

**The Naval War of 1812:
A Documentary History**

**Volume I
1812
Part 1 of 7**

**Naval Historical Center
Department of the Navy
Washington, 1985**

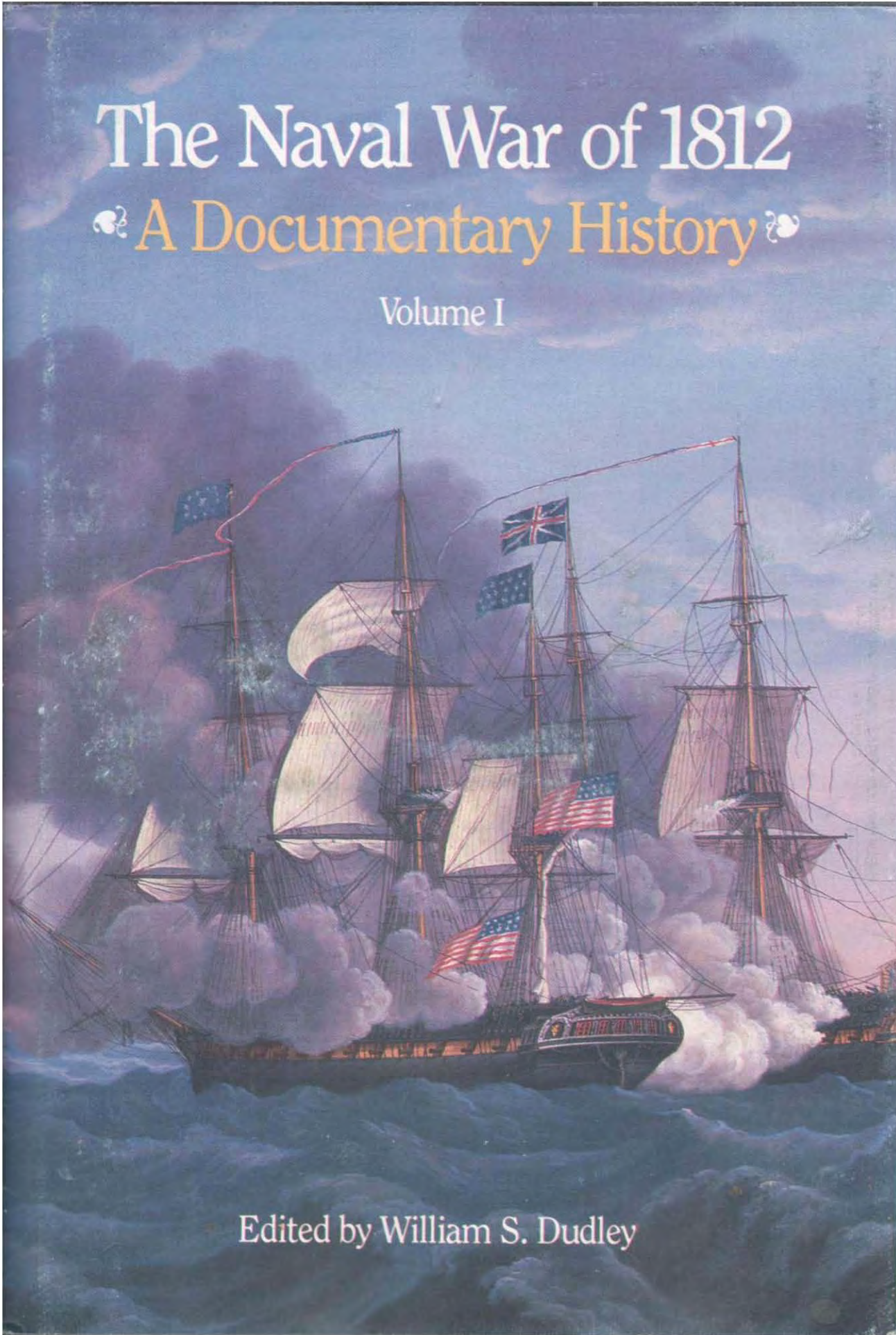
Electronically published by
American Naval Records Society
Bolton Landing, New York
2011

AS A WORK OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
THIS PUBLICATION IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

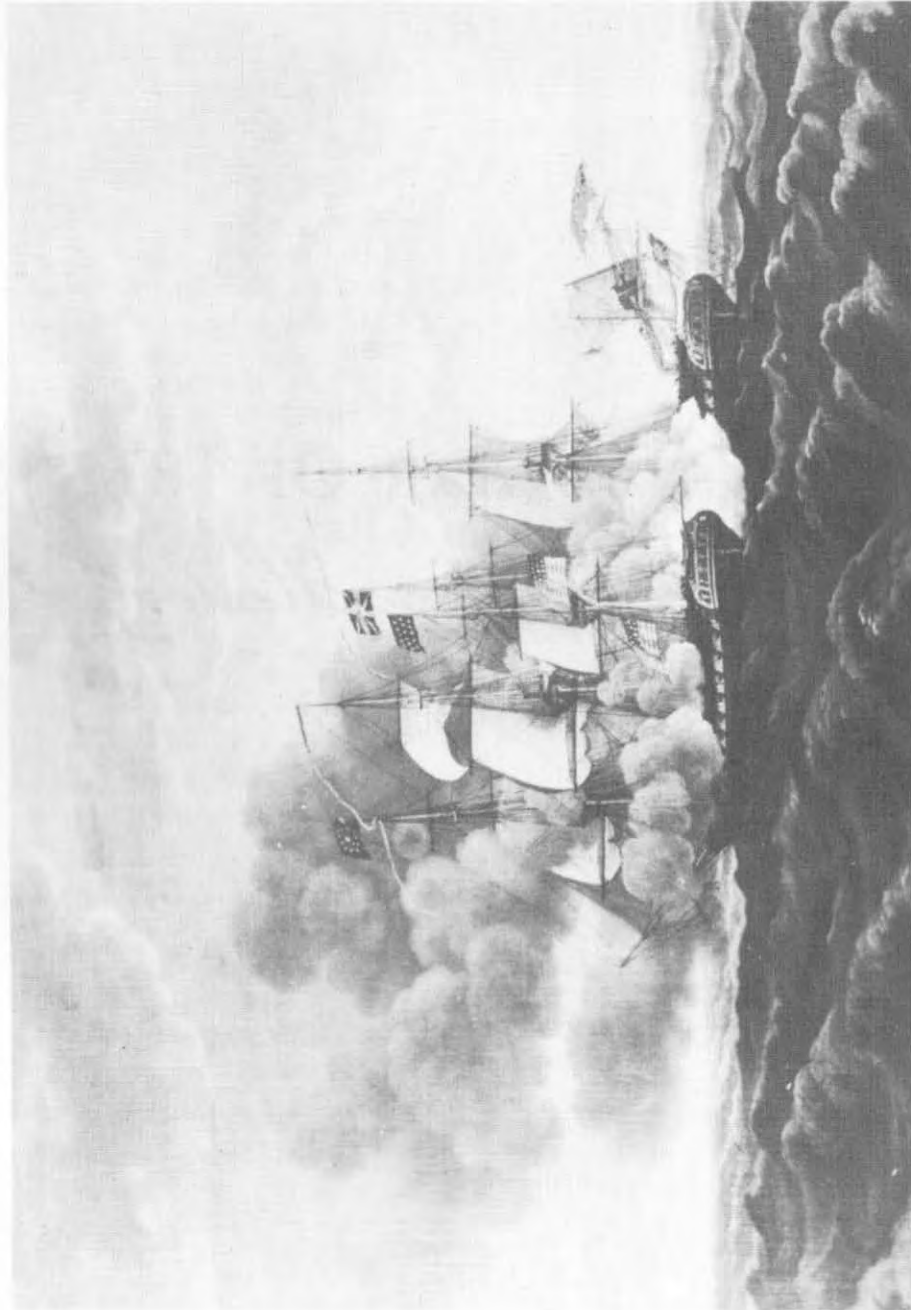
The Naval War of 1812

A Documentary History

Volume I



Edited by William S. Dudley



Engagement Between U.S.S. Constitution and H.M.S. Guerrière, 19 August 1812

THE NAVAL WAR OF 1812

A Documentary History

Volume I
1812

WILLIAM S. DUDLEY
Editor

MICHAEL J. CRAWFORD
Associate Editor

With a Foreword by
REAR ADMIRAL JOHN D. H. KANE, JR., USN (RET.)
Director of the Naval Historical Center

NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON: 1985

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY'S ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON NAVAL HISTORY

Arthur D. Baker, III
James A. Field
Joy Bright Hancock
John H. Kemble

Richard Leopold
Augustus P. Loring
Jon E. Mandaville
Forrest C. Pogue

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

Library of Congress — 85-600565



CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

DEDICATION

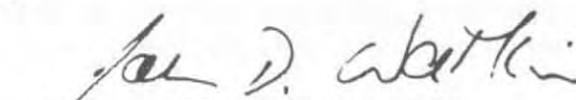
This book is the first of a three-volume series of naval documents from the War of 1812. The purpose of this series is to publish rare, inaccessible and deteriorating documents for the enlightenment of all who wish to study the origins of American sea power.

The importance of the War of 1812 extends to our time. The image of a diminutive United States Navy confronting the British maritime giant is one that has passed from generation to generation. The fact is that the British Navy, while very large, had world-wide responsibilities. During the first year of the war, which this volume presents, the number and size of British warships on the North American Station did not overpower vastly the force available to the U. S. Navy. The frigates CONSTITUTION and UNITED STATES defeated HMS GUERRIERE, JAVA and MACEDONIAN in three separate actions in the Atlantic, fortifying the national will with the example of a Navy ready to fight and prepared to win.

As the war continued into 1813 and 1814, Great Britain was able to bring more naval forces to bear, restricting the pugnacious Americans to occasional sorties from fogbound ports. Perhaps the U. S. Navy's greatest contribution to the war was made on Lakes Erie, Ontario and Champlain, where joint operations were essential to thwarting British invasion plans and to protecting any American thrust into Canadian territory.

As our nation nears the 175th anniversary of the War of 1812, these published documents restore freshness to that conflict. Many sacrifices were made by sailors and marines, fighting for a cause whose outcome was often in doubt. The results were worthy of the effort. The United States emerged from the war with a renewed sense of sovereignty and self-confidence. There is no doubt the U. S. Navy contributed mightily to this outcome.

It is a pleasure to see the appearance of the Naval Historical Center's The Naval War of 1812: A Documentary History. These volumes bring to the reader the immediacy of the moment in the words of the participants and commentators of the time. One man's tireless efforts established this approach to naval history. With this in mind, I wish to dedicate this work to Commodore Dudley W. Knox, U. S. Navy (1877-1960), who headed the Office of Naval Records and Library for 25 years and was editor of the Navy's first documentary series. I am sure he would be pleased with the continuation of his efforts.


JAMES D. WATKINS
Admiral, U. S. Navy

Foreword

In 1938, the Office of Naval Records and Library published the first volume of a series of naval documents covering the wars of the United States with the Barbary states. President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote, in a foreword to that initial volume: "It is my earnest hope that the printing of naval manuscripts relating to the War of 1812 and other naval phases of our national life may follow."

Commodore Dudley W. Knox, director of the Office of Naval Records and Library, edited the Barbary Wars series, as well as seven earlier volumes on the Quasi-War with France. The final volume of the Barbary Wars series appeared in 1944. Twenty years later, treatment of another naval phase of "our national life" got under way with the publication of the first volume of *Naval Documents of the American Revolution*. At this writing, eight volumes of this undertaking have appeared. While the need for documentary coverage of the navy in the War of 1812 was evident, as President Roosevelt had recognized, demands on a small professional staff and economic considerations made it impossible to initiate an endeavor for a number of years. In 1978, however, it seemed feasible for a new staff member, Dr. William S. Dudley, to devote a portion of his time to planning a War of 1812 project. I outlined the concept to the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee on Naval History, which enthusiastically endorsed it.

From the beginning, we recognized that the Center's manpower resources could not sustain two projects on the magnitude of the American Revolution documentary series. The limits of our coverage for the War of 1812 had to be much narrower. From an abundance of pertinent documents, only a modest number of those judged to be the most representative and significant have been selected for inclusion in this three-volume work.

As explained in the editor's preface, the documents are presented chronologically by topic or theater of operations. Explanatory text introduces individual documents or groups of documents, providing a

context for the events described. The present volume begins with an introduction which briefly summarizes the fortunes of the American navy from 1775 to 1805. The first chapter prepares the reader for the "second war of independence with Great Britain." Included are introductory essays and documents concerning naval preparedness, Jefferson's gunboats and embargo, impressment of seamen, and the dramatic *Chesapeake-Leopard* and *President-Little Belt* affairs. These matters portray the deterioration of Anglo-American relations and the United States' declaration of war against Great Britain. The next four chapters present documents on the Atlantic theater through August 1812, the northern lakes, the Gulf Coast, and then return to the Atlantic theater through December 1812. The volume closes with Commodore William Bainbridge's victory in U.S. frigate *Constitution* over H.M. frigate *Java*, a battle which symbolized American prowess at sea during a troubled first year of war with a more powerful enemy.

During the War of 1812, the United States Navy came of age. Fleet actions on the lakes and single-ship engagements at sea showed that American warships could more than match Royal Navy ships of similar force. The war also demonstrated, however, that with far fewer ships than the enemy had, the United States could neither lift strangling naval blockades nor prevent harassment along the coast and the burning of Washington. Lessons with broad implications, even for the present time, can be drawn from this experience. Even so, the War of 1812 deserves more attention from historians than it has received. Certainly, Alfred Thayer Mahan and Theodore Roosevelt addressed the subject, and Oliver H. Perry, Stephen Decatur, and Isaac Hull have had their biographers, but the bibliography is modest when compared with that of the American Revolution, the Civil War, or World War II.

We hope that this study will attract a wide and varied audience. The entire spectrum from casual reader to serious researcher can use the book with interest and profit. We hope, as well, that the selected documents presented here will act as a lure to further scholarly investigation and further publication so that the War of 1812 can assume its rightful place in the literature of this nation's naval heritage.

JOHN D. H. KANE, JR.

Preface

This volume is presented as the first of a three-volume documentary history of the United States Navy in the War of 1812. As such, it contains selected documents which display the flavor and substance of maritime warfare between the United States and Great Britain during the period 1812-1815. We have drawn heavily on naval records held by the National Archives and Records Service. To these we have added others reflecting a variety of viewpoints: the plans and reports of British naval officers who engaged our forces, newspaper columns of the day, statements of civilian officials who were charged with direction of the war, and the papers of private citizens who chose to go to war for personal profit though at great risk. To guide readers in their use of these documents and as a unifying medium, brief essays and headnotes are provided.

The method of organizing the historical materials contained in this work is basically chronological by theaters of operation. After a presentation of documents related to the maritime causes of the war, each of three theaters, Atlantic, Northern Lakes, and Gulf Coast, will be treated in separate chapters. Occasionally, there will be exceptions to strict chronological order within these theaters, when topical treatment of documents provides a more meaningful context. The events contained in this volume will cover the period from 1805, the year that marked the end of the Tripolitan War, until the end of December 1812. This dividing line, although arbitrarily chosen, is nonetheless appropriate because it marks the end of the first year of a war that lasted for nearly three years. The two succeeding volumes will deal with the events of 1813 and 1814-1815, respectively.

