

## O SAY CAN YOU SEE?...

The British bombarded American forces at Fort McHenry, Maryland, throughout the night of Sept. 13, 1814. Francis Scott Key was being held on a British ship during the battle and witnessed the bombardment. At dawn, he peered through the clearing smoke to see an enormous U.S. flag waving proudly at Ft. McHenry. Key was so inspired to see the U.S. flag that he hastily penned a poem on the back of an envelope. This poem later was set to music and became our country's National Anthem.

## DID YOU KNOW?...

There is a fascinating connection between the Old Fort Niagara flag and the flag that inspired our National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner. Major George Armistead, from Virginia, was stationed at Fort Niagara in 1813. Major Armistead loved BIG flags but he didn't like the cold weather on the Niagara Frontier, so he asked for a transfer. On June 27, 1813, Major Armistead was happily reassigned to command Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, where he ordered "a flag so large that the British would have no difficulty in seeing it from a distance." It was this 42' x 30' 15-star, 15-stripe flag, that gave inspiration to the defenders of Baltimore and inspired a new national song. The flag that is on display at Old Fort Niagara, is thought to be the older "sister" flag to the Star Spangled Banner.



Oh, say can you see  
by the dawn's early light?  
What so proudly we hailed  
at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched  
were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare,  
the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night  
that our flag was still there,  
Oh, say does that  
star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
and the home of the brave?

## NATIONAL SOCIETY UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812

Founded in 1892, the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 is a non-profit women's service organization, headquartered in Washington, DC. This organization is dedicated to promoting patriotism and preserving and increasing knowledge of American history between the close of the American Revolution and the close of America's Second War for Independence, the War of 1812.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Admission to membership in the U.S.D. of 1812, is by invitation to women 18 and over who can offer satisfactory proof that they are lineal descendants of an ancestor who, during the period of 1784-1815 inclusive, rendered civil, military, or naval service to our country, rendered material aid to the U.S. Army or Navy, or who participated in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Junior membership is available to girls and boys from birth through age 21.

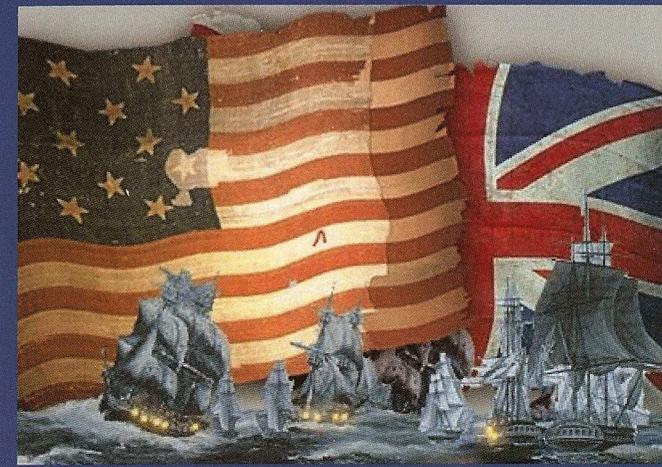
[www.usdaughters1812.org](http://www.usdaughters1812.org)

*Celebrating 200 Years of Peace*

### NEW YORK CHAPTERS

General Jacob Brown Chapter, Sackets Harbor, NY  
Major George Armistead Chapter, Saratoga Springs, NY  
New York City Chapter, New York, NY  
Niagara Frontier Chapter, Lockport, NY  
Onondaga Chapter, Syracuse, NY  
Plattsburgh Chapter (Organizing) Plattsburgh, NY  
Whitney-Hungerford Chapter, Watertown, NY

For further information, visit:  
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## WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL

### AMERICA'S SECOND WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

Presented by the State of New York Society

United States Daughters of 1812

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Most Americans would be hard pressed to describe even one significant event in American history that took place between the American Revolution and the War Between the States.

Although a great number of Americans know the lyrics to our National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, very few people connect its origin to the War of 1812. Fewer still are motivated to learn about this War – America's second War of Independence.

The State of New York Society, U.S.D. of 1812, urges everyone to commemorate, educate, and celebrate the War of 1812 Bicentennial by learning about the War of 1812 and its significance.