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War of 1812

TIMELINE

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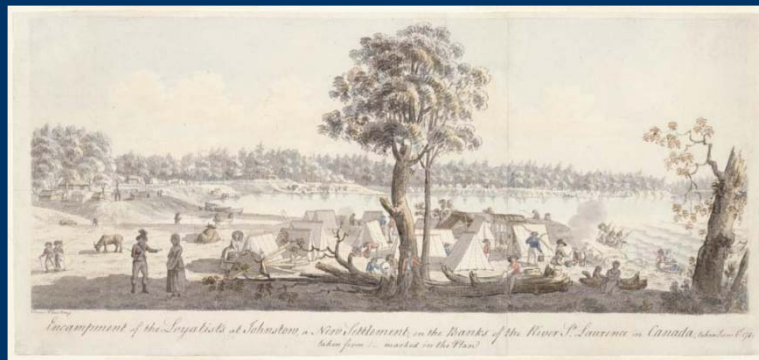


1775 – November 1811

1775-1783

The American War of Independence.

Frustrated by British rule, 13 American colonies severed all ties by declaring their independence. This act of secession led to a bloody and prolonged war between British forces and American Patriots. Following the 1783 Treaty of Paris which ended the war, many Loyalists facing persecution fled to Britain and her dependencies. The conflict marked the beginning of a century of conflict, both military and political, between Great Britain and the United States highlighted by the War of 1812-1815 and numerous boundary disputes. Independence also triggered a struggle between Americans and First Nations for control of lands north of the Ohio River. Both groups eventually clashed as increasing numbers of American settlers entered the region. The contest for these disputed lands continued into the nineteenth century.



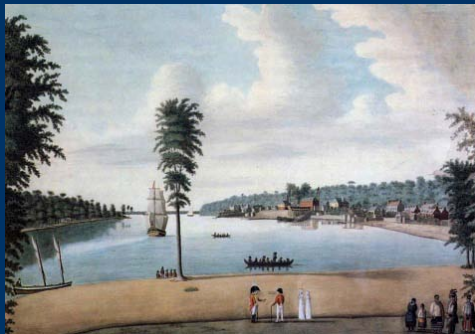
Encampment of the Loyalists at New Johnstown (Cornwall). James Peachy, June 6 1784, LAC C-2001

1778

1778

The Provincial Marine, a freshwater naval force, is established to patrol the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence River.

After securing North America following the Seven Years War (1756-63), Britain required a marine service to supply and maintain contact with its posts throughout the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain. Created by Sir Guy Carleton for these purposes, the Provincial Marine replaced the St. Jean naval yard with one on Ile aux Noix (1812), Lower Canada and established yards at Kingston (1789) and Amherstburg (1796), Upper Canada. With war in 1812, the Marine engaged in conveying troops and supplies in armed vessels, a duty which proved critical during Britain's 1812 summer campaign. Although proficient at this task, it was ineffective as a naval force against the U.S. Lake Ontario fleet. In May 1813 Royal Navy professionals assumed command of the Provincial Marine.



A View of Amherstburg, 1813, by Margaret Reynolds, Fort Malden National Historic Site

1779

1779 American Loyalist refugees begin to settle in British North America.

1787

13 July 1787 The United States Congress passes the Northwest Ordinance which allows for the establishment of new states in the territory north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River. Despite provisions in the legislation for the fair treatment of First Nations in the region, American encroachment on First Nations lands continues.

1789

1789 The British establish a naval yard in Kingston, Upper Canada, which becomes their major warship building facility on the Great Lakes during the War of 1812.

Kingston became the nucleus of British naval activity upon Lake Ontario when the Provincial Marine established their base at [Point Frederick](#) for the important transshipment of goods to and from the Great Lakes as well as a shipyard. The Americans, never feeling strong enough to take Kingston, considered the port a constant threat and attacked only once during the war when their squadron chased HMS Royal George into the town's harbour. At the yard many warships, including the Royal Navy's St. Lawrence, were constructed for Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo's squadron. During the war, the naval yard was home to hundreds of sailors and employed just as many skilled labourers, many of which were brought from Quebec due to labour shortages in Upper Canada.

Humiliated by the terms of the four treaties (Fort Stanwix, 1784; Fort McIntosh, 1785; Fort Finney, 1786; Fort Harmar, 1789) signed with the United States, which allow American settlement in portions of the Ohio Valley, a confederacy of First Nations from that region commence a war to retain their homelands. The conflict will continue until 1795.

1790

October 1790 A confederacy of Miami, Shawnee, Lenape (Delaware) and Nishnabek (Potawatomi) fighters under Chief Little Turtle (Michikinikwa) in the territory north west of the Ohio River defeats an American military expedition led by Brigadier General Josiah Harmar.

1791

4 November 1791 At the Battle of the Wabash, a second American expedition into the Northwest Territory this time led by Arthur St. Clair, governor of that region, is defeated by a confederacy of First Nations headed by Miami Chief Little Turtle (Michikinikwa).

1792

1792 The French Revolutionary War commences. Arising from the French Revolution of 1789 then followed by the Napoleonic Wars, hostilities continue until 1815 with only short pauses in 1802-1803 and 1814-1815.

The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars were a series of campaigns by various coalitions against France. Already at war with other European nations, France declared war on Great Britain 1 February 1793 for joining the anti-French coalition. A global conflict on land and sea fought primarily in Europe, it produced numerous battles including French Emperor Napoleon's ultimate defeat at Waterloo by allied armies under the Duke of Wellington and Prussian Marshal Gebhard von Blücher in 1815. As part of the war, France and Britain implemented trade restrictions which affected neutral nations like the United States. This led, in part, to the American declaration of war against Britain on 18 June 1812. With Britain fighting Napoleon, few troops could be spared to defend British North America.

Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe introduces a proclamation to encourage American immigration to Upper Canada. By the War of 1812 almost half of the population of the colony is American born.

1792-1793 First Nations of the Ohio region seek peace with the United States on the condition that no American settlement is allowed north of the Ohio River. American negotiators refuse to consider that line as the boundary and the war continues.

1794

20 August 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers, Northwest Territory. A third American military expedition into the territory, this time better trained and led by Major General Anthony Wayne defeats a confederacy of First Nations led by Miami Chief Little Turtle (Michikinikwa).

19 November 1794 The Jay Treaty: *The Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation* is signed and establishes the means to determine the boundary between British North America and the United States.

Named for the lead American negotiator, the Jay Treaty, which entered into effect 29 February 1796, settled unresolved issues from the American Revolution and helped avert hostilities between Great Britain and the United States. The British agreed to withdraw their troops from posts on American territory in the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain regions and, as a result, constructed several forts to replace those surrendered. The accord also sanctioned cross-border commerce although trade disputes would later become an issue in the lead-up to the declaration of war in 1812. The treaty's terms expired in 1803 and attempts at a new agreement failed leading to heightened tensions between both nations.

1795

3 August 1795

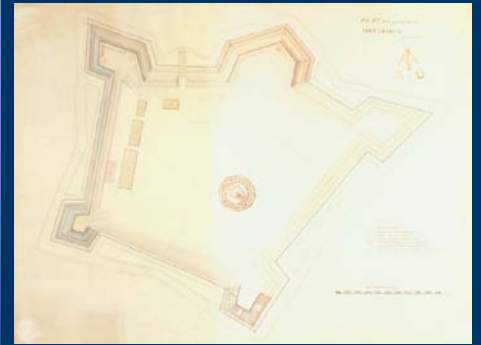
The Treaty of Greenville, between the United States and a confederacy of First Nations, following the Battle of Fallen Timbers, allows American settlement into the greater portion of the Ohio Valley. The distressing loss of their homeland will prompt some of these nations, including the Shawnee, to ally with the British when war is declared in 1812.

1796

1796 - 1799

Forts George, Amherstburg and St. Joseph are constructed by the British to replace recently relinquished posts in American territory.

As part of the terms of the 1794 Jay Treaty, Great Britain relinquished to the United States several western posts. In consequence, the British constructed three forts to maintain their strategic position upon vital Great Lakes transportation routes. Opposite Fort Niagara, Fort George was constructed to control the important river supply route between Lakes Ontario and Erie. After the surrender of Fort Detroit, Fort Amherstburg and its navy yard were established to monitor action upon the Detroit River. To counter the U.S. military presence at Fort Mackinac in the upper Great Lakes and to protect the fur trade, Fort St. Joseph was built on St. Joseph Island. Unfortified until 1799, all three posts served as centres for the military and British Indian Department.



Plan of the present state of Fort George, June 20 1814. J.B. Duberger, 9 August 1814, LAC NMC 5261

1798

16 November 1798

Off the coast of Cuba, sailors from a Royal Navy squadron board the sloop USS *Baltimore* and press 55 crew. Fifty are subsequently freed, but there is much American outrage at this violation of their country's sovereignty.

1799

1799

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 1st Battalion of the 41st Regiment.

1802

1802

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 49th Regiment accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Brock.

1803

8 August 1803

The Regiment of Canadian Fencibles is formed. Initially recruited in Britain, the regiment has soldiers from Upper and Lower Canada and will serve in both

provinces during the War of 1812.

1806

April 1806 As part of the ongoing war between Britain and France, the Royal Navy blockades the French coast to exert economic pressure on the enemy.

1806-1812 British and French navies violate American freedom of the high seas.

During the Napoleonic Wars both the British and French endeavoured to cripple one another's economy through a series of acts imposing trade restrictions on neutral shipping. British and French vessels thus seized American merchant ships carrying supplies to their opponent. Because of these violations of the principles of freedom of the high seas, the United States responded with a series of laws like the 1807 Embargo Act. British ships also intercepted and searched United States Navy and merchant vessels ostensibly seeking British deserters, seized many including American citizens and forced them to serve in the Royal Navy. "Free Trade and Sailor's Rights," became an American war cry by 1812.

21 November 1806 Napoleon issues the Berlin Decree, making it illegal for France's allies to trade with Britain. This and subsequent decrees become known as the Continental System.

31 December 1806 The Monroe-Pinkney Treaty between Britain and the United States is concluded. It offers the Americans concessions for trade but not on impressment. Due to this, President Thomas Jefferson refuses to allow the Senate to ratify the treaty.

1807

1807 Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 100th Regiment, 10th Royal Veteran Battalion.

22 June 1807 The British warship HMS *Leopard* opens fire on USS *Chesapeake* off Cape Henry, Virginia.

Between 1796 and 1812, the Royal Navy removed as many as 10,000 men from American trading vessels and pressed them into naval service, usually on grounds that they were British deserters. But the most famous case of impressment involved an American naval frigate. On 22 June 1807, HMS Leopard opened fire on USS Chesapeake off Cape Henry, killing three men and wounding 16. A boarding party from Leopard then mustered Chesapeake's crew and forcibly removed four deserters. After Chesapeake limped back into Norfolk, its citizens rioted; as word of the encounter spread, more Americans joined the chorus of condemnation. Although President Thomas Jefferson resisted pressure to declare war, he did close American ports to British warships, and the incident badly frayed Anglo-American relations.

24 August 1807 Trade between British North America and the United States is suspended, but Saint John, New Brunswick, and Halifax and Shelburne, both in Nova Scotia, are designated free ports in which American shipping is welcome.

11 November 1807 To increase the economic pressure on France, the British government issues

orders-in-council forbidding foreign vessels, even neutral ones, from trading with European ports unless they first call at a British port and pay customs duties.

17 December 1807

Napoleon issues the Milan Decree, declaring that any vessel touching at a British port will be deemed British property and therefore subject to seizure. American trading vessels in European waters are now liable to seizure by French and British warships.

22 December 1807

The United States Congress passes the Embargo Act.

On 11 November 1807, to increase the economic pressure on France, the British government issued orders-in-council forbidding foreign vessels from trading with Europe without first calling at a British port and paying customs duties. On 17 December, Napoleon replied in kind with the Milan Decree, declaring that any vessel touching at a British port would be deemed British property and therefore liable to seizure. This economic warfare led to the seizure of 947 vessels belonging to the United States during the years 1807-1812. By forbidding American exports to all foreign countries, the Embargo Act was designed to force Britain and France to relax their restrictions on American shipping. Instead, it boomeranged and damaged America's own maritime commerce, which was heavily concentrated in New England.

1808

Summer 1808

The fortifications of Quebec City, Lower Canada are strengthened.

Quebec City was the centre of military and civil administration in British North America and, as a port open to ocean-going vessels, the gateway to the heart of the continent. Its protection was therefore paramount. Fearful of future hostilities following the American Revolution, Gother Mann, commander of the Royal Engineers in Canada, devised a plan to strengthen the town's defences. Elements of the plan, under Mann's replacement, Ralph Bruyeres of the Royal Engineers, were realized and included: ravelins and outworks covering the St. Louis bastion; a new line of defence consisting of four Martello towers; and several powder magazines. The British would continue to reinforce the town throughout the war and beyond including the addition of a Citadel (1820-31).



Vue de Québec, à partir de la pointe Lévis (Vue of Quebec from Levis Point), George Heriot, LAC C-12780

1809

1 March 1809

President Thomas Jefferson authorizes the Non-Intercourse Act, effectively repealing the Embargo Act and allowing the resumption of all trade except with Britain and France.

4 March 1809

James Madison is inaugurated as president. The War of 1812 will become known

in the United States as “Mr. Madison’s War.”

May 1809 Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 1st Battalion of the 8th Regiment.

1810

1810 Charles-Michel d’Irumberry de Salaberry returns to Canada; he becomes aide-de-camp to Major-General Francis de Rottenburg.

1 May 1810 By Macon’s Bill No. 10 (after Representative Nathaniel Macon), Congress restores trade with Britain and France, but promises to stop trading with the enemy of the first power to remove its restrictions against neutral shipping.

11 September 1810 The New Brunswick Regiment of Fencible Infantry, formed in 1803, is made a regiment of the line and numbered as the 104th Regiment of Foot.

2 November 1810 Announcing that France has rescinded its decrees against neutral shipping, President James Madison gives Britain three months to follow suit.

1811

1811 The Royal Newfoundland Fencibles arrive in Quebec City, Lower Canada.
 Creation of military quarters on St-Louis Street in Quebec City, Lower Canada.
 Major-General Isaac Brock is appointed Administrator and military commander of Upper Canada. The appointment as head of both civil and military affairs allows Brock to more efficiently mobilize the colony’s defences.

2 March 1811 President James Madison forbids trade with Britain.

1 May 1811 The Royal Navy frigate HMS *Guerrrière* stops the American brig *Spitfire* off Sandy Hook, New Jersey and presses an American sailor.

16 May 1811 Mistaking the sloop HMS *Little Belt* for HMS *Guerrrière*, USS *President* opens fire on *Little Belt* off the North Carolina coast, killing nine British sailors and wounding 23.

September 1811 British orders-in-council restrict American trade with the British West Indies.

13 September 1811 The new Governor General, Sir George Prevost, arrives at Quebec City, Lower Canada.

4 November 1811 The Twelfth United States Congress opens.

The Twelfth Congress was notable for the presence of about a dozen newly elected congressmen from the southern and western states. Collectively known as the War Hawks, they were among the first generation of Americans to come of age since independence. They detested impressment and violations of American neutrality on the high seas. In addition, they saw the conquering of British North America as a way to end alleged British support of First Nations, and thus to clear the way for American domination of the northern fur trade. Ironically, the country's leading maritime region - New England - was opposed to war with Britain, but with the War Hawks in control of the House and the Senate, armed conflict began to look increasingly likely.

7 November 1811

After the Battle of Tippecanoe, a force of regulars and militia led by Major General William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Indiana Territory, burns the Shawnee settlement of Prophetstown.

January 1812 - June 1812

1812

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 103rd Regiment.

Militia Volunteer company strength units are formed in counties throughout Upper Canada:

- Cavalry Troops: 1st Leeds, 2nd Grenville, 1st Lennox, 1st Addington, 1st Prince Edward, 1st York, 1st and 2nd Lincoln, 2nd Essex, and 1st Kent.
- Artillery Companies: 1st Frontenac, 1st and 2nd Lincoln.
- Rifle Companies: 1st Grenville, 1st and 2nd Leeds, 1st York, 1st Norfolk, and 1st Oxford.

January-May 1812

First Nations raid American settlements in the territories of Missouri and Indiana.

February 1812

The Militia Act of Upper Canada is amended.

The first Militia Act of Upper Canada was adopted in 1793 to organize the local citizenry in the defence of the colony. It remained relatively unchanged until early 1812 when, faced with the growing threat of war with the United States, Major-General Isaac Brock, in his capacity as President of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, asked the provincial legislature for funds to better prepare the militia in case of hostilities. The resulting law provided each battalion of county militia two flank companies that would receive equipment, regular training and pay. The flank companies were generally the most reliable units and saw the bulk of the fighting of the province's militia during the war.

Governor General Sir George Prevost orders the recruitment of a regiment of fencible infantry from the eastern districts of Upper Canada. The Glengarry Light Infantry will see much action across the province during the War of 1812.

April 1812

Raising of the Select Embodied Troops, Lower-Canada.

4 April 1812

Lower Canada's legislature passes a new militia law. Lower Canada's sedentary militia has over 50,000 men.

Despite linguistic factions between English- and French-speaking members of Lower Canada's Legislative Assembly, Governor General Sir George Prevost, was able to get representatives to pass a new Militia Act. Support was given from the French-Canadian elite who believed loyalty to the crown was in the best interest of their nation. Furthermore, with war looming and few British regulars for protection, mobilizing domestic forces was deemed necessary. The new act strengthened the former militia law by increasing expenditures to £12,000 (£30,000 if war erupted) and to mobilize a force of 2,000 men between the ages of 18-25 chosen by lot for the Select Embodied Militia. Conscriptioin was most resisted in rural parishes where habitants considered their duty to be first and foremost to their families and farms.



Select Embodied Militia of Lower Canada, 1813.

G.A. Embleton, Parks Canada

15 April 1812

Raising of the Provincial Corps of Light Infantry, known as the *Voltigeurs canadiens*.

With war threatening, Major Charles-Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry proposed raising a corps of predominately French-speaking volunteers in Lower Canada to increase the number of troops available to defend the colony. Governor General Sir George Prevost approved of the idea and gave Salaberry command of the Provincial Corps of Light Infantry, also known as the Voltigeurs canadiens. Financed by the province, the corps was not part of the regular British Army establishment but was similarly trained, equipped and armed. The unit participated in pivotal actions in both Lower and Upper Canada and was disbanded in 1815. The Voltigeurs' outstanding military exploits confirmed French-Canadian loyalty to the crown and their legacy remains a source of pride among French-Canadians.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles-Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry named commander of the newly created *Voltigeurs*.

Charles-Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry was from a prominent French-speaking Lower Canadian family and as an officer of the British 60th Regiment of Foot had experience fighting abroad. As tensions between Britain and the United States intensified Salaberry proposed raising a corps of volunteers to increase the forces available to repel a potential American invasion. Governor General Sir George Prevost named him commander of this corps known as the Voltigeurs canadiens. Throughout the war there were several disputes between Prevost and Salaberry over commissions and recognition of service causing much frustration for the latter. Salaberry's accomplishments were recognized in 1817 when he received a knighthood, the Order of the Bath. Because of the victory at Chateauguay Salaberry became a source of pride and national folk hero.

May 1812

Raising of four battalions of the Lower Canada Select Embodied Militia.

9 May 1812

The Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, then stationed in Kingston, Upper Canada, are ordered to form five companies for naval service on the Great Lakes.

12 May 1812

Major General Henry Dearborn, commander of the United-States Northern Department, establishes his headquarters in Albany, New York.

Summer 1812

Charismatic Shawnee Chief Tecumseh allies his First Nations confederacy with the British.

Born circa 1768 in a Shawnee village in what is now Ohio, Tecumseh (Tech-kum-thai) became in the 1790s co-leader with his brother, the Prophet (Tenskwatawa), of a movement to restore and preserve traditional First Nations values. Tecumseh believed that a broad confederacy of First Peoples could drive back white settlement and visited nations from Florida to the Great Lakes region to promote his ideas. Seeing the Americans as the greater threat, he allied himself with the British in 1812 and assembled a substantial force of First Nations fighters. He assisted in the capture of Detroit and fought in numerous battles in Ohio and Michigan Territory. The respected and formidable chief was killed fighting at the Battle of the Thames on 5 October 1813.

5 June 1812

On Lake Ontario the USS *Oneida* seizes the British Schooner *Lord Nelson* on suspicion of smuggling and is taken to Sackets Harbor, New York.

16 June 1812

After a winter of great privation, Britain suspends the orders-in-council against neutral shipping.

18 June 1812

Unaware of the British suspension of the orders-in-council, President James Madison signs a declaration of war against Britain.

Although inconvenient to Britain and France, the embargo was harder on America, especially New England. Thus, in March 1809, then President Thomas Jefferson had replaced the Embargo Act with the Non-Intercourse Act, restoring trade with everyone except Britain and France. This was superseded in 1810 by Macon's Bill No. 2 (after Representative Nathaniel Macon), by which the United States restored trade with Britain and France but promised to cease trading with the enemy of whichever was first to recognize neutral rights. In 1811, after France declared it was ready to do so, the United States renewed non-intercourse against Britain. On 16 June 1812, after a winter of severe privation, Britain announced that it would follow suit. However, by the time word reached Washington, war had already been declared.

June 1812

News of war between Britain and the U.S. spreads to British posts due to the efforts of John Jacob Astor, head of the Pacific Fur Trade Company.