This documentary history is more than a recounting of naval battles from eyewitness reports. There are many works which have treated the naval engagements of the War of 1812. The objective of this work is to display the underpinnings of the U.S. Navy during the era of the War of 1812, and in this way to help explain both its successes and failures

at a formative time in its institutional history. The substance of this book is the life of the navy. It includes documents on such diverse subjects as the causes of the war from a maritime perspective, the navy's preparedness for operations, the recruitment of seamen and marines, the construction and fitting out of ships, the treatment of sick and wounded men, questions of insubordination, incompetence, and jealousy among officers and men, matters relating to the supply of food, drink, clothing, armaments, and spars for navy crews and ships, the operations of privateers, as well as navy warships, and the plight of men held as prisoners of war. In short, these pages will show the American navy as a human institution, with all the nobility and frailty that phrase implies. It is hoped that the documents in this volume will provide glimpses of the U.S. Navy long forgotten or perhaps as yet unknown to a majority of readers. Specialists will be familiar with much of the material but its variety should stimulate research in new directions. If this work sparks such a process, then it can be said to have been a worthwhile effort.

This documents project has been in progress since 1978 and has involved the efforts of many dedicated individuals, working within and outside of the Naval Historical Center. Rear Admiral John D. H. Kane, Jr., the Director of Naval History, urged the Historical Research Branch to take up the project and has been an enthusiastic advocate ever since. Of prime importance to this undertaking was the constant support and wisdom of Dr. William J. Morgan, former Head of the Historical Research Branch and now Senior Historian Emeritus of the Naval Historical Center. He encouraged this work despite his knowledge that assigning staff to a War of 1812 project would reduce the number of people available to work on his prestigious *Naval Documents of the American Revolution* series. To assist in multiple editing chores Ensign Meredith Leach was assigned as a principal assistant for research. She participated in the exacting tasks of document search, preliminary selection, and transcription. She made a strong contribution by surveying a vast number of microfilm collections in the National Archives and in helping to select representative documents. Ensign Leach's relief in 1981, Lieutenant Donna Nelson Geiger, continued all of these tasks and, developing valuable expertise in the subject matter, extended coverage into new areas. She ably helped edit galleys. Joye Leonhart contributed her skills as an illustrations researcher and printing specialist, working with the Naval Publications and Printing Service to ensure that this new publication proceeded

properly through its many printing phases. Tamara Moser Melia, Dr. Michael A. Palmer, and Lieutenant Marycarol Hennessy rendered great assistance in editing galleys and page proofs and in preparing the index. As no publication project can succeed without a fine typist, we were particularly fortunate in having Jane Huie's expert typing skills and unfailing good humor on hand for the completion of the more than 1,000 pages of typescript that were sent to the printer. Darnese Ferguson arrived in early 1983 to succeed Mrs. Huie, competently typed the index and assisted in many other ways.

As usual in publishing a book such as this, many Naval Historical Center employees were called upon for assistance. To Stanley Kalkus, the Director of the Navy Department Library, to his assistant, John Vajda, and to Barbara Lynch, an expert reference librarian, we are indebted for efficient service and willing cooperation with the many requests made for obscure works, difficult citations, and liaison with the Library of Congress. Charles Haberlein and Agnes Hoover of the Curator Branch Photographic Section provided advice and information regarding the many possibilities for illustrating the volume. The personnel of Dr. Dean Allard's Operational Archives Branch were always willing to search for biographical data in their Early Naval Records Section.

Many archival institutions and libraries provided us with information and copies of documents and illustrations from their repositories. Most notably included in this category are the Navy and Old Army Branch of the National Archives and Records Service, the Library of Congress, the Public Archives of Canada, the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich, England, and the Public Record Office in London. Unpublished Crown copyright material in the Public Record Office is reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Other helpful institutions included: the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, the Chicago Historical Society, the William L. Clements Library at Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Essex Institute and Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, the Maryland Historical Society, the New-York Historical Society, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The United States Naval Academy Museum provided us with considerable assistance and access to their collection as did the Special Collections Division of the Nimitz Library at the Naval Academy.

Foremost among those groups and individuals who have provided us with support and encouragement are the Secretary of the Navy's Advi-

sory Committee on Naval History, presided over by Dr. Richard W. Leopold. The advice and counsel offered by the committee have been of great value. Two independent authorities on United States naval history were asked to read and comment on the prepared typescript. Professor K. Jack Bauer of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Professor Christopher McKee of Grinnell College reviewed the work and made several excellent suggestions, despite many other demands on their time. Commander Alexander Douglas, Director of the Canadian Defense History Directorate, has shown a friendly and stimulating interest in this project from the beginning and has encouraged further research in British records regarding the naval war on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain. To these individuals and all others connected with this project, we are indebted and truly grateful.

W. S. DUDLEY

Editorial Method

Selection

There are thousands of naval documents available in the National Archives, Library of Congress, and other repositories, from which we have selected a few hundred as being representative of the War of 1812. Our intention has been to choose documents evocative of topics and persons of that period. With citations and references provided, the interested reader should be able to locate similar classes of documents of the particular period and theater of war in question. The majority of documents selected for publication are of an official nature, addressed to the secretary of the navy by officers in command of ships or naval stations. Added to these are orders from the secretary to his commanders, excerpts from logs and journals, and letters to the Navy Department from private citizens. As privateers were very active during the war, papers representing their activities are also included, but the privateering record is very incomplete. When appropriate, we have selected documentation from British sources to balance the perspective presented by American sources.

In most cases, the version printed is the original letter or recipient's copy; it frequently happened, however, that the original never reached its destination. Authors of letters customarily took the precaution of sending at least one and sometimes two copies to ensure arrival of their communication. Where a copy is printed, it will be so designated in the source note. The word "copy" will only appear in the text if it is actually a part of the original manuscript itself. The list of abbreviations on page xv identifies other types of documents printed.

The secretary of the navy carried on a vast correspondence with all ranks of officers, for he was the operational chief of the navy as well as its principal administrator. The most complete record of the secretary's outgoing correspondence is contained in letterbooks into which departmental clerks copied each letter, but not its enclosures. The original letters were drafted by the clerks and then signed by the

secretary. On rare occasions, when the secretary was indisposed or out of the city of Washington, the chief clerk, Charles Goldsborough, and later Benjamin Homans, would sign for the secretary. The original letters are not extant in most cases. Consequently, the secretary of the navy letters that we have printed have been obtained from departmental letterbooks. When an original secretary letter has been found, it will be so indicated in the source footnote. When unofficial correspondence is printed, customary source information will be provided.

Transcription

In transcribing documents, we have adhered as closely as possible to the original in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviation. When proper names are misspelled in the text, the transcription retains that misspelling, but if the word is so unclear as to be misleading, the correct spelling is placed in bracketed italics. Original capitalization, or lack of it, is followed, even at the beginning of sentences. The punctuation used is that of the original document, with one exception. In the early 19th century, dashes were often used in place of periods, commas, semi-colons, and question marks; most of these dashes will be replaced by appropriate modern punctuation. Abbreviations and contractions used in the original have been retained, including ampersands and ditto marks; however, superscripts commonly used with abbreviations of the time have been used only on signature lines of autograph letters.

