The 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 will take place in 2012, four short years away. Already local and state governments, historic sites, museums, reenactors and others are making plans for this historic event. This September there will be a preview of things to come with the War of 1812 North American Grand Tactical accompanied by Tall Ships on the Chesapeake. In this article, we will remind you what the war was all about, fill you in on Southern Maryland’s unique role in this conflict, share with you the big plans to celebrate this important part of our history, and invite you to come along for the ride.

The War of 1812

The War of 1812

By Ralph E. Eshelman and Sherrod Sturrock

American interest — Canada. Many Americans (Federalists versus Hawks) were divided over the war. New Englanders were especially against war, as it impacted commerce and shipping, hurting the economy, while the south and west were generally in favor.

For the slaveholding states, war hawks such as John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay argued most forcefully for aggression. They wanted to annex Canada, expand the western and southern frontiers, remove the threat of alliance between Britain and the Indians of the Great Lakes region, and by expansion, help prevent slave escapes along its borders. The Senate barely voted for the war on the premise to protect “free trade and sailors rights.” While maritime issues were present, they did not cause the war, they were mere rhetorical justifications. After President James Madison signed the declaration of war against Great Britain on June 18, 1812, many New England states refused to raise militia or money for “Mr. Madison’s War,” fearing economic hardships due to shipping interests with England.

Opposition to the war was as widespread as during the Vietnam War, with anti-war Federalists against the pro-war Democrat Republicans. Baltimore in particular was a nest for British hatred. Jefferson’s earlier embargo of British goods — a failed attempt to forestall war — caused the value of...
STAFF ACTIVITIES

This past May, CMM aquarist Linda Hanna traveled to Africa. We asked her to share some of the highlights of her trip.

“Our first stop was in Cape Town, South Africa, where we went on a white shark expedition on False Bay. At daybreak, we witnessed a white shark leap out of the water and attack a seal approximately thirty yards from the boat. Part of this expedition included a cage dive — something I have always to do. I was very fortunate to have an extremely close encounter with four of the ten great whites spotted that day. Following our day on the bay, we toured the southern part of South Africa and saw the Cape of Good Hope, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Indian Ocean — a truly amazing sight.

“After South Africa we were off to Zambia on a safari at a true bush camp, where we saw black mambas, elephants, cheetahs, crocodiles, hippos, and leopards, along with many other hoof stock animals and countless species of birds. The safari was followed by Victoria Falls in Livingstone — the falls were very full and powerful — a wonderful ending to a memorable trip.”

OTHER STAFF NEWS

There are several major changes in CMM staff. Ken Wease, who has served since 2001 as the museum’s business manager, generally considered the "CFO," retired in June. Named to succeed Ken in July is Lea Ann Smiley who moves from the county’s Department of Finance and Budget where she was the county budget analyst. Also leaving CMM is Melissa Carnes who, since 2003, has served as development associate with primary responsibilities in the area of grants and public relations. Joining the staff this summer are: Kevin Allor, interpreter; Rachel Griner, estuarine biology intern returning for a second summer; Bob Kallal, paleontology intern; and Tess Van Orden, education intern.

MUSEUM LOSES THREE VALUED VOLUNTEERS

CMM has lost three valued volunteers this spring: Dr. George S. Switzer, Paul E. Kraft, and Parker W. "Buck" McClellan. After retiring from the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Switzer moved to Port Republic where he and his wife cultivated azaleas, but he contributed significantly to the museum during the late 1970s and early 1980s by chairing two important committees: collections and publications. Mr. Kraft, who was 97 when he died at his residence in The Willows where he and his wife lived for many years, was also an early volunteer, working particularly with the Southern Maryland Shipcarvers Guild. He attained the guild’s rank of master woodcarver, and was named an emeritus volunteer. Capt. "Buck" McClellan, USN (Ret.), began volunteering with his wife, Kay, at CMM in the late 1980s and was active until recent months. He served as commodore of the Solomons Island Model Boat Club, helped with concerts and other museum events, and compiled a computerized database for the collection of boat plans maintained in the archives. He was named as “Volunteer of the Year” in 1994.
MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Singer/Songwriter Kenny Loggins Coming to CMM - July 24th

On Thursday, July 24, Cumberland and Erly, LLC, and Prince Frederick Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge present the Calvert Marine Museum’s 2008 benefit concert series with legendary music sensation Kenny Loggins, performing live on the museum’s outdoor pavilion stage. Special guest is rock artist Edwin McCain, who will perform a sixty-minute set. Gates open at 6:00 p.m.; show time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $45.00 for premium seats and $35.00 for reserved seats; service charges are additional. Tickets are on sale now online at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com, or through phone charge at 1-800-787-9454. There are no refunds or exchanges. Food and drinks will be available, and coolers are not allowed.

