

American History

Talk 10 The War of 1812



Overview

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- Britain and America 1812
- The trigger for war
- American invasions of Canada 1812-1814
- British invasions of America 1814
- The Creek War
- Southern campaign 1814-1815
- War of 1812 impact

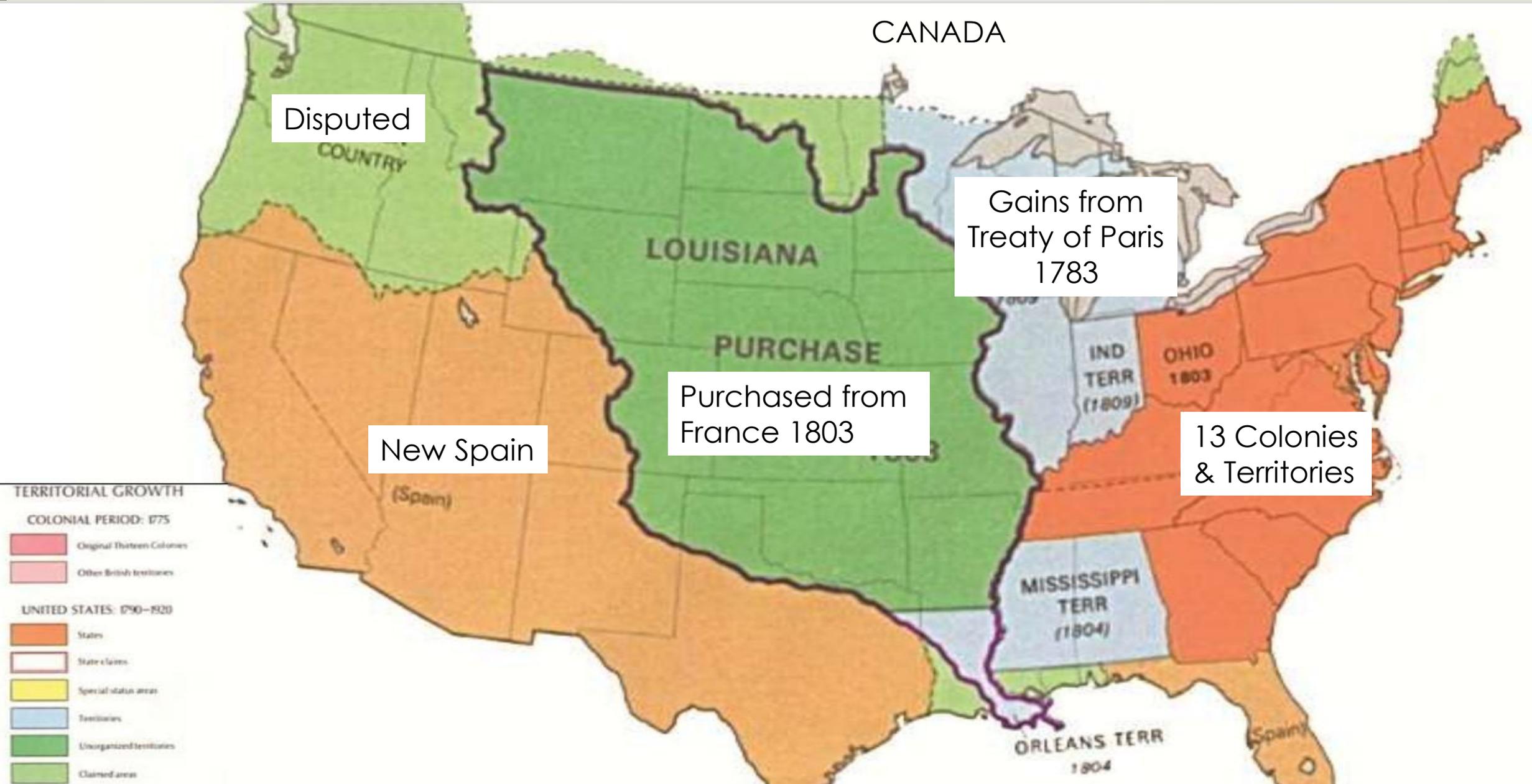
Great Britain 1812

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➤ The major World Finance and Sea Power

- At war with France for 20 years:
 - War by proxy, use finance to maintain allies, navy to blockade France
 - Army of 200,000 dispersed across world...French army of 2.5 million!
 - Survival dependent on maintaining navy and retaining 145,000 sailors
...many desert to American ships for better conditions
- Policy vs America
 - Block western expansion by alliances with Indians
 - Stop US trade with France and recover deserters..."Orders in Council"

United States 1812



United States 1812

Confident, Expanding, invincible

- Population increased 2 to 9 million
 - Tripled in size (NW Territories and Louisiana Purchase)
 - Stable government...4 Presidents, Transfer of power
 - Invincible (wars with British, Indians, French, Berbers)
-
- Economy depressed
 - Blocked from trade with Napoleon's Europe
 - Self imposed embargo imposed on trade with Britain
 - Resentful towards Britain
 - Seizure of sailors from American ships
 - Support and trade with Indians

James Madison: 4th US President 1807-1816

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James Madison 1751-1836



Author of Constitution, Plantation & Slave owner... Founding Father
...overshadowed by Jefferson

Returns 'regal style' in White House. Wife Dolly Madison. Steps up despite poor family....balls, dinners

Unpopular: All overseas trade stopped (1) US imposed embargo of trade to Britain and (2) British blockade trade vs France (Europe)...merchants bust, shipping stopped, smuggling rampant

Needs to 'do something' ...but needs pretext for war first.....



The trigger for war

North West Territories

7



Originally part of Quebec, ceded to United States end of Revolutionary War 1783,

NW Indian wars 1790-94 & 'Treaty of Grenville

Madison appoints William Harrison to accelerate development 'forced land sales/ fake treaties...10,000 settlers 1800, 200,000 1810

Indigenous tribes 'swamped', British supply guns

Shawnee 'Prophet' Tenkswata preach need for unity, return to old ways

Tecumseh (1768-1813)

8



Prophet's brother, father and older brother
Killed by Americans

Establishes NW "Indian Confederation"...despite divisions ...creates capital at "Prophetstown"...wants to unify ALL Indians

Seeks accommodation with whites
Vision of 'Shared Land' with Indians
Living 'old ways' next to settlers

William Harrison

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William Harrison 1773-1841



Born into wealthy plantation family
Slave owner, studied medicine but
Joined army 1791

Soldier wars of 1790, politician
Governor of NW Territories

Land speculator, promotor of
Settlement....

