

CAPTAIN OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



1785

August 23, Tuesday (or 20, Saturday): [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was born at the Old Perry Homestead in [South Kingstown, Rhode Island](#), of parents who have been characterized, among those inclined to be charitable, as “[Fighting Quakers](#).”¹

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1. A Quaker fighting is like a chicken pissing — if it pisses it must be something else wearing a chicken suit.

The family product who had broken with the Peace Testimony had been Christopher Raymond Perry, who at the age of about 16 during the Revolution had donned the scarlet-and-gold uniform of the “Kingstown Reds.” He gunned down one of his neighbors, Friend Simeon Tucker of Matunuck, Rhode Island, who had refused to contribute to the war effort, whereupon he fled the town. In other words, Oliver Hazard Perry’s ancestor was not so much a Fighting Quaker as he was a murderer and a fugitive. Captured by the British, he languished aboard the prison ship *Jersey* and then among the Scotch/Irish at Newry on the northern coast of Ireland before breaking his parole and escaping disguised as an English sailor — but had improved upon the occasion to the point at which after the war he was able to reappear at the Perry family home, his sins forgiven, with a Scots/Irish bride, Sarah Wallace Alexander.

PERRYS OF RHODE ISLAND

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1798

At the age of 13, [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) entered the navy as a midshipman, and his first assignment was in the Caribbean under the command of his [Quaker](#) father, Captain Christopher Raymond Perry, aboard the sloop-of-war *General Greene*.



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1799



The *General Greene*, having seen service in the West Indies, sailed back into its home port of [Newport, Rhode Island](#), bringing with it the yellow fever. Aboard this vessel in this year, Midshipman [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) survived two bouts of the [yellow fever](#). During this year there would be another outbreak of the [yellow fever](#)



in Philadelphia — and Dr. Benjamin Rush would be forming the medical opinion that this disease was not [contagious](#). Various methods and places of separating out foreigners and infected beings had been devised in 1793 in Philadelphia, and then with each annual recurrence. Temporary hospitals and treatments facilities had been thrown up. Places of isolating both the sick and new arrivals had been established. No ships arriving from the tropics had been being allowed into the port of Philadelphia without the examination of passengers by appointed physicians and the quarantining of any suspected of illness. Calls from all quarters for an isolation facility had led by this year to the design and construction of “The Lazaretto” eight miles to the south. This new structure was designed by physicians, public health officials, and government agencies to serve as the point of arrival for all ships, passengers, and immigrants. It included docks, grounds, dormitories, a hospital, and treatment facilities to handle hundreds of arriving passengers at a time. All passengers were detained at



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least temporarily, those suspected of infection were quarantined, and those determined to be ill were treated in accordance with the limited understanding available at the time. The thousands who died from infections would be buried on site. The Lazaretto as it was completed in this year included a building that resembled very much Independence Hall in Philadelphia. It included a compound of additional buildings and facilities that could handle the immigration or expulsion of all new arrivals in the port. (The Lazaretto would operate quietly and efficiently as Philadelphia's version of Ellis Island from this point until the end of the 19th Century. In the early 20th Century the facility would become the headquarters of the Philadelphia Sea Plane Base — one of the first sea plane facilities in the United States. Later in the 20th Century the compound would also be used as popular marina. The Lazaretto is on the Delaware River just a few miles south of Philadelphia International Airport.)



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**AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
BILIOUS YELLOW FEVER,
AS IT
APPEARED IN PHILADELPHIA,
IN THE YEAR 1799
BY BENJAMIN RUSH**

The diseases which succeeded the fever of 1798, in November and December, were highly inflammatory. A catarrh was nearly universal. Several cases of sore throat, and one of erysipelas, came under my care in the month of November. The weather in December was extremely cold. It was equally so in the beginning of January, 1799, accompanied with several falls of snow.

About the middle of the month, the weather moderated so much, so as to open the navigation of the Delaware. I met with two cases of malignant colic in the latter part of this month, and one of yellow fever. The last was Swen Warner. Dr. Physick, who attended him with me, informed me that he had, nearly at the same time, attended two other persons with the same disease.

The weather was very cold, and bilious pleurisies were common, during the later part of the month of February.

March was equally cold. The newspapers contained accounts of the winter having been uncommonly severe in Canada, and in several European countries.

The first two weeks in April were still cold. The Delaware, which had been frozen a second time during the winter, was crossed near its origin, on the ice, on the 15th day of this month. The diseases, though fewer than in the winter, were bilious and inflammatory. During this month, I was called to a case of yellow fever, which yielded to copious bleeding, and other depleting medicines.

May was colder than is usual in that month, but very healthy. In the first week of June, several cases of highly bilious fever came under my care. In one of them, all the usual symptoms of the highest grade of that fever occurred. On the 13th of the month, Dr. Physick informed me, that he had lost a patient with that disease. On the 23d of the same month, Joseph Ashmead, a young merchant, died of it. Several other cases of the disease occurred between the 20th and 29th days of the month, in



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different parts of the city. About this time, I was informed that the inhabitants of Keys's-alley had predicted a return of the yellow fever, from the trees before their doors emitting a smell, exactly the same which they perceived just before the breaking out of that disease in 1793.

In July, the city was alarmed, by Dr. Griffiths, with an account of several cases of the fever in Penn-street, near the water. The strictness with which the quarantine law had been executed, for a while rendered this account incredible with many people and exposed the doctor to a good deal of obloquy. At length a vessel was discovered, that had arrived from one of the West-India islands on the 14th of May, and one day before the quarantine law was put into operation, from which the disease was said to be derived. Upon investigating the state of this vessel, it appeared that she had arrived with a healthy crew, and that no person had been sick on board of her during her voyage.

In the latter part of July and in the beginning of August, the disease gradually disappeared from every part of the city. This circumstance deserves attention, as it shows the disease did not spread by contagion.

About this time we were informed by the news-papers, that dogs, geese, and other poultry, also that wild pigeons were sickly in many parts of the country, and that fish on the Susquehannah, and oysters in the Delaware bay, were so unpleasant that the inhabitants declined eating them. At the same time, flies were found dead in great numbers, in the unhealthy parts of the city. The weather was dry in August and September. There was no second crop of grass. The gardens yielded a scanty supply of vegetables, and of an inferior size and quality. Cherries were smaller than usual, and pear and apple-trees dropped their fruits prematurely, in large quantities. The peaches, which arrived at maturity, were small and ill tasted. The grain was in general abundant, and of a good quality. A fly, of an unusual kind, covered the potatoe fields, and devoured in some instances, the leaves of the potatoe. This fly has lately been used with success in our country, instead of the fly imported from Spain. It is equal to it in every respect. Like the Spanish fly, it sometimes induces strangury.

