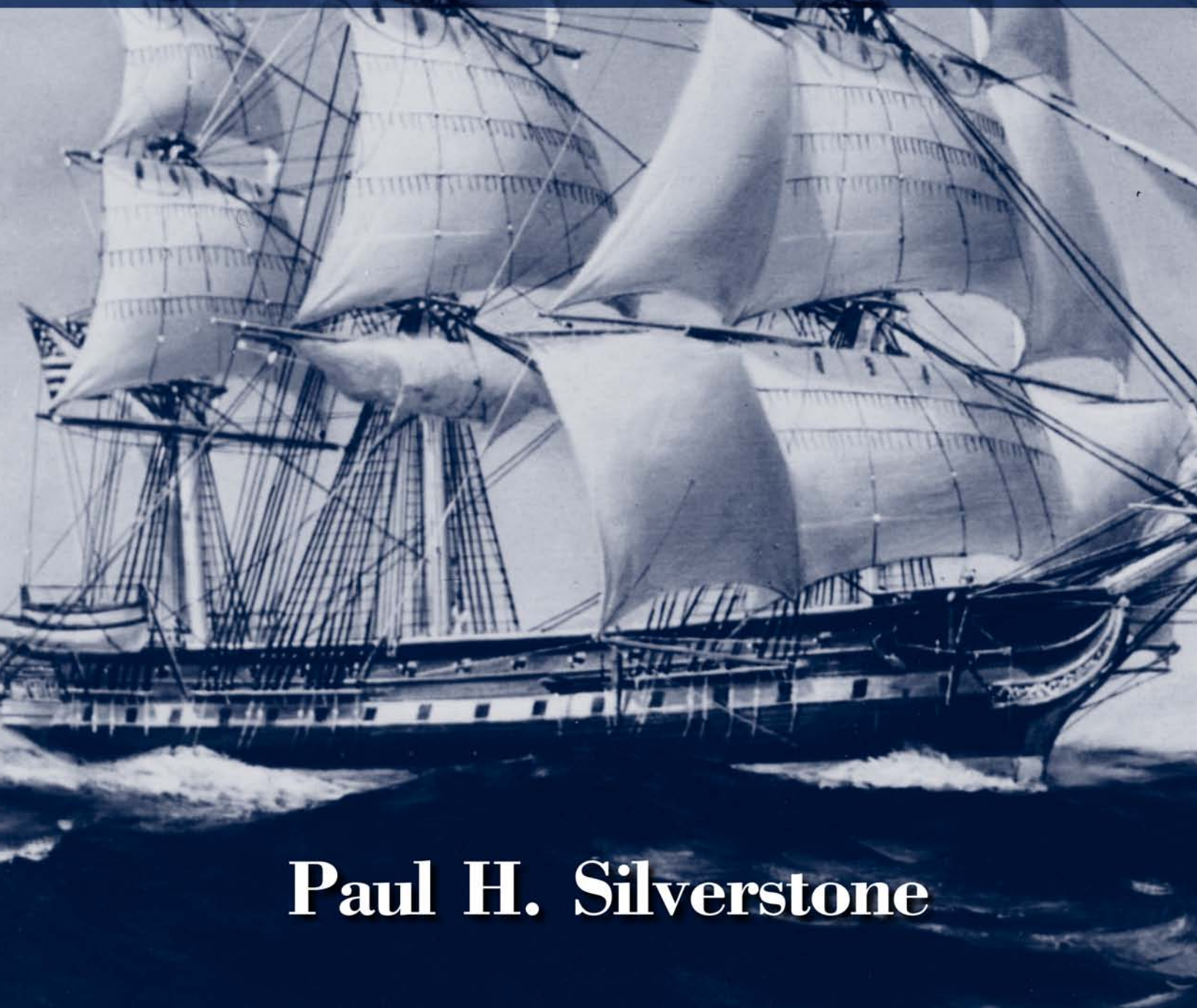


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The U.S. Navy Warship Series

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# THE SAILING NAVY 1775-1854



Paul H. Silverstone

THE SAILING  
**NAVY**  
1775–1854

## **THE U.S. NAVY WARSHIP SERIES**

The Sailing Navy, 1775–1854

Civil War Navies, 1855–1883

The New Navy, 1883–1922

# THE SAILING **NAVY** 1775–1854

**Paul H. Silverstone**

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# CONTENTS

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Preface	vii
Abbreviations	ix
Explanation of Data	xi
U.S. Navy Chronology 1775-1855	xiii
U.S. Naval Ordnance, 1773–1855	xvii
1 The Continental Navy, 1775–1783	1
2 State Navies, 1775–1783	17
3 The United States Navy, 1794–1854	21
4 United States Revenue Cutter Service	77
5 Texas Navy	87
Appendix: Royal Navy Losses in North American Waters	89
Bibliography	93
Index	95



# PREFACE

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This book provides a single comprehensive source of definitive information on the ships of the United States Navy during the age of sail from its beginning with the Continental Navy in 1775. No such source has previously been available that focuses on this period of U.S. naval history.

From 1775 to 1854 there is much conflicting information but lack of accurate information. Systems of measuring ships, both tonnage and dimensions, varied so that the numbers given differ from source to source. The dimensions of a ship were more meaningful than tonnage. There is occasional confusion about a ship's rig. Ships' batteries were changeable, and different armaments are often found for the same ship. One has little assurance that these figures are right or wrong or merely reporting different

systems of measurement. Some judgment has been required to choose which of these various measurements should be used.

Similarly it has been difficult to identify some acquired ships' prior identity and place or date of construction. Most of the records are handwritten, leading to a variety of spellings or readings of the names of ships and other data. For ship illustrations from this era prior to photography it was necessary to use line drawings, contemporary prints, and artists' impressions.

Appreciation is extended to Ernest Arroyo, William Jurens, Norman Polmar, and Charles R. Haberlein for assistance in obtaining information and photographs. And further appreciation to the editors for many helpful suggestions.





# ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>bldr</b>	builder
<b>bm</b>	burden
<b>bp</b>	length between perpendiculars
<b>BU</b>	broken up
<b>comm</b>	commissioned
<b>crde</b>	carronade
<b>CSN</b>	Confederate States Navy
<b>CSS</b>	Confederate States Ship
<b>D</b>	displacement (tonnage)
<b>FFU</b>	further fate unknown
<b>H</b>	howitzer
<b>HP</b>	horsepower
<b>LofM</b>	Letter of Marque
<b>M</b>	mortar
<b>MLR</b>	muzzle loading rifle
<b>NHP</b>	normal horsepower
<b>NYd</b>	Navy Yard

<b>oa</b>	overall
<b>pdr</b>	pounder
<b>R</b>	rifle
<b>recomm</b>	recommissioned
<b>RN</b>	Royal Navy (Great Britain)
<b>RR</b>	removed from shipping registers
<b>rtnd</b>	returned
<b>SB</b>	smoothbore
<b>schr</b>	schooner
<b>SE</b>	still existing
<b>S/F</b>	sold foreign
<b>sqn</b>	squadron
<b>trfd</b>	transferred
<b>(U)</b>	information unknown
<b>USNA</b>	United States Naval Academy
<b>USCS</b>	United States Coast Survey
<b>USRCS</b>	United States Revenue Cutter Service



# EXPLANATION OF DATA

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This book examines three main sections of naval history covering the Continental Navy, the United States Navy from 1794 to 1854, and the United States Revenue Cutter Service.

The ships of the Continental Navy, which operated from 1775 to 1783, are divided into four basic groups: those authorized and built by Congress, those existing ships purchased and converted, those acquired abroad, and those captured and put into service. The ships that served on Lake Champlain are in a separate section, and there is a brief listing of ships owned by the individual states.

The United States Navy was formally established in 1794. Most of its ships are listed by type—ships-of-the-line, frigates, brigs, and schooners—but again the ships that served on the lakes are discussed in separate sections. Also, the newly developed steamships are grouped together in another section.

Records from these early days are often sparse and non-existent, and where they do exist they are unclear or conflicting. Reputable sources, as often as not, do not agree. Too often, basic information has been lacking altogether.

Particulars are given for each ship as follows. For certain types of ships, information is given in a single line without explanation. For ships remaining on the Navy List after 1855, historical details and changes in the ship or its armament after that date as well as its subsequent history will be found in the succeeding volume of this series, *Civil War Navies, 1855–1883*.

*Name:* Navy name as completed, with former names given below. Further changes of name, if any, are indicated in the service record with new Navy names in bold type. If a ship retained its merchant name in Navy service, no former name is given. It should be noted that using USS as a prefix for ships of the Continental Navy is not strictly correct as the United States did not come into existence until a later date.

*Builder:* Place where the ship was built, followed by the builder's name, if known, in parentheses.

*Construction dates:* For Navy-built ships, dates given are for laying down of keel, launching, and commissioning. For acquired vessels, dates given are date of launching, acquisition by the Navy, and commissioning.

*Rate:* Sailing ships were rated by number of guns, although this number may not coincide with the actual guns carried. It was customary to append the rate to the name of the ship, thus denoting its strength and size.

*Dimensions:* Standard dimensions given in feet (') and inches (") are length × beam × draft (or depth of hull, prefixed with "d"). Figures varied widely and were often published without explanation of the method of measurement. The usual length given was between perpendiculars, that is to say between the fore side of the stem and the aft side of the rudder post. Others measured the length overall, on deck, or on the keel. The symbol (U) after the length indicates the type of measurement is not known.

*Tonnage:* Tonnage is not a good indicator of size in these early ships, but is mainly useful in comparing one ship to another. Measurement was often expressed in *tons burden*, an expression of the carrying capacity of a ship rather than weight, and rules of its calculation varied widely. Other measurements used are indicated in the text by: bm = burden, D = displacement.

*Machinery* (for steamships): The early steam ships of the Navy had simple engines but with many variations as engineers experimented with new ideas. Side wheels were the principal mode of propulsion with experimental screw propellers developed by Ericsson, Hunter, and others. The mode of propulsion; number, type, and size of engines; number of boilers; horsepower; and speed are given. The diameter of the cylinder(s) and the length of the stroke of the piston are shown, the former in inches and the latter in feet, for example (50" × 2'), following the type of engine. The maker of the

machinery is noted in parentheses, if known (bldr indicates machinery manufactured by the builder).

*Complement:* Normal figure for officers and crew. For many ships, where sources vary, a range (e.g., 50/75) is given.

There was often a large variance between peacetime and wartime complements.

*Battery:* Original number and type of guns are given first with later significant changes noted by date.

A description of ordnance of this period is given in a separate section. Additional information pertaining to design, construction or later modifications, acquisition, or earlier historical notes of interest are not included in other categories. The name of the designer and type of figurehead are noted here.

*Service record:* A capsule history of each ship's naval service, showing assignment by station or squadron and war service including participation in engagements, major damage to vessel, or loss. The number of crewmen killed is noted in parentheses. Changes in Navy name in bold are given here with date. Also listed is the

final disposition by the Navy—loss, sale, or transfer to another agency. Other than final disposition, details of the service record after about 1855 are given in *Civil War Navies*.

*Ships captured:* Names and dates of merchant ships captured or sunk. Some prizes were credited to several ships acting together and so appear more than once.

*Later history:* Brief details of the ship's career after leaving naval service, including later merchant names and service in other government departments or in foreign navies. The ultimate fate is given where known, the year the ship was removed from shipping registers (RR) or when it was sold to foreign buyers (S/F). Occasionally a date is given for the last published reference (SE = still existing).

British naval losses during the Revolution and the War of 1812 are listed in the appendix to show both the importance and cost of these wars to Britain.

# U.S. NAVY CHRONOLOGY

## 1775-1855

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1775	Apr 19	Battles of Lexington and Concord; American Revolution begins.		Mar 7	USS <i>Randolph</i> blows up during attack on English convoy.
	Sep 5	First' armed U.S. ship, <i>Hannah</i> , commissioned by Continental Army.		Apr 14-25	USS <i>Ranger</i> under John Paul Jones captures 6 ships off Ireland.
	Oct 13	Marine Committee appointed by Continental Congress to fit out a navy; two vessels authorized.		Jul 8	French fleet arrives in America.
1776	Dec 13	13 frigates ordered by Act of Congress.	1779	Apr 6	Squadron under John B. Hopkins captures 8 ships from British convoy.
	Feb 17	Expedition under Esek Hopkins leaves to attack Bahamas; New Providence Island attacked 3 Mar.		Jun	John Paul Jones operating off France.
	Apr 4	First enemy ship, HMS Hawk, captured by a U.S. naval vessel, <i>Columbus</i> .		Jul 15	Commodore Whipple attacks convoy from Jamaica; 11 ships captured.
	Jul 4	Declaration of Independence.		Aug 17	USS <i>Warren</i> and other ships destroyed after defeat in the Penobscot River, ME.
	Sep	John Paul Jones in <i>Providence</i> captures 16 ships.		Aug-Sep	Jones squadron operating off Scotland.
	Oct 11-13	Battle of Lake Champlain; British victory but delay in advance results in Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga the following year.		Sep 23	John Paul Jones in USS <i>Bonhomme Richard</i> captures HMS <i>Serapis</i> off England.
	Nov 2-8	USS <i>Alfred</i> and <i>Providence</i> under John Paul Jones capture 9 ships.	1780	May 12	Fall of Charleston, SC; American fleet destroyed.
	Nov 16	First salute to American flag by a foreign power at St. Eustatius on board USS <i>Andrew Doria</i> .	1781	Sep 7	Robert Morris appointed agent of marine.
	Nov	USS <i>Reprisal</i> arrives in France with Benjamin Franklin; captures 2 ships en route.	1782	Oct 19	Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown.
	Nov 20	Congress authorizes first ship-of-the-line.	1783	Sep 3	USS <i>America</i> presented to France.
1777	Jun 14	Congress adopts Stars and Stripes design as the U.S. flag.	1785	Apr 19	Hostilities cease.
	Jun	An American squadron captures 14 ships in the Bay of Biscay and English Channel.	1794	Sep 3	Treaty of peace signed.
	Jul 4	First Stars and Stripes unfurled on a ship, USS <i>Ranger</i> .	1797	Jun 3	Alliance sold, last ship of the Continental Navy.
	Jul 7	Frigate <i>Hancock</i> captured after 30-hour chase.		Mar 27	Congress authorizes construction of six frigates.
	Jul 8	American ships burned to escape capture in Delaware Bay.	1798	May 10	Frigate United States launched at Philadelphia; first ship of the Navy.
	Sep	USS <i>Raleigh</i> and <i>Alfred</i> attack English convoy.		Apr 30	Navy Department established.
	Oct 1-16	Actions in Delaware River; American ships scuttled.	1799	Jul 9	Congress authorizes capture of any French armed vessel.
	Oct 6	Two incomplete frigates destroyed to avoid capture in New York.	1800	Jul 7	USS <i>Delaware</i> captures French <i>La Croyable</i> .
	Oct 17	Burgoyne surrenders at Saratoga.		Nov 16	USS <i>Baltimore</i> halted by British fleet and 5 seamen taken off.
	Feb 6	Alliance between U.S. and France signed.		Feb 9	USS <i>Constellation</i> captures French L'Insurgente.
1778				Feb 2	<i>Constellation</i> action against <i>Vengeance</i> .
				Sep 30	Treaty of peace with France signed; In effect 21 Dec 1801 (or 18 Feb ?).
				Oct 19	USS <i>George Washington</i> forced to carry Algerian tribute to Constantinople after delivering tribute to the Dey.

<b>1801</b>	Jun 10	Pasha of Tripoli declares war on U.S.
<b>1802</b>	Feb 6	U.S. declares war on Tripoli.
<b>1803</b>	Oct 31	USS <i>Philadelphia</i> runs aground and is captured at Tripoli.
<b>1804</b>	Feb 16	Stephen Decatur burns <i>Philadelphia</i> in Tripoli Harbor.
	Aug-Sep	U.S. squadron under Preble lays siege to Tripoli.
	Sep 4	<i>Intrepid</i> blows up in Tripoli harbor.
<b>1805</b>	Mar 2	25 gunboats authorized by Congress.
	May 27	Derna, in Tripoli, captured by U.S. Navy and Marines.
	Jun 3	Peace with Tripoli signed.
<b>1807</b>	Jun 22	Chesapeake -Leopard incident.
	Dec 18	Congress authorizes 188 more gunboats.
<b>1810</b>	May 1	All French and British vessels prohibited from entering U.S. ports.
<b>1811</b>	Mar 16	President-Little Belt incident.
<b>1812</b>	Jun 18	U.S. declares war on Britain.
	Aug 19	USS <i>Constitution</i> under Isaac Hull takes HMS <i>Guerriere</i> .
	Oct 18	USS <i>Wasp</i> captures HMS <i>Frolic</i> .
	Oct 25	USS <i>United States</i> under Decatur takes HMS <i>Macedonian</i> .
	Dec 29	USS <i>Constitution</i> takes HMS <i>Java</i> .
<b>1813</b>	Jan 2	Congress authorizes 4 ships-of-the-line and 6 frigates.
	Apr 27	U.S. squadron under Isaac Chauncey attacks Fort York (Toronto, Canada).
	Jun 1	USS <i>Chesapeake</i> taken by HMS <i>Shannon</i> .
	Sep 10	Battle of Lake Erie; Oliver Hazard Perry obtains victory over British squadron.
<b>1814</b>	Mar 28	USS <i>Essex</i> , David Porter, captured off Chile after a successful cruise in off Chile.
	Aug 24	Washington burned by British forces.
	Sep 11	Battle of Lake Champlain; Thomas MacDonough defeats British squadron.
	Dec 24	Peace treaty signed at Ghent.
<b>1815</b>	Jan 15	USS <i>President</i> taken by British squadron.
	Feb 20	USS <i>Constitution</i> defeats HMS <i>Cyane</i> and <i>Levant</i> .
	May 20	American squadron under Decatur sails for Mediterranean to suppress piracy; war with Algiers. ( <i>Guerriere</i> , <i>Constellation</i> , <i>Epervier</i> , <i>Ontario</i> , <i>Spark</i> , <i>Spitfire</i> , <i>Torch</i> , <i>Macedonian</i> , <i>Firefly</i> , <i>Flambeau</i> ).
<b>1816</b>	Apr 29	Congress authorizes additional 8 ships-of-the-line and 9 frigates.
<b>1819-1822</b>		War against pirates in West Indies.
<b>1836</b>		
<b>1838</b>		
<b>1841-42</b>		Expeditions against Seminole Indians in Florida.
<b>1842</b>	Apr 14	Congress authorizes Stevens' iron war steamer.
	Dec 1	Mutiny on board USS <i>Somers</i> .
<b>1844</b>	Feb 28	Explosion on Princeton killing two cabinet ministers.
<b>1845</b>	Oct 10	Naval Academy established at Annapolis.
<b>1846</b>	May 12	Declaration of war on Mexico.
	Jul 7	Landing at Monterey, CA.
	Aug 7	Expedition against Alvarado, U.S. withdrew.
	Oct 15	2nd attack on Alvarado, which failed when 2nd division unable to cross harbor bar.
	Oct 16-	Capture of Frontera and Tabasco.
	Nov 1	

	Nov 10-19	Capture of Tampico and Panuco (Commodore David Conner).
<b>1847</b>	Feb 22-23	Battle of Buena Vista, Zachary Taylor defeats Santa Ana.
	Mar 9-29	Siege of Vera Cruz and landings; Vera Cruz captured 25 Mar 1847.
	Apr 2	Siege of Alvarado (Commodore Matthew C. Perry).
	Jun 14-16	2nd landing at Tabasco.
	Sep 13	Battle of Chapultepec, U.S. Marines enter Mexico City.
	Nov 11	Occupation of Mazatlan.
	Feb 2	Peace Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo between U.S. and Mexico.
<b>1852 Oct-</b>		Survey expedition to Bering and China Seas under Ringgold and John Rodgers ( <i>Vincennes</i> , <i>John Hancock</i> , <i>John P. Kennedy</i> , <i>Fenimore Cooper</i> ).
<b>1855 Jan</b>		Expedition to Japan under Matthew Perry ( <i>Mississippi</i> , <i>Powhatan</i> , <i>Macedonian</i> , <i>Supply</i> , <i>Southampton</i> , <i>Lexington</i> , <i>Vandalia</i> + <i>Plymouth</i> , <i>Saratoga</i> , <i>Susquehanna</i> ).
<b>1856</b>	Nov 20-22	Bombardment and assault on Canton forts.
<b>1858-59</b>		Paraguay Expedition.

## DISPOSITION OF THE NAVY 1 NOVEMBER 1851 Home Squadron

**sloops** *Cyane*, *Albany*, *Decatur*, **paddle frigate** *Saranac*, **steamers** *Vixen*, *John Hancock*

## Mediterranean

**razee** *Independence*, **paddle frigate** *Mississippi*

## Brazil

**frigate** *Congress*, **sloop** *Jamestown*, **store ship** *Relief*

## Coast of Africa

**sloops** *John Adams*, *Germantown*, *Dale*, **brigs** *Porpoise*, *Bainbridge*, *Perry*

## Pacific

**frigates** *Savannah*, *Raritan*, **sloops** *Vincennes*, *Warren*, *Falmouth*, *Vandalia*, *St. Mary's*, **steamer** *Massachusetts*, **store ships** *Lexington*, *Southampton*, *Supply*

## East Indies

**sloop** *Saratoga*, *Plymouth*, *Marion*, **paddle frigate** *Susquehanna*

## Norfolk

**frigate** *Columbia* (**repairing**), **ships-of-the-line** *Pennsylvania* (**receiving ship**), *Columbus* **and** *Delaware*, **frigates** *United States*, *Constellation*, **sloops** *Fairfield*, *St. Louis* (**all in ordinary**), **steamer** *Engineer*

## New York

**schooner** *Petrel*, **frigates** *St. Lawrence* and *Macedonian* (repairing), **steam frigate** *San Jacinto*, **steamer** *Fulton*, **store ship** *Fredonia* (equipping), **ship-of-the-line** *North Carolina* (receiving ship), **frigates** *Constitution*, *Potomac*, *Brandywine* (in ordinary)

## Boston

**sloop** *Portsmouth* (repairing), **steamer** *Princeton* (rebuilding), **frigate** *Cumberland* (in ordinary), **ship-of-the-line** *Ohio* (receiving ship)

## Portsmouth, NH

**ships-of-the-line** *Franklin* (testing drydock), *Vermont* (in ordinary)

## Philadelphia

**steamer** *Union* (receiving ship)

## Annapolis

**sloop** *Preble* (practice ship)

## Baltimore

**sloop** *Ontario* (receiving ship)

## Pensacola

**steamer** *General Taylor* (tender)

## Special Service

**brig** *Dolphin*

## Coast survey

**schooners** *Wave*, *Phoenix*

## Great Lakes

**steamer** *Michigan*

## Under construction

**Kittery Me.**, *Alabama*, *Santee*; **Boston, Mass.**, *Virginia*; **New York**, *Sabine*; **Norfolk Va.**, *New York*; **Sackett's Harbor, NY**, *New Orleans*; **Hoboken NJ**, *Stevens*





# U.S. NAVAL ORDNANCE, 1773–1855

The U.S. Navy participated in two major conflicts during the period of interest, the War of Independence (1776–1783) and the War of 1812 (1812–1815). Although many rifled guns firing elongated projectiles were employed during the Civil War, ordnance prior to 1855 consisted almost exclusively of smooth-bore muzzle-loaded guns firing spherical projectiles and employing black powder as a propellant.

Because the British actively discouraged the production of ordnance in the colonies, Colonial ordnance at the outbreak of the American Revolution consisted of a miscellany of vintage English and other foreign guns, often of uncertain and irregular pedigree. Although a few cannons were produced domestically prior to 1770, American ordnance production did not become significant until 1774, and even then bronze was in such short supply that manufacture was supported largely by recycling old bells and door knockers. Although about three dozen founders produced cannon during the American Revolution, data concerning the number, characteristics, and utilization of the resulting weapons are almost nonexistent. Most evidence seems to suggest that the guns produced were most often near variants of contemporary British designs, primarily made of iron.

At the outset of the war the American fleet consisted of fewer than thirty ships, mounting in total only about 550 relatively small-caliber guns. During the course of the conflict, these guns were augmented by the capture of numerous British weapons and large numbers of cannons—many obsolete—obtained from the French.

Guns of the period were highly variant, and the samples that have survived represent a mixed and quite probably nonrepresentative lot, which, taken individually, rarely match official specifications. Guns were invariably designated by projectile weight—a 24 pdr would fire a twenty-four-pound iron round shot. Though these designations had been discarded by the time of the Revolutionary War, early cannoneers typically divided guns into categories by length as well: *mortars* were less than three calibers long, *perriers* (the ancestors of our modern howitzers) were

from eight to sixteen calibers long; *cannons* were from fifteen to twenty calibers long, and *culverins* were twenty-five to thirty calibers long.\* Most naval guns of the Revolutionary War were developed from cannons and culverins; the carronade, intermediate in length between a perrier and a mortar, was an entirely new development.

The following table (which must be considered approximate) is adapted from a variety of sources and gives information on typical guns of the period. As noted earlier, all of these were smooth-bore muzzle loaders.

Size	Length (inches)	Weight (gun) (lbs)	Weight (all-up) (lbs)	Shot diameter (inches)	Caliber* (inches)	Range** (yards)
10 pdr	78	890	1,200	c.10	2.9–3.0	1,850
42 pdr	120	5,537	7,504	6.70	7.04	1,940
32 pdr	114	5,398	6,216	6.12	6.43	2,080
24 pdr	113	4,800	5,600	5.56	5.84	1,800
18 pdr	108	4,133	4,704	5.05	5.30	1,800
12 pdr	108	3,278	3,808	4.42	4.64	1,580
9 pdr	101	2,352	3,528	4.01	4.21	1,620
6 pdr	96	1,739	2,000	3.50	3.68	unk
3 pdr	77	1,100	1,200	2.78	2.91	unk
68 pdr carronade	59	4,032	4,760	7.9	8.06	1,280
42 pdr carronade	52	2,485	2,930	6.7	6.83	1,170
32 pdr carronade	48	1,915	2,260	6.12	6.24	1087
24 pdr carronade	36	1,288	1,520	5.56	5.67	1,050

\* The diameter of the bore is known as the *caliber* of the weapon. A cannon twenty calibers long would thus have a bore length equal to twenty times the diameter of the shot.

18 pdr carronade	28	952	1,120	5.05	5.15	1,000
12 pdr carronade	26	661	780	4.42	4.51	870

\* Based on “windage” of one twentieth shot diameter for regular guns. Carronades, which were more carefully made, and shorter, had a windage of about one fiftieth shot diameter.

\*\* At 5° elevation with charge equal to one third shot weight.

REGULAR GUNS

The typical cannon of the period was mounted to a sturdy four-wheeled carriage or “truck,” which, equipped with a fairly elaborate arrangement of lines and lashings, allowed the gun to recoil into the ship upon firing and to be hauled back up to the gunport after (or sometimes before) loading was complete. Early cannons were typically cast bronze, but by the time of the American Revolution iron guns were common, and the bore, instead of being cast, was often drilled out of the solid blank. Train, which was rather rarely changed in action, was adjusted by manhandling the gun from side to side with crowbars; elevation was adjusted by driving wedges under the breech. A small hole was drilled from a point on the breech right through to the powder chamber, which was, in many guns, slightly smaller than the bore proper. This hole was filled with an inflammable mixture, which was, in earlier guns, ignited by torch or a piece of smouldering rope; later guns were equipped with mechanical mechanisms similar to those used on flintlock or matchlock small arms. The rate of fire was typically slightly less than one round per minute.

THE CARRONADE

In 1778 the Carron Company, a Scottish ironworks, began producing a short, light, large caliber gun that came to be known as a carronade or “Smasher.” Careful manufacture made it possible to reduce the windage to about one-fiftieth the caliber, a figure so small that a small internal muzzle taper was required in order to allow the projectile to be inserted and rammed against trapped air. This greatly improved the efficiency, and although the range of a carronade was relatively short—perhaps half that of a cannon—the gun gave good accuracy and great hitting power close in, which was where most of the important fighting was done anyway. First provided to privateers and merchant ships, the carronade quickly made its way into more conservative naval circles.

With a shot travel of only six or seven calibers and a weight (in U.S. service) of only about sixty-five pounds per pound of shot, the carronade also used an unusual carriage. Manufactured without trunnions, the carronade was equipped with a vertical pin cast into the bottom of the barrel; the pin penetrated through a wooden bed, which recoiled over a wooden slide that was itself attached to the ship by a frontal pivot anchored to the side.

PROPELLANTS

The propellant of choice—in fact the only propellant used—during the period of interest was so-called black powder, a

mixture of potassium nitrate, charcoal, and sulfur. Yielding a specific force of about 110,000 foot-pounds per pound, black powder is, on a pound-for-pound basis, only about one-quarter as powerful as modern smokeless powders. The strength of a given powder lot was determined in a *prouvette*, a small mortar that tested how far a one-ounce charge could propel a solid twenty-four-pound ball. (Good powder would propel the ball almost 300 yards.)

Black powder in its original form has a relatively small grain size and is unsuitable for cannon use; cannon powders were therefore made by “corning,” a process whereby larger grains were broken by rollers or pelleted and separated for size by sieve. The presence of solid reaction products results in the production of large volumes of smoke and a corrosive residue when the powder is fired, which required that the gun be cleaned out often, sometimes after every round. Charges—generally weighing about one-third of the shot weight—were usually made up in the form of cartridges, that is, preprepared cloth or parchment packages carried from magazine to gun by young boys known as “powder monkeys.” The first powder mills were not established in America until 1775. The gunpowder they produced was of relatively low quality, and during the Revolutionary War most propellant had to be obtained from foreign sources.

PROJECTILES

The variety of projectiles fired from smooth-bore guns was remarkable. *Round shot*, essentially a solid cast iron ball, could be fired both at ambient temperature or as “hot shot,” that is, heated to red hot in order to start fires on the target. (Hot shot required the installation of a wet tamper wad to separate the shell from the powder and was often fired at low velocity because excessive penetration retarded the incendiary effect.) *Cored shot* was round shot cast with an interior cavity, which, surprisingly, was usually filled with water or left empty.

*Shell*, only employed after about 1800, was simply round shot hollowed out and equipped with a black powder explosive charge at the center. A fuse was needed, and in order to orient this correctly, the shell was often strapped to a squat cylindrical (usually wooden) guide known as a *sabot*. Fuses throughout the period were rudimentary, usually some sort of tapered plug filled with powder, which was cut off at various lengths to vary the burning time and then hammered into a hole in the shell just before firing. All round shot suffered from aerodynamic instability, which rendered accuracy problematical.

*Grape shot*, as its name implied, resembled a bunch of grapes, simply a bundle of one- to four-pound lead or iron balls wrapped in tarred cloth or canvas, which turned the gun into what amounted to a very large shotgun. Later, light metal frameworks were included to hold the balls more firmly in place. Grape shot was effective out to about 600 yards.

*Case shot*, also known as “common case,” “cannister,” “Langrel,” “Langridge,” or “Lagrange” shot, originally consisted of conveniently sized pieces of scrap iron contained in a case filled with sawdust. As time went on, and ammunition became more “formal,” cannonballs tended to be substituted for scraps. *Cannister shot*, a later development effective out to about 350 yards, was

similar except that the balls were much smaller, usually weighing less than a pound, and packed in a light metal can.

*Dismantling shot*, designed to expand in flight in order to wreck rigging and clear decks, came in a remarkable number of variants, although many were apparently little used. One common type, *chain shot*, was made by splitting a single ball in half and coiling chain inside or between the two halves, or, more often, by simply linking two balls together with a length of chain five or six calibers long. *Bar shot*, also known as double-headed shot, or “Stang balls,” was similar, but used an eight- to fourteen-inch-long solid bar instead of chain to connect two half balls; a variant that allowed two bars coupled together to expand in length while in flight. *Star shot* consisted of an iron ring with five or six eyebolts swiveling on its perimeter. All of these items were short ranged and by all accounts wildly inaccurate.

Especially near the beginning of an action, guns were often “double-shotted” with either two balls or one ball and grapeshot. At short range, in particular, this required some reduction in the powder charge and the acceptance of a great decrease in accuracy. “Triple shotting,” while not unheard of, was relatively rare.

The allowances regarding the type of shell and the number of rounds provided per gun varied widely over time. In general, peacetime loads tended to be about seventy-five rounds per gun of round shot and twenty-five rounds per gun of other shot; in war these numbers were typically increased by 30 to 40 percent.

**W. J. Jurens**



# 1

## THE CONTINENTAL NAVY, 1775–1783

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The long simmering dispute between the American colonies and England over taxes and self-government erupted into a shooting war at Lexington and Concord in April 1775. Military operations grew in scope during the year, but it was not until autumn that the Continental Congress began authorizing funds for a Navy.

At first, ships were obtained and fitted out for war purposes. Local commanders obtained some ships, George Washington acquired schooners in Massachusetts, and Benedict Arnold captured three ships on Lake Champlain. Individual colonies formed local navies by purchasing or building ships, but most of these vessels were small and poorly armed. Massachusetts and Pennsylvania were more successful than the others.

Vessels obtained by authority of Congress included two serviceable ships renamed *Alfred* and *Columbus*. Fourteen other vessels included the brigs *Andrew Doria*, *Cabot*, and *Lexington*. A Marine Committee was established.

On 13 Dec 1775, Congress authorized the construction of thirteen frigates, five of thirty-two guns, five of twenty-eight, and three of twenty-four. Allocation of where to build these ships was assigned politically with little sense of the colonies' ability to construct them. In any event, most of them did not get to sea. On 22 Dec the first officers were commissioned, with Esek Hopkins named commodore. A few months later privateering was authorized and letters of marque and reprisal issued.

An attempt at fleet action took place in early 1776 when a squadron under Hopkins raided New Providence Island in the Bahamas to take guns, ammunition, and supplies. Mention should also be made of the first submersible, built by David Bushnell, which actually attacked the British flagship in New York harbor in September 1776.

Following the failure of their attack on Quebec, Continental forces retreated to Fort Ticonderoga. Both sides commenced building ships to take control of Lake Champlain, the strategic key to the area. The battle of Valcour Island on 11 Oct 1776, resulted in a defeat for the Americans and almost complete destruction of their fleet. However, this action upset British plans sufficiently to lead to the American victory at Saratoga in October 1777.



**Fig 1.1:** The sloop *Ranger*, receiving the first recognition of the American flag by a foreign government in Quiberon Bay, France, 14 February 1778. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

After the British occupied New York in September 1776, they set out to capture Philadelphia. A series of land battles ensued as Washington fell back through New Jersey. The British fleet with transports sailed up the Delaware River to the city, eventually leading to the loss of many American vessels in the fall of 1777.

In June 1778 France declared war on England, and French aid to the colonies included the support of the French fleet in North America and the West Indies. Use of bases in France enabled American ships under captains such as John Paul Jones in *Ranger* and Gustavus Conyngham in *Revenge* to harass English shipping and ports in and near the British Isles. American successes in the war were chiefly in single-ship actions, which laid the foundations of an American naval pantheon. John Paul Jones, called the father of the American Navy, defeated HMS *Serapis*

in *Bonhomme Richard*. Other commanders of note included John Barry (*Lexington*) and Lambert Wickes (*Reprisal*).

The British capture of Savannah in December 1778, and later of Charleston, led to further losses of American ships. Often single American ships were kept in port for long periods by superior British squadrons cruising offshore. During the summer of 1779 an ambitious but poorly planned attack on the British in Penobscot Bay (now in Maine) led to the complete destruction of an American fleet of forty-two warships and transports. The Continental Navy frigate *Warren*, sloop *Providence*, and brig *Diligent*—together with state ships, privateers, and transports—were all burned or captured.

The French fleet under François, Comte DeGrasse checkmated the Royal Navy, enabling Washington to gain his great victory at Yorktown in 1781. By blockading the coast with a large number of heavy ships, the French prevented supplies from getting through to the army of Charles, Earl Cornwallis in Virginia, forcing him to surrender.

At the end of the war, all the ships of the Navy were sold. The *Alliance*, one of the finest and most successful ships of the Continental Navy, was the last to be sold in 1785.

SHIPS BUILT FOR THE NAVY

Ship of the Line

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>America</i>	Portsmouth NH (James Hackett)	May 1777	5 Nov 1782	never—
Rate	74 guns			
Dimensions	182'6" (deck), 150' (keel) × 50'6" × d23'6"; also reported as d22'			
Tonnage	1,982 tons			
Complement	626			
Battery	30-18pdr, 32-12 pdr, 14-9 pdr (projected)			

**Notes:** Probably designed by William Hackett. One of three ships-of-the-line (74) authorized 9 Nov 1776, by Congress, the others to be built at Boston and Philadelphia, but the latter were never built. Offered to France to replace *Magnifique*, which had been wrecked near Boston on 11 Aug 1782, and whose fittings and cannon were used to equip this ship. Figurehead: female figure crowned with laurels.