There are certain welcoming voices in popular music that can be identified as soon as a song starts – they’re immediately familiar musical touchstones, inextricably part of our collective pop culture soundtrack. Singer-songwriter Kenny Loggins possesses such a voice, and for over three decades, it has been inviting listeners in to experience music that reaches the heart and the senses with disarming candor, authentic emotion, and rich lyrical and melodic resonance. Best known for such hits as “I’m Alright” from Caddyshack, “Danger Zone” from Top Gun, and “Footloose,” Loggins’ concert at the museum will be his first appearance in Southern Maryland.

Known for his auditorium performances at the museum, Edwin McCain has been a popular artist with CMM members. His hit songs, “I’ll Be” and “Could Not Ask for More,” are sure to be on his set list for the evening.


For additional information, visit the CMM website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com. To reach a staff person, or to become a museum member, please call 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17, or 18.

— Members’ Trip —

Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre

Members — Discover “who dunnit” during the CMM members’ trip to the historic Blair Mansion Inn on Saturday, November 8th for a murder mystery dinner theatre. Adult tickets are $60.00 and include bus transportation, a buffet dinner, dessert, non-alcoholic drinks, and ninety-minute show. See the insert in this Bugeye Times for more information or call 410-326-2042, ext. 16.

New Fossil Dolphin Named in Honor of Jean Hooper

In November 2000, Mrs. Jean Hooper discovered a fossilized partial dolphin skull on the beach below the southern end of Calvert Cliffs. Mrs. Hooper is a retired CMM interpreter and a continuing volunteer. Although the skull was far from complete, enough was preserved to confirm that no other dolphin like it, living or extinct, had ever been found anywhere on Earth. These dolphins lived in the western North Atlantic Ocean about 10 million years ago. This unique kind of dolphin is most similar to the only living member of the Pontoporiidae family of dolphins, the La Plata Dolphin (Pontoporia blainvillei), which inhabit the coastal waters of the South Atlantic Ocean off eastern Argentina.

This species of dolphin was named Stenasodelphis russellae to recognize Jean Hooper (née Russell) for both finding and donating this scientifically important fossil to the Calvert Marine Museum. A scientific paper describing and naming this dolphin was published in the June 2008 issue of the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, co-authored by Dr. Stephen Godfrey (Calvert Marine Museum) and Dr. Larry Barnes (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County).
Spring Activities

Youngsters at the Fossil Egg Hunt on March 22 assisted by volunteer Jean Hooper, at right. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Visitors enjoy the new entrance to the paleontology exhibit hall, dedicated on April 19. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Girl Scouts at the end of a successful badge workshop on lighthouses in April. Left to right are: Victoria Kraese, Tatiana Montes-AceVedo, Abby Kuehne, Rachel McLauchlin, Grace Pankiewiez, Olivia Higgs, Kassidee Royce, Catherine Bulvin, and Lauren Hale. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Country star Dierks Bentley at the Waterside Music Series concert on May 24. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Ryan Andruik with a successful launch at the “Come Fly a Kite!” day, April 5. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Museum visitors watch staff member Linda Hanna, center, feed the “critters” in the Discovery Room. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Museum volunteers and staff participate in a trip and behind-the-scenes tour at the National Museum of Natural History on April 22. CMM photo by Bob Hall
One of the museum’s major events is the Solomons Maritime Festival, this year held on May 10, which includes the Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show.

Young participants enjoy painting a large mural, now on display near the museum entrance. CMM photo by Bob Hall.

One of the antique boat and motor displays. CMM photo by Bob Hall.

Chesapeake Bay retriever “Chance” demonstrating his skills in the boat basin. Owner Loch Weems is on the right. CMM photo by Bob Hall.

Peter Fyffe works building a toy boat. CMM photo by Bob Hall.

Kurt Parks demonstrating the preparation of Maryland stuffed ham. CMM photo by Bob Hall.

The yawl Manitou, right, tied up near the Drum Point Lighthouse, provides visitors with a view of a custom yacht built here in Solomons in 1937. The Manitou was sailed by President John F. Kennedy in 1963. CMM photo by Bob Hall.
The War of 1812 in the Chesapeake

(Continued from page 1)

Baltimore exports to drop from $7,500,000 in 1805 to $1,904,700 in 1808. More than a thousand sailors were registered in Baltimore in 1806; the embargo caused most of them to lose work.