Missing, Incorrect, and Indecipherable Words

Where a manuscript has been damaged or contains indecipherable words, we silently supply the missing letters, if there were no more than four. If more than four letters, or entire words are missing, we supply them in roman type enclosed in brackets, adding a question mark within brackets if the conjecture is doubtful. On the other hand, if there is an opportunity to add a word or phrase to clarify meaning, the added material will be printed in roman within brackets immediately after the affected word. But, if the original author has erred, we will provide the correction in bracketed italics. For the reader's convenience, here are some examples of our procedures:

1. Rank and last name of an officer are contained in the text, but his first name is missing. Editor provides the missing information: Lieutenant [William] Bush.

2. Rank and last name are provided in the text, but the first name is stated incorrectly. Editor provides the correct first name: Lieutenant Robert [William] Bush.

3. Rank and last name appear but not first name. After research, editor is not certain but has reasonable idea of officer's identity: Lieutenant [William?] Bush.

Annotations

The first note following the documentary text is unnumbered and gives a description and the source of the document. Numbered footnotes will provide only essential clarification, explanation, or information about persons, places, or subjects mentioned in the text. Rather than burden the reader with lengthy footnotes, we prefer to cite relevant scholarship or reference material, trusting that the reader's curiosity will lead to a consultation of informed sources. Letters cited by date in the text of a document will be provided a full citation if considered relevant to the subject under discussion. Enclosures will generally be included immediately following the text of the original letter. If the enclosure is too lengthy or is not deemed of sufficient importance to be printed, a footnote commentary will usually be provided.

Headings

The title or rank, first name, middle initial, and last name of originators and recipients of documents will precede the documents when known. Document datelines will be provided as they appear in the original. If an address forms part of the salutation, it is retained, as are the complimentary close, signature, and postscripts. However, the complimentary close will be abbreviated unless it is of an unusual nature. Address and endorsements on the reverse side of a letter are omitted, but any meaningful information they contain will be discussed in footnotes. Internal notes added by the recipient will be included in footnotes. If a document is extracted from a longer document, this designation will appear in bracketed roman type at the left margin below the heading.

Headnotes

From the outset, it has been intended that this collection of printed documents should be taken as selections from a vast body of material. There will, consequently, be gaps in coverage of events. Documents do not always speak for themselves. With the passage of time, a document's context and environment are blurred or forgotten. A docu-

mentary text has several meanings: a meaning in itself, a meaning in relationship to events that occurred immediately before, during, and after the document's creation, and a meaning from the perspective of hindsight. Each reader approaches a historical document with a different viewpoint, depending on the extent of his reading and understanding of history. In order to blend these meanings into a whole thought, introductory statements are provided for documents which stand either alone or in related groups. Frequently, the reader will find citations to scholarly material which will amplify the introductory matter. It is to be hoped that the headnotes provided will enlighten and not confuse the reader with more information than necessary. They are included to afford those interested a better perspective on events than what might be obtained only through the document itself.

List of Abbreviations

SYMBOLS USED TO DESCRIBE MANUSCRIPTS

ADS	Autograph Document Signed
AL	Autograph Letter
ALS	Autograph Letter Signed
D	Document
DS	Document Signed
LS	Letter Signed

SHORT TITLES, ABBREVIATIONS, AND LOCATION SYMBOLS

Adm.	Admiralty
AF	Area File
ASP	<i>American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States . . . Selected and Edited under the Authority of Congress . . .</i> Washington, D.C., 1832-1861. 38 vols.
BC	Letters from Officers of Rank Below that of Commanders Received by the Secretary of the Navy
CGO	Directives ("Circulars and General Orders"), Navy Department
CL	Captains Letters to Secretary of the Navy
CMC	Office of the Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps
CNA	Letters Sent by Secretary of the Navy to Commandants and Navy Agents
DNA	National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.
MC	Masters Commandant Letters Received by Secretary of the Navy
MLR	Miscellaneous Letters Received by Secretary of the Navy
MLS	Miscellaneous Letters Sent by Secretary of the Navy
NBuHi	Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo, N.Y.
PHi	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
RG	Record Group
RS	Records of the U.S. Senate
SNL	Secretary of the Navy Letters to Officers, Ships of War
UkLPR	Public Record Office, London

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	v
PREFACE	vii
EDITORIAL METHOD	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xxxix
INTRODUCTION: THE AMERICAN NAVY: 1775-1805	xliii
CHAPTER ONE: THE MARITIME CAUSES OF THE WAR: 1805-1812	1
The Struggle to Increase the Navy	2
Secretary of the Navy Robert Smith to Andrew Gregg, Chairman, Committee on the Naval Peace Establish- ment, 16 December 1805	3
Secretary of the Navy Smith to Nathaniel Macon, Speaker of the House of Representatives, 27 January 1806	9
Thomas Jefferson's Gunboat Navy	12
President Jefferson's Message to Congress, 10 February 1807	13
Anglo-American Tensions: The Neutral Trade	16
The <i>Essex</i> Case, 1805	17
Lord Sheffield's Strictures, 1806	21
The Anglo-French Commercial War	23
"At the Court at the Queen's Palace, the 7th of January 1807. Present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council."	24
The <i>Chesapeake-Leopard</i> Affair	26
Log of U.S. Frigate <i>Chesapeake</i> , 22-23 June 1807	27
"By Thomas Jefferson President of the U.S. of America A Proclamation," 2 July 1807	29
Presidential Message to Congress, 27 October 1807	32
The Embargo	34
Secretary of the Navy Smith to Lieutenant Samuel Elbert, 2 May 1808	35

A New Naval Policy, 1809-1810	36
Commodore John Rodgers to Captain Isaac Hull, 19 June 1810	39
<i>President vs. Little Belt</i>	40
Commander Arthur Bingham, R.N., to Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., 21 May 1811	41
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton, 23 May 1811	44
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore John Rodgers, 28 May 1811	49
The Navy and the "War Hawk" Congress	50
Langdon Cheves, Chairman, House of Representatives Naval Committee to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 19 November 1811	52
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Langdon Cheves, Chairman of the Naval Committee, 3 December 1811	53
Impressment	61
"Impressed Seamen" by the "Ghost of Montgomery," Nos. I, II, III, V, 10-24 March 1812	62
New England Federalists Consider the Prospect of War	68
"Providence Resolutions," 7 April 1812	69
Shall It Be Peace or War?	72
President James Madison to Congress, 1 June 1812	73
CHAPTER TWO: NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE ATLANTIC THEATER: JANUARY-AUGUST 1812	83
The St. Marys Station	84
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 11 January 1812	85
The Capture of Fernandina	86
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 29 February 1812	86
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 21 March 1812	87
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Sailing Master Bartran G. Hipkins, 29 March 1812	88
The East Florida Uprising Restrained	89
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain Hugh G. Campbell, 8 April 1812	90

Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 25 April 1812	90
Conditions at the Charlestown Navy Yard	91
Captain William Bainbridge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 14 April 1812	91
Marines in the War of 1812	93
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to Second Lieutenant Alfred Grayson, 8 April 1812	94
<i>Nautilus</i> on Embargo Patrol	95
Commodore John Rodgers to Lieutenant William M. Crane, 13 April 1812	96
The Navy at Wilmington, North Carolina	98
Sailing Master Thomas N. Gautier to Captain John H. Dent, 22 April 1812	99
The Navy at Charleston, South Carolina	101
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 27 April 1812	101
A Shortage of Marines	103
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to Captain John Hall, 4 May 1812	104
The Preparation of Munitions	105
Master Commandant Samuel Evans to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 May 1812	105
The Weakening of Gunboat Crews	107
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Selected Officers, 6 May 1812	107
Logistical Support for the Marines	107
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to Captain John Hall, 10 May 1812	108
The Pre-War Atmosphere at Charleston	109
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 14 May 1812	109
Stalemate in East Florida	110
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 16 May 1812	111
Gunboat <i>No. 168</i> vs. H.M. Brig <i>Sappho</i>	112
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 22 May 1812	112

