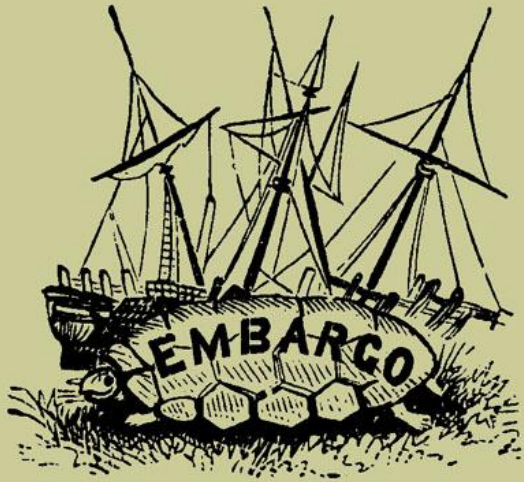


Causes of the War

1. Impressment

- a. GB and France are at war
- b. England began capturing American sailors and “impressing” them (forcing them to work on British ships)
- c. By 1807, GB had seized more than 1,000 American ships
- d. U.S. felt GB and France were violating U.S. neutrality and “freedom of the seas”



2. Embargo Act of 1807

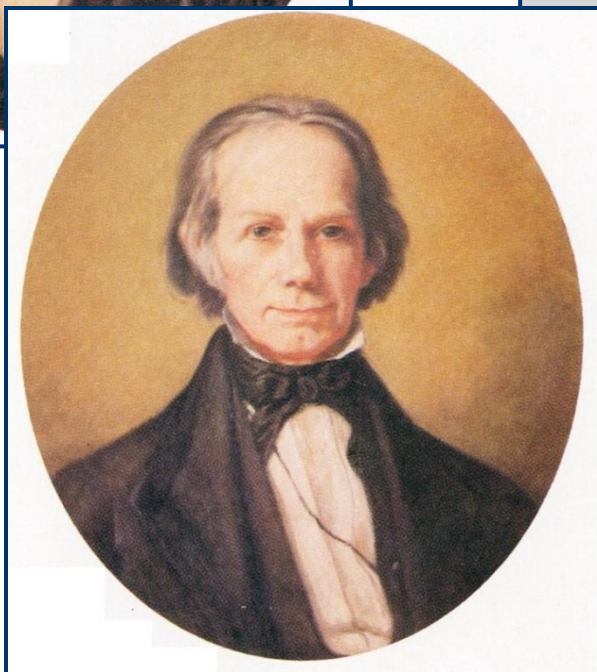
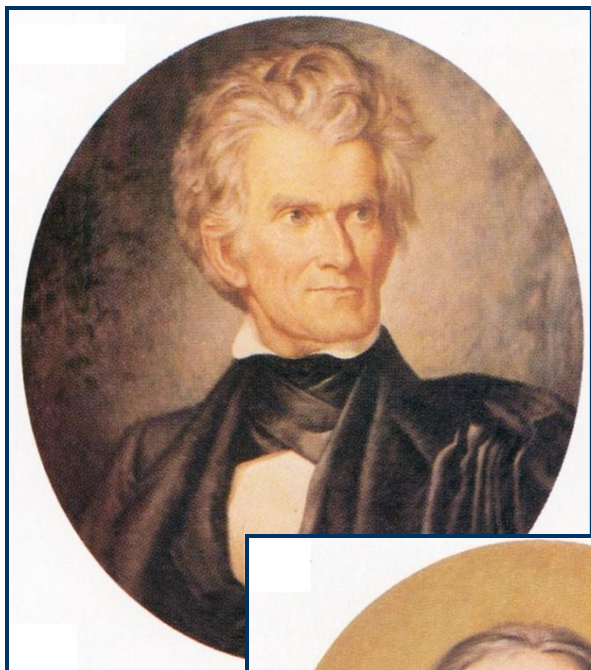
- a. President Jefferson convinced Congress to declare an embargo
- b. He believed the embargo would hurt GB, causing them to listen to our demands to stop impressment
- c. In 1809, Congress ended the embargo with all countries except GB and France



3. America's desire for Canada

- a. Americans saw that Canada was not well defended by GB
- b. Americans wanted more land and believed that people in Canada would want to join the U.S.





