



# The Connecticut Defender

September 2012

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Society of the War  
of 1812 in the State  
of Connecticut

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## Commodore Macdonough Honored



Betty Oderwald, President, Connecticut Society USD 1812 and Ken Roach at Graveside Ceremony

The Connecticut Society and the Connecticut Society United States Daughters of 1812 conducted a graveside ceremony to honor Commodore Thomas Macdonough who is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Middletown, Connecticut. The ceremony was held September 8, 2013 and also commemorated the Battle of Plattsburg and Macdonough's victory over a larger

and better armed British Naval Squadron in the Bay of Plattsburg on September 11, 1814. The Ceremony was held after a luncheon attended by the two societies. President Roach, Chaplain Reverend Canon Jerry Carroon, Secretary/Treasurer Christopher Nichols, and Vice President General for Connecticut William Lane were in attendance at the luncheon. Fellowship and camaraderie highlighted the luncheon. Reverend Carroon offered a prayer at the graveside ceremony then noted that he was a descendant of Macdonough's second in command. Remarks were given by President Roach and President Oderwald. The two Presidents next placed a War of 1812 flag holder and US Flag next to Macdonough's marker. The Daughters and Compatriots each in turn placed a white carnation on Macdonough's marker. The Middletown Press had a great article on the ceremony. You can read it at our State Society Website.

## Connecticut Officers

- ◆ Kenneth Duane Roach, President
- ◆ Stephen Payson Shaw, Vice-President
- ◆ Christopher Mark Nichols, Secretary/Treasurer
- ◆ Timothy Lester Jacobs, Registrar
- ◆ Rev. Robert G. Carroon, Chaplin

## Annual General Society Meeting in Boston

The Annual meeting of the General Society of the War of 1812 was held in Boston August 17-18. Reverend Jerry Carroon and Stephen Shaw attended the meeting representing

the Connecticut Society in addition to their national office responsibilities.

Both reported that their visit to the *USS Constitution* was a memorable experience. They had the oppor-

tunity to travel on the escort vessel that accompanied the *Constitution* as it sailed under its own sail power. The latest addition of the *War Cry* documents their experience.

## Yale and New Haven add ROTC Programs

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Connecticut has presented the ROTC Medal to Cadets at the University of Connecticut (UCONN) for four consecutive years.

The Award is presented to Cadets selected by the ROTC cadre who are sophomore students that possess a GPA placing them in the top 20% of their class; are in the top 10% of their class in

ROTC studies; rank in the top ten in aptitude for the Armed Forces; and have encouraged and demonstrated the ideals of Americanism by deed and conduct or both.

The Connecticut Society looks forward to adding the Yale and the University of New Haven (UNH) ROTC Programs when the current classes reach their sophomore year.

The Society ROTC Medal

depicted at right is a very handsome medal with the Ribbon bearing the colors of the Society and the Medal bearing the image of Fort McHenry.

Compatriots interested in presenting the ROTC Award to Cadets at UCONN, UNH, or Yale when eligible, should contact President Roach. You will find it a very rewarding experience.



“We have met  
the enemy and  
they are ours:  
two ships, two  
brigs,”

## Master Frederick Lee Plaque Dedicated July 8th

On Sunday, July 8th at 2:00 pm, the Madison Connecticut Historical Society, with the participation of the elected officials of Madison, CT, historians, the United States Coast Guard's Band and Historic Ship's Company, the Con-

necticut Society United States Daughters of 1812, and with over **300** in attendance placed a commemorative plaque on the Town Green in recognition of Master Frederick Lee and his crew's long and brave standoff against a

British warship in response to its attempt to seize an American merchantman. Master Lee commanded the Revenue Cutter **Eagle**. Master Lee was a native son of Madison and one of its most valued citizens.

## Chaplain has connection to Macdonough

The Chaplain of the Connecticut Society, Reverend Canon Robert G. Carroon, discovered that he had a unique connection to Commodore Thomas Macdonough and the Battle of Plattsburg. Macdonough's second in command Lieutenant Peter Gamble is Reverend Carroon's sixth Great Uncle. Lt. Gamble was a last minute substitution for Lt. Raymond Perry who had fallen ill. Gamble served as Macdonough's second in command on the **USS Saratoga**, the U.S. Squadron Flagship. He was killed during the first exchange of fire from the British Flagship, **HMS Confiance**. Gamble was kneeling down aiming a bow gun when a shot entered the port, split the quoin and drove it against his breast killing him instantly. He is interred at Riverside Cemetery in Plattsburg, New York.