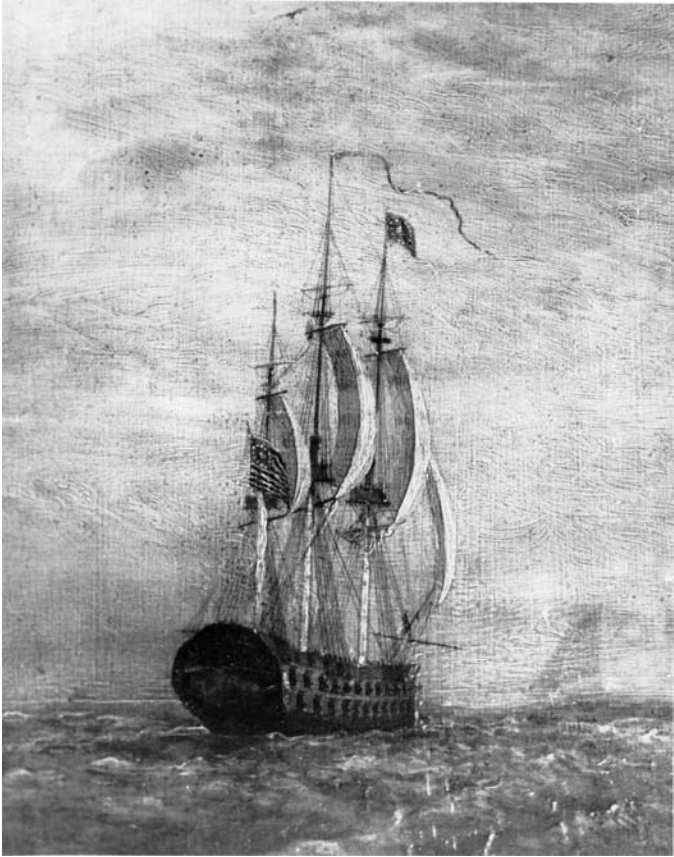
**Service record:** Much delayed by lack of funds, shortage of materials, and skilled workmen. Given to France 3 Sep 1782. Completed 24 Jun 1783.

**Later history:** French *L’America*. Scrapped in France 1786.

Frigates

Thirteen frigates were authorized by the Continental Congress on 13 Dec 1775.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Hancock</i>	Newburyport, Mass. (Jno.Greenleaf)	1776	10 Jul 1776	May 1777
Rate	32 guns			
Dimensions	136'7" (deck) 115'10" (keel) × 35'6" × 11'			
Tonnage	763 tons			
Complement	290			
Battery	24-12 pdr, 10-6 pdr			



**Fig 1.2:** An impression of ship-of-the-line *America*, as presented to France in 1782. Painting by John S. Blunt in 1834. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 1.3:** USS *Hancock*, the first to go into service of the frigates authorized by Congress. A month later she was captured and commissioned in the Royal Navy as *Iris*. Painting by E. Tufnell. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Naval Historical Foundation)

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Based on a design by Joshua Humphreys. Figurehead: John Hancock.

**Service record:** Captured HMS *Fox*, 28, off New England with *Boston*, 27 Jun 1777, later (8 Jul) both recaptured by HMS *Rainbow*, 44, and *Flora*, 32, after a 29-hour chase (8 casualties).

**Ships captured:** (with *Boston*) small brig, 29 May 1777.

**Later history:** HMS *Iris*. Captured by French in Chesapeake Bay, 11 Sep 1781. Converted to hulk, 1792. Blown up by RN at Toulon, 18 Dec 1793.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Boston</i>	Newburyport, Mass. (Stephen & Ralph Cross)	1776	3 Jun 1776	Spring 1777
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	114'3" (deck) 94'3" (keel) × 32' × d10'3"			
Tonnage	514 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	5-12 pdr, 19-9 pdr, 2-6 pdr, 4-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by Joshua Humphreys. Figurehead: Indian with bow and arrow.

**Service record:** Engaged British squadron and escaped, 8 Jul 1777. Operating in North Atlantic west of Spain, 1778. Captured by British at Charleston, SC, 12 May 1780.

**Ships captured:** Three prizes, 1777. ship *Martha*, 11 Mar 1778; brig *John & Rebecca*, 19 Jun 1778; brig *Britannia*, 23 Jun 1778; brig *Elizabeth*, 25 Jun 1778; (with *Providence* and *Ranger*) brig *Sally*, 24 Aug 1778; brig *Friends*, 9 Sep 1778; snow *Adventure*, 10 Sep 1778; (with *Confederacy*): privateer *Poole*, 24, schr *Patsey*, and sloop *William*, 6 Jun 1779; (with *Deane*): schr *Tryall*, 10 (LoFM), *Glencairn*, 20 (LoFM), ship *Sandwich*, 16, brig *Venture*, 2, ship *Thorne*, 14, schr *Flying Fish*, 10 (LoFM), 2 Aug–24 Sep 1779.

**Later history:** HMS *Charleston*. Sold 24 Apr 1783.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Raleigh</i>	Portsmouth, N.H. (James Hackett)	21 Mar 1776	21 May 1776	Aug 1777
Rate	32 guns			
Dimensions	131'5" (deck) 110'7" (keel) × 34'5" × 11'			
Tonnage	697 tons			
Complement	180			
Battery	32-12 pdr; also reported as 26-12 pdr, 6-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by William Hackett. Figurehead: Sir Walter Raleigh.

**Service record:** Action with sloop HMS *Druid*, 20, in North Atlantic near Azores Is. at 40°33'N, 30°17'W, 4 Sep 1777. With *Alfred*, attacked British convoy, 25 Sep and went aground during action with British ships *Experiment*, 50 and *Unicorn*, 26, off Boston, and was captured, 27 Sep 1778 (25 casualties).

**Ships captured:** (With *Alfred*), one schooner, burned, 15 Aug 1777; brig *Nancy*, one other, 2 Sep 1777.

**Later history:** HMS *Raleigh*. Sold 17 Jul 1783.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Warren</i>	Providence, R.I. (Sylvester Bowers)	1776	15 May 1776	Apr 1778
Rate	32 guns			
Dimensions	132'1" (deck) × 34'5" × 11'			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	250			
Battery	12-18 pdr, 14-12 pdr, 8-9 pdr			



**Fig 1.4:** The frigate *Raleigh*, 32, was one of 13 frigates authorized by the Continental Congress in 1775. She was captured by the British in 1778. Painting by Capt. James F. Rowe. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1778.

**Service record:** Blockaded by British, 1776–78. Expedition up Penobscot River, 25 Jul–14 Aug 1779. Burned to prevent capture in Bagaduce River, 15 Aug 1779.

**Ships captured:** ship *Neptune*, one other, Mar 1778; (with *Ranger* and *Queen of France* off Cape Henry) privateer schr, Mar 1779; schr *Hibernia*, 8, 6 Apr 1779; ship *Jason*, 20, *Maria* (LoFM), brigs *Prince Frederick*, *Patriot*, *Bachelors John*, schr *Chance*, 7 Apr 1779.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Providence</i>	Providence, R.I. (Sylvester Bowers)	1776	18 May 1776	Dec 1776
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	126'6" × 33'8" × 10'5"			
Tonnage	632 tons			
Complement	170			
Battery	26-12 pdr, 6-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by Sylvester Bowers.

**Service record:** Blockaded in Providence River for more than a year, 1777. Attacked Jamaica fleet, Jul 1779. Captured by British at Charleston, SC, 12 May 1780.

**Ships captured:** brig *Sally*, 24 Aug 1778; brig *Friends*, 9 Sep 1778; snow *Adventure*, 10 Sep 1778.

**Later history:** HMS *Providence*. Sold 11 Mar 1784.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Trumbull</i>	Chatham, Conn. (John Cotton)	Mar/Apr 1776	5 Sep 1776	20 Sep 1779
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	700 tons			
Complement	199			
Battery	24-12 pdr, 6-6 pdr			



**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Probably designed by Joshua Humphreys. After launching, draft was too great to get ship to sea; eventually freed by lifting ship over the bar, 1779. Fitted out at New London.

**Service record:** Nearly dismasted in action with *Watt*, 32, (LofM), both ships damaged (8 killed), 2 Jun 1780. Inactive at Philadelphia until 1781. Captured in action with former U.S. ships HMS *Iris*, 32 and *General Monk*, 18, off Delaware Capes after masting damaged in storm (5 killed), 29 Aug 1781.

**Later history:** Not taken into RN because of damage. FFU.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Congress</i>	Poughkeepsie, NY (Lancaster Burling)	1775	29 Oct 1776	never-
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	126' (bp) × 34'10" × 10'6"			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	26-12 pdr, 2-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by Joshua Humphreys. Burned before completion to prevent capture, after British capture of New York, 6 Oct 1777.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Montgomery</i>	Poughkeepsie, NY (Lancaster Burling)	7 Mar 1776	Oct 1776	never
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(U), probably 126'6" × 32'6" × 10'6"			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	24-9 pdr?			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by Joshua Humphreys.

**Service record:** Burned incomplete to prevent capture after British capture of New York, 6 Oct 1777.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Randolph</i>	Philadelphia (Wharton & Humphreys)	1775	10 Jul 1776	1776
<i>Washington</i>	Philadelphia (Benj. Eyre)	1776	7 Aug 1776	never
Rate	32 guns			
Dimensions	132'9" (bp) × 34'6" × 10'6"			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	315			
Battery	26-12 pdr, 10-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by Joshua Humphreys.

**Service records:**

*Randolph:* Accident to masts during first sailing forced ship to return to port, Feb 1777. Left Charleston, 16 Aug 1777. Blew up during action with HMS *Yarmouth*, 64, off South Carolina, 7 Mar 1778 (311 killed).

**Ships captured:** Two schrs, summer 1777; privateer *True Briton*, 20, *Severn*, brigs *Charming Peggy* and *L'Assumption*, 4, Sep 1777.

*Washington:* Sunk incomplete to prevent capture, 2 Nov 1777; raised 1778. Burned below Bordentown, NJ, 7 May 1778.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Effingham</i>	Philadelphia (Grice )	1776	7 Nov 1776	never
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	26-12 pdr, 2-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by Joshua Humphreys.

**Service record:** Sunk incomplete at Bordentown, NJ, 2 Nov 1777. Burned to waterline to prevent capture, 7 May 1778.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Delaware</i>	Philadelphia (Warwick Coates)	1776	12 Jul 1776	1777
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	119' (bp) 117'10" (deck) × 32'10" × 9'8"			
Tonnage	563 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	22-12 pdr, 6-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775.

**Service record:** Defense of Philadelphia, summer 1777. Went aground under fire in Delaware River and was captured, 27 Sep 1777.

**Later history:** HMS *Delaware*. Sold 14 Apr 1783.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Virginia</i>	Fells Pt, Md. (Geo. Wells)	1776	12 Aug 1776	Spring 1777
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	126'4" (deck) × 34'10" × 18', d10'5"			
Tonnage	682 tons			
Complement	315			
Battery	24-12 pdr, 2-6 pdr (or 6-4 pdr)			

**Notes:** Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Designed by Joshua Humphreys.

**Service record:** Blockaded in Chesapeake Bay. Went aground at Hampton, Va., while trying to run blockade, 31 Mar 1778. Lost rudder and refloated but surrendered to HMS *Emerald*, 32, and *Conqueror*.

**Later history:** HMS *Virginia*. BU Dec 1782.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Alliance</i>	Salisbury, Mass. (J. & W. Hackett)	1777	28 Apr 1778	1778
<i>ex-Hancock</i> (29 May 1778)				
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	151' (bp) × 36' × 12'6"			
Tonnage	900 tons			
Complement	300			
Battery	28-12 pdr, 12-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by William Hackett. Finest ship in the Continental Navy.

**Service record:** Took Lafayette to France, Jan 1779. Unit of John Paul Jones's squadron 1779, flagship 1780. Collided with *Bonhomme Richard*, 19 Jun 1779. Returned to U.S., 1780. Sailed under John Barry, Feb 1781. Repaired at Boston. Action with HMS *Sybil*, 28, in West Indies (3 killed), 7 Mar 1783. Stranded in Narragansett Bay, requiring repairs, 20 Jun 1783. Sold merchant, 3 Jun 1785, unrepaired, last ship of Continental Navy.

**Ships captured:** Several ships with *Bonhomme Richard* (q.v.), 1779. One brig; 8 Jan 1780, one ship, 12 Jan 1780; one bark, 5 Feb 1780; privateer *Alert*, 10, and



**Fig 1.5:** The frigate *Alliance*, 36, was one of the most successful ships of the Continental Navy and, in 1785, the last to be sold. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

prize (which was released), 4 Mar 1781; privateers *Mars*, 26 and *Minerva*, 10, off French coast, 2 Apr 1781; ship HMS *Atalanta*, 20, brig HMS *Trepassy*, 14, in North Atlantic (11 killed), 29 May 1781; one brig and one snow, 2 May 1781; recaptured brigantine *Adventure* in Long Island Sound; 4 Aug 1782; schr *Polly*, 10 Aug 1782; recaptured sloop *Fortune*, 25 Aug 1782; whaler *Somerset*, 10 Sep 1782; ships *Britannia*, *Anna*, *Commerce*, and *Kingston*, 24–28 Sep 1781.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Confederacy</i>	Norwich, Conn. (J. Willets)	1777	8 Nov 1778	Apr 1779
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	160'; also reported as 154'9" (deck) × 37' × 12'3"			
Tonnage	959 tons			
Complement	260			
Battery	28-12 pdr, 8-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Galley-frigate. Authorized 13 Dec 1775. Completed at New London. Had a complete row of oar ports on lower deck. Figurehead: Greek warrior.

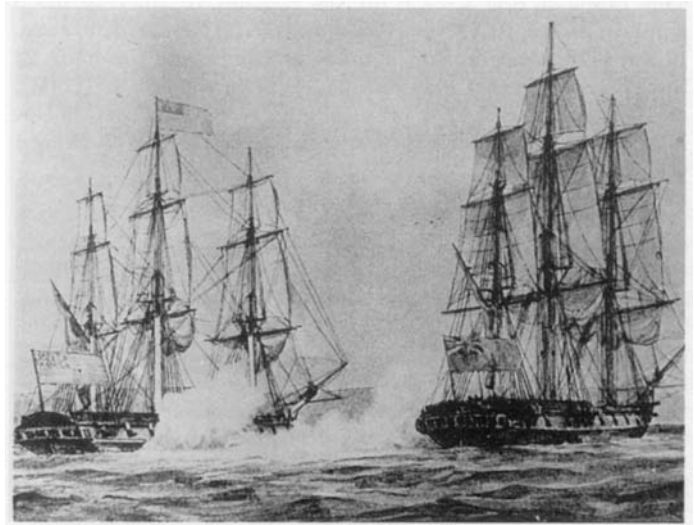
**Service record:** Voyaged to France with French minister and John Jay, U.S. minister to France, Sep 1779. Captured by HMS *Roebeck*, 44 and *Orpheus*, 32, off Delaware River, 14 Apr 1781.

**Ships captured:** (with *Boston*) privateer *Poole*, 24, schr *Patsey*, sloop *William*, 6 Jun 1779. Brigantine *Elizabeth and Nancy*, in Atlantic, 5 Jan 1781.

**Later history:** HMS *Confederate*. BU Mar 1782.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Bourbon</i>	Chatham, Conn. (John Cotten)	1779	31 Jul 1783	never
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	about 900 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Authorized by Congress 23 Jan 1777. Little known of this ship. Too deep to cross bar at mouth of Connecticut River. Sold incomplete, Sep 1783.



**Fig 1.6:** The sloop *Ranger* (left) engaging HMS *Drake*, 23 April 1778. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Norman Polmar Collection)

## Sloops

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Ranger</i> ex- <i>Hampshire</i> (1777)	Portsmouth, NH (James Hackett)	1777	10 May 1777	Oct 1777
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	116' (deck) × 34' × 13'6"			
Tonnage	308 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	18-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by William Hackett.

**Service record:** First ship to raise the "Stars and Stripes," 4 Jul 1777. Sailed for France under John Paul Jones, 1 Nov 1777. Received first official salute to an American warship in Europe in Quiberon Bay, France, 14 Jan 1778. Attack on Whitehaven, England; took sloop HMS *Drake*, 14, off Carrickfergus (2 killed), 23 Apr 1778. Captured by British at Charleston, SC, 11 May 1780.

**Ships captured:** brig *Mary*, brig *George*, 23/25 Nov 1777; one brig (sunk) off Cape Clear, 14 Apr 1778; ship *Lord Chatham*, in St. George's Channel, 17 Apr 1778; one schr (sunk), one sloop off Ireland, 20 Apr 1778; brig *Patience*, off Ireland, 25 Apr 1778 (with *Boston* and *Providence*) brig *Sally*, 24 Aug 1778; brig *Friends*, 9 Sep 1778; snow *Adventure*, 10 Sep 1778 (with Warren and *Queen of France*, off Cape Henry), privateer schr, Mar 1779; schr *Hibernia*, 8, 6 Apr 1779; ships *Jason*, 20, *Maria* (LofM), brig *Prince Frederick*, brig *Patriot*, brig *Bachelors John*, schr *Chance*, 7 Apr 1779 (with *Queen of France* and *Providence*): ships *Holderness*, *Dawes*, *George*, *Friendship*, *Blenheim*, *Thetis*, *Fort William*, *Neptune*, and two others, off Newfoundland Banks, 15 Jul 1779.

**Later history:** HMS *Halifax*. Sold 13 Oct 1781.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Saratoga</i>	Philadelphia (Wharton and Humphreys)	1779	10 Apr 1780	Aug 1780
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	68' (keel) × 25'4" × 12'			
Tonnage	150 tons			
Complement	86			
Battery	16-9 pdr, 2-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Ship/sloop.

**Service record:** Action with brig HMS *Keppel*, 9 Sep 1780. Disappeared at sea off Cap Français, West Indies, after capturing two ships, 15 Mar 1781.

**Ships captured:** Ship *Charming Molly*, 22 (LofM), brig *Elizabeth*, 12, *Nancy*, 14, and one other, 8 Oct 1780 (all retaken next day by HMS *Intrepid*); ship *Sarah*, 12 Sep 1780; schr *Two Brothers*, schr *Providence*, 11 Oct 1780; action with privateer *Resolution*, 20 Dec 1780, which was captured; *Tony*n (LofM), 20, 9 Jan 1781; armed brig *Douglas*, 16 Jan 1781.

SHIPS ACQUIRED IN AMERICA

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Alfred</i> ex- <i>Black Prince</i> (8 Nov 1775)	Philadelphia	1774	4 Nov 1775	3 Dec 1775
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	440 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	24-9pdr, (later) 20-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Ship. Philadelphia merchant ship. First U.S. warship to fly the national flag.

**Service record:** Flagship of Esek Hopkins. Expedition to New Providence Island, 17 Feb–7 Apr 1776 (6 killed). Captured by HMS *Ariadne*, 20, and *Ceres*, 14, off Barbados, 9 Mar 1778.

**Ships captured:** Brig *Active*, 6, off New England, 10 Nov 1776; troop transport *Mellish*, 10, 13 Nov 1776; snow *Hetty*, off New England coast, 16 Nov 1776;



**Fig 1.7:** The ship *Alfred* was the first warship to fly the national flag. A converted merchantman, she took several ships before being captured by the British in March 1778. (National Archives)

transport ship, aground at Sable Island, burned, 22 Nov 1776; ship *Surprise*, ship *Betty*, ship *Polly*, 24 Nov 1776; ship *John*, 10 (LofM), off Isle Royal, 26 Nov 1776; privateer schr, 16, off Isle Royal, 30 Nov 1776. (with *Raleigh*) one schr, summer 1777; (with *Reprisal*) brig *Nancy*, one other, 2 Sep 1777.

**Later history:** HMS *Alfred*, 20. Sold 1782.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Columbus</i> ex- <i>Sally</i>	Philadelphia	1774	Nov 1775	4 Jan 1776
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	200 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	18-9 pdr, 10-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Merchantman. Ship. First Continental Navy vessel to capture a British warship.

**Service record:** Expedition to New Providence Island, 17 Feb–7 Apr 1776. Captured schr HMS *Hawk*, 6, 4 Apr 1776. Chased ashore at Point Judith, Del., by British squadron and burned, 27 Mar 1778.

**Ships captured:** Ship *Royal Exchange* off New England coast, 29 Aug 1776; three vessels, Aug 1776.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Andrew Doria</i> ex- <i>Defiance</i>	(U)	(U)	Nov 1775	Jan 1776
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	112			
Battery	14-4 pdr			



**Fig 1.8:** The brig *Andrew Doria*, 14, was a converted merchantman and is celebrated as receiving the first salute to the American flag by a foreign power at St. Eustatius. Painting by W. N. Van Powell. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Notes:** Brig. Purchased Nov 1775. Converted at Philadelphia.

**Service record:** Expedition to New Providence Island, 17 Feb–7 Apr 1776. Received first salute to an American flag at St Eustatius, 16 Nov 1776. Captured sloop HMS *Racehorse* (later USS *Racehorse*), 8, off Puerto Rico (4 killed), Dec 1776. Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Burned to prevent capture at Red Bank, NJ, 21 Nov (or 8 Jul) 1777.

**Ships captured:** Recaptured schr *John and Joseph* off Montauk, 12 Apr 1776; sloop *Two Friends*, two brigs and one sloop off Providence, RI, 21 May 1776; transports *Oxford* and *Crawford* off Newfoundland (latter recaptured by HMS *Cerberus*, the former by soldiers on board), 3 Jun 1776; ship *Nathaniel and Elizabeth*, in North Atlantic, 11 Jul 1776; ship *Molly* and brig *Maria* off New England coast, Aug 1776; brig *Peggy*, brig *Lawrence*, brig *Elizabeth*, Sep 1776; snow *Thomas* off U.S. coast, 12 Dec 1776.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Cabot</i>	(U)	(U)	Nov 1775	1775
ex-Sally?				
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	74'10" (deck), 53'7" (keel) × 24'8" × d11'4"			
Tonnage	189 tons			
Complement	80			
Battery	14-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig. Merchant ship.

**Service record:** Expedition to New Providence Island, 17 Feb–7 Apr 1776 (4 killed). Damaged in action with HMS *Glasgow*, 20, off Block Island, Apr 1776. Forced ashore by HMS *Milford*, 32, off Nova Scotia, 3 (or 26) Mar 1777 and captured.

**Ships captured:** Ship *True Blue*, 6, off New England coast, 26 May 1776; ship *Lowther*, 41°30'N, 45°00'W, 27 Sep 1776; ship *Esther* (released), 27 Sep 1776; brig *Watson* off New England coast, 27 Sep 1776; brig *Clarendon*, 2 Oct 1776; brig *Georgiana*, 5 Oct 1776.

**Later history:** Refloated by British and comm as HMS *Cabot*. Sold 25 Jun 1783.



**Fig 1.9:** USS *Cabot*, 14, a brig of the Continental Navy captured by the British in 1777. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 1.10:** The sloop *Providence*, 12, which was under command of John Paul Jones in 1776, had a short but successful career. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Providence</i>	(U)	(U)	3 Dec 1775	9 Jan 1776
ex-Katy (1775)				
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	70' × (U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	90			
Battery	12-4 pdr; (1776) 12-6 pdr; (1779) 6-6 pdr, 6-4 pdr, 2-2 pdr			

**Notes:** Sloop. As *Katy*, used by Rhode Island Committee of Safety 1775.

**Service record:** Expedition to New Providence Island, 17 Feb–7 Apr 1776. With *Alfred*, captured brigantine HMS *Active*, 10 Nov 1776. Ran blockade out of Narragansett Bay, Feb 1777. Attacked Fort Nassau, New Providence Island, 27 Jan 1778. Sailed under J.P. Jones until Sep 1778. Took brig HMS *Diligent* (later USS *Diligent*), 12, in action off Sandy Hook (4 killed), 7 May 1779. Expedition up Penobscot River, 25 Jul–14 Aug 1779. Destroyed (blown up) in Penobscot River to prevent capture, 14 Aug 1779.

**Ships captured:** Brigantine *Britannia* off New England coast, 27 Aug 1776; brigantine *Sea Nymph*, 3 Sep 1776; brigantine *Favourite* (later recaptured), 6 Sep 1776; ship *Alexander*, brig *Kingston Packet*, and brig *Success* all at Canso, NS, 22 Sep 1776; brig *Portland*, brig *Defiance*, sloop *Adventure*, ship *Friendship*, schr *John*, schr *Betsey*, schr *Sea Flower*, schr *Ebenezer*, schr *Hope* (the last seven burned) at Madame, NS, 23 Sep 1776. (With *Alfred*): transport *Mellish*, 10, 13 Nov 1776; snow *Helty*, 16 Nov 1776; one Jamaica privateer and five others at Nassau, 27–28 Jan 1778 (with *Queen of France* and *Ranger*) ships *Holderness*, *Daves*, *George*, *Friendship*, *Blenheim*, *Thetis*, *Fort William*, *Neptune*, and two others, off Newfoundland Banks, 15 Jul 1779.

**Later history:** HMS *Providence*, 12. RR 1781.



**Fig 1.11:** USS *Independence*, a 10-gun sloop of 1775. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Independence</i>	(U)	(U)	1775	(U)
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	30			
Battery	10-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Sloop. Rerigged as brig 1777.  
**Service record:** Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Wrecked off Okracoke Inlet, NC, 24 Apr 1778.  
**Ships captured:** Ship *Sam*, 4 (with \$20,000 in coin), 26 Nov 1776.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Hornet</i> <i>ex-Falcon</i>	Baltimore	(U)	Dec 1775	1776
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	100 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	8- or 10-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Sloop. Chartered.  
**Service record:** Damaged, unable to go on expedition to New Providence Island, Feb 1776. Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Either burned 8 Jul 1777 or blown up in Delaware River in Nov 1777.



**Fig 1.12:** The sloop *Hornet* was one of several ships lost when the fleet was trapped by the British in the Delaware River during 1777. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Reprisal</i> <i>ex-Molly</i>	(U)	(U)	28 Mar 1776	Spring 1776
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	100' × 30' × (U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	130			
Battery	16-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig. Merchantman.  
**Service record:** Action with HMS *Shark*, 16, off St. Pierre, Martinique, 27 Jul 1776. Under Lambert Wickes, first Continental Navy ship to arrive in Europe, bringing Benjamin Franklin to France 29 Nov 1776. Foundered off Newfoundland (1 survivor), Oct 1777.  
**Ships captured:** Ship *Friendship* east of Bermuda at 57°W, 33°N, 11 Jul 1776; schr *Peter*, 13 Jul 1776; *Neptune*, *Duchess of Leinster*, Jul 1776; two brigs en route to France, Nov 1776; brig *Hibernia*, brig *Generous Friends*, Feb 1777; snow *Swallow* (1 killed); *Polly and Nancy*, ship *Betty*, Feb 1777 (with *Lexington* and *Dolphin* in Bay of Biscay) sloop *Merrion*, brig *Expedition*, and ship *Belleisle*, 19 Jun 1777; brig *Jenny and Sally*, sloop *Jason*, sloop *Jenny and Peggy* (sunk), sloop *Edward and Ann*, 20 Jun 1777; bark *John and Thomas*, 21 Jun 1777; brig *Graystock*, brig *Favorite* (sunk), 22 Jun 1777; ship *Grace* (sunk), brig *Peggy*, brig *Crawford*, 23 Jun 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Lexington</i> <i>ex-Wild Duck</i>	Bermuda	(U)	13 Mar 1776	Mar 1776
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	86' (bp) × 24'6" × 9'			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	84 or 110			
Battery	16-4 pdr; (1777) 14-4 pdr, 2-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Brigantine. Purchased at St. Eustatius by Maryland Committee of Safety. Turned over to Continental Navy, 13 Mar 1776.  
**Service record:** John Barry, captain. Action against and captured sloop HMS *Edward* (later USS *Sachem*), 6, off Virginia Capes (2 killed), 7 Apr 1776. Captured by frigate HMS *Pearl*, 32, off Delaware Capes, later retaken by crew,



**Fig 1.13:** The Continental brigs *Reprisal* and *Lexington*, which operated together in 1777. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

20 Dec 1776. Blockaded in Brittany, but ordered to leave and captured by HMS *Alert*, 10, off Ushant, 19 Sep 1777.

**Ships captured:** Privateer *Lady Susan*, 27 Jul 1776; sloop *Betsey*, Sep 1776 (with *Reprisal* and *Dolphin* in Bay of Biscay), sloop *Merrion*, brig *Expedition* (sunk), and ship *Belleisle*, 19 Jun 1777; brig *Jenny and Sally*, sloop *Jason*, sloop *Jenny and Peggy* (sunk), sloop *Edward and Ann*, 20 Jun 1777; bark *John and Thomas*, 21 Jun 1777; brig *Graystock*, brig *Favorite* (sunk), 22 Jun 1777; ship *Grace* (sunk), brig *Peggy*, brig *Crawford*, 23 Jun 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Hampden</i>	(U)	(U)	Summer 1776	Sep 1776
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Brigantine. Merchantman purchased in 1776; converted at New Haven, Conn.

**Service record:** Sold after running ashore, late 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Resistance</i>	(U)	(U)	24 Apr 1777	Aug 1777
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	10-4 pdr			

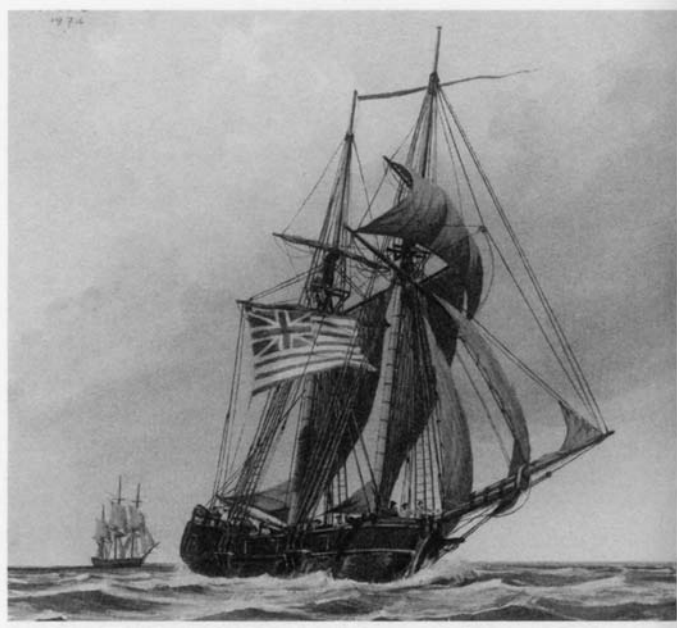
**Notes:** Brigantine/brig. Purchased at Stonington, Conn.

**Service record:** Captured by British squadron off Cape Cod, 27 Aug 1778.

**Ship captured:** One prize, Dec 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Wasp</i> ex- <i>Scorpion</i>	Baltimore	1775	Dec 1775	Dec 1775/ Jan 1776
Rate	8 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	8-2 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner.



**Fig 1.14:** The schooner *Wasp*, 8, was one of the first Continental ships to go to sea in 1776. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Service record:** With *Hornet*, was one of the first two Continental ships to go to sea, 14 Jan 1776. Expedition to New Providence Island, 17 Feb–7 Apr 1776. Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Either burned on 8 Jul 1777 or run aground and destroyed in Delaware River, Nov 1777.

**Ships captured:** Brig *Betsey*, in Delaware Bay, 9 May 1776; ship *Leghorn Galley*, 4 Oct 1776; schr *Two Brothers* and one unnamed, Dec 1776. Recaptured ship *Success*.

## SHIPS ACQUIRED IN EUROPE

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>L'Indien</i>	Amsterdam	1777	1777	never
Rate	40 guns			
Dimensions	172'6" (bp) 154' (deck) × 43'3" × 16'6"			
Tonnage	1,430 tons; also reported as 1,186 tons			
Complement	550			
Battery	28-36 pdr, 12-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Frigate. Her unusually heavy armament caused her to hog (the ends to droop). Built for U.S., but British diplomatic pressure forced sale to France.

**Service record:** Chartered to South Carolina and renamed *South Carolina*, 30 May 1780. Captured by HMS *Astraea*, *Diomedé*, and *Quebec* off Delaware Capes, 20 Dec 1782.

**Ships captured:** One cutter, one privateer, brig *Venus*, and seven other vessels, Aug–Oct 1781.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Queen of France</i> <i>ex-La Brune</i>	L'Orient, France	(U)	1777	1778
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Frigate. Purchased in France; arrived in Boston Dec 1778. Sunk to prevent capture at Charleston, SC, 11 May 1780.

**Ships captured:** (With *Ranger* and *Warren* off Cape Henry) privateer schr, 14, Mar 1779; privateer schr *Hibernia*, 8, 6 Apr 1779. Ship *Jason*, 20, ship *Maria* (LofM), brig *Prince Ferdinand* (or *Frederick*), brig *Patriot*, brig *Bachelors John*, schr *Chance*, 7 Apr 1779 (with *Providence* and *Ranger*) ships *Holderness*, *Dawes*, *George*, *Friendship*, *Blenheim*, *Thetis*, *Fort William*, *Neptune*, and two others, off Newfoundland Banks, 15 Jul 1779; privateer *Dolphin*, 12, 5 Dec 1779.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Deane</i>	Nantes, France	1777	1777	Jan 1779
Rate	32 guns			
Dimensions	96' (keel) × 32' × (U)			
Tonnage	517 tons			
Complement	550			
Battery	24-12 pdr, 2-6 pdr, 8-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Frigate. Built in France and taken to U.S. for completion.

**Service record:** Arrived at Philadelphia May 1778. Renamed *Hague*, Sep 1782. Sold 1783.

**Ships captured:** Armed ship *Viper*, Apr 1779 (with *Boston*): schr *Tryall*, 10 (LofM), *Glencairn*, 20 (LofM), ship *Sandwich*, 16, brig *Venture*, 2, ship *Thorne*, 14, schr *Flying Fish*, 10 (LofM), 2 Aug–24 Sep 1779. Several vessels, Mar 1780; ship *Regulator*, 18, ship *Mary*, brig *Swallow*, 16, schr HMS *Jackal*, 14, 1782; ship *Baille*, Jan 1783.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Bonhomme</i> <i>Richard</i> <i>ex-Duc de Duras</i>	France	1765	4 Feb 1779	Feb 1779
Rate	42 guns			
Dimensions	152' (deck) 128' (keel) × 40' × d19'			
Tonnage	998 tons			
Complement	375			
Battery	6-18 pdr, 28-12 pdr, 8-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Frigate. Built for French East India Co. Served in French Navy 1769–71 and 1778–79. Presented (or loaned) to U.S.

**Service record:** Under John Paul Jones, defeated HMS *Serapis*, 44, in action off Flamborough Head, 23 Sep, and later sank as a result of damage (49 killed), 25 Sep 1779. During the battle Jones said, "I have not yet begun to fight."

**Ships captured:** (With *Alliance*, *Pallas*, and *Vengeance*) ship *Die Verwagting* (prize) in English Channel, 18 Aug 1779; brig *Mayflower*, 21 Aug 1779; brig *Fortune*, off Cape Clear, 24 Aug 1779; ship *Betsey*, off coast of Scotland, 31 Aug 1779; privateer *Union*, 22, off Cape Wrath, 1 Sep 1779; one brig and two sloops, 3 Sep 1779; one ship and one brigantine, 14 Sep 1779; one brig and two sloops off Cape Leith, 19 Sep 1779; one sloop and two brigantines, off Flamborough Head, 20 Sep 1779.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ariel</i> <i>ex-HMS Ariel</i>	Blackwall (Perry)	7 Jul 1777	Spring 1780	1780
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	108' × 30' × (U)			
Tonnage	435 tons			
Complement	45			
Battery	16-9 pdr; also reported as 26-9 pdr			

**Notes:** British sloop of war captured 10 Sep 1779 by French frigate *Amazoné*. Given to U.S.





**Fig 1.15:** USS *Bonhomme Richard*, 42, as depicted by E. Tufnell. The frigate under John Paul Jones scored the Navy's most important victory of the Revolution. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Service record:** Commanded by J.P. Jones. Dismasted and damaged in severe storm off Lorient, France, 8 Oct 1780. Action with British privateer *Triumph*, 20, in Atlantic, Dec 1780. Returned to France, Jun 1781.

**Later history:** French *Ariel*. Lost in the Escaut (Schelde River), 21 Mar 1793.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Revenge</i>	(U)	(U)	May 1777	Jul 1777
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	106			
Battery	14-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Cutter. Purchased in France.

**Service record:** Under Conyngham conducted successful commerce raids. Captured a total of 60 British vessels and destroyed 33 during 1777. Sold 12 Mar 1779.

**Ships captured:** *Black Prince* and about 20 small vessels off British and French coasts, Jul 1777; schr *Happy Return* (burned), 21 Jul 1777; brig *Maria* (burned), 23 Jul 1777; brig *Patty*, 25 Jul 1777; brigantine *Northampton* (recaptured), 26 Jul 1777; two privateers and several other ships, Nov 1777.

**Later history:** Captured as privateer by HMS *Galatea* off New York, 27 Apr 1779.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Dolphin</i>	(U)	(U)	Feb 1777	May 1777
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Cutter. Purchased at Dover, England; outfitted at Nantes, France.

**Ships captured:** (With *Reprisal* and *Lexington* in Bay of Biscay) sloop *Merrion*, brig *Expedition* (sunk), and ship *Belleisle*, 19 Jun 1777; brig *Jenny and Sally*, sloop *Jason*, sloop *Jenny and Peggy* (sunk), sloop *Edward and Ann*, 20 Jun 1777; bark *John and Thomas*, 21 Jun 1777; brig *Graystock*, brig *Favorite* (sunk), 22 Jun 1777; ship *Grace* (sunk), brig *Peggy*, brig *Crawford*, 23 Jun 1777.

**Later history:** Converted to packet at St. Malo, France, Jul 1777; later seized by British as prize at Lorient.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Surprise</i> ex-Admiral <i>Pocock</i>	(U)	(U)	Apr 1777	1777



Rate	10 guns
Dimensions	67'8" × 28'11" × 9'
Tonnage	(U)
Complement	(U)
Battery	(U)

**Notes:** Sloop. Purchased in England, fitted out at Dunkerque, France. Possibly a former Royal Navy sloop built in 1779.

**Service record:** Sailed under Conyngham. Seized by French, May 1777.

**Ships captured:** Packet brig *Prince of Orange* off Holland (released), 3 May 1777; brig *Joseph* off Holland (released), 4 May 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Vengeance</i>	France	(U)	1779	1779
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	12-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig. Fitted out by French government. Former merchantman and dockyard tender.

