

# SOTTERLEY 19<sup>th</sup> Century TIMELINE Part I

Trying to hold neutrality in a war between England and France, President Jefferson issues a trade embargo in retaliation for the boarding and seizing of U.S. ships. This controversial action becomes unpopular as goods pile up in U.S. ports and fortunes are lost. It does not produce the desired response from England and France.

Virginian, James Madison is elected president. John Rousby Plater of Sotterley, is one of two Maryland electors that voted against Madison and for the Federalist candidate, Charles C. Pinckney from SC.

With mudslinging political battles between parties taking place in the U.S. press, the British are defeated in York (Toronto), Canada. The British begin a blockade of the Chesapeake Bay in March.

On April 2, British Admiral Cochrane issues a proclamation inviting U.S. citizens to join the British. Enslaved Americans had already begun to run to the British, but after the proclamation, whole families of enslaved leave their owners for British ships. By the end of the war, about 4,000 enslaved Americans escape to the British. 700 Maryland enslaved enlist and serve in the British Colonial Marines.

On June 10, and June 26, British and American naval forces skirmish at St. Leonard's Creek on the Calvert County side of the Patuxent River in sight of Sotterley Plantation on the opposite shore.

British Captain Robert Barrie, of H.M.S. *Loire* reports that on June 13, 300 militia were at Sotterley, but ran to the woods before the British arrived. Four Sotterley slaves, James Bowie, Peregrine Young, Joseph Wood, and Ignatius Seale, join the British.

Ann Plater marries her cousin, John Rousby Plater Jr. at Sotterley on November 3. Frederick Douglas is born on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

George Plater V, now the master at Sotterley, reports having 19 enslaved and 3 free blacks working his property. His half-sister, Ann dies. Harriet Tubman is born on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Without an adequate labor force and with inherited debt, George Plater V sells Sotterley's 4,000 acres. Plater says he plans to go west.

After years of negotiations, the British pay reparations for slaves lost to owners during the War of 1812. John Rousby Plater receives about \$280 for each of the 49 Sotterley slaves who escaped.

Thomas Barber dies, leaving Sotterley to his daughter Lydia, and his step-daughter, Emeline Dallum. Emeline marries Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe in August.

1807

1808

1813

1814

1818

1820

1822

1826

1804

1812

1814

1815

1823

1824

In May, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark depart up the Missouri River on an expedition of the land purchased by the U.S. from France, known as the Louisiana Purchase.

In July, Vice President Alexander Hamilton dies in a duel with Aaron Burr.

Thomas Jefferson is re-elected as president in November. He receives all electoral votes except, Connecticut, Delaware, and two votes from Maryland.

The British continue impressments of U.S. citizens, impose trade restrictions to prevent U.S. trade with France, and arm Native Americans. President Madison declares war with Britain on June 18. Known as the War of 1812, the conflict will last 3 years. St. Mary's County is a Federalist stronghold. Men such as Sotterley's John Rousby Plater, are opposed to the war because of interruptions to trade and the lack of U.S. forces to protect the people and property of Southern Maryland from British attack.

On June 14, the British return and burn Sotterley tobacco stores and the buildings the militia once occupied. John Rousby Plater sees his four slaves now armed and alongside the British that now confront him.

British Captain Joseph Norse of H.M.S. *Severn*, reports 39 men, women, and children coming aboard from Sotterley on June 22. A total of 49 enslaved men, women and children escape from Sotterley by September.

The British bombard Ft. McHenry in Baltimore on September 13 and 14.

On August 14, the British burn government buildings in Washington, D. C., to include the White House and the U.S. Capitol building.

The Treaty of Ghent is ratified by Congress in February, officially ending the War of 1812.

The Munroe, Seale, and Coursey families, all former Sotterley enslaved, receive a small parcel of land in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

James Bowie and Joseph Wood are both awarded land in Trinidad by the British.

John Rousby Plater and his son, ship a cargo of slaves, mostly children, on the *Brig Intelligence* from Baltimore to the Port of New Orleans to be sold. They arrive on April 5. George Plater V ships one 16-year-old mulatto girl called, Darkey with this same cargo.

Thomas Barber purchases 1,000 acres that remains of Sotterley Plantation in June.