

Marking a Milestone

Fort Meigs' War of 1812 Bicentennial Programs



Commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812

As April 29, 1813 dawned, the soldiers at Fort Meigs had been surrounded for two days by British forces and their Native American allies. The War of 1812 was going poorly for the Americans, and now the British had besieged Fort Meigs. **This was a defining moment in the history of our state and our nation.** Little did these men then know that **the battle of Fort Meigs would help turn the tide of war in favor of American forces** and usher in a series of American victories that would secure the Ohio frontier. These men only knew that the enemy was at the gate and a heavy fight was sure to ensue. General William Henry Harrison wrote in his General Orders that day that, *"It is at length reduced to certainty that the enemy are about to carry into effect their threatened attack on this post"* and urged his men, *"To your posts then fellow soldiers & remember that the eyes of your country are upon you!"*

The eyes of the country will soon be upon Fort Meigs as we join other historic sites and communities across the United States and Canada that are planning to observe the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and to honor the 200 years of peace between Canada, Great Britain, and the U.S. Many programs are planned for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Here is a sample of programs planned for Fort Meigs in 2012 & 2013.

www.fortmeigs.org



2012: It All Begins...

June 18, 2012 marks the official start of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Fort Meigs has many activities planned throughout the year.



2012 Living History Events

- April 14: Hearthside Cooking Class
- April 14: Blacksmithing 101
- May 18 - 19: Drums at the Rapids
- May 26 - 27: First Siege 1813
- May 28: Memorial Day Ceremony
- June 16 - 17: Muster on the Maumee
- July 4: Independence Day 1813
- August 25 - 26: Life in Early Ohio
- October 19 - 27: Garrison Ghost Walk
- November 3: The World at War
- December 9: Holiday Open House



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MEIGS EVENTS!

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Battle of Lake Erie by William Henry Powell

The U.S. Navy Visits Toledo



August 23 - 27th:

To commemorate the Bicentennial and to remember the naval contributions to the war effort, the U.S. Navy will bring modern-day warships to Toledo. Ships may include U.S. and Canadian frigates as well as two U.S. patrol craft used to launch special operations force. Some of the ships will dock near International Park and will be open for touring. A host of activities related to the visit are also being planned. Fort Meigs will provide special programming at the fort on Saturday, August 25th.

Bentley Lecture Series

Established in 2006, the Bentley Lecture Series has helped thousands of people enrich their cultural understanding, learn more about our nation's remarkable history, and discover how local Ohio history played a role in forming American society today. In 2012, the monthly lecture series will feature all War of 1812 related topics.

- Jan. 19th - "Detroit and the War of 1812"**
by Dr. Denver Brunzman, Wayne State University
- Feb. 16th - "Thus Fell Tecumseh"**
by Frank Kuron, historian and author
- Mar. 20th - "Topic related to the War of 1812 (TBA)"**
by Dr. Larry Nelson, Bowling Green State University
- Apr. 19th - "Historiography of the War of 1812"**
by Dr. Cynthia Ingham, University of Toledo
- May 17th - "William Hull & the Fall of Detroit"**
by Anthony Yanik, historian and author
- Sep. 20th - "The Battle of Lake Erie"**
by Carrie Sowden, Great Lakes Maritime Museum
- Oct. 18th - "We're Not Isolated: The War of 1812 and its Role in the International Scene"**
by Dr. Mary Stockwell, Lourdes University
- Nov. 15th - "Memorializing the War of 1812: Fort Meigs, a Case Study"**
by Adam Sakel

Conferences & Workshops

- Mar. 24th - Genealogy workshop: "Researching your Ancestors' Military Past"**
- Apr. 21st - Yesteryear's Essentials: War of 1812 Material Culture Conference**

Educator's Workshops

Fort Meigs is partnering with the Ohio Historical Society and Bowling Green State University to provide workshops that will help provide educators with the tools and knowledge to teach their students the significance of the War of 1812 in Ohio and the role that our local area played in both regional and national history.

- Jun. 27th - 29th - HistoryLab: A Hands-on Exploration of Local History, Culture and Military Science at Fort Meigs.** A Teacher's Institute on local history and the War of 1812
- Jul. 22nd - 27th - The War of 1812 in the Great Lakes and Western Territories: NEH Landmarks of American History Workshop for Community College Faculty**
- Jul. 22nd - 27th - The War of 1812 in the Great Lakes and Western Territories: NEH Landmarks of American History Workshop for K-12 Teachers**
- Aug. 5th - 10th - The War of 1812 in the Great Lakes and Western Territories: NEH Landmarks of American History Workshop for Community College Faculty**
- Aug. 5th - 10th - The War of 1812 in the Great Lakes and Western Territories: NEH Landmarks of American History Workshop for K-12 Teachers**

Concerts

For a unique way to experience the fort, join us for a concert by the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra. Enjoy a beautiful summer evening and help commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Perrysburg Symphony Orchestra.

