

U.S.D. 1812 Members to Honor Patriot Benjamin Mastick Sr. at Gravemarking Ceremony

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The General Elijah Hill Wadsworth Chapter of the United States Daughters of the War of 1812 will host a grave marking ceremony in honor of Benjamin Mastick Sr.

Mastick served as a colonel in the War of 1812, which was an armed conflict between the United States and Great Britain over British violations of U.S. maritime rights.

He is buried at Claridon Center Cemetery, 13960 Mayfield Road, where members of the Wadsworth chapter will gather at 12 p.m. June 3 to mark his grave.

“A grave marking brings descendants of the men who fought during the War of 1812 and allows us to honor them and to raise awareness of the forgotten war and of our organization, The United States Daughters of the War of 1812,” said Terry Ray, treasurer of the Wadsworth chapter. “They are our great-grandfathers, great-uncles and great-cousins who took up arms and put themselves in danger to protect our emerging Republic, the United States of America.”

Other participants in the June 3 event include 2nd Vice President National Mary Webster Glenn, Recording Secretary National Susan Franks Leininger and various Ohio Society U.S.D. 1812 state officers and chapter presidents.

Chardon VFW Post 6519 will be presenting a color guard of flags, including the flag of the War of 1812. Taps will be played and a 21-gun salute given to honor the patriotism of Mastick.

Jillian Mueller, a descendent of Mastick's will be arriving from California to attend the event. Her aunt will be coming from Washington, D.C., Ray said.

U.S. Representative David Joyce, R-OH, will be issuing a proclamation for the event.

Based on his research, Terry Ray, treasurer of the Wadsworth chapter, said not only was Mastick a patriot of the War of 1812, he was a patriot of the American Revolution.

Mastick enlisted when he was only 15 years old and was encamped at Cambridge, Mass., in June of 1775.

He married Cynthia Wood in Westborough, Mass., on Jan. 2, 1783.

Mastick moved to Geauga County in 1812 to clear farmland for Nabby Hitchcock, wife of Judge Peter Hitchcock, who was a long-standing justice on the Ohio Supreme Court.

"When the War of 1812 broke out, Colonel Mastick signed up with the militia Geauga County Fourth Division. He fought under the command of General Elijah Hill Wadsworth, of Canfield," Ray said. "This is the general for whom our chapter of the United States Daughters of the War of 1812 is named and for whom the city of Wadsworth, Ohio, is named."

The War of 1812 is often referred to as the forgotten war, Ray said, adding everyone knows about the American Revolution of 1776 and the Civil War.

"But rarely do people think of the war in between the Revolution and the Civil War — The War of 1812," he said. "A foreign country invaded our shores 36 years after being ejected. They set Washington, D.C., and the White House on fire. It is said that the flames from the fires could be seen as far as 50 miles away."

Great Britain had the most powerful navy in the world in 1812, Ray explained.

"But along the shores of Lake Erie, from Erie, Pa., to Sandusky, Ohio, our men and women were making sacrifices to fight a powerful nation by building a fleet of ships to go against the greatest naval force of the time. The Battle of Lake Erie was a turning point in the war and we in Ohio must not forget the part we played in that significant moment in history."