Imposes 'Treaty of Fort Wayne'

NW Indian War

10



GENL HARRISON & TECUMSEH.
1809.

Tecumseh seeks peace...meets with Harrison: revoke Treaty of Fort Wayne and 'share land' based on justice....via Confederation

Harrison's response....comply, migrate, or be destroyed

Negotiations break down

Tecumseh's mistake.. says he will go south to expand Confederationand return to continue talks.....

Battle of Tippecanoe November 1811

11



GEN. HARRISON WAS ATTACKED BY TECUMSEH, NOVEMBER 1811. THE INDIANS WERE ROUTED WITH GREAT SLAUGHTER.

BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE.

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Harrison waits for Tecumseh to Leave...then attacks Prophetstown

Harrison's army of 1,000 attacks Tenkswata and 700 warriors

Minor battle, Indians withdraw
200 casualties both sides

Prophetstown burned, British muskets found

Harrison claims 'great victory'
advertises British help to Indians
Reports to Madison...newspapers

War Declared.....

12

- ▶ Harrison reports to Madison....British uniting and arming Indians
- ▶ Madison sends “Message to Congress” June 1st American honour tarnished,
- ▶ Congress agrees to war Jun15th,
- ▶ Authorises invasion of Canada
- ▶ Declaration of War to Britain June 18th

Meanwhile back in Britain

- ▶ British Prime Minister Spencer Percival, author of Orders in Council and PM since 1808 assassinated May 1812
- ▶ New PM Lord Liverpool takes office
- ▶ Wants American issues to 'go away'...revokes Orders in Council...open to discussion June 23rd
- ▶ Ship to America bearing message of peace June 28th_n

Too late....3 American armies moving towards Canada
....war has begun

The Contenders

14



British

- Navy 800 ships, 90 men of war 40 frigates
- Blockading France
- North Atlantic a 'backwater' 19 ships, 8 frigates
- Army dispersed across Empire
- 50,000 fighting Spain
- 10,000 garrison in Canada
- Reliant on Loyalist settlers, distrust French Canadians

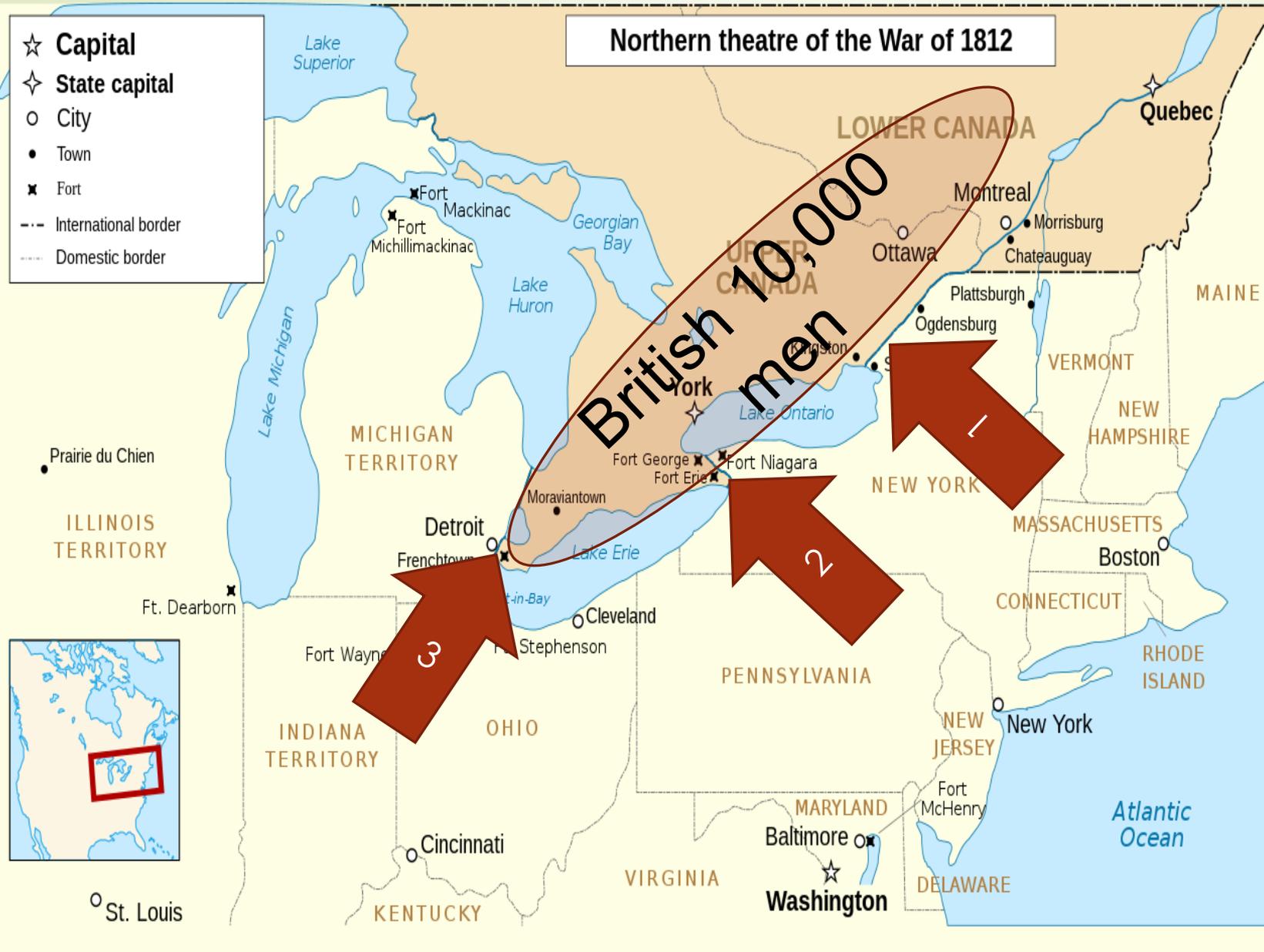
Americans

- Navy Highly motivated and trained
 - 3 'super frigates' (bigger guns, double hulled)
 - 5 frigates plus 10 brigs and sloops
- Small regular army
 - 15,000 regulars
 - 500,000 militia available