About the middle of August the disease revived, and appeared in different parts of the city. A publication from the academy of medicine, in which they declared the seeds of the disease to spread from the atmosphere only, produced a sudden flight of the inhabitants. In no year, since the prevalence of the fever, was the desertion of the city so general.

I shall now add a short account to the symptoms and treatment of this epidemic.

The arterial system was in most cases active. I met with a tense pulse in a patient after the appearance of the black vomiting. Delirium was less frequent in adults than in former years. In children there was a great determination of the disease to the brain.

I observed no new symptoms in the stomach and bowels. One of the worst cases of the fever which I saw was accompanied with colic. A girl of Thomas Shortall, who recovered, discharged nine worms during her fever. It appeared in Mr. Thomas Roane, one of my



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pupils, in the form of a dysentery. A stiffness, such as follows death, occurred in several patients in the city hospital before death. Miss Shortall had an eruption of pimples on her breast, such as I have described in the short account I gave of the yellow fever of 1762 in this city, in my account of the disease of 1793. The blood exhibited its usual appearances in the yellow fever. It was seldom sizzly till toward the close of the disease. The tongue was generally whitish. Sometimes it was of a red colour, and had a polished appearance. I saw no case of a black tongue; and but few that were yellow before the seventh day of the disease. The type of this disease was nearly the same as described in 1797. It now and then appeared in the form of a quartan, in which state it generally proved fatal. It appeared with rheumatic pains in one of my patients. It blended itself with gout and small-pox. Its union with the latter disease was evident in two patients in the city hospital, in each of whom the stools were such as were discharged in the most malignant state of the fever. The remedies for this fever were bleeding, vomits, purges, sweats, and a salivation and blisters. There were few cases that did not indicate bleeding. It was performed, when proper, in the usual way, and with its usual good effects. It was indicated as much when the disease appeared in the bowels as in the blood-vessels. Mr. Roane, in whom it was accompanied with symptoms of dysentery, lost nearly 200 ounces of blood by twenty-two bleedings. Purges of calomel and jalap, also castor oil, salts, and injections were prescribed with their usual advantages. In those cases where the system was prostrated below the point of re-action, I began the cure by sweating. Blankets, with hot bricks wetted with vinegar, and the hot bath, as mentioned formerly, when practicable, were used for this purpose. The latter produced, in a boy of 14 years of age, who came into the city hospital without a pulse, and with a cold skin, in a few hours, a general warmth and an active pulse. The determination of the disease to the pores was evinced in one of my patients, by her sweating under the use of the above-mentioned remedies, for the first time in her life. A moisture upon her skin had never before been induced, she informed me, even by the warmest day in summer. The advantages of a salivation were as great as in former years. From the efficacy of bleeding, purges, emetics, and sweating, I had the pleasure of seeing many recoveries before the mercury had time to affect the mouth. In no one case did I rest the cure exclusively upon any one of these remedies. The more numerous the outlets were to convey off superfluous fluids and excitement from the body, the more safe and certain were the recoveries. A vein, the gall-bladder, the bowels, the pores, and the salivary glands were all opened, in succession, in part, or together, according to circumstances, so as to give the disease every possible chance of passing out of the body without injuring or destroying any of its vital parts. Blisters were applied with advantage. The vomiting and sickness which attend this fever were relieved in many instances, by a blister to the stomach.



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In those cases in which the fever was protracted to the chronic state, bark, wine, laudanum, and aether produced the most salutary effects. I think I saw life recalled, in several cases in which it appeared to be departing, by frequent and liberal doses of the last of those medicines. The bark was given, with safety and advantage. after the seventh day, when the fever assumed the form of an intermittent.

The following symptoms were generally favourable, viz. a bleeding from the mouth and gums, and a disposition to weep, when spoken to in any stage of the fever.

A hoarseness and sore throat indicated a fatal issue of the disease, as it did in 1798. Dr. Physick remarked, that all those persons who sighed after waking suddenly, before they were able to speak, died.

The recurrence of a redness of the eyes, after it had disappeared, or of but one eye, was generally followed by death. I saw but one recovery with a red face.

I saw several persons, a few hours before death, in whom the countenance, tongue, voice, and pulse were perfectly natural. They complained of no pain, and discovered no distress nor solicitude of mind. Their danger was only to be known by the circumstances which had preceded this apparently healthy and tranquil state of the system. They had all passed through extreme suffering, and some of them had puked black matter.

The success of the mode of practice I have described was the same as in former years, in private families; but in the city hospital, which was again placed under the care of Dr. Physick and myself, there was a very different issue to it, from causes that are too obvious to be mentioned.

There were two opinions given to the public upon the subject of the origin of this fever; the one by the academy of medicine, the other by the college of physicians. The former declared it to be generated in the city, from putrid domestic exhalations, because they saw it only in their vicinity, and discovered no channel by which it could have been derived from a foreign country; the latter asserted it to be "imported, because it had been imported in former years."

1801



March 4, Wednesday: Prince Alyeksandr Borisovich Kurakin replaced Stepan Alyeksyevich Kolychev as State Chancellor of Russia.

At noon Thomas Jefferson replaced John Adams as President of the United States (eight hours earlier, at 4AM, Adams had departed from Washington DC by public conveyance, along with two assistants).

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[Alexander Wilson](#) delivered an address that would be immediately printed up as ORATION ON THE POWER AND VALUE OF NATIONAL LIBERTY, DELIVERED TO A LARGE ASSEMBLY OF CITIZENS, AT MILESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1801 (Philadelphia: H. Maxwell).



At our nation's puzzle palace Washington DC, [Thomas Jefferson](#) and Aaron Burr were inaugurated, and the new President delivered his 1st Inaugural Address. (Yet another of our Virginia slavemasters becoming the President of all the people — go figure!) The new Cabinet consisted of James Madison for the Department of State, Samuel Dexter for the Department of the Treasury, Henry Dearborn for the Department of War, Benjamin Stoddert for the Department of the Navy, Gideon Granger as Postmaster General, and Levi Lincoln as Attorney General. When Secretary of the Navy Benjamin Stoddert would order a radical decrease in the size of the Navy, Midshipman [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) would be one of the 150 midshipmen who would be retained.



