

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORGANIZATION &
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE
MONUMENT ASSOCIATION. AND
CELEBRATION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE, AT PUT-IN-BAY, ON
SEPT. 10, 1858, PP. 3-45 (NOT COMPLETE)**

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An Account of the Organization & Proceedings of the Battle of Lake Erie Monument Association. And celebration of the 45th anniversary of the battle of lake erie, at put-in-bay, on sept. 10, 1858, pp. 3-45 (not complete) by Various

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BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE
Monument Association.

AND

Celebration of the 45th Anniversary

OF THE

BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE,

AT PUT-IN-BAY ISLAND, ON SEPTEMBER TENTH, 1858.

SANDUSKY:
PRINTED BY HENRY D. COOKE & COMPANY.
1858.

ORIGIN AND ORGANIZATION.

In the year 1852, five companies of the Volunteer Militia of Ohio decided to celebrate the Anniversary of American Independence, by holding a three days' encampment on the renowned and beautiful Island of "Put-in-Bay."

This spot was chosen by them as being, above all others in their vicinity, the most national, and entitled to preference, from the glorious associations with which it is identified, and worthy the commemoration of that most hallowed of American days.

They were composed of the following finely equipped and disciplined companies:

- Bay City Guards—Capt. R. R. McMeens.
- Sandusky Yagers—Capt. Louis Traub.
- Sandusky Artillery—Capt. L. A. Silva.
- Washington Guards—Capt. William Lang.
- Tiffin Artillery—Capt. Bagby.

The Island was generously surrendered to the service and control of the military, by the gentlemanly proprietor, Col. A. P. Edwards, and placed in the charge of Capt. R. R. McMeens, who was chosen commandant for the occasion.

The weather, during the whole period of the encampment, was one of unclouded sunshine, rendered deliciously cool and exhilarating by the gentle breezes constantly wafted from the broad and blue bosom of the Lake.

On the morning of the 4th, (it being Sabbath,) the Battalion was reviewed by Maj. Gen. Isaac A. Mills, and his aid, Col. A. A. Camp, and presented a very martial and imposing appearance; after which, an appropriate and eloquent discourse was delivered by the Rev. E. R. Jewett.

This was the first military display, encampment or celebration ever held on the Island since the time it was occupied by Gen. Harrison's army.

On Monday, the 5th, "*the day*" was celebrated. A national salute was fired at sunrise; immense crowds of citizens from the opposite shore began to arrive, by steamers and sail craft; and in the afternoon an eloquent oration was delivered by Horatio Wildman, Esq.

During the first trip of the Steamer Arrow from Sandusky to the Island, a preliminary meeting was held, for the purpose of effecting a monumental organization, at which the Rev. Dr. Bronson was chosen Chairman, and Henry D. Cooke Secretary. On motion of Pitt Cooke, Esq., a committee of five was appointed "to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, in reference to the erection of a monument on Gibraltar Rock, Put-in-Bay, commemorative of Perry's brilliant victory on Lake Erie, and in honor of the dead who fell in that memorable engagement."

Whereupon, Messrs. J. A. Camp, Rev. W. Pitkin, W. F. Stone, Wm. S. Mills and H. D. Cooke were appointed such committee. The meeting then adjourned, to give time to the committee to prepare their report. The committee subsequently reported the following resolutions, with an appropriate preamble, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient on this day to form an association for the purpose above specified.

Resolved, That these proceedings shall be submitted to the consideration and concurrence of those assembled on Put-in-Bay Island.

On motion of W. F. Stone, the Secretary of the meeting was deputed to lay the proceedings of this meeting before the Assembly at Put-in-Bay, for further action.

In pursuance of the last resolution, the proceedings of the meeting on board the Arrow were laid before the vast concourse in the grove on Put-in-Bay Island, who fully concurred in the action of the preliminary meeting, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. J. A. Camp, Wm. S. Mills and Henry D. Cooke, were appointed to draft a preamble and constitution, for the proposed association.

In the afternoon another meeting was called, for the purpose of final action—the Rev. E. R. Jowett in the chair. Whereupon, the following Constitution was adopted:

WHEREAS, On the tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirteen, the gallant seamen and marines of the American Navy, commanded by the heroic Oliver Hazard Perry, obtained a glorious victory over the British Squadron on Lake Erie, which victory turned the tide of war, hitherto adverse to our arms, and was the precursor of a series of brilliant triumphs: AND WHEREAS, on that day many bold hearts, for whom a nation grieved, died victorious in the

service of their country, and since by their services and death have left their nation in their debt, it is now both the duty and the pleasure of their countrymen, to erect to their memory a monument, which shall exhibit to future generations the appreciation the present entertains of the value of their service and sacrifice. And inasmuch as the scene of the glorious conflict should point the memorial of the triumph, it is both expedient and proper that such monument should be erected on one of the Put-in-Bay Islands of Lake Erie. THEREFORE, The undersigned trusting to the cordial and efficient co-operation of their countrymen throughout this broad land, do form themselves into an Association, for the purpose above set forth, under the style of "THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE MONUMENT ASSOCIATION," and do adopt the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE FIRST.

Any person can become a member of this Association by paying the Treasurer the sum of one dollar.