The declaration of war spread quickly to British frontier outposts through mercantile channels. While traveling to Washington attempting to avert hostilities between Britain and the United States, John Jacob Astor, an ambitious New York merchant with fur trade interests in the Great Lakes region, learned that war had been declared. To prevent seizure of his assets in British territory at Fort St. Joseph, he sent word to his western agents via multiple channels including through agents in Montreal from whence a messenger was dispatched and subsequently notified British posts along the way of war's declaration. Informed of the news ahead of the U.S. garrison at Fort Mackinac, the British stationed at Fort St. Joseph captured Mackinac in July before the Americans could prepare a defence.

23 June 1812

In the first action of the war, USS *President* and HMS *Belvidera* exchange fire in a running battle off the Connecticut Coast.

25 June 1812

News of the declaration of War reaches Fort George, Upper Canada.

Contemporary accounts mention that American officers from Fort Niagara were dinner guests at Fort George when news of the American declaration of war arrived. Thomas Clark, a Queenston merchant and business associate of John Jacob Astor, had received the news from a Mr. Vosburgh the previous day. After hearing the shocking news, the assembly continued their meal. Following toasts to both King George and President Madison, the Americans returned to their fort in peace. An American newspaper account noted that "several American gentlemen were there on a visit who were treated very politely by the Governor," namely Major-General Isaac Brock. The news of war was very unwelcome on both sides of the Niagara River.

News of the declaration of war reaches Sackets Harbor, New York.

26 June 1812

Governor General Sir George Prevost learns of the American declaration of war while in Quebec City, Lower Canada.

Innkeeper Abner Hubbard and three companions row out from Mullin's Bay, New York to Carleton Island in the St. Lawrence River and capture the small British outpost consisting of a sergeant, three privates and two women.

27 June 1812

HMS *Belvidera* enters Halifax, Nova Scotia where Vice-Admiral Herbert Sawyer concludes that the engagement with USS *President* on 23 June 1812 was accidental.

Boats from HMS *Queen Charlotte* capture the American sloop *Commencement* off Fort Erie, Upper Canada.

28 June 1812

News of the declaration of war reaches Fort Amherstburg, Upper Canada.

29 June 1812

Word reaches Halifax, Nova Scotia of the official declaration of war.

Proclamation ordering American citizens to leave Quebec City, Lower Canada and area.

30 June 1812

A United States army under Brigadier General William Hull, after a march from Dayton, Ohio, arrives on the Detroit frontier in preparation for the invasion of south western Upper Canada.

July 1812 – September 1812

July 1812

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 103rd Regiment, Royal Artillery Drivers.

Major-General Francis de Rottenburg is made commander of the Lower Canada frontier near Montreal.

New Brunswick authorities negotiate agreements of neutrality with the Peskotomuhkat (Passamaquoddy) and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) First Nations.

The militia of Prescott, Upper Canada erect, on their own initiative, a wooden palisade to protect a barrack and storehouse, and a battery on the banks of the St.

Lawrence River.

A detachment of militia in boats from Prescott, Upper Canada captures part of a small fleet of American merchant vessels sailing from Ogdensburg, New York to Sackets Harbor, New York.

1 July 1812

Riot at Lachine, Lower Canada. Civil unrest erupts as armed protesters take to the streets to oppose the actions of military officials.

Militia duty was highly unpopular among portions of Lower Canadian society who felt it their duty to protect their families and communities before their nation. Tensions erupted shortly after war was declared when a habitant was detained for deserting his militia unit. A group of sympathizers thwarted the arrest and the next day roughly 400 men gathered at Lachine, half of whom were armed. Fearful of civil unrest, authorities acted quickly sending troops and two field cannons from Montreal first firing over then into the unruly crowd killing one man. The rioters were most likely protesting what they considered the illegitimate adoption of the Militia Act as opposed to the war itself since French-Canadians would later play an important part in the defence of the colony.

2 July 1812

Lieutenant Charles Rolette of the Provincial Marine captures the American vessel *Cuyahoga* as it enters the Detroit River at Amherstburg, Upper Canada.

On 1 July, after a gruelling march from Dayton, Ohio, Brigadier General William Hull's Army of the North West reached Lake Erie unaware that war had been declared on 18 June. Here, Hull hired the schooner Cuyahoga Packet to carry the baggage, bandsmen and sick up river with the rest of the army proceeding overland to Detroit. The following day, as the vessel sailed past Amherstburg's navy yard, a long boat of Provincial Marine sailors under Lieutenant Charles Frédéric Rolette rowed out and demanded the schooner's surrender. The Canadians, who knew that war had commenced, reaped from Hull's official and personal papers a treasure trove of intelligence on the size of the American army and its invasion plan for south western Upper Canada.

British strengthen defences along the Niagara River.

On 2 July, American sentries reported that British soldiers and Canadian militia had built a strong artillery battery behind stone ramparts at Queenston Heights, Upper Canada and that they had cleared the trees from the ridge. This "Redan Battery" was part of a system of artillery strong points, guard posts, hutted camps, bonfires and signal flag poles, that lined the river from between Lakes Erie and Ontario. A watch station was built inland at Pelham Heights, from which vessels sailing on both lakes could be spotted, and warnings of invasion sent. The Redan Battery played a pivotal role in the Battle of Queenston Heights in October 1812. Major-General Isaac Brock and his aide-de-camp Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell, both died in the struggle for this key position.

3 July 1812

Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor Sir John Coape Sherbrooke issues a proclamation ordering Nova Scotians not to harass the inhabitants of the District of Maine or to interfere with their trading activities.

4 July 1812

The first American prisoners of war are received at Melville Island Prison, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Located in Halifax's Northwest Arm, Melville Island had been used as a prison by the British since at least 1803, initially for the incarceration of (mostly) French prisoners during the Napoleonic Wars. On 4 July 1812, the first American prisoners began to arrive. These and the approximately 8,000 others who were incarcerated during the war were primarily crew members from captured privateers, with lesser numbers from naval and merchant vessels. The prison complex variously included the prison itself, a soldiers' barracks, an officers' house, and a hospital. A bridge connected it to the mainland. Most of the prisoners who died there were buried on nearby Deadman's Island. Little remains of the original prison complex, although a monument on Deadman's Island commemorates the Americans buried there.

5 July 1812 **American batteries in Detroit, Michigan Territory bombard Sandwich (Windsor), Upper Canada in preparation for Brigadier General William Hull's invasion.**

9 July 1812 **News of the declaration of war reaches St. John's, Newfoundland.**

10 July 1812 **New Brunswick's acting Lieutenant Governor, Major-General George Stracey Smyth, issues a proclamation prohibiting New Brunswickers from harassing American fishing and trading vessels in the Bay of Fundy, so long as they are on peaceful business.**

11 July 1812 **The privateer *Rossie* departs from Baltimore, Maryland and over the course of the next six weeks she captures 18 vessels off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.**

12 July 1812 **Brigadier General William Hull's American army invades Upper Canada at Sandwich (Windsor).**

Ordered to capture the British post at Amherstburg, Brigadier General William Hull left Detroit, Michigan Territory and crossed the Detroit River into Sandwich with his Army of the North West composed of three regiments of Ohio militiamen and regulars of the Fourth Regiment of the U.S. Infantry. The British, Canadian, and First Nations defenders, outnumbered by Hull's army, put up little resistance. Hull, confident that Upper Canada's inhabitants would embrace the U.S. army as liberators, issued a proclamation offering destruction to individuals who resisted and protection to those who were loyal to the American cause.

16 July 1812 **Skirmish at the River Canard, Upper Canada.**

After the capture of Sandwich on 12 July, Brigadier General William Hull sent a force under Colonel Lewis Cass to scout for the enemy. On 16 July at the River Canard, the last major natural obstacle before Amherstburg, he encountered the British outposts. In a brisk action Cass outflanked the allied troops and forced open the route to Amherstburg, the main British base in the area. Hull, fearing that Cass was too far from the main force to be easily supported, ordered a withdrawal back to Sandwich. While only a minor encounter the action at the Canard saw the war's first British Army land casualties in Upper Canada when Private Hancock of the 41st Regiment was killed and his comrade Private Dean was wounded and captured.

Newfoundland Governor Sir John Thomas Duckworth arrives in St. John's and quickly orders an upgrading of the town's defences and a reorganization of the militia.

British naval squadron consisting of HMS *Shannon*, *Africa*, *Belvidera*, *Guerriere* and *Aeolus* capture USS *Nautilus* off the New Jersey coast. *Nautilus* is the first United States Navy vessel captured by the British during the war.

17 July 1812

An allied force from Fort St. Joseph, Upper Canada, compels the American surrender of Fort Mackinac, Michigan Territory.

Fort Mackinac was an important fur trading post and its control would foster Métis and First Nations relations. At nearby British Fort St. Joseph, secret dispatches from Major-General Isaac Brock reached Captain Charles Roberts via fur trader William McKay who voyaged from Montreal in only eight days. Brock urged Roberts to use discretion with regard to the Americans at Mackinac and make use of his First Nations alliances and the North West Company. Taking the initiative, Roberts organized a force of predominately Indigenous fighters, Métis, fur traders along with 40 British regulars to attack the Americans at Fort Mackinac who were not yet aware of war's declaration. Caught defenceless, American commander Lieutenant Porter Hanks capitulated. This bloodless victory influenced many First Peoples to actively support Britain.

18 July 1812

USS *Constitution* escapes a British naval squadron consisting of HMS *Shannon*, *Africa*, *Belvidera*, *Guerriere* and *Aeolus*, near New York City.

19 July 1812

Bombardment of Sackets Harbor, New York. Provincial Marine vessels bombard the American naval yard on Lake Ontario with little effect.

American troops skirmish near the River Canard, Upper Canada with First Nations, Canadian militia, British regulars, and the Provincial Marine vessel *Queen Charlotte* moored in the Detroit River.

25 July 1812

American troops and First Nations skirmish near the River Canard, Upper Canada.

31 July 1812

En route to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island from England, the *Royal Bounty* is captured off Newfoundland by an American privateer, and its passengers and crew are robbed and put ashore.

The Provincial Marine brig *Earl of Moira* and schooner *Duke of Gloucester* fend off an attack by American schooner *Julia* and a gunboat on the St. Lawrence River near Elizabethtown (Brockville), Upper Canada.

August 1812

Runchey's Corps is formed, Upper Canada.

At the outset of the War of 1812, Richard Pierpoint, or Pierpont, an African veteran of the Loyalist Butler's Rangers and former slave, offered to raise an all-African military force in the Niagara region. Eventually "Captain Robert Runchey's Company of Coloured Men," was created. Commanded by white officers, the non commissioned officers and enlisted men were African. Over 60 years old, Pierpoint served as a private. The unit fought at Queenston Heights and the Battle of Fort George and, unlike most militia units, it remained with the British Army following the subsequent retreat to Burlington Heights. This small unit of roughly 30 men served until the end of the war, and constructed defences at Burlington Heights and Fort Mississauga. They were disbanded in March, 1815.

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 1st Battalion of

the 1st Regiment.

August & September
1812

The Saint John River Flotilla, consisting of 15 armed bateaux and two gunboats, is constructed and stationed at Fredericton, New Brunswick to defend the river from an American advance through the District of Maine.

1 August 1812

In an effort to help finance the war, the Legislative Council of Lower Canada receives royal assent for legislation promoting the circulation of a special paper currency known as Army Bills.

Before 1812, British North America's colonial government imported coin from the U.S. The war not only cut off this source but money was also required to finance military expenditures. With its supply of cash removed, Lower Canada's Legislature adopted an act issuing £250,000 in paper currency to be supplied by the newly created Army Bill Office at Quebec City. The government fully guaranteed the bills and issued a number of denominations, the higher bills earning interest. In 1813 this currency became legal tender in Upper Canada and because they were well received an upper limit of £1.5 million was issued in 1814. American forgeries were sometimes introduced to discredit the notes. The Army Bills were slowly withdrawn once war ended.

5 August 1812

Battle of Brownstown, Michigan Territory. Shawnee Chief Tecumseh leads an attack on a force from Brigadier General William Hull's army sent to meet a supply column from Ohio. Hull's troops are repulsed and return to Detroit without the supplies.

8 August 1812

Brigadier General William Hull withdraws the bulk of his force from Upper Canada to Detroit, Michigan Territory.

8 August - 4
September 1812

Governor General of British North America Sir George Prevost and American Major General Henry Dearborn negotiate a cease-fire.

Word of the British government's conditional repeal of the orders-in-council, and attempts to open negotiations with the Americans, reached Governor General Sir George Prevost in Quebec City, Lower Canada on 1 August 1812. Prevost, who was pursuing a defensive strategy, immediately offered an armistice to Major General Henry Dearborn, senior officer of the Northern Department. The American general did not have the political authority to sign an armistice but did offer a limited cease-fire. The agreement prohibited offensive actions but allowed both sides to reinforce their frontiers. Notice of the cease-fire, however, came too late to stop the British capture of Detroit, Michigan Territory. Later in August President James Madison rejected the British peace overtures as inadequate and ordered Dearborn to resume offensive operations.

9 August 1812

Battle of Maguaga, Michigan Territory. Troops from Brigadier General William Hull's army at Detroit attack British troops, Upper Canadian militia and First Nations allies blocking the American supply line to Ohio. Hull's soldiers defeat the allied forces, but the Americans return to Detroit without fresh supplies.

HMS *Bream* captures an American privateer off Shelburne, Nova Scotia, wounding two of the privateer's crew of 35.

13 August 1812

Major-General Isaac Brock, with reinforcements of British Regulars and Upper Canadian militia, arrives in Amherstburg, Upper Canada, after travelling across Lake Erie from Long Point, Upper Canada. First Nations allies led by John Norton

and additional Upper Canada militia march to Amherstburg.

USS *Essex* captures HMS *Alert* west of the Azores in the Atlantic Ocean.

15 August 1812

British regulars, Canadian militia and First Nations allies concentrate before Detroit, Michigan Territory and Major-General Isaac Brock summons Brigadier General William Hull to surrender. The British bombard Detroit that evening.

After withdrawing from Fort Dearborn, Illinois Territory, the American garrison is ambushed by a force of Nishnabek (Potawatomi). The entire garrison is killed or captured.

16 August 1812

American Brigadier General William Hull surrenders Detroit and Michigan Territory to forces led by Major-General Isaac Brock and Shawnee Chief Tecumseh.

With his supply line to Frenchtown cut by actions at Brownstown and Maguaga in early August, Brigadier General William Hull's Detroit River campaign came to an end when Major-General Isaac Brock and Shawnee Chief Tecumseh arrived at Detroit with a contingent of British regulars and Upper Canada militia from Essex, Oxford, Kent, Lincoln, Norfolk, and York Counties. When Hull refused to surrender, allied forces consisting of 300 regulars, 400 militia and approximately 600 fighters from several First Nations, including Wyandot, Anishnabe (Ojibwa), and Nishnabek (Potawatomi), crossed the river on Provincial Marine vessels to lay siege to Detroit. An apprehensive Hull lost his nerve and surrendered the entire garrison of over 2,000 regulars and militia. The victory secured Britain's position in Michigan Territory until mid-1813.

17 August 1812

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 8th Regiment.

19 August 1812

HMS *Guerrière* surrenders to USS *Constitution*.

At the start of the war, most of the Royal Navy's ships were deployed in Europe for use against France. Moreover, the frigate USS Constitution was faster and better armed than any British frigate then in North American waters. Under Captain Isaac Hull, Constitution left Boston on 2 August 1812 to cruise off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. On the nineteenth she found HMS Guerrière some 1,000 kilometres southwest of Cape Race. Its captain, James Dacres, was spoiling for battle, but his ship was badly beaten in the ensuing action. Because so many of Guerrière's shots bounced harmlessly off Constitution's hull, her crew nicknamed her "Old Ironsides." Coming so soon after failure at Detroit, the action was an important moral victory for the Americans.

20 August 1812

Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor Sir John Coape Sherbrooke issues a letter of marque to the owners of the *Liverpool Packet*.

The Liverpool Packet was the most feared of all British North American privateers, armed vessels whose owners were authorized to wage war against the enemy. Originally a slave ship, she was captured by HMS Tartarus in 1811 and purchased in Halifax by Enos Collins and friends, who sent her privateering soon after war began. On 11 June 1813 she was taken by the privateer Thomas of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and operated as an American privateer until recaptured by HMS Fantome off the Maine coast on 5 October 1813. Reacquired by the Collins group, she sailed again as the Liverpool Packet. She made a fortune for her owners, including Collins, who was said to be the richest man in Canada when he died in 1871.

25 August 1812

Raising of the *Compagnie des Guides*, a Lower Canada cavalry militia unit.

26 August 1812

United States Secretary of the Navy, Paul Hamilton, appoints John Mitchell of

Philadelphia as American representative in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the purpose of overseeing the exchange of prisoners of war.

31 August 1812

Commodore Isaac Chauncey receives orders to take command of the American naval establishments on Lakes Ontario and Erie.

September 1812

The British decide to establish a naval yard at Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada.

In September 1812 the British decided to establish a naval yard to compete with the American marine establishment on Lake Champlain whose warships easily dominated the few British gunboats on the Richelieu-Lake Champlain front. Ile aux Noix was chosen because of its strategic location commanding navigation of the Richelieu River, the most accessible fluvial entry into Lower Canada. In order to prevent American attacks, fortifications were repaired. Construction at the yard reached its zenith in 1814 when HMS Confiance was launched. Ile aux Noix's shipyard became to Lower Canada what Kingston and Amherstburg were to Upper Canada.

The fortifications of Ile aux Noix and the Lacolle River, Lower Canada are reinforced.

Early in the war, the British launched a naval and land-based strategy of defence for the Upper Richelieu. Since the Americans were gaining naval strength on Lake Champlain, Governor General Sir George Prevost ordered construction of a naval yard as well as renewal of the military post at Ile aux Noix in order to prevent an American naval attack on Lower Canada. A large garrison was posted at this site and an advanced post was set up on Ash Island near the mouth of the Lacolle River. In order to thwart a land-based assault, a 1782 blockhouse at Lacolle was rebuilt to defend a main road from New York State to Montreal, Canada's commercial centre.

3 September 1812

Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) fighters attack the American town of Pigeon Roost, Indiana Territory, killing over 20 settlers.

Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Miami, Nishnabek (Potawatomi), Shawnee and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) fighters unsuccessfully besiege Fort Harrison, Indiana Territory.

5 September 1812

Siege of Fort Wayne, Indiana Territory. Nishnabek (Potawatomi) forces under Chiefs Five Medals (Wonongaseah) and Winnemac unsuccessfully invade the American post.

Siege of Fort Madison, in what would later become Iowa Territory. Forces led by Chief Black Hawk (Makataimeshekiakiak) fail to take the American post after a three day effort.

16 September 1812

Skirmish near Toussaint Island in the St. Lawrence River. American troops attack British bateaux travelling up river to Prescott, Upper Canada.

16-18 September 1812

American raids on First Nations villages in Ohio and Indiana Territory.

18 September 1812

Lieutenant Alexander Macdonald arrives in Prince Edward Island to recruit Catholic Highlanders into the Glengarry Light Infantry. At least 32 Islanders respond to the call.

19 September 1812

Major-General George Stracey Smyth issues a letter of marque for the armed sloop

Brunswicker to assist HMS *Bream* in patrolling the Bay of Fundy against privateers.

21 September 1812

American raid on Gananoque, Upper Canada.

Throughout the war, the British were concerned with the safety of their communications along the St. Lawrence River. Their fears were confirmed when Gananoque, a small village and depot on the river, was attacked by Captain Benjamin Forsyth who commanded a company of regular riflemen and militia from Sackets Harbor, New York. The ensuing alarm brought out about 100 local militiamen but after a short exchange of fire they quickly fled. The Americans took a few defenders prisoner and seized some arms and ammunition. The British responded to Forsyth's raid by constructing blockhouses and further fortifications at Gananoque and other sites along the St. Lawrence.

Raising of the 5th Battalion of the Lower Canada Select Embodied Militia.

25 September 1812

An expedition under Brevet Major Adam Muir, consisting of First Nations fighters, British regulars and Upper Canadian militiamen, advance on Fort Wayne, Indiana Territory. Muir retreats when confronted, near the rapids of the Maumee River, Ohio, by a larger force under American Brigadier General James Winchester.

28 September 1812

Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough receives orders to proceed to Lake Champlain and take command of the American vessels at that station.

October 1812 – December 1812

October 1812

Raising of the Corps of Canadian Voyageurs, Lower Canada.

Although a well-established cargo transshipment service existed between Montreal and the Great Lakes, the Corps of Canadian Voyageurs was raised to militarize and protect this essential system from U.S. attack. The corps was composed of voyageurs, experienced boatmen mostly in the service of the North West Company, and commanded by company officials like William McGillivray. Refusing to conform to military life, the voyageurs, predominantly French-Canadians and Métis, were perfectly suited to their transport duties - they were robust outdoorsmen with an in-depth geographical knowledge. Based at Lachine, Lower Canada, they saw action at St. Regis and also served at western posts like Fort Mackinac. The corps was disbanded in March 1813 and reorganized as the Provincial Commissariat Voyageurs.

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 2nd battalion of the 89th Regiment.

Construction of a military complex at Chambly, Lower Canada begins.