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Prexy

Veep

1789-1797	George Washington	of [No party]	John Adams	1789-1797
1797- 1801	John Adams	Federalist	<u>Thomas Jefferson</u>	1797- 1801
1801-1809	<u>Thomas Jefferson</u>	Democratic-Republican	Aaron Burr George Clinton	1801-1805 1805-1809
1809-1817	<u>James Madison</u>	Democratic-Republican	George Clinton [No “Veep”] Elbridge Gerry [No “Veep”]	1809-1812 April 1812-March 1813 1813-1814 November 1814-March 1817
1817-1825	James Monroe	Democratic-Republican	Daniel D. Tompkins	1817-1825
1825-1829	John Quincy Adams	Democratic-Republican	John Caldwell Calhoun	1825-1829
1829-1837	Andrew Jackson	Democrat	John Caldwell Calhoun [No “Veep”] Martin Van Buren	1829-1832 December 1832-March 1833 1833-1837
1837-1841	Martin Van Buren	Democrat	Richard M. Johnson	1837-1841
1841	William Henry Harrison	Whig	John Tyler	1841
1841-1845	John Tyler	Whig	[No “Veep”]	1841-1845
1845-1849	James Knox Polk	Democrat	George M. Dallas	1845-1849
1849-1850	Zachary Taylor	Whig	Millard Fillmore	1849-1850
1850-1853	Millard Fillmore	Whig	[No “Veep”]	1850-1853
1853-1857	<u>Franklin Pierce</u>	Democrat	William R. King [No “Veep”]	1853 April 1853-March 1857
1857-1861	James Buchanan	Democrat	John C. Breckinridge	1857-1861
1861-1865	Abraham Lincoln	Republican	Hannibal Hamlin Andrew Johnson	1861-1865 1865
1865-1869	Andrew Johnson	Democrat / National Union	[No “Veep”]	1865-1869

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1805

➡ At the age of 18, Midshipman [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) became an acting Lieutenant.



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1807

➡ At the age of 20, Acting Lieutenant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) became a Lieutenant. He had command of a 14-gun schooner, the *Revenge*.



The spirit of revenge is one heck of a long way from his Quaker family’s religious roots — but then, isn’t there one heck of a difference between a Quaker and a “Fighting Quaker”?

1809

➡ At the age of 15, [Matthew Calbraith Perry](#) became a Midshipman under his older brother, Lieutenant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#).

1811

→ January 9, Wednesday: Lieutenant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was surveying the [Rhode Island](#) harbors when, through faulty piloting and bad weather, his *USS Revenge* was wrecked on a reef off [Watch Hill](#). The commanding officer himself would, however, be exonerated, to the point of finding himself being commended — for having attempted to salvage government property.



(Divers would discover the wreck during August 2005, but not identify the vessel until January 7, 2011.)

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

4th day 9th of 1 Mo// The usual buisness of the day. in the eveng call'd to see a couple of friends a little while & then went home & read James Montgumires Poem called the West India's it is an enchanting performance; the slave is treated in a point of view that cannot fail to awake the feelings of its advocates into an utter abhorance of it.

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1812

→ May: His troubles at having lost his ship behind him, Lieutenant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) returned to active duty, this time as a Master-Commandant.



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1813

→ February: Master-Commandant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was sent to serve under Commodore Isaac Chauncey at Sacket's Harbor, Lake Ontario.



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➡ March 3, Wednesday: [William Whiting](#) was born in [Concord](#) to the carriagemaker [Colonel William Whiting](#) and Hannah Conant Whiting. This family descended from the [Reverend Samuel Whiting, D.D.](#), a non-conformist minister of Lincolnshire, England who came to this country in 1636. After preparation at the [Concord Academy](#) he would attend [Harvard College](#) (Class of 1833) and become an attorney at law.

In Stockholm an alliance was created between Britain and Sweden: in return for certain territorial considerations a Swedish army would march to Germany, to oppose the agendas of the French empire.

Master-Commandant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) arrived at the headquarters of Commodore Isaac Chauncey in Sacket's Harbor, Lake Ontario.



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→ July: When war had broken out with England, we had no warships on Lake Erie. By this point six war vessels had been completed at the shipyard near Erie, Pennsylvania. These would be joined by others from Buffalo. A group of Erie women headed by Margaret Foster Stuart made a flag for Master-Commandant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) prior to the sortie of his squadron from Presque Isle Bay enroute to Put-in-Bay, South Bass Island, [Ohio](#) and the flag bore the words of Captain James Lawrence of the USS *Chesapeake* which had in the previous month been defeated by HMS *Shannon* off Boston, “Don’t give up the ship.”



→ July 17, Saturday: Fort Michilimackinac was captured by the British.

With the British placing a small squadron on Lake Erie, Master-Commandant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) would be given the rank of Commodore and placed in command of American forces on Lake Erie — where we had no naval presence whatever. The materials to construct our warships — iron, cannon, anchors, ropes and supplies— would need to be portaged a great distance to Noah Brown’s shipyard near Erie, Pennsylvania. Six war vessels would be completed by July 1813 and then these would be joined by others from Buffalo.

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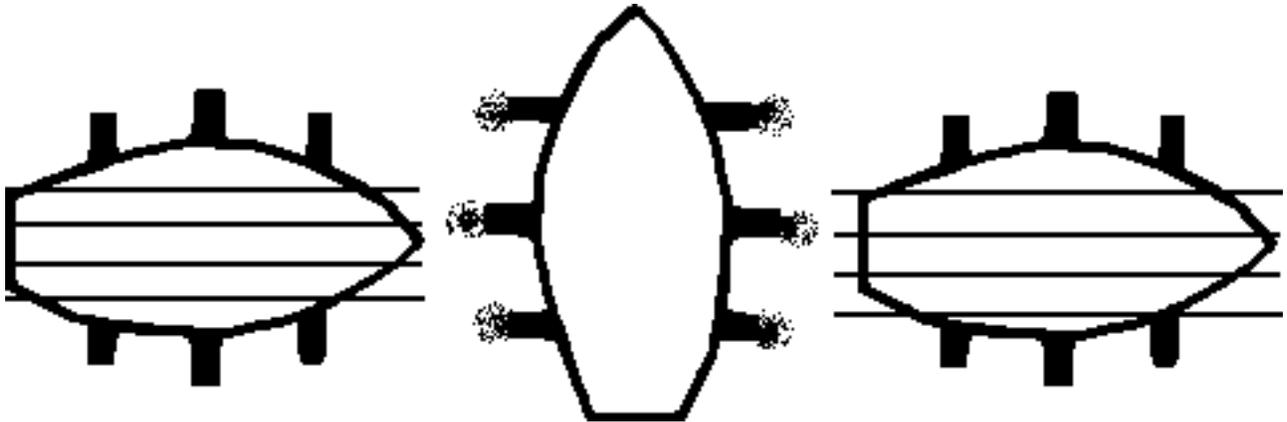
 Early August: Early in the month, the blockading British squadron pulled away from Erie, Pennsylvania, giving Master-Commandant [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) time to get his new ships over the sand bar and out into the open waters of Lake Erie. Perhaps a quarter of Perry's crewmen were black.



