

## **Privateering in the War of 1812 and the Mystery of the *Lion of Baltimore***

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Privateers were an integral part of America's eventual victory in the War of 1812. Operating out of ports in Massachusetts, New York, and Maryland, privateers did far more damage to British shipping than did the fledgling American Navy. The Baltimore privateers were so successful that the British eventually instituted the so-called Chesapeake Campaign in 1814 to bottle up the raiders and ready Baltimore for attack. One of the more notorious Chesapeake privateers was the *Lion*. Recently, volunteers from the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society began a search for the remains of the *Lion* in Bodkin Creek, south of the Patapsco River, after reports that the vessel had been sunk there by the British while returning to Baltimore in August of 1814.