**Reverend Carroon tells of his ancestor**



### The Rockets' Red Glare: The War of 1812 and Connecticut.

Edited by Glenn S. Gordinier . New London County Historical Society Historical

## The Rockets' Red Glare; The War of 1812 and the State of CT—A Book Review by Reverend Carroon

Essays and articles by ten Connecticut authors have been assembled in a well written and fast paced account of the War of 1812 in Connecticut. Covered are such military actions as the battle of Stonington and the raid on Essex. Naval activities on Long Island Sound and the Atlantic as well as actions at New London, New Haven and Fairfield are recounted in detail. Personalities and residents of Connecticut, such as Captain Isaac Hull, commander of the **USS Constitution** at the time of its battle with **HMS Guerriere**, and his uncle the unfortunate General William Hull who surrendered Detroit, were both natives of Derby. Captain Stephen Decatur had the misfortune to be bottled up in New London harbor by the British Navy. Much more fortunate was Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough who spent much of his time in Middletown supervising construction of vessels and became the victor of the Battle of Plattsburgh and Lake Champlain. This volume is so well written that the reader of the collected essays will obtain an excellent overview of the War of 1812 and so provides an resource for those who may not have time to read more detailed accounts but wish to obtain a general appreciation of the war as well as an understanding of Connecticut's participation in the conflict. The contributing authors are James Boylan, Merideth Mason Brown, Fred Calabretta, Frances Manwaring Caulkins, James Tertius de Kay, Andrew W. German, Jerry Roberts, Nancy H. Steenburg, Matthew Warshauer and Glenn S. Gordinier.

## Connecticut Society's President's Message

Welcome to the third issue of The Connecticut Defender.

This newsletter is designed to keep you abreast of events and interesting information during the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 or as we need to

remind ourselves, America's Second War of Independence. The focus continues to be on Connecticut events and articles of Connecticut men who served during the war. But please visit the national website and review the

newsletters for other state societies for events in their states that you may be interested in attending.

*I again encourage all members to write biographies of your ancestor. By writing their story you honor their service.*

one schooner, and  
one sloop. Yours  
with the greatest  
respect and esteem,  
O. H. Perry”



## Commodore Thomas Macdonough an Episcopalian

With this issue we begin a series detailing Commodore Macdonough's relationship to the Episcopal Church researched by Rev. Carroon.

Lieutenant Thomas Macdonough arrived in Middletown, Connecticut on October 21, 1806. He was assigned to assist Captain Isaac Hull in constructing gunboats for the US Navy. Although he was to remain in Middletown for only three months before receiving further orders he did manage to meet a young lady, Miss Lucy Ann Shaler, who was later to become his wife. Lt. Macdonough was a member of the Episcopal Church and he was regular in his attendance at Christ Church (Now Church of the Holy Trinity) in Middletown. Lucy was a member of the church where her father, Nathaniel, was the organist. Lt. Macdonough soon received orders to report on board the **USS Wasp** however he was not about to forget his new acquaintance. Continued in the next issue.

## Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Connecticut

An Autonomous State Society of the  
General Society of the War of 1812



*Please consider a tax  
deductible donation to the  
Connecticut Society*

**THE SECOND WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE**

We are on the  
Web  
[www.1812ct.org](http://www.1812ct.org)

Please visit these sites:

**General Society of the War of 1812**

[www.societyofthewarof1812.org](http://www.societyofthewarof1812.org)

**United States Daughters of 1812**

[www.usdaughters1812.org](http://www.usdaughters1812.org)

**Connecticut State Society United States  
Daughters of 1812**

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ctusd/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ctusd/)



**Commodore Isaac Chauncey 1779-1840**

### **Dedication of Commodore Isaac Chauncey Marker October 13, 2012 — Save the Date!**

The dedication of the historic marker honoring Commodore Isaac Chauncey will be held October 13 at 11:00 AM at 150 Seabright Ave., Black Rock, Bridgeport. Rich Iannucci, Commander of Port 5 Naval Veterans, will be the master of ceremonies. Betty Oderwald, President of CT Society

USD 1812 will be the keynote speaker. A reception will follow at Port 5. **All** Compatriots are welcome. They will also celebrate U.S. Navy Day since that day coincides with the birthday of the U.S. Navy. The Port 5 Naval Veterans is located at 69 Brewster Street, Bridgeport, CT.