

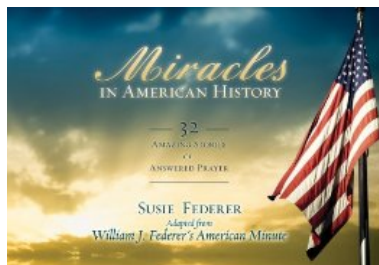
## American Minute with Bill Federer Captain James Lawrence "Don't Give Up the Ship!" & Captain Oliver Hazard Perry "We have met the enemy, and they are ours!"

### *Read American Minute*

Among the many **U.S. Navy and Marine** heroes confronting Tripoli's Muslim Barbary pirates was **Captain James Lawrence ...**  
[\*continue reading ...\*](#)



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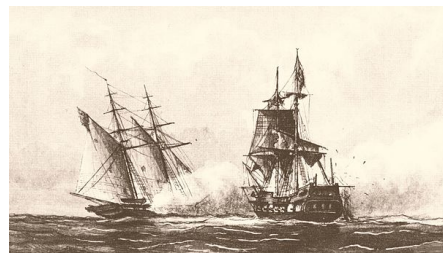
In 1804, **Captain Lawrence** was second-in-command, under Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, of an expedition to destroy the captured 36-gun frigate **USS Philadelphia** held in Tripoli's harbor.

It had run aground on an uncharted sandbar.



Muslim pirates captured it and were preparing to use it for piracy.

**Lawrence** commanded the ***USS Enterprise*** which fought battles with the **Tripolitan Corsairs** along the North coast of Africa.



Victory over the **Tripoli's Islamic Barbary Pirates** is memorialized in the **Marine Anthem**:



"From the Halls of Montezuma to the **Shores of Tripoli.**"

Later, during the War of 1812, **Captain James Lawrence** commanded the ***USS Hornet***.

He won fame by capturing the British packet brig ***Resolution***, which was carrying \$20,000 in gold and silver.



**Captain Lawrence** and the ***USS Hornet*** then captured the British privateer ***HMS Dolphin***, blockaded the British sloop ***HMS Bonne Citoyenne*** at Bahia, Brazil, and sank the British ***HMS Peacock***.

**President James Madison** wrote May 25, 1813:



"The brilliant achievements of our infant **Navy**, a signal triumph has been gained by **Captain Lawrence** ... in the ***Hornet*** sloop of war ...

The contest in which the United States are engaged appeals ... to the **sacred obligation of transmitting ... to future generations** that ... which

is held ... by the present from the **goodness of Divine Providence.**"

On June 1, 1813, 31-year-old **Captain James Lawrence** sailed his 38-gun frigate **USS Chesapeake** out of Boston's Harbor.

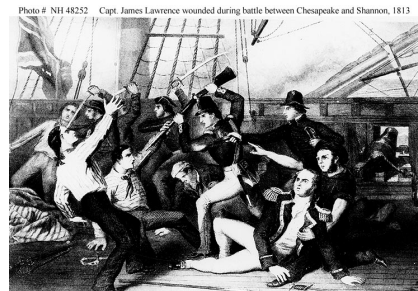


His ship was suddenly attacked by the British ship **HMS Shannon**.

For over an hour, the 38-gun **USS Chesapeake** fired away, hitting the **Shannon** 158 times, but the **Shannon** hit the **Chesapeake** 362 times, **killing nearly every American officer.**



As **Captain James Lawrence** lay fatally wounded on the deck of the **Chesapeake**, he gave his last command: **"Don't Give Up The Ship!"**



So inspiring was the courage of **Captain James Lawrence** that **Captain Oliver Hazard Perry** named his flagship the **USS Lawrence**.

A little over three months later, **Captain Perry** defeated the **British squadron on Lake Erie**, September 10, 1813.



**Theodore Roosevelt** wrote in **Hero Tales from American History**, 1895:

**"Lawrence, dying with the words on his lips, 'Don't**



give up the ship' and **Perry** ... with the same words blazoned on his banner ... won glory in desperate conflicts and left a reputation hardly dimmed."

