



Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

LII, No. 7

July 2026



AI generated image of Fort Meigs found on Facebook. Maybe the trees in the fog are correct?

News and Views

*Message from CMH Secretary
Eric Elder*

Thank you to John Carter for your article this month. Members, we could use some more articles. Any topic on military history or wargaming are welcome.

Our June meeting was held at Greg Skelly's house due to Baker renovations that was still ongoing. Thanks to Greg for hosting three games and about 15 people. We had plenty of room and good times were had. Our July monthly meeting should be back at our Baker location. The Board will let members know via our groups.io page if Baker is not available.

A reminder that the July meeting is typically the hottest meeting of the year and the Baker location does get warm. I suspect I will be bringing my fan to the meeting.



Do people post online images generated by AI actually think they are accurate? Most are so bad it makes no sense to use them. Maybe authors are just trying to get a reaction or a click through to their articles. I would rather just see genuine photos or sketches. I went looking for a War of 1812 image and just had to share the weird image on the cover of this newsletter.

June

Unit of the Month

Sponsored by Tom Dye



Each month, at the monthly meeting, CMH members bring their latest painted figures and models to the meeting to display their latest efforts.

CMH Member	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Jim Rairdon	15mm	Essex	Medieval	Bysantine Cavalry
Jim Rairdon	15mm	Essex	Dark Ages	Viking Infantry
Greg Skelly	28mm	Old Glory	AWI	1 st PA, 3 rd NJ
Jeff Lambert	1/144	Revell	WWI&II	Junkers
DAVID MANLEY	28mm	Warlord	AWI	Colonial Riflemen & Militia

Winner in **RED**



June

Game of the Month

Sponsored by Tom Dye



Each month CMH members host games at the monthly meeting. This award is for the effort put out by the host.

CMH Member	Scale	Rules	Description
David Manley	28mm	Sharp Practice	Kings Mountain
John Mumby	2mm	Sacre Bleu	Allies vs French
JOHN CARTER	1:2400	GQ III	Jap BB vs American BB

Winner in **RED**



Who Won the War of 1812?

Article by CMH Member

John Carter

You can prove that the U.S. won, lost or tied this war depending on how you choose your evidence, and people have been doing that for years.

- 1. We Lost. The War of 1812 was stated to be about stopping the impressment of our sailors. A not so hidden agenda was to take Canada. Jefferson said it would just be a matter of marching.**
The problem was that we were a notoriously anti-Catholic country at that time, and the French Canadians were Catholic. A major part of the British population were displaced Loyalists. So, there was a lot of latent Canadian hostility. The various attempts at invasion failed miserably.
The British clamped a blockade on our coast that crushed our economy. When the peace treaty was signed, we said the British stopped impressing our sailors, but in reality, the end of the Napoleonic Wars ended the royal Navy's manpower problems. So, loss of our sea trade and failed invasions equals, we lost.
- 2. It was a Draw. Says so right there in the treaty, which was Status Quo Ante Bellum, i.e. Nobody gets anything but their casualties. No land concessions, no concessions of any kind.**
- 3. We Won. Since before the Revolution the British treated us with condescension ranging to contempt. Our very character was seen as lacking. This showed up in their impressing our sailors, often in our territorial waters, a clear violation of international law.**
The Royal Navy typified this attitude. We had built stout 44 gun, 24 pounder frigates of the Constitution class. Their standard Royal Navy heavy cruiser was a 38 gun, 18 pounder frigate. They had used these to defeat 24 pounder French frigates. So, of course, they would take our 44's, which were only crewed by Americans. They said that their 18's would fire faster than our 24's resulting in smothering fire.

Then the war started. In short order three of their 38's were defeated and of those, two were not just captured, they were destroyed. In United States vs. Macedonian, our 24's fired faster than their 18 pounders. And then their excuses began. Our ships were really cut down ships of the line; the crews were made up of British sailors, etc. The fights between the smaller sloops of 18 – 22 guns went much the same way.

