

The Army of Two

Years after the American Revolution, the American people had another war with England. This was called the War of 1812, and in it many great battles were fought. The Americans won this war, proving that they were, in fact, independent. When the war was over, there was no story the people liked better to tell than the story of two little girls, Rebecca and Sarah.

War of 1812

1. The American Revolution ended in 1783. How many years separate the American Revolution and the War of 1812?

Rebecca's father kept the lighthouse, and Sarah was Rebecca's playmate. One day when the children were at play, they saw an English ship coming into the harbor. Rebecca's

father had gone across the bay, and the children were alone.

"What is that?" they cried, when they saw the ship.

"It looks like an English ship."

"But what is it doing in our harbor?"

harbor

"I fear it has come for no good," Rebecca thought.

Then the children ran up into the lighthouse to watch. Yes, it was an English ship, coming straight into the bay. It had already begun its mischief; for it had set fire to a little sloop that lay outside the harbor.

lighthouse

"Oh, if I were a man, wouldn't I fight?" cried Rebecca.

"And I, too," cried Sarah.

The little girls watched and watched. What could they do? If they could only warn the people of the village! But they could not, for they had no boat.

"Couldn't we scare the English away?" they wondered.

"There is a drum in the lighthouse," said Rebecca.

"There is a fife, too. Let us go and get them!"

"I can beat the drum."

"And I can play the fife," said Sarah. A fife is a kind of flute.

Down the stairway the two children ran to find the drum and the fife. They would play them as hard as ever they could, and perhaps the English would think an army was coming.

Then, the children crept around behind the lighthouse and along through the bushes.

2. What two instruments do Rebecca and Sarah play?

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"Rub-a-dub, rub-a-dub-dub-dub!"

"Squeakity-squeak! Squeakity-squeak!"

"Hark!" called the English captain.

"Rub-a-dub, rub-a-dub, rub-a-dub-dub!"

"Squeakity-squeak! Squeakity-squeak!"

captain

.....

"Troops!" said the soldiers. "But where are they?" Then they listened again. The music seemed to be coming nearer and nearer.

"They are coming along the point," said the captain. The soldiers scrambled into the ship and pulled up the little boats.

"The people have seen us. We will go away and try this port some other day," said the captain. Then they turned the ship and sailed out of the harbor.

"I believe they were really frightened at our music," said the children.



This is a matchlock gun, popular during this time period.

Meantime, the people in the village heard the music too. What did it mean? Where did it come from?

As soon as the ship turned away, the village people hurried over to the lighthouse. And what did they find there? Only two little girls!

"Do you think we scared them away?" asked Rebecca.

"There can be no doubt of it," the people said.

From that time, as long as Rebecca and Sarah lived, they were called Captain Rebecca and Lieutenant

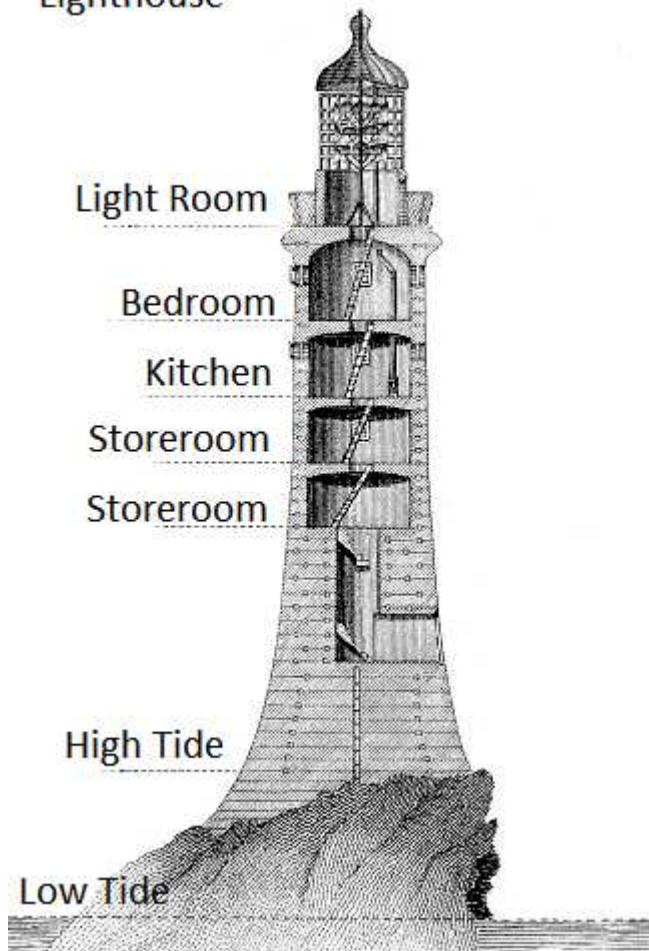
Sarah. Sometimes they were called the American Army of Two!

Captain Rebecca

Lieutenant Sarah

3. Were Rebecca and Sarah brave? Why or why not?

Lighthouse



4. To the left is an illustration of the interior (inside) and exterior (outside) of a lighthouse. Describe what it would be like to live in a lighthouse.

Coloring Page



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