The fort at Chambly played a defensive role in several colonial conflicts throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. During the War of 1812, the stone fort, begun in 1709 to replace a wooden fortification, became part of an extensive military complex of several dozen buildings all built within the 1709 commune and included officers' quarters, stables, and barracks for the cavalry, infantry, and Royal Artillery. This post, along with military works and buildings at Lacolle, Ile aux Noix, St. Jean, Blairfindie and La Prairie, protected several key invasion routes from New York State into Lower Canada. Connected by the Richelieu River and a network of roads, Chambly served as a British headquarters where troops could be mobilized quickly to other posts along the Montreal frontier.

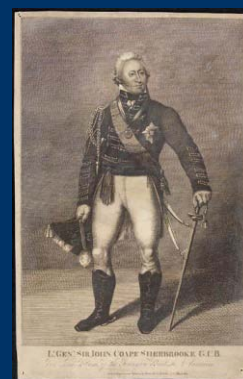
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- 4 October 1812 **Raid on Ogdensburg, New York.** In retaliation for the 21 September 1812 attack on Gananoque, Upper Canada, British and Canadian troops assault Ogdensburg, but are repulsed.
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- 6 October 1812 **Commodore Isaac Chauncey arrives at Sackets Harbor, New York and begins preparations for strengthening the American naval establishment upon the Great Lakes in order to challenge the British for naval supremacy.**
-
- 9 October 1812 **United States Navy cutting out expedition, led by Lieutenant Jesse Elliot, captures the Provincial Marine vessels *Detroit* and *Caledonia* on Lake Erie near Buffalo, New York.**
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- 12 October 1812 **British flag of truce fired on at Queenston, Upper Canada; Major Thomas Evans spots American boats in the Niagara River.**
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- 13 October 1812 **Battle of Queenston Heights, Upper Canada.**

Before dawn, American forces commanded by Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer crossed the Niagara River to attack the village of Queenston. Initially pinned down on the landing beach, a small force under Captain John Wool scaled the escarpment and captured the important Redan Battery. British Major-General Isaac Brock was killed leading an attack to regain the heights. His aide-de-camp John Macdonell fell leading a second charge. Allied First Nations led by John Norton attacked; their war cries convinced U.S. militia on the American shore not to cross the river. Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe won the battle with fresh troops from Fort George and Chippawa. A disaster for the United States, the battle inspired British forces but the loss of dynamic Major-General Brock was deeply felt.

Artillery duel between Fort George, Upper Canada and Fort Niagara, New York. The Fort George powder magazine is struck and saved from destruction by Royal Engineer Captain Henry Vigoreux. A hail of British shrapnel overwhelms the defenders of Fort Niagara.

The British government issues an order-in-council opening Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the New Brunswick ports of Saint John and St. Andrews to a licensed trade in enumerated articles with American citizens.

The British order-in-council only partly arose from Lieutenant Governor Sir John Coape Sherbrooke's concerns about the region's alarming dependence on American provisions. The British themselves needed food for their armed forces in Europe and North America, and Napoleon had disrupted their traditional supplies of naval stores. High prices meant that there was no shortage of New England ship-owners willing to trick or bribe their own customs officials in order to trade with licensed merchants. It came to pass that Royal Navy crews blockading the American coast south of New England were sustained by American bread and beef, while their ships were kept afloat by U.S.-made pitch and tar.



Sir John Coape Sherbrooke,
1816 print, LAC C-3115

Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough arrives at Whitehall, New York, to assume

command of the American vessels upon Lake Champlain.

16 October 1812

Major-General Isaac Brock and his provincial aide-de camp John Macdonell are buried.

After his death during the Battle of Queenston Heights, Major-General Isaac Brock's body was laid in state at Government House in Niagara, Upper Canada. On 16 October a grand funeral procession carried Brock and his fallen aide, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell, to Fort George, where they were interred. The band of the 41st Regiment played a slow march with their drums muffed and draped in black cloth. British soldiers, Canadian militia and First Nations people participated in the solemn event lining the entire route from Government House to the fort. When the British fired a 21 gun salute, the Americans at Fort Niagara fired in respect for their gallant foe.

18 October 1812

USS *Wasp* captures HMS *Frolic* north of Bermuda. Later that same day HMS *Poictiers* takes both vessels.

23 October 1812

Surprise attack by American militia forces on the British post at St-Regis (Akwasasne), Lower Canada.

Astride the international boundary along the St. Lawrence River, the community of Akwasasne, Lower Canada, became divided as Americans and British fought to secure Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) loyalty. In part to ensure First Nations fidelity, the Crown sent a detachment of Canadian Voyageurs to garrison the post. They became the target of an attack by American militiamen from nearby French Mills, New York. The Americans killed eight, took about 40 prisoners and raided stores and gifts meant for members of that community. In retaliation, a contingent of British regulars, militia, and Akwasasne fighters successfully assaulted an American militia post situated on the Salmon River near French Mills. As a result of the initial attack, many First Nations fighters chose to side with the British.



St. Regis Indians. Katherine Jane Ellice, August 1-10 1838, LAC C-013393

25 October 1812

USS *United States* defeats HMS *Macedonian* west of the Canary Islands.

November 1812

American troops commanded by Major General Henry Dearborn leave Plattsburg, New York and begin their march toward Montreal, Lower Canada.

Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles-Michel de Salaberry the *Voltigeurs* and 300 First Nations fighters from Kahnawake (Caughnawaga), march toward Lacolle, Lower Canada, to oppose Major General Henry Dearborn's force.

10 November 1812

Flight of HMS *Royal George*. United States Commodore Isaac Chauncey's squadron chases *Royal George* into Kingston Harbour, Upper Canada.

Sailing from Sackets Harbor, New York, Commodore Isaac Chauncey's U.S. Navy squadron happened upon HMS Royal George and pursued her into Kingston Harbour exchanging fire with the vessel and several shore batteries. Following the confrontation, in which several prize vessels were captured, Chauncey confidently reported to his superiors that his vessels now had command of the lake. This clash, the first considerable battle on Lake Ontario and the only action at Kingston during the war, demonstrated U.S. naval prowess. Consequently, the British strengthened their naval establishment at Kingston by having the Royal Navy assume command of the Provincial Marine, producing warships at the navy yard and reinforcing the town's defences.

13 November 1812	A non-commissioned officer of the 104th Regiment, stationed in St. Andrews, New Brunswick begins instructing the local militia in drills.
14 November 1812	<p>Captain Gustavus Nicolls, Royal Engineers, submits a report to Lieutenant Governor Sir John Coape Sherbrooke with recommendations for the defence of New Brunswick.</p> <p><i>The report of Captain Gustavus Nicolls, Commanding Royal Engineer at Halifax, emphasized the significance of the Saint John River and the town of Saint John. The river was important because of the winter connection that it provided to the Canadas, and because an enemy in possession of it would threaten Nova Scotia from the landward. Nicolls was struck by Saint John's commanding position at the river's mouth, and wrote that it was "the key of the province. Affording it every protection possible becomes, therefore, a matter of consequence." His recommendations to defend the town against landward attack from the west, from which he thought it most vulnerable, would lead to construction of what is today known as <u>Carleton Martello Tower National Historic Site of Canada</u>.</i></p>
20 November 1812	<p>First Battle of Lacolle, Lower Canada.</p> <p><i>Planning to march on Lower Canada and capture Montreal, U.S. Major General Henry Dearborn gathered between 5,000-6,000 regulars and militia at Plattsburg, New York, for the offensive. The day after his arrival at Champlain, New York, on 19 November, his forces advanced and seized a British blockhouse at Lacolle from a small force of Canadian militia and First Nations fighters. In the confusion of battle, some of the advanced guard was fired on by other American forces resulting in several casualties. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles-Michel de Salaberry soon arrived with contingents of Voltigeurs and First Nations allies to repulse the invaders. The Americans withdrew to Plattsburg where they went into winter quarters. A second attempt at Lacolle would take place in 1814.</i></p>
21 November 1812	<p>Artillery duels along the Niagara River between <u>Fort George</u>, Upper Canada and <u>Fort Niagara</u>, New York and <u>Fort Erie</u>, Upper Canada and American batteries at Black Rock, New York.</p>
22 November 1812	<p>HMS <i>Southampton</i> under Captain Sir James Lucas Yeo defeats USS <i>Vixen</i> off the coast of Georgia. Yeo will later command British naval forces on Lake Ontario.</p>
23 November 1812	<p>A combined force of British soldiers, Canadian militia and First Nations fighters from Akwesasne successfully strike back against American militia stationed at French Mills, New York in retaliation for a surprise attack on St. Regis (Akwesasne) October 23, 1812.</p>
28 November 1812	<p>An American invasion attempt is repulsed at Frenchman's Creek near Fort Erie, Upper Canada.</p> <p><i>Following the defeat at <u>Queenston Heights</u>, Brigadier General Alexander Smyth took command of the U.S. troops on the Niagara frontier. Before dawn on 28 November, his troops landed north of <u>Fort Erie</u> and attacked British positions near <u>Frenchman's Creek</u>. The first wave of attackers was repulsed after heavy fighting and Smyth called off the main invasion at daylight. A second botched attempt two days later infuriated his men. Smyth was fired on by his own troops and forced to flee to Buffalo, New York. He was allowed to resign his command. Smyth is remembered as the author of the standard U.S. army drill manual used during the war, and for bombastic proclamations he produced.</i></p>

December 1812	Major-General George Stracey Smyth commissions a second privateer chaser, the armed schooner <i>Hunter</i> , for service in the Bay of Fundy.
5 December 1812	<i>HMS Plumper</i> is lost after it strikes a ledge near Point Lepreau in the Bay of Fundy, claiming the lives of 42 crew and passengers.
17-18 December 1812	A First Nations force defeats American Colonel John B. Campbell's troops at the Battle of Mississinewa, Indiana Territory.
29 December 1812	Off the coast of Brazil, USS <i>Constitution</i> takes HMS <i>Java</i> after a hard fight.

January 1813 – March 1813

1813	<p>Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 101st Regiment and Royal Marine Artillery.</p> <p>Raising of the Frontier Light Infantry (militia), Lower Canada.</p>
Winter 1812-1813	<p>American contraband enters Canada to sustain British troops.</p> <p><i>Illegal commerce between the U.S. and British North America was abetted by frozen waterways in the winter and by geography since too few troops were available to patrol the lengthy border. U.S. contraband was generally foodstuffs required to feed British troops. Meat was a common export as colonial supplies could not match military demands and the high price paid for this commodity by the government made it a worthwhile endeavour for American entrepreneurs. Goods entered Canada, among other places, from the Thousand Islands, Prescott, and Cornwall, Upper Canada, and into Lower Canada along Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River.</i></p>
January 1813	<p>The transport vessel <i>Diligence</i>, loaded with weapons for the New Brunswick militia, runs aground near Machias, District of Maine; crew and cargo are captured.</p> <p>British authorities forbid Major-General George Stracey Smyth to issue any more privateer commissions, thereby forcing New Brunswick merchants who are interested in privateering to obtain letters of marque in Halifax, or else to invest in Nova Scotia-based privateering ventures.</p> <p>Ensign George Morehouse of the New Brunswick Fencibles leads a detachment from Meductic and captures Houlton, District of Maine in an effort to help secure the strategically important line of communication between Saint John New Brunswick and Quebec, Lower Canada.</p> <p>Royal Engineer Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Bruyeres completes a survey of the Canadian shore of the St. Lawrence River and recommends fortifying key locations from <u>Coteau-du-Lac</u>, Lower Canada to <u>Kingston</u>, Upper Canada.</p>
January-October 1813	Several volunteer militia companies are formed on Prince Edward Island, and the colony's militia districts are reorganized.
9 January 1813	Great Britain officially declares war on the United States.

HMS *Acasta* and HMS *Poictiers* capture the American privateer schooner *Highflyer*, which is taken into British service.

11 January 1813 **A company of Provincial Royal Artillery Drivers is raised in Lower Canada.**

17 January 1813 **The HMS *Narcissus* captures USS *Viper* in the Gulf of Mexico.**

21 January 1813 **Raising of the Canadian Light Dragoons, Lower Canada.**

22 January 1813 **Battle of Frenchtown, Michigan Territory.**

On 18 January, American regulars and Kentucky Militia led by Brigadier General James Winchester expelled the British forces from Frenchtown. Four days later, from across the frozen Detroit River at Fort Amherstburg, Colonel Henry Procter counterattacked with a force of British regulars, militia, the Provincial Marine, and over 600 First Nations fighters led by Wyandot Chief Roundhead (Stiahta). Procter's men surprised the Americans who, before surrendering, inflicted heavy casualties on the British. Fearful of a counterattack, Procter quickly withdrew to Amherstburg, abandoning the wounded American prisoners of war. These were executed by the fighters prompting the American battle cry: "Remember the Raisin!" The battle forced Winchester's superior, Major General William Henry Harrison, to cancel his 1813 winter offensive and instead constructed Fort Meigs in Ohio.

6 February 1813 **In retaliation for American privateers harassing their merchant ships, the British institute a blockade of Delaware and Chesapeake Bays.**

7 February 1813 **Raid on Elizabethtown (Brockville), Upper Canada. Captain Benjamin Forsyth's company of United States Riflemen and New York State Militia successfully attack the settlement on the St. Lawrence River.**

15 February 1813 **Six companies (573 men of all ranks) of the 104th Regiment (formerly the New Brunswick Fencibles) begin their epic winter march from Fredericton, New Brunswick to the Canadas.**

In early 1813, Governor General Sir George Prevost ordered reinforcements from the Nova Scotia command, which included New Brunswick. The order reflected Prevost's belief that the majority of the fighting would occur in the Canadas, and that the Royal Navy would guarantee the relative security of the Maritime Provinces. The 573 men of the 104th Regiment left Fredericton in mid-February and snow-shoed in the bitter cold to Québec, Lower Canada the last of them arriving on 15 March. After briefly resting, they proceeded to Kingston, Upper Canada and eventually to the Niagara Peninsula, where they saw plenty of action. Their march drew attention to the strategic importance of the Saint John River in winter, when ice rendered the Gulf of St. Lawrence inaccessible to ships.

22 February 1813 **Raid on Ogdensburg, New York.**

The war along the St. Lawrence River frontier was characterized mainly by predatory acts launched from both sides of the river. Partly in retribution for a U.S. raid on Elizabethtown (Brockville), Upper Canada in February 1813, and as a ploy to distract the Americans while Governor General Sir George Prevost departed Prescott, Lieutenant-Colonel George Macdonell led troops from that post and feigned performing military drills on the frozen river before initiating an attack on Ogdensburg, the only garrisoned U.S. town along the St. Lawrence. The Americans were driven out of the town during the assault after which their military and private stores were plundered. For the remainder of the war, Ogdensburg remained ungarrisoned making the St. Lawrence River route more secure for British supply convoys.

24 February 1813	USS <i>Hornet</i> takes HMS <i>Peacock</i> off the coast of Guyana.
26 February 1813	Raising of the 6th Battalion of the Lower Canada Select Embodied Militia.
March 1813	The British naval blockade is extended along the eastern seaboard of the United States.
	The Provincial Artillery Company is raised in Upper Canada under the command of Captain Alexander Cameron of the Lincoln Militia.
3 March 1813	Niagara Provincial Light Dragoons, known as "Merritt's Troop," is formed. This small unit, commanded by Lieutenant, later Captain William Hamilton Merritt, will participate in the campaigns on the Niagara Peninsula until the end of the war and will often confront former neighbours led by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Willcocks, commander of the treasonous Canadian Volunteers.
	Another company of Provincial Royal Artillery Drivers is raised in Upper Canada to reinforce the inadequate numbers of the Corps of Royal Artillery Drivers stationed in British North America. The men of this militia force are paid, fed and clothed the same as Royal Artillery Drivers.
	During a reorganization of the Upper Canada Militia, the Corps of Provincial Artificers is formed.
10 March 1813	The first escaped African American slaves in Chesapeake Bay seek refuge onboard HMS <i>Victorious</i> .
15 March 1813	The sixth company of the 104th Regiment reaches Quebec City, Lower Canada.
	Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry is ordered to assume command of the American squadron on Lake Erie by Commodore Isaac Chauncey. Perry arrives at Erie, Pennsylvania for his new command on 27 March.
17-18 March 1813	Artillery duel between Black Rock, New York and <u>Fort Erie</u> , Upper Canada.
18 March 1813	Raising of the Volunteer Incorporated Militia Battalion, Upper Canada.
	<i>Soldiers of the Sedentary Militia and Flank Companies raised at the county level in Upper Canada enlisted for short terms of service, which had a negative impact on unit effectiveness. Thirteen companies of the Incorporated Militia were formed for permanent service in Prescott, Kingston, York and Niagara. Trained and equipped in York, the regiment was sent to the Niagara peninsula in July 1814, arriving before the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Here, the battalion absorbed the American attack on the British left flank and suffered one third losses. The survivors rallied and reformed under Major James Kerby, a local merchant. The Regiment served on the Niagara Peninsula until the end of 1814. It was disbanded on 25 March 1815.</i>
19 March 1813	Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo is named the chief commander of Britain's naval force on Canadian waters.
25 March 1813	Raising of the Dorchester Provincial Light Dragoons, Lower Canada.
27 March 1813	The men of the 104th Regiment leave Quebec, Lower Canada for Kingston, Upper

Canada.

April 1813 – June 1813

Spring 1813

Captain Daniel Pring commands the Royal Navy on Lake Champlain. He arrives at Ile au Noix on July 25.

Because of Kingston, Upper Canada's strategic role as a transshipment point for men and supplies and for its naval yard, the British commence a series of fortifications. By war's end the town will be encircled with wooden blockhouses and batteries linked with a wooden palisade. On the east side of the harbor the ship yard will be protected by a new post named Fort Henry.

April 1813

Construction begins to strengthen Coteau-du-Lac, Lower Canada including an octagonal blockhouse.

For many years, Coteau-du-Lac was an important logistical link between Upper and Lower Canada and was the site of North America's first lock canal (1781). Early in the war, troops were sent to garrison the decaying 18th century blockhouse at this post on the St. Lawrence River, Britain's critical transshipment route. Upon recommendations of Royal Engineer Ralph Bruyeres, an ambitious construction program began in order to strengthen defences including a large octagonal wooden blockhouse and earthworks on either side of the canal. Although it was never attacked, Coteau-du-Lac was in a state of heightened alert when Major General James Wilkinson began his November 1813 campaign down the St. Lawrence to attack Montreal.

Gunboats constructed at Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada naval yard.

The Western Rangers, or Caldwell's Rangers, is formed in Upper Canada. Named after William Caldwell, their commander and a merchant with ties to the Indian Department, this militia unit is raised to fight alongside British First Nations allies. They will participate in several actions in Upper Canada including the Battles of Moraviantown, Longwoods, and Lundy's Lane.

Captain Andrew Adams and Captain Richard Fraser's troops of Provincial Light Dragoons are formed in eastern Upper Canada. Both troops will be amalgamated on 25 September 1813.

3 April 1813

Engagement on the Rappahannock River, Virginia. Royal Navy boats capture four American vessels after a boarding action.

6 April 1813

Royal Navy vessels Bombard Lewes, Delaware.

8 April 1813

Raising of the Provincial Commissariat Voyageurs, Lower Canada.

12 April 1813

Creation of the Militia Light Infantry Battalions, Lower Canada.

15 April 1813

Spanish Fort Charlotte in West Florida is taken by American troops.

22 April 1813

The Provincial Marine, established in 1778, is dismantled.

27 April 1813

Battle of York, Upper Canada.

An amphibious attack on Kingston being impractical as its harbour was blocked by ice, American Brigadier General Zebulon Pike turned his attention toward York and the warship under construction there. Incapable of preventing the landing, Major-General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe ordered the sloop Sir Isaac Brock burned and Fort York's powder magazine detonated, which caused several hundred American casualties including Pike who was fatally wounded. Sheaffe's British regulars then retreated to Kingston leaving the militia to negotiate the terms of surrender. Occupying the town just over a week, the Americans destroyed private and public property. Although the attack left their army weakened, the Americans did succeed in disrupting British plans since supplies destined for their squadron on Lake Erie were lost during the raid.

28 April 1813

The British launch HMS *Sir George Prevost* (22 guns), shortly renamed *Wolfe*, at Kingston, Upper Canada which will become Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo's flagship when he arrives at that post in May 1813.

29 April 1813

Raising of the Canadian Light Dragoons in the district of Montreal, Lower Canada. They will serve in both Lower and Upper Canada.

Raid on Frenchtown, Maryland. British sailors and Royal Marines attack and disperse Maryland Militia. Supplies are taken from the town.

May 1813

Two companies of the 99th Regiment are stationed in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia to defend this part of the Bay of Fundy coast from privateers, and to be available for crossing over to Saint John, New Brunswick, should it come under attack.

Dominique Ducharme enlists the help of numerous First Nations fighters and leads them to the Niagara Peninsula, Upper Canada. They will take part in the Battle of Beaver Dams in June 1813.

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec, Lower Canada: 19th Regiment of Light Dragoons, the only British regular cavalry unit to serve in British North America during the war.

Creation of the Frontier Light Infantry and the Independent Company of Militia Volunteers, Lower Canada.

1-9 May 1813

First siege of Fort Meigs, Ohio.

With the occupation of parts of their homeland in Ohio, First Nations' leaders pressured British Major-General Henry Procter to attack Major General William Henry Harrison's headquarters along the Maumee River. Procter also realized that the Americans posed a military threat to his base at Amherstburg, Upper Canada. After reinforcements from Niagara arrived Procter laid siege to Fort Meigs bombarding it with gunboats and with batteries erected on both sides of the river. On 5 May the allies defeated a substantial American relief force as well as a sortie by the fort's defenders but, with dwindling supplies and lacking adequate siege artillery, Procter was forced to end the operation. With the defeat Procter lost the respect of Tecumseh and other First Nations leaders.