Canadian Invasions of Canada

3 Invasions of Canada 1812



Invasion 1, 5,000 men
From New York...go on
Strike and return home

Second invasion...slow to
Start, pay, recruitment issues
8,000 assemble...delay

Third invasion 5,000 men
General Hull cross into
Lower Canada July 1812

Waiting for him...General
Brock with 400 troops

Isaac Brock (1769-1812)

18



Modest Family, self taught
Rises up ranks
Sent to Canada 1802,
able Administrator,

Recruits from ex Loyalists
Joint drills with Regulars

Studies Indians, seeks
alliances

Brock and Tecumseh Meet

18



Meets Tecumseh,
Mutual respect
and trust..

agree joint attack desp
Less than 1,500 men
(400 British, 200 militia
800 Shawnee)

Ambush Americans
kill 200, lose 10

Hull retreats to
Detroit with 3,000 men

'Siege of Detroit August 1812

19



Brock and Tecumseh
with 1,500 men
'surround' Hull

Trick Americans into
thinking themselves
outnumbered.

Hull surrenders army
Tecumseh prevents
Killing prisoners

Brock learns Invasion
at Niagara has begun
and departs to assist

Battle of Queenstown October 1812

19



Americans attack Niagara.
Seize Queenstown Heights
with 3,000 troops, 2,000
to follow from across river

British army of 1,800 retreat

2,000 American militia
mutiny and refuse to cross

Brock arrives with 200 men
Plus 400 Mohawk Indians.

Brock killed at head of attack

Americans surrender

Second Invasion of Canada 1813

20

William Harrison 1773-1841



Replaces Hull recruits new army
Of 5,000

Recruits new army of 5,000,

Sees need to control lake Erie

British General has same strategy

British set out to attack American
fleet

Battle of Lake Erie September 1813

21



British 6 ships vs 9
American, fewer
Guns, sailors

Americans win despite
British sinking flag ship

Americans win despite
British sinking flag ship

Tecumseh unable to
retain alliances, Indian
Allies desert, T entreats
British to stay and fight.

Battle of the Thames October 1813

22



DEATH OF TECUMSEH THE GREAT INDIAN CHIEF.

Tecumseh was one of the most famous chiefs and Indian warriors of the eighteenth century. He organized many expeditions against the whites but lost his life at the Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813. He was an ally of the British in the War of 1812.

British retreat...poor relations
Tecumseh with new British
General Proctor...retreats
No food, army starts to starve

