Belmont Lake State Park, Cannons

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

This famous quote was sent to President James Madison by Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry who won the naval battle of Lake Erie over the English on September 10, 1813 during the War of 1812. These cannons were captured from a British warship during that battle, later resurrected from a junk yard, then placed in front of the original mansion by the Commodore's niece, Mrs. August Belmont, as a tribute to her uncle. When New York State purchased the estate in 1948 the mansion was converted into Park headquarters and remained as such until 1933, when the building was torn down. One year later, the present Park headquarters was built, but the cannons were never moved.