Southern Maryland’s Role in the War of 1812

Maryland citizens, but southern Maryland citizens in particular, suffered more than those in any other state during the War of 1812. The major battles in Maryland were the Battle of Bladensburg and the Battle for Baltimore, both outside of this region. However, the largest naval engagement ever to take place on Maryland waters occurred in June 1814 on St. Leonard Creek, Calvert County, only ten miles from the Calvert Marine Museum. In fact, there were a series of engagements often referred to as the First Battle of St. Leonard Creek, June 8–10, 1814, and the Second Battle of St. Leonard Creek, June 28, 1814. Southern Maryland also suffered multiple raids by British forces who not only needed provisions, but who also deliberately conducted a campaign of wanton destruction in an attempt to further divide the nation and possibly draw American troops from the Canadian border. The Chesapeake Bay region was the breadbasket of the nation at this time and home to the nation’s capital. There was no other theater during the war where the citizenry suffered more at the hands of the enemy. It was along the shores of the Patuxent River that the largest invasion force ever to step on American soil landed. British frigates and troop transports sailed past the location of the Calvert Marine Museum on their way to land over 4,000 troops at Benedict, Charles County. It was this force that defeated the Americans at Bladensburg and then occupied the American capital, burning many of the public buildings, including the Capitol and White House.

Over the past nine years a team, including former Calvert Marine Museum staff, conducted an extensive survey of War of 1812 sites in the Chesapeake Bay region, partially supported by the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service. From that study, 159 military actions were identified in the Chesapeake region: eleven battles, sixty-one skirmishes, and eighty-six raids. Of the 159 actions, 102 took place in Maryland, fifty-six in Virginia, and one in Washington, D.C. Of the Maryland sites, thirteen of the thirty skirmishes and thirty-four of the sixty-five raids took place in southern Maryland. Of the southern Maryland sites, seven skirmishes and twenty raids took place on the Patuxent River.

So many plantations, tobacco barns, and warehouses were burned that the economy of southern Maryland was seriously harmed. On June 16, 1814, at Lower Marlboro, 2,500 hogsheads of tobacco were destroyed worth $162,500, a major blow to the local economy. In addition, many slaves were taken by the British, and others escaped to the British side.

Underwater Archaeology – Bringing History to the Surface

With so much history related to the War of 1812 taking place on and along the shores of the Patuxent River, it is not surprising that the Calvert Marine Museum has played a role in researching and interpreting this history. In the fall of 1977 the Calvert Marine Museum and Nautical Archaeological Associates, Inc., formed a partnership to conduct the first systematic survey of the submerged cultural resources of the Patuxent River. Particular focus was centered on the remains of the gun barges and gunboats of the U.S. Chesapeake Flotilla that fought in the battles of St. Leonard Creek and were finally scuttled farther up the river in 1814. On June 28, 1979, the 165th anniversary of the Second Battle of St. Leonard Creek, a promising site was identified during a magnetometer survey. Excavated the following year, it proved to be a vessel from the flotilla. Many of the artifacts excavated from that wreck are exhibited in the maritime gallery at the museum. In 1981 the museum published a book authored by Donald G. Shomette entitled Flotilla: Battle for the Patuxent, now out of print.

War Comes to the Chesapeake: War of 1812 Speaker Series

The Calvert Marine Museum and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum are cosponsoring a five-part lecture series to highlight aspects of the War of 1812 on the Chesapeake. Talks by William Dudley and Charles Fithian were held in May and

Artifacts recovered and on display at CMM. (CMM photo)
June, respectively. On July 10, Dr. Ralph Eshelman will present Battlefields, Skirmishes, and Encampments: Remnants of the War of 1812 in Maryland at 7:00 p.m. at JPPM. On August 17, Christopher George will present Americans in Defense of the Chesapeake during the War of 1812 at 3:00 p.m. at CMM. And on September 11, Donald Shomette will present “A Commander of Capacity and Influence”: the Chesapeake Flotilla Men and the War of 1812 on the Patuxent at 7:00 p.m., at JPPM.

Plans for Grand Tactical

On September 20 to 21, 2008, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum will host the War of 1812 North American Grand Tactical. The Grand Tactical is an annual event that alternates between historic sites in Canada and the United States and is the largest War of 1812 reenactment in North America. Hundreds of British and American reenactors will participate, demonstrating camp life and representing scenes from the major battles in Maryland. There will be educational displays and craft demonstrations, as well as activities for children. Admission is $7 for adults and children 13 and older. Younger children are free. For a schedule of events, visit www.jefpat.org.