**Service record:** Sailed with squadron under J.P. Jones, 19 Jun 1779. Returned to France, 1783.

**Ships captured:** Several ships with *Bonhomme Richard* (q.v.), 1779.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Duc de Lauzun</i>	(U)	(U)	Oct 1782	Jan 1783
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Ship. Purchased at Dover, England; outfitted at Nantes, France.  
**Service record:** Transported 72,000 Spanish dollars from Havana, 1783. Loaned to France, Apr 1783.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Pallas</i>	France	1778	1779	Spring 1779
Rate	30			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	26-9 pdr, 6-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Ship. French privateer, turned over to U.S. 1779.  
**Service record:** Part of J.P. Jones's squadron that captured a number of vessels (see *Bonhomme Richard*). Attacked large convoy and captured sloop HMS *Countess of Scarborough*, 23 Sep 1779. Returned to France at end of war.

PRIZES TAKEN INTO SERVICE

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Sachem</i> ex-HMS <i>Edward</i>	(U)	(U)	2 May 1776	Jun 1776

Rate	10 guns
Dimensions	(U)
Tonnage	(U)
Complement	(U)
Battery	10-9 pdr

**Notes:** Sloop. Captured by USS *Lexington* off Virginia Capes, 7 Apr 1776.  
**Service record:** Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Believed burned to prevent capture in Delaware River, Nov 1777.  
**Ship captured:** Brig *Three Brothers*, 6 (LofM), off the Delaware River, 6 Jul 1776.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Racehorse</i> ex-HMS <i>Racehorse</i> , ex- <i>Marquis de</i> <i>Vandreuil</i> (1757)	(U)	(U)	Dec 1776	1777
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	96'6" × 30' × (U)			
Tonnage	385 bm			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	10-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Sloop. Captured by USS *Andrew Doria* off Puerto Rico, Dec 1776. Former French privateer captured by British 1757.  
**Service record:** Blockaded at Philadelphia. Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Burned to prevent capture at Philadelphia, 15 Nov 1777. Reportedly renamed *Surprise*.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>General Gates</i> ex- <i>Industrious</i> <i>Bee</i>	Bristol, England	1764	19 Dec 1777	24 May 1778
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	160 tons			
Complement	100			
Battery	16-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig. British merchantman, captured by USS *Lee* en route Gibraltar–Newfoundland, 29 Aug 1777.  
**Service record:** Ordered sold, 2 Jun 1779. Conveyed prisoners from Boston to New York, Aug 1779, then sold.  
**Ships captured:** (With privateer *Hawk*) ship *Jenny* and brigantine *Thomas*, brigantine *Nancy*, Aug 1778; schr *Polly*, Aug 1778; 3 Aug, brigantine *Montague*, after five-hour engagement (captain killed), 3 Aug 1778; schr *Friendship* off Casco, Maine, 4 Dec 1778; schr *General Leslie*, off Bermuda, Feb 1779 (with *Hazard*); brigs *Active* and *Union*. 16 Mar 1779.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Argo</i> ex-HMS <i>Pigot</i>	(U)	(U)	Spring 1779	(U)
Rate	8 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	200 tons			
Complement	45			
Battery	8-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig purchased by Royal Navy in U.S., Jul 1778; armed by British and cut down to galley. Taken by Maj. Silas Talbot in U.S. sloop *Hawke* in Narragansett Bay, 28 Oct 1778. Possibly later burned.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Diligent</i> ex-HMS <i>Diligent</i>	US United States	1776	1779	1779
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	88'5" (deck) × 24'8" × d10'10"			
Tonnage	236 tons			
Complement	50			
Battery	(In RN) 10-3 pdr; (in USN) 14-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig. Captured by USS *Providence* off Newfoundland, 7 May 1779.

**Service record:** Expedition up Penobscot River, 25 Jul–14 Aug 1779. Run ashore and burned to prevent capture, near Castine, Maine, 14 Aug 1779.

## MISCELLANEOUS VESSELS

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Hannah</i>	(U)	(U)	24 Aug 1775	5 Sep 1775
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	78 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner. First armed vessel to sail under Continental Navy flag.

**Service record:** Run ashore during engagement with sloop HMS *Nautilus* near Beverly, Mass., 10 Oct 1775; refloated and later sold.

**Ship captured:** Sloop *Unity*, 7 Sep 1775.



**Fig 1.16:** A model of the schooner *Hannah*, which was reputed to be the first armed vessel to sail under the Continental flag. (Smithsonian Institution)

## “WASHINGTON’S SCHOONERS”

The following ships were acquired by General George Washington and were not part of the Continental Navy.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Hancock</i> ex- <i>Speedwell</i>	(U)	(U)	Oct 1775	1775
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	60' × 20' × (U)			
Tonnage	72 tons			
Complement	70			
Battery	6-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner. Returned to owner 1777.

**Service record:** Ran ashore during engagement with HMS *Hope*, 14, off Plymouth, Mass., 30 Jan 1776; refloated.

**Ships captured:** two transports, 25 Jan 1776; two brigs off Boston, 7 May 1776.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Franklin</i>	(U)	(U)	1775	1775
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	60 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Marblehead fishing schooner. Returned to owner, 1776.

**Ship captured:** Ship *Hope*, 17 May 1776.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Harrison</i> ex- <i>Triton</i>	(U)	1761	22 Oct 1775	1775
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner.

**Service record:** Decomm, early 1776.

**Ships captured:** Two British ships, 5 Nov 1775; two other prizes, Nov 1775.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Washington</i> ex- <i>Endeavor</i>	(U)	(U)	Oct 1775	Nov 1775
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	160 tons			
Complement	74			
Battery	6-6 pdr, 4-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner, rigged as Brigantine. Acquired by Washington and converted at Plymouth, Mass.

**Service record:** Captured by HMS *Fowey*, 20, off Cape Ann, Mass., 3 Dec 1775.

**Ship captured:** Sloop *Britannia*, 25 Nov 1775.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Warren</i> <i>ex-Hawk</i>	Marblehead, Mass.	(U)	Oct 1775	Oct 1775
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	64 tons			
Complement	50			
Battery	4-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner.

**Service record:** Unsuccessful attack on troopship *Unity* off Cape Ann, Mass. (3 killed), Jun 1776. Captured by HMS *Liverpool*, 28, off Nova Scotia, 26 Aug 1776.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Rainbow*, 27 Nov 1775; recaptured brig *Sally* (prize), 24 Dec 1775.

**Later history:** Tender to HMS *Milford*. Ran aground in storm near Portsmouth, NH, end of Dec 1776.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Lee</i> <i>ex-Two</i> <i>Brothers</i>	(U)	(U)	Oct 1775	28 Oct 1775
Rate	(U)			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	74 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-4 pdr, 2-2 pdr, 10 swivels			

**Notes:** Schooner. Purchased as replacement for *Hannah*. Returned to owner, Nov 1777.

**Ships captured:** Sloop *Polly*, 27 Nov 1775; prize British brig *Nancy*, 29 Nov 1775; ship *Concord*, early Dec 1775 (with *Franklin*) sloop *Rainbow*, 29 Jan 1776; brigantine *Henry and Esther*, 1 Feb 1776. (With squadron under Manley) merchant *Susannah*, transport *Stokesby*, Feb 1776; transport *Anne*, 7 Jun 1776; brig *Elizabeth*, Nov 1776; schr *Hawke*, 13 Apr 1777; sloop *Betsey*, 3 May 1777; brigantine *Charles* (later recaptured), 10 May 1777; brigantine *Capelin*, brigantine *Industry*, May 1777; brig *Industrious Bee* (later USS *General Gates*), 29 Aug 1777; snow *Lively* (later recaptured), 30 Aug 1777; brigantine *Dolphin*, Sep 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Lynch</i>	(U)	(U)	26 Jan 1776	1 Feb 1776
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	2-4 pdr, 2-2 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner, chartered.

**Service record:** Joined Manley’s squadron at Cape Ann, Mass., Feb 1776. Escaped capture by British fleet, 27 Sep 1776. Captured by HMS *Foudroyant*, 80, off Belle Isle while sailing from France to America with despatches, 19 May 1777.

**Ships captured:** (With squadron under Manley) brig *Elizabeth*, 2 Apr 1776; transport *Anne*, 7 Jun 1776.

LOCAL OR SUBSIDIARY VESSELS

Name	Rate	Type	Built	Acquired	Battery
<i>Active</i>		Brigantine		Jul 1779	
<i>Argo</i> <i>ex-Sally</i>	12	Schooner		24 Mar 1779	12-6 pdr
<i>Baltimore</i>	12	Brigantine	1777	1777	
<i>Champion</i>	8	Xebec		1777	2-24pdr, 2-18pdr, 4-9pdr
<i>Despatch</i>		Packet		1778	
<i>Enterprise</i>	8	Schooner		20 Dec 1776	
<i>Fame</i>		Schooner			
<i>Fly</i>	6	Schooner		Jan 1776	6-9 pdr
<i>General Arnold</i>		Schooner		1776	
<i>General Mifflin</i>		Sloop		Apr 1776	
<i>General Schuyler</i>		Sloop		1776	
<i>General</i> <i>Washington</i> <i>ex-Congress</i> , <i>ex-General Monk</i>	32	Ship		Aug 1782	24-9 pdr or 18-9 pdr, 2-6 pdr
<i>Georgia Packet</i>				Nov 1776	
<i>Hawke</i>		Sloop		Oct 1778	
<i>Hornsnake</i>		Schooner		1775	
<i>Lady Washington</i>	10	Galley	1776	1776	
<i>Mercury</i>		Ketch	1776	1780	
<i>Mercury</i>		Schooner	1781		
<i>Morris</i> <i>ex-Rebecca</i>	24	Ship	1778	Feb 1779	16-6 pdr, 8-4 pdr
<i>Morris</i>		Schooner		1779	
<i>Mosquito</i>	4	Sloop		late 1775	
<i>Phoenix</i>	2	Packet		1778	
<i>Repulse</i>	8	Xebec	1775	1777	2-24 pdr, 2-18 pdr, 4-9 pdr
<i>Retaliation</i>		Brigantine		1778	
<i>Spitfire</i>	1	Galley	1775	Jan 1776	1-18pdr
<i>Spy</i>		Schooner		1776	
<i>Washington</i>	1	Galley	1775	Jan 1776	1-18pdr
<i>West Florida</i>	14	Sloop		Sep 1779	

**Notes and service records:**

*Active:* Captured by HMS *Proserpine* off Havana, 23 Mar 1782.

*Argo:* Rhode Island privateer, 14 Apr 1780.

*Baltimore:* Dispatch vessel. Lost near Cape Henry, Va., 29 Jan 1780.

*Champion:* Pennsylvania State Marine, loaned to Continental Navy. Defense of Philadelphia, 1777. Burned to prevent capture in Delaware River, 21 Nov 1777.

*Delaware:* Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Destroyed at Philadelphia. 21 Nov 1777.

*Enterprise:* LoFM purchased. Operated in Chesapeake Bay, 1776–77. Returned, Feb 1777.

*Fly:* Purchased at Baltimore as dispatch vessel. Sometimes called **Cruizer**. Expedition to New Providence Island, 17 Feb–7 Apr 1776. Damaged in engagement with enemy ship, 1776; repaired at Philadelphia. Defense of Delaware River, Oct–Nov 1777. Burned to prevent capture in the Delaware, late 1777.

*General Arnold:* Purchased 1776 to carry dispatches. Out of service after 1778.

*General Mifflin:* Acquired for local defense, New York.

*General Schuyler:* Purchased at New York 1776. Probably destroyed in Hudson



**Fig 1.17:** The schooner *Fly*, 8, and sloop *Mosquito*, 4. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

River after British captured New York in Aug 1776. Comm in state navy. Trfd to Gen. Washington, Apr 1776.

**Ships captured:** Recaptured five prizes taken by British, Jun 1776.

*General Washington*: Rhode Island privateer, 1780. Captured by British, renamed *General Monck*, Sep 1781. Captured by Pennsylvania state gunboat *Hyder Aly* off Cape May, 8 Apr 1782. Renamed *General Washington*, 1782. Sold to owner, summer 1784.

*Georgia Packet*: Dispatch vessel, 1776–77.

*Hawke*: Under Talbot, captured HMS *Pigot* (later USS *Argo*) in Narragansett Bay, 28 Oct 1778.

*Hornsnake*: Chartered 1775–76.

*Lady Washington*: Borrowed from New York Committee of Safety for defense of New York. FFU.

*Mercury*: Captured off Newfoundland Banks by HMS *Vestal* and *Fairy* while carrying despatches to America, 10 Sep 1780. Built at Philadelphia by Wharton and Humphrey. Dimensions: 72'6" (deck) × 20'6" × 8'9".

*Mercury*: Dispatch vessel. Built at Plymouth, Mass., by John Peck. FFU

*Morris*: Captured on Mississippi River, 1778? Wrecked in hurricane (11 lost), 18 Aug 1779.

*Morris*: Presented to American forces for use on Mississippi River. Captured by British sloop *West Florida* in Lake Pontchartrain, Sep 1779.

*Mosquito*: Destroyed to prevent capture in Delaware Bay, 1777.

*Repulse*: Pennsylvania State Marine, loaned to Continental Navy. Defense of Philadelphia, 1777. Burned to prevent capture in Delaware River, Jul 1777 or 21 Nov 1777.

*Retaliation*: Operated in Philadelphia area 1778.

*Spitfire and Washington*: Built by Rhode Island. Recaptured British prizes, brigantine *Georgia Packet* and sloop *Speedwell*, 11 Apr 1776. Fought action with British *Phoenix* and *Rose*. At New York, 3 Aug 1776. Destroyed before 1778.

*West Florida*: British sloop taken by USS *Morris* on Lake Pontchartrain, Sep 1779. Sold at Philadelphia 1780.

**Ship captured:** One small vessel, in Gulf of Mexico, 1780.

**Notes:** Designed by David Bushnell in 1771.

**Service record:** Attempted attack on British flagship *Eagle*, 64, in New York harbor, 7 Sep 1776; unsuccessful because of failure of the “torpedo.” Two further attempts failed. Lost aboard a sloop sunk by the British squadron during the fall of Fort Washington, NY, 9 Oct 1776.

## LAKE CHAMPLAIN SQUADRON

Congress authorized an attack on Quebec in August 1775 but the American force under Benedict Arnold was weak and under-supplied and the result was a disastrous defeat. The Americans retreated the following spring to Fort Ticonderoga, and both sides immediately began assembling a fleet to control Lake Champlain, the strategic key to the northeast.

A shipbuilding yard was erected at Skenesboro, NY (now Whitehall), but the lack of supplies and men as well as a divided command seriously hindered construction. Arnold took charge and soon two schooners, a sloop, and seven gundalows were ready. The gundalow was a form of river barge with a high curved bow and lateen mainsail, propelled by oars.

The British brought some ships down from the St. Lawrence River. Two schooners, a gundalow, and twenty gunboats were stripped bare and hauled overland to Saint-Jean (now in Quebec). The 180-ton *Inflexible* on the stocks at Quebec and not yet planked was broken up and hauled over as well. By the end of August the British fleet consisted of the ship *Inflexible*, 18; schooners *Maria*, 14, and *Carleton*, 12; gundalow *Loyal Consort*, 7; the twenty gunboats; and radeau *Thunderer*, 12, built at Saint-Jean.

On 11 October 1776 the fleets joined battle off Valcour Island. The British fleet under Sir Guy Carleton was manned by experienced sailors, in contrast to Arnold’s motley crews. After a seven-hour engagement, most of the American ships were out of action. The surviving ships were destroyed in a second action two days later. Although the battle was lost, the delay caused British plans to be held over until the following year, enabling the Americans to reinforce their troops and defeat their enemy at Saratoga.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Enterprise</i>	(U)	(U)	May 1775	May 1775
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions:	(U)			
Tonnage	70 tons			
Complement	50			
Battery	12-4 pdrs			

**Notes:** British supply sloop. Captured by Arnold at Saint-Jean, Richelieu River, Quebec, 19 May 1775.

**Service record:** Expedition to capture Montreal, Aug 1775. Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776. Run aground and burned (or blown up) to prevent capture at Skenesboro, 5 Jul 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Liberty</i>	Skenesboro, NY	(U)	11 May 1775	(U)
Rate	8 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-4 pdr, 4-2 pdr			

## SUBMARINE

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Turtle</i> (or <i>American Turtle</i> )	Saybrook, Conn.	(U)	1775	(U)
Dimensions	7'6" long, 6' deep			
Complement	1			
Armament	1 “torpedo”			

**Notes:** Schooner. Captured by Arnold, 11 May 1775.

**Service record:** Raid on Saint-Jean, 16 May 1775. Battle of Valcour Island, 11–12 Oct 1776. Destroyed, summer 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Revenge</i>	Fort Ticonderoga (Baldwin)	1776	1776	1776
Rate	8 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	50			
Battery	4-4 pdr, 4-2 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner.

**Service record:** Battle of Valcour, 11–12 Oct 1776. Captured with Fort Ticonderoga, Jul 1777. Or sunk to prevent capture.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Royal Savage</i> <i>ex-Brave Savage</i>	Saint-Jean, Quebec	1775	1775	1775
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	50' × 15'			
Tonnage	70 tons			
Complement	40/50			
Battery	8-4 pdr, 4-6 pdr			

**Notes:** British schooner. Sunk in Oct 1775 during siege of Saint-Jean; raised and repaired by U.S.

**Service record:** Ran aground and was burned, Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776. (Also reported sunk by American batteries in Richelieu River.)

Name	Builder	Built	Launch	Comm.
<i>Congress</i>	Skenesboro, NY	(U)	1776	1776
<i>Trumbull</i>	Skenesboro, NY	(U)	10 Sep 1776	Sep 1776
<i>Washington</i>	Skenesboro, NY	(U)	fall 1776	Sep 1776
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	72'4" × 19'7" × 6'2"			
Tonnage	123 tons			
Complement	80			
Battery	1-18 pdr, 1-12 pdr, 2-9 pdr, 6-6 pdr, except <i>Congress</i> : 2-12 pdr, 2-8 pdr, 4-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Galleys. Two-mast lateen rig. Built by Benedict Arnold.

**Service records:**

*Congress*: Battle of Valcour Island (20 killed), 11 Oct 1776; damaged and run ashore. Burned to prevent capture, 12 Oct 1776, or near Crown Point, 15 Oct 1776.

*Trumbull*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776. Captured by British and destroyed, 1777.

*Washington*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776; heavily damaged. Captured by British at Valcour, 13 Oct 1776; taken into British service and rerigged as brig.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Gates</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	late 1776

Rate	8 guns
Dimensions	60'6" × 19' × 6'2"
Tonnage	123 tons
Complement	80
Battery	4-18 pdr

**Notes:** Galley.

**Service record:** Blown up to prevent capture at Skenesboro, NY, 1777.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Lee</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1775	Oct 1775	6 Sep 1776
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	43'9" (deck) × 16'3" × 4'8"			
Tonnage	48 tons			
Complement	86			
Battery	1-12 pdr, 1-9 pdr, 4-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Galley. Begun by British at Saint-Jean, Quebec, captured there and taken to Skenesboro for completion.

**Service record:** Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776; run aground near Crown Point, 13 Oct 1776. Raised and taken into Royal Navy, 1777.

GUNDALOWS

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Boston</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>Connecticut</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>Jersey</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>Providence</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>New Haven</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>New York</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>Philadelphia</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>Spitfire</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
<i>Success</i>	Skenesboro, NY	1776	1776	1776
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	57' × 17' × 2'			
Battery	1-12 pdr, 2-9 pdr, or 6 pdr			

**Notes:** Gundalows. Small wooden warships carrying a single gun in the bows and propelled by oars, built under the direction of Benedict Arnold in 1776.

**Service records:**

*Boston*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776. Burned to avoid capture at Buttonmold Bay, NY, 13 Oct 1776.

*Connecticut*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776. Burned to prevent capture after battle of Split Rock, NY, 17 Oct 1777.

*Jersey*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776; abandoned and captured by British, 13 Oct 1776.

*Providence*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776; sunk, 13 Oct 1776.

*New Haven*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776; burned 13 Oct 1776.

*New York*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776, burned 13 Oct 1776.

*Philadelphia*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776; sunk. Raised in 1935. On display at Smithsonian Institution.

*Spitfire*: Battle of Valcour Island, 11 Oct 1776. Burned to prevent capture, 13 Oct 1776.

*Success*: no record, may have been renamed.

# 2

## STATE NAVIES, 1775–1783

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Among the original thirteen states, only New Jersey and Delaware had no navy. The vessels of the other eleven states are listed below. The state navies' vessels were smaller and less well armed than those of the Continental Navy.

### CONNECTICUT

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Oliver Cromwell</i>	18	ship	Saybrook, Conn.	Aug 1776
<i>Minerva</i>		brig		
<i>Defence</i>	14	brigantine		
<i>Guilford</i>	8	sloop		
<i>Schuyler</i>		sloop		
<i>Mifflin</i>		schr		
<i>Spy</i>	6	schr		
<i>Crane</i>		row galley		
<i>Shark</i>		row galley		
<i>Whiting</i>		row galley		

Notes and service records:

*Defence*: Wrecked off Connecticut, Mar 1779.

*Oliver Cromwell*: Captured off Sandy Hook, 5 Jun 1779.

**Ships captured:** Brigantine *Honor*, packet *Weymouth*, summer 1777,  
*Admiral Keppel* (LoFM), 1778.

### GEORGIA

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Bulloch</i>		row galley		
<i>Congress</i>				
<i>Lee</i>				
<i>Washington</i>				

### MARYLAND

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Defence</i>	22	ship		
<i>Defence</i>		brig		
<i>Dolphin</i>		brig		
<i>Reformation</i>		brig		
<i>Revenge</i>		brig		
<i>Experiment</i>		brig		
<i>Fearnought</i>		brig		
<i>Intrepid</i>		brig		
<i>Protector</i>		brig		
<i>Somerset</i>		brig		
<i>Terrible</i>		brig		
<i>Venus</i>		brig		
<i>Dolphin</i>		schr		
<i>Resolution</i>		schr		
<i>Annapolis</i>		row galley		
<i>Baltimore</i>		row galley		
<i>Chester</i>		row galley		
<i>Conqueror</i>		row galley		
<i>Independence</i>		row galley		
<i>Johnson</i>		row galley		
<i>Plater</i>		armed boat		
<i>Amelia</i>		tender		

### MASSACHUSETTS

On 2 Feb 1776, the Massachusetts legislature authorized the building of ten sloops of war of 110–115 tons burden. By 1779 all the vessels acquired starting in 1775 had been sold or lost. In addition to the vessels listed below, Massachusetts also had vessels named *Adams*, *Compte d'Estang*, *Nantes*, *Reprisal*, *Versailles*, *Bunker Hill*, *Duc de Chartres*, *Penet*, and *Union*.

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Machias Liberty</i>	4	sloop		1775
<i>Diligent</i>		schr		1775
<i>Tyrannicide</i>	14	sloop	Salisbury	Jul 1776
<i>Rising Empire</i>		brigantine	Dartmouth	Jul 1776
<i>Independence</i>		brigantine	Kingston	Jul 1776
<i>Republic</i>		sloop	Swanzey	Sep 1776
<i>Freedom</i>		sloop	Swanzey	Sep 1776
<i>Massachusetts</i>		sloop	Salisbury	Sep 1776
<i>Hazard</i>	14	brigantine		fall 1777
<i>Active</i>	14	brigantine		spring 1779
<i>Protector</i>	28	frigate	Newburyport	fall 1779
<i>Mars</i>		ship		Mar 1780
<i>Defence</i>		sloop		summer 1781
<i>Tartar</i>	20	ship		1781–82
<i>Winthrop</i>	12	sloop		spring 1782
<i>Lincoln</i>		galley		1779

Service records:

*Machias Liberty*: RR Oct 1776

*Diligent*: RR Oct 1776

*Tyrannicide*: Lost at Penobscot, Aug 1779.

*Rising Empire*: Sold Mar 1780.

*Independence*: Captured spring 1777

*Republic*: RR 1777

*Freedom*: Taken by HMS *Apollo*, Oct 1777.

*Massachusetts*: RR 1778

*Hazard*: Lost at Penobscot, Aug 1779.

*Active*: Lost at Penobscot, Aug 1779.

*Protector*: Action with privateer frigate *Admiral Duff*, 32, which blew up, 9 Jun 1780. Captured by HMS *Roebuck*, 44, and *Medea*, 28, 5 May 1781.

**Later history:** HMS *Hussar*, 6th rate. Sold 14 Aug 1783.

*Mars*: RR 1781

*Defence*: RR 1781

*Tartar*: RR 1782

*Winthrop*: RR 1783

*Lincoln*: RR 1781.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Hampden</i>	22	ship		

**Service record:** Damaged by running aground, Aug 1776. Lost at Penobscot, Aug 1779.

NEW YORK

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>General Putnam</i>		schr		
<i>General Schuyler</i>		sloop (see p. 14)		
<i>Montgomery</i>		sloop		

NORTH CAROLINA

Name	Rate	Type	Acquired	Disposition
<i>King Tammany</i>	12	brigantine	17 Jan 1776	later merchant
<i>Pennsylvania Farmer</i>	16	brigantine	Feb 1776	Jun 1778 scuttled
<i>General Washington</i>		brigantine	Feb 1776	Feb 1781 to be destroyed
<i>Caswell</i>	16	galley	Apr 1777	
<i>Washington</i>	16	galley		

**Notes:** First three purchased. Second pair lateen-rigged, built at Ocracoke Inlet.

PENNSYLVANIA

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Hyder Ali</i>	16	sloop		
<i>Montgomery</i>	14	ship		
<i>General Greene</i>	16	ship		
<i>Convention</i>		brig		
<i>Delaware</i>		schr		
<i>Bulldog</i>		row galley		
<i>Burke</i>		row galley		
<i>Camden</i>		row galley		
<i>Chatham</i>		row galley		
<i>Congress</i>		row galley		
<i>Dickinson</i>		row galley		
<i>Effingham</i>		row galley		
<i>Experiment</i>		row galley		
<i>Franklin</i>		row galley		
<i>Hancock</i>		row galley		
<i>Ranger</i>		row galley		
<i>Warren</i>		row galley		
<i>Washington</i> (or <i>General Washington</i> )		row galley		

**Notes:** *Hyder Aly*: privateer.

**Ships captured:** British sloop *General Monck* (formerly American privateer *General Washington*) in Delaware Bay, 8 Apr 1782.

Other Pennsylvania vessels included:

- guard boats: *Argus*, *Basilisk*, *Brimstone*, *Dragon*, *Eagle*, *Fame*, *Firebrand*, *Hawk*, *Hornet*, *Lion*, *Porcupine*, *Racehorse*, *Revolution*, *Repulse*, *Salamander*, *Terror*, *Thunderer*, *Tormentor*, *Viper*, *Vulture*, and *Wasp*.
- floating batteries: *Arnold* and *Putnam*.
- fire ships: sloops *Aetna*, *Strombello*; brigantine *Blast*; brigs *Comet*, *Hecla*, *Volcano*, *Hellcat*, and *Vesuvius*.
- shallop *Black Duck*.
- accommodation/provision sloops: *Defiance*, *Hetty*, *Industry*, *Liberty*, *Lydia*, *Sally*, and *Speedwell*.

## RHODE ISLAND

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Argo</i>	12	sloop		
<i>Katy</i>	10	sloop		
<i>Rover</i>		sloop		
<i>Washington</i>		sloop		
<i>Pigot</i>		row galley		
<i>Spitfire</i>	1	row galley		
<i>Washington</i>	1	row galley		

**Notes:**

*Katy*: Later USS *Providence* (see p. 7)

*Spitfire*: (see p. 14)

*Washington*: (see p. 14)

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built
<i>Bricole</i>	44	ship		
<i>South Carolina</i>	40	ship		
<i>Prosper</i>		ship		
<i>Truite</i>	26	ship		
<i>Ballony</i>		brigantine		
<i>Beaufort</i>		brigantine		
<i>General Lincoln</i>		brigantine		
<i>Notre Dame</i>	16	brigantine		
<i>General Moultrie</i>	18	schr		
<i>Fair American</i>	16	schr		
<i>Anthony</i>		schr		
<i>Comet</i>		schr		
<i>Defence</i>		schr		
<i>Eshe</i>		schr		
<i>Lovely Julia</i>		schr		
<i>Nancy</i>		schr		
<i>Peggy</i>		schr		
<i>Polly</i>	16	schr		
<i>Rattlesnake</i>		schr		
<i>Sally</i>		schr		
<i>Three Friends</i>		sch		
<i>Commerce</i>		sloop		
<i>Count de Kersaint</i>		sloop		
<i>Beaufort</i>		row galley		
<i>Carolina</i>		row galley		
<i>Congress</i>		row galley		
<i>Lee</i>		row galley		
<i>Marques de Bretagne</i>		row galley		
<i>Revenge</i>		row galley		
<i>Rutledge</i>		row galley		
<i>South Edisto</i>		row galley		

**Notes:** *Bricole* and *Truite* purchased from France.

*South Carolina*: Ex-*L'Indien* (see p. 10). Captured 20 Dec 1782.

## VIRGINIA

Virginia's naval vessels were poorly armed, incompletely manned and ill fitted for service. These vessels included:

- ships: *Caswell*, *Dragon*, *Gloucester*, *Protector*, *Tartar*, *Tempest*, *Thesis*, *Virginia*, and *Washington*.
- brigs: *Adventure*, *Greyhound*, *Hampton*, *Jefferson*, *Liberty*, *Mosquito*, *Northampton*, and *Raleigh*.
- sloop: *Scorpion*.
- galley: *American Congress* (14 guns).
- row galleys: *Accomac*, *Diligence*, *Henry*, *Hero*, *Lewis*, *Manly*, *Norfolk Revenge*, *Page*, and *Safeguard*.
- armed boats: *Dolphin*, *Experiment*, *Fly*, *Liberty*, *Nicholson*, and *Patriot*.
- Dispatch*, *Thames*.





# 3

## THE UNITED STATES NAVY, 1794–1854

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Following the sale of the *Alliance* in 1785 there was only the Revenue Cutter Service, founded in 1790, to guard the coasts. American merchant ships were being subjected to attacks by pirates from the Barbary Coast of North Africa while French ships seized neutral American merchantmen for violation of wartime trade laws. On 27 March 1794 Congress passed an act providing for the building of four frigates of forty-four guns and two of thirty-six guns, thus founding the United States Navy.

The first of the new ships authorized in 1794, the frigate *United States*, was launched at Philadelphia on 10 May 1797, followed shortly by the *Constellation* and *Constitution*. In 1798 Congress established a Navy Department and authorized acquisition of ships to protect American trade.

An undeclared war at sea with France ensued beginning with the capture of the privateer *Le Croyable* by the USS *Delaware* on 7 July 1798. In the years following, until a peace treaty was ratified in 1801, more than eighty French ships were captured and U.S. ocean trade increased significantly.

Following the peace settlement all but fourteen Navy ships were sold, but almost immediately the United States again found itself in conflict with the Barbary pirates, particularly Tripoli. A squadron under Edward Preble was dispatched to the Mediterranean. In 1803 the frigate *Philadelphia* was captured after running aground in Tripoli harbor. In the most notable exploit of the period, a detachment led by Stephen Decatur entered the harbor and burned the captured ship. During 1804 there was heavy fighting in the area. In May 1805 a detachment of seamen and Marines captured the Tripolitanian fortress of Derna (whence “to the shores of Tripoli”).

Relations with Britain deteriorated as more American ships were stopped at sea by British ships impressing seamen. In 1807 HMS *Leopard* fired on the frigate USS *Chesapeake*, killing three men and taking four men captive. In 1811 the USS *United States* exchanged shots with HMS *Little Belt* off Cape Henry, Virginia. In addition, the Napoleonic wars led Britain to order a blockade of Europe and France to prohibit commerce. Competing decrees

aimed at neutral (American) ships led to President Thomas Jefferson, in December 1807, prohibiting all foreign commerce, an embargo that remained in force until 1809.

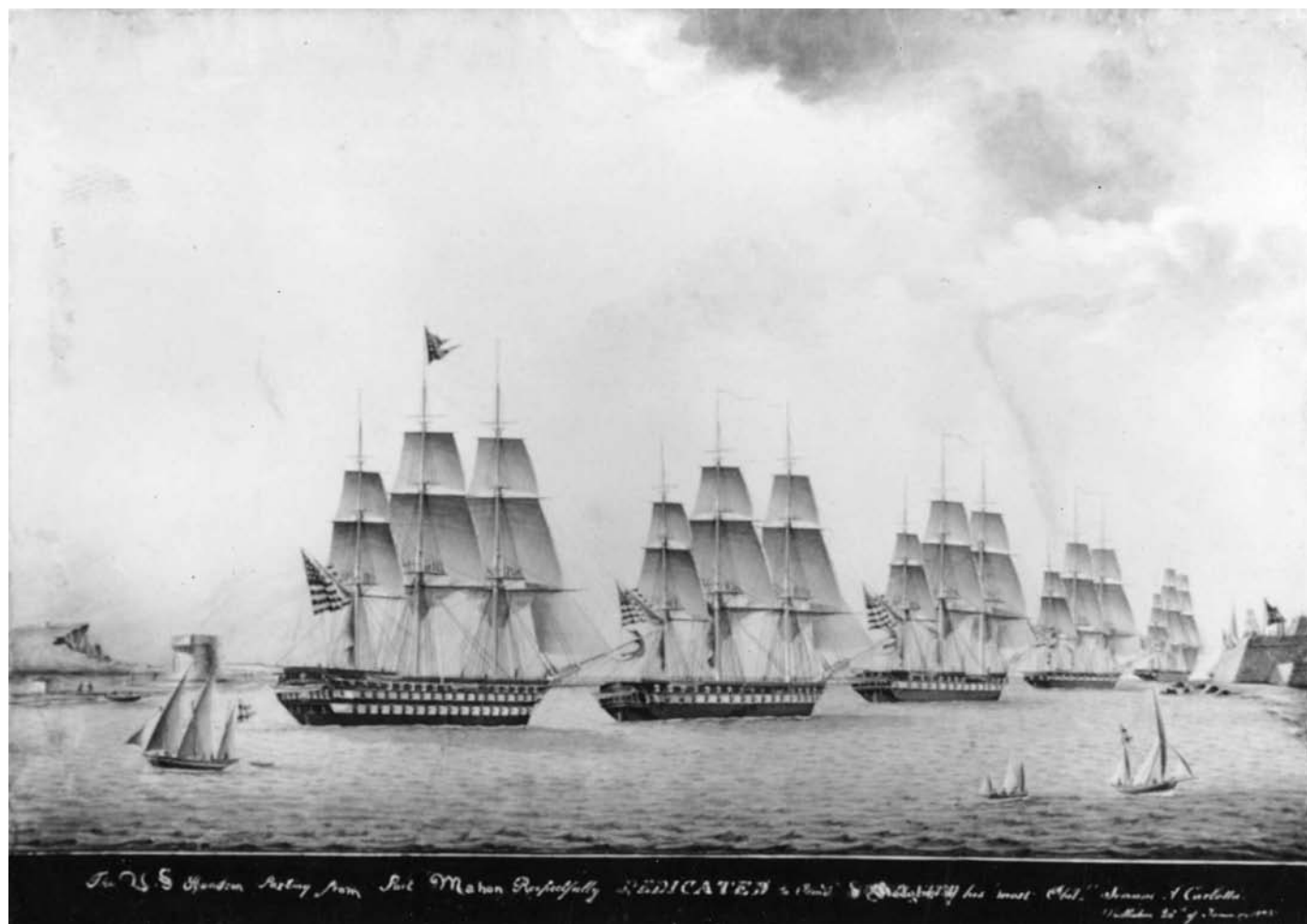
The Navy during this time was greatly diminished in size. Its ships were to be replaced by 257 small gunboats to provide protection to the bays and harbors, a “defensive Navy” concept propounded by Jefferson.

On 18 June 1812, the United States declared war on Great Britain in reaction to a series of overt acts against American commerce, including impressment of seamen, seizing of ships, and restraint of trade by new theories of belligerent rights. The trade war incidents leading up to the War of 1812 were also hurting Britain, but proposals to end the problem arrived in Washington too late. The United States Navy at the time consisted of just seventeen seaworthy ships.\*

The war at sea resulted in the capture of many American ships, but was enlivened by spectacular successes in several single-ship actions, which galvanized the public in both America and Britain. First, the USS *Constitution* took the British *Guerriere* in August; then the *United States* captured HMS *Macedonian* in October. In December the *Constitution* took the *Java*. Meanwhile, the *Essex* was causing the British problems off the western coast of South America, capturing many ships. Isaac Hull, William Bainbridge, Stephen Decatur, David Porter, and their victories were important in establishing the traditions and credibility of the United States Navy.

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\* The frigates *Adams*, *Chesapeake*, *Congress*, *Constellation*, *Constitution*, *Essex*, *John Adams*, *President*, and *United States*; sloops *Hornet* and *Wasp*; brigs *Argus* and *Siren*; and schooners *Enterprise*, *Nautilus*, *Viper*, and *Vixen*.



**Fig 3.1:** “The U.S. squadron parting from Port Mahon,” Minorca I., Spain, 25 January 1825. Left to right, *North Carolina*, *Constitution*, *Brandywine*, *Erie*, and an unidentified ship. Watercolor by A. Carlotta. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Naval Historical Foundation)

American privateers were very active and, with United States Navy ships, operated in and around the British Isles, capturing many merchant ships and disrupting trade.\*

An important American success occurred on Lake Erie in 1813 when a squadron under Oliver Hazard Perry defeated a British squadron, ending British supremacy in the western territories. The following year Thomas MacDonough won a victory on Lake Champlain, causing the British Army to retreat to Canada.

The American cause declined during 1814 when a British army occupied and burned the capital city of Washington. The British blockade had crippled U.S. trade. Nevertheless, American privateers were a serious threat to British commerce, forcing the introduction of a convoy system. Both sides wanted to end the war, and a peace treaty was signed on 28 December 1814. Before the news reached America, however, the Americans won the Battle of New Orleans and the frigate *President* was captured by a British squadron off New York.