Sailing Master John Hulburd to Captain Hugh G. Campbell, 16 May 1812	113
Gunboats for Southern Waters	115
Master Commandant Samuel Evans to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 22 May 1812	116
In Search of a Naval Strategy	117
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore John Rodgers, 21 May 1812	118
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 June 1812	119
Commodore Stephen Decatur to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 June 1812	122
The Frigate <i>Essex</i>	124
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 June 1812	125
Lieutenant Perry Requests an Assignment	126
Lieutenant Oliver H. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 6 June 1812	127
Ordnance Requirements at Charleston, Wilmington, and Boston	128
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 June 1812	128
Captain William Bainbridge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 5 June 1812	130
The Need for a Navy Wharf at Charlestown	131
Captain William Bainbridge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 June 1812	131
Ships in Ordinary at Washington Navy Yard	132
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 13 June 1812	132
The Supply of "Slops"	133
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Purser Samuel Hambleton, 15 June 1812	133
An Intelligence Report from Decatur	134
Commodore Stephen Decatur to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 16 June 1812	134
War Has Begun	135
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain Isaac Hull, 18 June 1812	135

Intelligence and the Element of Surprise	136
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 19 June 1812	138
Recruitment of Marines	138
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, 19 June 1812	139
Army-Navy Relations	139
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Selected Officers, 20 June 1812	140
Medical Care for the Navy	140
Surgeon Edward Cutbush to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 21 June 1812	141
Repairs for <i>Essex</i>	143
Captain Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 22 June 1812	144
The Need for Spars	144
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 22 June 1812	145
Robert Fulton and the U.S. Navy	145
Robert Fulton to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 22 June 1812	146
Orders Sent but Not Received	147
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore John Rodgers, 22 June 1812	148
East Florida and the War of 1812	150
Governor David B. Mitchell to Captain Hugh G. Campbell, 23 June 1812	150
Gunboats for the Carolinas	151
Master Commandant Samuel Evans to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 24 June 1812	151
Two Narrow Escapes: H.M.S. <i>Belvidera</i> and U.S.S. <i>Constitution</i>	153
Extract from Commodore Rodgers's Journal, U.S.S. <i>President</i> , 23 June 1812	154
Captain Richard Byron, R.N., to Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., 27 June 1812	157
Captain Isaac Hull to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 2 July 1812	160
Captain Isaac Hull to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 21 July 1812	161

Privateering in the War of 1812	166
"An Act concerning Letters of Marque, Prizes, and Prize Goods," 26 June 1812	167
A Tar and Feathering Incident	170
Master Commandant David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 June 1812	171
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Master Commandant David Porter, 30 June 1812	175
Navy Appropriations	176
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Langdon Cheves, Chairman of the Naval Committee, 30 June 1812	176
British Naval Strength in North America	179
Ships in Sea Pay, 1 July 1812	180
Timbers for <i>Constellation</i>	183
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 1 July 1812	183
The War of 1812 Reaches East Florida	183
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 July 1812	184
Medical Care for Gunboat Crews	184
Surgeon Edward Cutbush to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 6 July 1812	185
Condition of U.S. Frigate <i>John Adams</i>	187
Master Commandant Charles Ludlow to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 9 July 1812	187
Shortages of Arms and Ammunition	188
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 9 July 1812	188
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 15 July 1812	189
The Return of <i>Chesapeake's</i> Seamen	190
Captain William Bainbridge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 11 July 1812	190
The Privateer <i>Matilda</i>	191
Charles Read to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 13 July 1812	192
Reducing the Gunboat Crews	192
Circular to Commandants and Navy Agents, 14 July 1812	193

Barges for Georgia	194
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 July 1812	194
Prizes Taken at St. Marys	195
Captain Hugh G. Campbell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 18 July 1812	195
Sloop of War <i>Wasp</i> Refitting for Sea	197
Master Commandant Jacob Jones to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 21 July 1812	198
Perry Sends News about <i>Constitution</i>	198
Lieutenant Oliver H. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 26 July 1812	200
The Licensed Trade	202
Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer's Memorandum on the Licensed Trade, 27 July 1812	202
A Merchants' Petition	204
Salem Merchants' Petition to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 27 July 1812	204
Isaac Hull Prepares for Independent Operations	205
Captain Isaac Hull to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 July 1812	206
Captain Isaac Hull to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 2 August 1812	207
The First U.S. Navy Loss	209
Lieutenant William M. Crane to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 29 July 1812	209
Lieutenant William M. Crane to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 31 July 1812	211
The Need for Additional Surgeons	212
Surgeon Edward Cutbush to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 30 July 1812	213
British Navy in Action off Halifax	214
Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., to Secretary of the Admiralty John W. Croker, 2 August 1812	214
Captain Porter's Cruise	216
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 2 August 1812	217
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 August 1812	217

Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 15 August 1812	218
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 20 August 1812	219
Interservice Friction: Marines vs. Army	220
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to First Lieutenant James Broom, 22 August 1812	221
Life at the Gosport Navy Yard	222
Captain John Cassin to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 25 August 1812	222
Privateering: A Risky Business	223
"A List of American Privateers taken and destroyed by His Majesty's Ships and Vessels on the Halifax Station be- tween the 1st July and 25th August 1812"	225
An American Agent for Prisoners of War at Halifax	227
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to John Mitchell, 26 August 1812	227
Circular Letter from Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commandants and Navy Agents, 27 August 1812	229
American Shipping	229
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Selected Officers, 28 August 1812	230
Captain Hull's Cruise	230
Captain Isaac Hull to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 August 1812	231
American Prisoners of War at Halifax	233
Lieutenant William M. Crane to Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., 28 August 1812	233
Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., to Lieutenant William M. Crane, 29 August 1812	235
Diplomatic Arrangements for Prisoner Exchanges	236
Anthony St. John Baker to Secretary of State James Monroe, 29 August 1812	236
<i>Constitution vs. Guerriere</i>	237
Captain Isaac Hull to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 August 1812	238
Captain James R. Dacres, R.N., to Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., 7 September 1812	243

<i>Constitution's Marines</i>	245
First Lieutenant John Contee to Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, 31 August 1812	246
<i>Rossie: A Baltimore Privateer</i>	248
"Journal of a Cruize on board the Schooner <i>Rossie</i> ," 11 July-30 August 1812	248
The Missing Husband	260
Petition of Jane Stinger to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 31 August 1812	261
The Return of Rodgers' Squadron	262
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 1 September 1812	262
CHAPTER THREE: THE NORTHERN LAKES THEATER: JUNE-DECEMBER 1812	267
The Provincial Marine of Canada	268
Lieutenant Colonel A. H. Pye, Deputy Quartermaster General, to Governor-General George Prevost, 7 December 1811	268
Embargo Patrol on Lake Ontario	273
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 9 June 1812	274
Lake Champlain in 1812	275
Lieutenant Sidney Smith to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 16 June 1812	275
An Offer of Vessels for the Navy	276
David Parish to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 21 June 1812	276
War News Reaches Sackets Harbor	277
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 26 June 1812	277
Lieutenant Woolsey's Reports-I	278
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 June 1812	278
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey, 2 July 1812	279
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 July 1812	280

Governor Tompkins's Concerns	281
Navy Agent John Bullus to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 16 July 1812	281
Lieutenant Woolsey's Reports-II	283
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 21 July 1812	283
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 July 1812	285
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 August 1812	286
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 August 1812	288
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey, 21 August 1812	294
Woolsey Reports General Hull's Defeat	294
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 25 August 1812	295
Lake Champlain Unguarded	295
Benjamin Moore to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 29 August 1812	296
Isaac Chauncey Ordered to the Lakes	296
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore Isaac Chauncey, 31 August 1812	297
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 September 1812	301
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore Isaac Chauncey, 4 September 1812	301
Marines for the Lakes	303
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to Captain John Hall, 1 September 1812	303
Woolsey Informed of His Relief	304
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey, 5 September 1812	304
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 5 September 1812	305
Lieutenant Melancthon T. Woolsey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 7 September 1812	305
Daniel Dobbins in Washington	306
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Daniel Dobbins, 11 September 1812	307

Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore Isaac Chauncey, 11 September 1812	307
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore Isaac Chauncey, 11 September 1812	308
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore Thomas Tingey, 15 September 1812	309
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Daniel Dobbins, 15 September 1812	310
Sailing Master Daniel Dobbins to Commodore Isaac Chauncey, 28 September 1812	310
Commodore Chauncey's Preparations	311
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 24 September 1812	312
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 24 September 1812	314
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 26 September 1812	314
A Local Source of Iron	318
James Lynch to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 25 September 1812	318
Lieutenant Macdonough Ordered to Lake Champlain	319
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough, 28 September 1812	319
A Difference of Opinion	320
Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott to Sailing Master Daniel Dob- bins, 2 October 1812	321
Sailing Master Daniel Dobbins to Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott, 11 October 1812	321
Samuel Anderson's Task	322
Samuel T. Anderson to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 October 1812	322
Macdonough Arrives at Lake Champlain	324
Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 October 1812	324
Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 14 October 1812	325
Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 26 October 1812	326

Capture of the Brigs <i>Detroit</i> and <i>Caledonia</i>	327
Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 9 October 1812	328
Major General Sir Isaac Brock to Governor General Sir George Prevost, 11 October 1812	331
Chauncey's Arrival at Sackets Harbor	336
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 October 1812	336
"To Obtain Command of this Lake"	337
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton (twelve letters), 21 October–26 November 1812	338
Perry Offers His Services	354
Master Commandant Oliver H. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 November 1812	354
Lieutenant Angus in Charge at Black Rock	355
Lieutenant Samuel Angus to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 1 December 1812	355
Sailing Master Daniel Dobbins to Lieutenant Samuel Angus, 2 December 1812	360
Lieutenant Samuel Angus to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 2 December 1812	360
Chauncey's Squadron in Winter Quarters	361
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 1 December 1812	361
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 December 1812	365
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 9 December 1812	365
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 12 December 1812	367
Origins of the Lake Erie Squadron	368
Sailing Master Daniel Dobbins to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 12 December 1812	369
Winter Comes to Lake Champlain	370
Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 20 December 1812	370
The Chauncey-Angus Feud	371
Commodore Isaac Chauncey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 25 December 1812	372

Lieutenant Samuel Angus to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 27 December 1812	372
CHAPTER FOUR: THE GULF COAST THEATER: FEBRUARY–DECEMBER 1812	375
The Status of Naval Forces at New Orleans	376
Captain John Shaw to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 February 1812	377
News of War Arrives in New Orleans	382
J. H. Laurence & Co. to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 July 1812	382
Captain John Shaw to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 July 1812	383
Lieutenant Daniel S. Dexter to Lieutenant Thomas ap Catesby Jones, 13 July 1812	385
Governor William Claiborne to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 20 July 1812	386
Supplies for the Gulf Coast	387
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to William Helms, 8 July 1812	387
The Shaw-Wilkinson Feud	388
Lieutenant Johnston Blakeley to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 August 1812	389
Captain John Shaw to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 August 1812	390
Captain John Shaw to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 August 1812	392
Contact with the Enemy	398
Lieutenant Daniel S. Dexter to Captain John Shaw, 10 August 1812	398
Hurricane Damage	399
Captain John Shaw to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 23 August 1812	400
Lieutenant Daniel S. Dexter to Captain John Shaw, 23 August 1812	403
Lieutenant Daniel S. Dexter to Captain John Shaw, 4 September 1812	405

Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain John Shaw, 25 September 1812	407
The Marines at New Orleans	408
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to Major Daniel Carmick, 21 June 1812	409
Major Daniel Carmick to Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, M.C., 20 July 1812	409
Major Daniel Carmick to First Lieutenant Samuel Miller, 6 August 1812	410
Major Daniel Carmick to Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, 31 August 1812	411
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to Major Daniel Carmick, 1 October 1812	413
Rebuilding the Naval Force	416
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain John Shaw, 12 October 1812	416
Captain John Shaw to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 27 October 1812	417
Captain John Shaw to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 9 November 1812	420
Please, Get Me Out of Here!	421
Midshipman Thomas T. Webb to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 September 1812	422
Lieutenant Daniel S. Dexter to Captain John Shaw, 10 November 1812	422
Lieutenant Daniel T. Patterson to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 November 1812	423
Lieutenant Johnston Blakeley to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 29 November 1812	425
Lieutenant Daniel S. Dexter to Charles W. Goldsborough, 28 December 1812	426
Bad Luck for Joseph Bainbridge	428
Lieutenant Joseph Bainbridge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 5 December 1812	429
Fitting Out <i>Louisiana</i>	434
Lieutenant Daniel S. Dexter to Captain John Shaw, 21 December 1812	434
The Purser's Dispute	435
Purser Thomas Shields to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 21 December 1812	435

Lieutenant Daniel T. Patterson to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 22 December 1812	440
CHAPTER FIVE: THE ATLANTIC THEATER: SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 1812	441
U.S. Frigate <i>Essex</i> vs. H.M. Brig <i>Alert</i>	443
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 September 1812	443
Discipline On Board Privateers	447
Master Commandant Oliver H. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 September 1812	448
Commodore Rodgers—Ready for Action	450
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 September 1812	450
A Critical Report on the North Carolina Gunboats	452
Congressman William Blackledge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 September 1812	453
Joshua Humphreys's Advice	454
Joshua Humphreys to Congressman Adam Seybert, 5 September 1812	455
A Narrow Escape	461
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 5 September 1812	462
The Marine Commandant Comments on Naval Events	464
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton to Captain Archibald Henderson, 7 September 1812	464
Repairs for War-Damaged Frigates	466
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Navy Agent Amos Bin- ney, 8 September 1812	467
The Porter–Bainbridge Friendship	468
Captain David Porter to Commodore William Bainbridge, 8 September 1812	468
Further Instructions to John Mitchell	469
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to John Mitchell, 8 September 1812	469
Squadron Cruising Orders	470
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore John Rodgers, 9 September 1812	471

Special Praise for Captain Hull	472
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain Isaac Hull, 9 September 1812	472
Arrangements for Prisoner Exchange	473
John Mitchell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 9 September 1812	473
Supply Problems on the Charleston Station	474
Purser Edwin T. Satterwhite to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 11 September 1812	475
The Return of the <i>Nautilus's</i> Crew	476
Lieutenant William M. Crane to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 11 September 1812	476
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 12 September 1812	477
The Uses of H.M. Sloop <i>Alert</i>	490
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 15 September 1812	490
A License to Trade with the Enemy	491
Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., to Andrew Allen, British Consul at Boston, 5 August 1812	492
Intelligence on British Strength at Halifax	494
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 September 1812	494
News for the British Admiralty	496
Vice Admiral Herbert Sawyer, R.N., to Secretary of the Admiralty John W. Croker, 17 September 1812	497
A British Protest	499
Anthony St. John Baker to Secretary of State James Monroe, 19 September 1812	499
Prize Money for the St. Marys Gunboats	501
Purser Gwinn Harris to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 19 September 1812	501
Master Commandant Ludlow at New York Navy Yard	502
Master Commandant Charles Ludlow to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 29 September 1812	502
The Naval Rendezvous	503
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain John Cassin, 1 October 1812	504