3 May 1813

British naval forces under Rear-Admiral Sir George Cockburn attack Havre de Grace, and Bell's Ferry both in Maryland.

5 May 1813

Arrival of Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo at Quebec, Lower Canada with

detachments of the Royal Navy.

To strengthen Canada's freshwater naval defences, Governor General Sir George Prevost made several pleas for reinforcement from the Royal Navy. In response, the British government appointed distinguished veteran Sir James Lucas Yeo commodore and commander of naval forces on Canada's lakes. Yeo was responsible first and foremost with the defence of the Canadian provinces but it was also hoped that he would regain dominance of Lakes Champlain and Ontario. Yeo left England in March on the Woolwich accompanied by over 400 officers and seamen, many of whom had just served in the Baltic Sea. As well, Yeo brought ordnance and supplies needed for the lakes naval establishments.

13 May 1813

Captain James MacLaughlan, Commanding Royal Engineer at Saint John, New Brunswick, reports that the inhabitants of St. Andrews have erected three batteries, each containing a blockhouse.

15 May 1813

Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo arrives at Kingston, Upper Canada.

Prior to Commodore Yeo's arrival, the British naval establishment on the lakes had been administered by the Provincial Marine, essentially a transport service with few experienced officers and deficiencies in crew. The organization, part of the Quartermaster General's Department of the army, was incapable of opposing the increasing strength of the U.S. Navy commanded by Commodore Isaac Chauncey. Yeo along with 465 Royal Navy officers and seamen were therefore sent from England in March 1813 to supersede the Marine in defence of the colony. Yeo assumed command of all Provincial Marine vessels and members of his force were soon detached, under Commander Daniel Pring, to Lake Champlain and, under Commander Robert Barclay, to Lake Erie. Shortly after his arrival, Yeo engaged the Americans at Sackets Harbor.

22 May 1813

Commencement of the cruise of the British privateer *Dart*.

New Brunswick-based privateers were rare because they threatened to interfere with the licensed trade. Of the few that did put to sea, the 74-ton sloop Dart was the most successful. Originally an American-owned sloop, she was captured by the Royal Navy in early 1813 and sold at auction in Halifax to a group of Saint John, New Brunswick investors. Her privateering career, which began on 22 May under the command of Captain John Harris of Clementsport, Nova Scotia, was almost stillborn, for on the 28th she was fired upon by HMS Rattler, whose captain mistook her for an enemy vessel in the heavy fog. She took 10 prizes before being captured by the United States revenue cutter Vigilant off the Rhode Island coast on 4 October 1813.

25-27 May 1813

Battle of Fort George, Upper Canada.

On 25 May, U.S. batteries on the Niagara River opened fire on Fort George, destroying the main British fort on that river after a day-long bombardment. On the morning of 27 May, 4,500 American troops commanded by Major General Henry Dearborn landed on the Lake Ontario shore west of Niagara. Outnumbered two to one, the British, Canadians and First Nations were overwhelmed by the cannon fire from the U.S. vessels. British Brigadier-General John Vincent abandoned positions on the Niagara Peninsula and ordered a retreat to Burlington Heights after suffering heavy losses. This retreat thwarted the American plans to cut off and destroy the British between Queenston and Niagara. The Americans established a base at Fort George to support their invasion of Upper Canada.

27 May 1813

British retreat to Burlington Heights, Upper Canada.

After the Battle of Fort George, British Brigadier-General John Vincent abandoned the Niagara Peninsula and retreated to fortifications at Burlington Heights. Five U.S. warships trapped in the Niagara River by the guns at Fort Erie now joined the U.S. Lake Erie fleet. They would fight in the Battle of Lake Erie in the fall. Vincent disbanded the Niagara militia who were left to face the victorious Americans alone. From Burlington Heights the British could send reinforcements and vital supplies to their western posts. The loss of this important position would mean the abandonment of western Upper Canada, and end the alliance with the First Nations associated with Shawnee Chief Tecumseh.



1813 British plan of Burlington Heights, Upper Canada, by Royla Engineer R.H. Bruyeres, LAC RG81, vol.387, p. 106.

29 May 1813

Battle of Sackets Harbor, New York.

With Commodore Isaac Chauncey's American squadron engaged at Niagara, Governor General Sir George Prevost planned an amphibious attack from Kingston, Upper Canada on Sackets Harbor, the main U.S. naval base on Lake Ontario. Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo's squadron ferried about 800 troops but, becalmed off the American coast on the 28 May, failed to surprise their foe. The town's garrison reinforced during the delay, assaults the following morning failed when the British came under heavy fire. Panicking, American officers ordered naval storehouses burned along with a warship under construction, the General Pike, extinguished once the British withdrew. Chauncey recalled the fleet to Sackets and did not venture from the port until General Pike was completed in late-July. Temporarily uncontested, Yeo engaged in several successful amphibious operations.

June - December 1813

British blockade of American held Fort George, Upper Canada.

After the battle of Stoney Creek (6 June), the British and their First Nations allies began a blockade of American held Fort George. U.S. Brigadier General Peter Porter wrote that "the whole army lies panic struck - shut up and whipped." American parties who advanced beyond the walls of the fort were attacked and driven back often by First Nations allies of the British. The farmer's fields and woodlands echoed with gunfire as groups of regulars, militia and First Nations fought for control. Terrible sanitation and living conditions led to sicknesses and deaths, and a decline in morale in the U.S. camps. Failure on the Niagara frontier caused the Americans to shift their troops to the St. Lawrence region by the fall of 1813.

June 1813

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec, Lower Canada: De Watteville Regiment, 13th Regiment.

Major-General Louis de Watteville is made commander of the district of Montreal, Lower Canada.

The 2nd Battalion 8th (or King's) Regiment arrives in New Brunswick and the militia that had been embodied to defend the Province stands down.

The last of Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry's vessels is launched at Erie, Pennsylvania. Constructed over the course of the previous winter six new American ships join a squadron of five vessels already gathered at Black Rock, New York.

1 June 1813

HMS *Shannon* defeats the USS *Chesapeake* off Boston, Massachusetts.

Although the Royal Navy's blockade of the American coast did not yet include New England, HMS Shannon, under Captain Philip Broke, belonged to a small squadron that had been monitoring American naval activity in Boston harbour. She was alone, however, when Captain James Lawrence of USS Chesapeake - the same vessel that had been mistreated by HMS Leopard in 1807 - unwisely decided to venture out for battle. Lawrence was unwise because Broke was a leader in the science of naval gunnery, having embraced such concepts as concentrated fire. Despite relative parity in their weaponry, Shannon made quick work of Chesapeake, capturing it in a mere 15 minutes. Mortally wounded, Lawrence became a national hero thanks to his last order: "Don't give up the ship."

3 June 1813

British forces capture two American warships, *Growler* and *Eagle*, on the Richelieu River near Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada.

While patrolling Lake Champlain to reduce American smuggling into Lower Canada, USS Growler and Eagle, entered the Richelieu River continuing northward until they were within sight of the fortifications at Ile aux Noix. Made aware of the American incursion, the British immediately sent three gunboats to engage the approaching sloops. The narrow channel impeded the latter's effort to tumabout while the gunboats inflicted heavy damage during a three-hour struggle. The Americans surrendered and the warships, renamed Shannon and Broke, became part of the British squadron. Because of this loss naval control of Lake Champlain briefly shifted to the British. Both vessels were later retaken by the Americans in 1814 during the Battle of Plattsburg Bay, New York.

6 June 1813

Battle of Stoney Creek, Upper Canada.

On 1 June, 3,000 American soldiers commanded by Brigadier General William Winder and Brigadier General John Chandler advanced on the British positions at Burlington Heights, Upper Canada. On the evening of 5 June they halted at Stoney Creek. With only 700 men, British Brigadier-General John Vincent ordered a risky night assault on the American encampment. Led by militia scout Billy Green, the British regulars and a small party of First Nations surprised the U.S. force. The Americans rallied and a confused battle raged in the darkness. Winder and Chandler were both captured. The British withdrew before daylight revealed their numbers to their enemy. This unexpected attack shocked and disorganized the Americans, who retreated to Forty Mile Creek, Upper Canada. The victory inspired First Nations and Canadian militia.



Battlefield at Stoney Creek, 1910, LAC PA-009674

HMS *Shannon* escorts her prize of war, USS *Chesapeake*, into Halifax harbour, Nova Scotia.

Dispatched by Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo at Kingston, Upper Canada Commander Robert Barclay, and a contingent of Royal Navy sailors, arrives at Amherstburg, Upper Canada.

Already a seasoned naval veteran at age 28, British Commander Robert Barclay was sent to Amherstburg in an effort to strengthen the naval establishment on Lake Erie by replacing the Provincial Marine with the more professional Royal Navy. Arriving with several naval officers and a few dozen Royal Navy and former Provincial Marine seamen, Barclay found the situation gloomy: there were few trained sailors and a lack of supplies and equipment to properly complete the new flagship of the Amherstburg squadron, HMS Detroit. As well, U.S. Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry was building a superior squadron, which would threaten the British supply line across Lake Erie. Despite these difficulties, Barclay would soon engage the Americans in battle for mastery of Lake Erie.

7 June 1813

Action at Forty Mile Creek, Upper Canada.

After the Battle of Stoney Creek, the Americans retreated to Forty Mile Creek. On 7 June Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo's British fleet carrying troops and supplies to Burlington appeared offshore. Yeo landed his troops and began to bombard the U.S. force now commanded by Major General Morgan Lewis. Fearing that he would be cut off from his base, Lewis retreated towards Fort George. The retreat became disorderly when the Americans were attacked by First Nations and Canadian militia. Panicking, Lewis' men discarded a vast store of military supplies. Two days later the Americans withdrew from Fort Erie, Chippawa and Queenston to take shelter in their camp at Fort George.

9 June 1813

American forces burn Fort Erie and abandon posts at Chippawa and Queenston all in Upper Canada.

11 June 1813

The *Liverpool Packet* is captured by the crew of the American privateer *Thomas*, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

12 June 1813

After being damaged by fire during the 29 May 1813 British attack on Sackets Harbor, New York, USS *General Pike* (26 guns) is launched from that port and will add greatly to the strength of the American fleet on Lake Ontario.

16 June 1813

On Lake Ontario, the American schooner *Lady of the Lake* captures the British vessel *Lady Murray* bound with provisions from Kingston to York, both in Upper Canada.

19 June 1813

Raid on Sodus Point, New York. In an amphibious assault, British Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo seizes American supplies and sets fire to the town's storehouses.

20 June 1813

A flotilla of 15 American gunboats attacks the British frigate *Junon* in Chesapeake Bay causing slight damage and several casualties.

Summer 1813

Creation of the Marine Corps in the district of Montréal to be posted at the British naval establishment on Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada.

22 June 1813

Laura Ingersoll Secord warns the British of an impending American attack.

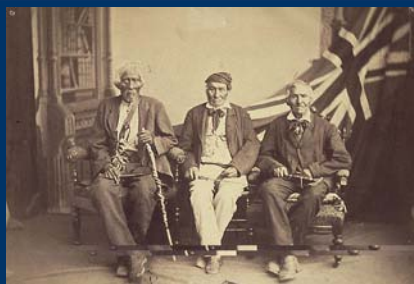
After learning of American plans to attack a key British outpost at DeCew's house near Beaver Dams, Upper Canada, 38 year old Laura Secord left her injured husband at their home in Queenston, and began her famous walk to warn Lieutenant James FitzGibbon. In order to avoid U.S. sentries and patrols, Laura left the main road and travelled about 30 km through the swamps and forests on a terribly hot day. British First Nations allies brought her to FitzGibbon that night. Her warning contributed to the American defeat at the Battle of Beaver Dams. Laura Secord's story became known during the royal visit of the Prince of Wales in 1860. She remains one of the best known Canadian heroes of the War of 1812.

Battle of Craney Island, Virginia. British amphibious forces unsuccessfully attack the American fortifications on the island.

24 June 1813

Battle of Beaver Dams, Upper Canada.

On 24 June, 600 American soldiers led by Colonel Charles Boerstler moved inland from Queenston to attack a key British outpost at DeCew's house near Beaver Dams. The column was attacked by Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) fighters from Kahnawake (Caughnawaga), Lower Canada led by Captain Dominique Ducharme. They were joined by a smaller group from Ohsweken (Grand River Six Nations) with Captain William Kerr. After three hours of fighting, the exhausted Americans had almost run out of ammunition, and surrendered to a small party of British soldiers under Lieutenant James FitzGibbon. FitzGibbon became a popular hero for bluffing the Americans into thinking he commanded a large force. This defeat led to the removal of Major General Henry Dearborn from command of the U.S. force in the Niagara Peninsula.



Studio portrait, taken in July 1882 at Brantford, Ontario, features surviving Six Nations fighters who fought with the British during the War of 1812. Right to left are: Sakawaraton – John Smoke Johnson (b. ca. 1792), John Tutela (b. ca. 1797), and Young Warner (b. ca. 1794), LAC C-85127

25-26 June 1813

Battle of Hampton, Virginia. British soldiers, marines and sailors land and capture the town defeating a force of Virginia militia.

26 June 1813

Rather than surrender to his pursuers, the captain of the American privateering schooner *Young Teazer* blows up his vessel in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, killing 28 of the vessels' 36 crewmen. Some of the victims are buried in an unmarked grave in Mahone Bay's Anglican cemetery.

28 June 1813

The New Brunswick *Royal Gazette* publishes tenders for the supply of building materials for the Martello Tower on Carleton Heights.

July 1813 – September 1813

July 1813

American privateers are described as “very numerous in the Bay of Fundy,” and Saint John, New Brunswick, as “under blockade.” Six Royal Navy vessels are sent into the bay from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Commander Robert Barclay's British squadron, sailing out of Amherstburg,

Upper Canada, patrols Lake Erie gathering information on the construction at Erie, Pennsylvania of United States Navy vessels.

5 July 1813

Raid on Fort Schlosser, New York. Canadian militia commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Clark captures military stores at the southern terminus of the American portage route around Niagara Falls.

8 July 1813

Action at Butler's Farm, Upper Canada.

On 8 July, Lieutenant William Hamilton Merritt led a successful British expedition to recover hidden medical supplies left behind after the Battle of Fort George. While the British gathered the supplies, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) led by John Norton, and Mississauga and Ottawa under Chief Blackbird attacked American outposts. The Americans reinforced their men with infantry and cavalry, and the fighting occurred between the Ball and Butler farms west of the town of Niagara. An American party led by Lieutenant Joseph C. Eldridge was ambushed, losing at least 20 men. Eldridge was killed after he allegedly shot an Indigenous fighter following the surrender.



Major John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen, the Mohawk Chief, Mary Ann Knight, 1805, LAC C-123832

11 July 1813

British raid on Black Rock, New York.

12 July 1813

Royal Navy vessels attack Ocracoke, North Carolina, capturing several American ships.

14 July 1813

Crew from the British sloop *Contest* and brig *Mohawk* capture and set on fire the American schooner *Asp* along the Potomac River.

17 July 1813

First muster of the Canadian Volunteers at Fort George, Upper Canada.

On 17 July 1813, a small force of Canadian traitors joined the American Army at Fort George. The "Canadian Volunteers" were commanded by Joseph Willcocks, a former newspaper editor and member of the Upper Canadian Legislature, and included two other elected officials. Playing an important role as scouts and guides for the invaders, they also conducted a reign of terror against their former neighbours in Niagara. Although often numbering less than 100, the unit was highly regarded by their U.S. commanders and fought in the battles on the Niagara frontier until the end of the war. Branded as traitors, the survivors settled in the United States at the end of the war where they were compensated for their losses by the American government.

Skirmish at Ball's Farm near Niagara, Upper Canada.

19 July 1813

On the upper St. Lawrence River American privateers *Neptune* and *Fox* from Sackets Harbor, New York capture a British convoy of 15 bateaux and the gunboat *Spitfire* seizing valuable army provisions. They retreat up Cranberry Creek, New York.

20 July 1813	British forces, in an effort to reclaim supplies taken from them the previous day, skirmish unsuccessfully with American privateers on Cranberry Creek, New York.
	Launch of HMS <i>Detroit</i> at Amherstburg, Upper Canada. The sloop is the largest vessel constructed by the British at the <u>Amherstburg Navy Yard</u> .
21 July 1813	Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: HMS <i>Wasp</i> and Captain Thomas Everard.
21-27 July 1813	Second Siege of Fort Meigs, Ohio. A force under British Major-General Henry Procter and Shawnee Chief Tecumseh besiege Fort Meigs and are unsuccessful in attempts to take the American post.
22 July 1813	The brig <i>Lord Melville</i> (14 guns) is launched by the Royal Navy at Kingston, Upper Canada adding to Britain's Lake Ontario squadron.
27 July 1813	Battle of Burnt Corn, Mississippi Territory. The event is often considered the first action of the Creek War, a conflict between the United States and a faction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation known as the Red Sticks.
29 July 1813	American amphibious raid led by Colonel Winfield Scott on Burlington Beach, Upper Canada. The King George Inn is destroyed.
	British naval and terrestrial operation along the Lake Champlain frontier.
29 July – 4 August 1813	The British raid American villages surrounding Lake Champlain. The attacks are launched from St-Jean, Lower Canada and lead by Lieutenant-Colonel John Murray.
30 July 1813	British raid on Plattsburg, New York.
31 July 1813	The second occupation of York (Toronto), the capital of Upper Canada, by United States amphibious forces. Colonel Winfield Scott's troops destroy public property and confiscate British military supplies.
August 1813	Major General Wade Hampton, American commander of the Lake Champlain region, gathers and trains his troops at Burlington, Vermont.
	Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: De Meuron Regiment.
2 August 1813	Assault on Fort Stephenson, Fremont, Ohio.
	<i>After an unsuccessful second siege of Fort Meigs to disrupt the buildup of the North Western Army, Major-General Henry Procter's First Nations allies insisted he strike Fort Stephenson, a U.S. post guarding Major General William Henry Harrison's supply route up the Sandusky River. Procter complied and attacked the fort with 500 British regulars and First Nations fighters. Believing Fort Stephenson to be indefensible, Harrison ordered Major George Croghan to evacuate his 150 soldiers but Croghan was resolved to defend his position. Procter's men came under heavy fire and suffered many casualties before abandoning the assault. Croghan became a celebrated hero and the attack was the last major British effort in Ohio during the war.</i>

6 August 1813	As part of their naval blockade of Chesapeake Bay, the British occupy Kent Island, Maryland, using it as a staging area. The island will also become a gathering place for escaped African American slaves.
7 August 1813	The first encounter between the fleets of Commodores Sir James Lucas Yeo and Isaac Chauncey. Six British and 13 American vessels exchange fire off the mouth of the Niagara River on Lake Ontario, but the action is inconclusive and damage minimal.
8 August 1813	Sinking of United States schooners <i>Hamilton</i> and <i>Scourge</i> on Lake Ontario.
	<i>On 7 August 1813, British Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo and American Commodore Isaac Chauncey's squadrons met upon Lake Ontario but failed to engage in battle. That night, with sails unfurled, a violent squall swamped two of Chauncey's schooners. The vessels were unstable due to their heavy iron cannons, a burden for which these former merchant ships were not designed. Within minutes the craft and many of their crew were swallowed up by the lake. Although 16 men were saved, at least 52 went down with the schooners, the largest single loss of life on the Great Lakes during the war. <u>Hamilton and Scourge</u> embodied American efforts to add former merchant schooners to its squadron, a course of action also adopted by the British.</i>
10 August 1813	The squadrons of Commodores Sir James Lucas Yeo and Isaac Chauncey clash again on Lake Ontario. The British capture USS <i>Julia</i> and USS <i>Growler</i> after they become separated from the American fleet.
	The British raid St. Michaels, Maryland capturing and destroying an American battery.
13 August 1813	British regulars, scouting in the area of Kent Island, encounter and skirmish with American militia near Queenston, Maryland.
14 August 1813	HMS <i>Pelican</i> captures USS <i>Argus</i> off the coast of Wales.
	Skirmish at Ball's Farm, Niagara, Upper Canada. American Brigadier General Peter Porter with volunteers and First Nations allies successfully engage British Indigenous Allies.
17 August 1813	Sailing from Erie, Pennsylvania, Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry's squadron unites with Major General William Henry Harrison's North Western Army at Sandusky, Ohio. Perry sends vessels to reconnoitre the British <u>ship yard at Amherstburg</u> , Upper Canada.
18 August 1813	The USS <i>Sylph</i> , pierced for 20 guns, is launched at Sackets Harbor, New York.
19 August 1813	By this date, only nine Newfoundland privateers have received letters of marque.

Although the Halifax Vice-Admiralty Court sold 629 legitimate prizes during the war, only 53 prizes were taken in Newfoundland waters, 50 of them by the Royal Navy. Geography only partly explains why Newfoundland merchants made fewer than 40 applications in total for letters of marque. British victories in the Peninsular War had reopened the crucial Iberian salt-fish markets, and with French and American fishermen alike sidelined after 1812, Newfoundland enjoyed near monopoly conditions. As a result, fish exports reached levels that would not be exceeded until mid-century. With Britain's Industrial Revolution also causing expansion of the seal hunt, Newfoundland's population doubled between 1793 and 1815. Thus, concluded historian D. W. Prowse, "During the whole of the conflict Newfoundland was in a great state of prosperity."