\*A privateer license gave one authority to arm a ship to capture enemy merchant ships; letters of marque and reprisal authorized a merchant vessel to capture an enemy merchant vessel. The Declaration of Paris of 1856 abolished privateering and letters of marque, although the United States did not ratify it until after the Civil War.

The War of 1812 reinforced the need for a strong navy. No sooner was it over than a new conflict arose in the Mediterranean with Algiers. In 1816 Congress authorized the construction of nine 74-gun ships-of-the-line and twelve 44-gun frigates. During the following years the Navy was occupied with eliminating pirates in and around Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea. In the 1830s there were actions against the Seminole Indians in Florida. American frigates and sloops of war now regularly appeared in foreign ports around the world for the protection of American interests and shipping.

Expeditions of exploration and scientific discovery commenced when Charles Wilkes sailed in 1838 to explore the Pacific Ocean, ranging from the Philippines to Antarctica and Fiji.

The first experimental steam-driven warship, the *Fulton*, was launched in 1814. In 1841 the first steam warships, the side wheel frigates *Mississippi* and *Missouri*, were launched. Ships were now able to move regardless of wind and tide. The early ships propelled by paddle wheels were soon supplanted by propeller-driven vessels. During the next ten years more of the ungainly steamers joined the fleet, belching black smoke and changing the aspect of the Navy forever.

Starting in 1842 the United States, in cooperation with Great Britain, regularly maintained patrols off the coast of Africa for the suppression of the slave trade.

Setbacks occurred such as the explosion and fire that destroyed the new frigate *Missouri* in 1843. In 1844 a new gun exploded on board the gunboat *Princeton*, killing the secretaries of State and the Navy.

In 1845 the U.S. Naval Academy was opened at Annapolis.

The Navy was very active in the war with Mexico, which began in 1846 and lasted two years. Expeditions on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts were mounted to attack Mexican ports and land troops.

During the 1850s a survey expedition under Cadwallader Ringgold was conducted in the Northern Pacific and China Seas. Search expeditions to find the Franklin Expedition were sent to the Arctic. A squadron under Matthew Perry arrived in Japan in 1853, leading to negotiations for opening Japanese ports to American trade that concluded in 1854. In 1855 the USS *Water Witch*, surveying in the Paraguay River, was fired upon. This incident led to an expedition of a squadron of eighteen ships to Paraguay in 1858–59 to demand retribution for the attack.

## SHIPS-OF-THE-LINE

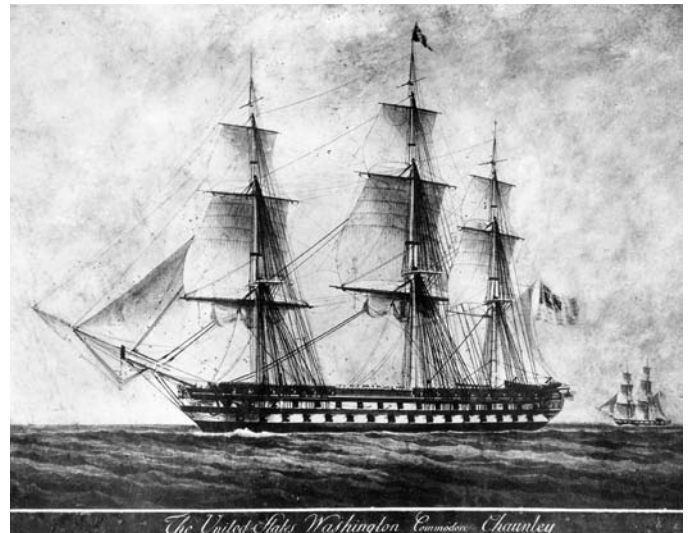
### Columbus Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Columbus</i>	Portsmouth NYd			
<i>Franklin</i>	Philadelphia NYd	10 Jun 1800		
(unknown)	Boston NYd			
(unknown)	New York NYd			
(unknown)	Washington NYd			
(unknown)	Norfolk NYd			
Rate	74 guns			
Dimensions	183' (bp) × 48'6" × 19'6"			
Tonnage	1,859 tons			
Battery	74-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Joshua Humphreys. Authorized by Act of Congress, 25 Feb 1799, but all canceled during 1800. Only one laid down. Names speculative. They would have been more heavily armed than European contemporaries.

### Independence Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Independence</i>	Boston NYd (E. Hartt & J. Barker)	18 Aug 1813	22 Jun 1814	Jul 1815
<i>Washington</i>	Portsmouth NH (Hartt & Badger)	Mar 1814	1 Oct 1814	26 Aug 1815
Rate	74 guns			
	<i>Independence</i> : (1836) 54 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Independence</i> : (1836) 188' (bp) × 51'6" × 24'4" <i>Washington</i> : 190'10" (bp) × 54'7" × 24'4"			
Tonnage	2,257 tons <i>Independence</i> : (1836) 1,891 tons			
Complement	750			
Battery	<i>Independence</i> : (1817) 63-32pdr, 24-32pdr crde; (1836) 8-8", 48-32 pdr; (1854) 10-8", 46-32 pdr <i>Washington</i> : (1820) 62-32 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde			



**Fig 3.2:** The ship-of-the-line *Washington*, 74, had a short career, going into reserve in 1820. Watercolor by A. Roux. (U.S. Naval



**Fig 3.3:** The *Independence*, 54, in 1837 after her conversion to a razeed frigate. Painting by J. W. Schmidt. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

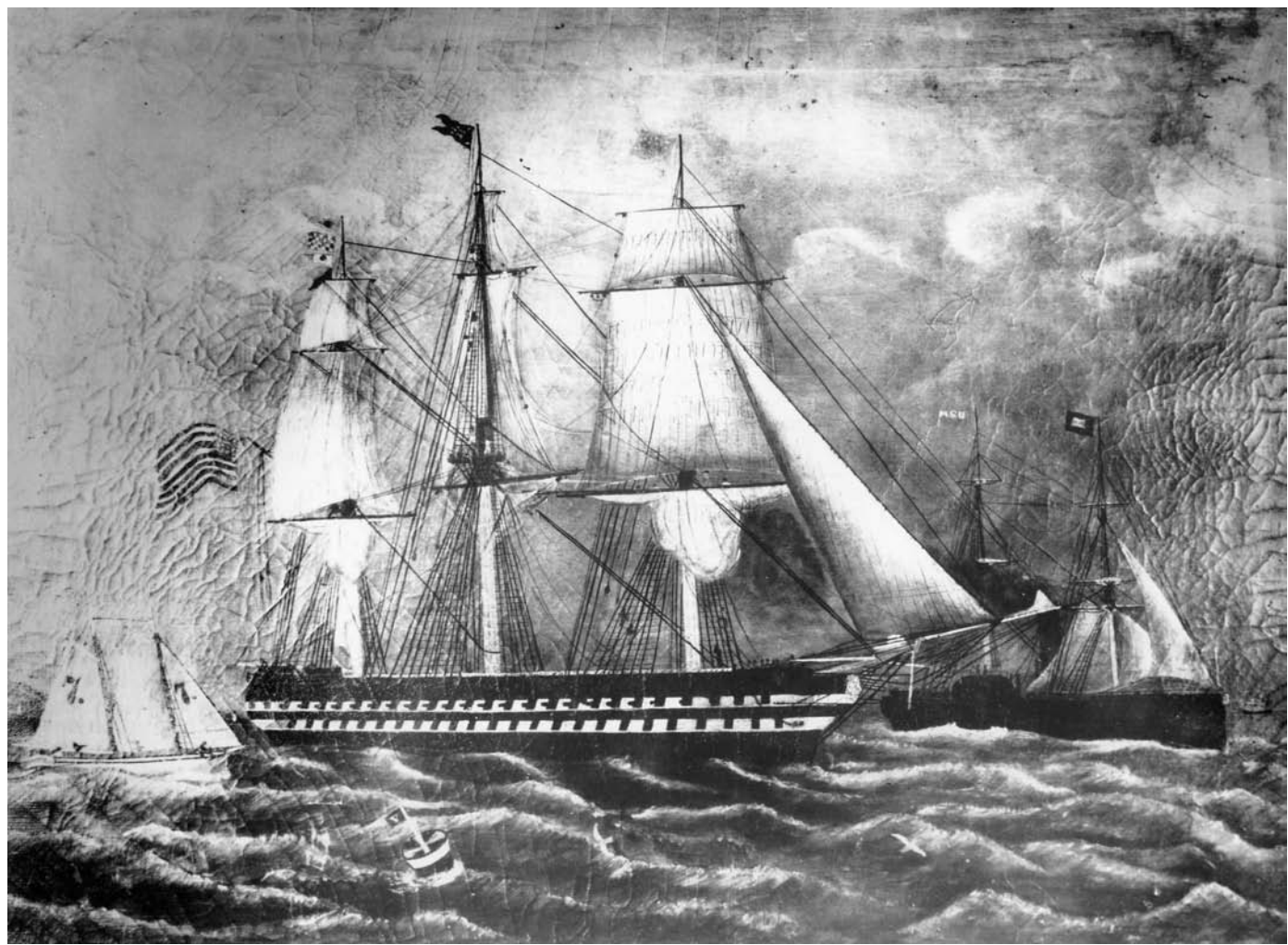
**Notes:** Reportedly designed by Edmund Hartt as modifications of the 1799 vessels. Well built but unsatisfactory as they floated too low for the battery with only 3'10" freeboard to lower gunports when fully loaded. They were the poorest of the first four ships. *Independence* was more satisfactory as a razeed, a smart sailer.

#### Service records:

*Independence*: First ship-of-the-line commissioned in U.S. Navy. Mediterranean Squadron 1815 (flagship). Home Sqn 1815–22 (flagship). Razeed recommended in 1817. In ordinary 1822–36. Razeed to 54-gun frigate at Boston NYd, 1836; recomm 26 Mar 1837. Flagship on voyage to Europe, visiting Portsmouth, Copenhagen, and Kronstadt, 1837. Brazil Station 1837–40 (flagship). Home Squadron 1842 (flagship). Pacific Squadron 1846–49 (flagship). Capture of Mazatlan, Mexico, 11 Nov 1847. Mediterranean Sqn 1849–52 (flagship). Pacific Sqn 1854–57 (flagship). Receiving ship, Mare Island, 1857–1912. Stricken 3 Sep 1913.

**Ship captured:** Ship *Correo*, in Pacific, 9 May 1847.

*Washington*: Cruised in Mediterranean, 1816–18 (flagship of Chauncey). Reserve 1820. BU 1843.



**Fig 3.4:** USS *Columbus*, a ship-of-the-line, was in active service from 1819 to 1848. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Franklin**

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Franklin</i>	Philadelphia NYd (Humphreys & Penrose)	1815	25 Aug 1815	1815
Rate	74 guns			
Dimensions	187'10" (bp) 155' (keel) × 50' × 24'4", d19'9"			
Tonnage	2,243 tons			
Complement	786			
Battery	(1820) 58-32pdr, 24-32pdr crde; (1850) 64-32 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Humphreys. Similar to *Independence* and also had insufficient displacement for battery. It was intended to raze her at one time but was not found worth preserving and was instead “rebuilt” as a large screw frigate.

**Service record:** Mediterranean Squadron, 1817–20 (flagship). Pacific Station 1821–24 (flagship). Laid up 1824–43. Receiving ship Boston 1843. BU at Portsmouth 1853.

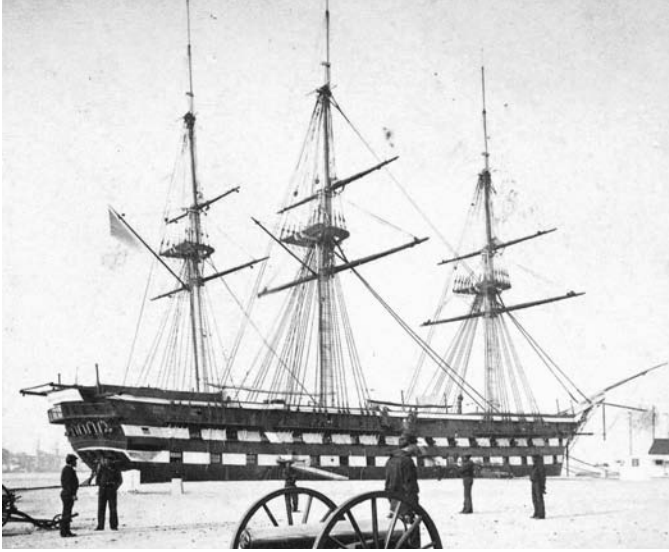
**Columbus**

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Columbus</i>	Washington NYd	Jun 1816	1 Mar 1819	7 Sep 1819
Rate	74 guns			
Dimensions	193'3" (bp) × 53'6" × 26'6" d21'10"			
Tonnage	2,480 tons			
Complement	780			
Battery	68-32 pdr, 24-42 pdr crde; (1842) 8-8", 56-32 pdr, 22-32 pdr crde; (1850) 12-8", 68-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty. Poor sea boat. Most successful of the war built 74s.

**Service record:** Mediterranean Sqn 1820–21 (flagship). Receiving ship, Boston, 1833–42. Mediterranean Sqn 1842 (flagship). Brazil Station 1843–44 (flagship). Far East 1845. First U.S. visit to Japan, 20 Jul 1846. Laid up 1848. Destroyed at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.

**Ship captured:** (With *Warren* and *Erie*) British schr *William*, at Monterey, Calif., 22 Mar 1847.



**Fig 3.5:** The USS *Vermont* as receiving ship at Brooklyn Navy Yard after the Civil War. She retains some of her armament. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

## Delaware Class

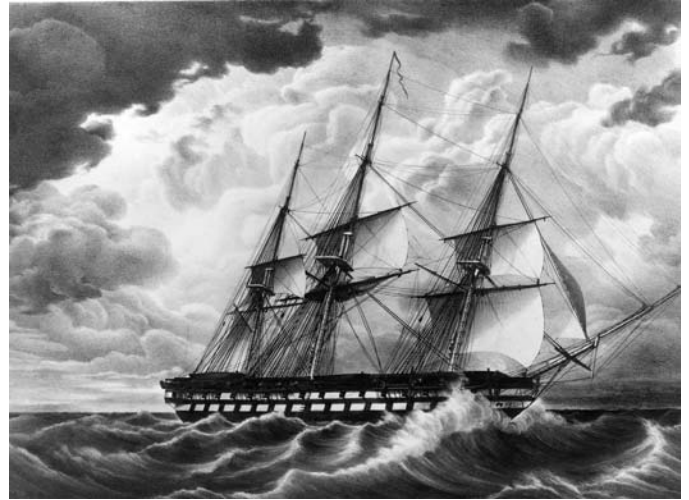
Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Alabama</i>	Portsmouth NYd	1 Jun 1819	23 Jan 1864	13 May 1864
<i>Delaware</i>	Norfolk NYd	Aug 1817	21 Oct 1820	Feb 1828
<i>New York</i>	Norfolk NYd	May 1820	never	never—
<i>North Carolina</i>	Philadelphia NYd	Jun 1816	7 Sep 1820	27 May 1825
<i>Vermont</i>	Boston NYd	Sep 1818	15 Sep 1848	30 Jan 1862
ex- <i>Virginia</i> (27 Apr 1827), ex- <i>Massachusetts</i> (1818)				
<i>Virginia</i>	Boston NYd	May 1822	never	never—
ex- <i>Vermont</i> (27 Apr 1827)				
Rate	74 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Delaware</i> : 197'1" (bp) × 54'6" × 20'6", d21'7" <i>North Carolina</i> : 196'3" (bp) × 53'6" × 21'6"			
Tonnage	<i>Delaware</i> : 2,602; <i>North Carolina</i> : 2,633 tons			
Complement	820			
Battery	<i>Delaware</i> : (1833) 32-42 pdr, 32-32 pdr, 28-42 pdr crde; (1841) 8-8", 28-42 pdr, 30-32 pdr, 22-42 pdr crde; (1850) 12-8", 72-32 pdr <i>North Carolina</i> : 34-42 pdr, 36-32 pdr, 24-42 pdr crde; (1841) 32-42 pdr, 34-32 pdr, 24-42 pdr crde; (1850) 12-8", 72-32 pdr; (1862) 4-9", 1 30 pdr MLR <i>Vermont</i> : (1864) 4-8", 20-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Nine ships "to rate not less than 74 guns each" authorized by Congress, 29 Apr 1816. Designed by William Doughty. Highly successful vessels. *Alabama*, *New York*, *Vermont*, and *Virginia* were completed ready for launch and kept in reserve until needed; *Vermont* and *New Hampshire* (ex-*Alabama*) eventually used only as storeships.

### Service records:

*Alabama*: Renamed *New Hampshire*, 28 Oct 1863. Launched as store ship. Renamed *Granite State*, 30 Nov 1904. Sold 1921.

*Delaware*: Mediterranean Sqn 1828–30 (flagship). Laid up 1830–33. Recomm 15 Jul 1833. Mediterranean Sqn 1833–36 (flagship). Laid up 1836–41. Brazil Station 1841–43 (flagship). Mediterranean 1843–44. Laid up 1844–61. Burned at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.



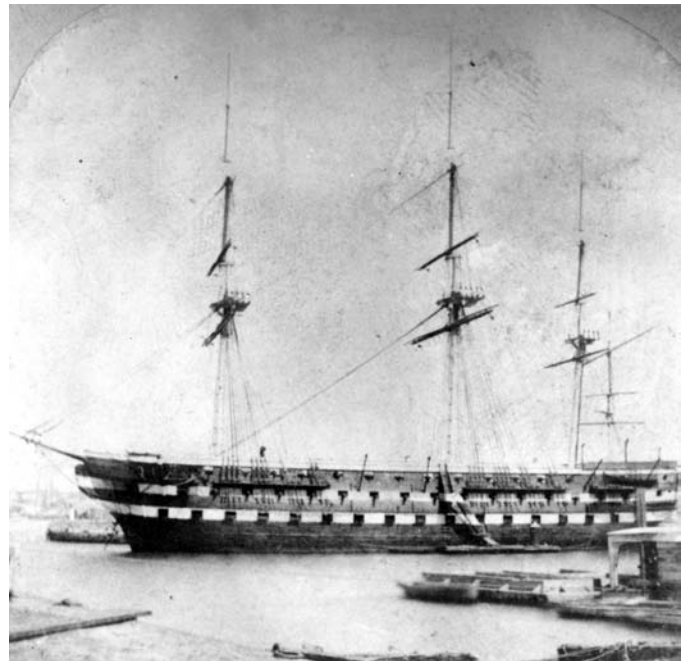
**Fig 3.6:** The ship-of-the-line *Delaware*, 74, as she appeared in 1833 en route to Europe. Painting by A. Roux. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

*New York*: Burned on stocks at Norfolk NYd, 21 Apr 1861.

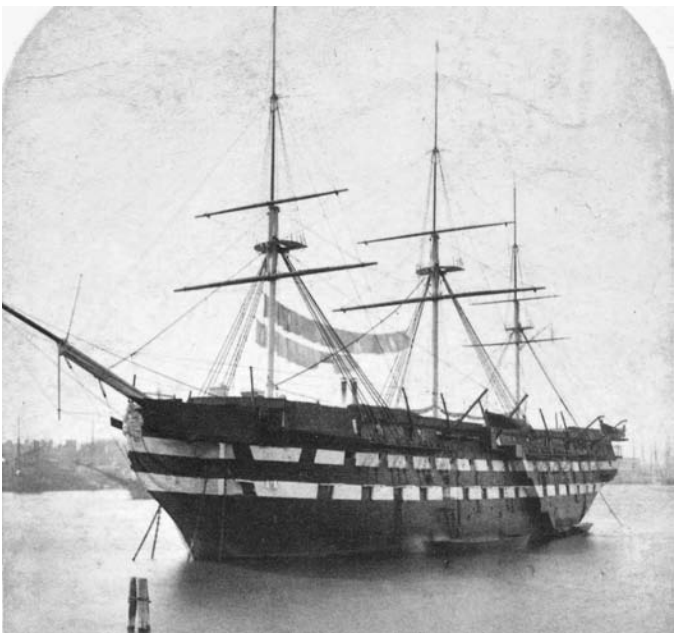
*North Carolina*: Completed by Norfolk NYd. Mediterranean Sqn 1825–27 (flagship). In ordinary 1827–36. South America 1837–39 (flagship). Receiving ship, New York, 1840–66. Sold 1 Oct 1867.

*Vermont*: Ready for launching 1825, launched to clear slip in 1848. Comm. as store and receiving ship. Sold 17 Apr 1902.

*Virginia*: Ready for launching 1825, never launched. BU on stocks 1874.



**Fig 3.7:** The ship-of-the-line *North Carolina*, completed in 1825, as receiving ship in New York during the 1860s. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 3.8:** The ship-of-the-line *Ohio* as receiving ship at Boston during the 1870s.

**Ohio**

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Ohio</i>	New York NYd	Nov 1817	30 May 1820	16 Oct 1838
Rate	74 guns			
Dimensions	197'2" (bp) × 53'10" × 26'6"			
Tonnage	2,757 tons			
Complement	820			
Battery	32-42 pdr, 34-32 pdr, 24-42 pdr crde; (1846) 12-8", 78-32 pdr; (1847) 12-8", 28-42 pdr, 44-32 pdr; (1850) 12-8", 72-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Henry Eckford. Good sea boat; fast. Considered one of finest 74s in the world. Carried guns high. Laid up unfinished 1820–36. Figurehead: Hercules.

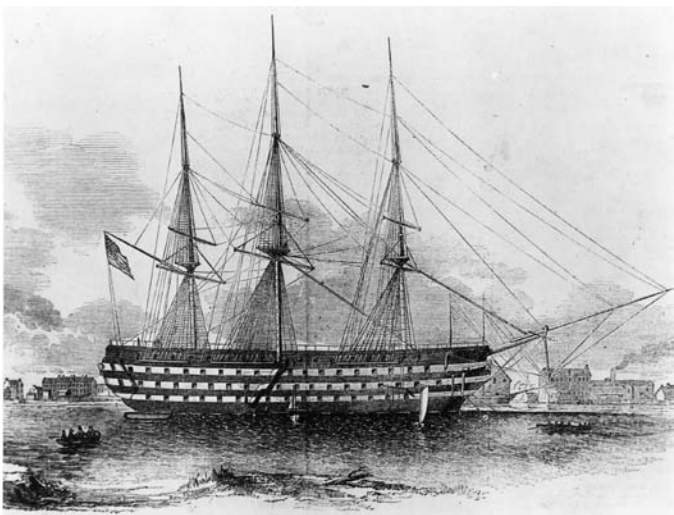
**Service record:** Mediterranean Sqn 1838–40 (flagship). Receiving ship, 1842–46. Mexico 1847. Pacific Squadron, 1847–50 (flagship). Receiving ship, Boston, 1851–75. Sold 27 Sep 1883.

**Pennsylvania**

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Philadelphia NYd	Sep 1821	18 Jul 1837	1841
Rate	120 guns			
Dimensions	210' (bp) × 56'9" × d24'3"			
Tonnage	3,241 tons			
Complement	1,100			
Battery	16-8", 90- to 104-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Largest sailing warship built for U.S. Navy with four complete gun decks and no poop. Designed by Samuel Humphreys. Probably most powerful vessel in world when completed. A powerful ship of enormous displacement without grace. Poor reputation as a sailer, although design was revised to improve sailing qualities. With huge complement, the enormous cost of manning her made her expensive to operate and she saw little service.

**Service record:** Receiving ship, Norfolk, 1842. No active service. Burned to prevent capture at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.



**Fig 3.9:** The ship-of-the-line *Pennsylvania*, 120, the largest sailing ship built for the Navy, as she appeared in 1853 off the Norfolk Navy Yard. She saw little service because of her huge size. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**FRIGATES**

**United States Class**

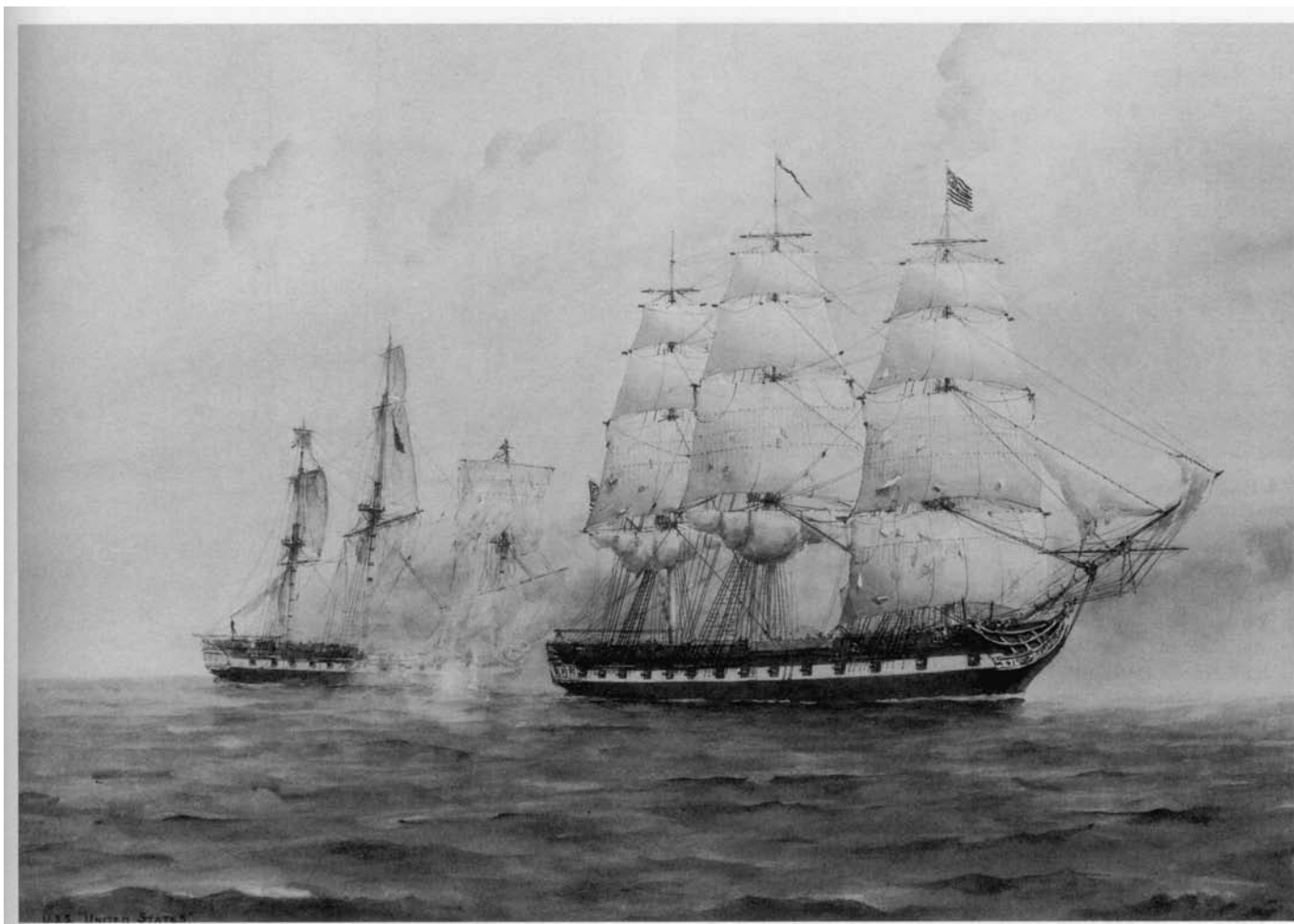
Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Constitution</i>	Boston (G. Claghorne)	1796	21 Oct 1797	Jul 1798
<i>President</i>	New York (Wm. Doughty & C. Bergh)	(U)	10 Apr 1800	Jul 1800
<i>United States</i>	Philadelphia (J. Humphreys)	1796	10 May 1797	11 Jul 1797
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	175' (bp) 157'10" (keel) × 43'6" × 23', d14'3" dpth			
Tonnage	1,576 tons			
Complement	467/480			
Battery	<i>United States:</i> 364 <i>Constitution:</i> 30-24 pdr, 22-12 pdr; (1804) 30-24 pdr, 14-12 pdr, 8-32 pdr crde; (1812) 30-24 pdr, 24-32 pdr crde, 1-18 pdr; (1814) 31-24 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde; (1840) 32-24 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde; (1848) 4-8", 46-32 pdr <i>President:</i> (1813) 32-24 pdr, 22-42 pdr crde, 1-18 pdr <i>United States:</i> 30-24 pdr, 14-12 pdr; (1812) 32-long 24 pdr, 24-42 pdr crde; (1841) 32-32 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde; (1848) 4-8", 42-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized by Congress, 27 Mar 1794. Designed by Joshua Humphreys. Fast weatherly and good sea boats, extremely heavily armed and strongly built. Approximated the size of contemporary 74s. The largest frigates built to this date, having an extraordinary rig with skysails on all masts. Construction delayed because of alterations in plans. Work on *President* stopped in 1796 but resumed in 1798; as completed by Christian Bergh, she was slightly heavier than the others. Figureheads: *Constitution*, Hercules with club raised, Andrew Jackson (1834); *President*, George Washington; *United States*, the goddess of Liberty.

**Service records:**

*Constitution:* Patrolled off U.S. coast, then Santo Domingo 1798–99. Mediterranean (under Preble) 1803–07. Attacks on forts at Tripoli,

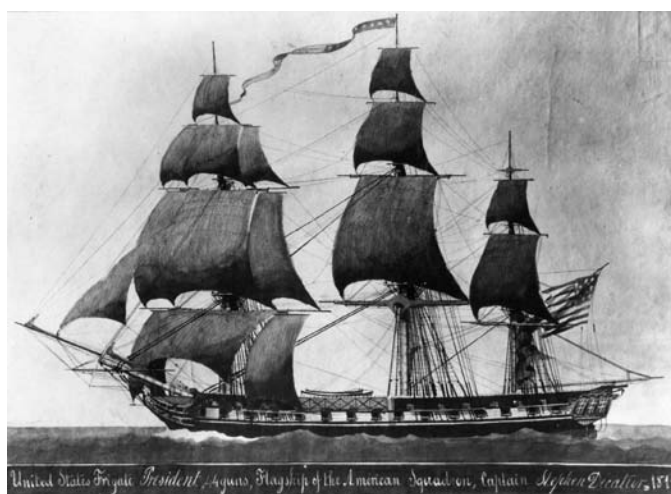




**Fig 3.10:** The frigate *United States* capturing HMS *Macedonian*, 25 October 1812. Painting by E. Tufnell. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Norman Polmar Collection)

Aug–Sep 1804. In collision with *United States*, 12 Sep 1804. N. Atlantic Sqn 1809–12 (flagship). Action with British Sqn (*Africa*, 64, *Shannon*, 38, *Guerriere*, 38, *Belvidera*, 36, and *Aeolus*, 32), evaded enemy while becalmed by rowing and kedging for two days, 17–20 Jul 1812. Took HMS *Guerriere*, 38 (burned) in action off Gulf of St. Lawrence (7 killed), 19 Aug 1812. Took HMS *Java*, 38 (burned), in action off Brazil (9 killed), 29 Dec 1812. Destroyed schr HMS *Pictou*, 14, off Barbados, 15 Feb 1814. Took HMS *Cyane*, 20, and *Levant*, 18, in action off Madeira, 20 Feb 1815; latter was recaptured, 11 Mar 1815 (3 killed). Laid up 1815–21. Mediterranean Sqn (flagship of Jacob Jones) 1821–28. Rebuilt 1833; recomm 1835. Mediterranean Sqn 1835–38 (flagship). South Pacific Sqn 1839–41 (flagship). Home Sqn 1842–43 (flagship). Circumnavigated the world (under Percival) 1844–46. Mediterranean Sqn 1848–51 (flagship). Anti-slavery patrol off Africa, 1852–55. Laid up 1855–60. Training ship, USNA, 1860; moved USNA to Newport, RI. Rebuilt at Philadelphia, 1871. Receiving ship, Portsmouth, NH, 1884. Decomm 1897. Saved from demolition by public subscription, 1905. Bore name *Old Constitution*, 1 Dec 1917–24 Jul 1925. Recomm 1 Jul 1931. Made tour of 90 U.S. ports 1931–34. Returned to Boston as museum ship, 1934.

**Ships captured:** Privateer *Niger*, 24, 8 Sep 1798; French schr *Spencer* (or *Spender*), 16 Jan 1799; schr *Neutrality*, 27 Mar 1799; French *Carteret*, 3 Apr 1799; *Amelia*, 15 Sep 1799; *Swift*, 1 Feb 1800; privateer *Ester*, brig *Nymph*, 8 May 1800; sloop *Sally*, 9 May 1800; ship *Sandwich* (LoFM), 10



**Fig 3.11:** U.S. Frigate *President*, 44, as she appeared when captured in 1815. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)





**Fig 3.12:** The U.S. Frigate *Constitution* during the 1930s after being restored to her original appearance.

May 1800; two polacres, 11 Sep 1804; three xebecs, 24 Apr 1805; *Golconda*, *Rose*, 10 Aug 1810; brig *Lady Warren* (burned) off Cape Race, 10 Aug 1812; brig *Adeona*, 11 Aug 1812; bark *Harriet* (burned), brig *Adeline*, 15 Aug 1812; brig *South Carolina*, 9 Nov 1812; ship *Lovely Ann*, 14 Feb 1814; schr *Phoenix* (burned), 17 Feb 1814; brig *Catherine* (burned), 19 Feb 1814; brig *Lord Nelson* (scuttled) east of Bermuda, 24 Dec 1814; ship *Susannah*, off Lisbon, 18 Feb 1815; slaver schr *N.H. Gambrill*, off Africa, 3 Nov 1853.

*President*: Mediterranean Sqn 1801–02 (flagship of Dale). Mediterranean Sqn 1803–05 (flagship of Barron). Actions against Tripoli, 1804. East coast of U.S., 1809–12. Controversial action with HMS *Little Belt*, 22, off Cape Henry, 16 May 1811. Action with HMS *Belvidera*, 36, off New York (3 killed), 23 Jun 1812. Took schooner HMS *Highflyer*, 5, in Atlantic, 23 Sep 1813. Captured off New York under Decatur by British squadron (*Endymion*, 40, *Majestic*, 58, *Pomone*, and *Tenedos*, 38) after running fight of six hours; surrendered to *Majestic* razee (24 killed), 15 Jan 1815.

**Ships captured:** One xebec off Tripoli, 1 Oct 1804; brig *Traveller* (burned), 2 Jul 1812; brig *Duchess of Portland* (burned), 4 Jul 1812; *John of Lancaster*, 16, 24 Jul 1812; brig *Argo*, 10, 12 Aug 1812; schr *Adeline*, 17 Aug 1812; schr *Betsy* (prize), 25 Aug 1812; packet *Swallow*, 12, near Grand Banks, 17 Oct 1812; brig *Kitty 2*, packet brig *Duke of Montrose*, 12, brig *Maria*, 14 (LofM), schr *Falcon*, 2, north of Azores, 9–12 Jun 1813; brig *Jean and Ann* (burned), 12 Jul 1813; brig *Daphne* (sunk), Irish Channel, 18 Jul 1813; ship *Eliza Swan*, 24 Jul 1813; brig *Alert* (burned), 29 Jul 1813; bark *Lion*, 2 Aug 1813; *Shannon* (recaptured), 30 Aug 1813; brig *Fly* (recaptured), 9 Sep 1813; schr *Comet* (prize), off New York, 5 Dec 1813; ship *Wanderer*, 7, *Edward*, 6, schr *Jonathan* (sunk), off Barbados, 5–9 Jan 1814.

**Later history:** HMS *President*, 60, 4th rate. BU Jun 1818.

*United States*: West Indies under Barry 1799. Decomm 6 Jun 1801. Laid up 1801–10. Under Decatur took HMS *Macedonian* (later USS *Macedonian*), 38, in action south of Azores (6 dead), 25 Oct 1812. Blockaded in New London, Conn., 1813–15. Mediterranean 1815–19. Laid up 1819–24. Pacific Sqn 1824–27. Modernized 1830–32. Mediterranean 1833–38. Home Sqn 1839–40. Pacific Sqn 1842–44 (flagship). Under Commo. Thomas Jones seized Monterey, Calif., in error, 21 Oct 1842. Africa and Mediterranean 1846–48. Decomm 24 Feb 1849. Sunk at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861. Comm in CSN as CSS *Confederate States*. BU 1865.

**Ships captured:** French privateer *Sans Pareil*, 16, 22 Aug 1798; French privateer *Jalousie*, 14, 4 Sep 1798; sank privateer *Amour de la Patrie*, 6, off Martinique, 3 Feb 1799; British ship *Cicero* (LofM), 26 Feb 1799; *La Tartuffe* (LofM) and prize *Vermont*, *Le Bonaparte* (LofM), 26 Mar 1799; ship *Mandarin*, 11 Oct 1812.

## Constellation Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Congress</i>	Portsmouth NH (Jas. Hackett)	1796	15 Aug 1799	Dec 1799
<i>Constellation</i>	Baltimore Md (D. Stodder)	1796	7 Sep 1797	Spring 1798
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Congress</i> : 163'3" (bp) × 41'6" × d14'3" <i>Constellation</i> : 164' (bp) × 40'6" × d13'6"; (1812) beam 42'2"			
Tonnage	1,268 tons			
Complement	340			
Battery	<i>Congress</i> : 28-18 pdr, 12-9 pdr; (1800) 24-18 pdr, 12-12 pdr; (1812) 24-18 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde <i>Constellation</i> : 28-24 pdr, 10-12 pdr; (1799) 28-24 pdr, 10-24 pdr crde; (1812) 2-32 pdr, 24-18 pdr, 18-32 pdr crde; (1815) 2-32 pdr, 28-18 pdr, 18-32 pdr crde; (1840) 16-32 pdr, 30-18 pdr; (1850) 6-8", 32-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Probably designed by Joshua Humphreys. Authorized 27 Mar 1794. Construction of *Congress* ceased from 1796 to 1798. Original armament too heavy for displacement. *Constellation* beam increased during rebuilding in 1812. Classified as second-class frigates after 1815. Plan to convert *Constellation* to screw sloop in 1845 not carried out. Figureheads: *Congress*: unknown; *Constellation*: a female head representing nature.

