

# MANY STATES AID IN CELEBRATION

Government Also Honors Memory of Commodore Perry.

## SERIES OF CELEBRATIONS.

Buffalo and Other Cities on Lake Shore Leave Nothing Undone to Make Centennial a Success—Elaborate Plans to Entertain All Visitors

**T**HE celebration of the Perry centennial, which is being participated in by the national government and a number of states, was first authoritatively acted upon by the state of Ohio. It was within the waters of that state that the battle of Lake Erie was fought. In 1906 the general assembly of Ohio authorized the governor to name five commissioners to arrange for the celebration of the battle of Lake Erie and General William Henry Harrison's northwest campaign of the war of 1812. The governor was also authorized to invite the co-operation of other states whose sons had participated in



MEMBERS OF PERRY'S VICTORY CENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF NEW YORK STATE.

these two events. Governor Andrew L. Harris acted accordingly. The states which are co-operating in the celebration are Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Kentucky and Louisiana. Except the last three, they all border on the great lakes. Rhode Island was invited to take part because it was the birthplace of Oliver Hazard Perry, and at New York his body lies buried. Kentucky is included because from there came Harrison's riflemen, and Louisiana be-



WILLIAM J. CONNERS, CHAIRMAN PERRY'S VICTORY CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, BUFFALO.

cause there was fought the last battle of the war, that of New Orleans, which took place after a treaty of peace had been concluded at Ghent. The congress of the United States took action upon the Perry centennial and appropriated \$250,000 for the general purposes of the celebration. At Put-in-Bay in September, 1910, the interstate board of the Perry's victory centennial commissioners was organized. President Taft appointed Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, Rear Admiral Charles B. Clark and General J. Warren Keifer of Ohio as United States commissioners to act with the interstate board. The different states interested in the

celebration, following one the other, made appropriations. One of the acts of the interstate board was to decide upon the erection of a fitting memorial to Perry at Put-in-Bay. This monument will be dedicated in 1915 in conjunction with the celebration of the treaty of Ghent. The national government and the various states have voted the funds with which this monument is being erected.

For the more immediate purpose of celebrating the Perry victory and General Harrison's campaign the different cities along the lakes were interested. Committees were formed in all of the larger of these cities. Delegations from the committees of the cities met a vast program was arranged, and the dates upon which the different cities should celebrate were fixed.

So, beginning at Erie, Pa., on July 4 and ending at Louisville, Ky., on



JOHN F. MALONE, CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PERRY'S VICTORY CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, BUFFALO.

Oct. 5, there will be this year a series of celebrations, each vying with the other to give due recognition to the events of the war which did so much to establish American freedom and stability. No city will surpass Buffalo in the greatness of its celebration. In fact, in no city have the means been provided and the arrangements made to handle the celebration that have been made in the Queen City of the Lakes. Early in the movement a committee of one hundred was formed in Buffalo. This committee includes the mayor and other city officials, military men and prominent citizens. An equally large committee of women has been formed to assist in arranging for the celebration.

The legislature of the state of New York was impudenced, with the result that an appropriation of \$150,000 was set aside for the celebration. A state commission was formed, consisting of six members of the legislature and five citizens. The legislative members are the Hon. John F. Malone of Buffalo, chairman of the executive committee of the commission; Hon. Martin H. Glynn, lieutenant governor of the state; Hon. William L. Orinrod of Churchville, Hon. Simon L. Adler of Rochester, Hon. Edward D. Jackson of Buffalo and Hon. Jacob Schifferdecker of Brooklyn. The citizen members are William J. Conners of Buffalo, chairman of the commission; George D. Emerson of



GEORGE D. EMERSON, SECRETARY, PERRY'S VICTORY CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, BUFFALO.

Buffalo, secretary of the commission; Dr. Clinton B. Herrick of Troy, William Simon of Buffalo and William F. Rafferty of Syracuse. The state commission and the city committee of Buffalo are working together in behalf of the Buffalo event. In addition to the sum appropriated by the state, the common council of Buffalo is to set aside the sum of \$20,000 toward defraying the expense of the celebration. It will be held in Buffalo Sept. 2 to 6, inclusive.

**Motorboat Races at Buffalo.** What will, no doubt, excite as much general interest as any other feature now being considered by the Perry victory centennial commission for the celebration to be held at Buffalo Sept. 2 to 6, inclusive, is the motorboat regatta under the auspices of the Motorboat club of Buffalo, preparations for which have been actively engaged upon.

# HOW PERRY WON HISTORIC BATTLE

Victory to Be Fittingly Commemorated at Buffalo.

