

THE WAR OF 1812 - Historical Timeline

key dates and events, and local significance

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- events with local significance are highlighted •

Year	Date	Event	Description
1811	November 7	Battle of Tippecanoe, Indiana	Considered the first battle of the War of 1812. Takes place between Tecumseh's brother, The Prophet, and William Henry Harrison (Governor of the Indian Territory's) army
1812	June 18	US declares war on Great Britain	President James Madison signs war bill into law. First time the USA declared war on another nation.
1812	June 28	News of war reaches Fort Amherstburg	Colonel St. George, commander at Fort Amherstburg, receives word of war. With about 300 British regular in Amherstburg, he dispatches a detachment of militia to Sandwich.
1812	July 2	Cuyahoga Captured	The Cuyahoga, traveling from Toledo to Detroit transporting some officers' wives and invalids, along with band instruments and American Brigadier-General William Hull's personal luggage, is captured "... in front of Fort Amherstburg, yielding 45 prisoners and among the booty, American military dispatches and even muster rolls."
1812	July 5	Americans shell Sandwich	Americans under Hull arrived at Springwell (below Detroit) – shell British guns at Sandwich. Local militias withdraw to Amherstburg.
1812	July 8		US bombarded Sandwich
1812	July 12	Americans cross the Detroit River	Americans land near Labadie's mill on the south side of the Detroit River below Hog Island (modern day Belle Isle) and "... march down the road along the bank of the river, to a point opposite the Town..." of Detroit. Hull makes the unfinished home of Francois Baby his headquarters and issues a proclamation that states the Americans fight is with Great Britain, rather than Canada, and that if they do not take up arms against Americans they "... will be emancipated from Tyranny and oppression..."
1812	July 16	Skirmish at River Canard	First recorded casualty of the war. Americans, under the command of Colonel Cass advance towards Amherstburg. A detachment of British soldiers defend the bridge over the River Canard. British Private James Hancock is killed, and Private John Dean is taken prisoner by the Americans.

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1812	July 17	Capture of Makinac, Michigan	By the British
1812	July 25	Skirmish at Turkey Creek	Native warriors ambush some American soldiers near Turkey Creek on July 25. Six American soldiers are killed.
1812	July 30	News of War in Britain	News of declaration of war reaches London, England.
1812	August 5	Battle of Brownstown	Small American force defeated by Natives and British Regulars
1812	August 7	Hull withdrawal	Hull withdraws from the Sandwich area to Detroit
1812	August 9	Battle of Maguaga, Michigan	British succeed in keeping American forces in Detroit, also keeping provisions away from the American Fort (Maguaga – present day Trenton, Michigan).
1812	August 13	Isaac Brock arrives in Amherstburg	Major-General Isaac Brock, British Commanding Officer arrived at Fort Malden with reinforcements. He met with the aboriginal leader, Tecumseh, to discuss strategy. They devised a plan for the capture of Detroit. The same day, the British artillery began the march to Sandwich.
1812	August 15	Fort Dearborn, Illinois Massacre	Massacre by Potawatomi Indians of American troops, militia as well as women and children. Fort burned. (Fort Dearborn – present day Chicago).
1812	August 16	Capture of Detroit	British, under General Brock, and Natives capture Detroit. “Before dawn the British troops under Brock and the Natives under Tecumseh land at Spring Wells and move into position around the walled town of Detroit. Considerably unnerved by the Natives, Hull surrenders within hours. By noon, word has reached Amherstburg that Brock accepted the surrender of the Fort at Detroit, along with all 60,000 square miles of Michigan Territory, and an abundance of public stores and supplies, including the U.S. Brig Adams.” Brock returns to Niagara region, leaving General Procter in command.
1812	September	Armistice	Despite a temporary armistice arranged by British Commander-in-Chief Prevost and U.S. General Dearborn, many skirmishes occur. Armistice ends with the Battle at Queenston Heights.
1812	September 5-12	Siege of Fort Wayne, Indiana	By Natives allied with the British. Due to the armistice the British are restricted in aiding their native allies in this endeavour. The siege ends when the natives learn of approaching American troops under General Harrison

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1812	October 13	Battle of Queenston Heights, Ontario	General Brock killed by an American sharpshooter's bullet. The battle however was a British Victory, preventing an American invasion in the Niagara region.
1813	January 13	Essex Militia	Procter recalls portions of the Essex Militia, who had been released to their homes in the fall, when he learns of the presence of American troops nearby.
1813	January 18	Frenchtown / River Raisin, Michigan	First battle – Americans force a British retreat from Frenchtown (present day Monroe, Michigan).
1813	January 22	Frenchtown / River Raisin, Michigan	Second battle – British, under General Procter who arrives from Fort Malden with reinforcements from Fort Malden, are victorious.
1813	January 23	River Raisin Massacre	Natives kill/wound many Americans, and take prisoners following the battle. “Remember the Raisin” becomes rallying cry for the Americans.
1813	April 27	Battle of York, ON.	Americans capture York and burn government buildings/military barracks.
1813	May 1 – 9	Siege of Fort Meigs, Ohio	British, under Procter, with Natives led by Tecumseh, are unsuccessful in capturing Fort Meigs and withdraw to Amherstburg. (Fort Meigs – present day Perrysburg, Ohio).
1813	May 27	Battle of Fort George, Ontario	Americans capture Fort George (Niagara-on-the-lake).
1813	June 5 – 6	Battle of Stoney Creek, ON.	A surprise night attack by the British prevents the Americans from advancing further into Upper Canada.
1813	June 24	Battle of Beaver Dam, Thorold, ON.	Americans surrender at Beaver Dams (Laura Secord walks to Beaver Dam from Queenston to warn the British leader Fitzgibbons of an American attack – June 22 nd).
1813	July 21 – 28	Siege of Fort Meigs, Ohio	A second unsuccessful siege of Fort Meigs by the British and their Native allies.
1813	September 10	Battle of Lake Erie / Put-in-Bay, Ohio	British sailing fleet of 6 vessels under Captain Barclay, engage the American fleet of 8 vessels under Captain Perry near Put-in-Bay, Ohio. Perry forces the surrender of the British. Numerous casualties on both sides. Following the battle the Americans obtain control of Lake Erie, and therefore shipments and supplies.
1813	September 13	Martial Law	Procter declares martial law in Western Upper Canada in order to impress suppliers.