A U.S. force lead by Major General Wade Hampton crosses the border into Lower Canada at Odelltown.

24 August 1813

British forces commanded by Governor General Sir George Prevost attack American defences at Fort George, Upper Canada.

30 August 1813

Battle of Fort Mims, Mississippi Territory. Muscogee (Creek) Nation fighters capture the fort and kill most of the garrison.

September 1813

Major-General Louis de Watterville becomes the commander of British forces stationed along the border of Lower Canada from the Richelieu River to Lake Champlain.

Arrival of British reinforcements to Quebec City, Lower Canada: 2nd Battalion of the Royal Marines.

The British military post at St-Jean, Lower Canada is strengthened and the barracks expanded.

To meet the demand for regular troops at Fort Mackinac, the Michigan Fencibles are raised. Composed mainly of French Canadian trappers and voyageurs, they are trained, clothed, and paid the same as British regulars.

Occupation of Sandwich (Windsor), Upper Canada by American Forces. American foraging and raiding expeditions from Amherstburg and Sandwich will ravage south western Upper Canada until the end of the war.

3 September 1813

Americans abandon and burn Fort Madison, in what later would become Iowa Territory.

5 September 1813

A battle between HMS *Boxer* and USS *Enterprise* off the coast of the District of Maine ends with *Boxer's* surrender.

10 September 1813

Battle of Lake Erie. "*We have met the enemy and they are ours,*" American Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry.

By August 1813 Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry's squadron had established a blockade across Lake Erie. Determined to re-open the British supply line, Commander Robert Barclay sailed from Amherstburg, Upper Canada with six warships to challenge Perry's nine vessels. British fire wrecked Perry's flagship USS *Lawrence*, but he daringly rowed to the undamaged USS *Niagara*. When Barclay's two largest ships entangled, Perry closed in and with devastating broadsides forced a British surrender. The Americans suffered 123 casualties and the British 135, which included a severely wounded Barclay and 38 members of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, on board as marines. The victory secured American control of the upper Great Lakes and compelled the British and their First Nations allies to withdraw from the Detroit River frontier.

11 September 1813

An indecisive naval engagement occurs between the British and American squadrons of Commodores Sir James Lucas Yeo and Isaac Chauncey on Lake Ontario, off the Genesee River, New York.

20 September 1813

British and U.S. troops skirmish at Odelltown, Lower Canada. The Americans withdraw and Major General Wade Hampton, deciding instead to engage his troops further west, gathers his men at Four Corners, New York along the Chateauguay River.

23 September 1813

Amherstburg, Upper Canada abandoned by the British.

The allied forces at Amherstburg were isolated following the Battle of Lake Erie and the surrender of the British fleet. With no way to effectively supply their garrison and First Nations allies on the Detroit River frontier, Major-General Henry Procter set ablaze the British outposts along with supplies that could not be transported with the troops and withdrew eastward along the Thames River. Soon after, Major General William Henry Harrison's U.S. troops, ferried across Lake Erie by Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry's U.S. Navy vessels, began arriving at Amherstburg and would shortly pursue Procter's retreating forces meeting them in battle at Moraviantown.

USS *President* captures HMS *Highflyer* off the New England coast.

27 September 1813

American forces under Major General William Henry Harrison land in Amherstburg, Upper Canada. The town experiences the longest American military occupation of the war, lasting until 1 July 1815.

28 September 1813

Known as the "Burlington Races", the British and American squadrons engage at the western end of Lake Ontario off Burlington Bay. Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo's flagship HMS *Wolfe* narrowly escapes destruction during a ship-to-ship duel with USS *General Pike*.

Autumn 1813

The British construct barracks at Laprairie, Lower Canada.

October 1813 – December 1813

October 1813

Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower Canada: detachment of the Royal Navy, 1st Battalion of the Royal Marines.

1 October 1813

Skirmish near Chateauguay, Lower Canada.

2 October 1813

A group of 133 African Americans from Chesapeake Bay arrive in Halifax, Nova

Scotia.

The War of 1812 presented an opportunity for enslaved African Americans to settle and live in freedom in British North America. One of the first groups to arrive in Nova Scotia came from the Chesapeake Bay area, following the British advances on Washington, District of Columbia and Baltimore, Maryland in August and September of 1813. The majority of African Americans who settled in the province came after Vice-Admiral Alexander Cochrane's proclamation of April 1814, which offered status as "free settlers" to all who desired to leave the United States and live in British colonies. Some 2,000 eventually settled in Nova Scotia, finding freedom in the process. However, as with the African American "Loyalists" who preceded them, they found life in Nova Scotia was not without its challenges.

4 October 1813

The American revenue cutter *Vigilant* captures the privateer *Dart* off Rhode Island.

Action at McGregor's Creek, Upper Canada. American forces under Major General William Henry Harrison clash with British Major-General Henry Procter's British and First Nations rearguard.

5 October 1813

Battle of the Thames, Upper Canada.

With Lake Erie under U.S. control following the defeat of the British fleet, Major-General Henry Procter, unable to resupply his garrison, was forced to abandon his base at Amherstburg and withdrew toward Burlington Heights via the Thames River. The poorly managed retreat made slow progress, and Major-General William Henry Harrison's forces caught up to the British and First Nations allies who made a stand at Moraviantown. The demoralized British were quickly overwhelmed by a charge from the Kentucky mounted riflemen. First Nations fighters positioned on the British flank in a nearby swamp also withdrew but not before intense fighting with the American horsemen. The allies suffered many casualties including the death of Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. The victory secured American possession of southwest Upper Canada.



Col. Johnson's Mounted Men charging a party of British Artillerists and Indians at the Battle fought near Moraviantown October 2nd 1813. 1813 (?), LAC C-007763

The *Portsmouth Packet* (formerly the *Liverpool Packet*) is captured by HMS *Fantome* off Mount Desert Island, District of Maine; reacquired by her original owners she resumes privateering as the *Liverpool Packet*.

6 October 1813

Commodore Isaac Chauncey's Lake Ontario squadron captures six of seven transports in a British convoy sailing from York to Kingston. Among the approximately 250 prisoners are the two flank companies of the De Watteville Regiment.

12 October 1813

American raids of Missisquoi Bay, Lower Canada.

14 October 1813

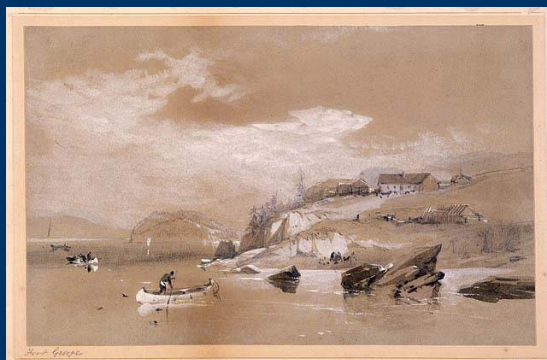
Major General William Henry Harrison signs a provisional armistice in Detroit,

Michigan Territory with First Nations that have abandoned the British alliance.

16 October 1813

Fort Astoria, Columbia District (Oregon country) is sold to the North West Company.

British North West Company agents brought news of the declaration of war, and that a naval expedition was on its way to capture Fort Astoria, to the Pacific coast in December 1812. Initially, employees of John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company, who operated the post, were hopeful that American reinforcements would arrive first. By the fall, however, no assistance had arrived and when North West Company traders suggested selling the fort Astor's agents negotiated good terms and peacefully gave up their post. Commander William Black of HMS Racoon took formal possession of the post, renamed Fort George, for the crown on 13 December 1813. After the war the fort was nominally returned to American control but British fur traders continued to operate it until 1848.



Fort George Formerly Astoria (Fort George, Oregon). Sir Henry James Warre, 1848, LAC C-040856

The first troops of Major General James Wilkinson's expedition to attack Montreal leave Sackets Harbor, New York and land on Grenadier Island at the head of the St. Lawrence River. The island will be the staging point for the descent of the river.

19 October 1813

U.S. Major General Wade Hampton crosses the border near Odelltown, Lower Canada en route to Montreal.

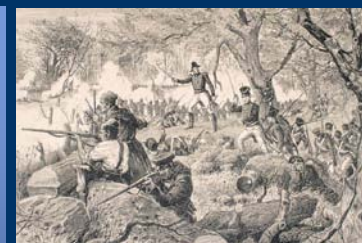
25 October 1813

United States Master Commandant Jesse Elliott assumes command of the Lake Erie fleet after Captain Oliver Hazard Perry is ordered to the East Coast.

25-26 October 1813

The Battle of Chateauguay, Lower Canada.

Together with the Battle of Crysler's Farm, the Battle of the Chateauguay ended a two-pronged American campaign against Montreal in October 1813. Aware of Major General Wade Hampton's advance into Lower Canada, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles-Michel de Salaberry, charged with defending the Upper Richelieu, built a series of fortified positions along the Chateauguay River. Hampton advanced with about 3,000 soldiers while Salaberry had under his command roughly 400 militia and First Nations fighters as well as 1,300 men led by Lieutenant-Colonel George Macdonell. Dividing his force for frontal and flank attacks, Hampton's brigades retreated in confusion after skirmishing with Salaberry's troops. This major defeat is remembered for its strategic consequences, the achievement of a few militia repelling American regulars, and for the large number of French-Canadian defenders.



Bataille de Chateauguay, 1813. Henri Julien, 1884, (from *Le Journal*, Sunday, 24 June 1884)
LAC C-3297

End of October 1813	U.S. Major General Wade Hampton retreats to Chateaugay, New York.
November 1813	Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower Canada: 70th Regiment. Reinforcements enable the British to establish a naval blockade of the entire United States eastern seaboard south of New England. New England's exemption from the blockade is partly due to British dependence on trade with the region via New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.
	The British begin constructing a road in Upper Canada from Kempenfelt Bay on Lake Simcoe to Penetanguishene, on Georgian Bay in order to open a supply route to Fort Mackinac, Michigan Territory and points west. The new route replaces that lost when the Americans gained control of Lake Erie in September 1813.
1-2 November 1813	Skirmish at French Creek, New York. British naval forces from Kingston unsuccessfully attack the vessels carrying Major General James Wilkinson's army down the St. Lawrence River.
3 November 1813	American forces attack the Muscogee (Creek) Nation village of Tallushatchee, Mississippi Territory.
6 November 1813	Major General James Wilkinson's army, carried in a flotilla of boats, is fired upon and forces a night passage past the British <u>Fort Wellington</u> at Prescott, Upper Canada. The army continues its descent of the St. Lawrence River on its way to attack Montreal, Lower Canada.
9 November 1813	American troops under Major General Andrew Jackson defeat Red Stick Muscogee (Creek) fighters besieging the friendly Muscogee (Creek) village of Talladega, Mississippi Territory.
10 November 1813	Skirmish at Hoople's Creek, Upper Canada. <i>During the American campaign down the St. Lawrence River to capture Montreal, Major General James Wilkinson landed troops at the head of the Long Sault Rapids and sent Brigadier General Jacob Brown along with 2,500 officers and men to clear the road to Cornwall, Upper Canada, and seize much needed supplies. After stopping to repair a bridge at Hoople's Creek, Brown was ambushed by 300 local militia commanded by British regular officer Major James Dennis of the 49th Regiment of Foot. Concealed among the trees, the militia had a strong position but slowly withdrew against the much larger American force. Dennis succeeded in delaying the American advance enough to allow 150 wagons of British supplies to be safely removed from Cornwall to Coteau-du-Lac, Lower Canada.</i>
	British gunboats commanded by Royal Navy Captain William Mulcaster engage American gunboats protecting the flotilla of boats carrying Major General James Wilkinson's army on the St. Lawrence River. The British withdraw when they come under effective American artillery fire from the shore of the river.
11 November 1813	Battle of Crysler's Farm, Upper Canada.

In October Major General James Wilkinson began a coordinated campaign to capture Montreal with between 7,000 and 8,000 soldiers based at Sackets Harbor. He was to link up with Major General Wade Hampton's army which was to advance on Montreal along the Richelieu River. British Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Morrison's force of about 1,100 men pursued Wilkinson's flotilla down the St. Lawrence River. When the Americans turned to engage with about 3,000 of their force, the British landed and took up a strong defensive position on John Crysler's field. After a bloody battle Wilkinson's troops hastily returned to their boats. They descended the river to French Mills, New York, where they took up winter quarters abandoning efforts to capture Montreal after hearing news of Hampton's defeat at Chateaugay.

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| 12 November 1813 | A hurricane strikes Halifax, Nova Scotia causing extensive damage to the ships of the Royal Navy squadron. |
| 13 November 1813 | Skirmish at <u>Nanticoke</u> Creek, Upper Canada. The Norfolk County Militia engage a group of American sympathizers. There are light casualties on both sides. |
| 24 November 1813 | The Loyal London Volunteers, a unit of the Upper Canada Militia, is formed. |
| 25 November 1813 | The Loyal Kent Volunteers militia unit is formed in Upper Canada. |
| 29 November 1813 | Battle of Autosse, Mississippi Territory. Despite inflicting significant casualties on a force of Muscogee (Creek) Nation fighters, American troops from Georgia do not achieve a clear victory. |
| 10 December 1813 | <p>The burning of the town of Niagara, Upper Canada.</p> <p><i>By December 1813, U.S. Brigadier General George McClure was left with only 100 soldiers to defend his base at Niagara. On 10 December, after giving the inhabitants little notice, he ordered the destruction of the town and withdrew his men to Fort Niagara, New York. Elderly and sickly men, women and children were turned out into a fierce winter blizzard. The treasonous "Canadian Volunteers," led by Joseph Willcocks burned the first capital of Upper Canada and pillaged the wretched people. British and Canadian troops arrived that evening, too late to save any buildings but found <u>Fort George</u> in better condition, complete with artillery and camp equipment. McClure had acted against his orders and was forced to resign.</i></p> |
| 13 December 1813 | Lieutenant-General Gordon Drummond takes command in Upper Canada. He is the first Canadian born general officer in British service. |
| 15 December 1813 | <p>Skirmish at McCrae's House, Upper Canada.</p> <p><i>Following the British defeat at Moraviantown on 5 October 1813, the Americans controlled the Lower Thames River Valley. They dispatched a detachment of about 40 officers and men, mostly of the 26th U.S. Regiment of Infantry, to Thomas McCrae's farmhouse using it as an observation post. Sent down the Thames to collect cattle, British Lieutenant Henry Medcalf and 32 men of the Norfolk and Middlesex Militia, Kent Volunteers, and Provincial Dragoons came upon the Americans and surrounded them killing one and taking the rest captive to Long Point, Upper Canada. After this engagement the Americans no longer stationed troops so far up the river and instead sent raiding parties into the area resulting in clashes like the Battle of Longwoods, Upper Canada in March 1814.</i></p> |
| 17 December 1813 | The Lower Canada Militia raid Derby, Vermont, capturing supplies and burning barracks and storehouses. |
| 19 December 1813 | British capture Fort Niagara, New York in a surprise night assault. |

During a snow storm on the night of 18-19 December 1813, British troops and Canadian militia volunteers crossed the Niagara River at Youngstown and attacked Fort Niagara. An advance party led by British Sergeant Andrew Spearman moved unseen through the village of Youngstown, killing or capturing the American guards posted outside the fort. His group was able to force the main gates and the attackers stormed inside. After a fierce struggle the fort was taken, along with an immense quantity of weapons and supplies. Seventy-nine Americans were killed or wounded, and 350 surrendered. The attackers lost five killed and six wounded. The British occupied Fort Niagara, controlling the mouth of the river until the end of the War of 1812.

19-30 December 1813

British and First Nations allies fight American troops at Lewiston and Fort Schlosser, burning the communities of Lewiston, Tuscarora settlement, Black Rock and Buffalo, all in New York, in revenge for the burning of Niagara, Upper Canada.

On 19 December, a force of British troops and First Nations defeated American Militia at Black Rock. On 30 December, the U.S. militia force under Major General Amos Hall was defeated near Buffalo. The British burned Lewiston, Tuscarora, Black Rock and Buffalo, as punishment for the burning of Niagara. Over 300 houses were burned, and the whole frontier from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie was depopulated. Four U.S. armed schooners were also burned, and a large quantity of military stores and weapons captured or destroyed. At Lewiston, New York a number of American civilians were killed by First Nations. The attack on the Tuscarora settlement brought Onondowahgah (Seneca) and Skaruhreh (Tuscarora) fighters into the war on the side of the United States.

23 December 1813

United States forces attack the Muscogee (Creek) Nation village at Eccanachaca, Mississippi Territory.

25 December 1813

HMS *Belvidera* captures USS *Vixen* off the coast of Delaware.

January 1814 – March 1814

1814

Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower Canada: 76th Regiment, 26th Regiment, 27th Regiment.

Early in 1814 the British construct defences on Bridge Island, Upper Canada as a shelter for the supply bateaux travelling on the St. Lawrence River.

January 1814

Construction begins on cavalry barracks at Blairfindie, located between Laprairie and St-Jean, Lower Canada.

Concerned with reinforcing waterway invasion routes, the British also had to secure the network of roads along the exposed region in Lower Canada between the St. Lawrence and Richelieu Rivers bordering on New York State. This crucial area could be used to support a larger naval assault along these waterways. Since most roads led to Montreal, the colony's commercial hub, the British concentrated much of their strength there, especially along the road from St. Jean, on the Richelieu River, to La Prairie, opposite Montreal. Between these posts, Halfway House, or Blairfindie Barracks, was established to accommodate 90 soldiers and 100 horses. These cavalry barracks were strategically located at the intersection of roads linking main villages as well as leading to the border.

Gunboats are constructed at Coteau-du-Lac, Lower Canada.

American delegates travel to Europe to begin peace negotiations.

January-March 1814	The Creek War continues in the Mississippi Territory. In engagements at Emuckfau Creek, Enotochopco Creek, Calabee Creek and Tohopeka (Horseshoe Bend) the United States breaks the military power of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
10 January 1814	An American patrol is captured by Lower Canada militia at Clough's Farm near Missisiquoi Bay, Lower Canada.
16-24 January 1814	British raids on Franklin County, New York.
29 January 1814	The citizens of Saint John, New Brunswick respond overwhelmingly to a request for sleds and sleighs to convey a group of Royal Navy seamen to Fredericton en route to the Canadas. A British General Order is issued announcing that the fortification at Prescott, Upper Canada will be called <u>Fort Wellington</u> .
2-3 February 1814	Two divisions (217 men) of seamen depart Fredericton, New Brunswick for the Canadas. <i>In December 1813, anxious to obtain crews for two ships under construction in Kingston, Upper Canada Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo looked eastward for reinforcements. In January 1814, 217 men from HMS Fantome and HMS Arab sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Saint John, New Brunswick en route to the Canadas by land. The citizens of Saint John responded overwhelmingly to a request for sleighs to convey the men to Fredericton, for which they departed on 29 and 30 January. They then left Fredericton on 2 and 3 February, reaching Quebec, Lower Canada on 1 March. Hard on their heels came six companies (440 men) of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment, who were reported to have arrived in Quebec by 10 March.</i>
6 February 1814	A small group of Royal Marines and Upper Canadian Militia from Cornwall, Upper Canada raid Madrid, New York.
14 February 1814	USS <i>Constitution</i> captures schooner HMS <i>Pictou</i> , in the western Atlantic Ocean.
14-15 February 1814	British raids along the Salmon River, New York.
17 February 1814	Militia General Orders issued by Adjutant-General J. F. Holland complete a reorganization of Prince Edward Island's volunteer and regular militia units.
19 & 24 February 1814	British raids along the Salmon River, and at Malone and Four Corners, all in New York.
March 1814	Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower Canada via the route from New Brunswick: 2nd Battalion of the 8th Regiment, crew members of HMS <i>Fantome</i> and <i>Arab</i> . The provincial militia unit Loyal Essex Volunteers is formed in Upper Canada.
4 March 1814	Battle of Longwoods, Upper Canada.

After the American victory at the Battle of the Thames in October 1813, large stretches of southwest Upper Canada became a no man's land. Both armies sent detachments to forage for provisions, which sometimes resulted in clashes. Upon receiving news that a group of 200 Americans were on their way to strike at Delaware, Upper Canada the British sent a detachment of 240 troops commanded by Captain James Basden to meet the invaders. Commanded by Captain Andrew Holmes, the U.S. force built a makeshift breastwork atop what came to be known as "Battle Hill." With the Americans well entrenched on the rise, the British suffered many casualties during the hour and a half-long battle and finally retreated while Holmes' force returned victorious to Detroit.

12 March 1814

The 5th Battalion of the Lower Canada Select Embodied Militia is transformed into a light infantry unit known as *Chasseurs canadiens*.

22 March 1814

American raids on Missisquoi Bay, Lower Canada.

28 March 1814

HMS *Phoebe* and HMS *Cherub* defeat USS *Essex*, and *Essex Junior*, off of Valparaiso, Chile. *Essex* had been a very successful commerce raider attacking British merchant vessels and whaling ships in the southern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

30 March 1814

Second Battle of Lacolle, Lower Canada.

After the failed 1813 Montreal campaign, Major General James Wilkinson made a last-ditch effort to invade Lower Canada and restore his reputation. Leading a force of 4,000 regulars, he left Champlain, New York, crossed the border and occupied Odelltown before marching to Lacolle, a fortified British outpost. There Wilkinson attacked a 180 soldier garrison commanded by Major Richard Hancock, which occupied a stone mill guarding the crossing of the Lacolle River. American artillery had little effect on the mill and soon after fighting commenced the British began receiving reinforcements from the Canadian Fencibles, Voltigeurs canadiens and the 30th Regiment from Ile aux Noix. Failing to easily secure Lacolle and hindered by poor weather, Wilkinson withdrew to Lake Champlain and was later relieved of command.

