



# Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

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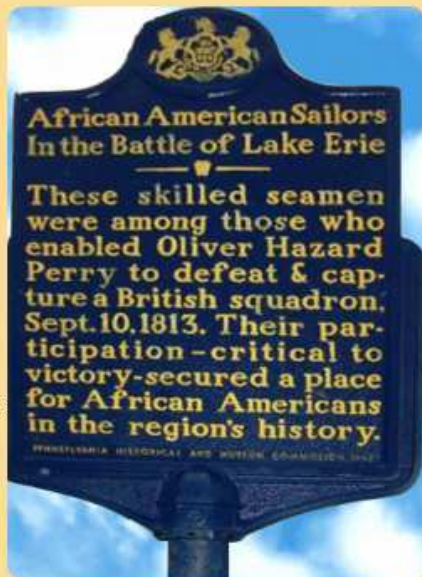
September 09, 2013

## Hidden Heroes Project to Uncover Heroes Hidden for 200 Years



The following announcement has just been released from the Center for Black Genealogy:

On the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie, Tony Burroughs, founder and CEO of the Center for Black Genealogy, announces "Hidden Heroes: Identifying Blacks in the Battle Lake Erie." September 10, 2013 marks the 200th anniversary of one of the most famous battles in U.S. Naval history that took place during the War of 1812. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry captured an entire British fleet for the first time in world history. Estimates were 10 to 25% of the approximate 600 men were Black, but because naval records didn't indicate race, historians have only been able to identify ten by name.



Hidden Heroes will coordinate researchers to determine which men in the battle were Black. Several genealogical societies have agreed to help research and the project is seeking additional societies and researchers. Hidden Heroes is similar to a project that identified African Americans in the Civil War Navy for the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors website. <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>.

Hidden Heroes will correct another lost chapter in American and African American History. When the project is completed the names of these heroes will be on the Internet for free public access. This will enable historians to correct history and enable descendants to learn of their ancestor's heroic deeds.

After a seventeen year search Tony Burroughs found evidence proving his sixth generation ancestor, Civil War veteran Oliver Perry Smothers, was the son of Charles Smothers. Charles Smothers' application for Bounty Land indicated he served on Commodore Perry's flag ship, the Brig Niagara. Smothers later named his son after Commodore Oliver Perry. This evidence qualified Burroughs to be admitted to the General Society of the War of 1812. Burroughs is possibly the first African American to

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### MEET DICK EASTMAN IN PERSON

Sept. 28, 2013 - American-Canadian Genealogical Society, Manchester, New Hampshire

October 19, 2013 - Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia

February 6-8, 2014 - RootsTech - Salt Lake City, Utah

February 16, 2014 - Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Florida

February 20 to 22, 2014 - Who Do You Think You Are? Live!, London, England

March 22, 2014 - Bay County Genealogical Society, Panama City, Florida

April 11th to 14th, 2014 - Annual Guild of One-Name Studies Conference, Ashford, Kent, United Kingdom

April 19, 2014 - Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society, Tacoma, Washington

June 14, 2014 - Middlesex Society of Genealogists, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

### Dick Eastman LIVE at your event

Dick Eastman is available for presentations and full-day seminars at genealogy conferences around the world. Dick knows that sitting through a boring speech is painful. Therefore, he keeps things light



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War of 1812. Burroughs is possibly the first African American to be admitted to the society for an African American ancestor who fought in the Battle of Lake Eire.

Project Director - Tony Burroughs, FUGA  
Burroughs is founder and CEO of the Center for Black Genealogy. He is an internationally known genealogist who taught genealogy at Chicago State University for fifteen years and author of the best selling Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree. He is also Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Genealogical Society.

#### Advisory Board

Ed Moore - Retired three-star Vice-Admiral and the highest ranking African American in the Navy when he retired in 2001.

Captain Bill Pinkney - Master of the Freedom Schooner, AMISTAD, a reproduction of the 19th century slave ship Le Amistad and first Black man to sail solo around the world

Michael N. Henderson- Lieutenant Commander, USN, Retired, Past President - Button Gwinnett Chapter, Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, member, General Society of the War of 1812

Scott Forsyth – Retired archivist, National Archives, Great Lakes Region

Samuel W. Black – President, Association of African American Museums & Director of African American Programs at the Senator John Heinz History Center

Dr. Iva E. Carruthers - President, Kwame Nkrumah Academy Board of Trustees; Professor Emeritus and former Chairperson of the Sociology Department, Northeastern Illinois University

Pat Van Skiak – Manager, Genealogy and Local History Collection at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

Kathleen Bethel – African American Studies Librarian at Northwestern University

Cristal Simmons – Epidemiologist and former president Afro-American Genealogical & Historical Society of Chicago, Inc.

#### Partners

FamilySearch – Genealogy Division of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Fold3 – Military Records Division of Ancestry.com

Allen County Public Library - Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Center for Black Genealogy <http://www.centerforblackgenealogy.org> is a nonprofit educational institute designed to advance the scholarship of African American genealogy and promote genealogy research and preservation throughout the African Diaspora. The Center will offer an array of educational programs, scholarly research, oral history, publishing, and advocacy plus a genealogy research database, library, archives, museum, and preservation service center, thereby institutionalizing Black genealogy research. The Center also provides training and technical assistance to genealogists and researchers.

boring speech is painful. Therefore, he keeps things light and humorous, giving presentations that are educational, motivational, and entertaining.

Contact Dick Eastman for more information.

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jane on A Family is Sentenced in Tax Fraud Scam that used Ancestry.com

alastair gordon on Volunteers Needed to Help Transcribe Scotland's Places

Tracy Ellis on Society of Genealogists Launches a New Prestigious Award for the Genealogical Community

#### RECENTLY-REVIEWED BOOKS

O'Sullivan (Ó Súilleabháin) The Earliest Irish Royal Family History and Genealogy - Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program

Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in