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# The Battle of Lake Erie

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Hey today I'm going to be talking a little bit about the Battle of Lake Erie, which occurred during the War of 1812. I picked this topic to talk about for multiple reasons. First off I thought it represented the American paradox, I wanted to learn a little bit more about it, and I just recently learned while talking to my grandmother that I had 5 relatives and ancestors that served in this battle. In relation to the American paradox, the events leading up to the War of 1812 represent it, as the Americans were not truly free from the British even though they had won the Revolutionary War. The Battle of Lake Erie symbolizes them ridding themselves from British rule. Now I'm not going to speak on every little detail, but give some background and summarize to keep things short and simple.

In 1812 the United States of America and Great Britain went to war against the other after having problems and conflicts with each other. Before the war began Britain had navy ships on Lake Erie, which borders the United States. The British were quick to take control of the lake and seize power over American shipping and transport in the area. The Americans only had one ship on Lake Erie and it was unserviceable for war at the time and got pinned down and captured by the British. It was captured when the British sieged Detroit and the ship was then renamed "Detroit" under British control.

Later the Detroit along with a commandeered Canadian ship "Caledonia", (relative John Norris served on) were both captured by Americans. Detroit was burned after sustaining too much damage and the Caledonia was added to the US Fleet. Caledonia was taken to Black Rock to be added in where the schooners "Ohio" and "Somers" (Eli Steward served on) and the the sloop "Trippe"(John Decker served on). The British took Fort Erie and these ships were then suppressed at Black Rock and couldn't move.

Oliver Perry had been put in charge of the ships and men at Lake Erie for the Americans,

where he then went to get the boats tied up at Black Rock and bring them a place called Presque Isle. Around the same time Robert Barclay had been appointed to the lead command for the British. Barclay was considering an attack on Presque Isle, but then decided against it as he did not have the troops or guns to take it. Barclay then went on to order a blockade of Presque Isle, as a sand bar was blocking the British from entering and the Americans from leaving. Barclay ended the blockade after ten days and was hoping to catch the Americans in the middle of moving their ships when he returned to completely demolish them. Four days later the British came back to find the American ships almost across and the British pulled back from attacking to wait for reinforcements. Perry and his ships left eventually finding a place to stay in Put-in-Bay.

Barclay and his vessels were blockaded for five weeks during the time Perry and his ships were in Put-in-Bay, eventually running out of supplies and making the British desperate to attack Perry in Put-in-Bay. September tenth was the day the British ships moved on Perry's ships. Barclay's ships had the advantage at first, then the wind changed and favored the American ships letting them rain fire on two biggest British ships. Later during the fighting Perry's ship the "Lawrence" was damaged so badly he and his men including John Norris, who went all took a small boat to go aboard the "Niagara", which William White was serving on.

Perry and his men regrouped, sending schooners to attack the British at close range and the Niagara moved in on Barclay's flagship. This led to the final moments and winding down of the battle as the British boats were too badly damaged to carry on and surrendered, any other British ships that attempted to escape were overtaken and forced to surrender, ending the battle. The British lost 41 men and had 94 wounded. The Americans lost 27 men and had 96 wounded.

Relates to American Paradox, because US just won revolutionary war from Britain but

they weren't really free from them, which led to the war of 1812.