



Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission
Education and Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting
Maryland Public Television, 11767 Owings Mills Boulevard, Owings Mills, MD 21117
February 26, 2010
2:30 – 4:00pm

Meeting Summary

Welcome and introductions

In attendance: Kathi Ash, Matt Boratenski, Jeff Buchheit, Tom Carney, Kelly Cooper, Kim Fortney, Kathleen Kreul, Gail Long, Kate Marks, Bill Mules, Ed Papenfuse, Bill Pencek, Pat Perluke, George W. Reid, Amy Rosenkrans, Dan Schochor, Mike Smolek, Marcie Taylor Thoma, David Terry, Larry Unger, Vince Vaise, Gay Vietzke, and Abbi Wicklein-Bayne.

Review of the MD War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Action Plan

Bill Pencek gave an overview of the Commission (to read more, visit <http://starspangled200.org/About/Documents/Action%20Plan.pdf>).

Review and brainstorming of the charge to the Education and Curriculum Advisory Committee

Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission's Education Goal: To ensure all Marylanders have engaging opportunities to learn and that Maryland is recognized as the most important portal to understanding the significance and relevance of the events of the War of 1812.

K-12 Curriculum projects

- Baltimore City Update: Abbi Wicklein-Bayne gave an overview on the progress made by the Baltimore City War of 1812 Education working group. Through a Chesapeake Bay Gateways grant, a preliminary inventory of lesson plans related to 1812 available on the web has been done by a consultant (available at: <http://starspangled200.org/Resources/Pages/ForTeachers.aspx>). Four “gap” themes were identified based on this inventory. Using funding from the Maryland Humanities Council, the group was going to hire the consultant to develop two comprehensive lesson plans for 4th and 8th grades. The goal is to have the lesson plans and teacher training in place by spring 2011. Other suggestions during this discussion included integrating the War of 1812 in Government or World History high school classes as well as language arts classes (music/poetry).
- Maryland Public Television (MPT) Thinkport Update: Gail Long provided an overview of Thinkport (www.thinkport.org). The program can be used as a repository and central organizing point for education resources. MPT could create an engaging, interactive component (SIM City like experience), such as their online pre-Algebra game. MPT also offers training professional development training opportunities for teachers.
- Several ideas were generated during the discussion:
 - One suggestion was to show excerpts from the History Channels' First Invasion video in classrooms. Another possibility could be to show Fort McHenry's new Visitor Center film, which is public domain, in classrooms. Additionally, anything on MPT's Thinkport website could be used by teachers for free.
 - The National Park Service can bring a national brand to programs developed for the War of 1812 and can make those programs nationally accessible, similar to what was done for the American Revolution 225th Anniversary (http://www.nps.gov/revwar/educational_resources/teachers.html).
 - Suggested curricula themes: 1) what it was like to be a kid during the war; 2) what happened to the 200 slaves carried off by the British; 3) Joshua Barney son



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- National History Day can reach out to every state and territories. There is a content theme every year and for 2012, the content theme will be Revolution, Reaction, and Reform. The Commission could consider sponsoring a special award for War of 1812 related projects.

Resource Projects

- The idea of teaching conservation and preservation was discussed. Efforts could be coordinated with the Commission's Resource Stewardship and Visitor Experience Advisory Committee. For example, the excavation of the *Scorpion* could be used as a way to teach conservation education. Additionally, the project could include virtual fieldtrips of the site.
- The Maryland State Archives is working on a genealogical portal and Fort McHenry has already developed a database of War of 1812 soldiers from Maryland.

Special Initiatives

- American Film Institute has programs where they instruct teachers how to use documentaries to teach. Multimedia is a great way to engage and provides the opportunity to reach out. MPT did a similar project with "Our Town," where cameras were left in Chestertown, MD and residents filmed clips to show their town through their eyes.
- Dan Schochor with Living Classrooms Foundation has grant funding to develop an interactive, self-directed game (not pre-scripted) for students that allows them to learn from their mistakes. An example of this is the WolfQuest game through the Minnesota Zoo which has attracted people from all over the country (www.eduweb.com).
- Higher Education is another focus for this committee and colleges, universities, and community colleges should also be engaged. Classes could be offered that show the relationship between the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.
- The Society of Historians for Early American Republic (300-400 college professors) will have their annual meeting in Baltimore in July 2012. A possible tie-in could be pursued.
- Continuing education projects could include War of 1812 –themed projects with Exploritas and distance learning.

Discussion and strategies for moving forward

The creation of three subcommittees was suggested. These groups would be:

- K-12 Committee (Chair: Abbi Wicklein-Bayne)
- Higher Education/Life-long learning (Chair: George Reid)
- Resource Preservation (including establishing a permanent portal for resources; Chair: Ed Papenfuse)

Summary and next steps

Attendees will receive an email regarding their choice of committee(s) to serve on. Baltimore City's traveling exhibit planning document and the draft of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Interpretive Plan will also be sent to attendees.