War Hawks

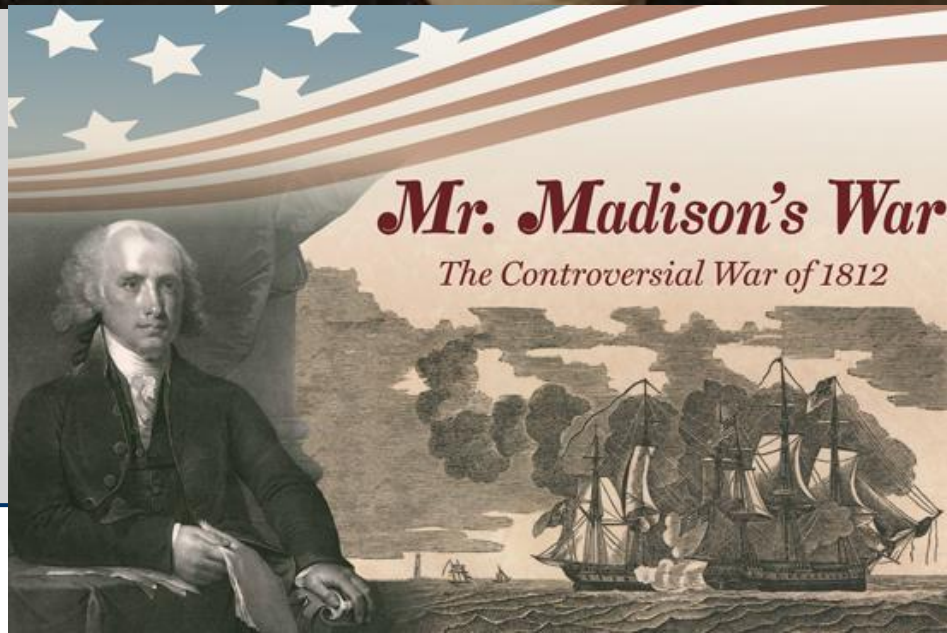
1. A group of Dem-Rep congressmen from the South and the West
2. Wanted war against GB
3. Led by Senator **John C. Calhoun** of SC and **Henry Clay** of KY
4. Land-hungry and “nationalist”; wanted to prove to the world that U.S. was a formidable opponent against other world powers

Election of 1808

-**James Madison** (Dem-Rep)

-1 June 1812: Madison requested a declaration of war from Congress

-18 June: 1st Congressional declaration of war in American history





BRITISH VALOUR and YANKEE BOASTING or, Shannon versus Chesapeake.

Problems

1. Americans were unprepared for war
 - Army and navy had been cut under Jefferson's administration
2. Federalists against the war
 - Hurt trade in New England
3. Easterners unsupportive
 - Cultural ties to GB
4. Many NAs helped the British because they wanted to stop Americans from taking more land
5. Military leaders were old, retired, and the new were inexperienced