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1813	September 23	Procter & British Retreat	British under Procter set fire to Fort Malden as they begin their retreat towards the Thames River. Also burned are public buildings in Sandwich and Amherstburg.
1813	September 27		American Major General Harrison lands at Bar Point, south of Amherstburg. They pursue the retreating British.
1813	September 29 (into fall 1813)	Sandwich, Ontario	US occupied area, following the retreat of the British. "The Americans occupy Sandwich and Amherstburg, conducting supply raids as far west as Chatham and London. The situation is fairly peaceful, if not comfortable, for the area residents who remain. Occassionally, local militia units offer some resistance."
1813	October 4	Skirmish at Chatham, Ontario	Also called the Battle of McGregor's Creek/McGregor's Mills/Forks of the Thames River between Natives and Americans. Americans were able to push forward, pursuing the fleeing allies. British continue to burn supplies as they retreat.
1813	October 5	Battle of the Thames (Moraviantown, Ontario)	Results in British and Indian defeat. Most notably, this battle results in the death of Chief Tecumseh. Procter and those who survive the battle continue on to Niagara, and despite their victory, Harrison's American troops return to Detroit rather than press their advance.
1813	October 26	Battle of Chateaugay, Quebec	American attempted invasion repulsed.
1813	November 11	Battle of Chrysler's Farm, Morrisburg, Ontario.	Americans are defeated and their push for invasion is halted.
1813	December 15	Skirmish at McCrae House, Kent County, Ontario	A detachment of Americans who had established a post at the hosue of Thomas McCrae, surrender to local Militia.
1813	December 19	Capture of Fort Niagara, New York	British cross the Niagara River and attack Fort Niagara, killing or capturing its American garrison.
1814	March 4	Battle of Longwoods, Middlesex County, ON.	After short skirmish, the British are forced to retreat back to Delaware, and the Americans abandon their advance and retreat to Detroit.
1814	July 25	Battle of Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, Ontario	Called the bloodiest battle of the War of 1812, the British engage the invading Americans. Both sides experience heavy losses that put an end to the fighting. Although each claims victory, the Americans withdraw.
1814	August 8	Beginning of Peace	Negotiations in Ghent, Belgium.

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1814	August 24	Battle of Bladensburg, Maryland	Following a victory at Bladensburg, the British continue approximately five miles to Washington and burn government buildings including the President's House, more commonly called The White House.
1814	September 13-14	Bombardment of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland	The British, aboard 16 ships in the harbour, hope to batter the fort using mortars and rockets. This is done for little over 24 hours before they withdraw. A poem written by Francis Scott Keys, later called The Star Spangled Banner, is inspired by the waving American flag over the fort after the battle and the British Shelling. The Star Spangled Banner, sung to the tune of a British drinking song, becomes the national anthem of the United States in 1931.
1814	October 22 – November 17	McArthur's Raids in the Thames Valley	American Brigadier General McArthur departs from Detroit, along the Thames River into Upper Canada, and uses the harvest, burns mills and other buildings.
1814	November 6	Battle at Malcolm's Mills, Brant County, ON.	As part of McArthur's raids (near present day Oakland) the Americans attack a body of local militia, who put up a spirited resistance but are overwhelmed. This is considered the last battle of the war in Canada.
1814	December 24	Treaty of Ghent signed, Belgium	The Treaty of Ghent returns the border between British North America and the United States to its pre-war state, but fails to deal with Native concerns.
1814	December 27	Treaty Ratification	Britain ratifies the Treaty of Ghent.
1815	January 8	Battle of New Orleans, Louisiana	The last great campaign of the war of 1812 results in an American victory over the British. The British lose close to 2,000 men, while Jack's American force sustains only 13 casualties.
1815	February 16	Official End of the War of 1812	The war officially ends when President Madison ratifies the Treaty of Ghent.
1815	March 1	News of Peace reaches Quebec	British officials in Quebec proclaim the restoration of peace.
1815	July 1	Withdrawal	The Americans officially withdraw from the area.

Casualties	Battle deaths	Total estimated casualties
American	2,260	15,000
British & Canadian	2,733	10,000
Natives	2,500	7,500 – 10,000

Sources unless otherwise noted:

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