Jun. 2nd - Melodies on the Maumee:
A Celebration Concert

Exhibits

June - December:

A special Bicentennial exhibit will feature War of 1812 artifacts that have never before been on display at Fort Meigs. View weapons, equipment, and personal items used by soldiers to help defend Ohio and secure the Great Lakes Region.



**First Siege 1813:
200th Anniversary Event
May 3rd - 5th, 2013**

The First Siege of Fort Meigs was a nine-day conflict fought between May 1st - 9th, 1813. The siege consisted of a massive five-day artillery bombardment by the combined British and Canadian forces. Native Americans, allied to the British, also helped surround and cut off Fort Meigs during the siege. May 5th marked the bloodiest day of fighting with infantry soldiers engaged in fierce combat on both sides of the Maumee River. In the end, the Americans held the fort and this tactical victory marked a turning point in the Western Theater of War. This triumph ushered in a series of American victories and allowed the U.S. time to build the fleet which would later defeat the British on Lake Erie.

We will commemorate this important event with a wide number of activities. Preliminary plans include:

- ◆ A *Student Education Day* featuring interactive programs with historical interpreters representing U.S. and British soldiers, civilians and Native Americans
- ◆ A night-time artillery duel across the Maumee River
- ◆ Recreations of some of the fighting that took place 200 years ago
- ◆ Historic living history encampments, with re-enactors from across the U.S. and Canada.
- ◆ Period entertainment and hands-on activities for kids
- ◆ Beer tastings of our two War of 1812 beers being crafted by the Maumee Bay Brewing Company
- ◆ Memorial services and marker & monument dedications at Fort Meigs and Fort Miamis
- ◆ Presentations and lectures on the War of 1812 in the Great Lakes region
- ◆ Much more!



The Pennsylvania Monument at Fort Meigs

2013: Two Centuries of Fort Meigs!

Bentley Lecture Series

The Bentley Lecture Series returns in 2013 with a focus on the Sixty-Years War for the Great Lakes. Topics and speakers will explore the struggle for control of the Great Lakes region, which started in the 1750s and finally concluded with the War of 1812.



Events

February 2nd
Fort Meigs Founder's Day

Commemorate the 200th anniversary of the beginning of Fort Meigs on the actual date it all began! See a small winter encampment, try your hand at fort construction, and participate in plenty of activities.

May 3rd - 5th
First Siege 1813: 200th Anniversary

The bicentennial of the First Siege of Fort Meigs will be marked with a flourish of activities on the actual dates that fighting took place! See side bar for details.

July 4th
Independence Day 1813

See an expanded version of our popular program as we recreate the celebrations of July 4, 1813!

Conferences & Workshops

April 4th - 6th
Ohio Academy History Annual Conference

This conference will be held at Bowling Green State University and will include concurrent tracks related to the War of 1812. Plans include a special Thursday night dinner and keynote address on the War of 1812 and a Saturday excursion to Fort Meigs. The excursion will offer hands-on activities, tours of the fort and museum, as well a talks on the significant military history of the region. We are working to make this a continuing education credit program for teachers.

Exhibits
May - June:

A traveling exhibit on the War of 1812 through the perspectives of participants on all sides of the conflict, including the Americans, British, Canadians, and Native Americans.

Monuments & Markers

We anticipate the creation and dedication of one monument and two markers honoring the men who fought at Fort Meigs on both sides of the conflict. It is our hope to be able to dedicate the marker and monuments during our 200th Anniversary event the first weekend of May. On May 5, we plan to unveil the first new monument at Fort Meigs since the 1920s when we dedicate the Virginia Monument honoring the men from the Commonwealth who gallantly served at Fort Meigs. In addition, we plan to dedicate an Ohio Historical Marker honoring Kentucky soldiers who served at the fort. Lastly, we will dedicate another Ohio Historical Marker at Fort Miamis honoring the British allied soldiers who died during the First Siege of Fort Meigs.

