



Lewes- Spring 1813- Fortification Creations

HOME LESSON PLAN #2- Monday March,30

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

David Paynter, born in **1782**, was a **commissary** in Lewes during the War of 1812,. In **1813**, he was living in the Burton Ingram House. The building today sits on the campus of the Lewes Historical Society at 110 Shipcarpenter Street. David later **ceded** his residence to other family members. David's job was to calculate the **military surplus**. Attention to detail was crucial. David calculated everything needed for the defense of the town, from food to weapons. He even calculated **10 blankets on hand**. Lewes was low on **ammunition**. It was recorded that Lewes had **500 Cannonballs which weighed, in total, 10,000 lbs**. David was concerned with the high cost of repair to the **fortifications** to the point that he wrote, "**The expenses of the Fortifications which are considerable cannot be obtained at this time.**" Born in **1764**, Daniel Rodney, another local eyewitness, to the Lewes bombardment recorded in his journal on **March 30, 1813** that "**All our preparations and services performed here have been at the expense of the inhabitants who are now preparing to throw up some battle defenses for the Town.**"



Burton Ingram House



Daniel Rodney



War of 1812 Memorial Park (mid 20th century)

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- ◆ **CALCULATE** – How old was David Paynter in 1813? How old was Daniel Rodney?
- ◆ **RECORD**—How many pillows do you have in your living room? How would you categorize them, size, color?
- ◆ **BUILD**—With permission from parents! Construct your own War of 1812 fort using living room pillows.
- ◆ **SHARE**—Please consider sharing photos of your fortification creations with *The Lewes Historical Society*.

**Email- The Director of Education at: marcos@historiclewes.org
with "Lesson Plan #2" in the subject line.**

VOCABULARY:

Commissary – A person selected to keep stock of item amounts, relating especially to equipment and provisions.

Ceded – To give up something such as property.

Military Surplus – Goods that are sold or otherwise disposed of when no longer needed by the military

Ammunition – A supply of projectile weapons, such as cannonballs.

Fortifications – A defensive wall or other reinforcement built to strengthen a place against attack.

Inhabitants – People who live and occupy a certain place.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES :

To better understand the important role of fortifications against naval attack during the War of 1812 in the DELMARVA region,

PLEASE WATCH this short 3-minute Smithsonian online video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiVryYnzmdl>