



BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF BRITISH RAID BEGINS IN 2014

War of 1812 Celebratory Events are Planned

This year marks the 200-year anniversary of one of the more significant, yet somewhat obscure, events that occurred in the history of Essex – the British attack on the town which took place during the War of 1812.

A full roster of commemorative activities is planned for Saturday, May 10. Reenactments throughout the town, narrated excursions by boat tracing the events along the Connecticut River, historic walking tours, and geocaching, a gps-based scavenger hunt, are being organized. These events will surround the Commemoration Day Parade, also known as the Burning of the Fleet Parade, which is hosted and led by the Essex Sailing Masters of 1812, a fife and drum corps. This year will mark the Parade's 45th year! Additional commemorative activities will occur over select weekends throughout the summer and fall.

Essex is already recognized by the State Register of Historic Places as a War of 1812 Battle Site District. Designation as a Battle Site by the National Register of Historic Places is anticipated around the actual anniversary date of the conflict. Public recognition will take place as part of the May 10 commemorative event.

Jerry Roberts, battlefield historian for the National Parks Service grant project concerning this 1814 incursion, has brought it to life through storytelling and a dynamic written account which sheds light on this significant chapter in American maritime history. The release of *The British Raid on Essex: The Forgotten Battle of the War of 1812* is scheduled in the spring, to coincide near the actual anniversary date of the skirmish.

For more information and continual updates of commemoration activities visit BattleSiteEssex.org.

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