

The War of 1812: A Bicentennial Resource List

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The War of 1812 had a huge impact on the development of Upstate New York and Upper Canada, now known as the Province of Ontario. Its political impact was as divisive as any conflict in recent history. Yet, the issues that brought about the war, its sometimes complicated conduct, and its aftermath, seem to be little understood south of the Canadian border. Moreover, friendly as the United States and Canada have been for a century and a half, there is still an undercurrent of competition, if not hostility, that is manifest in any discussion of the War of 1812.

With the start of the wartime bicentennial years, there has been a small, but noticeable upsurge in the number of publications about the War of 1812. In addition, advances in digital technology; and the number of digitized "classics;" has made many more books available. Recent developments in library service have made it easier for the average person to get access to information about the war. This reading list has been compiled to offer residents of the Genesee-Finger Lakes region a point of departure for understanding the War of 1812.

The following selections are not meant to be a comprehensive research bibliography. Rather, they are readily available sources. While a few of them were written for children and schools, none of them are fiction. Most of them have been published within the last twenty years, and some of them were published for a regional audience. However, all of these sources are widely available in local and college libraries. Many are still available from on-line book sellers, from local book stores, or the original publishers. They represent US, British-Canadian, and Native points of view.

Books

Altoff, Gerard T. *Amongst My Best Men: African-Americans and the War of 1812*. Put-in-Bay, OH. The Perry Group. 1996.

Barbuto, Richard V. *Niagara 1814: America Invades Canada*. Lawrence, KS. Univ. Press of Kansas. 2000.

Berton, Pierre. *The Invasion of Canada*. Vol. I 1812-1813. Boston. Atlantic Monthly Press of Little, Brown and Co. 1980.

August 24, 2011

Borneman, Walter R. *1812 the War that Forged a Nation*. New York. Harper Collins. 2004.

Cruikshank, Ernest. *The Battle of Fort George*. Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. Niagara Hist. Soc. 1990. [Reprint 1912.]

Cruikshank, Ernest. *The Battle of Lundy's Lane. 25th July, 1814*. Third ed. [Niagara Falls, ON.] Lundy's Lane Historical Soc. 1984. [Reprint 1893.] Second ed. available on the Internet from Google Books at:

http://books.google.com/books?id=8lgvAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=cruikshank+battle+of+lundy's+lane&source=bl&ots=TScxFo9_9y&sig=iGODD4sXjCpqDxCf5gJleXQZLJg&hl=en&ei=cGy8TPPGMsT_lgeN9530DA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&sqj=2&ved=0CBIQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Cruikshank, E. *Drummond's Winter Campaign 1813*. Second ed. n.d. Niagara Falls, ON. Lundy's Lane Historical Soc. Available on the Internet from Google Books at:

http://books.google.com/books?id=az8vAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=drummond's+winter+campaign&source=bl&ots=yae7bKZxZs&sig=SFNIBQ3hNaHM9gk446vaFv7NXZA&hl=en&ei=-mm8TlqaDcSBIAf-95neDA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&sqj=2&ved=0CBIQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Dunnigan, Brian Leigh. *A History and Guide to Old Fort Niagara*. Youngstown, NY. Old Fort Niagara Assn. 1990.

Errington, Jane. *The Lion, the Eagle, and Upper Canada: A Developing Colonial Ideology*. Kingston, ON. McGill-Queen's Univ. Press. 1987.

Elliott, James E. *Strange Fatality: The Battle of Stoney Creek, 1813*. Montreal. Robin Brass Studio. 2009.

Fredriksen, John C. *War of 1812 Eyewitness Accounts : An Annotated Bibliography*. Westport, CT. Greenwood Press. 1997.

Gough, Barry. *Fighting Sail on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay: The War of 1812 and its Aftermath*. Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press. 2002.

Graves, Donald E. *The Battle of Lundy's Lane: On the Niagara in 1814*. Baltimore, MD. Nautical and Aviation Pub. Co. of America. 1993.

Hanks, Jarvis Frary. *Soldiers of 1814: American Enlisted Men's Memoirs of the Niagara Campaign*. Youngstown, NY. Old Fort Niagara Assn. 1995.

Herkalo, Keith. *September Eleventh 1814: The Battles at Plattsburgh*. Plattsburgh, NY. Battle of Plattsburgh Assn. c2010.

Hickey, Donald R. *Don't Give Up the Ship! Myths of the War of 1812*. Urbana, IL. Univ. of Illinois Press. 2006

Hickey, Donald R. *The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict*. Urbana, IL. Univ. of Illinois Press. 1989.

Langguth, A. J. *Union 1812: The Americans Who Fought the Second War for Independence*. New York. Simon and Schuster. 2006.

Latimer, Jon. Graham Turner, illus. *Niagara 1814: The final invasion*. Campaign 209. Oxford. Osprey Pub. Ltd. 2009.

Latimer, Jon. *1812: War with America*. Cambridge, MA. Belknap Press, Harvard Univ. Press. 2007.

Lossing, Benson J. *The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812*. New York. Harper and Brothers. 1869. Available on the Internet at:

http://books.google.com/books?id=itN2AAAAMAAJ&dq=pictorial+field+book+of+war+of+1812&printsec=frontcover&source=bl&ots=Z8_GLHH2qB&sig=a2RqjZt9HtZrwlGTSW2TJ1IO0yY&hl=en#v=onepage&q&f=false

McKenzie, Ruth. *Laura Secord: The Legend and the Lady*. Toronto. McClelland and Stewart Ltd. 1971.

Magoc, Chris J. *Erie Maritime Museum and U.S. Brig Niagara. Pennsylvania Trail of History Guide*. Mechanicsburg

Malcomson, Robert. *A Very Brilliant Affair: The Battle of Queenstown Heights, 1812*. Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press. 2003.

Malcomson, Robert. *Lords of the Lake : the Naval War on Lake Ontario, 1812-1814*. Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press. 1998.

Malcomson, Robert. *Sailors of 1812 : Memoirs and Letters of Naval Officers on Lake Ontario by James Richardson, Arthus Sinclair, Henry Kent and Barzallai Pease*. Youngstown, NY. Old Fort Niagara Assn. 1997.

Malcomson, Robert. *Warships of the Great Lakes 1754-1834*. Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press. 2001.

Ray, Frederic. *Old Fort Niagara: An Illustrated History*. Youngstown, NY. Old Fort Niagara Assn. 1988.

Rosenberg, Max. *The Building of Perry's Fleet on Lake Erie 1812-1813*. Harrisburg, PA. Penn. Hist. and Museum Comm. 1997.

Skaggs, David Curtis. *Oliver Hazard Perry: Honor, Courage, and Patriotism in the Early U.S. Navy*. Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press. 2006.

Skaggs, David Curtis and Gerard T. Altoff. *A Signal Victory: The Lake Erie Campaign 1812-1813*. Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press. 1997.

Skeen, C. Edward. *Citizen Soldiers in the War of 1812*. Lexington, KY. Univ. Press of Kentucky. 1999,

Stagg, J. C. A. *Mr. Madison's War: Politics, Diplomacy, and Warfare in the Early American Republic 1783-1830*. Princeton, NJ. Princeton Univ. Press. 1983.

Stuart, Reginald C. *War and American Thought: From the Revolution to the Monroe Doctrine*. Kent, OH. Kent State Univ. Press. 1982.

Taylor, Alan. *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, and Indian Allies*. New York. Alfred A. Knopf. 2010.

Turner, Wesley B. (ed). *The Military in the Niagara Peninsula. Eighth Annual Niagara Peninsula History Conference*. 1st Canadian Ed. St. Catharines, ON. Vanwell Pub. Ltd. 1990.

Turner, Wesley. *The War of 1812: The War that Both Sides Won*. Toronto, ON. Dundurn Press. 1990.

Wilder, Patrick, Michael Wilder and the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission. *Seaway Trail Guide to the War of 1812*. Oswego, NY. Seaway Trail, Inc. 1987.

Books for Schools/Young Readers

Burns, Florence M. Keith Wilson (Series Ed). *We Built Canada. John Beverley Robinson and the War of 1812*. Agincourt, Canada. Book Soc. Of Canada Ltd. 1984.

Robinson, Mary Alice Burke (ed). *War of 1812. Perspectives on History Series*. Carlisle, MA. Discovery Enterprises, Ltd. 1998.

Reference Books

Chartrand, Rene. *A Most Warlike Appearance: Uniforms, Flags and Equipment of the United States in the War of 1812*. Ottawa, ON. Service Publications. 2001.

This book is a reprinted and updated version of Chartrand's 1992 publication below. Service Publications indicates that it will soon release a companion book about British-Canadian uniforms and equipment.

Chartrand, René. (Gerry Embleton, Illus.) *British Forces in North America 1793-1815*. Men-at-Arms #319. Oxford. Osprey Pub. 1998.

Good illustrations of uniforms and equipment.

Chartrand, René. *Uniforms and Equipment of the United States Forces in the War of 1812*. Youngstown, NY. Old Fort Niagara Assn. 1992. [Now reprinted.]

Fredriksen, John C. *The United States Army in the War of 1812: Concise Biographies of Commanders and Operational Histories of Regiments, with Bibliographies of Published and Primary Sources*. Jefferson, NC. McFarland and Co. 2009.

Heidler, David Stephen (author) and Jeanne T. Heidler (ed). *Encyclopedia of the War of 1812*. Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press. 2004.

Katcher, Philip. (Bryan Fosten, Illus.) *The American War 1812-14*. Men-at-Arms #226. Oxford. Osprey Pub. 1990.

Good illustrations of uniforms and equipment.

Family History Resources

Blizzard, Dennis F. *The Roster of the General Society of the War of 1812*. Mendenhall, PA. General Society of the War of 1812. 1989.

A dated list of members of the Society all of whom are descended from a veteran of the War of 1812, this book includes the names of members (not veterans) together with their membership numbers.

The Society website can be reached at:

<http://www.societyofthewarof1812.org/membership.htm>

The website includes information on membership applications, links to other War of 1812 Internet sites, and other useful information.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. *Muster Rolls of the Pennsylvania Volunteers in the War of 1812-1814*. Baltimore, MD. Genealogical Publishing Co. 1967.

Reprinted from the original based on Series 2, Vol. XII, Pennsylvania Archives, this 560 page list of Pennsylvania units is organized by unit and indexed by the surname of the veteran.

Johnson, Herbert T. State of Vermont. *Roster of Soldiers in the War of 1812-14*. Baltimore, MD. Clearfield Co. 1995.

A reprinted version of a 1933 publication, this 474 page list includes brief paragraph citations for each known Vermont veteran and a few civilian officials. Citations are made to War Department and Pension Bureau Records, as they were known in 1933.

Pearson, Gardner W. *Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in the War of 1812*. Baltimore, MD. Clearfield Co. 1993.

A reprinted version of a 1913 Massachusetts state document then published by the state Adjutant General's Office. The 448 page document is fully indexed by the surname of the soldier. The main text is organized by militia unit.

Peterson, Clarence Stewart. *Known Military Dead During the War of 1812*. Baltimore, MD. Clearfield Co. 1995.

This slim 74 page booklet includes the names of known US military dead compiled from a variety of sources, but not noted for each name. Random checks revealed a high degree of accuracy. Originally published in 1955. A lengthy bibliography is included.

United States. National Archives. National Archives and Records Svc. Gen. Svc. Admin. Microfilm Publications 313. Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files. 102 rolls. [Available as 102 scanned files in Adobe pdf format.]

These images consist of the faces of the envelopes containing War of 1812 pension application files. Generally, the fact of each envelope provides the name of the veteran, the pension claim/file number, and other identifying information including marriages. There are sometimes cross-references to veterans' names that appear under more than one

spelling and for names of substitutes. Each film provides the index information for a portion of the alphabet.

Internet Resources

Library of Congress.

Drexler, Kenneth (comp). A Guide to the War of 1812. Available on the Internet at:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/1812/>

Primary Documents in American History. Treaty of Ghent. Available on the Internet at:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Ghent.html>

National Archives. Military Resources. War of 1812. Available on the Internet at:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Ghent.html>

Roland, Jon (ed). Selected Works of James Madison. Available on the Internet at:

<http://www.constitution.org/jm/jm.htm>

Thewarof1812.com website. [This site is divided into several very useful sections that include documents, images and other information.]

Documents of the War of 1812. Available on the Internet at:

<http://www.thewarof1812.com/Warof1812documents/documentsonthewarof1812.htm>

Timeline. War of 1812 Almanac. Available on the Internet at:

<http://www.thewarof1812.com/Warof1812Almanac/timelineofthewarof1812.htm>

Yale Law School. Lillian Goldman Law Library. "War of 1812 and Associated Documents." The Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy. Available on the Internet at:

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/br1814m.asp

Local Sources of Documents

Ontario County. Dept. of RAIMS. Petitions from soldiers seeking pensions for service in the War of 1812 can be found in the miscellaneous collection of military records.