

## About the Cape Henry Lighthouse:

- The first federally funded lighthouse, was built to guide maritime commerce at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay
- Standing near the “First Landing” site where English settlers arrived in 1607
- Stood sentinel since it was completed in 1792
- Authorized by George Washington and overseen by Alexander Hamilton
- Designed by New York architect John McComb
- In active use for nearly a century before being replaced by a new cast iron lighthouse still standing nearby
- It is one of the oldest surviving lighthouses in the United States



**OFFICIAL  
PRESERVATION VIRGINIA  
HISTORIC SITE**

# **WAR OF 1812 CAPE HENRY LIGHTHOUSE**

## **STATE MARKER DEDICATION**



**CAPE HENRY LIGHTHOUSE, FORT STORY, VA**

**AUGUST 8, 2015**

**10:00 to 10:30 AM**

*Blockade of the Chesapeake.*—Norfolk is now effectually blockaded by the enemy's squadron, under Admiral Warren. Not a vessel can pass from Hampton Roads, either up or down the bay, without being intercepted, and not a vessel bound from sea can escape capture. Several vessels attempting to go out have been chased back, or captured; among those that have returned, were sloops *Caty Maria*, *Storer*, and *Hope*, *Williams*, both bound to New York. Various conjectures are afloat as to the intention of admiral Warren in coming into the bay. Some are of opinion that his object is to obtain supplies; others that he meditates an attack upon this town, but the most prevalent opinion (and of which there is no doubt) is, that he is aiming to entrap the French squadron, (said to be on its way to our coast) which will probably make for the Chesapeake. This seems the more certain from this circumstance: The ship *Emily*, captain Scott, (with a Sidmouth license) from Baltimore bound to Lisbon, was stopped by the squadron and ordered back; this was done no doubt to prevent the French ships from obtaining information of the blockade. It would be difficult to assign any other reason for so extraordinary a measure.

A flag of truce from the squadron came ashore at the *Pleasure House* on Friday to land prisoners; and shortly after a plundering party landed at the Light House on Cape Henry, who manfully attacked the pantry and smoke-house of Mr. Burroughs, the keeper, took all his provisions, some cordage, &c. and retired to their boats with flying colors. This is the only hostile landing these heroes have as yet attempted; when they shall think proper to land at a less remote point, we venture to say they will be taken care of.

The two 74's that formed a part of the squadron got under way on Saturday evening and stood out to sea.

[*Norfolk Herald.*]

*The Columbian, February 17, 1813*

## Program

### Welcome and Flag Raising

Nancy Dabney, Cape Henry Lighthouse Site Coordinator

### Virginia Historic Marker Program

Lena McDonald, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

### Cape Henry in the War of 1812

Christopher Pieczynski, Tidewater Community College

### Unveiling of the Marker

Joseph Burroughs, Descendant of Lighthouse Keeper Travy Burroughs

### Distinguished Guest Remarks and Reading of the Marker

Honorable Scott Rigell, 2nd District Virginia, U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Will Sessoms, Mayor of Virginia Beach

### Presentation of Wreaths

Miss Jennie Lou Pangle

President, Fort Norfolk Daughters of 1812

Colonel Carter Furr, U.S. Army (Retired)

Officer, War of 1812 Society in Virginia