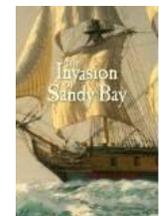


### Flames in the City: A Tale of the War of 1812

(*Candice Ransom; ill. by Greg Call*) The Time Spies travel back to Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812 where they find the city under siege by the British and its residents leaving behind many national treasures including a portrait of George Washington. Can they save it? (Time Spies series.)

### The Invasion of Sandy Bay

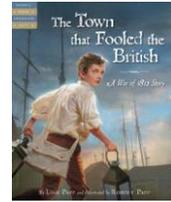
(*Anita Sanchez*) In the midst of the War of 1812, twelve-year-old Lemuel Brooks fights to save the sleepy fishing village of Sandy Bay, Massachusetts from the advancing British invaders. The hilarious—and true—events of the topsy-turvy invasion are set against the backdrop of the dangerous lives of the fishermen.



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## **The Town that Fooled the British: A War of 1812 Story**

*(Lisa Papp; ill. by Robert Papp)* On August 10, 1813, with the British navy advancing up the Chesapeake Bay to destroy the shipyards in St. Michaels, Maryland, young Henry Middle thinks of a way to save his home town from British cannons.



## **Spymasters**

*(Clifford Riley)* The Cahills have opened their vault and dangerous secrets are pouring out. This book contains three of them--three stories that will change history as we know it forever. Flee alongside a young Cahill as Washington burns in 1814, unlock Houdini's magic, and stow away with young Fiske Cahill on a desperate mission that could cost him his life. (The 39 Clues, Cahill Files series.)

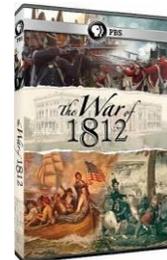


## **DVD**

The following are documentary DVDs about the War of 1812.

### **The War of 1812**

*(PBS)* Historians, authors and experts explore the War of 1812 through the perspectives of the Americans, the Canadians, the British and the Native Americans in this two-hour documentary that includes a number of quality reenactments.



### **The War of 1812**

*(The History Channel)* In this rousing documentary, the new nation of the United States battles the powerful British Navy only 30 years after winning its independence. Through the strong leadership of Andrew Jackson, a lopsided victory by the underdog American Navy and a single sniper, the shocking defeat of the world's most powerful Navy is realized.

# War of 1812

## Websites

This is a partial list of official websites for more information about the War of 1812. Many federal, state, provincial, and nongovernmental organizations sponsor online information about the War, celebrations, and visiting significant historic places.

### Canadian Heritage

<http://1812.gc.ca>

This federal site combines the resources of Canada's major national cultural institutions to tell the stories about the Canadian men and women, Aboriginal peoples, local and volunteer militias, and English and French-speaking regiments who fought together "to save Canada from American invasion" in the War of 1812.



### Library of Congress

[www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/1812](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/1812)

The digital collections of the Library of Congress contain a wide variety of material associated with the War of 1812 including manuscripts, broadsides, pictures, and government documents. This guide links to digital materials related to the War available throughout the Library of Congress website. It also links to external websites focusing on the War and a bibliography containing selections for both general and younger readers.



### National Park Service

[www.nps.gov/history/1812](http://www.nps.gov/history/1812)

A website for all ages about the War and listing national and local parks in the U.S. and Canada sponsoring events.



### U.S. National Archives

[www.archives.gov/research/military/war-of-1812/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/war-of-1812/index.html)

This site links to the military resources on the War of 1812 at the U.S. National Archives.



### Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission

<http://va1812bicentennial.dls.virginia.gov>

The Commission plans commemorative events and activities, encourages research to promote historical literacy and understanding of the war, and supports organizations throughout the state as they plan commemorative events. This website includes events across the Commonwealth and links for students, teachers, researchers, and travelers, including a heritage trail brochure.

