War of 1812 200th Anniversary Series

Tim Bergquist

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, the United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a set of four single stamps, one per year from 2012 to 2015 in panes of 20. All four stamps have the words "The War of 1812" on them and depict important events of the war.

The first stamp (Scott #4703) was issued on August 18, 2012 at Boston, Massachusetts. It shows the *USS Constitution*, also known as "Old Ironsides." It was launched on October 21, 1797 and is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat. The ship is berthed at Pier One of the former Charlestown Navy Yard, at the terminus of Boston's Freedom Trail.





The second stamp (Scott #4805) was issued on September 10, 2013 at Put-in-Bay, Ohio – at the Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. It commemorates the event on September 10, 1813, when Oliver Hazard Perry won an important victory on Lake Erie. It pictures the event when the *Lawrence*'s last gun was unusable and Perry removed the ship's battle flag and rowed a half-mile through heavy gunfire to assume command of the *Niagara*.

The third stamp (Scott #4921) was issued on September 13, 2014, the 200th anniversary of the battle at Baltimore, MD, inside Fort McHenry. The stamp depicts the 25-hour bombardment of the fort by British ships in Baltimore Harbor. This was the inspiration for Francis Scott Key to write the poem that became "The Star-Spangled Banner."





The fourth and final stamp (Scott #4952) was issued on May 14, 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The war was actually over and the Treaty of Ghent signed when the Battle of New Orleans took place on January 8, 1815, but word had not reached either side yet. Andrew Jackson commanded a force that defeated the attacking British.