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## THE COMMISSION

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The 2008 Virginia General Assembly created the Virginia Commission on the Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 to prepare for and commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of Virginia's participation in the American War of 1812.

Legislation creating the Commission was co-patroned by Del. M. Kirkland Cox (HB1391) and by Senator Stephen H. Martin (SB383). 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.

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## COMMISSION MEMBERS

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**Del. M. Kirkland Cox,**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**Sen. Stephen H. Martin,**  
**VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Sen. George L. Barker  
Del. Rosalyn R. Dance  
Del. Christopher K. Peace  
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Del. R. Lee Ware, Jr.  
Mr. Peter E. Broadbent, Jr.  
Ms. Nancy G. Heuser  
Ms. Betsy S. Barton  
Dr. Sandra G. Treadway

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

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**SPRING 2011** - Madison & Monroe Wreath Laying.

**JANUARY 11, 2012** - A Symphonic Tribute, in cooperation with the Richmond Symphony, will begin the commemoration of the bicentennial in Richmond.

**JUNE 1-12, 2012** - OpSail Virginia 2012 and the U. S. Navy will bring tall ships to Hampton Roads to commemorate the War of 1812 in Norfolk.

**SUMMER 2013** - Chesapeake Bay Tour retracing British invasion of Hampton Roads and battles along the Chesapeake and Northern Neck.

**JUNE 2014** - Legacy Symposium, a family-friendly, educational symposium will be held at Fort Monroe.



### VIRGINIA PRESIDENTS OF THE WAR



JAMES  
MADISON



JAMES  
MONROE



WILLIAM HENRY  
HARRISON

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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### **VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF 1812**

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## THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON THE



## BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF 1812



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# VIRGINIA WAR OF 1812

## HERITAGE TRAIL SITES

### **The American War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Britain from 1812 through 1815.**

The strategic location of the Chesapeake Bay near the nation's capital made it a prime target for the British, and the coast of Virginia figured prominently in the Atlantic theatre of operations - there were some 73 armed encounters with the British that took place in Virginia during the war.

An estimated 70,000 Virginians served during the War of 1812 and actively fought in Maryland, Virginia, and Ohio, as well as in several naval engagements.

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 within the United States.

**If you wish to learn more about Virginia's role in the war please visit these historic sites on the Virginia War of 1812 Heritage Trail:**



◆ **Ash Lawn-Highland**—This historic house located near Charlottesville, was home to President James Monroe and his wife, Elizabeth Kortright Monroe. Visit this working farm, museum year round.

◆ **Berkeley Plantation**—Tour the birthplace of President William Henry Harrison, the major general of the Army of the Northwest during the War of 1812. Harrison won a key victory at the Battle of the Thames which saw Tecumseh killed and the war on the Lake Erie front effectively ended. Knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides in period costumes conduct tours of the original 1726 mansion in Charles City.

◆ **City of Hampton**—In addition to Fort Monroe, there are several sites throughout the City of Hampton related to the War of 1812. These include the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, where British forces under Rear Admiral Sir George Cockburn used the lighthouse as an observation post, and Fort Wool, which was constructed following the War of 1812 to protect Hampton Roads from the British.

◆ **Craney Island/Hoffler Creek**—British forces landed here in June 1813. American armed militia under the command of Gen. Robert B. Taylor blocked their advance, brought them under heavy artillery fire, and caused them to retreat. Approximately 200 British soldiers were killed, four to five barges were sunk, and the “Centipede” was taken along with 22 prisoners. The Battle of Craney Island represents one of the few American-won battles during the War of 1812. Visit the site of this Battle and spend some time at Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve.

◆ **Fort Monroe**—This military installation is located in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on the Peninsula overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. During the War of 1812, British forces under Rear Admiral Sir George Cockburn used the lighthouse at Fort Monroe, the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, as an observation post. The fort was constructed as part of a coastal defense strategy developed by the U.S. Army following the War of 1812.

◆ **Fort Norfolk**—Fort Norfolk is the last remaining of 19 harbor-front forts authorized in 1794 by President George Washington. This Fort helped protect the city of Norfolk during the War of 1812. Visit Fort Norfolk in the Ghent section of Norfolk.

◆ **Lynnhaven Roads**—Visit First Landing State Park to learn about Lynnhaven Roads, formerly known as Lynnhaven Bay, where the British blockaded the Bay with a line of 72 gun ships and other ships during the War of 1812.

◆ **Montpelier**—In the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Orange, Virginia, Montpelier was the lifelong home of James Madison. You can spend all day, or an hour or two, visiting the grounds and learning more about the Father of the Constitution.

◆ **Tangier Island**—On Tangier Island, at the British base of Fort Albion, the British trained African Americans to serve in the Colonial Marines. From Fort Albion, the Colonial Marines, along with British troops, engaged the Virginia militia in numerous landings along the Northern Neck and the Eastern Shore throughout the summer of 1814.

*The sites included in this brochure are part of the Virginia War of 1812 Heritage Trail and just a snapshot of the many historical places in Virginia.*



**LEARN MORE, GO ONLINE:**

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