

## Timeline of Events

1807

**June 22.** The USS *Chesapeake* is engaged by the HMS *Leopard* off the Virginia Capes. The damaged *Chesapeake* returns to the Gosport Navy Yard. Virginia plans for war.

**A-Fort Boykin**, on the James River, fell into disrepair after the Revolutionary War. The fortifications are strengthened and enlarged in preparation for British Naval ships attempting to sail to Richmond.

1812

**January 25.** General Assembly issues a resolution in support of President Madison.

**February 4.** USS *Constellation* arrives in Norfolk.

**June 18.** The United States declares war against Great Britain.

**July 18.** U.S. General William Hull invades Canada.

**December 26.** British declare a blockade of the Chesapeake Bay.

1813

**Early March.** *James River off Surry, Isle of Wight & James City Counties.* British barges capture several American vessels.

**March 17.** *Isle of Wight County.* British barges came ashore and return without inflicting any damage.

**B-March.** *Lawne's Creek between Surry & Isle of Wight County.* "British barges burnt two vessels at the mouth of this creek."

**B-March.** *Isle of Wight County.* "...a large Schooner, and mounting heavy Guns, came up...to the mouth of Lawns Creek and took possession of two large vessels that lay there;"

**C-March 18.** *Isle of Wight County.* "A pilot boat came up in the evening... full of men and boarded a brig that lay opposite the Point of Shoal that belonged to Portsmouth, New Hampshire and loaded by James Brown of Richmond." A boat from the brig came ashore "...to inform us that they would be again up in a day or two for the purpose of getting water."

**April.** U.S. troops burn the capital city of York (present-day Toronto)

**D-Early June-** *Surry County, vicinity 4 Mile Tree Plantation.* Enemy barges land. Three enemy deserters are taken by the militia.

**B-June 6-7.** *Vicinity Surry & Isle of Wight County.* Enemy with three barges go up Lawne's Creek and burn two U.S. cargo vessels. The next morning, Major Wills of Surry County with 32 militia attack the barges. Enemy from ships bombard with 18-pound guns causing militia retreat. Militia captures three deserters and suffer no casualties. Militia report seeing several enemies fall overboard.

**D-June.** *Surry County at Mount Pleasant.* "Doctor graves estimated at least eight to ten slaves had escaped to British barges along its shores. Nicholas Faulcon was certain that his slaves were instrumental in guiding the enemy to his home at Mount Pleasant and helping them ransack it"

**June 22.** *Battle of Craney Island.* British blockading forces attempt to capture the USS *Constellation* at the Gosport Navy Yard on the Elizabeth River. Virginia Militia forces held the landing parties at bay.

**June 25-27.** British attack and sack Hampton.

**June 26-** *Isle of Wight at Burwell's Bay.* Report by Joseph Ballard. "...their launches attempted to enter Pagan Creek at the 'Rocks' facing Burwell Bay) and command an attack on a detachment of Infantry and Artillery stationed there, who returned it in a spirited manner and after exchanging fourteen shot they returned." The 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Militia was stationed at Fort Boykin. The landing party lost two boats in the engagement.

**E-June 28.** *Isle of Wight, presumably at mouth of Pagan River near Smithfield.* Report of Richard Byrd "Four of their barges have been sent to attack a body of our Militia stationed at the mouth of our Creek. There have been two engagements with them, but I believe that no damage has yet been done on either side"

**D-June 29.** *Surry County.* "...a boy, about the age of 14 years, that deserted from the British at Swans Point (Tuesday night), came to the guard at Four Mile Tree."

**July 2-3-** Panic in Richmond due to action on the James River at Jamestown and Mulberry Islands.

**A-July 6.** *Lawne's Creek between Surry County & Isle of Wight County.* William Allen reports "...three of their barges went up the Creek, burnt two vessels that were about 4 miles up, a small schooner that they got on ground below the mouth of the Creek on Isle of Wight side."

**B-July 7.** *Lawne's Creek between Surry County & Isle of Wight County.* Report by Isbon Benedict. "The enemy made an attempt to land but got the Tender aground about 200 yards below Lawn's Creek. 29 of our troops crossed the creek and beat the enemy off from the Tender and the barges came from the Brigs to their assistance. The enemy then commenced a heavy fire from the barges on our men,

but without effect. The Enemy lost two killed and several wounded...the enemy set fire to the Tender and proceeded on board the Brigs.' Surry County militia under Major Langley Wills receives 3 deserters.

**A-July 7.** *Isle of Wight County, Shoal Bay.* British fleet "... laying off the point of Shoals... put aboard of them water and a considerable quantity of livestock, etc."

**August 24-25-** British forces burn Washington, D.C.

**September 10-** Captain Oliver Hazard Perry defeats the British in the Battle of Lake Erie.

**1814**

**September 13-** The British fleet bombarded Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. Francis Scott Key pens "The Star Spangled Banner."

**December 24-28-** Treaty of Ghent is signed between the United States and Great Britain.

**1815**

**January 8.** The United States wins the Battle for New Orleans.

**February 17.** Congress ratifies the Treaty of Ghent ending the war.

### **Bibliography**

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Virginia War of 1812 Commission