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 September 10, Friday: Off the island of Put-in-Bay, [Ohio](#), the American fleet on Lake Erie engaged the small British squadron commanded by Captain Robert Barclay, RN. Commodore [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was aboard his flagship USS *Lawrence*, which came to be heavily damaged by British fire. Perry's "spaniel dog" had been stowed in the china cabinet in the wardroom of the *Lawrence* and was howling incessantly. One of the gun captains was torn in half by a 24-pound ball. Lieutenant of Marines John Brooks, struck in the hip by a cannonball, was pleading to be finished off but found no-one willing to pull the trigger on him. Carrying his battle flag emblazoned with the injunction of Captain James Lawrence "Don't give up the ship," Perry, wearing a plain jacket so as not to identify himself, transferred by a small boat with a hole in its side half a mile to the nearby USS *Niagara*. By great good luck he was able to perform the perfect maneuver known as "crossing the T," in fact the only nautical maneuver in which a sailing ship may deliver damage to another ship without receiving damage in return, passing the *Niagara* between the bow of one British vessel and the stern of another in such manner that, while neither of these ships were able to direct a broadside at him, his own broadsides were simultaneously delivering "raking fire" to the full length of those enemy vessels:



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Within fifteen minutes the British surrendered. Perry reboarded the heavily damaged *Lawrence* to receive Captain Barclay's surrender and penned the now-famous man's man sentiment "We have met the enemy and they are ours."



(Indeed the enemy were ours, for Perry would be able to bring each and every vessel of that British squadron into port as a prize of the US, with the proceeds of sale to go into the pockets of the American participants in the Battle of Lake Erie. Perry would be promoted to Post-Captain.)



(While this battle was taking place on Lake Erie, Senecas of the southern tier assembled to protect Anna Church, who was alone at Angelica while her husband was trapped in Europe by the war.)

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

6th day 10 of 9 M / My Mind is far from being in an elevated condition on the other hand depression is very much my portion -Oh that in all situations my hope & trust may be Steadfastly on the Lord. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



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1815

 August 5, Saturday: The new 44-gun frigate USS *Java* (so named after a British vessel defeated by the Americans) got underway from the shipyard of Flannigan & Parsons at [Baltimore, Maryland](#). Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) would pick up spare rigging at Hampton Roads and New York before sailing the new vessel to [Newport, Rhode Island](#) to recruit its crew. The frigate would stand out from Newport in the face of a bitter gale on January 22, 1816 on the way to the Mediterranean but a mast would snap with 10 men aloft, killing 5. During April the vessel would be off Algiers as Captain Perry attempted under flag of truce to persuade the Dey of Algiers to honor a treaty he had signed. It would sail to Tripoli with the USS *Constellation*, the USS *Ontario*, and the USS *Erie* in a display of the new strength of the United States of America. After visiting the ports of Syracuse, Messina, Palermo, Tunis, Gibraltar, and Naples, the frigate would return to Newport early in 1817 and be taken in for restoration at the naval yards of Boston.

Austria demanded the return of all art works taken by [Napoléon Bonaparte](#) from its lands (including from northern Italy).

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

7th day 5th of 8 M 1815 / The Audit met at father Rodmans to settle inventory [?] of the Meeting at the past year – Benj Mott was with him [two illegible lines] to [Portsmouth](#) with I accordingly [--] stepped into his Chaise & rode with him to Cousin Zacheus Chases where I found them as comfortable as old folks [the last half of this page too faint to read]

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1816

 January 22, Monday: Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) took his new 44-gun frigate USS *Java* out from the harbor of [Newport, Rhode Island](#) on its way to the Mediterranean in the face of a bitter gale (a mast would snap with 10 men aloft, killing 5).

Nathaniel Glover Allen was born to Mary Morrill Allen and the [Reverend Wilkes Allen](#) in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

2nd day 22nd of 1st M 1816 / This Afternoon in company with the womens committee as volunteer I visited Mary Goddard (late Gould) in consequence of her having lately Married out of the order of society. Our minds were accompanied with much poverty but we endeavor'd to discharge what Seemed to be our duty, which she seemed to take kind – My mind has for sometimes been drawn toward her & I feel a little legacy of love due as a friend & relation which I now feel glad I Submitted to pay. – It has been my practice ever since the decease of My late Dear Father, to commemorate The Day he left time, by reading a letter

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which I wrote on the occasion to Uncle & Aunt Stanton giving an extract of my journal at the time - Yesterday was the day, four Years ago that he was taken (I trust) to a better World, & it entirely escaped my mind till this evening- Somedays previous the subject was before me when I read the letter alluded to, & recorded his Death in Mothers Bible. - My H watched last night with Br Davids little Abby who is very ill but better today -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1819

➡ August 23, Monday: Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#), sent with the USS *John Adams* to Venezuela on a diplomatic mission, died at sea of the [yellow fever](#), and would temporarily be interred at Port of Spain, Trinidad. (In 1826 his remains would be removed with great pomp and ceremony to [Newport, Rhode Island](#).)



