

the War of
1812

BICENTENNIAL *Peace Garden* *Niagara Falls*

Gad Pierce was born on June 12, 1768 in Royalstown, Mass and died on August 9, 1847 right here in Niagara Falls, NY. Mr. Pierce came to the Niagara Region in 1807 and purchased land consisting of 262 acres from where you stand out west to the river. If you look to the south, at the intersection of Main Street and Portage Road, you'll be gazing at the spot where Pierce opened a tavern in 1811.

Gad Pierce exhibited two qualities during the war that still define the citizens of Niagara Falls today – cunning and bravery.

In one instance, Pierce fooled the British Army into thinking that a large American Army contingent awaited them by assembling a large number of locals and Tuscarora Indians along the banks of the Niagara River – using canes, ramrods and sticks to take the place of proper weaponry. The imposing appearance had the desired effect of deceiving the British and the contemplated attack of Fort Niagara was not made. In another instance, he led a group of men in building a barricade across Portage Road so that many families could escape to freedom as the attacking British forces were slowed.

Ben Franklin wrote that the Revolutionary War was a war of rebellion, but that the War of 1812 was the real war for independence.

As you enjoy your freedoms and independence today, take a moment and look directly behind you to the west at Pierce Avenue – named for Gad Pierce, Niagara Frontier protector of freedom.

Modeled on the International Peace Garden concept that originated in Canada in 1990, a permanent trail of Peace Gardens has been established along the historic route where events of the War determined the future of Canada, the United States and the fate of many First Nations and Native American people. The garden trail covers over 600 miles in both the USA and Canada.

This is a cooperative initiative undertaken by the **International Peace Garden Foundation**, **1812 Legacy Council** and its many devoted volunteers.

The **Bicentennial Peace Garden Trail** is designed to attract international visitors as well as residents of this historic region to experience and enjoy the natural beauty that these gardens provide while commemorating the peace that has existed between Canada and the United States over the past 200 years.

Visit **1812.ipgf.org** to obtain complete details on additional sites, history, locations & special events.



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About the War of 1812

- ▶ The United States declared war on Great Britain June 18, 1812. This was the first time in history that the United States declared war on another nation.
- ▶ The War of 1812 was an armed conflict between the United States and Great Britain from 1812-1814. Contrary to popular belief, it was not a conflict between the U.S. and Canada.
- ▶ The causes of the war were trade tensions, impressments, British support for Indian raids and U.S. territory expansion.
- ▶ In August of 1814 the British captured and burned Washington, DC.
- ▶ The Star Spangled Banner was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Ft. McHenry by British naval ships. It became the United States' national anthem in 1931.
- ▶ Following five months of negotiations, the war was ended by the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in late 1814.
- ▶ Word of the signed treaty did not reach the U.S. until weeks later.

The Battle of New Orleans, one of the war's bloodiest battles, actually took place after the treaty was signed.

- ▶ This war ultimately led to independence for both the U.S. and Canada.



In cooperation with
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