Harrison advances with 4,000
Attacks British 900, Tecumseh
And 1,000 Shawnee

British break and surrender

Tecumseh fights alone..
killed in battle.....Indians
disperse...never to regroup

More Invasions and many battles 1813-1814 ²³

Battle of Lundy's Lane July 1814



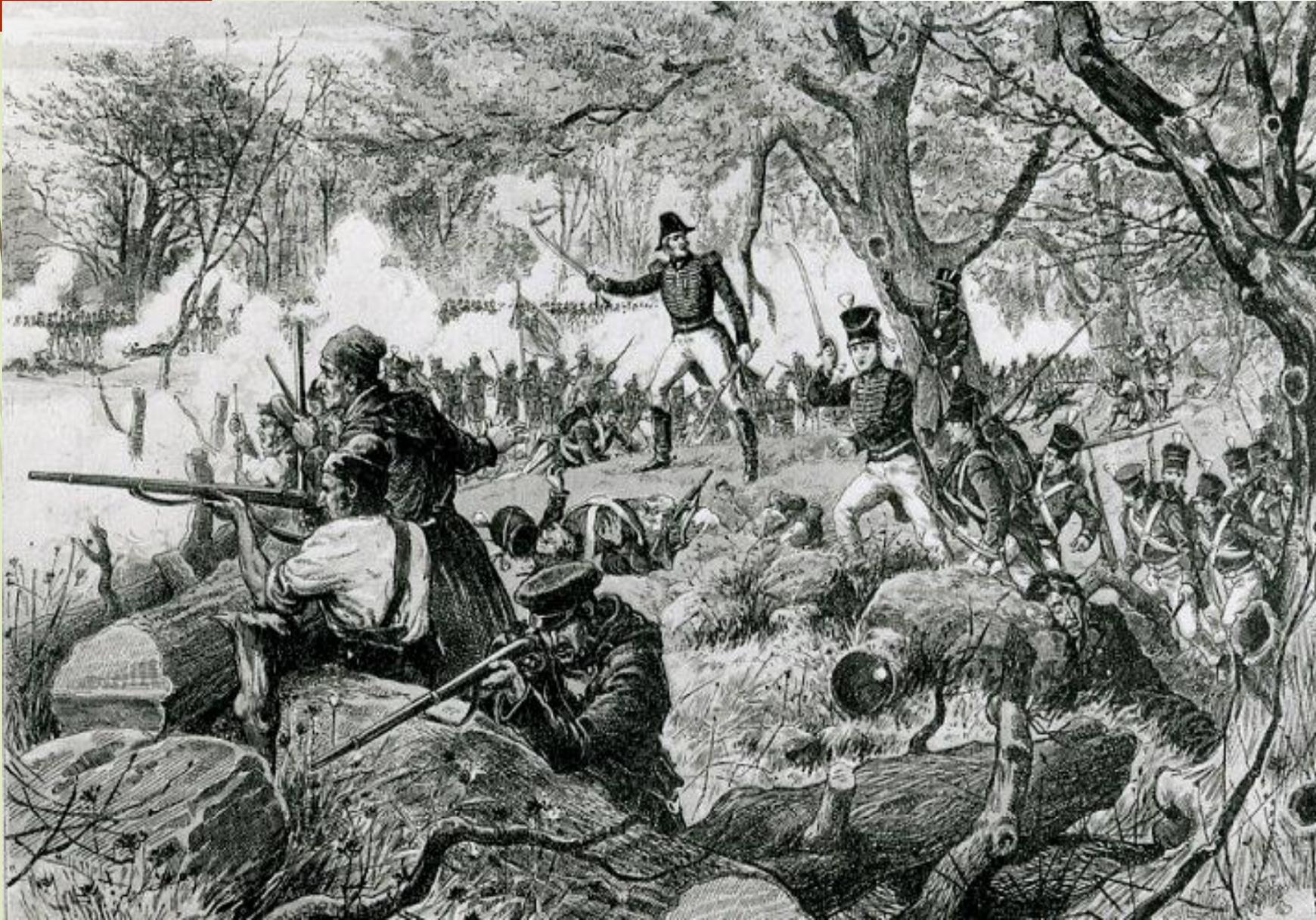
10 Invasions

Many small
battles British &
Indians vs
Americans

Lundy's Lane 2,000
Each side....1,600
casualties...Draw

Battle of Chatequai October 1813

24



Americans assume
Quebecois will rise up

Quebecois fear of American
Protestants > dislike
“English Loyalists” ...fair
Treatment by British...vote

1,500 Quebecois join Brit
Vs 2,000 Americans
...and win battle of
Chatequai

British ‘trust’ Quebecois
Americans invaders...
Not ‘liberators’

Tale of Laura Secord

25

Father 'Patriot' fought
For Washington...

Pay dispute, moves to
Family to Canada

Laura marries British
officer wounded at
Queenstown

Americans invade again
Billet in Secord home

Laura hears plan of attack
Decides to help British
....12 Mile walk, helped
by Mohawks



Laura Secord and Battle of Beaver Dams 1813



The British
Informed, win battle

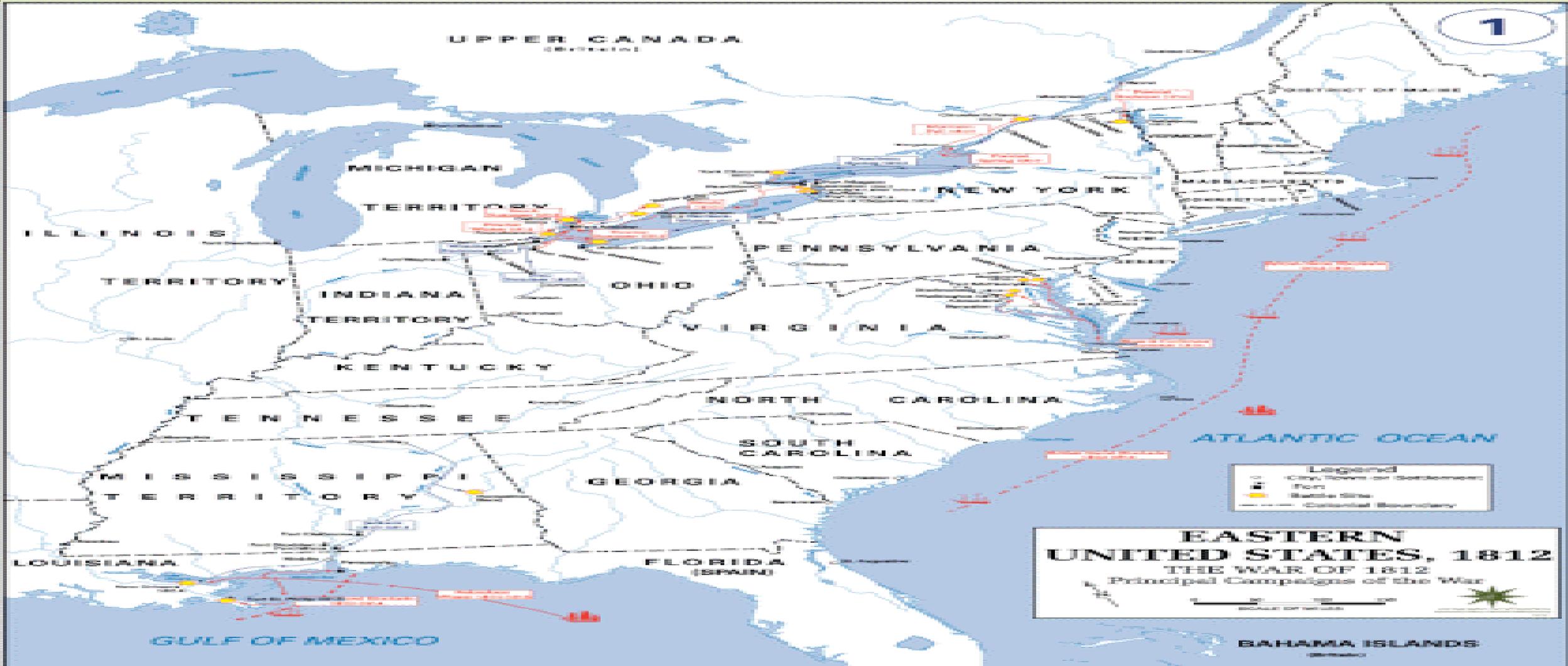
Husband recovers
From wounds....
family survives on
low pension, dies of
alcoholism

Laura becomes
teacher...poor
till old age....
Presented to
Prince of Wales 184
....small pension



Naval War

British Blockade



CANADIAN THEATER
 Upon the outbreak of hostilities in June 1812, the Americans attempted to invade Canada and ultimately failed. The Canadians, in turn, were successful in capturing the American base at Fort Mifflin in the Chesapeake Bay. All of these operations were failures. The British, on the other hand, were successful in capturing the American base at Fort Mifflin in the Chesapeake Bay. All of these operations were failures.

CHESAPEAKE THEATER
 British naval operations in the Chesapeake Bay were successful in capturing the American base at Fort Mifflin in the Chesapeake Bay. All of these operations were failures.

NEW ORLEANS THEATER
 Although the British were successful in capturing the American base at Fort Mifflin in the Chesapeake Bay, they were ultimately unsuccessful in capturing New Orleans. The British were successful in capturing the American base at Fort Mifflin in the Chesapeake Bay. All of these operations were failures.

