

HENRY WORTHINGTON, JR.

Henry Worthington, Jr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1781, the son of Henry Worthington, Sr., a saddler, and his wife Mary Yeister. Worthington spent his early years in Baltimore as a crew member on the various merchant vessels sailing from Baltimore and became known among the many ship captains of that time, including Joshua Barney. In 1805, Worthington received a commission in the U.S. Navy and reported to the USS Constitution as a midshipman at Gibraltar in February of 1805. He was transferred to the US Navy's 8-gun brig, the USS Franklin, in August of 1805 and served for several years during the Barbary Wars in the Mediterranean.

In 1813, he was recruited by Master Commandant Joshua Barney of Baltimore who was recruiting seasoned sailors to man a fleet of gun barges to harass the British fleet in the Chesapeake Bay in the War of 1812. Worthington requested a discharge from the Navy, which was granted, and was immediately commissioned under Barney as a sailing master and captain of one of the gun barges in the Chesapeake Flotilla. He served in this position from 15 September 1813 to 15 April 1815 for the duration of the War of 1812, participating in the Battles of St. Leonard's Creek, Bladensburg, and Baltimore, and captained one of the gun barges protecting the entrance to the Baltimore harbor at Fort McHenry during the British bombardment of that Fort.

The Navy Register lists Worthington reentering service and being reappointed Sailing Master on May 2, 1815, assigned to the USS Hornet. Worthington served on various ship and shore assignments until his death in service November 18, 1848. There is no record of any marriage for Henry, Jr.