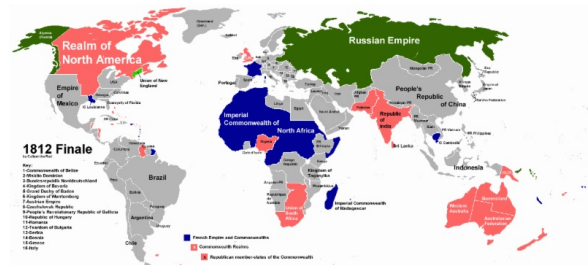
The background of **Perry's battle** begins with **British Admiral Horatio Nelson** defeating **Napoleon's combined French and Spanish fleet** at the **Battle of Trafalgar**, October 21, 1805.



One reason for the British victory was the speed of the British ships, aided by their hulls being caulked with **tar** from **Pitch Lake** on the **Island of Trinidad**.



**Britain** now had the undisputed **most powerful navy in the world**.



Tensions between the **United States** and **Britain** heated up, with one issue involving **banking and debt**.



In 1791, **Alexander Hamilton** helped found the **Bank of the United States**, which served as the **de facto central bank for the nation**.

The **Bank** was a private institution which **allowed foreign investors** to be

**stockholders**, though they did not vote.

The **Bank** loaned money to the Federal government.

**Britain's Prime Minister William Pitt** stated:

"Let the American people go into their **debt-funding schemes** and **banking systems**, and from that hour their boasted **independence will be a mere phantom.**"

**British financiers** reportedly owned **two-thirds** of the **Bank's stock**.

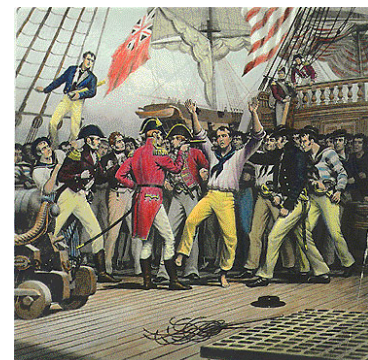
**Jefferson** accused the **Bank** of becoming: "a **machine** for the **corruption** of the **legislature.**"

In 1811, **President James Madison** refused to **recharter** the **Bank**.

**Britain** began to **intercept American ships** headed to **French ports**.

They seized American goods and **impressed thousands of American sailors** into the **British navy**.

With **Napoleon** conquering Europe, **Britain** secretly harbored thoughts of **re-**





acquiring some of the area it had lost to the United States.



The **British Government**, as it had done during the Revolutionary War, **supplied weapons to Indians** and **incited them to terrorize and attack** American frontier settlements.



In alliance with the British, **Shawnee Chief Tecumseh** approached many tribes across a thousand mile frontier in an attempt to form a confederation.

In the **Shawnee language**, the name "**Tecumseh**" means "**shooting star.**"



The appearance of the **Great Comet of 1811**, which reached its brightest in October, added to the panic.

This was followed by the **New Madrid Earthquakes**, December 16, 1811 to February 7, 1812, which was the greatest earthquake recorded in North America.



It was felt hundreds of miles away, and even

temporarily reversed the flow of the **Mississippi River**.

The fear associated with these events contributed to **Tecumseh** raising nearly **5,000 warriors** under his direction.



Some were **Shawnee**, who had been forced from the east and resettled in northwestern Ohio and Northeastern Indiana; and **Lenape** who had resettled in south-central Indiana.

Others were from:

- **Miami in central Indiana;**
- **Pottawatomie in northern Indiana and Michigan;**
- **Wea, Kickapoo and Piankeshaw in western Indiana and eastern Illinois;**
- **Sauk in northern Illinois;**
- **Iroquois in Canada;**
- **Chickamauga; Ojibway; Mascouten; Wyandot; Fox; Winnebago; Ottawa; Mingo; Seneca; and Red Stick Creek in Alabama.**



On July 17, 1812 **British and Native American tribes** captured **Fort Mackinac**.