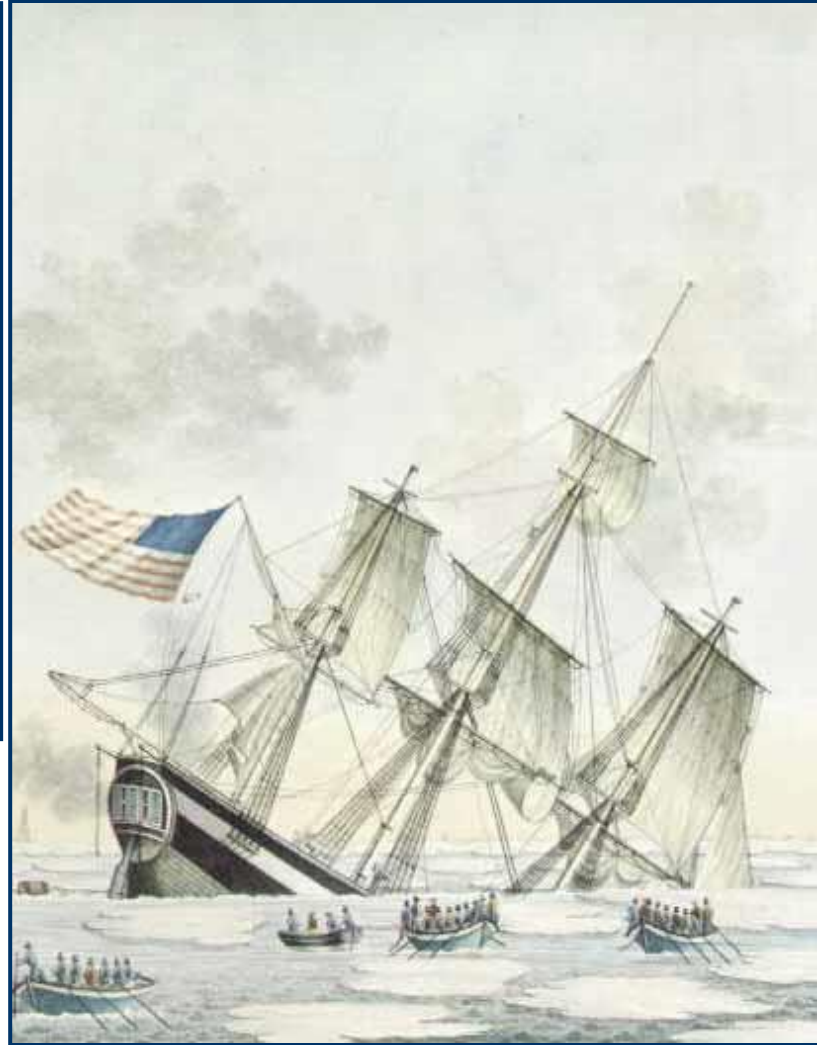
Major Battles

- Detroit
- Lake Erie
- Thames River
- Bladensburg
- Fort McHenry
- New Orleans



The War at Sea

- The U.S. Navy was young and outnumbered
- In November 1812, British blockaded the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay
- The blockade grew throughout the war
- By 1813, most American ships were unable to leave port



Naval Battles

The Battle of Lake Erie is one of the most important naval battles

-After defeating the British, Captain Oliver Hazard Perry declared, “We have met the enemy and they are ours”

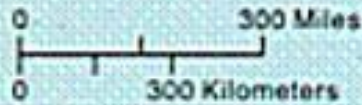
-Thomas Macdonough defeated a British fleet on Lake Champlain which resulted in their retreat

-U.S. Naval “tradition” develops during the War of 1812

The Battle of Thames River, 5 October 1813

U.S. military victory led by General William H. Harrison
– Tecumseh killed & Harrison earns the nickname
“Tippecanoe”





BRITISH NORTH AMERICA (CANADA)





The War on Land

Battle for Washington

-British invade Washington, D.C. in 1814; burned the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings

Dolly Madison saved the famous portrait of Washington



Battle at Fort McHenry

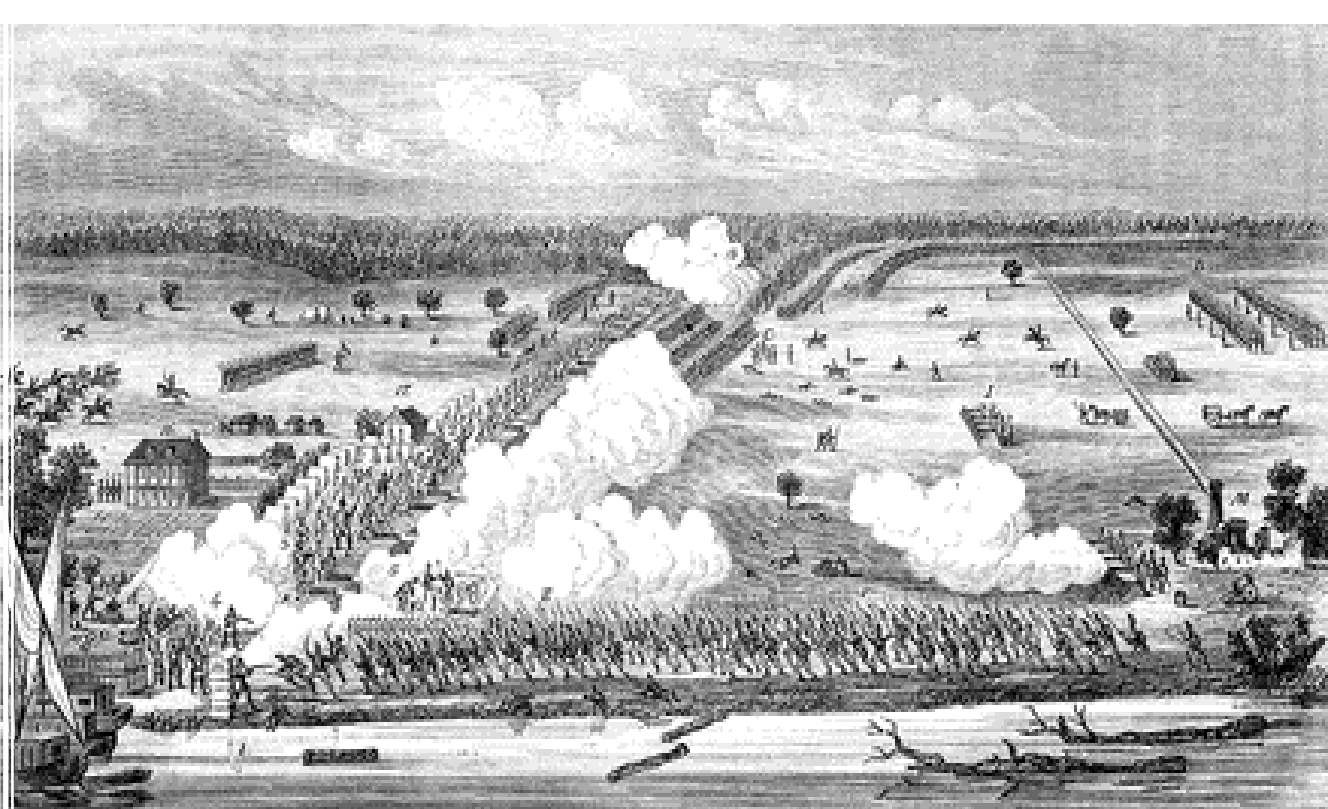
-Francis Scott Key:

