

## The Occasion

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has established a committee of staff and citizen members to plan for the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The committee's mission is to develop events, activities, and materials to educate the public about "America's Second War for Independence" and the role of North Carolina and North Carolinians in that war.

## What was North Carolina's role?

On June 1, 1812, President James Madison sent Congress a message outlining grievances against Great Britain. Two weeks later lawmakers declared war and, on June 18, the President signed the measure into law. In Raleigh city fathers on June 26 proclaimed the declaration to its citizens with speeches and artillery fire.

The British made coastal forays into the state, landing briefly at Ocracoke and Portsmouth Islands, and North Carolinians such as Otway Burns and Johnston Blakeley were prominent in the naval war. Dolley Madison, wife of President James Madison, was a North Carolina native. In the long view of history, the war preserved American territorial and political integrity, and helped to set the fledgling new republic on the road to greatness.

North Carolina native Benjamin Forsyth, the commander of the 1st U.S. Rifle Regiment, died in battle in Canada. The 10th U.S. Infantry Regiment, comprised mostly of North Carolinians, served in the northern campaign, seeing action at Chateaugay on October 25, 1813 and LaColle's Mill on March 30, 1814, both of which took place in Canada. North Carolinians—including a detachment of Cherokees led by Chief Junaluska—helped to defeat American Indian allies of the British in the mid-South, consequently easing the way for American expansion westward.



Otway Burns

## *Registration*

*For the Beaufort event, the full program, continental breakfast, and afternoon reception are FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Space is limited in the Maritime Museum. Register by calling the North Carolina Maritime Museum at 252-728-7317. Note that the optional harbor cruise costs \$36. Those seeking overnight accommodations are advised to contact Harbour Suites in Beaufort at 252-728-3483 or the Hampton Inn in Morehead City at 252-240-2300.*

*Events associated with the Southport program, to be conducted on the garrison lawn at Fort Johnston, are open to the public. The Southport symposium, which will include a luncheon, will require a modest fee. Call 910-457-0003 to register.*

*Visit [nc1812.ncdcr.gov](http://nc1812.ncdcr.gov) for more information.*

*Please join us in Beaufort and Southport!*



MANY STORIES. ONE PEOPLE

This program is made possible in part by funding from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*Additional Support Provided By:*



North Carolina Society United States Daughters of 1812  
North Carolina Maritime History Council  
The North Carolina Maritime Museums  
Friends of the North Carolina Maritime Museum  
Beaufort Harbour Suites  
North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites  
North Carolina Division of Historical Resources



NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL  
RESOURCES  
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WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL 2012-2015

# *America's Second War for Independence*

*Two Conferences to Commemorate  
the Bicentennial of the War of 1812*

*North Carolina Maritime Museum  
Beaufort, North Carolina  
Friday, June 29, 2012*

*and*

*Fort Johnston  
Southport, North Carolina  
Saturday, October 20, 2012*





## June 29 Symposium The Naval War of 1812 North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort

9:00 AM Registration

9:30 AM Welcome • *David Brook, Director, Division of Historical Resources, and chair, War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee* • *Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary, Department of Cultural Resources, Department of Cultural Resources* • *Carol Chapuis Canales, State President, North Carolina Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812* • *Joseph K. Schwarzer II, Director, North Carolina Maritime Museums* • *The Honorable Richard Stanley, Mayor, Town of Beaufort*

10:00 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
“Astonishing and Amazing the Enemy:  
America’s Underdog Naval Strategy in the  
War of 1812” • *Stephen Budiansky*

11:00 AM “A Miserable and Sorrowful  
Condition: The Experiences of American  
Sailors in the British Navy” • *Tommy Sheppard*

Noon Lunch on your own

1:15 PM Exhibit opening, North Carolina  
Maritime Museum • *Joe Schwarzer, Director,  
North Carolina Maritime Museums*

1:30 PM “Free Trade and Sailor's Rights:  
Naval Impressment and the Maritime Origins  
of the War of 1812” • *Christopher Magra*

2:15 PM PANEL DISCUSSION  
North Carolina Perspective on the War of  
1812 • *Paul Fontenoy, North Carolina Maritime  
Museum, moderator* • *William Thiesen, Wade  
Dudley, Lindley Butler*

3:15 PM “Sailing the USS *Niagara*: Living  
History and the War of 1812” • *Lawrence Babits*

4:00 PM Reception

After the symposium an optional Beaufort  
Harbor Cruise will depart at 5 PM. For more  
information visit [crystalcoastlady.com](http://crystalcoastlady.com) and to  
register send a check for \$36 to the N.C.  
Maritime Museum History Council, 315 Front  
Street, Beaufort NC 28516

On Saturday, June 30, from 10 AM to 3 PM, in  
conjunction with the Beaufort Historical  
Association, Family Day will feature living  
history re-enactors, games and crafts for  
children, and hands-on demonstration of  
shipboard activities.

### Presenters

Stephen Budiansky of Loudoun County, Virginia, is the  
author of fourteen books about military history, espionage,  
and the natural world. A blogger, he has had work published  
in *The Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, and other national  
publications. His latest book is *Perilous Fight: America’s  
Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1815*.

Tommy Sheppard is a Ph.D. candidate in history at the  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with an interest  
in civil-military relations in the early U.S. Navy.

Christopher Magra is assistant professor of history at the  
University of Tennessee at Knoxville and author of *The  
Fisherman’s Cause: Atlantic Commerce and Maritime  
Dimensions of the American Revolution*.

William Thiesen is Atlantic Area Historian for the U.S. Coast  
Guard. A graduate of East Carolina University and the  
University of Delaware, he is the author of *Industrializing  
American Shipbuilding: The Transformation of Ship Design  
and Construction, 1820-1920*.

Wade Dudley is associate professor of history at East  
Carolina University, where he teaches Revolutionary War  
and North Carolina history, and the author of *Splintering the  
Wooden Wall: The British Blockade of the United States,  
1812-1815*.

Lindley Butler is professor emeritus at Rockingham  
Community College and a senior North Carolina historian.  
He is the author of *Pirates, Privateers, and Rebel Raiders of  
the North Carolina Coast* and serves as historian of the *Queen  
Anne’s Revenge Shipwreck Project*.

Lawrence Babits retired in 2012 from his post as director of  
the Program in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology  
at East Carolina University. He is known nationally for his  
work on battlefield archaeology.

## October 20 Symposium The Lower Cape Fear in the War of 1812 Fort Johnston Southport, North Carolina

Beginning at 9:00 AM and throughout the day,  
living history demonstrations will take place on  
the garrison lawn. All talks will be in the  
Southport Community Center.

10:00 AM Welcome • *Keith Hardison, Director,  
Division of State Historic Sites*

10:15 AM “Fort Johnston in the War of 1812”  
• *Jim McKee, Historic Interpreter, Brunswick  
Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site*

11:00 AM “North Carolina Gunboats”  
• *Jim Greathouse, Historic Interpreter,  
Fayetteville Transportation Museum*

Noon Luncheon

1:00 PM Home Front/Uniforms and Clothing

2:00 PM “Captain Johnston Blakely”  
• *Andrew Duppstadt, Assistant Curator of  
Education, Division of State Historic Sites*

3:00 PM “Soldiers from North Carolina in the  
War of 1812” • *Jeff Bockert, Assistant Curator  
of Education, Division of State Historic Sites*

4:00 PM Memorial service for Fort Johnston  
soldiers on the garrison lawn

Grave of Otway Burns, Old Burying Ground in Beaufort, with cannon  
from *Snap Dragon* atop the tomb

