



THE PERRY GROUP • PUT-IN-BAY, OH CAPTAIN'S LOG

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to **BICEN+10**, the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie. This year we have a host of events scheduled as highlighted in this edition of the Captain's Log. Active Plans are in the final stages to bring back the Ohio State Marching Band for Labor Day Weekend as well as the United States Navy who will be deploying a number of assets locally to help celebrate NAVY WEEK in the Cleveland area. The Season is filled with fun events and a great opportunity to Join the Perry Group or Renew your membership. This is a year you do not want to miss and space will fill quickly on all of the social gatherings.

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial under the direction of Superintendent Barbara Fearon is one of the best operations in the country and her leadership to help secure funding for the Park and Monument over the year's is OUTSTANDING. Barb leads a team of highly dedicated and caring individuals. They all deserve a THANK YOU or a greeting when you visit the Park or Visitor's Center.

The Perry Group Board and members continue to grow, expand and enjoyed a wonderful Season in 2022. We welcome your participation, ideas and membership to help build the organization to new heights. Someone has to lead the OSU band down main street and it might as well be you!

The Victory in the Battle of Lake Erie was not only a turning point in the War of 1812 but also for the future of the United States. Prior to the battle we had experienced a string of defeats at the hands of the British and Natives in the region. Moral was low and we were constantly wondering if we would ever escape British control. Oliver Hazard Perry's heroics helped make the United States a Naval power and we successfully defeated the British Navy. We also moved forward to reclaim the Ohio, Indiana and Michigan territories. They were always under siege with countless skirmishes and we were able to defeat Tecumseh and his Indian confederacy. The victory in the Battle of Lake Erie enhanced American stature and led to the winning of the War of 1815. We finally were independent from Great Britain and we will Celebrate as we host the Flags for **BICEN+10**.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR TEAM and let's make 2023 a year to REMEMBER! I look forward to visiting with you and your families.



David R. Zavagno
President

2023 • ISSUE 2

PERRY GROUP BOARD MEMBERS

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Memorial Opens May 20, 2023 for the Bicen+10

By Barbara Rowles Superintendent, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial

Seasonal staff will arrive soon and all of us will spend two weeks training and making final preparations to open the park for the 2023 season on May 20. We plan to open the Memorial for tours to the observation deck with one new change in the operation. During 2023, all ticket sales will be from the Visitor Center rather than the elevator landing in the Memorial. This change allows people to purchase their tickets for a specific time rather than waiting in line

for up to an hour. Rangers will be offering outdoor programs and historic musket demonstrations every weekend and carronade firings one weekend a month.

Another new feature especially nice for folks who cannot visit the observation deck because of the stairs, fear of heights or small spaces, or for other reasons, is a live view from the observation deck. This live view is available at <https://www.nps.gov/pevi/learn/photosmultimedia/view-from-the-top.htm>

(Cont'd on pg 3)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE 2023 EVENTS

The Perry Group is planning several exciting events for the 2023 season. Our first event is in June 17. Perry Group Members are invited to enjoy a reception onboard the tall ship Niagara at Fox Dock. Details to be provided at a later date. *Free to Perry Group Members.*

On July 4th we will host a reception at Perry's Victory and Peace Memorial Visitor's Center. A *limited number* of tickets will be available to Perry Group members to go to the top of the monument for a spectacular view of the Independence

Day fireworks. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased in advance at friendsofperry.org.

On Labor Day weekend special events with the OSU band and the US Navy are being finalized. Details to follow.

On September 10th members are invited to ride the Jet Express from Put-in-Bay to the site of the Battle of Lake Erie where a wreath will be placed in commemoration of the 210th anniversary. This event is FREE to Perry Group members. A cash bar and some food will be available. ■

For more information email: perrygroupinfo@gmail.com.



The U.S. Brig Niagara is home ported at the Erie Maritime Museum, Erie, PA.



JOIN US...

The Perry Group is a Friends Group organized to support the mission and goals of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. In addition the Perry Group has a schedule of social, philanthropic, and historical events commemorating our unique history. Active members enjoy regional event and membership meetings to help build a lasting foundation for continued growth.

We invite you to join us as a member in this mission.

YOUR 2023 PERRY GROUP MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Membership card
- Exclusive member only events as well as discounted public events

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP – \$45
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$90



Visit www.friendsofperry.org to become a new member or renew your existing membership.