American lawyer held on a “truce” ship in the harbor

-Saw an American flag flying over Ft. McHenry after the battle

-The flag continuing to wave despite the bombardment inspired Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner”

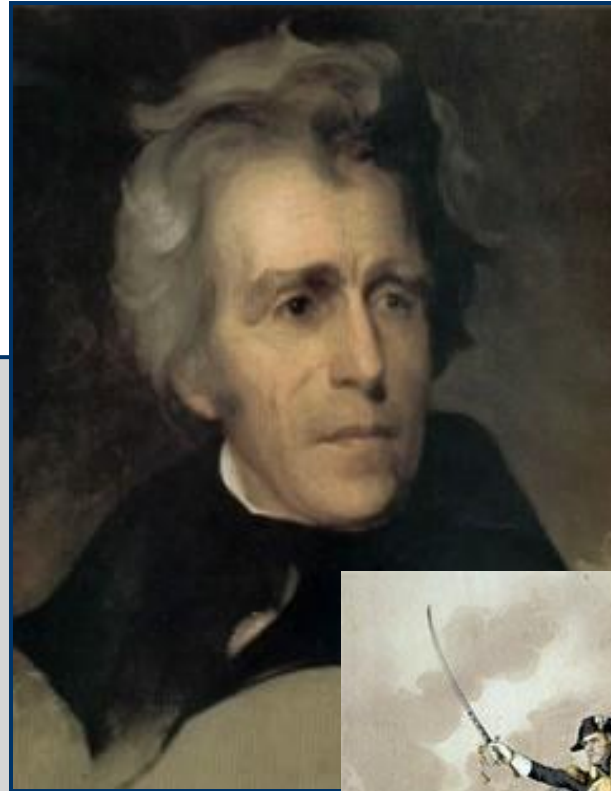




10,000 British troops reached the mouth of the Mississippi River and were threatening the new Louisiana Purchase territory

The Battle of New Orleans (8 January 1815)

- Led to victory by General Andrew Jackson
- Continued even after peace talks were in process/treaty signed because word did not reach the Americans for several weeks
- British suffered 2100 casualties; U.S. 60





The Treaty of Ghent

-December 1815: British and Americans met in Ghent, Belgium to negotiate a commercial peace treaty (Delegates: JQA and Henry Clay)

1. Established “Status Quo Antebellum” - things go back to the way they were before the war; territories remained the same and impressment was not addressed (mostly because it had already ended)
2. Armistice - end of fighting



Hartford Convention

- Held by the Federalists from 1814-1815 opposing the War of 1812
- Demanded a 2/3rds vote of Congress to declare war, admit new states, some even talked of seceding New England from the Union
- Believed states should stand their ground against unfair federal laws
- Treaty of Ghent ended the need for the convention, but when the meetings were revealed to the public, the Federalist party became widely unpopular

Results of the War

1. National Pride – “Era of Good Feelings”

-2nd time U.S. had defeated GB

-Andrew Jackson seen as national hero

2. Decline of the Federalist Party

3. Period of European Peace

-1817: Rush-Bagot Treaty (Great Lakes and Champlain naval disarmament of U.S. and GB)

4. American Isolationism

-Period leads to boom in American industry

5. NAs suffer the greatest consequences for siding with British