31 March 1814

Allied armies of Prussia, Austria and Russia enter Paris, France, defeating Napoleon and restoring Bourbon monarch Louis XVIII.

Spring 1814

The fortifications at Lacolle, Lower Canada are repaired and strengthened surrounding the windmill and blockhouse.

The British commence construction of Fort Drummond at Queenston Heights, Upper Canada.

In the late spring of 1814, Fort Drummond was constructed at Queenston Heights. Named after Lieutenant-Governor Sir Gordon Drummond, the fort consisted of earthworks surrounding a blockhouse for 100 men, and a u-shaped advanced battery facing the Niagara River. Fort Drummond supported the Redan battery that overlooked the village of Queenston and the strategically important Portage Road. After the American victory at the Battle of Chippawa, Major-General Phineas Riall retreated to Twelve Mile Creek, Upper Canada. He held the forts at the mouth of the Niagara River, but abandoned Fort Drummond on 10 July. An American army led by Major General Jacob Brown occupied the position for two weeks, before the bloody battle of Lundy's Lane.

April 1814 – June 1814

April 1814

The British commence construction of Fort Mississauga in Niagara, Upper Canada.

After capturing the American Fort Niagara, the British built a new fort across the Niagara River on Mississauga Point. These forts commanded the mouth of the river. Fort Mississauga was a small star-shaped earthwork, surrounded by a dry ditch and a log palisade. Armed with four 24-pounder cannons and equipped with a hot shot furnace, it was stronger than the badly damaged Fort George. Stone and brick rubble from the destroyed town of Niagara was used to begin construction of a central brick tower inside Fort Mississauga. The first lighthouse built on the Great Lakes before the war on Mississauga Point, was also demolished. The fort was deemed to be defensible by July, just as an invading American army once again crossed the Niagara River.



Plan of the present state of the fort erecting at Point Mississauga, at the entrance of the Niagara River. George Williams, 29 July 1814, LAC NMC 23031

Major General James Wilkinson's army retreats to Plattsburg, New York.

HMS *Linnet* is launched at the naval yard of Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada.

4 April 1814

The French Emperor Napoleon abdicates, enabling the British to send more men and ships to North America.

Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane's assumption of command of the Royal Navy's North American station on 1 April 1814 coincided with a downturn in French fortunes in Europe, culminating with Napoleon's abdication. Thereafter, the British picked up the pace on all fronts in North America. With more ships available, Cochrane increased the pressure in the Chesapeake and extended the blockade northward to include New England. Because this stifled the licensed trade, it drew protests from Halifax merchants, whose New Brunswick counterparts were, however, saved by smuggling. Cochrane was deaf to the complaints, but no matter how many ships he had at his disposal, he found it impossible to achieve success in blockading what was now a significantly greater expanse of coast.

7 April 1814

Americans launch the brig USS *Jefferson* at Sackets Harbor, New York adding to Commodore Isaac Chauncey's Lake Ontario squadron.

9 April 1814

The remaining 98 men and officers of the 2nd Battalion 8th (or King's) Regiment sail from New Brunswick for Quebec.

11 April 1814

The American ship *Saratoga* (26 guns) is launched at Vergennes, Vermont increasing Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough's Lake Champlain fleet.

13 April 1814

Americans launch the brig USS *Jones* at Sackets Harbor, New York adding to Commodore Isaac Chauncey's Lake Ontario squadron.

14 April 1814

HMS *Prince Regent* and HMS *Princess Charlotte* are launched at Kingston, Upper

Canada. The two frigates help Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo gain control of Lake Ontario for a period during the 1814 navigation season.

15 April 1814

Captain Arthur Sinclair receives orders to take charge of the American squadron upon Lake Erie replacing Master Commandant Jesse Elliott who is given command of a warship on Lake Ontario.

19 April 1814

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert McDouall and a contingent of British soldiers and sailors depart Glengarry Landing, Upper Canada, to reinforce Fort Mackinac, Michigan Territory.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert McDouall, two companies of the Royal Newfoundland Fencible Regiment, a handful of Royal Artillerymen and a group of Royal Navy Sailors were ordered from Kingston in February 1814 to reinforce and resupply the British garrison at Fort Mackinac, Michigan Territory. Travelling overland, they stopped at the forks of the Nottawasaga River in Upper Canada near Georgian Bay and spent two months constructing 29 large boats with which to ship supplies to the post on Michilimackinac Island. The clearing made by the expedition became known as "Glengarry Landing." McDouall's contingent encountered ice-choked and often storm tossed waters on their journey over Lake Huron to Fort Mackinac. Upon arrival on 18 May McDouall assumed command of the post.

20 April 1814

HMS *Orpheus* and HMS *Shelburne* defeat USS *Frolic* in the Florida Straits.

22 April 1814

A camp of instruction is established by American Major General Jacob Brown at Flint Hill, near Buffalo, New York.

For 10 weeks in the spring of 1814, the Left Division of the U.S. Army trained under Brigadier General Winfield Scott at this camp. Under Scott, the men drilled up to 10 hours each day and a strict discipline was enforced. Officers and men were both punished for infractions, and four deserters were executed. Scott paid scrupulous attention to cleanliness and camp sanitation, virtually eradicating the sickness that decimated the armies of this era. While popular histories have described this as a basic training camp, in fact Scott trained the largely experienced and battle hardened troops under his command to the high standards of their opponents, the British Army. Their performance in the battles of Chippawa and Lundy's Lane ensured their place in American history.

25 April 1814

A plot to destroy the nearly-completed USS *Superior* on the stocks at Sackets Harbor is foiled when the party of three small British boats sent to accomplish this mission is discovered and chased away by American guard boats.

29 April 1814

USS *Peacock* takes HMS *Epervier* off of Cape Canaveral, Spanish Florida.

1 May 1814

Americans launch USS *Superior* (58 guns) at Sackets Harbor, New York. This vessel, along with USS *Mohawk* (42 Guns) launched in June, will help restore naval superiority on Lake Ontario to Commodore Isaac Chauncey in the summer of 1814.

6 May 1814

A British amphibious force captures Oswego, New York.

Denied reinforcements by Governor General Sir George Prevost for a large-scale attack on Sackets Harbor, New York, Lieutenant-Governor Gordon Drummond and Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo decided instead to capture Oswego, a less fortified but important transshipment port on Lake Ontario from which the U.S. Navy obtained supplies and ordnance. The British used eight warships and three gunboats to bombard the village and Fort Ontario as well as cover the landing of troops. The British suffered many casualties but were rewarded with a bounty of provisions, artillery and ammunition, as well as several vessels. The victory put a temporary strain on supplies and delayed Commodore Isaac Chauncey's ship-building at Sackets Harbor but otherwise did not deal a decisive blow to the Americans on Lake Ontario.



Attack on Fort Oswego, Lake Ontario.

James Hewett, 1815, LAC C-00794

12 May 1814

The American schooner *Ticonderoga* (17 guns) is launched at Vergennes, Vermont to strengthen the Lake Champlain squadron.

14 May 1814

Failed British attack on the American naval yard at Otter Creek (Vergennes, Vermont). The expedition left the naval base at Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada on May 8.

14-16 May 1814

American forces under Colonel John Campbell raid and burn Port Dover, Charlottesvill, Patterson's Creek and Long Point, Upper Canada.

23 May 1814

The Ancaster "Bloody" Assize commences. Upper Canadians accused of treason are put on trial at Ancaster, Upper Canada.

By 1812 roughly one half of the inhabitants of Upper Canada were American born. Many openly supported the invading Americans and a few took up arms against the King forming a treasonous regiment, "The Canadian Volunteers," led by three former members of the Legislative Assembly. Nineteen men from the London and Niagara districts were tried for treason at the Ancaster "Bloody" Assize. Four were acquitted, and 15 men were sentenced to death. Eight men were executed on 20 July 1814, at Burlington Heights, Upper Canada. The men were hanged and then beheaded. Seven convicted traitors were reprieved, and of these three died in jail, three were banished and one escaped. Thirty traitors serving with the Americans were also convicted and their property seized.

25 May – 24 June 1814

Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower-Canada: 16th Regiment, Royal Artillery, 70th Regiment.

29 May 1814

During a skirmish at Pungoteague Creek, Virginia British forces destroy an American battery.

30 May 1814

A British force under the command of Captain Stephen Popham, consisting of two gunboats, three cutters and 160 seamen and marines is soundly defeated and captured in Sandy Creek, New York, having ventured inland in pursuit of

American bateaux.

June 1814	Upon receiving news that Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin Territory fell to the Americans, the Mississippi Volunteers, a British unit formed primarily of voyageurs and fur trappers, is raised at Fort Mackinac to help recapture the lost post.
1 June 1814	British raids on Cedar Point and St. Jerome's Point, Maryland.
2-5 June 1814	Americans take possession of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin Territory and start construction of Fort Shelby.
3 June 1814	British Secretary for War, Earl of Bathurst, orders Governor General Sir George Prevost to take offensive action against the Americans with the reinforcement of 13,000 regulars that will soon arrive from Europe. Prevost will allocate the majority of these troops to the September 1814 campaign in northern New York near Plattsburg and Lake Champlain.
6 June 1814	The British Secretary for War, the Earl of Bathurst, orders Lieutenant Governor Sir John Coape Sherbrooke to occupy the part of the District of Maine, "which at present intercepts the communication between Halifax and Quebec."
	<i>The marches of the 104th Regiment and others had opened British eyes wide to the strategic significance of the Saint John River route as a conduit for reinforcements during winter. The invasion of eastern Maine to secure that route was seen as part of a major offensive that would include escalation of the Chesapeake campaign and the invasion of upper New York via Lake Champlain. The British captured Moose Island, Passamaquoddy Bay on 11 July, and in early September an army-navy contingent of 2,500 men took possession of the entire Maine coast between the Penobscot and St. Croix rivers. This guaranteed that troops who might have to march up the frozen Saint John River would not have to worry about meeting the enemy along the way.</i>
8-10 June 1814	British raids up St. Leonard's Creek, Maryland.
11 June 1814	USS <i>Mohawk</i> (42 guns) launched on Lake Ontario. This vessel, along with USS <i>Superior</i> (58 guns) launched in May, helps restore naval superiority on Lake Ontario for Commodore Isaac Chauncey in the summer of 1814.
12-16 June 1814	British raids up the Patuxent River, Maryland.
Summer 1814	The Americans construct fortifications at Plattsburg, New York capable of resisting land- or water-based attacks.
19 June 1814	Captain Arthur Sinclair and Lieutenant Colonel George Croghan begin a four-month expedition against the British in the upper Great Lakes.

United States Secretary of the Navy William Jones ordered a joint navy-army expedition to the Upper Great Lakes in early June 1814. The campaign had several objectives: the recapture of Fort Mackinac with an eye to disrupting British-First Nations and Métis relations, the capture of British Fort St. Joseph, the destruction of any British ship construction facilities and generally to secure command of the upper lakes. Captain Arthur Sinclair, commander of the U.S. squadron upon Lake Erie, set sail from Erie, Pennsylvania, on 19 June with seven vessels and contingents of soldiers from several regular regiments led by Lieutenant Colonel George Croghan. After immense effort the squadron was hauled over the shallows of the St. Clair River and entered Lake Huron in mid-July.

An American gunboat force commanded by Lieutenant Francis Gregory capture the British gunboat *Black Snake* on the St. Lawrence River near Kingston, Upper Canada. Gregory is forced to scuttle his prize when pursued by additional British gunboats from Kingston.

22 June 1814	HMS <i>Leander</i> defeats USS <i>Rattlesnake</i> off Sable Island, Nova Scotia.
24 June 1814	British marines destroy a battery at Chissinisack (Chesconessex), Virginia.
25 June - 24 July 1814	Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower Canada freed by the cessation of the Napoleonic Wars in Europe: 1st Battalion 82nd Regiment, 4th Battalion 1st Regiment of the Royal Scots, 1st Battalion 90th Regiment, 1st Battalion 6th Regiment, 97th Regiment, Nova Scotia Fencibles.
26 June 1814	Captain Joshua Barney's flotilla breaks through a British naval blockade on St. Leonard's Creek and moves into the Patuxent River, Maryland.
27 June 1814	A raiding force under American naval Lieutenant Francis Gregory burn a nearly completed schooner at Newcastle, Upper Canada.
28 June 1814	USS <i>Wasp</i> captures HMS <i>Reindeer</i> in the English Channel.
	During a failed American raid on Odelltown, Lower Canada, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Forsyth is shot and killed, his body returned to Champlain, New York for burial.
28 June & 7 July 1814	The Americans intercept contraband on Lake Champlain destined for the naval yard at <u>Ile aux Noix</u> , Lower Canada.
29 June 1814	Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Bouchette, Surveyor General of Lower Canada, gives land grants along the Grand Portage between Lake Témiscouata and the St. Lawrence River to disbanded soldiers of the 10th Royal Veterans Battalion, "for the purpose of facilitating the Communication between Lower Canada and New Brunswick."
June & July 1814	Arrival at Quebec City, Lower Canada of materials and pieces of frigates-in-frame for the naval establishment on the Great Lakes.

July 1814 – December 1814

July 1814	British complete Fort George on the high ground overlooking Fort Mackinac further strengthening their positions on the Island of Michilimackinac, Michigan Territory.
2 July 1814	The British raid St. Leonard's, Maryland, destroying naval supplies and residences.
3 July 1814	<p>The 1814 American campaign on the Niagara Peninsula begins.</p> <p><i>Before daylight on 3 July, American Major General Jacob Brown's army crossed the river at Frenchman's Creek, just north of Fort Erie, Upper Canada. Surprisingly the commander of the fort surrendered without opposition. The British commander on the Niagara, Major-General Phineas Riall, had hoped to attack the Americans when they were engaged in an assault on <u>Fort Erie</u>. He sent a small force under Major Thomas Pearson to the scene which encountered Brigadier General Winfield Scott's brigade at Frenchman's Creek on 4 July. Pearson, supported by First Nations led by John Norton, conducted a brilliant fighting withdrawal to the main British force north of Chippawa Creek. By the end of the day, the Americans had covered only 19 km and camped south of Street's Creek.</i></p>
5 July 1814	<p><u>Battle of Chippawa, Upper Canada.</u></p> <p><i>An invading U.S. Army led by Major General Jacob Brown clashed with British forces under Major-General Phineas Riall. Each side had roughly 2,000 men engaged in the battle in which American regulars, militia, and U.S. allied First Nations were victorious. The main battle was a European-style conflict, fought in the open, where the British were thought to be nearly invincible. This inspiring American victory is still commemorated by the gray uniforms worn by cadets at the West Point Military Academy. The battle caused the greatest loss of life in the War of 1812 up to that time, with about 800 casualties. More Canadian militia were killed and wounded here than in any other battle. First Nations losses on both sides were very heavy.</i></p> <p>A joint army-navy force departs Halifax, Nova Scotia for the invasion of the Passamaquoddy Bay Islands, District of Maine.</p>
7 July 1814	<p>Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) Council meeting at Burlington, Upper Canada.</p> <p><i>Shortly after the <u>Battle of Chippawa</u>, representatives of New York Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) allied with the United States met with Grand River First Nations allied to the British in an important council. During the battle, First Nations from the Grand River and the Western tribes confronted Haudenosaunee from the Onondowahgah (Tuscarora) and Skaruhreh (Seneca) communities. In the bloody, fratricidal battle that erupted, American allies lost about 26 men and the allies of the British had 90 casualties. Both sides were dismayed by these catastrophic losses, and by the fact that they had been fighting friends and relatives. Following the council, the majority of Haudenosaunee decided to pursue a course of neutrality for the rest of the War of 1812.</i></p> <p>United States troops occupy Queenston Heights, Upper Canada. Damaged during the October 1812 battle, the village again suffers during the occupation.</p>
11 July 1814:	Surrender of the American garrison at Fort Sullivan, Eastport (Moose Island), District of Maine.
12 July 1814	HMS <i>Medway</i> captures USS <i>Siren</i> off of South Africa.
18-19 July 1814	British raid on Champlain Village, New York.
19 July 1814	American troops burn St Davids, Upper Canada, following a fierce fight with local

militia.

After the Battle of Chippawa, the U.S. army advanced to Queenston, Upper Canada. Foraging parties were sent out to requisition supplies, and their unrestrained looting infuriated the local inhabitants. On 18 July, a force of New York militia led by Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Stone was attacked near St. Davids. Although opposition had been expected, the Americans barely escaped with their lives. They returned the next day and completely destroyed the village. Stone was dismissed from the army as a result of his actions. This incident marked a change in the attitude of many inhabitants towards the Americans and their increasing brutality. Local militia, once eager to evade military service or even surrender to the Americans, now took up arms in their own defence.

British and First Nations allies capture Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin Territory.

Prairie du Chien, a small fur trading post at the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, was occupied by French-Canadians and managed by British merchants. On 2 June 1814, the Governor of Missouri Territory, William Clark, afraid that the British would use it to launch an expedition down the Mississippi River, seized control of the post without incident and built Fort Shelby. Under prominent fur trader William McKay, a force of about 120 voyageurs, Michigan Fencibles, and officers of the British Indian Department, and over 500 fighters from nations including the Ho-chunk (Winnebago), Menominee and Anishnabe (Ojibwe) set out to retake the post. With little ammunition and only 60 regulars to defend the post, the Americans surrendered after a short siege and returned home on parole.

Facing no resistance, British marines take possession of Leonard's Town (Leonardtown), Maryland taking provisions and destroying military stores.

20 July 1814

American raid on Port Talbot, Upper Canada.

Burning of Fort St. Joseph, Upper Canada. The American expedition to the Upper Great Lakes under Captain Arthur Sinclair arrives off St. Joseph Island in mid-July. A shore party burns the abandoned British fort and the fur traders' storehouses.

20-21 July 1814

American forces test the British defences of Fort George and Fort Mississauga, Niagara, Upper Canada.

After the Battle of Chippawa, the Americans under Major General Jacob Brown marched to Queenston, Upper Canada. On 20 July they sent forces against Forts Mississauga and George. The column approaching Fort Mississauga came under heavy fire and withdrew. This was the only time the fort's cannons fired on an enemy. A second force approached Fort George and began to dig siege batteries. The British shelled the Americans. The U.S. naval commander on Lake Ontario, Commodore Isaac Chauncey, failed to transport the heavy guns needed to capture the British forts from his base at Sackets Harbor. On 22 July, without the necessary artillery, Major General Brown withdrew to Queenston. This was the limit of the American advance on the Niagara frontier in the 1814 campaign.

21 July 1814

Battle at Rock Island Rapids, Illinois Territory. An American force attempting to relieve Fort Shelby at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin Territory, is defeated by Sac (Sauk), Fox and Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) First Nations.

While on Lake Huron, Captain Arthur Sinclair's flotilla captures the merchantman *Mink* laden with provisions for St. Mary's River, Upper Canada.

22 July 1814

Second Treaty of Greenville, Ohio, re-establishes peace between the United States and the Wyandot, Lenape (Delaware), Shawnee, Seneca and Miami Nations.

23-26 July 1814

Captain Arthur Sinclair's raid up the St. Mary's River.

The raid on St. Mary's River (Sault Ste. Marie), Upper Canada was a part of the American expedition for mastery of the upper Great Lakes. After burning the abandoned Fort St. Joseph, Captain Arthur Sinclair sent a flotilla of boats loaded with sailors and infantry up the St. Mary's River where they torched the North West Company trading post and storehouses, vital assets in the British fur trade infrastructure. The Americans also destroyed the locks of the first Sault Ste. Marie Canal built in 1798 by the company to allow freight canoes to bypass the falls. Sinclair's men also captured and burned the company's schooner Perseverance, one of the few British vessels on the upper lakes.

25 July 1814

Battle of Lundy's Lane, Upper Canada.

At dusk on 25 July 1814, the British and American armies clashed near the crossroads of Portage Road and Lundy's Lane. The British, Canadians and First Nations held a commanding position on a ridge until nightfall, when American troops were able to capture the main British artillery battery posted in a churchyard. The battle degenerated into a savage contest for the cannons. The roar of battle was heard in Buffalo, New York. After the failure of the final British attack, the Americans held the field but withdrew. The British reoccupied the battlefield at dawn. Both sides claimed victory. Each side lost nearly 900 men. The heavy losses shattered U.S. Major General Jacob Brown's army and ended any chance of a continued advance into Upper Canada.

25 July – 24 August
1814

Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower Canada freed by the cessation of the Napoleonic Wars in Europe: Contingents of Major-General Manley Power's brigade (3rd, 5th, 1st Battalion 27th Regiment, 58th Regiment, and Royal Artillery); Major-General James Kempt's brigade (1st Battalion 9th Regiment, 1st Battalion 37th Regiment, 1st Battalion 57th Regiment, 1st Battalion 81st Regiment, Royal Artillery); Major-General Fredrick P. Robinson's brigade (1st Battalion 39th Regiment, 76th Regiment, 1st Battalion 88th Regiment, 3rd Battalion 27th Regiment and Royal Artillery).

31 July 1814

Commodore Isaac Chauncey's powerful squadron of nine vessels sails from Sackets Harbor, New York and immediately assumes naval superiority on Lake Ontario.

