

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



President's Park
White House Visitor Center

The Capital City and Capital Hostess: War of 1812



Join Rebecca Roper at the White House Visitor Center on **August 27th at 9:30 am and 11am.**

Rebecca will be dressed as First Lady Dolley Madison as she interprets how Dolley and Benjamin Henry LaTrobe completed the decorating of the State Rooms in the President's House from 1809-1814. Learn about the prominence of Presidential portraits and the meaningful elements of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington. These color-rich rooms and Dolley's vivacious personality made the President's House the destination of choice on Wednesday nights, where so many engaged in democratic discourse and dined on delicious desserts. All was well until, British General Admiral Cockburn lead the British invasion of Washington City in late August 1814. Mrs. Madison and her staff gathered pertinent papers, paintings, and pieces of silver while she waited for the President and the Secretary of State to return to the President's House on August 24, 1814.

Activity: Children are encouraged to draw a portrait of their favorite president or first lady.