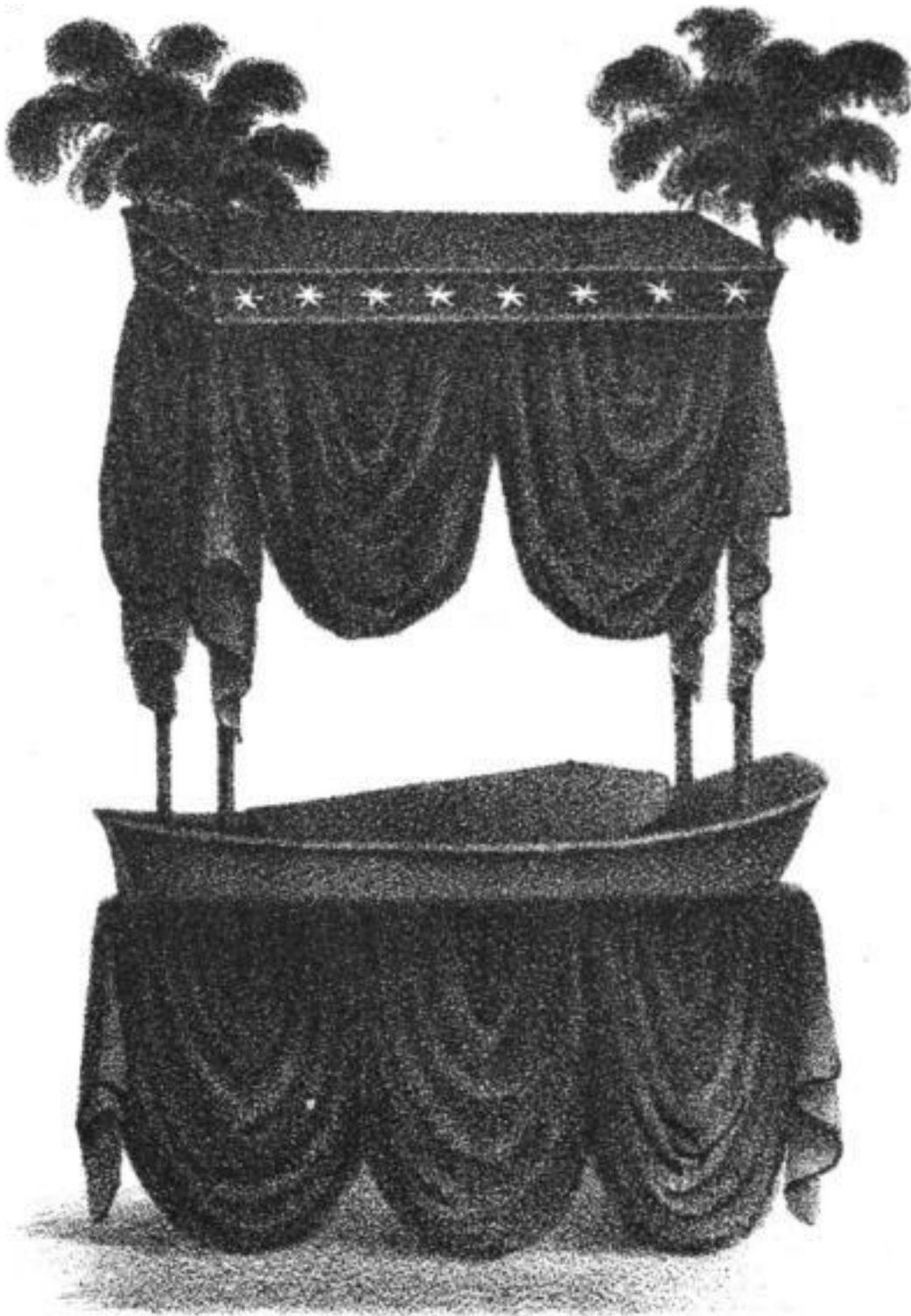
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WHAT?

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Funeral Car of the Hero of Erie.

Interred at Newport 1826

"Stack of the Artist of Kouroo" Project

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October 2, Saturday: [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) and [Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft Shelley](#) moved to [Firenze](#).

[Alfred Hawkins](#) got married with a Martha Peterson or Patterson at the Anglican Cathedral of [Québec](#). The gazette for October 13th would report: “Married, at [Québec](#) on Saturday evening 2nd instant, by the Rev. G.J. Mountain, Mr. [Alfred Hawkins](#), wine merchant, to Miss Patterson, daughter of Mr. James Patterson, of the same place.”

The nation was learning that Commodore Oliver Hazard “We Have Met The Enemy And They Are Ours” Perry, hero of the [War of 1812](#), had in Venezuela succumbed to the [yellow fever](#):



land whale.

BOSTON,
SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 2, 1819.

Postscript to the last National Intelligencer.

Death of Commodore Perry.
NORFOLK, SEPT. 25.
HIGHLY IMPORTANT!
The Hero of Lake Erie, the gallant OLIVER H. PERRY, is no more!

THE United States' Corvette *John Adams* arrived in Hampton Roads yesterday afternoon, about two o'clock, from Port Spain, (Trinidad) from which place she sailed the last of August. From Lieut. Commandant CLAXTON, who at present commands that ship, we have received the following communication respecting the death of this distinguished officer.

[COMMUNICATED]

Died, on the 23d August, on board the U. S. schooner *Nonsuch*, at the moment of her arrival at Port Spain, in the island of Trinidad, Commodore OLIVER H. PERRY. He was taken with the yellow fever on his passage from the town of *Angustura*, and although he was attended by two able physicians, he was reduced to the greatest extremity on the fourth day of his illness. Sensible of his approaching dissolution, he called his officers together, and communicated his last wishes.

He retained his faculties to the last; was perfectly collected and resigned, and submitted to his fate with great resolution and fortitude.

His remains were interred at Port Spain, on the 24th August, with naval and military

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Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

7th day 2nd of 10 M 1819 / This Afternoon Attended the funeral of My Cousin Ruth Marsh, she departed this life last evening



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about a quarter past 8 O'clock. I returned to the House & took tea with the family she being the last of her generation, & to take my leave of a house where I took much pleasure & derived much benefit in my youth from the proffitable conversation of her Sister Mary & Brother Jonathon. The estate will be divided into so many divisions that it is Probable it will now soon go out of the name & the house so old that it must be Pulled down. – from the best information I can obtain the Marsh House on the east side of Thames Street was built by Walter Clarke & given to one of his daughters who married a Gould & their daughter Mary Married Jonathon Marsh the father of Ruth aforementioned & has been regularly inhabited by Friends to the present day & she is the last of our society that will probably have any claim to it. -- The fashon & all things in this World change. - while sitting in the Room at the funeral my mind was lead into a very serious train of reflection, on the many changes I had seen in that House & now it seemed as if the final change had come to it. – May I proffit by the feelings which I experienced while commemorating the past hours spent with the past inhabitants of that house, & I am Sure I felt much more that I have here conveyed.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1820



March 22, Wednesday In a [duel](#) between [Commodore James Barron](#) and [Commodore Stephen “Our Country Right or Wrong” Decatur](#) on the usual Washington DC dueling field at Bladensburg, [Maryland](#), Barron took the ball in the muscle of the thigh and would survive this mere flesh wound and be reinstated during the following year to his career trajectory in the US Navy (an organization which, after all, is about killing people), while Decatur took the ball in the gut and within twelve hours was of course dead of peritonitis in the nation’s capital city at the age of 41 (stand sideways and suck it in, do your best not to get gut shot — gut shot is bad).

