



Historic Insights



by Gene Pisasale

Mysteries of the Star Spangled Banner and the War of 1812



The War of 1812 is a misunderstood and in many ways “forgotten war”. Raging from June 1812 to January 1815, this conflict with the British was caused by continuing acts of piracy against American shipping and the impressment of thousands of sailors against their will. With battles occurring from the Great Lakes to New Orleans and both major oceans, the war saw the burning of much of our nation’s capital and the near destruction of our military. Yet it had many positive repercussions. America proved herself, taking a place among the most powerful nations, gaining stature in the eyes of the world. An icon- the Star-Spangled Banner was born, the song becoming our National Anthem and the flag which flew above Fort McHenry treasured as proof of our dedication to liberty. Mysteries remain to this day surrounding important aspects of the Star-Spangled Banner. Fascinating highlights of the flag and the war are covered in this review of a critical period in American history.

Lecture Outline:

- Piracy on the open seas- prelude to war
- America battles a major foe for the second time
- Initial defeats spell near disaster for our young nation
- Unexpected surprises- victories on the water
- Public humiliation- our capital is burned
- Our flag was still there- an American icon is born
- The flag and the poem- symbols of liberty
- Unresolved mysteries surrounding the Star-Spangled Banner
- “Forgotten wars”- the War of 1812, Korea and Vietnam
- Honoring our Veterans from all wars- the heroes of America

About the Author:



Gene Pisasale is an author and historian who lives in Kennett Square, Pa. He’s written nine books, conducts an ongoing lecture series and contributes a column titled “**Living History**” to media outlets in the Philadelphia area. He earned a Master’s Degree summa cum laude in American history at American Public University. Gene began his career as a petroleum geologist after earning a Master’s Degree in petroleum geology from The University of Texas at Austin. He later worked as an energy analyst and portfolio manager in the investment industry after earning an MBA Finance from San Diego State University, the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certifications. He is an approved **Speaker** and **Visiting Scholar** at the Delaware Humanities Forum. Gene has presented his lectures at a wide range of venues, including the **Hamilton Grange National Memorial** (Alexander Hamilton’s home in New York), **Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park**, **Fort McHenry** in Baltimore, **Brandywine Battlefield Park** and the **Union League** in Philadelphia. If your group has guest speakers, he welcomes inquiries for lecture presentations, book signings and other events.

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