## SHIPS BUILT AT THAT PORT

With Lieutenant Elliott in Charge, the Buffalo Vessels Joined Perry's Fleet on Lake Erie—"We Have Met the Enemy and They Are Ours."

**W**HILE during the term of the Perry's victory centennial celebration, to occur at Buffalo from Sept. 2 to Sept. 6, inclusive, a decided claim will be made upon the attention of the expected masses of visitors by events in which pyrotechnical displays and depictions, hydroaeroplanes and aeroplane races and monster parades will figure, yet the underlying motive, bringing, as it does, a remembrance of the stirring patriotism that actuated the actors in the war of 1812, must not be lost sight of.

Fitting indeed it is that at Buffalo will be commemorated the Perry victory, which was the first step in the recapturing of Detroit by the Americans and the subsequent regaining of the whole of the northwest territory, which had passed into the hands of the opposing forces. During the prolonged strife the Niagara frontier from its position played an important part in the epoch making events. Extending from Buffalo and Black Rock



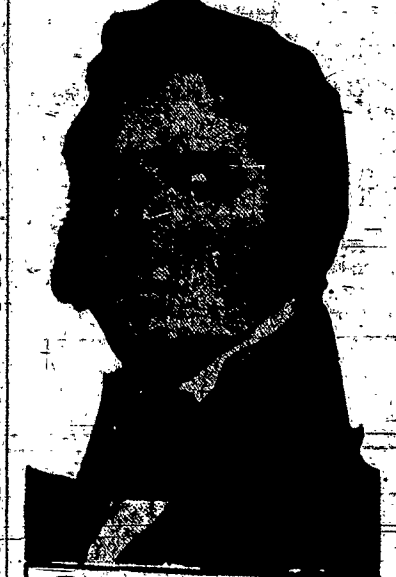
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY AT THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE.

northward through Lewiston to Fort Niagara were the American defenses, while across the river the English fortified Fort Erie, opposite Buffalo, and pushed their border through Queenstown until it reached Fort George. But scant headway was made by the Americans as the two armies crossed and recrossed the river. On the contrary, the whole of western New York was imperiled by the enemy, who, aided by a small band of Iroquois, burned the villages of Buffalo and Black Rock.

On Scenajunda creek at Buffalo was located the only shipyard in that section, and here it was that Lieutenant Elliott, who commanded the Niagara during the engagement being second in command to Perry, rebuilt and fitted out prior to Perry's coming the vessels known as the "five Buffalo boats," the Trippe, Somers, Caledonia, Amels and Ohio. These, in conjunction with what were known as the "six Erie boats," the Niagara, Scorpion, Lawrence, Tigress, Porcupine and Ariel, formed the American squadron. An idea of the remarkable energy and perseverance displayed may be gained from the fact that the place in which the work was prosecuted was practically a wilderness. It was necessary to transport the material used in equipping the vessels fully 600 miles from the seaboard, while green timber cut from trees growing on the western shore of the lake was utilized in the work. In fact, two of the vessels, to quote Perry, "were growing in the woods last spring."

In command of the British fleet was Captain Barclay, who had won distinction under Nelson. The British commander had planned to have his squadron on the lake and to blockade the Americans at the points where construction was under way. Perry, however, with his energetic tactics, baffled his opponent by quickly placing his vessels on Lake Erie. Realizing that Perry was in full control of the lake, Captain Barclay held his fleet at Detroit, on the Detroit river. Major Barclay's squadron set sail for Buffalo to engage the army at that

point. The enemy decided battle Perry's vessel in Put-in-Bay. To obtain provisions it was necessary for Captain Barclay to open communication with Long Point. He knew that the proceeding meant a fight. It was daybreak, Sept. 10, 1812, when the



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY AND MRS. FAMOUS. MESSAGE IN FACSIMILE.

Lawrence's lookout sighted the British fleet. Perry's fleet at once made sail to give battle. Although the American fleet outnumbered the British by three vessels, yet the enemy's ships were larger and carried more guns. However, the most striking difference existing was in the

# DEMONSTRATIONS TO GREET THE NIAGARA

Vessel Which Saved Commodore Perry to Visit Lake Ports.

## COVERED WITH MANN AND WOODS

Covered with mann and woods, the Niagara, the vessel to which Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry during the battle of Lake Erie transferred from his flagship, the Lawrence, was raised through the ice last March from where she had lain for nearly 100 years at the bottom of Mlaery bay.