[Perry County](#) was created in Pennsylvania from part of Cumberland County and named in honor of [Oliver Hazard Perry](#), victor in the Battle of Lake Erie.

1825

➡ October 26, Wednesday: Governor DeWitt Clinton officially opened the [Erie Canal](#) and departed from Buffalo, New York aboard the *Seneca Chief*, eastward past Lockport, Rochester, and Rome to the canal's junction with the Hudson River at Albany.² Then the canal boat was towed down the river behind one of Clinton's new steamboats (truncating several days' journey into one account, as in fact the fastest of the canal boats traveled at but 3mph) into the harbor, where the US fleet, guns roaring, fell in line behind this barge. A series of 32-pounder cannon captured at [Oliver Hazard Perry's](#) victory on Lake Erie had been distantly spaced along the entire [canal](#), and as each one heard the detonation of the cannon to its north, it fired in relay. That signal required an hour and twenty minutes to pass from Buffalo to New-York — and then the process was repeated in reverse.

The Great Lakes had been connected to the Atlantic Ocean.

1826

➡ The earthly remains of the great American hero [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) were removed from an undistinguished grave in Port of Spain, Trinidad to [Newport](#), where they were reinterred beneath a suitable monument with a befitting surfeit of pomp and ceremony by the state of [Rhode Island](#) and Providence Plantations.



1832

➡ July 28, Saturday: A correspondent to [The New-York Mirror: A Weekly Journal, Devoted to Literature and the Fine Arts](#) had recently toured the general burying-ground situated upon a pretty slope with a view of the harbor at the upper end of the town of [Newport, Rhode Island](#). He of course reported on the granite obelisk that had been there erected to the memory of Commodore [Oliver Hazard Perry](#), who had died of the yellow fever at sea in 1819 — a monument which had not as yet been inscribed with his name and would not for many decades sport the present bronze statue:

2. 363 miles in length, 40 feet wide, 4 feet deep, maximum displacement 75 tons; 77 locks, 90 feet by 15 feet; total lockage 655 feet.



CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

It is, as yet, unfinished at the base. His remains were reinterred last fall, between those of his child and his father and mother. There is nothing to mark the spot where the commodore and his child lie, but two small mounds of earth, already overgrown with briars. It is intended, I understand, to disinter and bury him near his monument. There are two plain marble slabs over the spot where the commodore's father and mother are buried. The inscriptions are simply that Christopher Perry, a captain in the United States navy, died June first, 1818, aged fifty-nine years; that Sarah Perry, died December fourth, 1830, aged sixty-two years. At this place I could not avoid reflecting that there, mouldered into dust, lies the gallant hero of Erie. I imagined him on his favorite element, in the pride and glory of his youth, hurling death and defiance at a foe claiming to be mistress of the ocean; I saw him leaving a ship, that had done more than [sic] her duty, in an open boat, amidst showers of shot, waving his banner proudly in the air. In my mind's eye I beheld him trying his fortunes anew in another ship, manoeuvring [sic] the enemy according to his own tactics, breaking his line, and from starboard and larboard dealing out his slaughtering messengers to a gallant but inveterate foe, until the lion crouched beneath the pinions of the eagle, and owned his supremacy; but these things have ceased to be – the grasshopper and cricket alone chant his requiem, amid the solitude of this rural and interesting abode of the dead; but let him rest, "Au plaisir fort de Dieu."

Then his attention had been attracted, he reported, by a tombstone near the centre of the enclosure, and with difficulty he had deciphered the following:

Here lyeth the body of John Cranston, Esq. Governor of the colony of Rhode Island, &c. He departed this life March twelfth 1683, in the fifty-fifth year of his age.³

Beside this inscription, on the same stone, he deciphered the following (with blanks left for words quite obliterated by time):

Here lyeth the body of Samuel Cranston, Esq. Late governor of this colony, aged sixty-eight years, and departed this life March the twenty-sixth, A. D. 1727. He was son to John Cranston, Esq. who also was governor here in 1680. He is descended from the noble Scottish Lord Cranston, and carried in his veins the stream of the ancient blood of Crawford, Bothwell, and _____; having had for his grandfather clerk chaplain of king Charles the first; his great grandfather was John Cranston, of _____; this last was son to James Cranston, Esq. Which James was son to William Lord Cranston.⁴

"_____ happy now brave Briton without end,
Thy country's father and thy country's friend."

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) recorded in his journal:

3. By another account, considerably more accurate, this inscription reads instead as follows:

Here lyeth interred the body of Major John Cranston esq. Governor who deceased this life the 12 day of March in the 55th yeare of his age, 1680.



CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

6th day [Friday] had a Meeting at Richmon [Richmond] at this Meeting three women attended having their infants in their Arms & the one of them was restless & cryed, it was seemingly no disturbance – We rode aftermeeting [sic] about ten Miles to Jabez Collins's & dined & from thence to Abel Collins's in Stonington & on 7 day [Saturday] we had a Meeting in the New Meeting House which friends have just built in Hopkinton. - & dined at Ethan Fosters - then rode to Coventry & lodged at Perez Pecks. –

On first day [Sunday] I attended Meeting there with Joseph & after dinner left him & returned to the Institution & Joseph went on attended by Perez to Warwick to attend a Meeting appointed there at 5 OClock. –

All the Meetings have been seasons of great favour the people being very attentive & Joseph remarked that he had rarely attended a course of Meetings where there appeared to be greater seriousness & more tenderness of spirit

I may here acknowledge that I have never before been out on so extensive a journey of the kind - & am well paid for it

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1861

March 31, Easter Sunday: The only set of chimes in the city of [Providence](#) (*Moshasuck*), [Rhode Island](#), the set that pertained to Grace Church, were on this day played for the first time. Each bell of this set of bells, 16 in all, had been inscribed with the names of the various individuals and organizations that had donated it. Two military organizations had been involved, the First Light Infantry and the Marine Corps of Artillery. The Infantry bell had been donated with the condition that the chimes would be rung on each September 10th anniversary of Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#)'s victory on Lake Erie.