3 August 1814

British commence the siege of the American occupied Fort Erie, Upper Canada.

After the Battle of Lundy's Lane, the Americans retreated to Fort Erie. Brigadier General Edmund Gaines took command of the post on 5 August, replacing badly wounded Major General Jacob Brown. The British Army under Lieutenant-Governor Gordon Drummond took time to reorganize after the bloody battle, and this gave the Americans time to strengthen their defences. Drummond arrived at Fort Erie on 3 August, and began to build siege lines. On the night of 12 August, British sailors and marines captured the USS Somers and the USS Ohio, supporting Fort Erie from the Niagara River. On 13 August the British batteries opened fire. Unfortunately they had been built too far from the American lines to be effective.

A British force attempting to destroy supply depots at Black Rock and Buffalo, New York is defeated at the Battle of Conjocta Creek, New York. The depots contain stores used to support Fort Erie where American Major General Jacob

Brown and his troops have retreated after the Battle of Lundy's Lane.

4-5 August 1814

American assault on Fort Mackinac, Michigan Territory.

Fort Mackinac was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert McDouall who had arrived that spring with reinforcements. As part of Captain Arthur Sinclair's expedition that sailed from Detroit to recapture that post, Lieutenant Colonel George Croghan commanded a force of 700 regulars and Ohio militia, almost twice the strength of the British force at Mackinac. Once at the post the Americans could not bring their vessels' guns to bear upon the fortification located on a height of land and therefore landed their troops at the far side of the island to lure McDouall into open combat. Unable to breach the strong British defensive position established by McDouall on the edge of a clearing, Croghan's botched attack suffered heavy casualties. The Americans withdrew to Detroit.

5 August 1814

United States Brigadier General Edmund P. Gaines takes command from the wounded Major General Jacob Brown at Fort Erie, Upper Canada.

On Lake Ontario Lieutenant George Hawksworth drives HMS *Magnet* ashore and blows it up to avoid capture by Commodore Isaac Chauncey's American squadron.

8 August 1814

Peace negotiations between the Americans and British begin in Ghent, Belgium.

Early in 1813, Russian emperor Alexander I offered to mediate peace negotiations between Britain and the United States. Refusing any third party involvement, England proposed instead direct discussions with the American government at a neutral European location. Finally meeting in Ghent in August 1814, American commissioners sought to negotiate matters like sailors' rights and blockades as well as acquisition of the Canadian provinces. British delegates proposed terms for retaining occupied American territory, creation of a First Nations state in the Great Lakes region to act as a buffer between British and American territories, and naval disarmament of the Great Lakes. Although both parties' initial terms were mutually rejected at this opening session, a consensus was reached in December 1814 with the Treaty of Ghent.

9 August 1814

Treaty of Fort Jackson imposes harsh terms on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for waging war against the United States in 1813-1814.

9-12 August 1814

Raid on Stonington, Connecticut. A British squadron under Captain Sir Thomas Hardy bombard and then attack the town.

10 August 1814

Commodore Isaac Chauncey's squadron arrives off of Kingston, Upper Canada in hopes of provoking a battle with Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo's British squadron. Chauncey loosely blockades Kingston for the remainder of the month, but Yeo will not offer battle until the completion of HMS *St. Lawrence*.

11 August 1814

USS *Surprise*, renamed *Eagle* (20 guns) is launched on Lake Champlain at Vergennes, Vermont.

12 August 1814

The USS *Somers* and USS *Ohio* are captured by the British on Lake Erie, near Fort Erie, Upper Canada.

During the British siege on the American occupied Fort Erie, Royal Navy Captain Alexander Dobbs commanding 70 seamen and marines rowed out to three U.S. armed schooners anchored near the post which were supporting Major General Jacob Brown's Niagara frontier campaign. Masquerading as American supply boats, the British surprised, boarded and seized USS Somers and USS Ohio while USS Porcupine escaped. Not only were the vessels, renamed Huron and Sauk, a welcomed addition to Britain's Lake Erie squadron but the capture also impacted American morale since the defences of Fort Erie were now reduced. Dobbs' victory was the last naval engagement on Lake Erie during the war.

13 August 1814

Sergeant Joseph McKittrick of Prince Edward Island is killed in action with the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles at Fort Erie, Upper Canada. He is believed to be the only Islander killed in the war.

14 August 1814

HMS *Nancy* is destroyed during an attack by the United States squadron under Captain Arthur Sinclair at the Nottawasaga River, Upper Canada.

One of the objectives of Sinclair's expedition to the upper Great Lakes was the destruction of British ships. Unable to locate the British base on the Nottawasaga River, due to weather and unfamiliarity with the area, he burned the abandoned Fort St. Joseph and the fur trade post at St. Mary's River (Sault Ste. Marie). After the failure to retake Fort Mackinac the expedition finally located the Nottawasaga base and the Schooner Nancy, the only British vessel on the upper lakes. An American landing party destroyed a blockhouse but the crew of Nancy, commanded by Lieutenant Miller Worsley of the Royal Navy, torched the vessel before it could be captured. Nancy's crew escaped to Fort Mackinac in open boats after the departure of Sinclair's squadron.

15 August 1814

A British night assault on Fort Erie, Upper Canada fails.

On the night of 15 August, after an ineffective two day bombardment, a British force commanded by Lieutenant-Governor Gordon Drummond stormed American held Fort Erie. Drummond sent three separate columns forward in the rain. The attackers failed to surprise the Americans, and were unable to coordinate their attack properly in the dark. Two of the columns were driven back with heavy losses. The third column led by Lieutenant-Colonel William Drummond captured the fort's north-east bastion but were unable to advance further, even though they turned a cannon around to fire at the Americans inside. William Drummond was killed, and the massive gunpowder magazine below the bastion blew up. The hideous explosion slaughtered the attackers, and ended the assault.

19 August 1814

A British force lands at Benedict, Maryland, en route to Washington, District of Columbia.

22 August 1814

American Commodore Joshua Barney deliberately destroys his flotilla near the town of Pig Point, Maryland preventing its seizure by a British force under Rear-Admiral George Cockburn. Deprived of these prizes, the British nevertheless succeed in capturing several merchant vessels as well as the town and a large quantity of tobacco.

24-25 August 1814

Battle of Bladensburg, Maryland and the British occupation of Washington, District of Columbia.

The British campaign in Chesapeake Bay began in earnest on 24 August, when the British entered Bladensburg, just outside the capital city of Washington. With the Americans waiting on the other side of the Potomac River, the British crossed the bridge and attacked. When commanding officer Major-General Robert Ross ordered the launching of Congreve rockets, the terrible and unfamiliar noise caused the enemy to run. It was a humiliating episode in the war for the Americans. Ross and his men marched on and later that evening scored a major victory by taking Washington and setting ablaze most public buildings, including the recently-vacated presidential mansion. One of the few to be spared was the Marine Corps Commandant's house, now the oldest public building in Washington.

25 August 1814

HMS *Confiance* is launched at the naval yard of Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada.

Because of their ambitious 1813-1814 ship-building campaign, the Americans regained command of Lake Champlain. In a bid to wrest back control of this waterway, the British began laying down a large frigate at Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada. Construction was delayed due to a shortage of supplies and the vessel was scarcely equipped in time for action at the Battle of Plattsburg Bay. Armed with 37 guns, HMS *Confiance* would become Captain George Downie's flagship and, together with a number of smaller vessels also constructed at the naval yard, including gunboats and the brig *Linnet*, made up the fleet engaged at Plattsburg in which Downie perished and his ship captured. *Confiance* was the largest warship to sail on Lake Champlain during the war.

26 August 1814

A British gunboat flotilla captures two American vessels on the St. Lawrence River near Kingston, Upper Canada.

A joint army-navy expedition departs Halifax, Nova Scotia for the invasion of the eastern portion of the District of Maine.

27 August 1814

USS *Wasp* captures HMS *Avon* in the waters south of Ireland.

28 August 1814

A British naval expedition led by Captain James Alexander Gordon sails up the Potomac River to capture Alexandria, Virginia, together with 21 prize ships, and massive quantities of flour, cotton, tobacco, sugar, wine and other commodities.

30 August –

Lake Champlain campaign lead by Governor General Sir George Prevost.

12 September 1814

30 August 1814

Captain Sir Peter Parker is killed leading a British naval landing party near Chestertown, Maryland. They are repulsed and the event will become known as "The Battle of Caulk's Field."

1 September 1814

British capture of Castine, District of Maine.

The British army, with a force of over 10,000 men and lead by Governor General Sir George Prevost, begin crossing the border on their way to Plattsburg, New York.

3 September 1814

Captain George Downie of the Royal Navy assumes command of the Lake Champlain squadron.

The Battle of Hampden. The British capture Bangor and Hampden, District of Maine. The Americans burn the sloop USS *Adams* to prevent its capture.

4 September 1814

Upper Canadian turncoat leader Joseph Willcocks is killed leading the treasonous

Canadian Volunteers in a skirmish outside American occupied Fort Erie, Upper Canada.

3 & 6 September 1814

Capture of USS *Tigress* and USS *Scorpion* on Lake Huron.

After the destruction of the British post on the Nottawasaga River and the schooner Nancy, Royal Navy Lieutenant Miller Worsley and his seamen escaped to Fort Mackinac while the Americans blockaded this post with USS Tigress and USS Scorpion. Worsley devised and executed a plan to capture these two armed vessels. On 3 September, under the cover of darkness, he successfully boarded the Tigress with a contingent of seamen, soldiers, and First Nations fighters then used the ship to seize the Scorpion on 6 September. With no vessels of their own following Nancy's destruction, the victory gave the British a small fleet upon Lake Huron and reconnected Fort Mackinac with the upper Great Lakes supply route.

5 September 1814

The British withdraw from Bangor and Hampden, District of Maine.

At Rock Island, Illinois Territory, an American force under Major Zachary Taylor is defeated by an alliance of Sac (Sauk), Fox, Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) and Sioux led by Chief Black Hawk (Makataimeshekiakiak). They were assisted by British Indian Department officers.

6 September 1814

British forces enter Plattsburg, New York.

*A gale on Lake Erie drives the American vessel *Caledonia* ashore after which a fire causes significant damage before being extinguished.*

9 September 1814

A British flotilla gathers near Chazy, New York on Lake Champlain.

10 September 1814

Launch of HMS *St. Lawrence*, the largest warship on the Great Lakes in the age of sail, at Kingston, Upper Canada.

The contest for supremacy on the Great Lakes continued to intensify as the British and American navies raced to construct more powerful fleets. Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo gained undisputed control of Lake Ontario in October when he sailed out with his new flagship HMS St. Lawrence, launched the previous month. It was a three-decked warship pierced for 102 guns, to counter the construction of three U.S. ships at Sackets Harbor. This vessel epitomized the 'shipbuilder's war' and the extraordinary logistical and financial investments by the British since almost all materials and ordnance used to build warships at Kingston came across the Atlantic Ocean from England to Quebec City and Montreal, Lower Canada. From there supplies were transported by bateaux up the St. Lawrence River.

11 September 1814

Battle of the Bay of Plattsburg, New York.

Governor General Sir George Prevost's Lake Champlain campaign, begun in late August 1814, culminated in a joint land and naval assault on Plattsburg. Complying with Prevost's orders, Captain George Downie sailed his squadron into Lake Champlain to engage Captain Thomas Macdonough's fleet anchored in Plattsburg Bay. Adverse winds prevented Downie's ships from manoeuvring into position and put them in close range of damaging U.S. broadsides. Downie was killed and after fierce fighting, the British fleet surrendered. Meanwhile, Prevost, commanding 10,351 of the Duke of Wellington's veterans, made a brief attack on Brigadier General Alexander Macomb's force of roughly 3,000 men but quickly withdrew his troops to Lower Canada. The humiliating and costly defeat for the British resulted in Prevost being recalled to England to explain his actions.



Macdonough's Victory on Lake Champlain, and Defeat of the British Army at Plattsburg by Genl. Macomb, Sept. 11, 1814. Etching, after 1814, LAC C-010928

British take Fort O'Brien and Machias, District of Maine.

12-15 September 1814

The death of Major-General Robert Ross at the Battle of North Point and the bombardment of Baltimore, Maryland.

After sacking Washington, District of Columbia, British commanding officer Robert Ross led a force of roughly 4,000 men north to Baltimore. On 12 September, during the Battle of North Point, Ross was mortally wounded; Colonel Arthur Brooke then assumed command and defeated Brigadier General John Stricker and his 3,200 troops. The British advanced until they came upon the recently prepared fortifications of Baltimore. Judging the defences too strong to be attacked, the British withdrew. Meanwhile, Vice-Admiral Alexander Cochrane led an unsuccessful naval assault on Fort McHenry. The spectacle inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner." As for Ross, his comrades preserved his body in rum and sent it to Halifax, Nova Scotia for burial, where his remains received a hero's welcome.

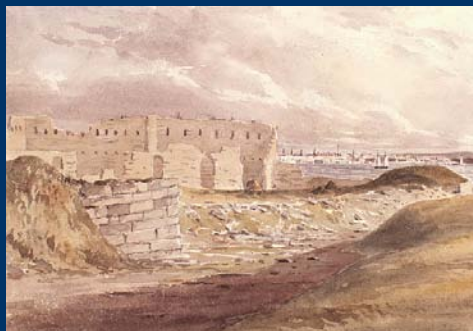
15 September 1814

Unsuccessful British attack on Fort Bowyer, Mississippi Territory.

17-21 September 1814

American attack on the British artillery batteries besieging Fort Erie, Upper Canada and British abandonment of the siege.

Heavy autumn rains made life miserable for the poorly sheltered British and Canadians, besieging Fort Erie. Sickness decimated their ranks. Joseph Willcocks, commander of the treasonous Canadian Volunteers, was killed on 4 September. On 16 September, Lieutenant-Governor Gordon Drummond decided to end the siege, but the next day, the Americans attacked the British batteries. After a fierce two hour battle, the Americans fell back to the fort. Each side lost roughly 500 men. The British abandoned the siege on 21 September. The Americans had successfully defended Fort Erie, but they were unable to advance further. On 5 November U.S. Major General George Izard blew up the fort, and withdrew to the United States, ending the bloody and ultimately futile 1814 invasion of the Niagara frontier.



Ruins of Fort Erie and City of Buffalo, 1838, Philip John Bainbrigge, 1838, LAC C-011869

18 September 1814

Half of the British invasion force departs the District of Maine for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

21 September 1814	<p>The British establish a customs office at Castine, District of Maine, which is designated as a commercial headquarters of the occupied territory.</p> <p><i>The announcement that trade with the enemy was legal through Castine was music to the ears of the mercantile communities of Saint John, New Brunswick and Halifax, Nova Scotia. And since imports and exports through the Maine port were taxed, customs officials amassed a tidy £10,000 in the eight short months that they were there. After the war, the British government directed that this “Castine Fund” must be used for public improvements in Nova Scotia, and it eventually covered the costs of a new library for the British garrison, and of Dalhousie College (now Dalhousie University). New Brunswickers were consoled in November 1817 when a boundary commission appointed in the Treaty of Ghent awarded them most of the disputed Passamaquoddy Islands and Grand Manan Island.</i></p>
Autumn 1814	<p>The British construct a blockhouse and battery at Turkey Point, Upper Canada which becomes known as <u>Fort Norfolk</u>. The site was also intended to become a navy yard for Lake Erie but the war concludes before any work can commence.</p>
9 October 1814	<p>USS <i>Wasp</i> is lost at sea.</p>
15 October 1814	<p>Skirmish at Chippawa Creek, Upper Canada.</p>
19 October 1814	<p>Battle of Cook’s Mills, Upper Canada.</p> <p><i>After ending the unsuccessful siege of <u>Fort Erie</u>, British Lieutenant-General and Lieutenant Governor Gordon Drummond withdrew his forces to a position protected by Chippawa Creek. U.S. Major General George Izard followed Drummond, but did not attack the British defences. Learning of a supply of wheat at <u>Cook’s Mills</u>, Izard sent a force under Brigadier General Daniel Bissell to Lyon’s Creek. Bissell clashed with a smaller British detachment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Myers. The larger American force drove the British back and burned the mills. Outnumbered, General Drummond refused to be drawn into a major battle. This was the final confrontation on the Niagara River frontier during the War of 1812.</i></p>
22 October 1814	<p>American Brigadier General Duncan McArthur’s raid into south west Upper Canada.</p> <p><i>American Brigadier General Duncan McArthur set out from Detroit, Michigan Territory with a force of Ohio and Kentucky militiamen and First Nations allies to raid communities in south-western Upper Canada, a no man’s land following British defeats at the Battles of Lake Erie and the Thames in the fall of 1813. Rumoured to be planning an attack on <u>Burlington Heights</u>, a major British base on Lake Ontario, the marauders destroyed private property such as mills during their march. Hampered by rainy weather and swollen rivers, McArthur’s force assaulted the settlement of Malcolm’s Mills. The town’s defenders, Oxford and Norfolk County militia, were scattered by McArthur’s troops who returned to Detroit following the incident. This was the last battle fought on Canadian soil during the war.</i></p>
5 November 1814	<p>American forces blow up <u>Fort Erie</u>, Upper Canada and withdraw to Buffalo, New York.</p>
6 November 1814	<p>Skirmish at Malcolm’s Mills, Upper Canada.</p> <p>American schooner <i>Franklin</i> is captured off Hampton, Virginia, by a British flotilla of 13 barges.</p>
7 November 1814	<p>Troops under Major General Andrew Jackson take Pensacola, Spanish Florida from a garrison of British and Spanish troops. The Americans occupy the town for</p>

the remainder of the war.

10 November 1814 United States Lieutenant Charles Budd receives orders to replace Captain Thomas Macdonough as commander of the Lake Champlain squadron.

14 November 1814 The British schooner HMS *Julia* is launched at the navy yard in Kingston, Upper Canada.

17 November 1814 While on a secret mission to destroy HMS *St. Lawrence*, Midshipman James McGowan discovers and captures two British gunboats on the upper St. Lawrence River and returns to Sackets Harbor, New York with the prisoners.

24 November 1814 Shipwreck of HMS *Fantome* near Prospect, Nova Scotia, while escorting a convoy from Castine, District of Maine to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

December 1814 British complete construction of Fort Wellington, Prescott, Upper Canada.

One of the few British fortifications in Upper Canada commenced during the War of 1812, Fort Wellington was authorized in early 1813, but construction delays meant that it was not completed until late 1814. The fort consisted of a single storey wooden blockhouse 30.48 m (100 feet) square that could accommodate 144 soldiers. The blockhouse was surrounded by massive earthworks that contained bombproof storerooms while the post's artillery commanded the surrounding countryside. The fortification was a redoubt of substantial strength designed to assert British control over the St. Lawrence River at Prescott, a vital port in the line of communications from Montreal to Kingston. Although never attacked, Fort Wellington's guns were used to fire on Major General James Wilkinson's flotilla in autumn 1813.

1 December 1814 Major General Andrew Jackson arrives in New Orleans, Louisiana and commences preparations for defence of the city.

10 December 1814 British naval and military expedition under Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane and Major-General Sir Edward Pakenham lands near New Orleans, Louisiana.

14 December 1814 Battle of Lake Borgne, Louisiana. Royal Navy sailors and Royal Marines in open boats capture, after heavy fighting, a flotilla of American gunboats.

15 December 1814 – 5 January 1815 The Hartford Convention. Meeting secretly in Hartford, Connecticut, 26 New England delegates address grievances of the federal government's management of the war, namely control of the militia, conscription, and the financial burden of defence.

23 December 1814 Battle of Villere's Plantation, Louisiana. The British take the plantation and set up an encampment for the army that will attack New Orleans. They repel a heavy American counterattack that lasts well into the night.

24 December 1814 The Treaty of Ghent is signed in Belgium ending the War of 1812.



After months of negotiations, terms for a cessation of Anglo-American hostilities were finally settled. The treaty stipulated a return to the status quo ante bellum (pre-war state of affairs) benefiting the Americans who would now recover previously occupied territory at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin Territory, part of the District of Maine, and Forts Astoria, Mackinac, and Niagara while the question of determining boundary claims would be addressed by later commissions. Surprisingly, the 11 approved treaty articles failed to address the initial causes of war, namely sailors' rights and free trade. Despite criticism in both Britain and the United States, the treaty was considered a victory by the Americans who successfully asserted their sovereignty against the British Empire.

How the treaty affected Atlantic Canada

The advantage obtained by the occupation of eastern Maine was wasted at Ghent. The treaty required the return of all captured territory and provided for the appointment of a joint commission to decide ownership of disputed islands in Passamaquoddy Bay and the Bay of Fundy. Although that commission would rule largely in New Brunswick's favour, the treaty also failed to resolve the contentious issues of American fishing privileges in British North American waters, and the location of the interior boundary between New Brunswick and Maine. Addressed by a separate convention in 1818, the fishery question nonetheless caused diplomatic headaches for the rest of the century. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 resolved the border issue and confirmed British control of the winter route to the Canadas.

How the treaty affected Upper and Lower Canada

At the close of 1814, the British occupied considerable American territory including posts on the Pacific coast, in Wisconsin Territory and the District of Maine, and in the Great Lakes region while the U.S. controlled Fort Amherstburg and south-western Upper Canada. During peace negotiations, British officials adamantly argued for retaining conquered territory but, upon the Duke of Wellington's advice, settled for restoring territorial status quo (the pre-war situation). Upper and Lower Canada were also affected by later agreements including boundary commissions resolving disputes over islands in the upper St. Lawrence and Niagara Rivers, the 1817 Rush-Bagot Agreement limiting warships on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain and the Convention of 1818 establishing the 49th parallel as the international boundary to the Rocky Mountains.