### Service records:

*Congress*: Under command of Sever, sailed for East Indies with *Essex* in Dec 1799; but, totally dismasted in gale, was obliged to return. West Indies 1800–01. Laid up 1801–04. Mediterranean (under John Rodgers and Decatur) 1804–05. Laid up 1805–11. Repaired and lengthened, 1811. Made three cruises, 1812–14. Europe 1815. West Indies 1816–17. Brazil 1818. East Indies (under Henley) 1818–21. First U.S. warship to visit China, Dec 1820. Last cruise, special service to Spain and West Indies 1822–24. Laid up 1824. BU at Norfolk 1836.

**Ships captured:** Brig *Experiment* (recaptured), 29 Aug 1800; two prize ships off Tripoli, 24 Apr 1805; ship *Argo*, 10, 1 Nov 1812; brig *Jean* (burned), 19 May 1813; *Diana*, 22 May 1813; ship *Rose*, burned off Brazil, 25 Oct 1813; brig *Atlantic*, North Atlantic, 5 Dec 1813.

*Constellation*: Under Truxtun, captured French *L'Insurgente*, 40, in action off Nevis (2 killed), 9 Feb 1799. Action with French *La Vengeance*, 52, off Guadeloupe (14 killed), 2 Feb 1800. Went aground in ebb tide in Delaware Bay, 10 Apr 1801. Mediterranean 1802–05. Action with nine gunboats off Tripoli, sinking two, 22 Jul 1802. Laid up 1805–12. Rebuilt 1812–13. Action with ship *Mashouda*, 46, and brig *Esledio*, 22, off Cape de Gatt, Spain, 17–19 Jun 1815. Brazil Station 1819–20 (flagship). Pacific Sqn 1820–22. West Indies 1827 (flagship). Mediterranean 1829–34. Gulf of Mexico, Seminole war, 1835–38. Far East, 1841–43. Laid up 1845–53. BU 1854.



**Fig 3.13:** The frigate *Constellation* as she appeared during the War of 1812. Painting by J. W. Schmidt. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Norman Polmar Collection)



**Fig 3.14:** Spar and sail plan of the frigate *Congress* of 1799. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 3.15:** The frigate *Constellation*, 36, depicted leaving Annapolis harbor, 3 January 1813. Painting by Donald Stewart. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Ships captured:** Privateers *La Diligente*, *L'Union*, Feb 1799; schr *Charming Betsey* (prize), off Guadeloupe, Jul 1800; one xebec off Tripoli, 10 Sep 1804.

## Algerian Tribute Ships

Four vessels were built by the U.S. in 1797 as tribute for the dey of Algiers:

- Frigate *Crescent*, 32, designed by Josiah Fox and launched 29 Jun 1797 by Josiah Hackett at Portsmouth, NH. Dimensions: 122' (deck) × 32' × d10'2"
- Brig *Hassan Bashaw*, 22, built 1797 by Samuel Humphreys at Philadelphia. Dimensions: 93'2" (bp) × 27' × 11'6"; 287 tons
- Schooner *Skjoldebrand*, 20, designed by Benjamin Hutton Jr., built at Philadelphia. Dimensions: 77'6" (bp) × 23' × 10'6"
- Schooner *Lelah Eisha*, 18, designed by Samuel Bowers.

## Chesapeake

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Chesapeake</i>	Norfolk NYd	10 Dec 1798	2 Dec 1799	May 1800
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	152'6" (bp) × 40'11" × 13'9"			
Tonnage	1,244 tons			
Complement	340			
Battery	30-18 pdr, 12-32pdr crde; (1813) 28-18pdr, 20-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Authorized 17 Mar 1794. Originally ordered as 44 guns. Designed by Josiah Fox.

**Service record:** U.S. southern coast (under Barron) 1800–01. Mediterranean Sqn 1802–03 (flagship). Laid up 1803–07. Attacked and damaged by HMS *Leopard*, 50, off U.S. coast during search for deserters (3 killed, 5 seamen impressed), 22 Jun 1807. West Indies 1812–13. Captured off Boston by HMS *Shannon*, 38 (165 casualties, including the captain, Lawrence, who uttered the famous "Don't give up the ship"), 1 Jun 1813.

**Ships captured:** French privateer *La Jeune Creole*, off Barbuda, 1 Jan 1801; ship *Volunteer*, 12 Jan 1813; brig *Liverpool Hero* (burned), 14 Jan 1813; brig *Julia*, 1 Feb 1813; brig *Earl Percy*, run ashore on Long Island, 5 Feb 1813; schr *Valeria* (or *Nystead*), 7 Apr 1813; schr *Ellen*, Apr 1813.

**Later history:** HMS *Chesapeake*. Sold 18 Aug 1819.

## Ganges

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ganges</i>	Philadelphia (Penrose)	1794	3 May 1798	24 May 1798
ex- <i>Ganges</i> (merchant)				
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	116'4" × 31'4" × 15'8"			
Tonnage	504 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	26-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Ex-Indiaman (merchant). First man-of-war out to sea of the "New Navy."

**Service record:** Patrolled off east coast 1798. Damaged in storm near St. Kitts, Feb 1801. Found "unfit" and sold before Dec 1801.

**Ships captured:** Privateer *La Vainqueur*, 16 Jun 1799; *Eliza*, Jul 1799; *La Rabateuse* (LoFM), 5 Aug 1799; schr *John* (American), 16 Aug 1799; unidentified LoFM, 20 Aug 1799; *L'Eugène*, Sep 1799; *L'Esperance* (ex-American *Laurel*), 2 Oct 1799; schr *Prudent*, 19 Jul 1800; recaptured brigantine *Dispatch*, 20 Jul 1800; schr *Phoebe*, 21 Jul 1800; French privateer *La Fortune*, *Louise*, 18 Jul 1800.

## Philadelphia

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Philadelphia</i>	Philadelphia	14 Nov 1798	28 Nov 1799	5 Apr 1800
ex- <i>City of Philadelphia</i>	(Humphreys, Hutton & Delavue)			
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	157' (bp) 130' (keel) × 39' × 13'6"			
Tonnage	1,240			
Complement	307			
Battery	28-18 pdr, 10-9 pdr; (1803) 28-18 pdr, 16-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Built by public subscription. Designed by Josiah Fox, built by Samuel Humphreys, Nathaniel Hutton, and John Delavue. Fast and well built.



**Fig 3.16:** The frigate *Chesapeake* under sail. It was during her last fight that her captain, James Lawrence, mortally wounded, said, “Don’t give up the ship!” Painting by F. Muller. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 3.17:** USS *Philadelphia*, 36, captured by Berbers after running aground off Tripoli in October 1803. Sketch by Fred S. Cozzens. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Designed as 44 guns; rerated during construction. Figurehead: Hercules slaying the Hydra.

**Service record:** West Indies (under Decatur), 1800–01. Mediterranean (under Barron), 1801–02, 1802–03. Captured Berber ship *Mirboka*, 22, near Cape de Gatt, Spain, 26 Aug 1803. Ran aground on uncharted reef off Tripoli and captured; captain Bainbridge and crew taken prisoner, 31 Oct 1803. Boarded and burned by U.S. detachment under Decatur in Tripoli harbor, 16 Feb 1804.

**Ships captured:** *La Levrette*, *L’Union*, *La Magdalen*, *La Guerre*, *L’Amphitrite*. 1801.

### New York

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>New York</i>	New York (Peck & Carpenter)	Aug 1798	24 Apr 1800	Oct 1800
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	144’2” (bp) × 37’ × 11’9”			
Tonnage	1,130 tons			
Complement	340			
Battery	26-18 pdr, 14-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Humphreys. Built by public subscription. Beautiful and well-built vessel.

**Service record:** West Indies 1800–01. Mediterranean 1802–03. Damaged by powder explosion off Malta (4 killed), 25 Apr 1803. Returned to U.S. and was laid up 1803. Unfit for sea, 1812, sheer hulk at Washington, burned to prevent capture, 24 Aug 1814.

### Boston

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Boston</i>	Boston (Edmund Hartt)	22 Aug 1798	20 May 1799	Jun 1799
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	136’6” (deck) 134’ (bp) × 34’6” × 11’6”			
Tonnage	400 tons			

Complement 220  
Battery (1801) 24-12pdr, 12-9 pdr

**Notes:** Designed by Edmund Hartt. First vessel in Navy with a copper bottom. Well built, very fast.

**Service record:** Cruised in West Indies, Jul 1799–Jun 1800. One of Talbot’s squadron under Little, 1800. Action with Picaroons off St. Marks, West Indies, 28 Mar 1800. Captured French *Berceau*, 24, northeast of Guadeloupe (4 killed), 12 Oct 1800. Mediterranean 1801–02. Action with seven Tripolitanian gunboats, 16 May 1802. Unworthy of repair in 1812. Burned to prevent capture at Washington, 24 Aug 1812.

**Ships captured:** (With *Norfolk* and *General Greene*) schr *Flying Fish*, 1 Dec 1799; *Les Deux Anges*, 20, *La Fortune*, *L’Heureux*, 1800. (With *Norfolk*) *La Gourde*, *Pelican*. (With *Augusta*) *L’Espoir*. 24 Jun 1800.

General Greene

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>General Greene</i>	Warren, RI	1798	21 Jan 1799	Jun 1799
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	139’ (bp) 124’3” (deck) × 34’8” × 17’4”			
Tonnage	654 tons			
Complement	250			
Battery	24-12 pdr, 8-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Probably designed by Benjamin Talman. Authorized 1798.

**Service record:** Damaged in storm, Jul 1799; returned to Newport with yellow fever (20 dead). San Domingo Station, Oct 1799–Jul 1800. Under command of C.R. Perry, attached to Talbot’s Squadron in West Indies 1800; supported Toussaint in Haiti. Laid up 1801. Sheer hulk at Washington in 1805. Hulk burned at Washington, 24 Aug 1814.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Flying Fish* (with *Boston* and *Norfolk*) and American schr *Weymouth*, 1 Dec 1799; *L’Industrie*, one Danish brig, 1800.

John Adams

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>John Adams</i>	Charleston, SC (Pritchard)	(U)	5 Jun 1799	Sep 1799
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	139’ (bp) 127’9” (gun deck) × 33’3” × 16’10”			
Tonnage	544 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	24-12 pdr, 2-9 pdr, 6-24 pdr crde; (1804) 24-12 pdr, 8-24 pdr crde; (1820) 4-18 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Josiah Fox. Built by public subscription. Stuck on the ways on first attempt at launch.

**Service record:** Cruise in West Indies in sqns of Truxton and Decatur, 1799 and 1800. Mediterranean (under J. Rodgers and Chauncey), 1802–05. Action near Tripoli with Berber *Mishouda*, 22, which blew up, 22 Jun 1803. Attacks on Tripoli, Aug 1803–04. Brought Preble home 1805. In ordinary 1805–12. Laid up until 1814. Europe 1814. Mediterranean 1815–16. U.S. coast and West Indies in 1817 and 1818. Obtained surrender of pirates on Amelia Island, Fla., 22 Dec 1817. South America (under O.H. Perry and Claxton), 1818–19. Brazil 1820. West Indies 1821–29; operations against pirates. BU at Norfolk, 1829.

**Ships captured:** Brig *Dolphin*, Jan 1800; recaptured brig *Hannibal*, 22 Mar 1800; recaptured brig *Atlantic*, 23 Mar 1800; French privateer *La Jason*, 8, 3 Apr 1800; recaptured schrs *Dispatch* and *William*, May 1800; recaptured brig *Olive*, spring 1800; schr *Decade*, 13 Jun 1800.

Adams

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Adams</i>	New York	30 Jul 1798	8 Jun 1799	Sep 1799
Rate	28 guns			
Dimensions	113’ (bp) × 34 × 10’9”			
Tonnage	530 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	24-12 pdr, 4-9 pdr; (1812 as sloop) 1-12 pdr, 26-18 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by William Sheffield. Fast, with deep draft. Rebuilt as sloop, flush-deck corvette, 1812. Cut in half and lengthened 15’; new design by Josiah Fox.

**Service record:** Cruise in West Indies in sqns of Truxton and Decatur 1799 and 1800. Ordered laid up, 23 Mar 1801. Mediterranean 1802–03. Returned Nov 1803 and cruised east U.S. coast, 1805–06. Laid up in Washington, 1806. Receiving ship, Washington, Aug 1811. Rebuilt 1812; launched 24 Dec 1812. Blockaded in Chesapeake Bay until Jan 1814. Damaged by grounding on Haute Island, 17 Aug 1814; refloated and reached Hampden, Maine. Burned to prevent capture in Penobscot River at Camden, Maine, 3 Sep 1814.

**Ships captured:** Recaptured brig *Zylpha*, Oct 1799. (With *Insurgent*) captured a 4-gun privateer, Oct 1799; recaptured British brig *Margaret*, 14, 12 Nov 1799; privateer *La Douze Vendémiaire*, 15 Nov 1799. (With *Eagle*) French schr *La Fouguese*, 10 Jan 1800; recaptured schr *Alphia*, Jan 1800; French schrs *L’Heureuse Rencontre*, *Isabella*, Feb 1800; recaptured sloop *Nonpareil*, Mar 1800; recaptured schr *Priscilla*, Apr 1800; unidentified schr and (with *Insurgent*) schr *Nancy*, *Grinder*, and unidentified brig, brig *Dove*, schr *Renommée*, May 1800; recaptured British schr *Grendin*, late in 1800; *General Massena*, 6, *Flambeau*, 4, also in 1800; schr *Prince Regent* (burned), in North Atlantic, 29 Jan 1814; schr *Industry* (burned), 9 Feb 1814; sloop *Nayntine Fairy* off Africa, 4 Mar 1814; brig *Roebuck* off Africa, 11 Mar 1814; ship *Woodbridge* (escaped), 25 Mar 1814; brig *Hunter* (destroyed), 24 Jun 1814; brig *Mary* (destroyed), 28 Jun 1814; schr *Favorite* (destroyed) off England, 28 Jul 1814; ship *Paris* (destroyed), off Ireland, 7 Aug 1814; schr *Maria* (destroyed), 16 Aug 1814.

Portsmouth

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Portsmouth</i>	Portsmouth, NH (J.K. Hackett)	1798	11 Oct 1798	1798
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	593 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	(U)			

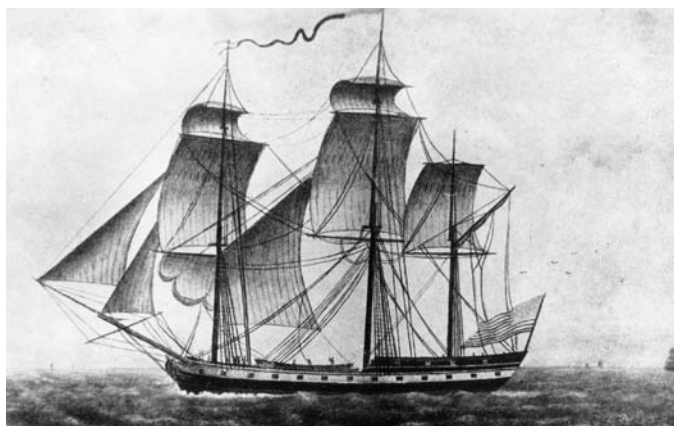
**Notes:** Designed by Josiah Fox.

**Service record:** Cruised in West Indies 1798–09, sent to France for U.S. Minister 1800. Sold 1801.

**Ship captured:** *Le Fripon*, 6, 1799.

Merrimack

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Merrimack</i>	Newburyport, Mass. (Cross & Clark)	9 Jul 1798	12 Oct 1798	Dec 1798
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	460 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	20-9 pdr, 8-6pdr			



**Fig 3.18:** The small frigate *Merrimack*, 24, was built by public subscription in 1804. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Notes:** Ship. Built by public subscription and presented to the Navy. Reputed to be the best of the small frigates.

**Service record:** West Indies in sqns of Barry and Decatur, 1799–1801. Captured *Magicienne* (ex-USS *Retaliation*), 28 Jun 1799. Sold 1801.

**Ships captured:** schr *La Bonaparte* (LofM), 7 Aug 1799. (With *Ganges* and *Pickering*) recaptured schr *John*, 15 Aug 1799; recaptured brig *Ceres*, 6 Jun 1800; French privateer *Phénix*, 14, 20 Oct 1800; schr *Brillante*, later in 1800.

**Later history:** Merchant *Monticello*. Lost off Cape Cod.

## Connecticut

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Connecticut</i>	Middletown, Conn. (Overton)	1798	6 Jun 1799	Oct 1799
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(projected) 93' × 31' × 13'6"			
Tonnage	492 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	24-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Hull leaked and she sank soon after launching, delaying completion. Reputed to be very fast.

**Service record:** West Indies with sqns of Truxton and Decatur, 1799–1800. Sold at New York 1801.

**Ships captured:** *La Conquête*, 29 Oct 1799; *Le Piège*, 12, *L'Unité*, 2, *Le Chou Chou*, 1800.

## Trumbull

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Trumbull</i>	Norwich, Conn.	1799	1799	Mar 1800
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	400 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	18-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Built by public subscription.

**Service record:** West Indies, 1800–01. Sold, Summer 1801.

**Ships captured:** schr *Peggie*, May 1800; *La Vengeance*, 10, with refugees from Haiti, 3 Aug 1800; *La Tulipe* (or *Cullie*), 4 Aug 1800.

## Warren

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Warren</i>	Newburyport, Mass. (Webster)	(U)	26 Sep 1799	Nov 1799
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	385 tons			
Complement	160			
Battery	(U)			

**Service record:** West Indies 1800–01. Sold 1801.

## Essex

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Essex</i>	Salem, Mass. (Enos Briggs)	13 Apr 1799	30 Sep 1799	17 Dec 1799
Rate	32 guns			
Dimensions	141'9" (bp) 118' (keel) × 37' × d12'3"			
Tonnage	850 tons			
Complement	300			
Battery	26-12 pdr, 10-6 pdr; (1810) 6-12 pdr, 40-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by William Hackett. Built by public subscription. Large and fast. Rearmed 1810 with carronades which hampered her sailing qualities and reduced effectiveness. First U.S. vessel of war to double Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn, former in 1800 under Preble; latter in 1813 under Porter.

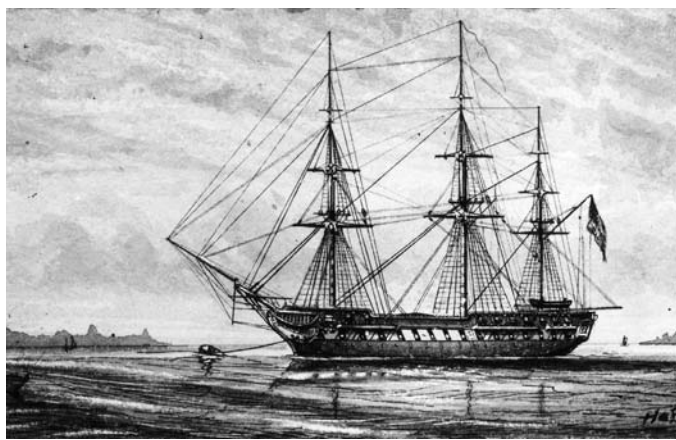
**Service record:** Convoyed merchant ships, doubled Cape of Good Hope twice 1800. Cruised in Mediterranean (under J. Barron, Bainbridge, Decatur, Stewart, Cox, and Campbell), 1802–05. Laid up 1805–09. Europe (under J. Smith), 1810; one of Rodgers's Sqn on the coast 1811. Took sloop HMS *Alert*, 18, in action in Atlantic, 13 Aug 1812. South Atlantic, then west coast of South America (under Porter), 1812–13. Captured off Valparaiso, Chile, by HMS *Phoebe*, 36, and *Cherub*, 18, after a desperate resistance of 2.5 hours and 154 casualties (89 killed), 28 Mar 1814.

**Ships captured:** Brig *Samuel & Sarah*, near Bermuda, 11 Jul 1812; brig *Lamprey*, 13 Jul 1812; brig *Leander*, 5, off Newfoundland, 26 Jul 1812; brig *Hero*,



**Fig 3.19:** The frigate *Essex*, 32, made a historic cruise off the Pacific coast of South America under David Porter. She was the first U.S. warship to double both the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn. Painting by E. Tufnell. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)





**Fig 3.20:** The frigate *Essex* during the War of 1812. Drawing by Capt. William Bainbridge Hoff. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

8 (burned) and ship *Nancy*, 11, off Newfoundland, 2 Aug 1812; brig *Brothers*, 10, 3 Aug 1812; brig *King George*, 10, 8 Aug 1812; brig *Mary*, 9 (burned), 9 Aug 1812; packet brig *Nocton* (or *Noctor*) (recaptured), off Brazil, 12 Dec 1812; schr (Peruvian cruiser) *Nereyda*, 15, off Coquimbo, Chile, 26 Mar 1813; whaler *Barclay* (prize), 5 Apr 1813; whaler *Montezuma*, 2, *Policy*, 10, *Georgiana*, 6 (recaptured), 29 Apr 1813; whalers *Atlantic* (later USS *Essex Jr.*), 8, *Greenwich* (later USS *Greenwich*), 10, *Catharine*, 8, (burned), *Rose*, 8, *Hector*, 11 (burned), in Pacific, 28 May 1813; whalers *Charlton*, *Seringapatam* (recaptured), *New Zealander* (recaptured 2 Apr 1814), 13 Jul 1813; whaler *Sir Andrew Hammond*, 12 (recaptured 19 Jun), 13 Sep 1813.

**Later history:** HMS *Essex*, 42, 5th rate. Convict ship 1823. Sold 6 Jul 1837.

## George Washington

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>George Washington</i>	Providence, RI	1793	12 Oct 1798	20 Dec 1798
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	108' (keel) × 32'6" × 15'8"			
Tonnage	624 tons			
Complement	220			
Battery	24-9 pdr, 8-6 pdr; (1801) 15-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased merchant vessel.

**Service record:** West Indies 1798–99. Carried tribute to Algiers, Aug 1800, then forced by the dey to take Algerian tribute to Constantinople. Sold at Philadelphia, May 1802.

**Ships captured:** Retook brig *Fair American*, 29 Apr 1799; 1 May, schr *Francis*, 1 May 1799; schr *Francis* (prize retaken), 5 May 1800.

## Baltimore

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Baltimore</i> <i>ex-Adriana</i>	Baltimore, Md. (Joseph Caverly)	1798	23 May 1798	1798
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	103'9" (bp) × 30'8"			
Tonnage	422 tons			
Complement	180			
Battery	18-9 pdr, 6-4 pdr; also reported as 20-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased. Reputation as a slow ship. Figurehead: a woman.

**Service record:** Stopped by British Sqn off Havana, 5 men impressed, 16 Nov 1798. Sold 1801.

**Ships captured:** Schr *La Sirène*, *L'Esperance*, 1799; *La Brillante Jeunesse*, 12, *La Laque Joinnolla*, 1800.

## Montezuma

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Montezuma</i>	Virginia	1795	26 Jun 1798	Aug 1798
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	(U) × (U) × 16'			
Tonnage	347 tons			
Complement	180			
Battery	20-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased merchant ship.

**Service record:** West Indies 1798–99. Sold to previous owner, 30 Dec 1799.

**Ships captured:** *L'Ami*, 6, 1799; recaptured brig *Fair American*, 20 Nov 1799; French brig *Les Amis*, 16, off Curacao, 7 Mar 1800.

**Later history:** Merchant until about 1810.

## Delaware

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Delaware</i> <i>ex-Hamburgh</i> (Packet)	Philadelphia, Pa.	1794	5 May 1798	Jun 1798
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	94'9" (gundeck) 72'6" (keel) × 28' × 14'			
Tonnage	321 tons			
Complement	180			
Battery	16-9 pdr, 8-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased.

**Service record:** Cruised in West Indies, one of first cruisers to get to sea, 1798–1801. Took French privateer schooner *Croyable* (later USS *Retaliation*), 14, off Great Egg Harbor, Delaware Capes, 7 Jul 1798. Sold at Baltimore, Jun 1801.

**Ships captured:** (With *United States*) French privateer *Sans Pareil*, 16, 22 Aug 1798; French privateer *Jalouse*, 14, 4 Sep 1798. Schr *Le Marsuin*, *Le Renard*, *L'Océan*, 1799.

## Herald

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Herald</i>	Newburyport, Mass.	1798	15 Jun 1798	Aug 1798
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	92'8" × 26'3" × 13'2"			
Tonnage	279 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	16-6pdr, 6-4pdr			

**Notes:** Ship. Purchased at Boston.

**Service record:** Cruised in West Indies under Russel 1799–1800. Sqns of Barry and Talbot; despatched to recall U.S. forces in West Indies, 23 Mar 1801. Sold 1801.

**Ship captured:** (With *Augusta*) *La Mutine*, 1800.

Insurgent

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Insurgent</i> <i>ex-L'Insurgente</i>	France	1793	1799	Aug 1799
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	148' (bp) × 37'5" × 11'9"			
Tonnage	950 tons			
Complement	340			
Battery	26-18 pdr, 10-12 pdr, 4-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** French frigate, captured off St. Kitts by *Constellation*, 9 Feb 1799.

**Service record:** Europe 1799–1800. Sailed from Hampton Roads, 8 Aug 1800, and was lost at sea with all hands in North Atlantic, perhaps lost in storm in West Indies, 20 Sep 1800.

**Ships captured:** (With *Adams*) captured a 4-gun privateer, Oct 1799; recaptured British brig *Margaret*, 12 Nov 1799; French ship *Le Douze Vendémiaire*, 15 Nov 1799; *Aurora*, *Commerce*, *William and Mary*, 1799–1800.

Macedonian

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Macedonian</i> <i>ex-HMS Macedonian</i>	Woolwich Dockyard, (England)	2 Jun 1810	Dec 1812	Apr 1813
Rate	38 guns			
Dimensions	158' (deck) × 40' × 18'4" (in USN); also reported as 154' × 39'6"			
Tonnage	1,325 tons, 1,082 bm			
Complement	362			
Battery	28-18 pdr, 2-12 pdr, 2-9 pdr, 16-32 pdr crde, 1-18 pdr crde; (1820) 26-18 pdr, 2-9 pdr, 10-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** British fifth rate captured by USS *United States* 500 miles south of Azores, 25 Oct 1812.

**Service record:** Under command of Jacob Jones, blockaded in Thames River, Conn., 1813–15. Mediterranean, 1815–18. Pacific coast of South America 1819–21. Africa Station 1822–26. Lost 103 to yellow fever during 1822 cruise. Pacific 1826–28. BU at Norfolk 1835.

JAVA CLASS

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Essex</i> <i>ex-Columbia</i> (1813)	Washington NYd	1813	never	never—
<i>Guerriere</i> <i>ex-Continental</i> (1813)	Philadelphia NYd	1813	20 Jun 1814	1814
<i>Java</i>	Baltimore, Md. (Flannigan and Parsons)	1813	1 Aug 1814	Aug 1815
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	175' (bp) 145' (keel) × 44'6" × d13'6"			
Tonnage	1,508 tons			
Complement	400			
Battery	<i>Guerriere</i> : (1817) 33-24 pdr, 20-42 pdr crde <i>Java</i> : 33-32 pdr, 20-42 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Authorized 2 Jan 1813. Designed by William Doughty. Deteriorated rapidly because of poorly seasoned timber. Named after prizes.

**Service records:**

*Essex/Columbia*: Burned on stocks after battle of Bladensburg, Aug 1814.

*Guerriere*: Mediterranean (under Decatur), 1814–15. Action with ship *Mashouda*, 44 and brig *Esledio*, 22, off Cape de Gatt, Spain, 17–19 Jun 1815. Laid up 1815–18, then Europe, returned to U.S. in 1820. Training ship, Norfolk, 1820–28. Pacific Sqn 1829–31 (flagship). Decomm 19 Dec 1831. BU 1841.

*Java*: Mediterranean (under O.H. Perry) 1815–17. Lost mast in gale (5 killed), 22 Jan 1816. Laid up 1817–27. Mediterranean 1827–31. Receiving ship, Norfolk, 1831. BU 1842.

Cyane

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Cyane</i> <i>ex-HMS Cyane, ex-Columbine</i>	Topsham, England (Bass)	14 Oct 1806	Apr 1815	1815
Rate	34 guns			
Dimensions	120'4" × 31'6" × 17'3"; also reported as 110' (bp) 90' (keel) × 29' × d8'6"			
Tonnage	540 tons			
Complement	185			
Battery	(1815) 4-9 pdr, 22-32 pdr crde, 9-18 pdr crde, 1-12 pdr crde; (1818) 2-12 pdr, 2-9 pdr, 22-32 pdr crde, 6-18 pdr crde, 2-12 pdr crde			

**Notes:** British sixth rate, 28, captured by *Constitution* in Atlantic off Madeira, 20 Feb 1815. Eckford recommended she be cut down into a flush-decked ship but no funds were available. Rate raised to 34 guns after capture.

**Service record:** Africa Station 1819–20. West Indies 1820–21. Mediterranean 1824–25. Brazil Station 1825–27. Sunk at Philadelphia NYd in winter of 1835. BU 1836.

**Ships captured:** Slaver schrs *Louisa*, *Dasher*, *Eliza*, *Endymion*, *Esperanza*, *Plattsburgh*, *Sciena* off West Africa, 5–12 Apr 1820.

POTOMAC CLASS

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Brandywine</i> <i>ex-Susquehanna</i> (1825)	Washington NYd	Sep 1821	16 Jun 1825	25 Aug 1825
<i>Columbia</i>	Washington NYd	Nov 1825	9 Mar 1836	May 1838
<i>Cumberland</i>	Boston NYd	1825	24 May 1842	Nov 1843
<i>Potomac</i>	Washington NYd	9 Aug 1819	22 Mar 1822	15 Jun 1831
<i>Raritan</i>	Philadelphia NYd	Sep 1820	13 Jun 1843	1 Dec 1843
<i>St. Lawrence</i>	Norfolk NYd	1826	25 Mar 1847	17 Aug 1848
<i>Savannah</i>	New York NYd	Jul 1820	5 May 1842	15 Oct 1843
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	175' (bp) × 45' × d14'5" <i>Brandywine</i> : 22' draft <i>Potomac</i> : 177'10" × 46'2" × 20'6"			
Tonnage	1,726 tons			
Complement	480			
Battery	<i>Brandywine</i> : 30-32 pdr, 24-32 pdr crde; (1840) 4-8", 28-32 pdr, 22-32 pdr crde; (1847) 8-8", 42-32 pdr <i>Columbia</i> : 4-8", 28-32 pdr, 22-42 pdr crde; (1853) 10-8", 40-32 pdr			



*Cumberland*: 4-8", 28-32 pdr, 20-42 pdr crde; (1847) 8-8", 42-32 pdr; (1850) : 10-8", 40 32 pdr; (1856 as razee) 6-8", 16-32 pdr; (1862) 1-10", 22-9", 1-70 pdr MLR

*Potomac*: 4-8", 28-32 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde; (1846) 4-8", 26-32 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde; (1847) 4-8", 42-32 pdr (1850) 8-8", 42-32 pdr; (1855) 10-8", 40-32 pdr; (1861) 10-8", 22-32 pdr

*Raritan*: 4-8", 28-32 pdr, 22-42 pdr crde; (1848) 8-8", 42-32 pdr

*St. Lawrence*: 8-8", 42-32 pdr; (1856) 10-8", 40-32 pdr; (1858) 10-8", 42-42 pdr crde; (1861): 10-8", 40-32 pdr; (1863) 10-8", 34-32 pdr, 2-50 pdr MLR; (1864) 8-9", 2-32 pdr, 1-30 pdr MLR

*Savannah*: 4-8", 28-32 pdr, 22-42 pdr crde; (1850) 8-8", 42-32 pdr; (1853) 10-8", 40-32 pdr; (1857) 2-10", 8-8", 14-32 pdr; (1862) 2-10", 6-8", 12-32 pdr; (1862) 1-11", 2-9", 4-32 pdr

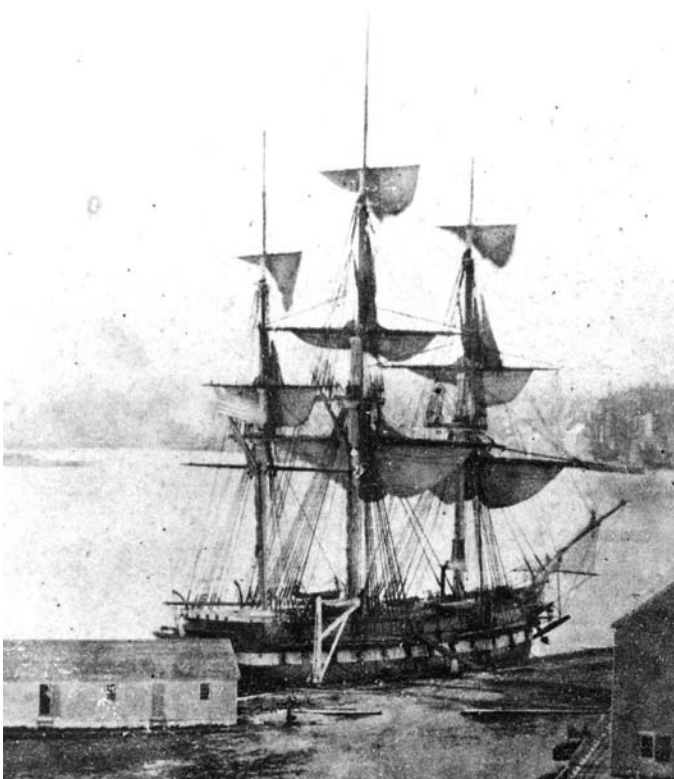
**Notes:** Authorized 29 Apr 1816. Designed by William Doughty, improved *Java* class. Well built, easy to handle graceful ships. Formed the backbone of the Navy during the 1840s and 1850s. *Cumberland* razeeed to corvette in 1850, improving sailing qualities.

**Service records:**

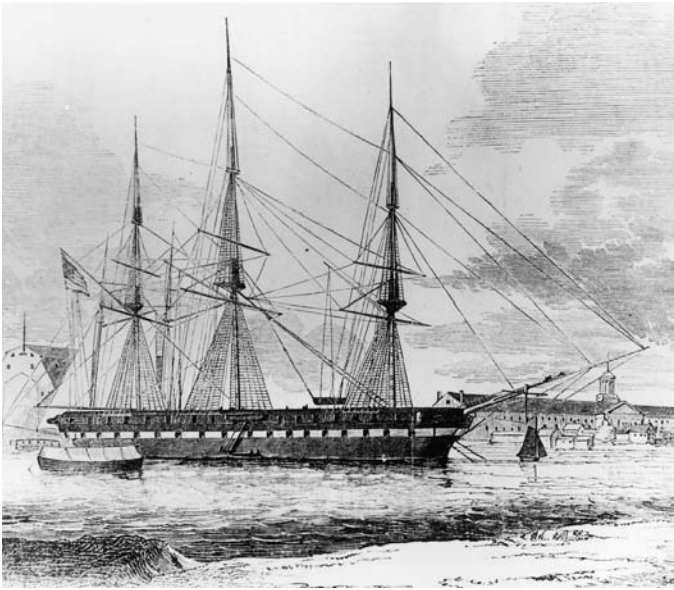
*Brandywine*: Mediterranean, sailed to France with Lafayette on board, 1825. Three cruises in Mediterranean, two in Pacific (flagship), also to Gulf of Mexico, East Indies and Brazil, 1826–51. In ordinary New York, 1851–60. Storeship 1861–64. Destroyed by fire at Norfolk NYd, 3 Sep 1864. Wreck raised and sold 26 Mar 1867.

*Columbia*: East Indies, 1838–40 (flagship). Second attack on Kuala Batu, Sumatra, 1–2 Jan 1839. Home Sqn 1842 (flagship). Brazil Station 1842–44. Mediterranean 1844. Brazil Station 1845–47 (flagship). Home Sqn 1853–55. Burned at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.

*Cumberland*: Mediterranean Sqn 1843–46 (flagship). Expedition against Alvarado, Mexico, 7 Aug 1846. Mediterranean, 1849–51. Razee corvette 1850. Mediterranean Sqn 1852–55 (flagship). African Sqn,



**Fig 3.21:** The razee frigate *Cumberland* at Portsmouth Navy Yard about 1860. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 3.22:** The frigate *Columbia*, 44, shown in a contemporary view, was first commissioned in 1838. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

1857–59 (flagship). Rammed and sunk by CSS *Virginia* in Hampton Roads, 8 Mar 1862.

*Potomac*: World cruise 1831–34. Attacked pirate stronghold at Kuala Batu, Sumatra, 6 Feb 1832 (2 killed). Brazil Station 1834–37, 1840–42. West Indies 1844–45. Expedition against Alvarado, Mexico, 7 Aug 1846. Home Sqn 1855–56 (flagship). Store ship 1862–65. Sold 24 May 1877.

*Raritan*: South Atlantic 1844–45 (flagship). Home Sqn 1846-48. West Indies Sqn 1849. Pacific Sqn 1850–52. Burned to prevent capture at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.

*St. Lawrence*: Europe 1848–50. Took exhibits to London International Exposition 1851. Pacific Sqn 1851–55. Brazil Sqn 1856–59. Paraguay Expedition, 1858. Sold 31 Dec 1875.

*Savannah*: Pacific Sqn 1844–47. Seizure of Monterey, Calif., 7 Jul 1846. Recapture of San Pedro and Los Angeles, 7 Oct 1846. Pacific Sqn 1849–52 (flagship). Brazil Sqn 1853–56. Home Sqn 1859–60 (flagship). Sold 27 Sep 1883.