OUR MISSION

The Friends of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, also known as The Perry Group, is a 501(c)3 volunteer, nonprofit organization working with the National Park Service and the local, national and international community to commemorate the Battle of Lake Erie and celebrate the long-lasting peace between Britain, Canada and the United States.



Perry's Victory Etching (Library of Congress)

The Importance of the Battle of Lake Erie Victory

From article published 12 October 2015 by Kollin Long
(Military History of the Great Lakes, mtu.edu)

On September 10, 1813, the fairly new and undisciplined American navy, under command of Captain Oliver Hazard Perry, defeated Great Britain in the Battle of Lake Erie. This victory was monumental in the War of 1812 because it allowed America to gain control of Lake Erie, thus preventing the British from seizing control of the Northwest Territories in the middle of the present day United States.

Turning Point of the War of 1812

The victory in the Battle of Lake Erie was key not only in the War of 1812 but also for the future of the United States as a whole. This is because the U.S. had experienced a string of defeats at the hands of the British before the battle and this victory boosted moral of soldiers but also raised further hope in American citizens that their country would once be free from the rule of Great Britain.

When the War of 1812 was declared, the United States forces were poorly prepared, especially the American Naval systems. President James Madison had to send forces to the Michigan territory after hostile disputes with British and Natives in that region. Then came the surrender of Detroit on August 16, 1812. This was almost devastating to America controlling the war and President Madison realized the significance of reclaiming the lost territory. This in turn brought up the necessity of controlling Lake Erie because of how vital it was for trade between states and countries. The British already had a fleet occupying the lake so it was an important stepping stone as to cutting off the British from Canada.

With the inevitable British attack coming from the north, President Madison decided it was necessary to make an American Naval

fleet in Lake Erie, and he appointed Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry to command. When the Americans Arrived at Lake Erie there was already a British fleet of 8 vessel while the Americans had zero [Source 4]. Naval Construction began immediately and by August of 1813 the Americans had a fleet of 9 vessels.

In the first unqualified defeat of a British naval squadron in history, Captain Oliver Hazard Perry led his nine vessels to a decisive American victory in the Battle of Lake Erie. After the battle, Oliver Hazard Perry sent his famous dispatch to U.S. General William Henry Harrison that read, "We have met the enemy, and they are ours" [Source 5].

This victory was monumental for the U.S. because it caused the British to abandon Detroit, Lake Erie and the American Northwest Territories. Without this victory the British could have invaded America right through the heart of the country and could have possibly given the British enough momentum that America could have lost the war of 1812 and possibly never regained their independence. This victory also gave the Americans control of Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence Seaway, which almost in itself stippled the British forces from an adamant chance at a victory in the War of 1812. [Source 8]

The victory in turn also made the United States a naval power while also depleting the British Navy and British moral during the war in general. The Battle of Lake Erie allowed America to reclaim the Michigan, Indiana and Ohio territories which had been partially sieged throughout the war which then lead for America to participate in the destruction of the Tecumseh Indian confederacy. The victory in the Battle of Lake Erie enhanced American stature, it eventually led to winning the war in 1815 and ultimately led to America sealing its independence from Great Britain. ■

The People's Hero

"Perry he comes behold his spreading sails
Rides high in Ethan waffled by the gales
He speaks my son see Barclays fleet away night

Prepare to action Conquer or to die
The guardian genius of Lake Erie's deep
Stood speechless wondering & he began to weep

Like some hovering seraph anchored in the air
To view with wonder the conflicting pair
Old Neptune trembled & his sea nymphs fled

All filled with wonder and with dread
And great Leviathan that does guard the deep
Was roved astonished from his liquid sleep

The mare maid wondered & she wept aloud
To see the men mangled
belcher rising to the vapping cloud
And tenfold thunder bursting in the air

This roar of the cannon by the lightning glare
Like elements embattled whirl winds rend
To take the rock & all the mortars lend

To crush the forest fire alarms tare
The growth of nature waft it in the air
Tremendous roars like great regards fall

The mind astonished by the senses all
See brave Columbia & John Bull engage
One fought with venom and one with rage

In dreadful combat on a watery field
Each floating battery & service shield
Each fair broadside in high maritime ire
Seemed blagering sheets & awful streams of fire

Lake Erie trembled & fort Malden gaged
The awful thunder & the lightning blazed
Press on leocronnies hovering Justice cried

Justice oh Perry Justice on thy pride
The victory Gained by thy heroic powers
We met Great Britain & we made them ours"