The British did something they have not done before or since. They built or converted 10 ships to four different designs specifically to hunt down our three 24's.

Endymion had been built as a 24 pounder frigate but had switched to 18's to ease wear on the hull. Coming out of a "Great Repair" she was rearmed with 24's and packed off to America.

The Endymion design was upgraded with two more 24's and five ships were built as the River Class. They were built of fir for quick construction, because they were not expected to last long; this was an emergency.

Newcastle and Leander, built to two different designs, were even bigger than our 44's and were placed in a hunting group to catch the Constitution. When they found her, they could not hold her.

Majestic, Saturn and Goliath of 74 guns were cut down into 58 gunners, retaining their 32 pounder long guns.

Eventually one hunting group consisting of Majestic, Endymion and two 38's did manage to capture President after she ran aground, thereby damaging herself, while leaving New York.

In addition, our sloops of war, sent out as raiders, burned prizes rather than sending them into port, initiating the idea of commerce destruction. Last, there are the Great Lakes battles where two British Squadrons were captured in toto. This was unprecedented.

The British claim, rightly, that we did not drive them from the sea and the losses we inflicted were less than those caused by storm and accident.

But, our navy, whose existence had been precarious, had made its bones. It was the bright spot in an otherwise dismal war. After our wars, the navy is usually cut back; not after the War of 1812. The Gradual Increase Act of

1816 provided for a steady shipbuilding program for the navy adding 9 Ships of the Line, 9 – 44 gun frigates and numerous sloops of war spread over the course of many years. Our navy spread over the seas backing up a golden age of Clipper Ships, Whaling and other trading vessels. If someone interfered with our trade, a US Navy ship showed up to straighten things out.

So, was it a win, a loss or a tie? It was all three. But it was the beginning of an established US Navy, and taken with the victory at New Orleans, growth of a sense of National Pride.



Historic Location of the Month

Second Battle of Sackets Harbor

Sackets Harbor, NY

On May 20, 1813, the town of Sackets Harbor was raided by the British, which ended in only limited positive results for the British.



View of Horse Island at location where causeway met the shoreline.

Colorado Military Historians, Inc.

Colorado Military Historians (CMH) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote historical wargaming and the study of military history. Founded in 1965, CMH meets monthly on the second Sunday of the month, except in May when the meeting is deferred to the third Sunday. The meeting starts at noon at the Baker Recreation Center, 6751 Irving Street (just a few blocks west of Federal Blvd), Denver, Colorado. The club also hosts gaming at least one Friday night a month, called "Friday Night Fights" (FNF) at 7:00 p.m. Friday meetings will be held at a future determined location. See our groups.io site for the latest information.



CMH maintains ties with numerous local, regional, and national groups to help promote the hobby. CMH is governed by member-elected officers serving on the Board of Directors (executive board). Terms of office are one year, with elections held at the May meeting. New members are accepted after attending three CMH functions and a vote of the membership. Dues are \$60.00 per year, payable in January. Members wishing to receive a snail-mailed newsletter subscription must pay an additional fee of \$15.00 per year. Authors retain ownership of articles and graphics published. CMH reserves the right to edit or reject submissions to the newsletter.

One year Adult Membership: \$60.00

Half year Adult Membership: \$30.00

(For NEW members who join after June 30)

Family Membership: \$60.00 (one Adult and any number of offspring)

Student Membership: \$30.00 (16 to 22 years old)

Children: free (younger than 16 accompanied by member)

Club Links:

Groups.io Group: <https://groups.io/g/cmhweb>

- Our Groups.io page is the best way to see what our club is up to.

Web Site: <https://cmhweb.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cmhgamers/>

Discord: <https://discord.gg/DAP2Gn>

CMH Newsletter

The CMH Newsletter is a monthly newsletter published by the Colorado Military Historians. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of all CMH members.

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Next Issue: August 2026

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