First Volleys: A Selection of New and Reprinted Titles on the War of 1812

The approach of the bicentenary of the War of 1812, has witnessed a “race to the swift” as authors and publishing houses release new titles or re-issue previously published works on that conflict.

We are pleased to offer a selection of some of these titles, while lengthier reviews of several other books appear elsewhere in this magazine.

New Titles

General


The story of the Illinois Territory in the War of 1812 has never been told in any comprehensive way—until now. This well-researched and written study examines the Anglo-American military struggle within the region that ultimately broke the power of the local native peoples by depriving them of their British ally, and led to the post-war expulsion of the natives from the new state of Illinois.


A richly illustrated overview of the diplomatic, domestic and military events of the War of 1812, from an American perspective.


Written by an acknowledged author on the early American republic and long-time editor of the papers of James Madison, this study of the War of 1812 provides a succinct account of the war, and is likely to become the definitive short history of the conflict.
The Naval War


Accounts of U.S. Navy’s Lake Erie squadron normally conclude with Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry’s September 1813 victory on Lake Erie. Frew continues the story of these warships and the raids that were conducted against communities in Upper Canada—which inspired the destruction of Washington—and Captain Arthur Sinclair’s campaign on the Upper Lakes in the summer of 1814, an often overlooked and dramatic part of the war that is nicely recounted in this well-prepared book.


A large format and lavishly-illustrated history of the U.S. Navy in the War of 1812. This book’s strength is in its illustrations that depict dozens of period artefacts and imagery in brilliant colour, whereas, the text is mired by national chauvinism and myth that distorts the results of the naval war on the high seas and the inland waters of North America. Like Alfred Thayer Mahan, this book encourages the establishment of a powerful navy in modern times.


British historian Andrew Lambert considers how the modern perspectives of the War of 1812 emerged, particularly in the United States, where in light of the unsatisfactory outcome on sea and land, failure in economic warfare and an ambiguous treaty, the Americans transformed defeat into a victory. In contrast, the cultural identity of defeating Napoleon left Britain with little need for fresh victories and rather than linger on the effects of the war with the Americans,
Britain got back to business, keeping just enough relics from the American war to subvert American triumphalism.


A well-research and balanced account of the privateers based in Salem, Massachusetts, prowled the seas not only to capture British merchantmen but which also hunted down American smugglers. The author, who owns and operates a schooner that represents a Salem privateer, emphasizes the significance of the British blockade of the United States and then examines the cruises of the 43 privateers that were commissioned in Salem.

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**Reprinted Titles**


This most-welcome re-release of John Le Couteur’s highly readable journal of his experiences in joining the British army and his service with the 104th in Canada during the War of 1812. This new edition is lavishly illustrated and includes several useful maps. Another fine production from the team of Donald E. Graves and Robin Brass Studio.

The 1814 British campaign against Plattsburgh is to this day, one of the more misunderstood episodes of the War of 1812. Author Keith Herkalo, a founding members and enthusiastic president of the Battle of Plattsburgh Association, now offers a revised and upgraded edition of an earlier edition of his work on this subject that readers of this magazine will certainly enjoy.


First published in 1972, this fine study of the Washington and Baltimore by American author Walter Lord has been reissused to celebrate the bicentenary of the Battle of Baltimore.

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