**Sabine Class**

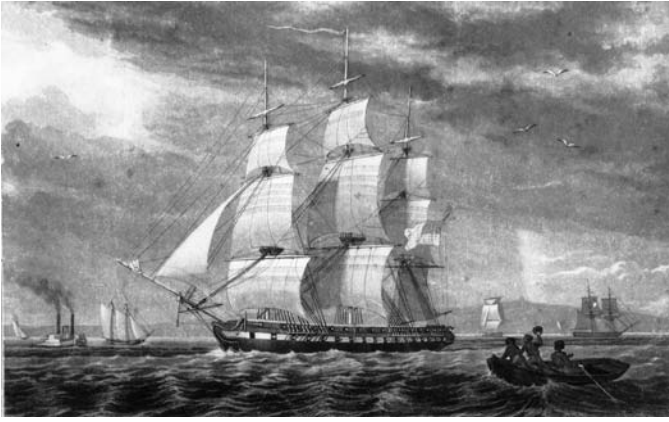
Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Sabine</i>	New York NYd	Feb 1823	3 Feb 1855	23 Aug 1858
<i>Santee</i>	Portsmouth NYd	12 Feb 1823	16 Feb 1855	9 Jun 1861
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	202'6" (oa) 190' (bp) × 47' × 21'6" d14'4"			
Tonnage	1,726 tons			
Complement	400			
Battery	<i>Sabine</i> : 12-8", 36-32 pdr; (1862) 2-10", 10-8", 38-32 pdr <i>Santee</i> : 2-64 pdr, 10 8", 20-32 pdr/57, 16-32 pdr/33, 2 heavy 12 pdr; also reported as 10-8", 26-32 pdr; (1861) 12-8", 36-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Improved *Brandywine* design. Lengthened during construction, but obsolete when launched. Well built, easy to handle.

**Service records:**

*Sabine*: Paraguay Expedition, 1858. Sold 23 Sep 1883.

*Santee*: Station ship, Annapolis 1865–1912. Sold 2 Aug 1912.



**Fig 3.23:** The frigate *Hudson* was purchased in 1826 when the Greek government was unable to pay for it. Engraving by W. J. Bennett. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

## Hudson

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Hudson</i> <i>ex-Liberator</i> (Greek)	New York (Smith and Dimon)	1825	Nov 1825	Sep 1828
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	177'10" (bp) × 45' × d13'8"			
Tonnage	1,728 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	32-32 pdr, 30-42 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Built for Greece but purchased 23 Aug 1826 when Greek government was unable to pay for the ship. Pierced for 66 guns. Designed with lines of a packet. Said to be poorly built, but really built of poor quality timber and broken up as rotten. Last privately built frigate in the sailing navy.

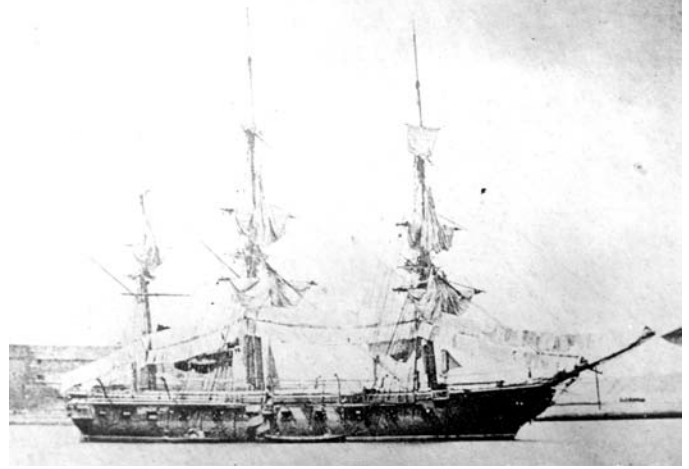
**Service record:** Brazil Station 1828–31 (flagship). Receiving ship NYd 1831–44. Sold and BU 1844.

## Macedonian

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Macedonian</i>	Norfolk NYd	1832	1 Nov 1836	Oct 1837
Rate	36 guns; (as razee) 24 guns			
Dimensions	164' (bp) × 41' × 21'8" d18'			
Tonnage	1,341 tons			
Complement	380/489			
Battery	(Planned) 32-32 pdr, 24-32 pdr crde; (as built) 30-18 pdr, 16-32 pdr crde; (1850) 6-8", 32-32 pdr; (1853 as razee) 16-8", 4-32 pdr; (1861) 2-10", 16-8", 4-32 pdr; (1862) 1-10", 4-8"; (1863) 2-100 pdr MLR, 8-8", 4-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Frigate. Officially the original *Macedonian* rebuilt. Designed by Samuel Humphreys. Too small for intended armament and later reduced to corvette in 1853. Clipper type and fast sailer. Figurehead: Alexander the Great taken from the old ship.

**Service record:** West Indies and Africa 1839–47. Carried food to Ireland, 1847. Razeed to first class sloop at Brooklyn NYd, 1852–53. Expedition to Japan, 1853. North Pacific 1853–56. Mediterranean 1857–61. Sold 31 Dec 1875.



**Fig 3.24:** The razee frigate *Macedonian* late in the Civil War while serving as practice ship for the U.S. Naval Academy, at Newport, R.I. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

## Paul Jones

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Paul Jones</i>	Portsmouth NYd	1835	never	never-

**Notes:** Details unknown. Broken up on ways 1843.

## Congress

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Congress</i>	Portsmouth NYd	1 Jun 1839	16 Aug 1841	7 May 1842
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	179' (bp) × 47'8" × d22'8"			
Tonnage	1,867 tons			
Complement	480			
Battery	4-8", 48-32 pdr; (1845) 4-8", 46-32 pdr; (1850) 8-8" shell, 42-32 pdr; (1855) 10-8", 40-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Humphreys; officially rebuilt frigate of 1794. Best frigate built in U.S. and the last frigate designed for USN.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1842. Brazil 1843–45. Pacific Sqn 1845–48 (flagship). Occupation of San Pedro, Calif., 6 Aug 1846. Capture of Mazatlan, Mexico, 11 Nov 1847. Brazil Sqn, 1850–53 (flagship). Mediterranean Sqn, 1855–57 (flagship). Brazil Sqn 1859–61 (flagship). Sunk by CSS *Virginia* in Hampton Roads, 8 Mar 1862.

## SLOOPS

### Maryland Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Maryland</i>	Baltimore (Price)	1799	3 Jun 1799	Aug 1799
<i>Patapsco</i> <i>ex-Chesapeake</i> (10 Oct 1799)	Baltimore (De Rochbrune)	1799	20 Jun 1799	1799

Rate	20 guns
Dimensions	87' (keel) × 29' × 12'
Tonnage	380 tons
Complement	180
Battery	20-9 pdr, 6-6 pdr

**Notes:** Built by public subscription. Good sailers. Figureheads: *Maryland*, goddess of commerce and plenty; *Patapsco*, Neptune.

**Service record:**

*Maryland*: West Indies and Surinam, 1799–1800. Sold at Baltimore, 2 Oct 1801.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Clarissa*, 4 Jan 1800; Portuguese brig *Gloria da Mar* from French, 26 Jul 1800.

*Patapsco*: West Indies 1799–1800. Ordered to carry Gen. Wilkinson to New Orleans and then join Talbot's Sqn in Mediterranean 1799. Sold Jun 1801.

**Ship captured:** *La Dorade*, 6 (LofM), 1800.

**Hornet**

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Hornet</i> ex- <i>Traveller</i>	Amesbury, Mass.	1802	1804	1805
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	440 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased at Malta.

**Service record:** Attack on Derna, North Africa, 27 Apr 1805. Employed principally as transport in Mediterranean during War with Tripoli. Sold at Philadelphia, Sep 1806.

**Louisiana**

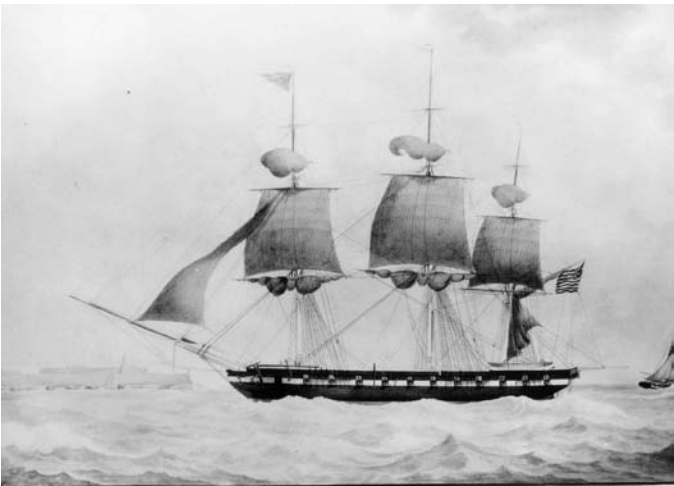
Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Louisiana</i>	New Orleans	1812	Sep 1812	Sep 1812
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	99'6" (bp) × 28' × 14'			
Tonnage	341 tons			
Complement	160			
Battery	16-24pdr; also reported as 4-24 pdr, 8-12 pdr, 4-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased. Not armed until 1814.

**Service record:** Flagship of Patterson at battle of New Orleans, sustained cannonade of 7 hours firing 800 rounds. Laid up 1815. BU 1821.

**Ontario Class**

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Argus</i>	Washington NYd	1813	29 Jan 1814	never—
<i>Erie</i>	Baltimore (Thos. Kemp)	1813	3 Nov 1813	Mar 1814
<i>Ontario</i>	Baltimore (Thos. Kemp)	1813	1813	1814
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	117'11" (bp) × 31'6" × d14'6" <i>Erie</i> : (1821) 121'11"(bp) × 32'6"			
Tonnage	509 tons <i>Erie</i> : (1821) 611 tons			



**Fig 3.25:** The sloop *Erie*, completed in 1814, as she appeared in 1824. Painting by Nicholas Cammileri. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 3.26:** U.S. Sloop *Ontario*, 18, heaving to at Marseille to take on a pilot. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Complement	150
Battery	2-18 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde <i>Erie</i> : (1821) 2-18 pdr, 20-42 pdr crde <i>Ontario</i> : (1850) 2-32 pdr, 18-32 pdr crde

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty. Authorized 2 Jan 1813. Fast but did not steer well. *Erie* rebuilt 1820–21 and lengthened at New York NYd, launched late 1821.

**Service records:**

*Argus*: Burned incomplete to prevent capture at Washington, 24 Aug 1814.  
*Erie*: Blockaded at Baltimore 1814. Mediterranean 1815–19. Rebuilt at New York, 1820–21. Mediterranean 1823–26. Gulf of Mexico 1827–32. Laid up 1832–34. Brazil Station. BU at Boston 1841. (rebuilt as storeship) (q.v.)  
**Ship captured:** privateer *Federal* at St. Bartholomew, Dec 1828.  
*Ontario*: Mediterranean 1815–17. Action with ship *Mashouda* and brig *Esledio* off Cape de Gatt, Spain, 17–19 Jun 1815. Pacific 1817–19. Capt. James Biddle landed at Cape Disappointment and claimed Oregon for U.S., 19 Aug 1818. Mediterranean 1821–24, 1825–27, 1829–32, 1833–36. West Indies 1837–40. Gulf of Mexico 1842–43. Receiving ship Baltimore 1842–56. Sold 15 Jul 1856.

Wasp Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Frolic</i>	Boston (Josiah Barker)	1813	11 Sep 1813	Feb 1814
<i>Peacock</i>	New York (A and N Brown)	9 Jul 1813	19 Sep 1813	Mar 1814
<i>Wasp</i>	Newburyport, Mass. (Cross and Merrill)	1813	21 Sep 1813	May 1814
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Frolic</i> : 119'6" (bp) × 32' × 14'2" <i>Peacock</i> : 119' (bp) × 31'6" × 14'6" <i>Wasp</i> : 117'11" (bp) × 31'6" × 14'6"			
Tonnage	509 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	2-12 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty. *Peacock* was fast in heavy winds.

Service records:

*Frolic*: Captured by HMS *Orpheus*, 36, and *Shelburne*, 12, off Matanzas, Cuba, after chase of 60 miles during which *Frolic* threw all her lee guns overboard (171 captured), 20 Apr 1814.  
**Ships captured:** brig *Little Fox* (destroyed), off St. Thomas, 17 Mar 1814; schr privateer (sunk), 3 Apr 1814.  
**Later service:** HMS *Florida*, 20, 6th rate. BU May 1819.

*Peacock*: Took HMS *Epervier* (later USS *Epervier*), 18, in action off Cape Canaveral, Fla., 29 Apr 1814. Took brig HMS *Nautilus*, 14, in Straits of Sunda after end of war, later released, 30 Jun 1815. Mediterranean 1816–21. West Indies 1822–24 (flagship). Pacific 1824–27. Struck by a whale and damaged, 1827. BU at New York, 1828.  
**Ships captured:** Brig *Sea Flower* (burned), off Grand Banks, 17 Jun 1814; brig *Stranger*, 4, sloop *Fortitude*, brig *Venus*, 4 (all sunk), brig *Adiona*, in Irish Channel, 5 Jul 1814; sloops *Leith Packet*, *William and Ann*, *Peggy and Jane* (sunk), off Shannon River and Tory Island, 1–3 Aug 1814; bark *William* (burned) and ship *Sir Edward Pellew*, 12, off northern Ireland, 14–15 Aug 1814; brig *Bellona*, brig *Triton* (sunk), off Cape Finisterre, 21–23 Aug 1814; brig *Duck* sunk, 2 Sep 1814; ship *Mary* (sunk), off Barbuda, 12 Oct 1814; ship *Union* (burned), ship *Venus*, ship *Brio de Mar* (burned), in Straits of Sunda, 13 Jun–29 Jun 1815. (With *Louisiana*) six pirate ships, in West Indies, Sep 1822; pirate schr near Cuba, Apr 1823.

*Wasp*: Sank HMS *Reindeer*, 18, in action south of Ireland (5 dead), 28 Jun 1814. Sank HMS *Avon*, 18, in night action south of Ireland (2 killed), 1 Sep 1814. Lost at sea with all hands in South Atlantic (140 lost), Oct 1814.  
**Ships captured:** Brig *Hazard*, 6, Oct 1812; bark *Neptune* (burned), southwest of Ireland, 2 Jun 1814; brig *William* (burned), 13 Jun 1814; brig *Pallas* (scuttled) off Land’s End, 18 Jun 1814; ship *Henrietta*, 23 Jun 1818; ship *Orange Boven* (scuttled), 26 Jun 1814; brig *Regulator* (burned), 4 Jul 1814; schr *Jenny* (scuttled), 6 Jul 1814; brig *Lettice* (or *Lulice*), brig *Bon Accord*, brig *Mary* (scuttled), 30 Aug–1 Sep 1814; brig *Three Brothers*, 2 (burned), 12 Sep 1814; brig *Bacchus*, 2 (burned), 14 Sep 1814; brig *Atlanta*, 8 (ex-US privateer *Siro*), 21 Sep 1814.

Lexington Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Lexington</i>	New York NYd	1825	9 Mar 1826	11 Jun 1826
<i>Natchez</i>	Norfolk NYd	1827	8 Mar 1827	Jul 1827
<i>Warren</i>	Boston NYd	1 Jun 1825	29 Nov 1826	14 Jan 1827
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	127' (bp) × 34'7" × 16'6", d15'3"			

Tonnage	691 tons
Complement	190
Battery	24-24 pdr <i>Lexington</i> : (1844) 4-9 pdr, 2-32 pdr crde; (1840 as storeship) 6-32 pdr crde <i>Warren</i> : 2-32 pdr, 18-32 pdr crde

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty. Poor sailers, not well built.

Service records:

*Lexington*: Mediterranean 1827–30. Brazil Sqn 1831–36. Landing party in Falkland Islands, 1 Jan 1832. Pacific 1837–40. Converted to storeship 1840. Mediterranean 1843–45. West coast 1846. Bombardment of San Blas, Mexico, 12 Jan 1848. East coast 1850. Expedition to Japan 1853. Decomm 16 Feb 1855. Sold 1860.  
**Ships captured:** two schooners, at San Blas, Mexico, 12 Jan 1848.

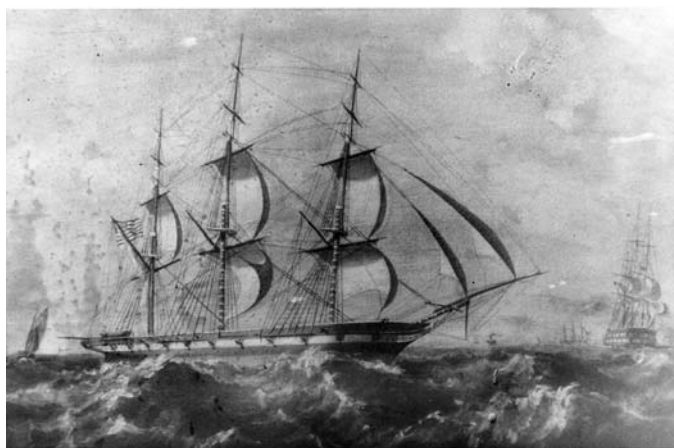
*Natchez*: West Indies 1827–28 and 1829–31. Charleston, SC, during nullification crisis 1833. Brazil 1834–35, 1836–38. Caribbean 1839. BU at New York, 1840.  
**Ship captured:** Mexican brig *General Urrea* off Brazos Santiago, 16 Apr 1837.

*Warren*: Mediterranean 1827–30. Attack on pirates at Mykonos and Andros, 1 Nov 1827. Brazil Sqn 1831–33. West Indies 1836–42. Pacific Sqn 1843–46. Store ship 1846–63. Sold at Panama, 1 Jan 1863.  
**Ships captured:** two pirate vessels, off Carabusa (Mediterranean), 4 Oct 1827; pirate brig and her prize off Syros, 4 or 25–28 Oct 1827; Mexican brig *Malek Adhel* (later USS *Malek Adhel*), off Mazatlan, 7 Sep 1846; (With *Columbus* and *Erie*) British schr *William*, at Monterey, Calif., 22 Mar 1847.

Boston Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Boston</i>	Boston NYd	13 May 1825	15 Oct 1825	1826
<i>Concord</i>	Portsmouth NYd	19 Mar 1827	24 Sep 1828	7 May 1830
<i>Fairfield</i>	New York NYd	1826	28 Jun 1828	Aug 1828
<i>John Adams</i>	Norfolk NYd	1829	17 Nov 1830	May 1831
<i>St. Louis</i>	Washington NYd	12 Feb 1827	18 Aug 1828	20 Dec 1828
<i>Vandalia</i>	Philadelphia NYd	1825	26 Aug 1828	6 Nov 1828
<i>Vincennes</i>	New York NYd	1825	27 Apr 1826	27 Aug 1826
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	127' (bp) × 34'9" × 16'6" <i>Boston</i> : 127' × 33'9" × 16' <i>Vandalia</i> : (1850), 157'			
Tonnage	700 tons, also reported as 614 tons			
Complement	125/190			
Battery	24-24 pdr; (1846-48) 4-8", 16-32 pdr <i>Boston</i> : (1840) 2-24 pdr, 20-42 pdr crde; (1846) 4-8", 16-32 pdr <i>Fairfield</i> : (1850) 4-8", 16-32 pdr <i>John Adams</i> : (1842) 2-18 pdr, 22-32 pdr crde; (1846) 22-24 pdr; (1850) 4-8", 14-32 pdr; (1862) 2-8", 4-32 pdr, 2-30 pdr MLR, 2-20 pdr MLR <i>St. Louis</i> : (1848) 4-8", 16-32 pdr; (1850) 4-8", 14-32 pdr; (1862) 4-8", 12-32 pdr, 2-20 pdr MLR <i>Vincennes</i> : (1838) 8-24 pdr, 2-9 pdr; (1842) 24-24 pdr; (1845) 4-8", 16-32 pdr; (1861) 4-8", 14-32 pdr; (1861) 2-9", 4-8" <i>Vandalia</i> : (1850) 4-8", 16-32 pdr; (1863) 4-8", 16-32 pdr, 1-30 pdr MLR			

**Notes:** Authorized 3 Mar 1825. Designed by Samuel Humphreys. Original armament too heavy for hulls. Not fast but well built, good sea boats. *John*



**Fig 3.27:** The U.S. sloop *Fairfield* was one of seven authorized in 1825. From the collection of Franklin D. Roosevelt. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

*Adams* was officially the old frigate rebuilt. *Vandalia* rebuilt at Norfolk NYd, 1848, and lengthened 13'. *St. Louis* lengthened 13' at Norfolk NYd, 1845. *St. Louis* and *Vandalia* rebuilt at Norfolk NYd, 1845 and 1848, lengthened 13'.

#### Service records:

*Boston*: Brazil Station 1826–29. Mediterranean 1830–32. West Indies 1836–39. East Indies. 1841–43. Brazil 1843–46. Wrecked in squall on Eleuthera Island, Bahamas, en route to blockading duty off Mexico (all saved), 15 Nov 1846.

*Concord*: Mediterranean 1830–32. West Indies 1836–37. Brazil Station 1841–43. Ran aground in mouth of Loango River, Mozambique (3 dead, including captain Cdr William Boerum), 2 Oct 1842; acting captain chartered Portuguese brig *Union* to bring home survivors and the following year the brig *Chipola* was chartered to bring home guns and equipment.

*Fairfield*: Mediterranean 1828–31. West Indies 1831–32 (flagship). Pacific Sqn 1833–35. Brazil Station 1837–40. Mediterranean 1841–45. Decomm 3 Feb 1845. Sold 11 Jun 1852 and BU.

*John Adams*: Mediterranean 1831–33. Second attack on Kuala Batu, Sumatra, 1–2 Jan 1839. Africa 1848–53. Destroyed towns in Fiji as retaliation, 28–31 Oct 1855. Sold 5 Oct 1867.

*St. Louis*: Pacific Sqn 1829–31. West Indies 1832–34. Pacific Sqn 1839–42. East Indies Sqn 1843–45 (flagship). South America Sqn 1848–51. Mediterranean 1852–55. Africa Sqn 1855–58. Home Sqn 1858–61. Receiving ship Philadelphia 1866–94. Sold 5 Jun 1907.

*Vandalia*: Brazil Sqn 1828–31. West Indies 1832–34, 1835–38. Laid up 1839–42. Home Sqn 1842–45. Pacific Sqn 1849–52. East Indies 1853–56. Expedition to Japan 1853. Pacific Sqn 1857–60. BU 1870–72.

*Vincennes*: Pacific Sqn 1826–30. First U.S. naval vessel to circumnavigate the world, 1829–30. West Indies 1831–32. Pacific Sqn 1834–36. Wilkes survey expedition to South Seas, Aug 1838–Jul 1842. West Indies 1842–44. Far East 1845–47. First visit to Japan, 20 Jul 1846. Pacific Sqn 1850–52. Ringgold's Far East expedition 1853–56. Africa Sqn 1857–60. Sold 5 Oct 1867.

## Falmouth

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Falmouth</i>	Boston NYd	5 Dec 1826	3 Nov 1827	19 Jan 1828
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	127'6" (bp) × 33'9" × 16'6", d15'6"			
Tonnage	703 tons			
Complement	190			
Battery	24-24 pdr; (1850) 4-8", 16-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Josiah Barker. Good sailer, steered well.

**Service record:** West Indies, Mexico, and Pacific 1828–40. Home Sqn 1841–46. Expedition against Alvarado, Mexico, 7 Aug 1846. Pacific Sqn 1849–52.

West Indies 1854–55. Brazil Station 1857–59. Paraguay Expedition 1858. Stationary storeship, Aspinwall 1860. Sold at Aspinwall, 7 Nov 1863.

## Peacock

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Peacock</i>	New York NYd	1828	30 Sep 1828	Aug 1829
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	118'9" (bp) × 31'6" × 15'6", d14'10"			
Tonnage	559 tons			
Complement	190			
Battery	6-18 pdr; (1831) 2-12 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde; (1840) 2-9", 8-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Officially the old sloop *Peacock* rebuilt; similar size but new lines.

Designed by Samuel Humphreys. Too small for her armament, later reduced for exploration.

**Service record:** West Indies 1829–31. Brazil 1832–34. East Indies 1835–37.

Almost lost on coral reef at mouth of Persian Gulf, after lying 61 hours; was extricated by lightening ship throwing guns overboard etc., 1837. Wilkes survey expedition to South Seas, Aug 1838–Jul 1842. Cruise to Antarctic 1838–41. Landing in Samoa, Feb 1841. Wrecked off Columbia River, Ore. (all saved), 18 Jul 1841.

**Ships captured:** (With USRC *Louisiana*): five pirate schrs and *Carmen*, in W. Indies, 28–30 Sep 1822; two pirate vessels, at Colorado, Cuba, 16 Apr 1823.

## Cyane Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Cyane</i>	Boston NYd	1837	2 Dec 1837	May 1838
<i>Levant</i>	New York NYd	1837	28 Dec 1837	17 Mar 1838
Rate	22 guns			
Dimensions	132'3" (bp) × 36'3" × 16'6"			
Tonnage	792 tons			
Complement	200			
Battery	4-4 pdr, 18-3 pdr crde; (1840) 20-32 pdr			
	<i>Cyane</i> : (1850) 4-8", 16-32 pdr; (1856) 4-8", 14-32 pdr; (1863) 1-8", 1-32 pdr			
	<i>Levant</i> : (1843) 4-8", 18-32 pdr; (1850) 4-8", 16-32 pdr; (1856) 4-8", 14-32 pdr			

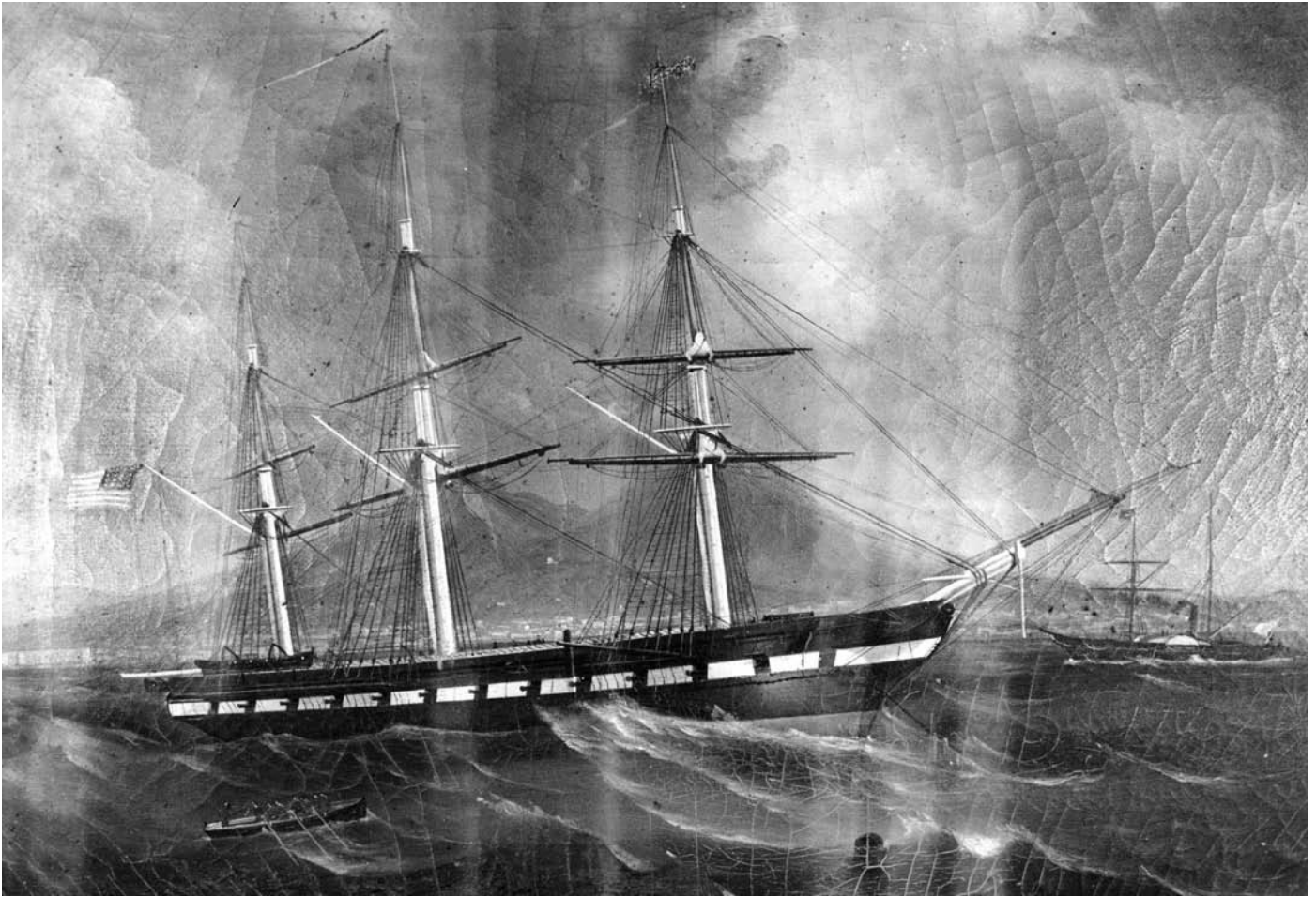
**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Humphreys. *Cyane* officially the old ship rebuilt. Corvettes, good sailers, satisfactory ships.

#### Service record:

*Cyane*: Mediterranean 1838–41. Pacific Sqn 1841–44 and 1845–48. Seizure of Monterey, Calif., 7 Jul 1846. Occupation of San Diego, Calif., 29 Jul 1846. Capture of Mazatlan, Mexico, 11 Nov 1847. Home Sqn 1851–52. Bombarded Greytown, Nicaragua, as retaliation, 13 Jul 1854. Pacific 1858–71. Decomm 20 Sep 1871. Sold 30 Jul 1887.

**Ships captured:** Mexican brigantine *Juanita* and brig *Prima Vera*, at San Diego, Calif., 9–10 Aug 1846; Mexican sloop *Solita* and brigantine *Susana*, off San Blas, Calif., 2–3 Sep 1846; Mexican sloop *San Jose*, schr *Adelaide*, schr *Victoria*, schr *Eliza*, schr *Mazolea*, schr *Julia*, brigantine *La Paz*, brigantine *Manuela*, brigantine *Correo*, at La Paz, Baja California, 14 Sep 1846; Mexican schr *Libertad* (later USS *Libertad*), schr *Fortuna*, schr *Rosita*, sloop *Chapita*, sloop *Alerto*, and brig *Condor*, at Loreta, Baja California, 1–7 Oct 1846.

*Levant*: West Indies 1838–42. Pacific 1843–45. Laid up 1847. Mediterranean 1852–55. Seizure of Monterey, Calif., 7 Jul 1846. East India Sqn 1856–58. Bombardment of Canton forts (22 shot holes, 1 killed), 20–22 Nov 1856. Left Hilo, Hawaii, for Panama, 18 Sep 1860 and disappeared.



**Fig 3.28:** The sloop *Levant*, riding out a storm at anchor in Naples harbor during the 1850s. Painting by Francisco de Simone. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

## Dale Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Dale</i>	Philadelphia NYd	1839	8 Nov 1839	11 Dec 1840
<i>Decatur</i>	New York NYd	1838	9 Apr 1839	Mar 1840
<i>Marion</i>	Boston NYd	1838	24 Apr 1839	4 Oct 1839
<i>Preble</i>	Portsmouth NYd	Apr 1838	13 Jun 1839	Jun 1840
<i>Yorktown</i>	Norfolk NYd	1838	17 Jun 1839	15 Nov 1840
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	117'7" (bp) × 33'10" × 15'			
Tonnage	566 tons			
Complement	150			
Battery	14-32 pdr, 2-12 pdr			
	<i>Dale</i> : (1846) 16-32 pdr; (1853) 14-32 pdr; (1863) 2-32 pdr, 1-30 pdr MLR			
	<i>Decatur</i> : (1846) 16-32 pdr; (1853) 14-32 pdr; (1863) 4-8", 4-32 pdr			
	<i>Marion</i> : (1845) 16-32 pdr; (1855) 14-32 pdr; (1862) 10-32 pdr, 1-20 pdr MLR			
	<i>Preble</i> : (1846) 16-32 pdr; (1851) 10-32 pdr; (1853) 8-32 pdr; (1858) 10-32 pdr; (1861) 2-8", 7-32 pdr			
	<i>Yorktown</i> : (1844) 2-32 pdr, 2-18 pdr, 12-32 pdr crde; (1846) 16-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by John Lenthall, as duplicates of *Peacock*. Very successful. Stiff, sailed well.

### Service record:

*Dale*: Pacific Sqn 1840–43, 1846–49. Took Muleje, Baja California, 1 Oct 1847. African Sqn 1850–59. Decomm. May 1859. Renamed *Oriole*, 30 Nov 1904. Trfd to USRCS, 27 Feb 1906.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Magdalena*, at Muleje, Mexico (burned), 30 Sep 1847; several vessels on Mexican Pacific coast, Feb–Apr 1848.

*Decatur*: Brazil Sqn 1840–43. Africa Sqn 1845–46. Mexico 1847–48. Africa Sqn 1848–49. Protection of North Atlantic fisheries 1853. Pacific Sqn 1854–59. Defended Seattle against Indians, 26 Jan 1856. Decomm. 20 Jun 1859. Sold at San Francisco, 27 Aug 1865.

*Marion*: Brazil Station 1839–42. West Indies 1842–43. Sunk when heaved hove down at Rio de Janeiro, early 1842, raised. Laid up at Boston. East Indies 1850–52. Africa Sqn, 1853–55, 1858–60. BU 1871–72.

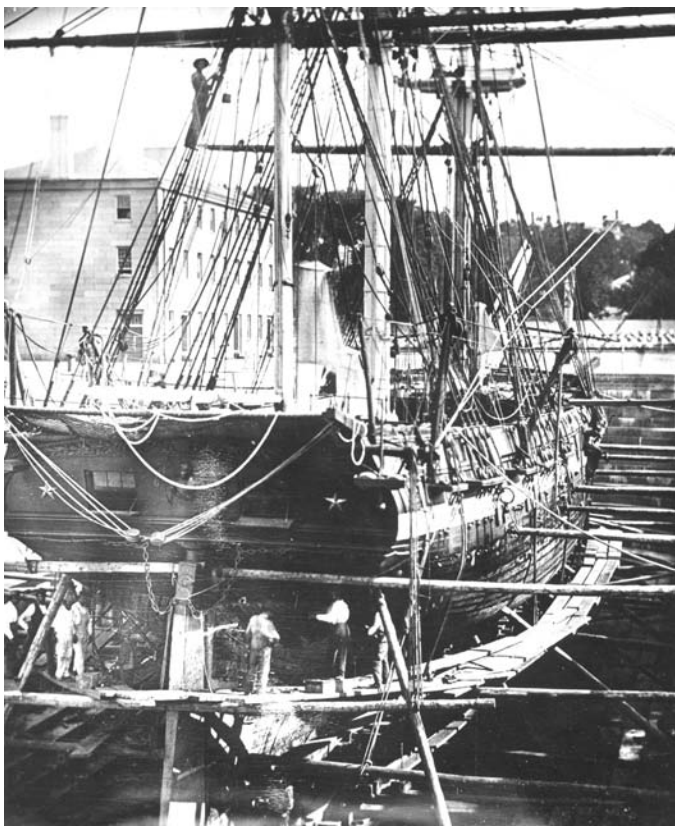
**Ships captured:** Slaver ketch *Brothers*, off southeast coast of Africa, 8 Sep 1858; slaver bark *Orion*, near Congo River, 21 Apr 1859; slaver bark *Ardenne*, near Congo River, 27 Apr 1859.

*Preble*: Labrador 1840. Mediterranean 1841–43. Africa 1844–45. Pacific 1847–48. East Indies 1848–50. Paraguay expedition 1858. Burned at Pensacola, 27 Apr 1863.

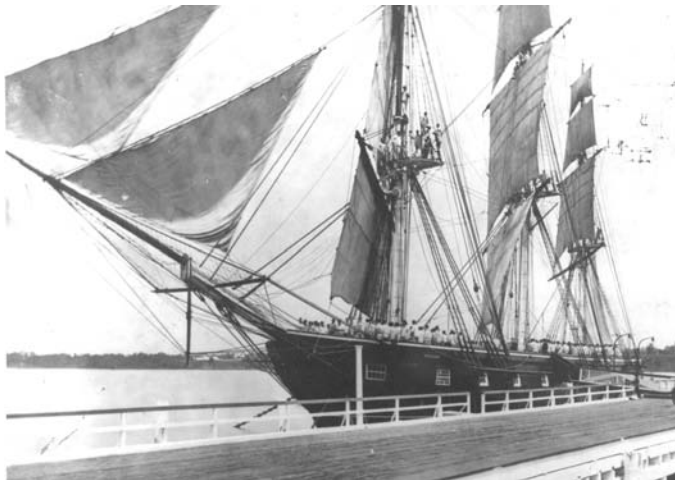
*Yorktown*: Pacific Sqn 1841–43. Africa Sqn 1844–46, 1848–50. Wrecked in Cape Verde Islands (all saved), 6 Sep 1850.