How the treaty affected the British Fur Trade

Fur trader and director of the North West Company, William McGillivray, argued to retain the British occupied post at Mackinac to secure the fur trade in American territory but the Treaty of Ghent restored the pre-war boundary and thus all occupied posts. The loss of Mackinac and American assertion of the trading rights granted to First Nations in the 1794 Jay Treaty effectively ended the fur trade for Britain in the American northwest. Another blow to Montreal-based fur traders attempting to control commerce in Michigan and Wisconsin Territories came with the Convention of 1818 which settled the U.S.-British North American boundary west of the Lake of the Woods ending any chance of British commercial expansion into the southwest of the continent.

How the treaty affected First Nations

The Treaty of Ghent was a disaster for First Nations who had no representation at the bargaining table. Having abandoned their initial demand for an autonomous territory for First Peoples in the Great Lakes region which would have acted as a buffer zone between British North America and the United States, both countries agreed instead to restore First Nations privileges and rights to those of the pre-war period and end all remaining hostilities with Indigenous groups. This arrangement left the latter feeling betrayed by their British allies since they were now at the mercy of American policy. The treaty also failed to guarantee First Nations rights for any specified period and soon the way of life of nations living in the northwest became endangered by American expansion.

assembled in Kingston, Upper Canada.

In the summer of 1813, British Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo struggled to vanquish the growing American fleet on Lake Ontario. As a result, the crown adopted an innovative approach to shipbuilding: sending over prefabricated pieces to expedite the construction of warships. Transports left Chatham Dockyard, England early in 1814 with four vessels 'in frame.' Three of the ships never made it past Montreal but sections of "Frigate B" – Psyche – were laboriously transported in a four month endeavour up the St. Lawrence River to Kingston, where shipwrights assembled the parts. Like the construction of HMS St. Lawrence, this undertaking demonstrated the logistical challenges of constructing heavily-gunned warships on the lakes and the importance of naval supremacy during the war.

28 December 1814

British reconnaissance in force at New Orleans, Louisiana. Major-General Sir Edward Pakenham's troops test Major General Andrew Jackson's defences and are repulsed with heavy casualties.

January 1815 - 1871

1815

Arrival of British reinforcements at Quebec City, Lower Canada: 102nd Regiment.

January 1815

Ensign George Morehouse of the New Brunswick Fencibles leads a detachment from Meductic and captures Houlton, District of Maine in an effort to help secure the strategically important line of communication between Saint John, New Brunswick and Quebec, Lower Canada.

1 January 1815

British bombardment of the defences of New Orleans, Louisiana.

8 January 1815

Battle of New Orleans, Louisiana.

The British campaign in Louisiana sought to gain control of the mouth of the Mississippi River and disrupt American economic activity by seizing the key port of New Orleans. However, the slowness of the British advance through the difficult bayou country of the river delta gave time for Major General Andrew Jackson to organize the city's defences. The main attack on 8 January, over open terrain against prepared fortifications, was a disaster. British casualties exceeded 2,000 out of a force of 6,000, including the death of the commander Major-General Sir Edward Pakenham, while the Americans lost 71. With this humiliating defeat the British lifted their siege and retreated down river in search of easier targets along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

9-12 January 1815

Royal Navy vessels bombard Fort St Philip, Louisiana.

13 January 1815

A British amphibious force attacks and captures Fort Peter and the town of St. Marys, Georgia. They occupy the area for about a month.

15 January 1815

USS *President* is captured off New York City by a British squadron led by HMS *Majestic*.

11 February 1815

On the same day that British forces besiege and capture Fort Bowyer, Mississippi Territory, Henry Carroll, secretary to United States Secretary of State Henry Clay, arrives in New York from Plymouth, England with a signed copy of the Treaty of Ghent.

13 February 1815

A planned British assault on Mobile, Mississippi Territory is abandoned after

word of the peace treaty arrives.

17 February 1815

The United States Congress ratifies the Treaty of Ghent. The War of 1812 formally ends with the exchange of ratifications in Washington, District of Columbia.

20 February 1815

USS *Constitution* defeats HMS *Levant* and HMS *Cyane* near Madeira, Spain.

1 March 1815

Governor General Sir George Prevost learns of the Treaty of Ghent and gives orders to end hostilities and disband the militia.

2 March 1815

Governor General Sir George Prevost is recalled to England to face a court martial for his actions at the Battle of Plattsburg; Lieutenant-General Gordon Drummond, replaces Prevost as the new Governor General.

11 March 1815

Near the Cape Verde Islands, a British squadron led by HMS *Leander* recaptures *Levant* while USS *Constitution* and *Cyane* escape.

19 March 1815

British Commodore Sir Edward Campbell Rich Owen arrives at Kingston, Upper Canada to assume command of the Great Lakes station from Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo.

6 April 1815

American naval prisoners, mostly from privateers or pressed men who refused to fight against the United States, riot at Dartmoor Prison in south west Great Britain. Frustrated by delays in repatriation and harsh living conditions, the unruly prisoners of war are fired on by British guards. Seven Americans are killed and 31 are wounded.

10 April 1815

American Commodore Isaac Chauncey and General Jacob Brown visit Kingston, Upper Canada.

Commodore Isaac Chauncey and Major General Jacob Brown visited Commodore Sir Edward Campbell Rich Owen in Kingston, the site of Britain's main naval establishment on the Great Lakes and home port of the Lake Ontario squadron. The trip culminated with a social gathering aboard the British flagship HMS St. Lawrence after which Chauncey was honoured with a 13-gun salute. This event symbolized the end of the 'shipbuilder's war' on Lake Ontario and presaged the demilitarization of the Great Lakes formalized in the 1817 Rush-Bagot Agreement that continues in effect to this day.



View of Kingston's dockyards from Point Henry, by Hugh Irvine, ca. 1815-16, LAC C-145243

26 April 1815

British forces evacuate Castine, District of Maine.

22 May 1815

United States troops reoccupy Fort Niagara, Youngstown, New York and begin to upgrade the defences facing British Fort George and Fort Mississauga. Fort

Niagara will be garrisoned until 1826.

24 May 1815

Battle of Sinkhole, Missouri Territory is fought between Sac (Sauk) fighters under Chief Black Hawk (Makataimeshekiakiak) and Missouri militia.

27 May 1815

HMS *Regulus* arrives in Saint John, New Brunswick with 371 Chesapeake African Americans settlers looking to take advantage of their newfound freedom.

30 June 1815

In the Sunda Straits near Java, USS *Peacock* fires on British East India Company Marine Brig *Nautilus*, killing and wounding 14, after the British inform the American commander of the end of the war.

1 July 1815

The United States garrison returns Fort Amherstburg, Upper Canada, captured in September 1813, to British Lieutenant-Colonel R. James and a contingent of the 37th Regiment.

18 July 1815

British evacuate Fort Mackinac, Michigan Territory. By late summer they have established a new post on Drummond Island in Lake Huron.

18 July 1815 - March 1817

A series of peace treaties are negotiated between the United States and First Nations, such as the Nishnabek (Potawatomi), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Wyandot, and Seneca, living on American territory in the western Great Lakes and upper Mississippi Valley regions.

August 1815

British begin construction of Butler's Barracks, Niagara, Upper Canada.

In 1815 the British at Niagara decided to construct a complex of military and Indian Department buildings to replace those destroyed during the War of 1812. These buildings were built on the north-west corner of the military reserve, away from the Niagara River, and out of range of the cannons of American Fort Niagara. Ultimately an Indian Department Council House, a hospital, commandant's quarters, and a group of 19 barracks buildings and storehouses surrounded by a wooden palisade were erected. The Indian Department ended their operations in Niagara in 1822. Butler's Barracks was occupied by British soldiers until the Crimean War (1854-6). From 1870 until the 1960's the Dominion of Canada operated a training base known as Camp Niagara, using some of the earlier buildings.



Butler's Barracks, Niagara on the Lake, Harold Lawes, 1887-97, LAC C-001581

The 104th Regiment is transferred to Quebec.

1816

1816

Founding of the Perth military settlement in eastern Upper Canada. Under the direction of the army, British veterans of the War of 1812 and the Napoleonic Wars are offered land, provisions and tools to move to the colony. By the end of

the year about 1,500 former soldiers and their families will enter the settlement.

23 August 1816

As part of the terms of the Treaty of Ghent, the first of several international boundary commissions begins work to resolve disputed borders.

One of the principal issues addressed by the Treaty of Ghent was the determination of the border between British North America and the United States. Four of the treaty's 11 articles made provisions for the establishment of four boundary survey commissions, while a fifth clause addressed the appointment of staff and finances for the commissions. For each contested region, both governments were to name one commissioner while disagreements were referred to an arbitrator. For the British, surveyors like fur trader and explorer David Thompson were employed to produce precise maps of the border. Although the disputed frontiers identified by the treaty would not be settled until the 1840s, the commissions nevertheless established between both countries a tradition of peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputes.

1817

28 April 1817

The Rush-Bagot Agreement is ratified limiting the number of armed vessels on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

The era of warships on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain came to an end when British Minister to the United States Sir Charles Bagot and American Acting Secretary of State Richard Rush negotiated the disarmament of both countries' freshwater fleets. The Rush-Bagot Agreement limited each navy to one warship under 100 tons and armed with a single 18-pounder cannon for service on Lakes Ontario and Champlain. On Lake Erie and the upper lakes, both governments were permitted two such vessels each. Hereafter, American and British naval ships, once masters of the lakes, were disarmed, laid up, sold, dismantled or left to rot. Consequently, each country steadily reduced their inland naval posts in an effort to reduce costs.

May 1817

Anxious to improve the security of the Grand Communication Route, the New Brunswick government declares the land between Presque Isle and Grand Falls to be a military settlement, and begins giving land grants to disbanded regiments.

25 November 1817

The commissioners appointed pursuant to the Treaty of Ghent determine that Moose, Dudley, and Frederick Islands belong to the United States, but that all other islands in Passamaquoddy Bay, and Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy, are part of New Brunswick.

1818

30 June 1818

British forces withdraw from Moose Island, District of Maine, bringing a belated and unofficial end to the war on the Atlantic coast.

20 October 1818

Britain and the United States sign the Convention of 1818.

The Convention of 1818 (the Convention of Commerce), addressed various unresolved matters in the Treaty of Ghent. It delineated American fishing rights in the coastal waters of Newfoundland and Labrador and provided for a third party to examine restitution to Americans who lost slaves during the War of 1812. It also established the westerly boundary between the United States and British North America along the 49th parallel from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains. Both countries would jointly occupy the land beyond this for a period of 10 years with the possibility of renewal. The 1846 Oregon Treaty later partitioned this territory. While Anglo-American relations were fraught with tensions for decades following the war, this document became one of many peaceful agreements.

5 November 1818

The Duke of Richmond drafts his plan of defence for the colony.

Even with war officially concluded, the safety of British North America was still a concern. Since 1815, military planners acknowledged the importance of strengthening the Montreal-Kingston corridor and advanced many proposals. Building upon these, Governor General Charles Lennox, 4th Duke of Richmond, developed a colonial defence plan which eventually resulted in the construction of expanded fortifications at the capital Quebec (Quebec Citadel), and Lake Ontario's main naval yard Kingston (Fort Henry); fortifying the Richelieu (Fort Lennox) and St. Lawrence Rivers (St. Helen's Island) to defend Montreal, a logistic depot; and developing an alternative to St. Lawrence River communications (Rideau Canal). While the Quebec Citadel and Fort Lennox were begun shortly after this plan, the other proposals were incorporated into the 1825 Carmichael Smyth Report.

1819

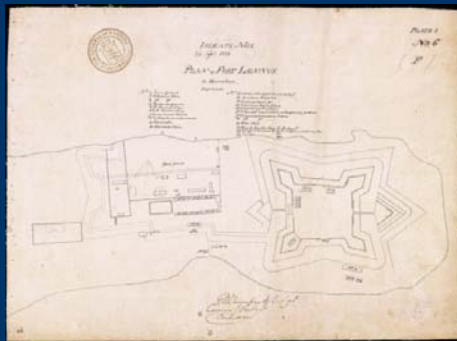
1 March 1819

The Duke of Wllington approves the Duke of Richmond's plan of defence.

Summer 1819

Construction begins on Fort Lennox, Ile aux Noix, Lower Canada.

In a re-assessment of colonial security following the War of 1812, British officials continued to stress the importance of protecting the Richelieu River from American invasion. Alarmed by the construction of a new fort at Rouses Point, New York, it was decided that Ile aux Noix be refitted since the 1812-14 fortifications were considered inadequate. Based on plans by Gustavus Nicolls, Commanding Royal Engineer in the Canadas, and named after Sir Charles Lennox, 4th Duke of Richmond, Fort Lennox, took shape during a 10 year construction campaign. The new fortification featured a four bastions square plan, barracks and storehouses.



Ile aux Noix 24 Sept. 1823, Elias Dunford, 1823, LAC NMC 2285

Autumn 1819

Construction begins of a fort on Ste-Helene Island, Montreal, Lower Canada.

1820 – 1871

May 1820

Construction begins on the Citadel at Quebec City, Lower Canada.

Re-evaluating their strategy of defence following the conclusion of hostilities with the United States in 1815, the British felt it paramount to strengthen Quebec City, the centre of their North American colonial military and civil administration. The Citadel became part of an extensive military building campaign planned by Sir Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond, which included fortifications in Lower and Upper Canada. Sections of the existing military works at Quebec City atop Cap-aux-Diamants were incorporated into the latest fortification plan drawn by Lieutenant-Colonel Elias Walker Durnford, Commanding Royal Engineer in the Canadas. Completed in 1831 at a cost of £236,500, the star-shaped Citadel continues to have an active military garrison and remains the largest British fortress constructed in North America.

Construction of St. Stephen's Anglican Church within the military complex of Fort Chambly, Lower Canada.

22 May 1820

Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor the Earl of Dalhousie lays the cornerstone of Dalhousie College, whose construction costs are paid by the Castine Fund.

17 July 1821

Construction begins on the Lachine Canal, Lower Canada.

The Lachine Rapids above Montreal were an obstacle for anyone travelling up the St. Lawrence River. From the port of Montreal, all cargo was carried overland to Lachine and loaded onto western-bound vessels. This bottleneck was exacerbated by the increased river traffic caused by the war effort. Subsequently, numerous individuals and commissions stressed the importance of improving inland waterway communications. Concurrently, Montreal businessmen, competing with the Americans for access to western markets, advocated the construction of a canal to bypass the rapids. Completed in 1825 and financed in part by merchants, the Lower Canada Legislature and, in return for free passage of their naval vessels, the British military, the Lachine Canal ushered in a new era of canalization along Canada's inland waterways.

18 June 1822

The board of commissioners established under the terms of the 1814 Treaty of Ghent settles the international boundary from the St. Lawrence River through Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron to Sault Ste Marie. Both parties are able to negotiate the ownership of strategic islands along the St. Lawrence and Detroit Rivers all while preserving vital shipping routes for their respective nation.

13 October 1824

Major-General Sir Isaac Brock and his aide-de-camp John Macdonell are re-interred below the monuments commemorating the Battle of Queenston Heights, Upper Canada.

Although Fort George was bombarded, burned and occupied by the Americans during the war, the graves of Major-General Isaac Brock and Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell were not disturbed in any way. In 1824, the two bodies were exhumed and placed beneath a monument built on the battlefield of Queenston Heights. This monument was destroyed by a bomb placed by Benjamin Lett, an exiled supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie's rebellion in 1840. The bodies of Brock and Macdonell were moved to the Hamilton family grave plot in Queenston, while a second and much grander tower was constructed. The fourth and final burial took place on the battle anniversary in 1853. Brock's Monument is the largest and most significant monument erected in British North America after the War of 1812.

9 September 1825

Sir James Carmichael Smyth submits his report on the defence of British North America.

At the request of the Duke of Wellington, Master General of the Board of Ordnance, a group of Royal Engineers led by Sir James Carmichael Smyth toured most of British North America and prepared a comprehensive plan of defence in case of future American attack. From this scheme and building upon the 1818 recommendations of the Duke of Richmond's plan of defence came the Rideau Canal, a secure military waterway to by-pass the St. Lawrence River, as well as Fort Henry and the Kingston fortifications which protected the town's navy yard, military stores and the entrance to the Rideau Canal. Also, St. Helene's Island at Montreal was reinforced to strengthen that city while the Halifax Citadel was built to defend the city against landward attack.

1826

Construction commences on the Rideau Canal, Upper Canada.

Because the western portion of the St. Lawrence River, Britain's chief communication route between Lower and Upper Canada, bordered New York State its security could not be assured. Reassessing British North American defences after the war, an alternative route connecting Montreal and Kingston via the Ottawa, Rideau and Cataraqui Rivers was endorsed by the Duke of Richmond in 1818 and in the 1825 Carmichael Smyth Report. In 1826 Royal Engineer Lieutenant-Colonel John By was appointed to oversee the project. A number of defensible structures were built to protect posts along this 202 km Ottawa-Kingston corridor. Completed for the 1832 navigation season at a cost of £800,000, the canal's 47 locks could accommodate naval and commercial steamer vessels and remains a major British engineering achievement.

August 1828

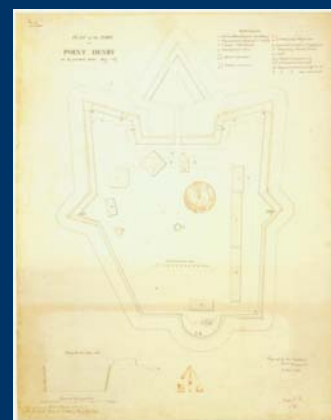
Construction is initiated on the Halifax Citadel, Nova Scotia.

Facing growing political tensions with the United States following the War of 1812, British North America's security was reassessed and many strategic locations were strengthened. Halifax, the seat of Nova Scotia's government and an important Atlantic port, was protected from a naval attack by several fortifications. In order to support these defences and guard against a land based assault, a masonry star-shaped work atop Citadel Hill, the fourth fortification on that site since 1749, was built. The Citadel, also known as Fort George, was designed by Colonel Gustavus Nicolls of the Royal Engineers. Initially a six year project, setbacks plagued construction which was not completed until about 30 years later at a cost of £242,122 - over twice the original estimated amount.

18 June 1832

Work commences on Fort Henry, Kingston, Upper Canada.

Hastily constructed during the War of 1812, British military planners recognized the need to replace Fort Henry almost as soon as it was completed. Starting with the Duke of Richmond's recommendations of 1818, the new fort's design was the result of over 10 years of planning by the Royal Engineers. The limestone masonry fortification was part of a plan that included five similar forts, and six Martello Towers, that were to encircle Kingston providing security for the town's navy yard, the military stores depot and the Rideau Canal's southern entrance. Cost overruns on the canal, however, meant that only Fort Henry was completed as planned. Still, it was the largest and most formidable British fortification in North America west of Quebec City.



Plan of the Fort at Point Henry.
George Williams, 24 June 1814,
LAC NMC 4677

9 August 1842

Britain and the United States sign the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

Border disputes bedevilled Anglo-American diplomacy for nearly 120 years following the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the American War of Independence. Of the four disputed boundaries identified in the 1814 Treaty of Ghent, two remained unresolved until finally being negotiated by U.S. Secretary of State Daniel Webster and British Special Minister Lord Alexander Ashburton. The undefined frontier between Maine and New Brunswick was leading to a growing crisis in the 1830s and 1840s as settlers in both jurisdictions made claims to timber resources in the Aroostook River Valley triggering the bloodless "Aroostook War." This treaty, which settled the Maine-New Brunswick-Quebec border as well as the boundary across Lake Superior to the Lake of the Woods, averted hostilities all while preserving each nation's honour.

18 June 1846

The United States Senate ratifies the Oregon Treaty. The treaty divides the Oregon Territory and extends the border between British North America and the United States along the 49th parallel across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast. The territory had been jointly occupied by Great Britain and the U.S. since shortly after the War of 1812.

13 October 1853

Major-General Sir Isaac Brock and his aide-de-camp John Macdonell are re-interred below the fourth monument commemorating the Battle of Queenston Heights, Upper Canada.

Although Fort George was bombarded, burned and occupied by the Americans during the war, the graves of Major-General Isaac Brock and Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell were not disturbed in any way. In 1824, the two bodies were exhumed and placed beneath a monument built on the battlefield of Queenston Heights. This monument was destroyed by a bomb placed by Benjamin Lett, an exiled supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie's rebellion in 1840. The bodies of Brock and Macdonell were moved to the Hamilton family grave plot in Queenston, while a second and much grander tower was constructed. The fourth and final burial took place on the battle anniversary in 1853. Brock's Monument is the largest and most significant monument erected in British North America after the War of 1812.

1 July 1867

Canadian Confederation. The responsibility of national defence is finally transferred from Great Britain to the newly established Dominion of Canada in 1870-71 leaving garrisons only at the imperial naval stations of Halifax, Nova Scotia and Esquimalt, British Columbia.

1871

The Treaty of Washington between the United States and Great Britain addresses American claims arising out of their civil war and sets the stage for the settlement of the Pacific coast international boundary in Puget Sound. It also provides American access to Canadian fishing grounds on the Atlantic coast. While the treaty is unpopular in Canada, the British provide compensation by way of loan guarantees for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.