2014 & 2015: Fort Meigs' Role

While the fighting in the Western Theater was essentially over by the end of 1813, the War of 1812 waged on for the next two years. Fierce battles took place along the Niagara River, the city of Washington was set ablaze, and a then little-known American general named Andrew Jackson successfully defended the city of New Orleans from British invasion.

Fort Meigs' role in the war from 1814-1815 was limited. Plans are still being developed for programs in 2014 and 2015. Be sure to check out our website at www.fortmeigs.org for the latest information!



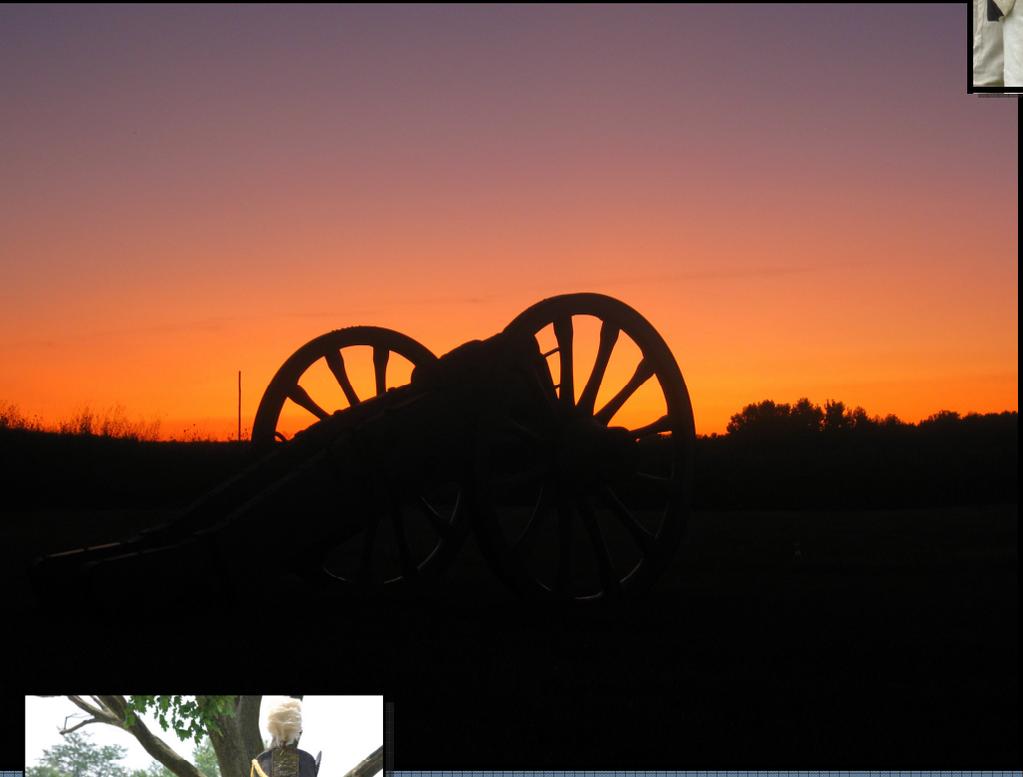
200 Years of Peace

It is said that *time heals all wounds*. Not only can this phrase be applied to the relationships between individuals, but to those of nations, as well. One need only examine the history between the United States, Canada, and Great Britain to find a shining example. The signing of the Treaty of Ghent on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1814, brought about the end of the War of 1812 and ushered in a 200 year long peace between our nations. Over the course of time relations slowly turned from uneasy peace to friendship, and finally, to ally.

The 20th century, in particular, saw our nations join as allies in two world wars and the United States, Canada, and Great Britain continue to depend on each other as we move further into the 21st century.

Today, as a visible achievement of the 200 years of peace since the War of 1812, the United States and Canada continue to share the longest undefended border in the world. Known as the International Boundary, it measures 5,525 miles (8,891 km) in length!

By commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, Fort Meigs will not only honor the service and sacrifice of those that fought and died in the war, but will celebrate the lasting peace that came forth after the War of 1812 ended.



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Fort Meigs
P.O. Box 3
29100 W. River Rd.
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Hours*

Wed. - Sat: 9:30 - 5:00

Sun: 12:00 - 5:00 ♦ Mon. - Tue: Closed

Seasons

Fort: Apr. - Oct.

Visitor Center: All year



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Admissions*

Adults: \$8 ♦ Seniors: \$7 ♦ Students: \$4

OHS Members, Ages 5 & Under: Free

www.fortmeigs.org

* Hours and admissions may vary for special events & programs. Subject to change without notice.

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