4. By another account, somewhat more accurate, this inscription reads instead as follows:

Here lies the body of Samuel Cranston, Esq., late Governour of this colony; aged 68 years; and departed this life April ye 26, A.D. 1727. He was the son of John Cranston, Esq., who was also Governour here, 1680. He was decended from the noble Scottish Lord Cranston, and carried in his veins a stream of the ancient Earls of Crawford, Bothwell, and Traquairs. Having had for his grandfather James Cranston, clerk, Chaplain to King Charles the First. His great-grandfather was John Cranston, of Bool, Esq. This last was son to James Cranston, Esq., which James was son to William Lord Cranston.

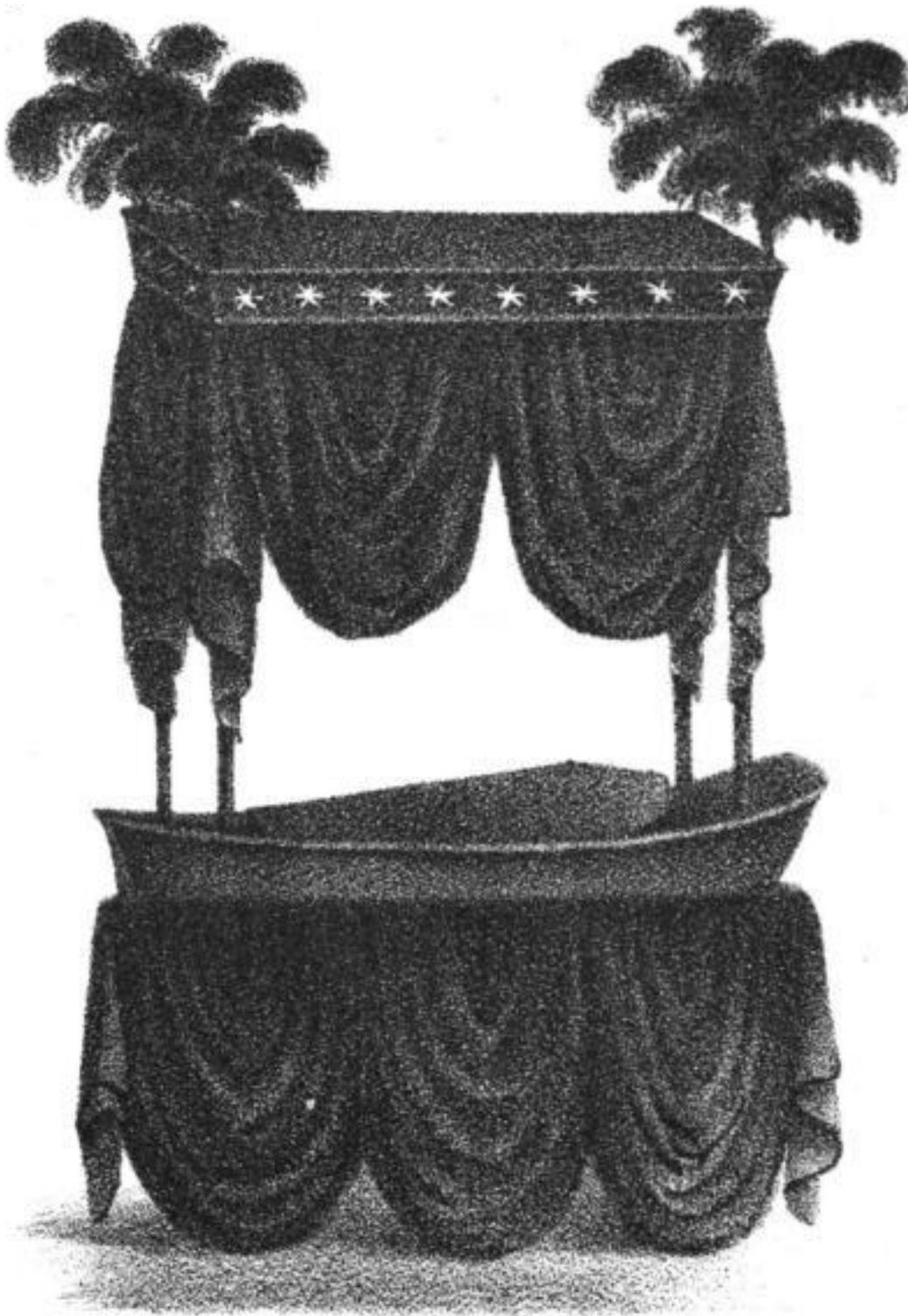
HDT

WHAT?

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CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



Funeral Car of the Hero of Erie.

Interred at Newport 1826

"Stack of the Artist of Kouroo" Project

CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1870

When a statue of General [Nathanael Greene](#) of [Rhode Island](#) was dedicated in Washington DC, [Thomas Allen Jenckes](#) of Rhode Island made the presentation address. Unsuccessful in his campaign for reelection to the US House of Representatives, however, this Representative would be forced to return to his home state and devote himself energetically to the practice of law.

The memory of Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was honored by the issuance of a particularly repulsive purple-people-eater stamp:





CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1885

September 13, Wednesday: [Newport, Rhode Island](#) resident [George Bancroft](#) waxed as eloquent as could be, at a banquet in honor of the unveiling of the monument to Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#).

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY.

SPEECH OF MR. GEORGE BANCROFT AT THE
NEWPORT BANQUET.

The venerable historian, Mr. George Bancroft, in responding to the toast to the United States Navy at the banquet held in Newport, R. I., on Thursday in honor of the unveiling of the monument to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, said:

“The city of Newport has received me as one of its inhabitants, and in consequence I am a citizen of Rhode Island. As such I join with you in the acts of to-day, Perry was full of the qualities that win affection; he was open-hearted and generous, ever finding happiness in doing good to others, and ready to give up his life in the public service. His memory is, therefore, specially dear to his fellow-townsmen, and to his State; but it is not their partiality that devotes this day to the culture of his memory.

“When the great statesmen of America had framed our Constitution and the citizens of the several States, one after another, had accepted it the new people, child as it were of a day, organized its Government and took its place by the side of empires and kingdoms and States that had existed for a thousand years. The Old World laughed in scorn at the thought that a republic continental in its extent could endure. The Constitution was a wonderful result of concentrated wisdom; yet even those who made it hardly dared believe that it would be equal to the public demands. The condition of every seed as it first germinates is feeble, and it is long exposed to ruin from every side. How could the territory from the Mississippi to the ocean strike its first roots in safety? How could it grow except through long years of effort and struggle? Must it not be like the forest tree, which requires centuries to spread widely its roots and its branches? But Washington was there, and the country called the wisest men of the land to the two branches of the legislature, and he made himself strong in the great ability of his advisers. The country was bankrupt; Hamilton, as has been well said, like Moses in the wilderness, struck the rock, and the waters gushed forth in such abundance that the credit of the United States was soon superior to that of any Government in the civilized world, not excepting that of Great Britain.





