

## Who can join?

In order to take the field as a uniformed Marine member, Navy landing party member, or aboard any host vessel, you must be at least eighteen years of age, and physically able to handle a flintlock musket and certifiable as part of a cannon crew. Musicians and midshipmen can apply for membership at the age of fourteen, but require parental permission. Children may participate as long as their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is an active member of the Company and accompany them at all times. Wives and/or girlfriends are encouraged to participate as "distaff." There is no upper age limit. All members who qualify to portray a Royal Navy Sea Officer or an Officer of Marines MUST first complete an enlisted kit and be qualified in all training for the duties of that impression. Each Navy Line Officer and Officer of Marines must be prepared to act as an enlisted Sailor or Marine as a given situation may require.

## What about the wives or girlfriends and kids, what can they do?

The military of the time had a large number of women and children attached. As living history with the Richmond is definitely a family oriented hobby, wives or girlfriends and children of our members can take part by depicting their 18th century counterparts. They portray women and children of the period in all of the various roles that women and children held. They enact their personas as officer's ladies, wives or girlfriends of Sailors and Marines, or visiting ladies to the vessels. Without the women, the 18th century military would have had a more difficult time than they did; just as the women were an integral part of naval forces of the period, so are the families of the H.M.S. Richmond. We can suggest sources to begin your search.

### *The Destruction of the American Fleet at Penobscot Bay, 14 August 1779*

*by Dominic Serres the Elder*

*-courtesy of the Royal Maritime Museum*



For more details concerning the bylaws, membership applications and specific information surrounding the goals and events of the Ship's Company HMS Richmond, contact the website at:

<http://www.hmsrichmond.org>

or write:

H.M.S. Richmond  
5545 Woodridge,  
Toledo, Ohio 43623

### **Marine Unit contact:**

Russell Borghere  
21 Copeland Drive  
Marion, NC 28752



The HMS Richmond is a member of the  
Nava and Marine Living History Association  
<http://www.navyandmarine.org/>



"For the truth is that I already know as much about my fate as I need to know. The day will come when I will die.

So the only matter of consequence before me is what I will do with my allotted time. I can remain on shore, paralyzed with fear, or I can raise my sails and dip and soar in the breeze."

- Richard Bode, First you have to row a little boat

### ***Who are you and what is your mission?***

We're a group of men and women from many walks of life who share an interest in bringing naval history of the American War for Independence (AWI) or for some members the War of 1812 to life. We work to keep alive the life and times of the common British Sailor and Marine of this period. To that end, we are recreating, as accurately as our research will allow, a composite Ship's Company of sailors and marines of King George's frigate Richmond (or the 1812 corvette The Royal George.)

The unique thing about this unit is that it is intended to enable membership from anywhere in the US, Canada, or the UK. If its the opening of the Northwest, The battle for the Great Lakes or the great land and sea engagements of the Revolutionary War, The HMS Richmond offers a platform to craft a local to national network of events with like minded participants.

The command of the umbrella organization H.M.S.Richmond has a support system to host members from any distance. It is our belief that there are many individuals not close to historical battle sites that would like to get involved in reenacting this period, and have a great deal to offer in the way of talent and resources.

Whether its either coasts, or the Great Lakes, all members are welcome to design their involvement levels. This may range from doing public education in your area, such as presentations for school history classes to joining our ranks during national events.

### ***What is the H.M.S.Richmond and what does it do?***

The H.M.S.Richmond is like a receiving ship, in that there is no intent to recreate the actual vessel. It is the unit's name and reference to the type of ship's company we desire to portray. Members are invited to "chose a billet (profession) and develop a persona". This can be as a able bodied seamen , or as one of the ship's "crack" marine soldiers.

Some members of the Ship's company expressed a desire to explore the Navy from the War of 1812. To that interest we have created the HMS Royal George. The Royal George was a ship corvette, pierced to carry twenty guns. It was built on Point Frederick Ontario in 1809.

### ***The Art of Sail, the culture of the 18th and early 19th century seaman.***

What sets the Richmond apart from other Military Living History Groups? Its the love of learning the craft of sailmaking, gunnery, navigation, ship's carpentry, etc. Members bring these various skills to bear both for the use at events and to demonstrate the lost arts of the sea.

### ***Ship and Shore***

Although most of our activities are centered around land based military events, it's part of our mission to acquaint any and all members interested, with a feel for true ship side experiences. It may be a short day journey on a sloop (when available) or a chartered weekend workshop (depending on costs and location). Previous nautical experience is welcomed (but not a prerequisite to membership). What *is* necessary is a earnest love of the sea and a desire to openly share these experiences with the crew and the public.

