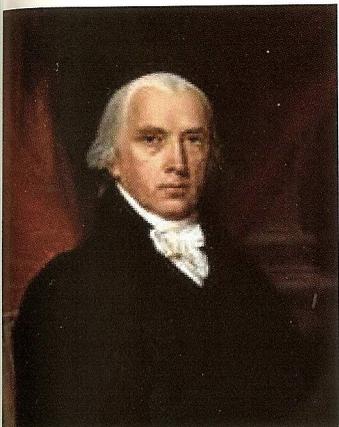


## THE WAR OF 1812

The War of 1812 was a military conflict fought between the forces of the United States of America and those of the British Empire. The Americans declared war in 1812 for a number of reasons, including trade restrictions, impressment of American merchant sailors into the Royal Navy, British support of American Indian tribes against American expansion, and the humiliation of American honor.

## DECLARATION OF WAR



On June 1, 1812, President James Madison sent a message to Congress, recounting American grievances against Great Britain, though not specifically calling for a declaration of war. After Madison's message, the House of Representatives quickly voted (79 to 49) a declaration of war, and the Senate agreed by 19 to 13.

President James Madison

The conflict formally began on June 18, 1812, when Madison signed the measure into law. This was the first time that the United States had declared war on another nation, and the Congressional vote would prove to be the closest vote to declare war in American history. None of the 39 Federalists in Congress voted in favor of the war; critics of war subsequently referred to it as "Mr. Madison's War."

## DID YOU KNOW?...

There are two New York City streets named for War of 1812 heroes? Allen Street, 1st Avenue below Houston, is named for Captain William Henry Allen, a naval hero of the War of 1812. Commanding the brig Argus, he captured 20 British ships before being killed by cannon fire.

Pike Street, the continuation of Allen below Division, is named for Zebulon Pike, the namesake of Pike's Peak. He was also a War of 1812 hero--killed by an ammunition explosion while attacking Toronto, in 1813.

## FIRST LADY, DOLLEY MADISON



Dolley Payne Todd Madison (May 20, 1768 – July 12, 1849) was the spouse of the fourth President of the United States, James Madison, and was First Lady of the United States from 1809 to 1817. Dolley's formidable social skills were a huge asset during the War of 1812 when she gave innumerable parties to keep up morale.

But she is credited with an even more significant achievement. Immediately before the invading British burned the White House, Dolley saved the original priceless full-length portrait of George Washington, which was painted by American Painter, Gilbert Stuart in 1796. Because of Dolley Madison, this original portrait of George Washington still hangs in the White House today.

## DID YOU KNOW?...

Uncle Sam is a national personification of the United States and sometimes more specifically of the American government, with the first usage of the term dating from the War of 1812. In the year 1812, a large quantity of provisions for the army was purchased at Troy, New York, by Elbert Anderson, a government contractor.



The goods were inspected by two brothers, Ebenezer and Samuel Wilson. The last named was invariably known among the workmen as "Uncle Sam." The packages were marked E.A.-U.S. On being asked the meaning of these initials, a workman jokingly replied that he didn't know unless they meant Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam. So, the title became current among the workmen, soldiers, and people, and the United States Government is now known affectionately as "Uncle Sam".

## THE BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE

(also known as the Battle of Niagara Falls ) was a battle of the War of 1812, which took place on 25 July 1814, in present-day Niagara Falls, Ontario. It was one of the bloodiest battles of the war, and one of the deadliest battles ever fought on Canadian soil.

## WHO IS BETSY DOYLE?

Betsy Doyle was a heroine of the War of 1812, who remained at Fort Niagara during the war and played an integral role in the struggles that took place there. During a prolonged duel with British forces, Doyle carried red-hot cannonballs known as "hot shot" to guns on the roof of the French Castle . A year later, she donned a soldier's uniform and stood guard through the night. She instantly became a local celebrity for her acts of bravery. Although the fort was ultimately captured, she and her children were able to escape. In 2012, War of 1812 Heroine, Betsy Doyle, was recognized and inducted as a Woman of Distinction in New York State.

## DID YOU KNOW?...

The Niagara Campaign was the final campaign launched by the United States to invade Canada during the War of 1812 . It occurred in 1814.

## SACKET'S HARBOR

Following the outbreak of war in June 1812, Sacket's Harbor, New York, became the center of American naval and military activity for the upper St. Lawrence Valley and Lake Ontario. By the spring of 1813, approximately 5,200 troops were stationed here and the village became the U.S. Naval Headquarters on the Great Lakes.

## THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH

September 6-11, 1814, also known as the Battle of Lake Champlain, ended the final invasion of the northern states during the War of 1812.

## BURNING OF WASHINGTON

On August 24, 1814, a British force led by Major General Robert Ross occupied Washington, D.C., and set fire to many public buildings including the White House and U.S. Capitol, which were largely destroyed. This was not the only "burning" that occurred during the War of 1812. The British burned many villages right here in New York State including: Lewiston, Buffalo, and Black Rock.