Early American Success,,1812..1813

29



US frigates leave port
To seek 1 x 1 fights

Super frigates bigger
Guns, thicker hulls
Crews better trained

Americans win 6
Frigate actions...
Unprecedented !

USS Constitution
two victories 1 year

British press hysterical
Invincible navy defeated

Captain Philip Broke (1776-1841)

30



Minor aristocrat
Younger son...to
Navy as midshipmen
Under Nelson

Makes it personal mission
to defeat Americans
Intensified training, reword
Guns to target decks

Sails to Boston...baits
Americans to attack

British response...HMS Shannon vs USS Chesapeake June 1813

31



Naval Duel agreed
...only 1812 naval
battle between equal
sized ships (38 guns)

Crowds assemble to
Watch...gambling!

Bloody fight, 20%
Crews killed, wounded
Chesapeake captured
Broke wounded, national
Hero...retires

Naval war 1814 /15

US navy blockaded in port, frigates captured (including Stephen Decatur!), sunk or blockaded.....offensive capability eliminated

Defeat of Napoleon May 1814 British fleet end blockade of Franceclose American ports

British raid towns and plantations along coast, support army at will....seize American merchant ships

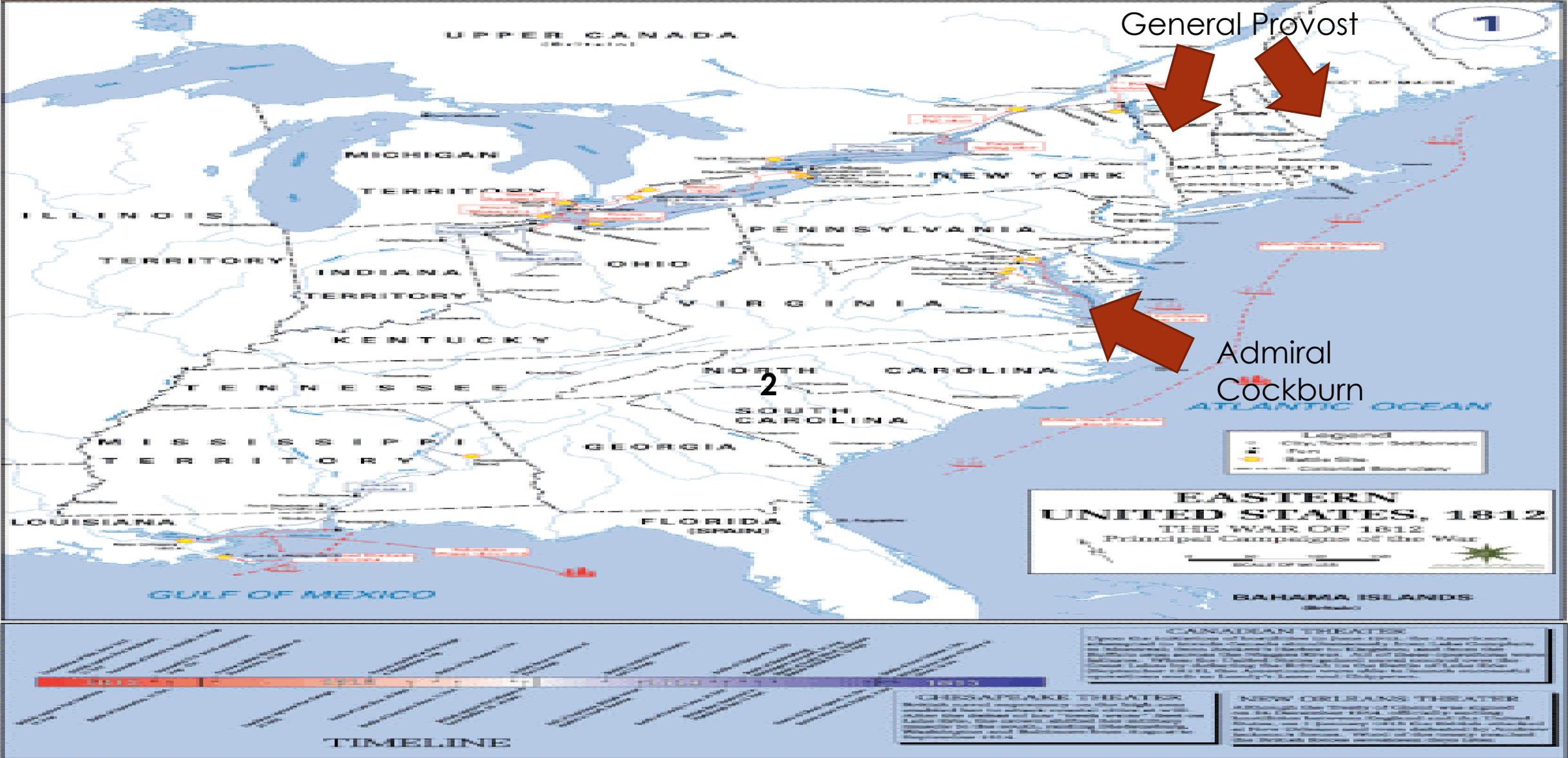
Intermission





British Invasion of America 1814

British invasion of United States 1814



Battle of Lake Champlain September 1814

35



General Prevost lead
10,000 Veterans
...occupy Maine,
invade New York

Logistics issues
control lakes

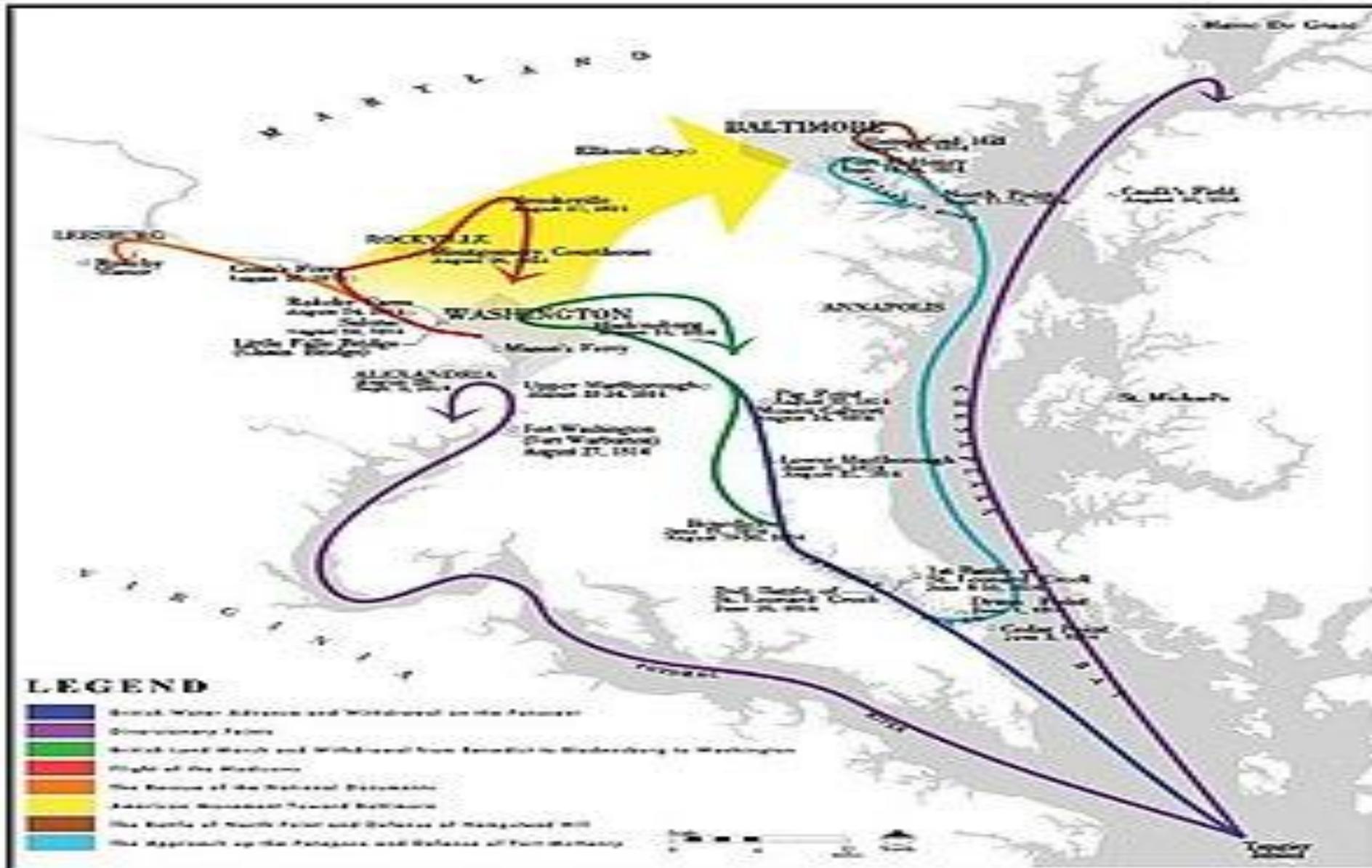
Ship building race.

British attack by land
and sea. Americans
anchored. Floating
artillery

American win battle
of Lake Champlain
... "reverse Nile" ..

Chesapeake campaign 1813 /1814

37



Objectives..

Burn Washington
in retaliation for
burning of York

Capture Baltimore

Create Havoc

‘Havoc includes