Some Naval Intelligence	504
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 2 October 1812	505
The Private Life of a Seaman	506
Henry Hedley to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 5 October 1812	506
Change of Command at Halifax	507
Admiral Sir John B. Warren, R.N., to Secretary of the Admiralty John W. Croker, 5 October 1812	508
William Jones and Commodore Bainbridge	509
Commodore William Bainbridge to William Jones, 5 October 1812	510
William Jones to Commodore William Bainbridge, 11 October 1812	512
The Promotion of Lieutenant Charles Morris	516
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Lieutenant Charles Morris, 5 October 1812	516
Commodore William Bainbridge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 8 October 1812	517
Master Commandant Arthur Sinclair to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 7 October 1812	518
Master Commandant James Lawrence to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 October 1812	519
Lieutenant Charles Morris to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 October 1812	520
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Master Commandant James Lawrence, 17 October 1812	522
Master Commandant James Lawrence to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 22 October 1812	522
Labor and Management at the Washington Navy Yard	523
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 7 October 1812	524
Commodore Bainbridge Orders a Rendezvous	525
Commodore William Bainbridge to Captain David Porter, 13 October 1812	525
British Encouragement of Licensed Traders	526
Commodore Stephen Decatur to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 12 October 1812	527

Captain Porter Requests a Transfer	527
Captain David Porter to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 14 October 1812	528
Guns for Privateers	529
Congressman William Blackledge to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 11 October 1812	529
Lewis Leroy to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 14 October 1812	530
Captain Isaac Hull Ordered to New York	531
Captain Isaac Hull to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 15 October 1812	532
Charleston Under Blockade	533
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 October 1812	534
Commodore Rodgers Takes a Packet	535
Commodore John Rodgers to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 October 1812	535
<i>Wasp, Frolic, and Poictiers</i>	536
Journal of H.M.S. <i>Poictiers</i> , Captain John P. Beresford, R.N., 18-21 October 1812	537
Captain Thomas Whinyates, R.N., to Admiral Sir John B. Warren, R.N., 23 October 1812	539
Arrangements for a Hospital in Washington	541
Dr. Thomas Ewell to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 19 October 1812	542
The Observations of a Gunboat Commander	542
Remarks On Board the United States Gunboat <i>No. 71</i> William Laughton, Commander, 10-24 October 1812	543
The Supplying of Gunpowder	547
Bullus, Decatur, & Rucker to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 27 October 1812	547
<i>United States vs. Macedonian</i>	548
Captain John S. Carden, R.N., to Secretary of the Ad- miralty John W. Croker, 28 October 1812	549
Commodore Stephen Decatur to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 30 October 1812	552
Condition of the Navy Yard at Portsmouth	555
Purser Tunis Craven to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 31 October 1812	555

Hospital Troubles at Charlestown	556
Lieutenant Joseph Nicholson to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 31 October 1812	557
The Rate of Exchange of Prisoners	558
Lieutenant William M. Crane to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 31 October 1812	558
The Supply of Timber	561
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 7 November 1812	561
A Merchant in Search of his Goods	562
Stephen Singleton to Captain Isaac Hull, 9 November 1812	562
Oliver H. Perry at Newport, Rhode Island	563
Master Commandant Oliver H. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 November 1812	564
Master Commandant Oliver H. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 November 1812	565
A Sea Ruse	565
Purser Henry Denison to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 11 November 1812	566
American Trade with the British West Indies	566
Admiral Sir John B. Warren, R.N., to the Lords Commis- sioners of the Admiralty, 11 November 1812	567
Expansion of the American Navy	570
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Burwell Bassett, Chair- man of the Naval Committee of the House of Represen- tatives, 13 November 1812	571
<i>Guerriere's</i> Worth as a Prize	577
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Burwell Bassett, Chair- man of the Naval Committee of the House of Represen- tatives, 21 November 1812	578
The Loss of U.S. Sloop <i>Wasp</i>	579
Master Commandant Jacob Jones to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 24 November 1812	580
The War Comes to Charleston	583
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain John H. Dent, 24 October 1812	583
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 5 November 1812	584

Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 14 November 1812	585
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 14 November 1812	585
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 16 November 1812	586
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 24 November 1812	587
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 26 November 1812	588
Captain John H. Dent to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 5 December 1812	589
The Need for Winter Clothing	589
Master Commandant Charles Ludlow to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 18 November 1812	590
Hospitalization of Gunboat Seamen	590
Surgeon Edward Cutbush to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 16 November 1812	591
Frigate <i>New York</i> in Disrepair	592
Master Commandant Charles Gordon to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 November 1812	592
<i>Southampton</i> and <i>Vixen</i>	594
Captain James L. Yeo, R.N., to Vice Admiral Charles Stirling, R.N., 22 November 1812	594
Captain James L. Yeo, R.N., to Vice Admiral Charles Stirling, R.N., 11 December 1812	595
A Naval Presence at Savannah	595
Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 7 November 1812	596
Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 17 November 1812	598
Citizens of Savannah to Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison, undated	601
Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 19 November 1812	602
Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 25 November 1812	605
Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 2 December 1812	607

Congressman George M. Troup to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 30 November 1812	608
Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison to Congressman George M. Troup, 18 November 1812	609
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison, 3 December 1812	610
Lieutenant Charles F. Grandison to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 20 December 1812	610
Men for the Frigate <i>Adams</i>	611
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Captain John Cassin, 30 November 1812	611
Commodore Tingey's Concerns	612
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 December 1812	613
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 3 December 1812	613
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 December 1812	614
Commodore Thomas Tingey to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 12 December 1812	614
The Return of <i>United States</i> and <i>Macedonian</i>	615
Commodore Stephen Decatur to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 4 December 1812	616
Master Commandant Oliver H. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 10 December 1812	616
The Loss of His Majesty's Packet, <i>Princess Amelia</i>	617
The Earl of Sandwich and the Earl of Chichester to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, 1 December 1812	618
Sir George Harrison to the Postmaster General, 11 December 1812	621
<i>Saratoga</i> : A New York Privateer	622
Lieutenant's Journal of the Schooner <i>Saratoga</i> , 11-12 December 1812	622
Midshipman Feltus of the Frigate <i>Essex</i>	625
Journal of Midshipman William W. Feltus "kept on board the US. frigate <i>Essex</i> ," Extracts, 11, 12 December 1812	625
Preparations for Manning the 74s	627
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Samuel Smith, 24 December 1812	627

Tightening the Blockade	633
Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to Admiral Sir John B. Warren, R.N., 26 December 1812	633
William Jones, Future Secretary of the Navy	634
Congressman Jonathan Roberts to William Jones, 28 December 1812	635
Licenses and Rewards	637
Commodore Stephen Decatur to Secretary of the Navy Hamilton, 28 December 1812	638
Secretary of the Navy Hamilton to Commodore Stephen Decatur, 29 December 1812	638
<i>Constitution vs. Java</i>	639
Journal of Commodore William Bainbridge, 29 December 1812	640
Lieutenant Henry D. Chads to Secretary of the Admiralty John W. Croker, 31 December 1812	646
Admiral Warren Requests Reinforcements	649
Admiral Sir John B. Warren, R.N., to Secretary of the Admiralty John W. Croker, 29 December 1812	649
INDEX	655