ARTICLE SECOND.

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, twenty-five Vice Presidents, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and a Treasurer, whose duties shall be such as usually belong to such officers.

ARTICLE THIRD.

The control and management of the property and interests of this Association shall be vested in a Board of Managers, to be elected *visa voce*, any ten of whom, at any regular meeting, shall constitute a quorum. They shall have power to fill vacancies in their own body. They shall have power to elect from their own body an executive committee, to consist of five members, three of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, to whom they may depute their authority, and who shall be subject to their control.

The Executive Committee shall have power to call meetings of the Board of Managers, and to name the time and place of meeting.

The especial duty of the Board of Managers is declared to be, to carry into execution the object of this Association.

After the adoption of the Constitution, the meeting proceeded to elect officers, in compliance with its provisions, when

Hon. Lewis Cass was chosen President.

On the list of Vice Presidents, the following gentlemen were chosen:

Col. J. J. Abert, U. S. Topographical Engineers, Washington City;

Hon. Elisha Whittlesey, Commodore R. F. Stockton, General Cadwalader, Philadelphia; Hon. Reuben Wood, Ohio; Maj. John G. Camp, Sandusky; Capt. Stephen Champlin, Buffalo; J. A. Harris, Cleveland; Hon. Judge Barnett, Cincinnati.

A Board of Managers was to be subsequently chosen.

A Provisional Executive Committee was appointed, consisting of Maj. John G. Camp, Hon. E. Cooke, Earl Bill, Esq., Col. A. P. Edwards, and J. A. Harris, Esq., with authority to act until the Board of Managers shall elect an Executive Committee in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, three of whom shall constitute a quorum for doing business.

The meeting then adjourned with three hearty cheers for the proposed monument, and a considerable amount of subscriptions was left with the President.

This great work was then considered to have commenced under the most favorable auspices, and with flattering prospects of future completion. But unfortunately, from the sudden and severe outbreak of cholera throughout the Lake region of country, soon after, the excitement consequent upon the Presidential campaign, as well as the very local character of the celebration, no active or immediate steps were taken to carry its provisions into effect, or complete its further organization, and the whole matter was allowed to subside into a state of indifference and ultimate neglect.

During the past summer, however, the subject was again agitated by those who had become deeply interested in the laudable and patriotic project, and the Hon. E. Cooke, being the only accessible member of the original provisional committee, was waited upon and requested to call a meeting of the committee, and fill, as authorized by the Constitution, the vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise, with the view of reviving the subject, and enlisting all the cities of Lake Erie in a union celebration on the approaching anniversary of the battle.

This was accordingly done, and the following committee appointed: E. COOKE, WM. S. PIERSON, F. S. THORPE, J. A. CAMP, R. R. McMEENS.

The editor of the Commercial Register of Sandusky, was then solicited by the committee, to bring the subject before the attention of the press and people, in order to awaken their patriotism, and insure their hearty co-operation. When in their daily issue of August 13th, the following spirited appeal appeared:

THE TENTH OF SEPTEMBER.

“ But few days in American history are more rich in patriotic associa-

tions, than the tenth of September, 1813; and at its recollection every truly American heart pulsates with a renewed thrill of patriotic enthusiasm. It is gratifying to note that each succeeding recurrence of the anniversary of the great event, that then transpired, the grand achievement then attained, does not mark a waning in the hallowed regard in which that brilliant victory, and the immortal victors are held by America's loyal sons. We are all proud of that demonstration of our country's triumph over Britain's boasted naval power; we are all proud of our gallant Perry, and point with pride to his imposing prowess, rejoice that he was an American, and enshrine the memory of his glowing deeds of bravery, in the warmest corner of our inner hearts.

"It is a befitting tribute to the memories of those brave spirits who participated in the struggle of that memorable day, and our regard for the importance of the event, that its every anniversary should find the Lake cities, by their delegates assembled as brothers at Put-in-Bay, ground made classic by its nearness to the battle scene, and by its being the urn that holds the sleeping dust of those who fell in freedom's cause, commemorating that event with appropriate exercises, renewing the ties of fraternal good feeling, and re-kindling those fires of patriotism, that burned with such undimmed lustre in those brave hearts, that now lie pulseless and still in unknown graves, near the hallowed scene of their glorious death. * * * * *

"We repeat, then, the approaching tenth of September, will be an appropriate occasion to give this monument association a fresh impetus. Let Buffalonians, Erians, Clevelanders, Sanduskians, Toledoans, and Detroiters, go to Put-in-Bay, prepared to contribute liberally of their means to this glorious work, and let us have a monument erected to commemorate the event which makes prominent the day we celebrate, that will do us honor."

The press along the whole length of the Lake shore, responded to, and reiterated the sentiment with a promptness and zeal most commendable and patriotic, for which the committee feel it their duty to acknowledge the appreciation of their indebtedness, and much of the successful results of the day.

Subsequently the committee deemed it proper to publish the following card, for the purpose of announcing the proposed celebration, and concentrating some definite action thereon.

CARD.

"We have met the enemy and they are ours."

From the spontaneous and favorable responses, of all the leading journals of the Lake cities, on the subject of holding a union celebration a