**Ship captured:** Slaver bark *Pons*, off Cabinda, Africa, 30 Nov 1845.





**Fig 3.29:** A Dale-class sloop in dry dock at Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston, during the 1850s. One of the earliest known photographs of an American naval vessel. (Peabody Museum of Salem)



**Fig 3.30:** USS Dale as Naval Academy practice vessel during the late 19th century. (National Archives)

Saratoga

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Saratoga</i>	Portsmouth NYd	Aug 1841	26 Jul 1842	4 Jan 1843
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	146'4" (bp) × 35'3" × 16'3"			
Tonnage	882 tons			
Complement	275/210			
Battery	4-8", 16-32 pdr; (1846) 4-8", 18-32 pdr; (1855) 6-8", 12-32 pdr; (1856) 6-8", 14-32 pdr; (1857) 6-8", 12-32 pdr; (1863) 6-8", 12-32 pdr, 10-30 pdr MLR			

**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Pook and Samuel Humphreys. Improved *Cyane*. Weatherly and fast.

**Service record:** Dismasted on first day of first cruise, 17 Mar 1843. Africa Sqn 1843–44. Mexico 1845–47. West Indies 1848–49. East Indies Sqn 1850–54. Expedition to Japan, 1853 Africa Sqn 1860–61. Sold 14 Aug 1907.

**Ships captured:** Mexican rebel steamers *General Miramon* and *Marques de la Habana* (later CSS *McRae*), in Gulf of Mexico, intervening in Mexican Civil War on government side, 7 Mar 1860; schr *Express*, off Africa, 25 Feb 1861; slaver ship *Nightingale* (later USS *Nightingale*), off Cabinda, Africa, 21 Apr 1861.

Albany

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Albany</i>	New York NYd	1843	27 Jun 1846	6 Nov 1846
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	147'11" (bp) × 38'6" × 17'9"			
Tonnage	1,042 tons			
Complement	210			
Battery	4-8", 18-32 pdr; (1853) 6-8", 16-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Francis Grice. Well-built handsome vessel on Baltimore clipper model.

**Service record:** Home Sqn 1846–47; Mexican War. Landings at Veracruz, 9 Mar 1847 and siege. Capture of Tuxpan, 17 Apr 1847. Departed Aspinwall, Colombia, 29 Sep 1854 and never heard from again (193 lost).

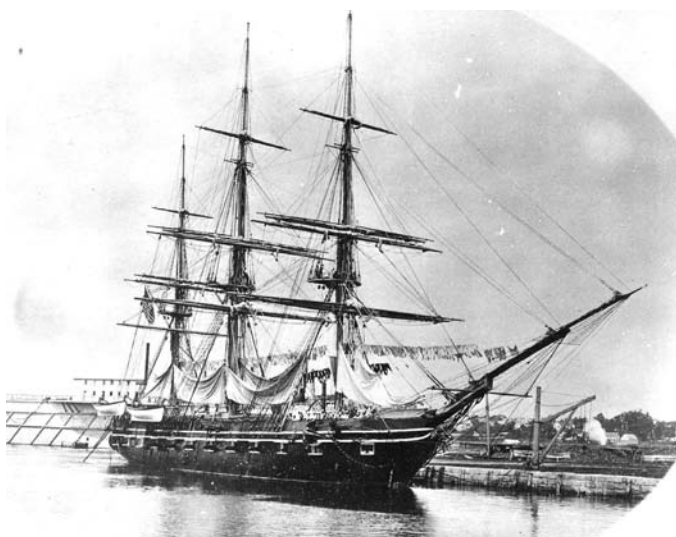
Portsmouth

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Portsmouth</i>	Portsmouth NYd	15 Jun 1843	23 Oct 1843	10 Nov 1844
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	153'1" (bp) × 38'1" × 17'6"			
Tonnage	1,022 tons			
Complement	210			
Battery	4-8", 18-32 pdr; (1852) 6-8", 16-32 pdr; (1856) 16-8"; (1861) 16-8", 1-20 pdr MLR			

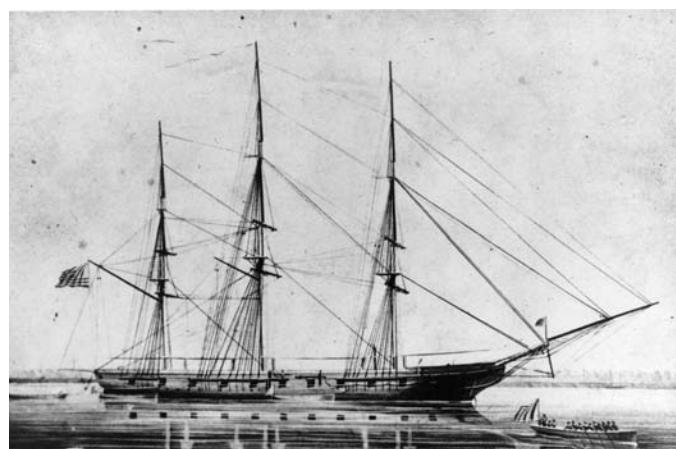
**Notes:** Designed by Josiah Barker. Described as best of the 1841 sloops.

**Service record:** Mexico 1845–46. Africa 1848–51. Took possession of San Francisco Bay, 9 Jul 1846. Took San Jose, Baja California, 30 Mar 1847. Far East 1856–58. Fired on by forts at Canton, China, 16 Nov 1856. Bombardment of Canton forts (3 killed), 20–22 Nov 1856. Sold 1915.

**Ships captured:** schr *Jose Eliza*, near Mazatlan, 11 Mar 1847; ship *Admittance*, near San Jose, Baja California, 7 Apr 1847; Chilean brig *Argo*, in Gulf of Mexico, 10 Oct 1847; schr *Caroline*, in Gulf of Mexico, 29 Oct 1847; slaver sloop *Emily*, off Loango, Africa, 21 Nov 1859; slaver brigantine *Virginian*, off Congo River, 6 Feb 1860; slaver brig *Falmouth*, off Port Praya, Africa, 6 May 1860.



**Fig 3.31:** The sloop *Portsmouth*, built in 1843, as she appeared later in the 19th century, drying sails and laundry at Portsmouth Navy Yard.



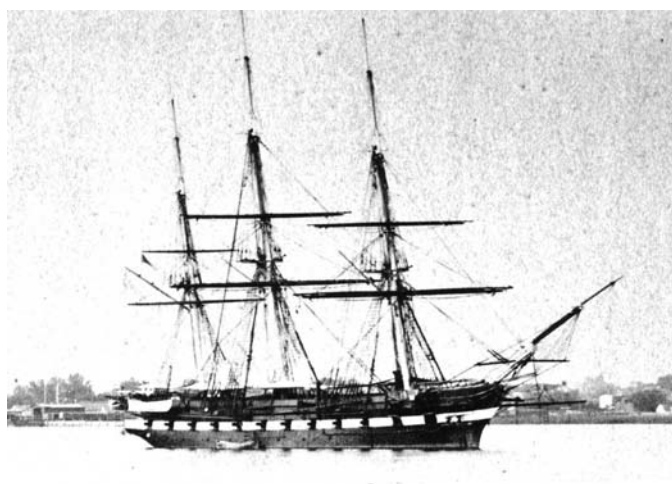
**Fig 3.32:** The sloop *Portsmouth* of 1843 was considered the best of her class. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

## Plymouth

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Plymouth</i>	Boston NYd	1843	11 Nov 1843	Apr 1844
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	147'6" (bp) × 38'1" × 17'2"			
Tonnage	989 tons			
Complement	210			
Battery	(1857) 1-11", 4-9"; (1859) 2-8", 6-32 pdr; (1862) 4-8", 18-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Pook. Stiff, dry and fast.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1844–46. Far East 1848–51. Expedition to Japan 1853. Training ship 1855–56 and 1859–60. Burned at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.



**Fig 3.33:** USS *Jamestown*, a sloop built in 1844, remained in service until 1892.

## Jamestown

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Jamestown</i>	Norfolk NYd	1843	16 Sep 1844	12 Dec 1844
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	163'6" × 32'2" × 17'3"			
Tonnage	985 tons; 1,150 tons D			
Complement	210			
Battery	4-8", 18-32 pdr; (1851) 6-8", 16-32 pdr; (1861) 6-8", 14-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Foster Rhodes. Fast, difficult to trim.

**Service record:** Africa Sqn 1845–47 (flagship). Mediterranean 1849–50. Brazil Sqn 1851–54. Africa Sqn 1855–57 (flagship). West Indies 1857–60. To Marine Hospital Service, 9 Sep 1892. Quarantine ship 1892–1912. Sold 7 Oct 1912. Destroyed by burning 3 Jan 1913.

## St. Mary's

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>St. Mary's</i>	Washington NYd	1843	24 Nov 1844	13 Dec 1844
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	150' (bp) × 37'4" × d16'8"			
Tonnage	958 tons			
Complement	210			
Battery	4-8", 18-32 pdr; (1850) 6-8", 16-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Charles B. Brodie. Fast and weatherly.

**Service record:** Bombarded Tampico, 8–15 Jun 1856. Pacific Sqn 1848–53, 1854–58. School ship, 1875–1908 Public Marine School. Stricken 14 Jun 1908 and sold.

## Germantown

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Germantown</i>	Philadelphia NYd	7 Sep 1843	21 Aug 1846	9 Mar 1847
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	150' (bp) × 36' × 17'3"			
Tonnage	939 tons			
Complement	210			
Battery	4-8", 18-32 pdr; (1853) 6-8", 14-32 pdr; (1855) 6-8", 16-32 pdr			



**Notes:** Designed by John Lenthall. Good sailer. Completed at Norfolk NYd.  
**Service record:** Mexico 1847–48. West Indies 1848–49. Africa Sqn 1851–53 (flagship). Brazil Sqn 1853–57. Landed marines at Montevideo, 27 Nov 1855. East India Sqn 1857–60. Burned at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.  
**Ship captured:** Slaver schr *Rachel P. Brown*, 1 Feb 1853.  
**Austin, see chapter 5.**

Constellation

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Constellation</i>	Norfolk NYd	1853	26 Aug 1854	28 Jul 1855
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	176' (bp) × 42' × 19'3"			
Tonnage	1,265 tons			
Complement	227			
Battery	2-10", 16-8", 4-32 pdr; (1856) 16-8", 4-32 pdr; (1862) 16-8", 4-32 pdr, 1-30 pdr MLR, 1-20 pdr MLR			

**Notes:** Corvette, officially the old frigate rebuilt. Sailed and steered well.  
**Service record:** Mediterranean Sqn 1855–58. Cuba 1858. African Sqn 1859–61 (flagship). Mediterranean Sqn 1861–64. Receiving ship 1865–1933. Named *Old Constellation*, 1917–20. Transferred for museum at Baltimore, 15 Aug 1955.  
**Ships captured:** slaver brig *Delicia*, off Cabinda, Africa, 21 Dec 1859; slaver bark *Cora*, off Congo River, 25 Sep 1860; slaver brig *Triton*, off West Africa, 21 May 1861.

BRIGS

In addition to those ships listed below, two brigs not to exceed 360 tons, with armament of 18-9 pdr, which had been ordered to be built at Newburyport and Conway, were canceled in 1799. A larger clipper brig, *Burrows*, 14 guns, was proposed in 1845 but not built; she was to have been 126' (bp) × 30' × 14'.  
For details on the brigs *Archer* and *Wharton*, see chapter 5.

Name	Builder	Built	Launch	Comm.
<i>Norfolk</i>	Norfolk (Nash and Herbert)		1798	Sep 1798
<i>Richmond</i> <i>ex-Augusta</i>	Norfolk		1798	(U)
Rate	<i>Norfolk</i> : 18 guns <i>Richmond</i> : 14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	200 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	<i>Norfolk</i> : 18-6 pdr <i>Richmond</i> : 10-6 pdr, 4-4 pdr			

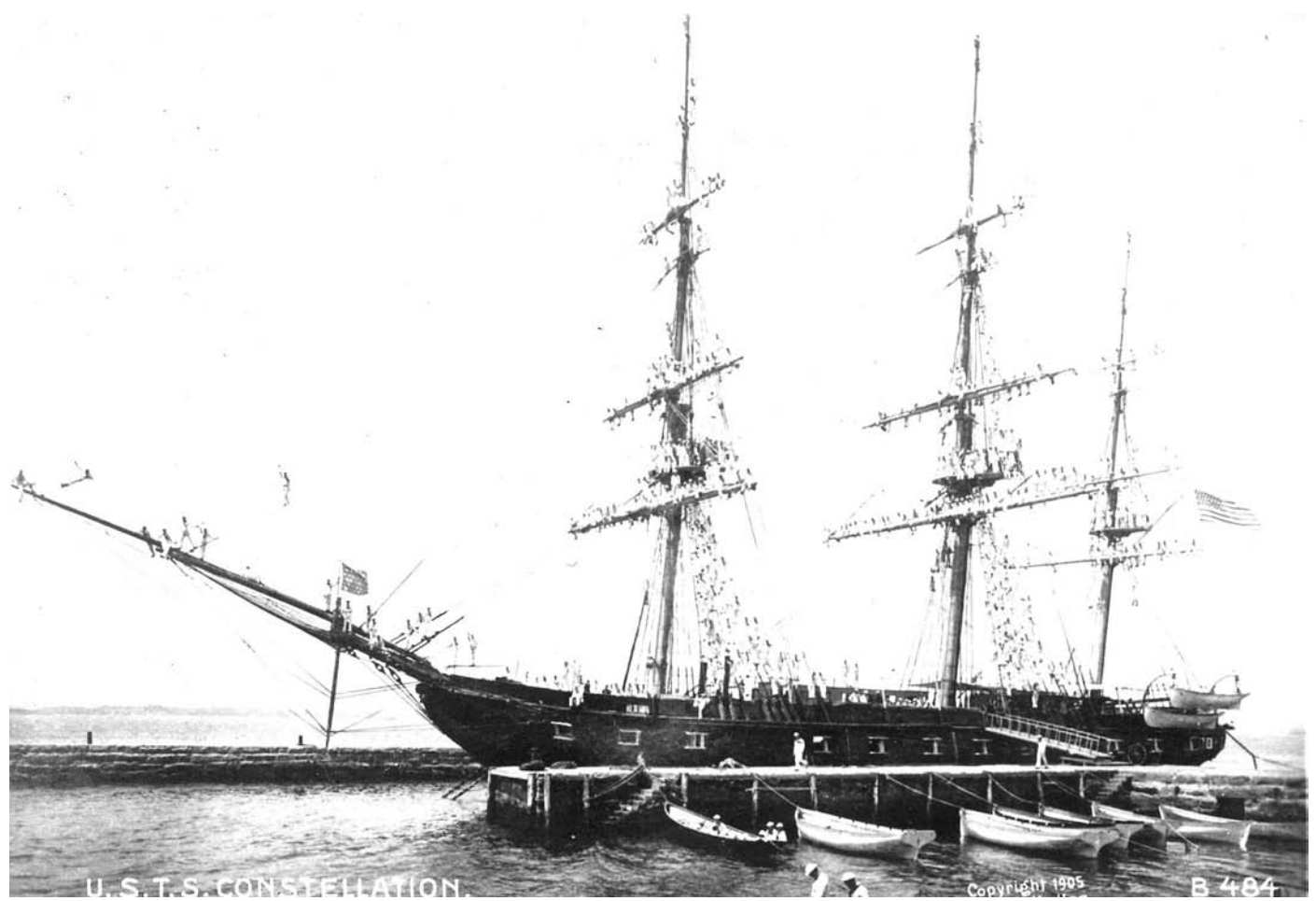


Fig 3.34: The sloop *Constellation*, built in 1854, still in service in 1905 as a training ship.

**Service records:**

*Norfolk*: West Indies with Murray’s Sqn, and then with Truxtun, 1798 and 1800. Sold 1801.

**Ships captured:** (With *Boston*) *La Gourde*, *Le Pelican*, 1800. (With *Boston* and *General Greene*) *Flying Fish*, 1800.

*Richmond*: Purchased while building. West Indies with Truxtun’s Sqn then with Talbot; later on coast under C. Talbot, 1799–1800. Sold Apr 1801.

**Ships captured:** Recaptured American schr *Chance*, 22 May 1800; *Thomas Chalkley*, 28 May 1800.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Pinckney</i>	Charleston, SC (Pritchard)	1798	22 Sep 1798	1798
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	62’ (keel) × 23’ × 10’6”			
Tonnage	195 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Brigantine. Tfrd from RCS while under construction. Converted to galley, 11 Dec 1798. Sold 1801.

**Service record:** West Indies 1798–99 with Tingey’s and Bainbridge’s Sqns.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Augusta</i>	Norfolk	(U)	30 Jun 1799	Late 1799
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	344 tons			
Complement	100			
Battery	10-6 pdr, 4-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased merchantman.

**Service record:** West Indies in Talbot’s Sqn, 1799. Sold spring 1801.

**Ships captured:** (With *Herald*): French privateer *La Mutiné*, 21 Jan 1800. *Le Républicain*, 1800; French schr *La Jeanne* and schr *La Victoire*, off Jacmel, Jun 1800. (With *Boston*): ship *LEspoir*, 24 Jun 1800. (With Haitian schr) 2 brigs at Aux Cayes, Haiti, 28 Jul 1800.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Argus</i> <i>ex-Merrimack</i> (4 Jun 1803)	Boston (Edmund Hartt)	12 May 1803	21 Aug 1803	Sep 1803
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	94’6” (bp) 80’ (keel) × 28’2” × d12’8”			
Tonnage	298 tons			
Complement	120 or 142			
Battery	16-24 pdr crde, 2-12 pdr; (1811) add 2-24 pdr crde or (1804) 12-24 pdr crde, 1-long 12 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Joseph Hartt, for use on North African coast. Authorized 28 Feb 1803.

**Service record:** Mediterranean during War with Tripoli under Decatur and Hull, 1803–06. Attacks on forts at Tripoli, Aug–Sep 1804 (12 killed). Attack on and capture of Derna, Libya, 27 Apr 1805. Laid up, Jul 1805–07. Captured by HMS *Pelican*, 18, in English Channel after severe action of 45 minutes, loss of commander, W.H. Allen (10 killed), 14 Aug 1813.

**Ships captured:** Ship *Ariadne*, in North Atlantic, 16 Oct 1812; brig *Fly*, 28 Oct 1812; brig *Recovery*, 2 Dec 1812; schr *Dorothy*, 6, Dec 1812; schr *Vancise*, 17 Dec 1812; schr *Salamanca* (burned), May 1813; brig *Susannah*, schr *Matilda* (recaptured), brig *Richard*, brig *Fowey*, sloop *Lady Francis*, ship

*Barbadoes*, brig *Alliance*, schr *Cordelia* (recaptured), ship *Betsey*, ship *Mariner*, sloop *John and Thomas*, brig *Helen*, brig *Ann*, sloop *Diana and Betsey*, ship *Defiance*, brig *Baltic*, brig *Bedford* (all others burned), 14 Jul–14 Aug 1813.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Syren</i>	Philadelphia (Nathaniel Hutton)	1803	6 Aug 1803	Sep 1803
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	93’4” (bp) × 27’9” × 12’6”			
Tonnage	240 tons			
Complement	137			
Battery	(1813) 16-24 pdr crde, 2-12 pdr; (1814) 2-9 pdr, 2-42 pdr crde, 12-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Built for North African service. Light weather vessel; qualities spoiled by overloading. Designed by Benjamin Hutton Jr.

**Service record:** Mediterranean during War with Tripoli under Stewart and Smith, 1803–06. Attacks on forts at Tripoli, Aug–Sep 1804. Returned home in 1806. Renamed *Siren*, 1810. Captured at sea off Africa under Nicholson by HMS *Medway*, 74, after an 11-hour chase during which guns, anchors, cables, boats and spars were thrown overboard, 12 Jul 1814.

**Ships captured:** Brig *Transfer* (later USS *Scourge*), 21 Mar 1804; polacre *Madonna de Catapalliar*, off Tripoli, 22 Mar 1804; ship *Barton* (destroyed), off Africa, May 1814; brig *Adventurer* (destroyed), off Africa, 12 Jul 1814.

**Later history:** Hospital hulk to 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Scourge</i> <i>ex-Transfer, ex-Quatre Frères</i>	(U)	1804	Mar 1804	17 Apr 1804
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	80’ × 23’6”			
Tonnage	181 tons			
Complement	36/80			
Battery	16-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Captured by USS *Syren* as a Tripolitanian blockade runner off Tripoli, 21 Mar 1804. Former French privateer *Quatre Frères*, captured by British, 1797. Built in America or Bermuda.

**Service record:** Attacks on forts at Tripoli, Aug–Sep 1804. Laid up in U.S., 1805. Sold 1812.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Wasp</i>	Washington NYd	1805	21 Apr 1806	May 1807
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	105’7” (bp) × 30’11 × 14’1”			
Tonnage	440 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	(1813) 2-12 pdr, 18-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Authorized 26 Mar 1804. Designed by Joseph Fox, altered to ship rig while under construction. Fast, steady, and weatherly.

**Service record:** Cruised off U.S. coast, 1809–10. Under Jacob Jones, captured HMS *Frolic*, 18 Oct 1812, but then taken at sea by *Poictiers*, 74 (5 killed).

**Later history:** HMS *Peacock*, 18. Foundered off southern U.S. coast, Aug 1814.



**Fig 3.35:** USS *Wasp*, 18, built in 1806, was captured by HMS *Frolic* in 1812. (National Archives)

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Hornet</i>	Baltimore (Wm. Price)	(U)	28 Jul 1805	18 Oct 1805
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	106'9" (bp) × 31'5" × 14'11"; (1811) beam 39'; (1812) d14'			
Tonnage	441 tons			
Complement	140			
Battery	16-9 pdr; (1811) 2-12 pdr, 18-32 pdr; (1813) 1-18 pdr, 18-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Josiah Fox. Authorized 26 Mar 1804. Rebuilt as ship-rigged sloop of war at Washington NYd, Nov 1810–Sep 1811.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1806–07. Europe 1812. Captured HMS *Peacock*, 18, which later sank, in action off Demerara (4 killed), 24 Feb 1813. Sank HMS *Penguin*, 18, in action off Tristan da Cunha, unaware war was over (1 killed), 23 Mar 1815. Mediterranean 1819. West Indies 1822. Foundered in gale off Tampico with all hands (140 lost), 29 Sep 1829.

**Ships captured:** Privateer brig *Dolphin*, 14 (later recaptured), 9 Jul 1812; schr *Ellen*, off Brazil, 6 Jan 1813; brig *Resolution* (burned) off Pernambuco, Brazil, 4 Feb 1813; ship *William*, 1814; slaver brigantine *Alexander*, 1820; pirate schr *Moscow*, off Santo Domingo, West Indies, 29 Oct 1821.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Rattlesnake</i> ex- <i>Rambler</i>	Medford, Mass. (Turner)	(U)	1813	Jan 1814

Rate	14 guns
Dimensions	(U)
Tonnage	278 tons
Complement	(U)
Battery	(U)

**Notes:** Purchased privateer.

**Service record:** West Indies 1814. Captured at sea by HMS *Leander*, 50, off Cape Sable, Nova Scotia, after a long chase during which all but two guns were thrown overboard, 22 Jun 1814.

**Ships captured:** (With *Enterprise*): Brig *Isabella* (prize), 18 Jan 1814; ship *Sincerity*, 20 Jan 1814; brig *Rambler* (burned) south of Azores, 7 Feb 1814; schr *Eliza*, schr *Mars* (LofM), 23 Feb 1814; brig *John* (burned), 9 Jun 1814; brig *Crown Prince* (burned), sloop *Fanny*, 22 Jun 1814.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Vixen</i>	Savannah	1813	1813	never
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	never armed			

**Notes:** Purchased.

**Service record:** Captured at sea by HMS *Belvidera* on passage from Wilmington, NC to Newcastle, Del., without armament or stores, 23 Dec 1813.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Epervier</i> ex-HMS <i>Epervier</i>	Rochester (Mary Ross)	2 Dec 1812	1814	1814
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	100' (deck) 77'3" (keel) × 30'6" × d12'9" (English measure)			
Tonnage	477 tons (in RN, 382 tons)			
Complement	128			
Battery	18-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** British brig-sloop, 18 guns. Captured by USS *Peacock* off Indian River Inlet, Fla., 29 Apr 1814.

**Service record:** Action with ship *Mashouda*, 46 and brig *Esledio*, 22, off Cape de Gatt, Spain, 17–19 Jun 1815. Passed Straits of Gibraltar 14 Jul 1815, and disappeared at sea in North Atlantic (all lost).

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Flambeau</i> ex- <i>Leader</i>	(U)	(U)	3 Dec 1814	May 1815
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	107' (bp) 100' (keel) × 26' × 11'9"			
Tonnage	300 tons			
Complement	90/100			
Battery	2- or 4-18 pdr, 10-18 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Purchased.

**Service record:** One cruise to Mediterranean, 1815. Sold 3 Apr 1816.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Firefly</i> ex- <i>Volent</i>	(U)	(U)	8 Dec 1814	1815



**Fig 3.36:** Spar and sail plan of the brig *Spark*, built in 1813 and purchased at New York. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Rate	14 guns
Dimensions	109' (bp) 100' (keel) × 29'4" × 12'10", d11'
Tonnage	330 tons
Complement	100
Battery	4-18 pdr, 10-18 pdr crde; (1816) 4-12 pdr, 12-18 pdr crde

**Notes:** Purchased at New York.

**Service record:** One cruise to Mediterranean, 1815. Sold 3 Apr 1816.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Spark</i>	Sag Harbor NY	1813	1814	8 Dec 1814
Rate	14 guns, (later) 12 guns			
Dimensions	103'3" (bp) × 25'4" × 12'8"			
Tonnage	287 tons			
Complement	90			
Battery	10-18 pdr crde, 2-18 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased at New York.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1815, 1816–21. Action with ship *Mashouda*, 46, and brig *Esledio*, 22, off Cape de Gatt, Spain, 17–19 Jun 1815. West Indies 1822–25. Sold 1826.

**Ship captured:** Dutch sloop (prize), 7 Jan 1822.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Chippewa</i>	Warren, RI	1814	Apr 1815	Jul 1815
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	107' (bp) × 29'11" × 16'9"			
Tonnage	390 tons			
Complement	90			
Battery	2-18 pdr, 14-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1815. Wrecked in Caicos Islands, crew saved, 12 Dec 1816.



**Fig 3.37:** The brig *Chippewa*, built in 1836, disappeared in the Pacific in 1854. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Saranac</i>	Middletown, Conn. (Beldin and Churchill)	1814	1815	Dec 1815
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	94' (keel) × 28'7" × 14'			
Tonnage	360 tons			
Complement	90			
Battery	14-32 pdr crde, 2-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty.

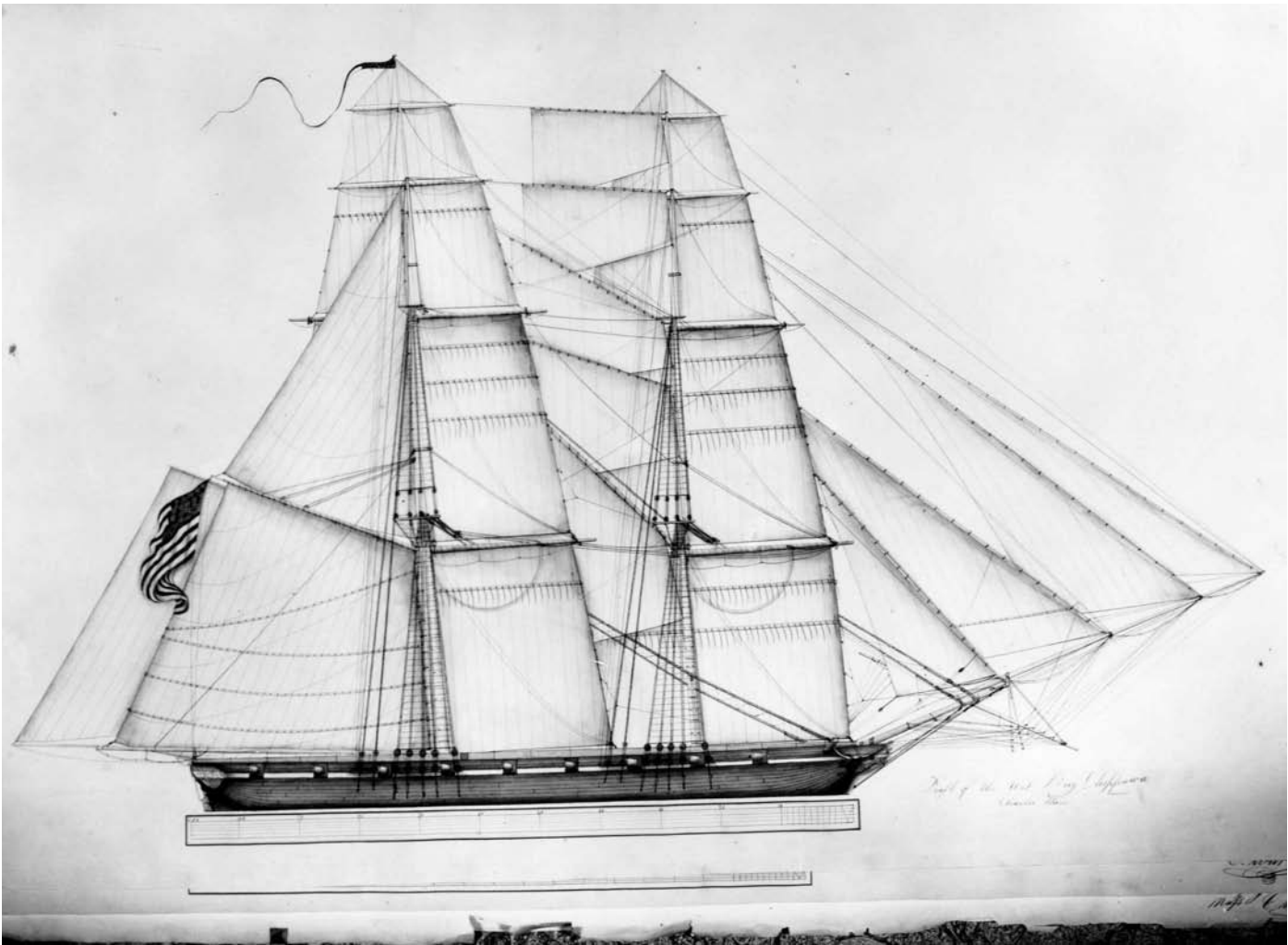
**Service record:** Mediterranean 1815–16. West Indies 1816–18. Sold Dec 1818.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Boxer</i>	Middletown, Conn. (Beldin and Churchill)	1814	May 1815	1815
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	114'11" × 28'7" × 14'2"			
Tonnage	370 tons			
Complement	90			
Battery	2-9 pdr, 14-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1815. Gulf of Mexico 1816–17. Foundered off Belize, crew saved, 25 Oct 1817.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Dolphin</i>	New York NYd	1836	17 Jun 1836	6 Sep 1836
<i>Porpoise</i>	Boston NYd	1836	31 May 1836	25 Aug 1836
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	88' (bp) × 25' × 13', d11'			
Tonnage	224 tons			
Complement	80			
Battery	2-9 pdr, 8-24 pdr crde			
	<i>Dolphin</i> : (1850) 6-32 pdr; (1858) 4-32 pdr; (1859) 3-11", 1-9"			
	<i>Porpoise</i> : (1846) 2-9 pdr, 9-24 pdr crde; (1850) 2-32 pdr, 6-24 pdr crde			



**Fig 3.38:** Spar and sail plan of the brig *Porpoise*, built in 1815 and wrecked in 1816. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Notes:** Improved versions of *Boxer* class, designed by Samuel Humphreys. Very fast. *Dolphin* rigged as brig; *Porpoise* originally rigged as brigantine, then rerigged as brig about 1840.

**Service records:**

*Dolphin*: Brazil Sqn 1836–39. Africa Sqn 1839–41. Home Sqn 1841–43. Africa Sqn 1845–47. East India Sqn 1848–51. Survey expedition under Maury, 1852–53. Africa Sqn 1855–57. Paraguay Expedition, 1858. Burned at Norfolk NYd, 20 Apr 1861.

**Ships captured:** Slaver bark *Chancellor*, off Cape Mount, Africa, 1846; slaver brig *The Echo*, north of Cuba, 21 Aug 1858.

*Porpoise*: Wilkes survey expedition to South Seas, Aug 1838–Jul 1842. Africa 1843–44. Gulf of Mexico 1845–47. Africa 1848–50. Ringgold exploring expedition in Pacific, 1853. Disappeared in China Sea, probably foundered in typhoon, Feb 1854.

**Ship captured:** schr *Nonata* (later USS *Nonata*), off Lagunas, Mexico, 21 Aug 1846.

**SOMERS CLASS**

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Bainbridge</i>	Boston NYd	1842	26 Apr 1842	16 Dec 1842
<i>Somers</i>	New York NYd	1842	16 Apr 1842	12 May 1842
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	100' (bp) × 25' × 13'6", d14'			
Tonnage	259 tons			
Complement	80			
Battery	12- or 10-32 pdr crde; (1850) 6-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Humphreys. Fast and weatherly.

**Service records:**

*Bainbridge*: Home Sqn 1843–44. Brazil Sqn 1844–47. Africa Sqn 1848–50. Brazil and Africa Sqns 1850–56. Paraguay Expedition 1859. Capsized off Cape Hatteras (1 survivor), 21 Aug 1863.

*Somers*: Attempted mutiny on board foiled, 1 Dec 1842; the only case of mutiny on a USN ship; three hanged including son of Secretary of War Spencer. West Indies 1843–46. Attack on Alvarado, 7 Aug 1846. Capsized in squall off Tampico (32 dead), 8 Dec 1846.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Truxtun</i>	Norfolk NYd	Dec 1841	16 Apr 1842	18 Feb 1843
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	102'6" (bp) × 28'2" × 12'3"			
Tonnage	331 tons			
Complement	80			
Battery	10-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Francis Grice. Fast and weatherly.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1843. Africa Sqn 1844–45. Stranded on Tuxpan bar, 15 Aug 1846, crew taken prisoner by Mexicans, wreck burned by U.S. Sqn.

**Ship captured:** Slaver *Spitfire* taken by boats with HMS *Ardent*, in Rio Pongas, West Africa, 29 Mar 1845.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Perry</i>	Norfolk NYd	18 Feb 1843	9 May 1843	13 Oct 1843
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	105' (bp) × 25'6" × 12'3", 13'6" (maximum)			
Tonnage	280 tons			
Complement	80			
Battery	10-32 pdr crde; (1846) 2-32 pdr; 6-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Francis Grice. Reputedly the fastest vessel in the Navy when built.

**Service record:** Far East 1843–44. Dismasted in hurricane, Nov 1846. Mexico 1846. Brazil Sqn 1847. Africa 1849–54. Paraguay expedition, 1858. Sold 10 Aug 1865.

**Ships captured:** Slaver bark *Ann D. Richardson*, off Rio de Janeiro, 1847; slaver brig *Independence*, 1847; slaver ship *Martha*, off Loanda, Africa, 6 Jun 1850; slaver brig *Glamorgan*, off West Africa, 10 Mar 1854.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Lawrence</i>	Baltimore, Md. (L.B. Culley)	1843	1 Aug 1843	19 Sep 1843
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	109'9" (bp) × 26'2" × 13'3"			
Tonnage	364 tons			
Complement	80			
Battery	2-32 pdr; 8-32 pdr cdre			

**Notes:** Drew too much water. Not too successful, but good sailer. Armed at Norfolk NYd.

**Service record:** South Atlantic 1843–44. Home Sqn 1846. Decomm 12 Sep 1846. Sold after 3 years' service, condemned as unseaworthy, Oct 1846.

## SCHOONERS

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Retaliation</i> <i>ex-Le Croyable</i>	(U)	(U)	30 Jul 1798	1798
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	107 tons			
Complement	87			
Battery	4-6 pdr, 10-4 pdr			

**Notes:** French privateer. Captured by USS *Constitution* and *Delaware* off Delaware Capes, 7 Jul 1798.

**Service record:** Recaptured by French frigates *La Volontaire* and *L'Insurgente* off Guadeloupe, while under command of Bainbridge, 20 Nov 1798.

**Later history:** French *Magicienne*. Again recaptured by USS *Merrimack*, 29 Jun 1799. Sold 29 Nov 1799.

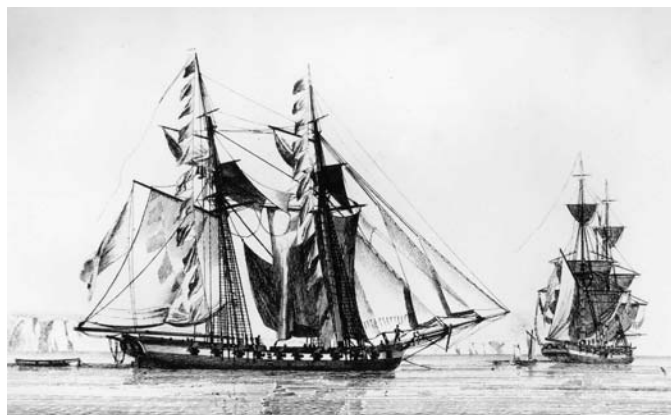
Name	Builder	Launch	Comm.
<i>Enterprise</i>	Eastern Shore of Md. (Henry Spencer)	1799	Dec 1799
<i>Experiment</i>	Eastern Shore of Md. (Henry Spencer)	1799	Nov 1799
Rate	12 guns		
Dimensions	84'7" (deck) 60' (keel) × 22'6" × 10'		
	<i>Enterprise</i> : (1805) 92'9" (deck) 80'6" (bp) × 23'9" × 10'10"		
Tonnage	135 tons		
	<i>Enterprise</i> : (1811) 165 tons		
Complement	70		
Battery	12-6 pdr		
	<i>Enterprise</i> : (1803) 12-12 pdr; (1811) 14-18 pdr crde, 2-9 pdr; (1821) 1-9 pdr, 6-18 pdr crde, 1-13" M		

**Notes:** Successful design, fast, and handy vessels, but not after rebuilding. Owing to *Enterprise*'s gallant services during the French war, she was the only small cruiser retained afterward. *Enterprise* rebuilt and converted to brig at Washington NYd, 1811–12.