On August 15, 1812, **Pottawatomie** attacked **Fort Dearborn**, massacring 38 American soldiers, 2 women, 12 children, and took 41 prisoners.



The **British with Native American allies** threatened or captured American forts:

- **Fort Osage;**
- **Fort Madison;**
- **Fort Shelby;**
- **Rock Island Rapids;**
- **Credit Island;**
- **Fort Johnson;**
- **Fort Cap au Gris; and**
- won the **Battle of the Sink Hole.**



**700 British regulars and Canadian militia** joined **Tecumseh's warriors** in the capture of **Fort Detroit**, forcing 2,500 Americans to surrender August 16, 1812.



With a rumor British would **pay in gold for American scalps**,



over **500 Americans** were massacred by the **Red Stick Creeks** in **Fort Mims**, Alabama, August 30, 1813.



On July 23, 1813, **President James Madison** recommended a **day of Public Humiliation and Prayer**:



"Whereas in **times of public calamity** such as that of the war brought on the **United States by the injustice of a foreign government**

it is especially becoming that the hearts of all should be touched with the same and **the eyes of all be turned to that Almighty Power** in whose hand are the welfare and the destiny of nations:

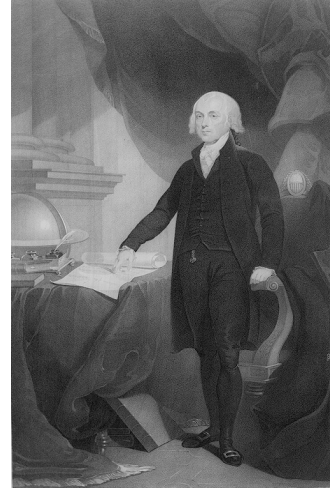
I do therefore ... recommending to all who shall be piously disposed to unite their hearts and voices in addressing at one and the same time their **vows and adorations to the Great Parent and Sovereign of the Universe**

that they assemble on the **SECOND THURSDAY OF SEPTEMBER** next (**September 9th**) in their respective religious congregations ..."

**Madison** continued:

"He has blessed the **United States** with a **political Constitution** rounded on **the will and authority of the whole people** and

guaranteeing to each individual **security**, not only of his person and his property, but of those **sacred rights of conscience** so essential to his present happiness and so dear to his future hopes ...

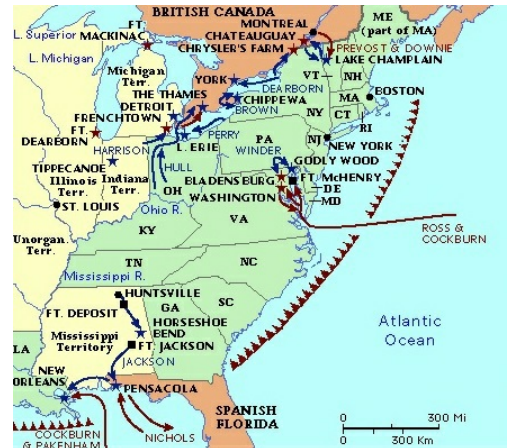


with ... supplications to the same **Almighty Power** that He would look down with compassion on our infirmities;

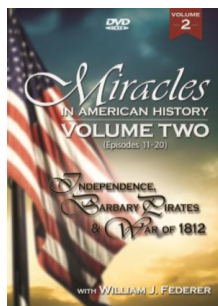
that He would **pardon our manifold transgressions** and awaken and strengthen in all the wholesome purposes of **repentance and amendment**;

that in this season of trial and calamity He would ... inspire all citizens with a love of their country ...

... that as He was graciously pleased heretofore to smile on **our struggles against the attempts of the Government of the (British) Empire** ...



so He would now be pleased ... to bestow **His blessing on our arms in resisting the hostile and persevering efforts of the same power to degrade us on the ocean.**"



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bring his ships into the Lake, as he was constantly being watched by the British fleet in the distance.

Called "**Perry's Luck**", on July 31, 1813, **British General Barclay** accepted a **dinner invitation** from the **citizens of Port Dover** and sailed his five ships away.