Descriptive List of Illustrations

Engagement Between U.S.S. <i>Constitution</i> and H.M.S. <i>Guerriere</i> , 19 August 1812 Frontispiece	
Oil, by Michele Felice Cornè, date unknown. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
"Map of the Seat of War in North America."	18
From <i>A Military and Topographical Atlas of the United States</i> . . . , no. 1, John Mellish, Philadelphia, 1815. (Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.)	
Secretary of the Navy Robert Smith	37
Portrait in oils, by Freeman Thorp, 1873. (Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.)	
"The <i>Little Belt</i> , Sloop of War, Capt'n Bingham nobly support- ing the Honor of the British Flag, against the <i>President</i> United States Frigate, Commodore Rogers, May 15th, 1811."	47
Aquatint, drawn and engraved by William Elmes, printed by Edward Orme, London, 1811. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
President James Madison	77
Portrait in oils, by Gilbert Stuart, 1805-1807. (Courtesy of Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine.)	
Boston Harbor from Constitution Wharf	92
Oil, by Robert Salmon, 1833. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
Captain Isaac Hull's Sword and Pistols	137
(Courtesy of Mrs. Roger C. Elliott, New York.)	
Dr. Edward Cutbush, Surgeon, U.S.N.	142
Published in <i>Annals of Medical History</i> , Vol. V, no. 4, December, 1923. (Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)	
"Escape of the <i>Belvidere</i> , Commanded by the Late Adml Rd Byron C.B. from the American Squadron."	158
Lithograph, drawn by Lieutenant F. Edwards, printed by C. Hullmandel, date unknown. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	

Chase of U.S.S. <i>Constitution</i> off the Jersey Coast, 17–19 July 1812	164
Oil, by Philip Inch, 1834. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
Early 19th-Century Surgical Instruments	186
(Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C.)	
<i>Wasp</i>	199
Model. (Courtesy of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York.)	
Halifax, from Dartmouth Point	215
Aquatint, by G. I. Parkyns, published in <i>The Colonial Journal</i> , no. VI, July 1817. (Courtesy of the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.)	
Captain Isaac Hull, U.S.S. <i>Constitution</i>	239
Mezzotint, by George Graham, after Gilbert Stuart, published by T. W. Freeman, Philadelphia, 1813. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
Captain James Dacres, H.M.S. <i>Guerriere</i>	239
Stipple engraving, drawn by Bowyer, engraved by Page, London, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, London.)	
Page from U.S.S. <i>Constitution's</i> Quarterbill, 1812	247
(National Archives, Washington, D.C.)	
Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, British Army	271
Mezzotint, by S. W. Reynolds, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.)	
Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton	299
Portrait in oils, by G. B. Matthews, date unknown. (Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.)	
Diagram of the Attack on <i>Detroit</i> and <i>Caledonia</i> on Lake Erie, 8 October 1812	330
Drawn by Lieutenant Jesse Elliott, U.S.N., 1812. (National Archives, Washington, D.C.)	
"A Map of the American Lakes and Adjoining Country . . ." 334-35	
From <i>Geographical and Topographical Atlas</i> . . . , no. 156, Luffman, London, 1815–1816. (Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)	
Captain Isaac Chauncey, U.S.N.	366
Portrait in oils, by Gilbert Stuart, c. 1818. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	

Major General James Wilkinson, U.S.A.	393
Portrait in oils, by Charles Willson Peale, 1797. (Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia.)	
"A Map of the Southern Section of the United States . . ."	404
From <i>A Military and Topographical Atlas of the United States</i> . . . , no. 3, John Mellish, Philadelphia, 1815. (Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.)	
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant Franklin Wharton, U.S.M.C.	414
Portrait in oils, by Louis H. Gebhardt, 1916, after a crayon drawing by Saint-Mémin. (Marine Corps Art Collection, Washington, D.C.)	
"Plan of the City and Suburbs of New Orleans . . . 1815"	427
Engraved by William Rollinson, printed by Charles Del Vecchis, New York, 1817. (Courtesy of the I. N. Phelps Stokes Collection, New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.)	
Sketch of the Escape of <i>Essex</i> off Georges Bank, 4 September 1812	463
Drawn by Captain David Porter, U.S.N., 1812. (National Archives, Washington, D.C.)	
Captain William Bainbridge, U.S.N.	511
Portrait in oils, by John W. Jarvis, 1814. (Courtesy of the Art Commission of the City of New York.)	
Captain Charles Morris, U.S.N.	521
Portrait in oils, by Ary Scheffer, 1825. (In the collections of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Gift of the heirs of Mrs. Morris.)	
"The Capture of H.B.M. Sloop of War <i>Frolic</i> , Capn Whinyates, by the U.S. Sloop of War <i>Wasp</i> , Capn Jab Jones, on the 18th of Octr 1812 . . ."	540
Aquatint, drawn and engraved by F. Kearny, from a sketch by Lieutenant Claxton of the <i>Wasp</i> , printed by Prentiss Whitney, Boston, date unknown. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
"Alexander the Great" H.M.S. <i>Macedonian</i> Figurehead	550
(U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
Capture of H.M.S. <i>Macedonian</i> by U.S.S. <i>United States</i> , 25 October 1812	554

Oil, by Thomas Birch, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.)	
Captain Jacob Jones, U.S.N., and the gold medal presented to him by Congress for the capture of H.M. Sloop <i>Frolic</i> by U.S. Sloop <i>Wasp</i>	581
Portrait in oils, by Rembrandt Peale, date unknown. (Courtesy of the New-York Historical Society, New York. Medal: Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.)	
"Battle between the Schooner <i>Rossie</i> , and the Ship <i>Princess Amelia</i> , on the 16th of Sept. 1812."	619
Lithograph, by A. Weingartner, New York, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, London.)	
"Battle between the Schooner <i>Saratoga</i> , and the Brig <i>Rachel</i> , on the 15th of Dec. 1812."	619
Lithograph, by A. Weingartner, New York, date unknown. (Courtesy of the Naval Historical Foundation, Washington, D.C.)	
"Track of the Action [between the U.S.S. <i>Constitution</i> and H.M.S. <i>Java</i>], Dec. 29, 1812."	642
Published in <i>The Naval Chronicle</i> , Vol. 29, London, 1813. (Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.)	
H.M.S. <i>Java</i> Engaged by U.S.S. <i>Constitution</i> off the Coast of Brazil, 29 December 1812	643
Photo of oil, by Nicholas Pocock, date unknown. (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
Sword of Captain Henry Lambert, H.M.S. <i>Java</i>	645
(U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.)	
Lieutenant's Journal of the Schooner <i>Saratoga</i> , 11-12 December 1812	endsheets
(Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.)	

Introduction

The American Navy: 1775-1805

From the founding of the Continental Navy in October 1775 to the passage of the Naval Peace Establishment Act in April 1806, the United States Navy suffered difficulties no less severe than those of the fledgling nation it defended. To contend with the overwhelming naval superiority of Great Britain during the American Revolution, the Continental Congress established the apparatus to build a small navy which was essentially insufficient to deter the Royal Navy from its depredations upon American merchant shipping, and fishing vessels, and invasions of American coastal bays, harbors, rivers, and inland lakes. The precedent was set by Washington's "fleet," a handful of Marblehead privateers commissioned to interdict General Gage's supply lines at Boston. Congress, during the years 1775-1783, authorized the purchase, construction, or hire of some forty vessels of all types—cutters, sloops, schooners, brigs, and frigates—to sail the high seas in defense of American liberties. These do not include the smaller vessels built for Benedict Arnold's "fleet" on Lake Champlain or those constructed by individual states for their own navies, which were also encouraged by act of Congress.

The logistical problems encountered in building the Continental Navy, difficulties in manning and fitting out ships in competition with privateers, and the running of the British blockade in one way or another affected the histories of each of these ships. While they occasionally sailed in company, they were frequently picked off by the British as they operated independently or suffered mishaps usually risked by men under sail. Those that saw action generally fought hard and well before succumbing to superior force. Some took prizes, but most did not see the end of the war. The last frigate of the Continental Navy, Captain John Barry's *Alliance*, was sold in 1785.