

## THE WEEK IN HISTORY



Commodore Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. (OHA)

### Commodore Perry wins Battle of Lake Erie

*The Onondaga Historical Association looks back at the week:*

**201 Years Ago:** In September of 1813, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry engaged the British fleet on Lake Erie off the coast of Ohio. After three hours of fierce fighting Perry's fleet gained the upper hand and the British were forced to surrender.

This battle was significant because it gave the Americans complete control of Lake Erie and directly led to the recapture of Detroit from the British. It also relieved the threat of an attack on Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Western New York.

Some of the American boats used in the battle were built with parts scavenged from a merchant ship that operated on Lake Erie before the war, which was named the Salina after the settlement known for its salt production near Onondaga Lake. In September 1877, the community observed the victory on Lake Erie with a mock military and naval engagement on Onondaga Lake with suitable fireworks, including the spectacular sinking of a condemned barge.

—Daniel Connors of the OHA