Recruiting slaves
Into British army
... Vice Admiral
Cochrane issues
Proclamation

Battle of Plattsburgh September 1814

36



Simultaneous al
Land attack fails..

American militia
Massing ex Loyalists
and Quebecois
deserting

Provost Overrides
officers retreats
to Canada to face
court martial

Appeal to Slaves to Join British

38

"All those who may be disposed to emigrate from the **UNITED STATES** will, with their Families, be received on board His Majesty's Ships or Vessels of War, or at the Military Posts that may be established, upon or near the Coast of the **UNITED STATES**, when they will have their choice of either entering into His Majesty's Sea or Land Forces, or of being sent as **FREE** settlers to the British Possessions in North America or the West Indies, where they will meet with due encouragement.

Given under my Hand at Bermuda, this 2nd day of April, 1814,
ALEXANDER COCHRANE."

Colonial Marines

39



4,000 slaves accept Cochrane's Offer...join march on Washington

Incorporated as 2 "Marine Regiments" to fight alongside army

Evacuated end war....with families
...disbanded 1818
....settle in Bermuda, Trinidad,
Canada, join 'maroons' in Florida..

Battle of Bladensburg August 1814

40



4,000 British..
Including “Colonial
Marines’ attack
9,000 Militia outside
Washington

Militia run
..”Bladensburg races”

Madison & Cabinet
Flee.....leaving
Dolly to secure
Paintings....via slaves

Burning of Washington

41



Washington
Occupied for 1 day

Admiral Cockburn & of
consume Madison's
Lunch, burn White Hou

Thunderstorm
spreads fire

British leave,
move North,
attempt to seize
Baltimore

Battle of Baltimore

42



American militia
Increase to 20,000

British army of 4,000
Attack, repulsed

Naval bombardment
Ineffective.....'star
Spangled banner;

