Lewiston History Mysteries

Can you solve this 2-step War of 1812 puzzle? Good luck!

You'll be hearing much more about the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812 because Lewiston and Western NY saw much of the action. The War of 1812 was actually a repeat of the American Revolution when the U.S. fought Britain for independence. That's why the War of 1812 is called "The Second American Revolution."

The first major battle of the war took place here when America invaded Canada from Lewiston on October 13, 1812. It was called the Battle of Queenston Heights. At that time, Canada was a British colony and the British were defending Canada from the Americans who wanted to drive the British out of North America, once and for all. During the battle, the Americans successfully crossed the river and captured the heights in Queenston, Ontario, and even killed the British General Isaac Brock. However, many of the American troops refused to cross the river and the British ended up winning the battle and taking 1000 American soldiers prisoners who were trapped on the Canadian side.

Fourteen month later, on December 19, 1813, it was Britain's turn to invade the United States. Over 1000 British troops and their native allies, crossed the Niagara River in the middle of the night and captured Fort Niagara without firing a shot. Then the British stormed through Lewiston, burning everything to the ground and killing about a dozen civilians. There was a stampede out of town by Lewiston citizens who ran for their lives down Center Street and Ridge Road to escape the attack.

At the moment when Lewiston citizens lost hope and thought they would all be killed, the local Tuscarora men ran down from atop the Escarpment and began fighting the British. Despite being outnumbered 30 to 1, the Tuscaroras held back the attack and bought Lewiston citizens precious minutes to escape to safety. The Tuscaroras saved many Lewiston lives that morning. Later, the British forces destroyed the Tuscarora Village for siding with the Americans.

Lewiston plans to unveil a monument of thanksgiving to the Tuscaroras, to be named Tuscarora Heroes, on the 200th anniversary of the attack.

The War of 1812 ended strangely in 1814. A treaty was signed the day before Christmas in Europe that stated that the war would end in a tie. The borders of the U.S. and Canada would revert back to what they were before the war started. But both sides came away thinking they had won. The British-Canadians thought they won because they did not become part of the United States. And the United States thought it won because it was able to save its democracy and expand westward without British interference. The war also established the United States as a real nation, and not just a rogue country that was experimenting with an untried form of government. After the war, the rest of the world took the United States seriously and Americans entered a new era of pride and patriotism.

Interestingly enough, one of the major battles of the War of 1812 was the Battle of New Orleans which was fought two weeks after the peace treaty was signed. Unfortunately, it took two months for the news of the treaty to reach the United States so the combatants thought the war was still on. Andrew Jackson, a future president, led the American troops to an impressive victory at the Battle of New Orleans.

The War of 1812 also gave birth to our national anthem. Francis Scott Key wrote it when he saw the American flag still flying high above Ft. McHenry in Baltimore in "the dawn's early light" after the fort had been bombarded by British cannon fire all night. He wrote, "O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and home of the brave."

Read the story and fill in the blanks:

1) The War of 1812 is called "The Second American _____."

2) The first major battle of the War of 1812 was called the Battle of _____ Heights.

3) Americans lost the Battle of Queenston Heights, but the British lost their General, Sir Isaac _____.

4) After the Battle of Queenston Heights, the Americans surrendered and 1000 American soldiers were taken _____.

5) What Native American nation saved Lewiston residents from the British attack on Dec. 19, 1813? _____

6) A monument of thanksgiving, called _____ will be unveiled on the 200th anniversary of the attack.

7) The War of 1812 treaty was signed the day before _____ in 1814.

8) After the War of 1812, Americans entered a new era of pride and _____.

9) The Battle of _____ was waged two weeks after the peace treaty was signed.

10) The War of 1812 gave us the Star-Spangled banner, our national _____.

DIRECTIONS: After you find the answers to the questions, find those same words and circle them in the puzzle below. The words are spelled in any direction, even backwards. You should end up with 10 circled words. It's harder than you think!

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S S J P E O M H I M T N Z D U
J E F H A A O Z S F U O W X C
H K O E B S R I G C S I S H J
W U N R N G T I H X C T U K J
U P D C E O D R D W A U A Z V
L P Q Y I H I C W N R L M W M
E J D R Q S A C G T O O N S E
R W T Q T U U R Z Q R V H F O
K A R M G N E M O W A E R N K
P Z A Q A O Y E E R X R E L C
J S S S D Q A S N H A Y F O O
N E W O R L E A N S T C N F R
R E N O S I R P K K T N S Z B
E Q I L J V V I X W A O A U B
F T B W B P U G Q A J H N E T
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Welcome to Lewiston, NY

HistoricLewiston.org   716-754-4214

The Historical Association of Lewiston hopes you enjoy your visit to our historic and quaint village. Mark your calendar for our next spectacular Lewiston Home Tour on Dec. 3 & 4, 2011. To get the latest news and monthly program notes, join our free email list by sending an email to: join@HistoricLewiston.org. You can also see and download our past placemats at: HistoricLewiston.org.

Historic Lewiston placemats written and designed by volunteer, Lee Simonson

Tuscarora Heroes

Tuscarora Heroes

The amazing and true story of how the Tuscaroras saved Lewiston citizens from the brutal British attack during the War of 1812.

This story was almost lost to history, and stands today as a unique example of Native Americans rescuing white settlers from a foreign attack. The book is now available at DiCamillo's Bakery.