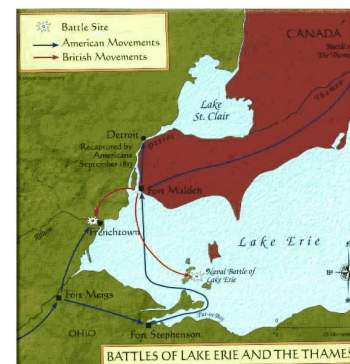
**Perry** quickly took advantage of this providential break and **worked all night**.

His 5 schooners, 3 brigs and 1 sloop, were unloaded of everything heavy, then floated across the **six-foot deep sand bar** where **Presque Isle Bay** emptied into **Lake Erie**.

He sailed his nine ships approximately 150 miles to **Put-in-Bay** on **South Bass Island**, where he began a **blockade** of the **British ships** at **Fort Malden** on the Detroit River at **Amherstburg**, Ontario.



**Perry's** presence on the **Lake** prevented **British ships** from bringing **food and supplies** to **Amherstburg**.



**Perry's** crew of nearly **500** men at **South Bass Island** were falling ill.

A severe algae bloom on the Lake made the water undrinkable.

**Providentially, a cave** was discovered on the island, where, 52 feet below the surface, there was found a rare **subterranean lake** containing an abundance of **fresh water**.

**British forces at Fort Malden** in Amherstburg were in **desperate need of food**.

**British Commodore Robert Barclay** attempted to break Perry's blockade with a **squadron of six ships**.

**Barclay** was a decorated British officer who had his arm blown off fighting **Napoleon's French fleet**.

The day after the National Day of Prayer recommended by President Madison, **Captain Oliver Hazard Perry** confronted the **British squadron on September 10, 1813**.

Strong winds prevented **Perry** from getting into a safe position.

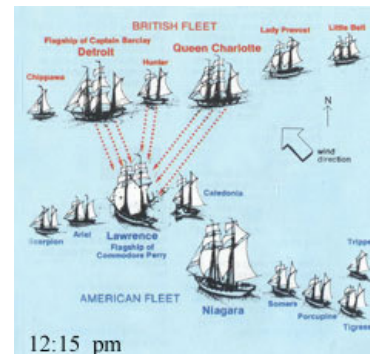
**Long-range British cannons** splintered **Perry's flagship**, the **USS Lawrence**, to pieces, killing or wounding **80 percent of the Lawrence's**

## Perry's Cave

Perry's Cave, registered as an Ohio Natural Landmark, is a natural limestone cave steeped in historical tradition.

The cave lies 52 feet below the surface of South Bass Island in Lake Erie. The discovery of the cave, in 1813, is credited to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the battle of Lake Erie. The cave is 208 feet long by 165 feet wide. View stalactites, stalagmites and cave pearls on the cave's walls, ceiling and floor created by heavily encrusted calcium carbonate deposits from centuries of water dripping from the ceiling. The temperature remains in the vicinity of 50° year-round.

A rare Underground Lake is also located in the cave. The water level rises and falls with that of Lake Erie, indicating subterranean connections. Recent findings reveal that after Perry's men became ill, they used the fresh cold water from Perry's Cave Lake to drink. The luxurious Victory Hotel, once the largest hotel in the world, also used the water from the cave's lake. The hotel burned in 1919.



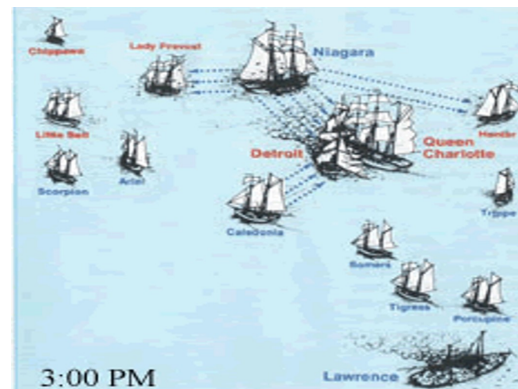
**crew**, leaving every gun damaged.