Accounts of the battle record the fact that the Lawrence was demolished by the enemy's guns shortly after the American squadron met the British fleet. In a small rowboat and under a raking fire Perry and the surviving sailors of the flagship reached the Niagara. Immediately the tide of battle began to turn through the barrels of Perry as he darted the vessel through the enemy's lines, leaving havoc in his wake. And so whether the episode is considered as one of the most spectacular in the war of 1812 or viewed in the aspect of the advancement to American arms made possible by the victory in which it played such an important part, to the Niagara attaches an absorbing interest.

As may be expected, only a few weeks of preparation and with the aid of the greatest care was undertaken the work of raising the historic craft. Four big chains were fastened around her hull, the ship being lifted by pontoons and taken ashore to Erie, Pa. Here she was reconstructed and then launched on June 7, 1912.

# THRILLING STORY OF PERRY'S LIFE

How Won Famous Victory When Only 28 Years Old.

## DIED AT 33 OF FEVER

Why Battle of Lake Erie Remembered Country and How Name of Perry Immortal—Was Son of Man Who Fought in Revolutionary War—Perry Celebration.

**O**LIVER HAZARD PERRY, the victor of the battle of Lake Erie, the centenary of which is being observed throughout the chain of great lakes, was born at South Kingstown, R. I., Aug. 23, 1785. His father, Christopher Raymond Perry, was a man who took part in the Revolutionary war, and was twice made a prisoner by the British. When almost a year old Oliver Hazard Perry served as a midshipman with his father. When an American fleet was sent to the Mediterranean to pursue the Barbary pirates because of the way they were harrying on American commerce Perry went along and took part in the battle of Tripoli in which the fleet defeated the pirates and put an end to their depredations. At the age of twenty-two he was a lieutenant in the navy. Two years later he was captain in command of the USS Niagara.

When the war of 1812 broke out Perry was placed in charge of a squadron and assigned to defend Newport. It was an inactive assignment which he grew restless. In February, 1812, he gladly received word to proceed to Lake Erie and take command of a fleet which largely remained in command.

Perry arrived in Buffalo on August 24, 1812, and was met by a delegation led out by Lieutenant Barclay. He then went to Erie to inspect the work that had been done there since the winter by Captain Donald De Witt in building ships from timber cut from the forest. In May, Perry returned to Buffalo from Erie in a rowboat manned by two men.

The Americans were then in charge of Fort George, near the mouth of the Niagara river. Perry went to Erie there and had charge of the saloons and marines during the winter, heading them in the assault upon the fort. The fort was taken and the British were driven back to the river. The result was that the entire frontier was open to the Americans and the opportunity was obtained to take the Erie boats that had been

captured at Queenstown, and sent to Erie, into Lake Erie. Taking the boats that had been captured at Buffalo, Perry sailed for Erie, where he collected the remains of his fleet. He then began to sail the lake in search of the British, and Captain Barclay. He is said to have every school child knew, was in Put-in-Bay, the lookout of the Lawrence, the flagship, at daybreak on the morning of Sept. 10, 1812, sighted Barclay's ships.

The outcome of the fight need not be retold. It was immortalized in Perry's dispatch, "We have met the enemy and they are ours—two brigs, one schooner and one sloop." Perry was but twenty-eight years old when he won this battle. The effect on the country was magical. It was a clear demonstration that the Americans were to win the war. The great victory was celebrated in the most festive manner in the cities and villages; peace was won in honor of the victory.

At Buffalo a public dinner was tendered to Perry, his naval officers and to General Harrison and his military officers. Perry was feted at Albany, Boston and other cities of the country.

After the war Perry made a cruise to the Mediterranean in the Java. In May, 1810, while on an expedition to the mouth of the Orinoco, he was stricken with yellow fever. He died from the disease at Port of Spain, Trinidad. In 1826 his body was exhumed and brought to Newport, R. I., where it lies buried in the Episcopal burying ground.

A little thought discloses why the battle of Lake Erie is a notable event in American history and renders the name of Perry immortal. It is an event that deserves perpetual commemoration along the chain of great lakes and in the great northwest, for it settled forever the right of American control. To it was greatly due the building up of the commerce and the industrial predominance of the great state of New York. It is but natural that when New York decided to do its part in celebrating the centenary of Perry's victory it should select Buffalo as the scene of that celebration.

Buffalo is the gateway of the commerce that passes from the great lakes to the ocean. It was a scene of Perry's activities and an important point in the war of 1812.

To see the rebuilt Niagara, the rebuilt Niagara will arrive at Buffalo on Sept. 2 and remain through out the celebration so that visitors may view the historic ship that saved Perry's life and the vessel that won the battle of Lake Erie.

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