Cockburn returns
to coast

Peace Negotiations start

43

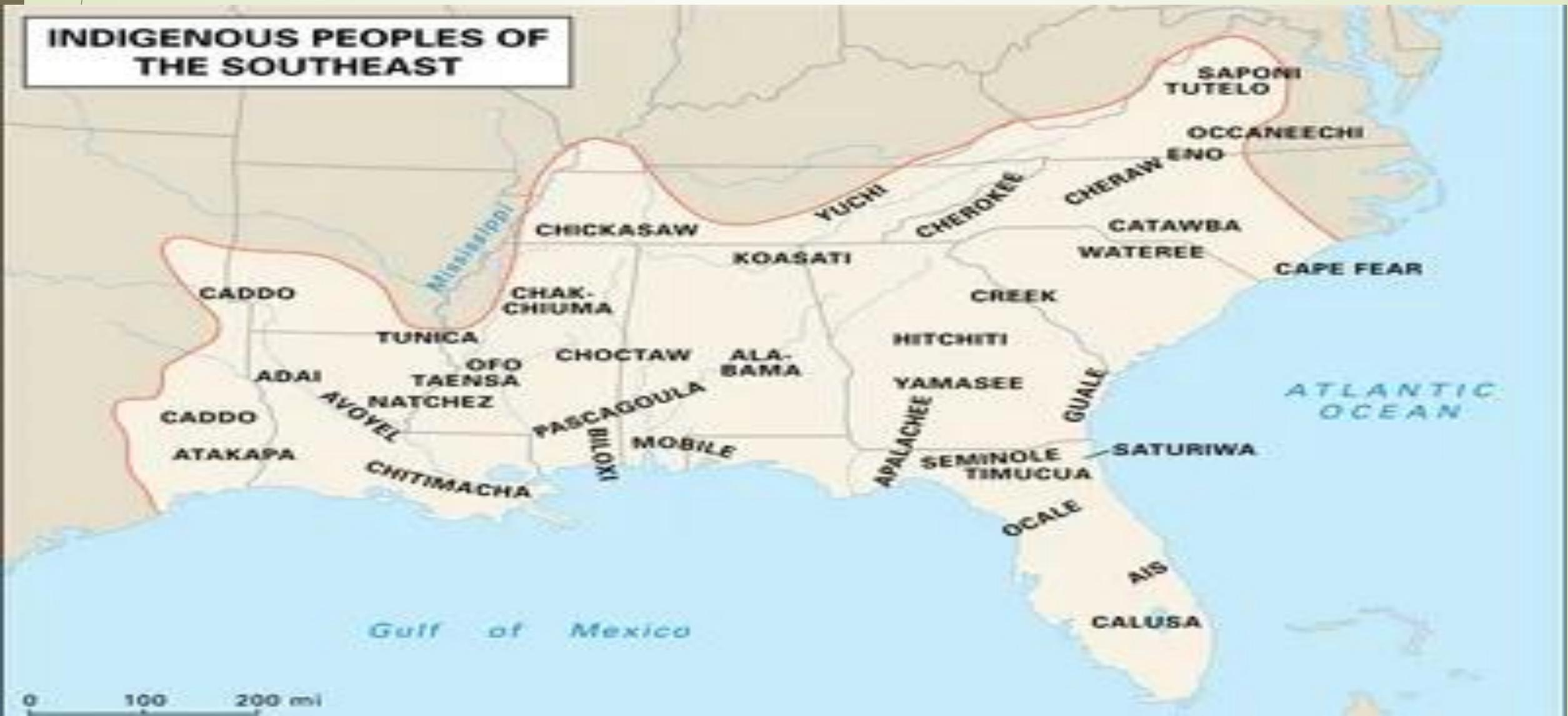
- Growing internal dissent New England: 'Hartford Convention' ...war a "Southern Conspiracy"
- Rampant inflation, financial disruption...Bank of US contract lapses
- Reasons for war eliminated
- Americans & British agree to meet at Ghent to discuss peace

British decide on a final campaign to improve terms.. Control Mississippi....Wellington sends favourite general, brother in law to lead...General Pakenham seize New Orleans, support Creeks



Creek War 1813/14

Tecumseh's Mission to Indians of South East 1811-1812



Cultures divided

46

Jefferson/ Madison
Assimilation plan

Bernard Wilkins,, agent
to Creeks

Indians divided. Chero
Choctaw mostly adopt
'white ways'... Creeks
divided

Tecumseh speech.. Wilk
Considers Tecumseh
harmless

William Weatherford and
Other Creeks feel 'rebor
And organise revolt.



William Weatherford 1765-1824

47



Scottish father/ French
Choctaw mother

Matrilineal society....male
Inherit from mothers

Creek population 35,000
...4,000 warriors. Oppose
Cherokee and Choctaw

Dreams Whites can be
Defeated...leads
revolt....“accommodating
Creek Leaders murdered

Fort Mims Massacre August 1813

48



Fort defended by
250 soldiers 300 settlers
100 slaves Creeks
assumed passive

Slaves warn command
“Red Sticks” (Creeks in
Revolt) outside fort
....flogged for raising p

Massacre....all soldiers
And settlers but 3 women
Killed, slaves spared

Panic across South
East...enter Andrew
Jackson

Andrew Jackson (1767-1845)

49



Scotch Irish Born frontier....self educated, brother dies in war with British, mother dies in prison camp, Jackson age 15 face slashed by British officer

Escapes British ...becomes Messenger Boy for army ...life long hatred of British, authority

Man of 'honour'32 duels

Lawyer, Congressman, appointed to Command Army of South due to "experience"

Creeks trapped at Battle of Horseshoe Bend



Jackson army of 2,000 trap
Weatherford & 1,000 Creeks

Frontal attack....Most Indians
Bow and arrows

Weatherford trapped
....build fort for "final
stand"

Battle of Horseshoe Bend March 1814

51



Jackson ...frontal assault
....Creeks few guns

“Remember Fort Mims”massacre
900 out Of 1,000 Creeks & families
killed..Weatherford escapes

“Soldiers “made bridle reins from skin
taken from Indian corpses, conducted
a body count by cutting off the tips of
their noses, and sent their clothing as
souvenirs to the “ladies of Tennessee”

William Weatherford surrenders to Jackson

Treaty of Fort Jackson...23

Million Acres ceded to Americans

All Creeks punished ...including
Those who fought with Jackson..
Your Responsibility to control
Other Creeks

Jackson adopts Cherokee chief
son and invites Weather to stay a
His home....pensions Weatherfor
(future Plantation owner and slave

Jackson moves South....seizes
Pensacola in Florida from Span
Who do nothing....