Faithful to his battle flag, **"DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP,"** Perry and his men did not give up.

They courageously rowed a half mile through heavy gunfire to the **USS Niagara**.

The **wind** suddenly **changed directions**.



Two British ships, *HMS Detroit* and *HMS Queen Charlotte*, attempted to maneuver and turn about, but in the process **collided** and became **entangled, sitting helplessly in the water**.

Perry sailed broadside **directly across the British line**, firing every cannon continuously.



After 15 minutes, the smoke cleared to reveal that **all of Barclay's ships had been disabled**.



This was **the first time** in history that **an entire British naval squadron** had been **disabled at one**

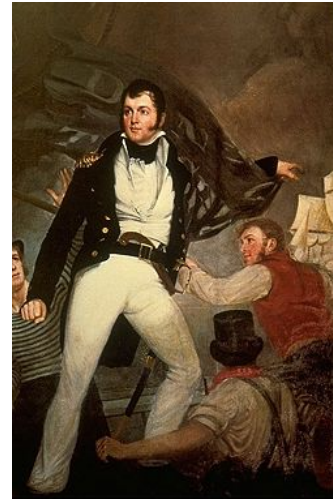


time.

To the sailors on deck **Captain Perry** remarked:

"The prayers of my wife are answered."

That same day, **Captain Oliver Hazard Perry** sent a dispatch to **U.S. Major General William Henry Harrison**:



"**Dear Gen'l, WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY, AND THEY ARE OURS**, two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop. Yours with great respect and esteem. **H. Perry.**"

**Captain Oliver Hazard Perry** wrote to the Secretary of the Navy:



"It has **pleased the Almighty** to give the arms of the **United States** a signal **victory over their enemies on this lake.**

**The British squadron**, consisting of two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop have this moment **surrendered** to the force of my command **after a sharp conflict.**"

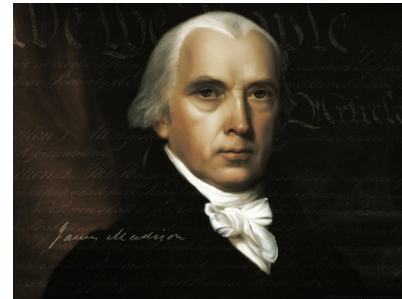
The **British** summoned the **Duke of Wellington** to **recapture western Canada**, but **Wellington** refused, stating that **without naval control of Lake Erie**, it would be



**impossible.**

Two years later the **Duke of Wellington** defeated **Napoleon** at the **Battle of Waterloo**, June 18, 1815.

**President James Madison** stated in his 5th Annual Message, December 7, 1813:



"It has **pleased the Almighty** to bless our arms ...

On **Lake Erie**, the squadron under the command of **Captain Perry** having met the **British squadron of superior force**, a sanguinary (bloody) conflict ended in the **capture of the whole."**

As a result of **Perry's victory**, the British abandoned **Fort Malden**.



**Major General William Henry Harrison** was then able to recapture **Fort Detroit** and defeat the **British** and their **Indian ally Shawnee Chief Tecumseh** at the **Battle of the Thames**, October 5, 1813.

This was decisive in securing for the United States **the Northwest Territory**, from which eventually six states were formed.



**Captain Oliver Hazard Perry** died August 23, 1819, being hailed as a **national hero** for victorious

role in the **War of 1812**.

It was reported that near the end of the **Revolutionary War**, when **Benjamin Franklin** was informed that **Americans had won independence**, he remarked: "Sir, you mean the **Revolution**, the **War of Independence is yet to come.**"

After **Perry's Battle of Lake Erie**, together the **America's victory** in the **War of 1812**, the **United States** could finally claim to have won independence.

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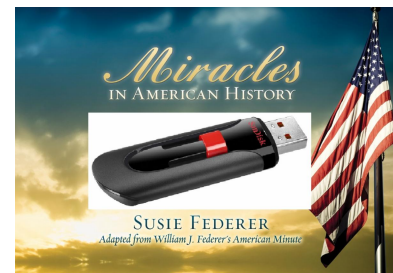
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