[Source 2]

SOURCES

Ruggard. (July 4, 1821). "Perry Victory on Lake Erie 10th Sept. 1813". *Olio Newspaper*. Cincinnati, Ohio. [Source 2]

Burges, Tristram. (2009). *Battle of Lake Erie*. Applewood Books.[Source 4]

Dillon, Richard. (1978). *We have met the enemy: Oliver Hazard Perry, wilderness commodore*. New York: McGraw-Hill. [Source 5]

Zwiebel, Dominique (2009). *Battle of Lake Erie: Turning Point of the War of 1812*. The Pennsylvania Center for the Book [Source 8]

Memorial Opens May 20, 2023 for the Bicen+10 *Continued from page 1*

May and June Special Events (all events are free to the public unless otherwise noted).

**These events require a fee.*

May 20: Opening Day & Planting the Seeds of Peace.

Park staff discuss both invasive and native species of the park, South Bass Island, and the surrounding area.

May 23 – 25: Perry Education Days.

Park Interpretive staff will host a series of interactive learning stations at the park aimed at 4th-8th grade students although all ages are welcome to attend.

May 29: Memorial Day Ceremony.

Ceremony honoring the men and women who died while serving in the US military is held on the Memorial Plaza beginning at 11AM.

June 13: 108th Anniversary of the 1915 Memorial opening.

Interpretive programs will focus on the drive towards a memorial and its subsequent construction.

Fee Free Day.

June 14: Flag Day.*

Staff will fly 3 different US flags and offer programming around this topic. Watch the sun set at its most northern point of latitude from 317 ft. from the Observation Deck of the Memorial. Price is \$20.00. Tickets can be purchased in advance up to 48 hours prior to the event at <https://www.recreation.gov/> or in the Visitor Center. *Tickets may only be purchased the night of the event at the Ticket Desk in the Column.*

More events are planned for later in the season so look for updates.



Seawall Restoration

- The south seawall is nearly complete and was raised 18" from the prior height. The new drainage system, final grading, and new walkway will be completed this summer.
- The north seawall was raised 12" at the northwest section, the center section will also be raised 12" and will transition to 24" taller at the far northeast which is under construction now. A new walkway will be added along the north seawall.
- The seawall will have the same footprint except for a slight change to the tight curve just east of the Memorial creating more space between Bayview Avenue and the seawall.
- Bayview Avenue was temporarily realigned from Toledo to Park Avenue shifting it to the south to maintain two lanes of traffic, safer work area, and safer access for visitors and residents. Parking was moved to the west of the Monument and temporary walkways re-established. Bayview Avenue will be restored to its original footprint and given a fresh coat of asphalt when work is complete in October 2023.
- A few visitor experience improvements will also be included.
 - *Flush mounted step lights* will be added along both the north and south seawalls to light the walkway at night.
 - *New seating areas with benches and trash receptacles* will be added to the diagonal walkways on the south and in the grassy triangle by the Dairy Isle.

- *A new interpretive plaza directly across Bayview Avenue from the Memorial* will be added with full length depictions of the decks of the US Brig Lawrence and HMS Detroit carved into the walkway. Wayside panels will be added describing both vessels.

- All seawall related work will be complete by the end of 2023.

Upper Plaza Restoration

This project has been delayed due to circumstances beyond our control. We hope to re-engage on the planning effort later this summer with construction in 2025 and 2026.

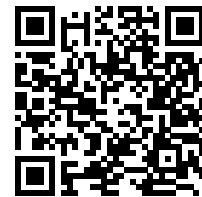
Since last season, the Visitor Center got a new roof, a fresh coat of interior paint, and new carpeting. Two housing units and the Maintenance facility also got new roofs. The 60 new trees planted last fall are thriving, the 3,000 daffodil bulbs planted last fall are a beautiful addition to the spring landscape, and we plan to do more work to improve the landscaping around the Visitor Center later this year. We are grateful to the South Bass Island/Put-in-Bay community for the support of this park and these projects. Major undertakings such as these cannot happen without the involvement of many. We look forward to the season and to our continuing partnership with friends and neighbors in the community. We also want to express our deep appreciation to the Perry Group for the ongoing support of the park through their advocacy and fundraising efforts. ■

SUPPORT THE PERRY GROUP WITH A PERRY'S MONUMENT SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE



*A portion of each sale is donated to the
Perry Group.*

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