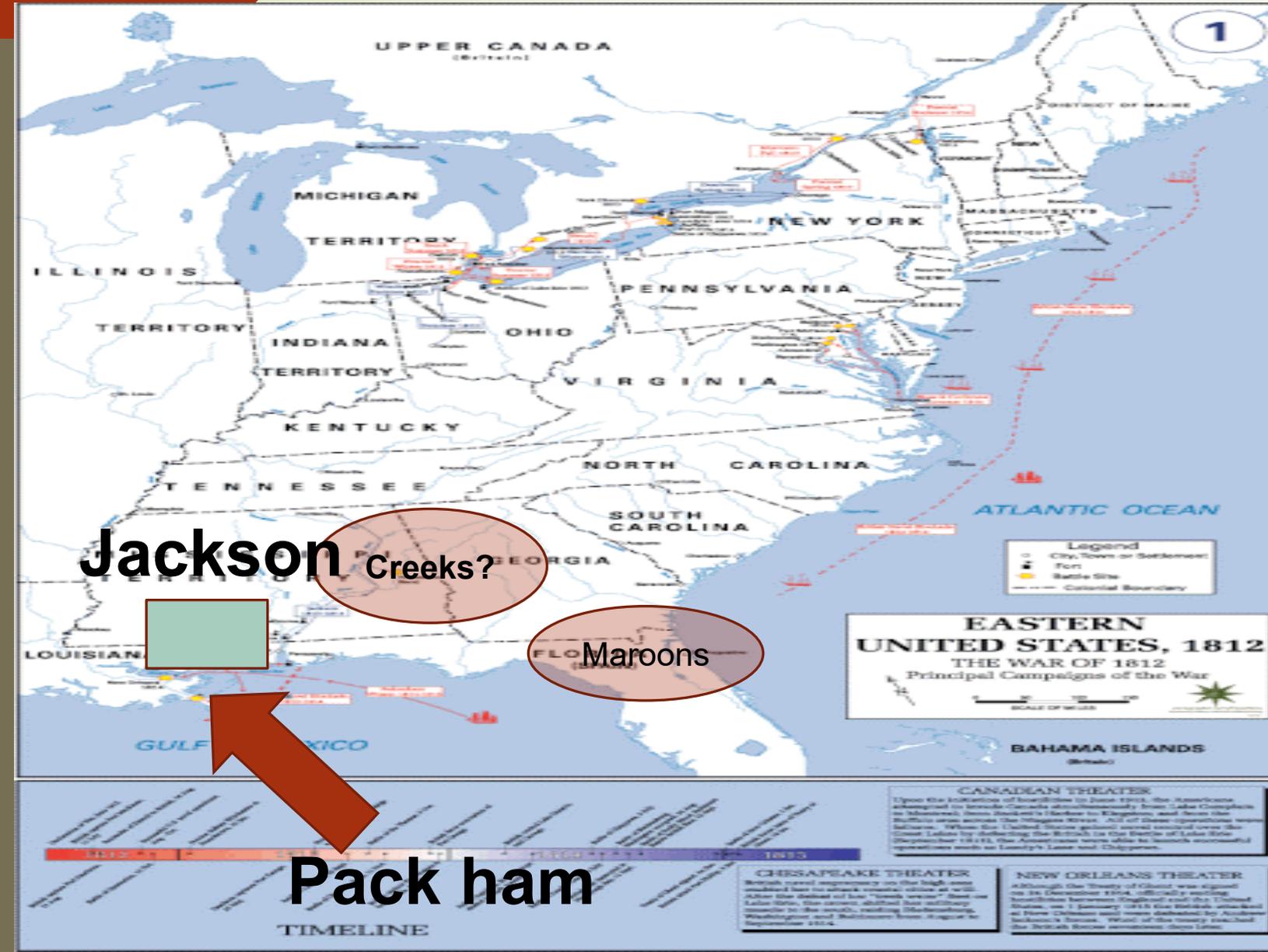
Southern campaign 1814-1815

The idea: Split America from West by seizing New Orleans

Link up with Creeks, support "Maroons" ...possibly Retake Florida..

Wellington appoints brother in Law...General Peckham

Jackson appointed Southern Commander, assumes New Orleans Target...recruits militia, pirates, free blacks, Slaves. Makes Entrenchments outside New Orleans



Jackson Creeks?

Maroons

Pack ham

General Packenham (1778-1815)

54



Irish aristocrat, son of Baron
Heroic officer, veteran, intelligent
Manic depressive, opposed to
War of 1812...resolves to do duty

Amphibious landing off Louisiana,,
Swamp, disease

Meticulous plan to attack entrenched
Americans, contempt for 'rabble;..
Complains to Jackson on use of 'snipers'

Fog descends....rushes to attack
across American front...9,000 vs
5,000 Americans

Battle of New Orleans January 1815

55



Fog lifts...British exposed

Americans...well placed
Cannons, rifles vs muskets

Ladders too short

2,000 British killed &
Wounded 30 Americans.
Packenham killed

Body stored in wine
Barrel fill of spirits. Jackson
“Packenham in better
Spirits than when he arrived

British move up coast
Take Mobile...ship arrives
War over 6 weeks ago

War of 1812 Impact

- Unifying event for Americans victory at New Orleans
- Unifying event for Canada...Quebecois & ex Loyalists
- US starts to industrialise due to Embargo and Blockade
- End of Indian resistance east of Mississippi
- Future disputes between Britain and America resolved peacefully

Book End to “British America”America Continental Power
looking West and not to Europe



Epilogue: James Madison

- ▶ Retires end of 2nd term in 1816...returns to Montpelier..."war hero"
- ▶ Replaced by another Virginian slave owner planter....James Monroe...no Effective opposition
- ▶ Retires and advises Presidents...sinks into debts most due to Dolly Son....survives by selling slaves
- ▶ Reworks and edits official papers but dies facing bankruptcy

Dolly Madison (1768-1849)



➤ Born log cabin North Carolina, marries lawyer at Age 15...arranged, marriage two sons. Devout Quaker...and slave owner

➤ Husband and one son dies yellow fever 1792

Marries James 1794... White House 1807-1814
..organises rescue of paintings...after James Fled....regal...despite low income birth

Impoverished by son's debts....sells slaves and Mortgages Montpelier to rescue him from Debtor Prison

And sale of (abridged) husband's papers



Memoirs of Paul Jennings...Dolly Madison slave

In the last days of her life, before Congress purchased her husband's papers, she was in a state of absolute poverty, and I think sometimes suffered for the necessaries of life. While I was a servant to Mr. Webster, he often sent me to her with a market-basket full of provisions, and told me whenever I saw anything in the house that I thought she was in need of, to take it to her. I often did this, and occasionally gave her small sums from my own pocket, though I had years before bought my freedom of her. [\[54\]](#)



Next time.....Era of Good Feelings