"The confederation knew nothing of a Supreme Court; a law framed by Oliver Ellsworth called it into being and prescribed its orbit. Washington promptly selected its members, and forthwith justice was administered from end to end of the boundless Republic. An army was called into existence; so, too, a navy, with officers selected from men whom our commerce had trained for the sea. As to the foreign relations of the country, one Government after another did indeed accept our friendship and seek to share in our commerce, but it was not easy to reconcile the new commonwealth with the Bourbons of France, while England was ruled by statesmen who had no prophetic eye, and who rated the wealth, the glory, and the power of England as of more worth than justice and the law of nations. It is to the honor of John Adams that in his Administration all strife with France was quieted by his own wise judgment and personal resolution. But England was more stubbornly unreasonable, and not only searched our vessels on the high seas for the property of those with whom she did not choose to be at peace, but any British man-of-war, wherever she met at sea one of our beautiful ships, manned in a great part by the sons of the once English freeholders, would send a young Lieutenant or a midshipman to climb its deck and press into the British service such Americans as he should see fit to call British citizens. England wronged us in our ships, on which our flag gave no protection against violence. It was right that England should be met alike on the ocean and on our own mediterranean seas. To do this great work in the Winter of 1813 the youthful Perry repaired to the shores of Lake Erie; from the trees of the forest built a squadron, cleared the bar of the harbor with his fleet, hunted on the lake for his adversary, brought the British squadron to battle, and, after a series of incidents that concentrated on him the eyes of the two fleets, on the 10th of September he made the masterly movement which, before the sun could go down, enabled him to write to his Government: 'We have met the enemy and they are ours.' Perry's victory had its share in turning a scornful enemy into a thoughtful lover of peace with the United States. It was one of the noblest acts of the war which Edward Everett used to call our second war of Independence. This is the reason why the victory of Perry claims to be remembered in the annals of mankind. We shall repeat the story to our children, and a thousand years hence those who come after us will recall the events which we this day commemorate.

"But let us not close without expressing joy that to-day the two great nations whose mother tongue is the English are happily bound together in amity as well as by language, and they show to the world the marvelous spectacle of an open line of boundary between the possessions of an old monarchy and the new Republic, longer than from the waters of New-York Harbor to those of Liverpool, safe under the guardianship of reason and peace.

"Such is for our times the fruit of the memorable deeds of our patient heroes. In their foremost ranks we insert to-day the name of Oliver Hazard Perry."

The New York Times

CAPTAIN

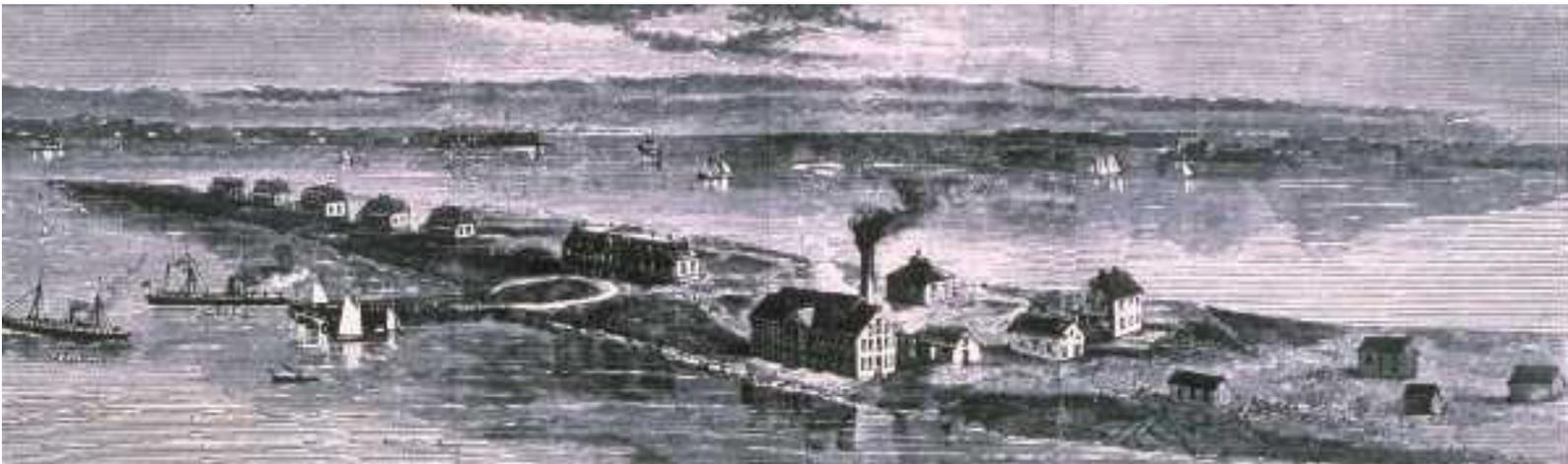
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1890

→ The memory of Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was assured by the reissuance of a particularly repulsive 90-cent stamp:



The “defense” industry was alive and well, as witness this illustration of the torpedo-manufacturing station at what little still remained of what had been [Goat Island](#) in [Narragansett Bay](#):



(Mary had been a Dyer, or so it seems — and her farm at this point had come to grow only a crop of death.)

MARY DYER
RHODE ISLAND

CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

1894

The memory of Captain [Oliver Hazard Perry](#) was assured by way of the reissuance of a particularly repulsive 90-cent stamp:



From this point until 1933 the USS *Constellation* would be serving as the Stationary Training Ship at the US Naval Training Center at [Newport, Rhode Island](#). (The good folks there would all be proudly supposing this vessel, new in 1854, to be the famous *Constellation* of the Revolutionary War launched in Baltimore in 1797! The minor detail, that that famous 38-gun vessel which had defeated the 36-gun French frigate *Insurgente* and the 52-gun French frigate *Vengeance* had been broken up in 1853 at the Gosport Navy Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia as irreparable, and had then been replaced by an entirely new ship built to an entirely new design, had been erased from people's general accounts of things. Such is the power of a name, and of fame.)



CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: October 17, 2013

CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, upon someone's request we have pulled it out of the hat of a pirate that has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (depicted above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of data modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture. This is data mining. To respond to such a request for information, we merely push a button.



CAPTAIN

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY

Commonly, the first output of the program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process which you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place your requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>.
Arrgh.