Tall Ships on the Chesapeake

As part of the Grand Tactical weekend, the Calvert Marine Museum is bringing period vessels to Solomons. Docked at the Waterman’s Wharf in Solomons on Saturday, September 20, will be the Dove, an operating replica of one of the two ships bringing settlers to Maryland in 1634; the Royaliste, a reenactment vessel interpreting an eighteenth-century dispatch gunboat/bomb ketch; and the Kalmar Nyckel, a replica of a ship that brought Swedish settlers to the new world in 1638. Crew-guided public tours of the Dove and the Royaliste are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The crew of the Kalmar Nyckel will also be available to answer questions from noon to 4 p.m., but there is no on-board tour. Ticket price for a tour is $5 per person; children under 5 are free. Tickets may be purchased at the Calvert Marine Museum and presented at Waterman’s Wharf. Two public sails aboard the Kalmar Nyckel are available Saturday, September 20: a Privateer Sail from 9 a.m. to noon, and a Sunset Sail from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are available by reservation only. Cost is $60 for adults and children over 12 and $40 for children up to 12 years of age, and includes the dockside tour. Space is limited, so call 410-326-2042, ext. 41, to reserve your berth today.

Maryland’s War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration Plans

Governor Martin O’Malley issued an executive order on September 8, 2007, creating the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to plan a multiyear cultural tourism and educational initiative to commemorate Maryland’s unique contributions to the defense and heritage of the nation, including the pivotal clash that ensured American victory, an iconic flag, and our national anthem — The Star-Spangled Banner. The commission will spend the next year developing plans for the bicentennial. To monitor their progress and learn what is being planned, visit www.visitmaryland.org/warof1812.

Dr. Ralph Eshelman is the former director of the Calvert Marine Museum (1974-1990) and is now a private consultant. Sherrod Sturrock is the CMM deputy director. Parts of this article were taken from Dr. Eshelman’s “Maryland and the War of 1812,” Maryland Humanities, September 2001, p. 6-9.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Annual Recognition Event

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Events Coordinator

This year’s volunteer recognition and awards event took place on 1 May, and covered the accomplishments during calendar year 2007. Museum director Doug Alves, with volunteer/events coordinator Sherry Reid, hosted the awards ceremony in the auditorium, greeting volunteers and commending them on the 21,018 hours contributed during the year. County Commissioner Jerry Clark also had an opportunity to express appreciation for the support that helps make the museum one of Calvert County’s premier attractions. A variety of awards were presented by the director and by the department heads. At the end of the awards ceremony, the volunteers adjourned to the lobby where tables were set up for an excellent buffet supper.

Since there was a tie in the voting for the Volunteer of the Year, both Janet Addiss and Shirley Mihursky were honored, Janet for her work in the Museum Store and help during large events, and Shirley for her leadership of the Volunteer Council and general help in many ways. More information about their contributions was presented in the previous issue. The Group Achievement Award was presented to the First FREE Friday Group, responsible for helping to make the monthly event a big success. Those honored were: Judy Angelheart, Darlene Brindley, Emmy Brown, Christa Conant, Jon Dann, Bea Gies, Darryl Hansen, Dave Harry, Jean Hooper, Al Kersey, Chuck Kohls, Shirley Mihursky, Bob Pfeiffer, Bob and Pam Platt, Wayne Rogers, Denita Sanders, Ned Sprague, Margaret Stamper, George Surgent, Al Suydam, Bev Walker, and Daohong Yao. Volunteers giving 100 hours or more during the year were: Paul Adams, Janet Addiss, Len Addiss, Vivian Aldridge, Paul Berry, Joyce Bowling, Bill Boxwell, Darlene Brindley, Debra Carlson, Harry Childers, Christa Conant, Jon Cook, Jon Dann, Brad Dawnarowicz, Linda Densmore, Karl Garland, Butch Garren, Karen Garren, Robert Hall, Anne Harrison, Dave Harry, Dan Heflebower, Mary Heflebower, Peggy Hovemake, Alton Kersey, Bill Lake, Judy Larsen, Al Lavish, Zelma Margelos, Jessica McCordic, Linda McCullagh, Ilse Metz, Shirley Mihursky, Rose Nelson, Dave Peterson, Robert Pfeiffer, Bob Platt, Pam Platt, Arthur Poffenbarger, Sandy Roberts, Richard Rogers, Al Rondina, Ellis “Ski” Seidenstricker, Joe Showalter, Ruth Showalter, Ned Sprague, Margaret Stamper, Alan Suydam, Carol Tieman, Diana Waring, Teddie Watts, Elnora Wease, Jim Wilson, Sandy Younger, and Tommy Younger. Those reaching benchmark hours of 1,000 hours or more were: Len Addiss, Vivian Aldridge, Christa Conant, Anne Harrison, Ilse Metz, Ellis “Ski” Seidenstricker, Gale Parks, Arthur Poffenbarger, Bev Walker, Shirley Mihursky, Margaret Stamper, Sandy Younger, Tommy Younger, Al Lavish, Sandy Roberts, and Paul Berry. All awardees received appropriate certificates and presents.

Janet Addiss, right, and Shirley Mihursky in the Museum Store. CMM photo by Bob Hall

A group of those reaching a 1,000-hour or more mark in 2007. CMM photo by Bob Hall