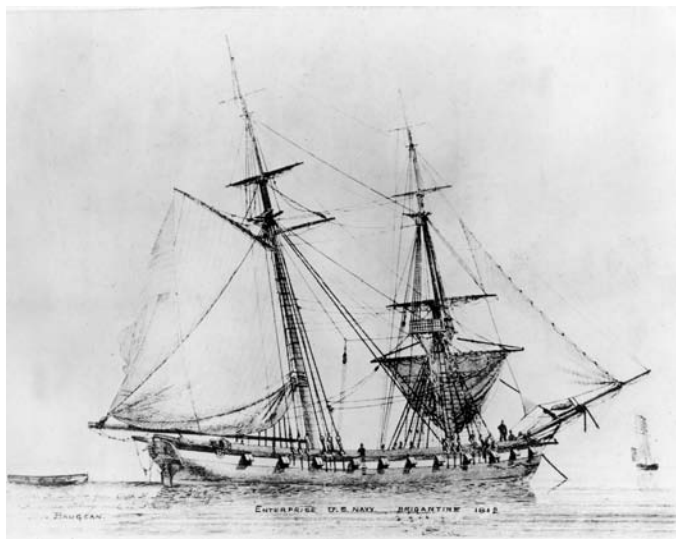
### Service records:

*Enterprise*: Caribbean 1799–1800. In action with a Spanish man-of-war (brig), 18, off Mona Passage, 1 Apr 1800. Action with French *Flambeau*, 14 (LoF), off Dominica (3 dead), 14 Dec 1800. Mediterranean, 1801–07. Action with Tripolitanian corsair *Tripoli* in Mediterranean, 1 Aug 1801. Attacks on forts at Tripoli, Aug–Sep 1804. Rebuilt in Venice, 1804–05. U.S. east coast 1807–09. Took brig HMS *Boxer*, 14, off Portland, Me. (1 killed, captain Lt. Burrows), 5 Sep 1813. Mediterranean 1815. Caribbean 1817–23. Wrecked off Curacao (crew saved), 9 Jul 1823.

**Ships captured:** Recaptured 11 American ships, 1800; French *Le Citoyen*, 6 (LoF), off St. Kitts, 1800; privateer *Le Cygne*, 4, 17 Jun 1800; French privateer *L'Aigle*, 10, 4 Jul 1800; *Pauline*, 6, *Guadeloupean*, 7, and 13 others, Dec 1800; privateer *Amour de la Patrie*, 6, 24 Dec 1800; Turkish ketch *Mastico* (see USS *Intrepid*) off Tripoli, 23 Dec 1803; schr *Fly*, off Portsmouth, NH, 20 Aug 1813. (With *Rattlesnake*) brig *Isabella* (prize), 18 Jan 1814; ship *Sincerity*, 20 Jan 1814; brig *Rambler* (burned),



**Fig 3.39:** USS *Enterprise*, a schooner built in 1799, depicted by Baugean in France in 1806. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



**Fig 3.40:** Another view of the *Enterprise* by Baugean after she was rigged as a brigantine in 1812. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

7 Feb 1814; schr *Eliza*, schr *Mars* (LoFM), 23 Feb 1814. Four schrs and one sloop (pirates), at Cape Antonio, Cuba, 16 Oct 1821; one pirate schr, 21 Dec 1821; three launches, four barges, 8 Mar 1822.

*Experiment*: Caribbean 1799–1800. Fought off 10 pirate barges (sank 2) off Haiti, Jan 1800. Action with British *Louisa Bridger*, 8, in error off Barbuda, 16 Nov 1800. Sold Oct 1801.

**Ships captured:** *Les Deux Amis*, 8 (LoFM), off Barbuda, 1 Sep 1800; schr *Diana*, 14, off Barbuda, 13 Sep 1800.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Vixen</i>	Baltimore (Wm Price)	1803	25 Jun 1803	Aug 1803
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	83'6" (bp) × 23'7" × 9'6"			
Tonnage	185 tons			
Complement	111			
Battery	12-18 pdr crde, 2-9 pdr; (1804) 12-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Authorized 28 Feb 1803. Designed by Benjamin Hutton Jr.; similar to *Enterprise*. Rerigged as brig at Washington NYd, 1804. Slow, crank and overcrowded after rerigging as brig.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1801–03. Attacks on forts at Tripoli, Aug–Sep 1804. Fired upon by HMS *Moselle* off Berry Island, West Indies, 24 Jun 1810. Captured at sea in West Indies by HMS *Southampton*, 32, 22 Nov 1812; both vessels wrecked soon after in Bahamas, officers and crew saved. Captain Lt. George W. Reed died a prisoner in Jamaica.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Nautilus</i>	Eastern Shore of Md. (Henry Spencer)	1799	May 1803	Apr 1805
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	87'6" deck × 23'8" × 9'10"			
Tonnage	185 tons			
Complement	103			
Battery	14-12 pdr; (1804) 12-6 pdr; (1810) 2-9pdr, 12-18 pdr crde; (1810 as brig) 12-18 pdr, 2 long guns			

**Notes:** Purchased. Very fast. Rerigging in 1810 hurt her sailing qualities.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1803–06. Attacks on forts at Tripoli, Aug–Sep 1804. Attack on Derna, North Africa Libya, 27 Apr 1805. Attached to Decatur's Sqn, 1811. Captured by British Sqn of *Shannon*, *Africa*, and *Aeolus* off New Jersey, having thrown overboard lee guns, 16 Jul 1812. First American man-of-war captured in 1812.

**Later service:** HMS *Emulous*, 14. Sold Aug 1817.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Ferret</i>	Norfolk NYd	(U)	1806	18 Apr 1809
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	73' deck × 23'8" × 7'6"			
Tonnage	143 tons			
Complement	64			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Built as cutter *Ferret*; designed by Josiah Fox. Rerigged as brig and renamed *Viper*, 1809–10.

**Service record:** Captured by HMS *Narcissus*, 38, off Belize, 17 Jan 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Revenge</i>	(U)	(U)	Dec 1806	1807
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	about 70' × (U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	43			
Battery	12-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased at New Orleans. Fore topsail schooner, very sharp.

**Service record:** Recaptured American ship *Diana* at Amelia Island, Spanish Florida, Jul 1810. Wrecked under O.H. Perry off Newport, RI, 9 Jan 1811, through carelessness of pilot.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Carolina</i>	Charleston, SC (James Marsh)	1812	10 Nov 1812	4 Jun 1813
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	89'6" (bp) 78' (keel) × 24'4" × 11'4"			
Tonnage	230 tons			
Complement	100			
Battery	12-12 pdr crde, 3-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased before completion.

**Service record:** Captured schooner HMS *Shark* in Gulf of Mexico, 1813. Expedition against pirates in Barataria Bay, La., 16 Sep 1814. Blew up from hot shot fired by enemy at New Orleans having just been abandoned by her captain, J.D. Henley (7 killed or wounded), 27 Dec 1814.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Nonsuch</i>	Baltimore, Md.	1812	Dec 1814	1814
Rate	14 guns; (later) 6 guns			
Dimensions	86' (bp) × 21' × 9'			
Tonnage	148 tons			
Complement	61			
Battery	1-6 pdr, 12-12 pdr crde; (1815) 5-12 pdr crde, 1-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased privateer.

**Service record:** Active cruiser on southern coast during war. Threw 11 guns overboard when closely pursued by enemy, 13 Jun 1814. West Indies 1815–19. Capt. Oliver Hazard Perry died of fever on board, 23 Aug 1819. BU 1826.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Sancho Panza*, Apr 1813; schr *Caledonia* (privateer), 9 Apr 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Spitfire</i> <i>ex-Grampus</i>	Baltimore	1812	Dec 1814	1814
Rate	12 or 10 guns			
Dimensions	106' (bp) × 25'6" × 11'8"			
Tonnage	278 tons			
Complement	60			
Battery	2-32 pdr, 4-9 pdr, 6-32 pdr crde; (1816) 1-32 pdr, 4-9 pdr, 4-18 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Purchased LofM.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1815–16. Action with ship *Mashouda* and brig *Esledio* off Cape de Gatt, Spain, 17–19 Jun 1815. Sold 3 Apr 1816.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Eagle</i>	New Orleans, La.	(U)	1814	(U)
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	270 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased at New Orleans. Sold 1820.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Torch</i>	Baltimore, Md.	(U)	1814	1814
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	106' (bp) × 26' × 11'9"			
Tonnage	252 tons			
Complement	60			
Battery	1-18 pdr, 1-4 pdr, 10-18 pdr crde			

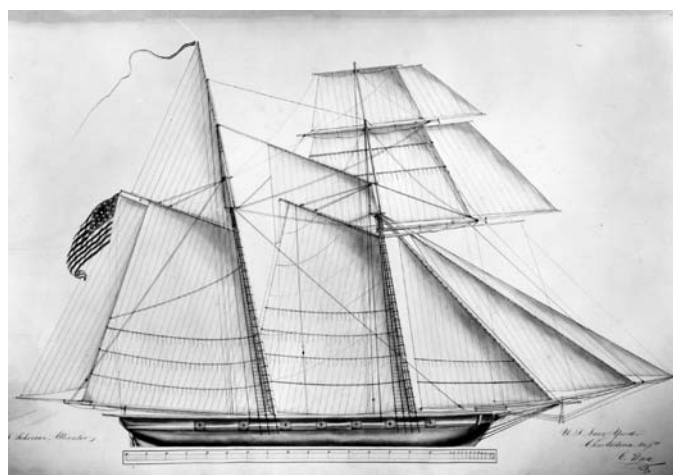
**Notes:** Purchased privateer.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1815. Action with ship *Mashouda* and brig *Esledio* off Cape de Gatt, Spain, 17–19 Jun 1815. Sold 3 Apr 1816.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Firebrand</i>	New Orleans, La.	(U)	Apr 1815	Aug 1815
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	70' × 21' × 10'6"			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	52			
Battery	1-6 pdr, 6-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased.

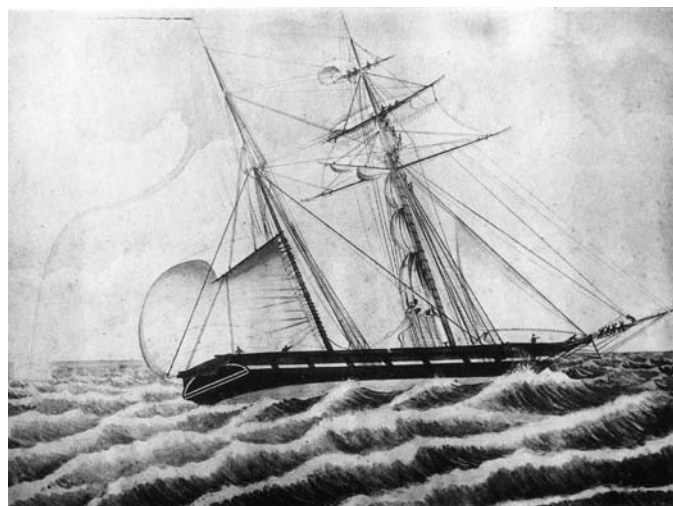
**Service record:** Gulf of Mexico 1815–19. Operations against pirates. Lost her anchors, boats, and one gun in heavy gale, Oct 1817. Wrecked in heavy gale in Bay St. Louis, La. (36 lost) 28 Jul 1819 (or according to other reports, Square Handkerchief Shoal, Miss.).



**Fig 3.41:** Spar and sail plan of the schooner *Alligator*, built by the Boston Navy Yard in 1820. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Alligator</i>	Boston NYd	26 Jun 1820	2 Nov 1820	26 Mar 1821
<i>Dolphin</i>	Philadelphia NYd	1820	23 Jun 1821	7 Oct 1821
<i>Porpoise</i>	Portsmouth NYd	16 Aug 1820	2 Dec 1820	30 Mar 1821
<i>Shark</i>	Washington NYd	1820	17 May 1821	2 Jun 1821
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	86' (bp) × 24'7" × 10'4" ; 12'4" (maximum) <i>Dolphin</i> : 88' × 23'6" × 12'4"			
Tonnage	198 tons			
Complement	70/100			
Battery	<i>Alligator, Dolphin</i> : 12-6 pdr; (1825) 2-18 pdr, 10-6 pdr <i>Porpoise</i> : 10-6 pdr, 1-18 pdr <i>Shark</i> : (1840) 2-9 pdr, 8-24 pdr crde; (1842) 2-9 pdr; 10-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by William Doughty. Fast and handy. *Porpoise* and *Shark* had regulation man-of-war bows. Fitted with high pivot gun, which was later



**Fig 3.42:** The schooner *Shark*, built in 1821, was wrecked in the Columbia River in 1846. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



removed and replaced with two 18 pdr on carriages. Figurehead: *Alligator*: alligator.

Service records:

*Alligator*: Africa Sqn, where Stockton negotiated first settlement leading to establishment of Liberia, 1821. Engaged Portuguese ship *Marianna Flora*, 12 (or LofM *Mariana Faliere*), south of Azores, 5 Nov 1821, rnd by prize court. Lt. W.H. Allen and 3 others killed in action with pirates, 8 Nov 1822. Wrecked on Carysfort Reef, Fla. and destroyed by crew, 19 Nov 1823.

**Ships captured:** Slaver schrs *Jeune Eugenie*, *Elize*, *La Daphne*, *Matilda*, off west coast of Africa, 17–25 May 1821; pirate schr *Cienega* (*Cinqua*) off Nuevitas, Cuba, 29 Apr 1822. (With *Grampus*) four pirate schrs, 1 May 1822; three pirate schrs, off Cuba, 9 Nov 1822.

*Dolphin*: Completed at New York NYd. Pacific Sqn 1821–35. Cruised Columbia River 1821–35. Unsafe to bring her home around the capes owing to her decayed state. Sold in Pacific, 2 Dec 1835.

*Porpoise*: West Indies 1821–23. Africa 1824–25. Mediterranean 1826–30. West Indies 1830–33. Wrecked on reef off Port Lizardo, West Indies, or on Sacrificios Island, Mexico, near Vera Cruz, 2 Nov 1833.

**Ships captured:** Six pirate vessels, off Cuba, 7 Jan 1822; 1 schr and 3 boats, 20 Oct 1824; 5 pirate boats and prize brig, off Andros Island in Aegean, 16 Oct 1827.

*Shark*: Africa 1821–22. Captain, Lt. M.C. Perry, raised U.S. flag over Key West, 25 Mar 1822. Africa 1826–27. West Indies 1828. Africa 1830–32.

Mediterranean 1833–35. West Indies 1835–38. Pacific Sqn 1839–46. Wrecked at mouth of Columbia River, 10 Sep 1846, all hands saved; crew reached San Francisco on chartered schooner *Cadboro*, 16 Nov 1846.

**Ship captured:** (With *Grampus*) schr *Bandara d'Saugare*, West Indies, Jun 1822.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Grampus</i>	Washington NYd	1820	2 Aug 1821	1821
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	97' (oa) 92'6" (bp) × 24'6" × 11'6", d9'6"			
Tonnage	171 tons			
Complement	64			
Battery	1-18 pdr, 10-12 pdr crde; (1825) 2-9 pdr, 10-12 pdr crde; (1840) 2-9 pdr, 8-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Henry Eckford. One of fastest schooners of her day. Designed with pivot, without gunports amidships.

**Service record:** First cruise West Indies 1822–23. Attack on pirates at Foxardo, Puerto Rico, captured a noted pirate, 14 Nov 1824. West Indies 1825–26, 1828–39. Northeast coast of Africa 1840–41. Left Charleston, SC, 14 Mar 1843, and was never seen again.

**Ships captured:** (With *Shark*) schr *Bandara d'Saugare*, West Indies, Jun 1822; pirate brig *Palmyra* (released), 16 Aug 1822; two pirate vessels off Yucatan, 22 May 1823; one pirate ship, 4 Mar 1825; slaver *Fenix*, off Haiti, 5 Jun 1830.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Boxer</i>	Boston NYd	1831	22 Nov 1831	1832
<i>Enterprise</i>	New York NYd	1831	26 Oct 1831	15 Dec 1831
<i>Experiment</i>	Washington NYd	1831	1831	Apr 1832
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	88' (bp) × 23'6" × 12', d10'6" <i>Experiment</i> : 90' × 21'6" × 6'1"			
Tonnage	194 tons <i>Experiment</i> : 209 tons.			
Complement	72			
Battery	<i>Boxer</i> : 8-24 pdr crde, 2-9 pdr			



**Fig 3.43:** A sketch of the schooner *Experiment*, 10, built in 1831. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Notes:** Designed by Samuel Humphreys. *Experiment* probably built to a different design. Fast sailers. *Boxer* converted to brig 1840.

Service records:

*Boxer*: Brazil Sqn 1832–33. West Indies 1834. Pacific Sqn 1835–40. Home Sqn 1842–44. Africa Sqn 1846–48. Sold 7 Aug 1848 (sunk in mine experiment? 1842).

*Enterprise*: Africa Sqn 1832–34. Pacific 1836–39. South America 1840–44. Sold 28 Oct 1844. Brazil Station 1832–33, East Indies 1834–37. Pacific 1838–39. Brazil 1839–44. Sold 1845.

**Ship captured:** Pirate brig *Malek Adhel*, 4, off Bahia, Brazil, Sep 1840. *Experiment*: East coast 1832–33. West Indies 1833–35. Lost rudder at sea in gale, 26 Apr 1835. Surveying 1836–39. Receiving ship, Philadelphia, 1839–48. Sold 1848.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ariel</i>	Baltimore	(U)	19 May 1831	1832
<i>ex-Fourth of July</i> (9 Jun 1831)	(Dorgin and Baily)			
<i>Spark</i>	(U)	(U)	1831	19 May 1832
<i>Sylph</i>	Baltimore	1831	Apr 1831	19 May 1831
<i>ex-Sarah Ann</i>	(Dorgin and Baily)			
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	<i>Ariel</i> : 48 tons; <i>Spark</i> : 50 tons			
Complement	14; <i>Ariel</i> : 13			
Battery	varied			

**Notes:** Purchased for protection of timber on southern coast. *Ariel*: Guarded oak forest on gulf coast of Florida. Sold 3 Jan 1833. *Spark*: Florida coast 1832. Sold 1832. *Sylph*: Lost in storm in West Indies after leaving Pensacola, Aug 1831.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Bonita</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1846	May 1846	30 May 1846
<i>Falcon</i> <i>ex-Isabel</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1846	Nov 1846	(U)
<i>Petrel</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1846	9 Jun 1846	Jun 1846
<i>Reefer</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	(U)	25 May 1846	19 Jun 1846
<i>Tampico</i> <i>ex-Pueblano</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1845	1846	Nov 1846
<i>Union</i> <i>ex-Union</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1845	1846	Nov 1846
Rate	1 gun, except <i>Petrel</i> : 2 guns			
Dimensions	68'6" × 19 × 6' <i>Reefer</i> : 59' × 19' × 6'			
Tonnage	76 tons			
Complement	30			
Battery	<i>Bonita, Reefer</i> : 1-18 pdr <i>Falcon, Tampico, Union</i> : 1-24 pdr <i>Petrel</i> : 1-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Former Mexican gunboats. *Bonita, Petrel*, and *Reefer* were under construction for Mexican Navy and were purchased by USN. The others were captured and placed in service.

**Service records:**

*Bonita*: Attack on Alvarado, 7 Aug 1846. Attacks on Frontera and Tampico, Oct–Nov 1846. Landings at and siege of Veracruz 9–29 Mar 1847. Capture of Tuxpan, 18 Apr 1847. Sold 15 Oct 1848.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Yucateca* near Tobasco, Mexico, 22 or 30 Apr 1847; steamer *Montezuma*, near Tobasco, Mexico, 22 Jun 1847; schr *Gavitan*, in Rio Los Brocas, Mexico, 9 Nov 1847; schr *Guadalupe*, schr *Jacinta*, near Frontera, Mexico, Mar 1848.

*Falcon*: Captured 14 Nov 1846 at Tampico and comm. Siege of Vera Cruz, Mar 1847. Decomm 4 Sep 1848. Sold 18 Oct 1848.

*Petrel*: Expedition against Alvarado, 7 Aug 1846. Siege of Vera Cruz, 9–29 Mar 1847. Attack on Tuxpan, 18 Apr 1847. Trfd to Coast Survey 1851.

*Reefer*: Expedition against Alvarado, 7 Aug 1846. Siege of Veracruz, 9–29 Mar 1847. Sold 1848.

*Tampico*: Captured at Tampico 14 Nov 1846. Siege of Vera Cruz, Mar 1847. Sold at Norfolk, 1849.

*Union*: Captured by *Princeton* at Tampico, 4 Nov 1846. Wrecked off Vera Cruz, 16 Dec 1846.

## MISCELLANEOUS SMALLER VESSELS

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Troup</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	1812
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-18 pdr crde, 4-12 pdr crde, 4-6 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Guard ship and receiving ship at Savannah. Sold 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Essex Junior</i> <i>ex-Atlantic</i>	(U)	(U)	28 May 1813	Jun 1813
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	355 tons			
Complement	60			
Battery	10-6 pdr, 10-18 pdr crde			

**Notes:** British whaler (LofM), captured by USS *Essex* off Galapagos Islands, 29 May 1813. Converted to cruiser and comm.

**Service record:** Captured by British ships off Valparaiso; used to transport prisoners to New York, 28 Mar 1814. Seized at New York and sold, 26 Aug 1814.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Georgiana</i>	(U)	(U)	29 Apr 1813	8 May 1813
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	280 tons			
Complement	42			
Battery	10-6 pdr, 6-18 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Captured British whaler, taken by *Essex* off Galapagos Islands, 29 Apr 1813.

**Service record:** Recaptured off U.S. coast by frigate HMS *Barrosa* on return from Pacific with cargo of oil, early 1814. Made three captures while a cruiser in Pacific under J. Downes.

**Ships captured:** *Catherine, Rose*, and *Hector*, 28 May 1813. (With *Greenwich*) *Seringapatam*, 13 Jul 1813.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Tchifonta</i>	New Orleans, La. (M. Pechon)	Late 1813	never	never
Rate	22 guns			
Dimensions	152'9" (gundeck) × 43' × 8'2"			
Tonnage	1,500 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	26-32 pdr, 16-42 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Corvette. Ship rig, broad beam, and flat bottom. Designed as blockship for defense of New Orleans. Construction suspended, Mar 1814; sold on stocks, 1825.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Prometheus</i> <i>ex-Escape</i>	Philadelphia, Pa. (Wm. Seguin)	(U)	1814	1815
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	99'9" (bp) 82' (keel) × 27' × 11'4"			
Tonnage	273 tons; also reported as 290 tons			
Complement	60			
Battery	2-32 pdr, 4-9 pdr, 6-32 pdr crde; (1816) 4-18 pdr crde, 1-32, 4-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased privateer.

**Service record:** West Indies 1815. Surveying 1817–18. Sold 1819.

Name	Rate	Type	Builder	Built	Acquired	Dimensions	Battery
<i>Alligator</i>	1	sloop	(U)	(U)	1813	(U)	1-4 pdr
<i>Asp</i>	3	sloop	(U)	(U)	17 Feb 1813	(U)	1-12 pdr, 2-12 pdr crde
<i>ex-Adeline</i>							
<i>Buffalo</i>	5	sloop	Philadelphia, Pa.	(U)	Apr 1813	(U)	4-18 pdr, 1-6 pdr
<i>Bull Dog</i>	2	felucca	(U)	(U)	1814	(U)	(U)
<i>Camel</i>	5	sloop	Philadelphia, Pa.	(U)	Apr 1813	(U)	2-18 pdr, 1-4 pdr, 2-24 pdr crde
<i>Comet</i>	(U)	schooner	Baltimore, Md.	(U)	1813	(U)	(U)
<i>Corporation</i>	2	schooner	(U)	(U)	1814	(U)	(U)
<i>Despatch</i>	2	schooner	(U)	(U)	1814	(U)	(U)
<i>Ferret</i>	8	schooner	Charleston, SC	(U)	Nov 1812	(U)	(U)
<i>Helen</i>	4	schooner	Philadelphia, Pa.	(U)	Sep 1813	(U)	4-4 pdr
<i>Hornet</i>	5	schooner	Georgetown, DC	(U)	1813	(U)	4-18 pdr crde, 1-18 pdr
<i>Norwich</i>	(U)	schooner	(U)	(U)	1812	(U)	(U)
<i>Patapsco</i>	(U)	schooner	(U)	(U)	1813	101' × 25' × 11'5"	(U)
<i>Ranger</i>	1	schooner	(U)	(U)	Mar 1814	(U)	1-18 pdr
<i>Revenge</i>	16	schooner	Baltimore, Md.	1810/12	1813	102' × 23' × 10'	(U)
<i>Revenge</i>	see Gunboat No. 158						
<i>Roanoke</i>	7	schooner	(U)	(U)	1814	(U)	(U)
<i>Scorpion</i>	2	block sloop	(U)	(U)	1812	48'8" × 18'2" × 4'6"	1-24 pdr, 1-18 pdr, 2-12 pdr crde
<i>Sea Horse</i>	1	schooner	New Orleans, La.	(U)	1812	(U)	(U)
<i>Surprise</i>	12	ketch	(U)	(U)	1815	(U)	6-12 pdr crde
<i>Tickler</i>	(U)	sloop	(U)	(U)	Aug 1812	(U)	(U)
<i>Torpedo</i>	(U)	schooner	New York, N.Y.	(U)	1814	(U)	(U)

**Notes:** Small vessels acquired during the War of 1812.

*Alligator*: Captured off Malheureux Is. in Lake Borgne off New Orleans by boats of British Sqn, 14 Dec 1814.

*Asp*: Captured, set on fire, and abandoned by enemy in Chesapeake Bay, 1813, after a gallant resistance during which her commander Sigourney and others were killed. Second in command McCormick recovered her again upon retreat of the enemy. Employed on southern coast until 1815, then tender to *Java* and receiving ship at Baltimore. Sold 1826.

*Buffalo*: Delaware flotilla 1813. Sold 12 Aug 1816.

*Bull Dog*: Purchased for suppression of piracy, 1814. Sold 1821

*Camel*: Delaware flotilla 1813. Sold 12 Aug 1816.

*Comet*: Hired privateer. Loaned to the Navy Apr–Sep, 1813. Took 35 prizes as privateer.

*Corporation*: Purchased at Philadelphia. Receiving Ship. Sold Sep 1820.

*Despatch*: Employed on detached survey of coast. Sold 1820.

*Ferret*: Went aground in Stono Inlet, SC, all saved, 22 Feb 1814.

*Helen*: Purchased as inland dispatch vessel. Lost in Delaware Bay, 1815.

*Hornet*: Purchased as inland dispatch boat. Comm 15 Mar 1814. BU 1820.

*Norwich*: Hired 1812–14.

*Patapsco*: Hired privateer, 1813–14.

*Ranger*: Purchased at Baltimore; sold 1816.

*Revenge*: Hired privateer, Chesapeake Bay. Probably returned to owners 1813.

*Roanoke*: Transferred from State Dept. Sold 1816.

*Scorpion*: Sloop-rigged floating battery. Potomac Flotilla to protect Washington. Burned in Chesapeake Bay, 21 Aug 1814.

*Sea Horse*: Purchased for service on Lake Borgne, La. Expedition against pirates in Barataria Bay, La., Sep 1814. Burned at New Orleans to prevent capture, after resisting two attacks by enemy boats (several killed), 13 Dec 1814.

*Surprise*: Employed on New Orleans station. Condemned 1820.

**Ships captured:** schrs *Merino*, *Louisa*, 18 Jun 1818; pirate schr, fall 1818.

*Tickler*: Purchased as despatch vessel at New Orleans. Sold 1818.

*Torpedo*: Purchased. Special design by Fulton for towing torpedoes. Never completed. Sold 1818?

Name	Builder	Launch	Comm.
<i>Alligator</i>	Wilmington, NC	1809	mid-1809
<i>ex-Gunboat No. 166 (1812)</i>	(Ames Perry)		
Rate	4 guns		
Dimensions	60' (bp) × 16' × d5'11"		
Tonnage	80 tons		
Complement	40		
Battery	(U)		

**Notes:** Converted gunboat.

**Service record:** Fought off attack by armed boats from British frigate in Stono River, SC (2 killed), 29 Jan 1814. Capsized and sank in violent storm in Port Royal Sound (21 dead), Jul 1814. Raised 1815 and sold 12 Jun 1815.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Lynx</i>	Georgetown, DC (James Owner)	(U)	1814	Early 1815
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	80' × (U)			
Tonnage	150 tons			
Complement	50			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased.

**Service record:** Accompanied *Independence*, 74, to Mediterranean in 1815. Surveyed northeast U.S. coast with Bainbridge and Swift on board, 1817. Gulf of Mexico 1817–19. Departed St. Mary's, Ga., for Kingston, Jamaica, not heard from again (50 lost), Jan 1820.

**Ships captured:** two schrs and three boats (pirates) in Gulf of Mexico, 24 Oct–5 Nov 1819.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Fox</i>	(U)	(U)	1817	(U)
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	130 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Receiving ship, Baltimore. Sold 1821. No official information.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Active</i> <i>ex-Clara</i>	Baltimore, Md.	(U)	Sep 1837	(U)
<i>Pilot</i>	New York NYd	(U)	Sep 1836	(U)
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Pilot</i> : 65' (bp) × 21'6" × 9'			
Tonnage	122 tons			
Complement	50			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Built for Wilkes Expedition, but were too slow and unsuitable.

*Active*: Sold summer 1838.

*Pilot*: Sold 1838.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Consort</i>	Boston NYd	(U)	25 Oct 1836	(U)
<i>Pioneer</i>	Norfolk NYd	(U)	29 Oct 1836	(U)
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	78'9" (bp) × 25'4" × (U)			
Tonnage	230 tons			
Complement	75			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Designed by Humphreys. Could be rigged as brig or bark. Built for Wilkes exploring expedition; too slow, used for salvage work.

**Service records:**

*Consort*: Government packet to West Indies, 1838. Surveying southern harbors 1840–41. Receiving vessel, Portland, Me., 1842. Africa 1843–44. U.S. coast, 1844. Sold 25 May 1844.

*Pioneer*: Carried General Santa Anna to Vera Cruz in 1837 after he had been taken prisoner by Sam Houston in Texas. Almost lost in Long Island Sound, Mar 1838. Receiving vessel, Baltimore 1838–44. Converted to store vessel, sent to Brazil. Sold 1844.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Flying Fish</i> <i>ex-Independence</i>	New York, N.Y.	(U)	3 Aug 1838	12 Aug 1838
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	85'6" (oa) × 22'6" × (U)			
Tonnage	96 tons			
Complement	15			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased, former New York pilot boat.

**Service record:** Wilkes survey expedition to South Seas and Antarctica, Aug 1838–Jul 1842. Sold at Singapore 26 Feb 1842.

**Later service:** Merchant *Spec* (opium smuggler).

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Sea Gull</i> <i>ex-pilot New Jersey</i>	(U)	1838	1838	1838
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	100 tons			
Complement	15			

**Notes:** Purchased at New York.

**Service record:** Tender to Wilkes Exploring Expedition. Sailed on 25 Feb 1839 and was last seen in severe gale off Cape Horn (15 lost).

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Otsego</i>	(U)	(U)	1840	(U)
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Loaned from War Dept for Seminole campaign. Returned to War Dept 1844.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Oregon</i> <i>ex-Thomas H. Perkins</i>	Fort Vancouver, BC	(U)	Aug 1841	1841
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	250 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Brig, purchased to accommodate crew of wrecked *Peacock*.

**Service record:** Purchased by commander of Exploring Expedition at Fort Vancouver. Brought home 1842. Employed in survey of Tampa Bay 1842–43. Sold Apr 1845.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>On-ka-hy-e</i>	Williamsburg, NY (Capes)	1840	1843	11 Jul 1843
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	96' × 22' × 12'			
Tonnage	250 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Yacht with two keels, designed by R.L. Stevens. Purchased. Very fast, and stiff.

**Service record:** Caribbean 1845. Laid up 1846–47. Went aground and lost on Caicos Reef, in West Indies (all saved), 21 Jun 1848.

**Ship captured:** Slaver bark *Laurens* (*Lawrence*), off Rio de Janeiro, 24 Jan 1848.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Malek Adhel</i>	New York, N.Y. (Webb)	1840	7 Sep 1846	1846
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	80' deck × 27'7" × 7'9"			
Tonnage	114 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	2-9 pdr, 10-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig. Former Mexican merchant ship, one time slaver, name retained. Captured off Mazatlan by USS *Warren*, 6 Sep 1846.  
**Service record:** Cruised off California. Sold 1848.

Name	Acquired	Type	Battery
<i>Libertad</i>	1847	schooner	1-9 pdr
<i>Mahonese</i>	1846	schooner	
<i>Morris</i>	1846	schooner	
<i>ex-Laura Virginia</i>			
<i>Nonata</i>	1846	schooner	4-42 pdr

**Notes:** Prizes taken during Mexican War and taken into service.

**Service records:**

*Libertad*: Taken by *Cyane* off Baja California, 1 Oct 1846. Sold Feb 1848.  
*Mahonese*: Taken 14 Nov 1846. Dispatch boat. Sold at Norfolk 1847.  
*Morris*: Mexican prize taken in Tabasco River, Oct 1846. Sold 1848.  
*Nonata*: Captured by USS *Porpoise* off Tabasco, 21 Aug 1846. Dispatch boat 1847. Damaged in storm Mar 1847. Sold 1848.

GALLEYS

Name	Builder	Built	Launch
<i>Beaufort</i>	Beaufort, SC		1798
<i>Charleston</i>	Charleston, SC		1798
<i>ex-Mars</i>			
<i>Governor Davie</i>	Wilmington, NC		1798
<i>Governor Williams</i>	Wilmington, NC		1799
<i>St. Mary's</i>	St. Marys, Ga.		1799
<i>Savannah</i>	Savannah, Ga.		1799
<i>South Carolina</i>	Charleston, SC		1799
<i>ex-Protector</i>			
Rate	1 gun		
Dimensions	52' × 15' × 5'8"		
	<i>Savannah</i> : 51'9" × 15'3" × 5'1"		
Tonnage	(U)		
Complement	28		
Guns	1-24 pdr, 6-3 pdr swivels		

**Note:** Of little value but for harbor defense. Built by Act of May 4, 1798, as a type of naval militia.

**Service records:**

*Beaufort*: Patrolled off SC South Carolina, 1799–1801. Sold 1 Feb 1802.  
*Charleston*: Defense of Charleston 1798–99. Sold 1 Feb 1802.  
*Gov. Davie*: Sold Feb 1802.  
*Gov. Williams*: Transferred to RCS 1802.  
*St. Mary's*: Transferred to RCS 1802.  
*Savannah*: Sold Feb 1802.  
*South Carolina*: Sold at Charleston 1 Feb 1802.

Name	Builder	Built	Launch	Comm.
<i>Senator Ross</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa. (John Taylor)		1798	
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	50'6" × 13'6"			

**Notes:** Built to protect commerce on Mississippi River.

In addition to the above, the United States Navy operated a galley named *Marietta* and others that were unnamed.

GUNBOATS

Gunboats Obtained Abroad

Nos. 1-2: bomb ketches ("bombards") of 90' length.  
Nos. 3-6: Obtained by Preble from the government of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies at Messina for use against Tripoli, Mar 1804. Returned to Naples later in the year; no. 1 damaged in action, 24 Aug 1804.  
Nos. 7,8,9: Very small boats captured from Tripoli; (no. 9) 31'1" × 14' × 5'.  
No. 9 blew up in action with batteries at Tripoli, 7 Aug 1804 (9 killed); the others were sold in Sicily, fall 1804.  
Four gunboats and two bomb vessels (*trabacolos*) were purchased at Ancona, spring 1805.

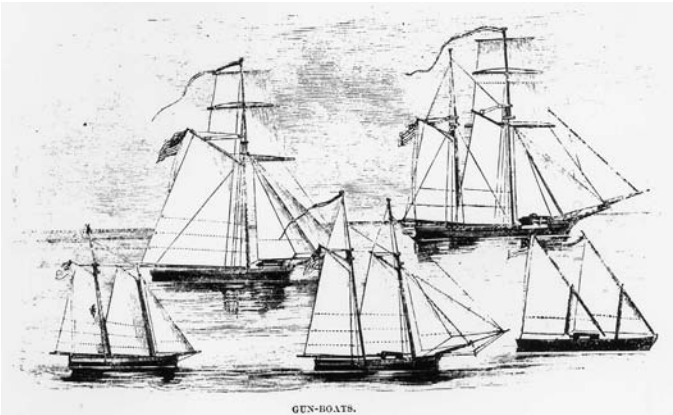
Gunboats Built in the United States

Under the policy of President Jefferson to provide for coast defense rather than spend money on new ships, Congress authorized the first 15 gunboats in 1803. One experimental boat had been built in Washington. Additional authorizations included 50 on 21 Apr 1806 and 188 more on 18 Dec 1807. They were built in groups in various sections of the country. Being locally built and manned, they were similar to naval militia. Altogether some 278 gunboats were authorized, but of these the last 88 were not built and a number on the ways were never finished. A total of 166 were completed, but by Dec 1809, 148 of these had been laid up. The gunboats were ineffective and costly, the opposite of Jefferson's idea for a cheap local defense force.

In chronological order, the gunboats were:

Two experimental boats.

- No. 1: Built at Washington NYd. Comm Jul 1804. Battery: 1-long 32 pdr, 2-6 pdr swivels.  
No. 2: Built at Hampton, Va. (Geo. Hope). Launch Aug 1804. Battery: 1-long 32 pdr. Service record: Mediterranean 1805–06. Wrecked off St. Mary's, Ga. (28 dead), Oct 1811.  
No. 3: Built at Philadelphia (Nathaniel Hutton). Launch Dec 1804. Battery: 2-long 24 pdr. Service record: Mediterranean 1805–06.



**Fig 3.44:** Several types of the gunboats built under President Jefferson to protect the coast. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

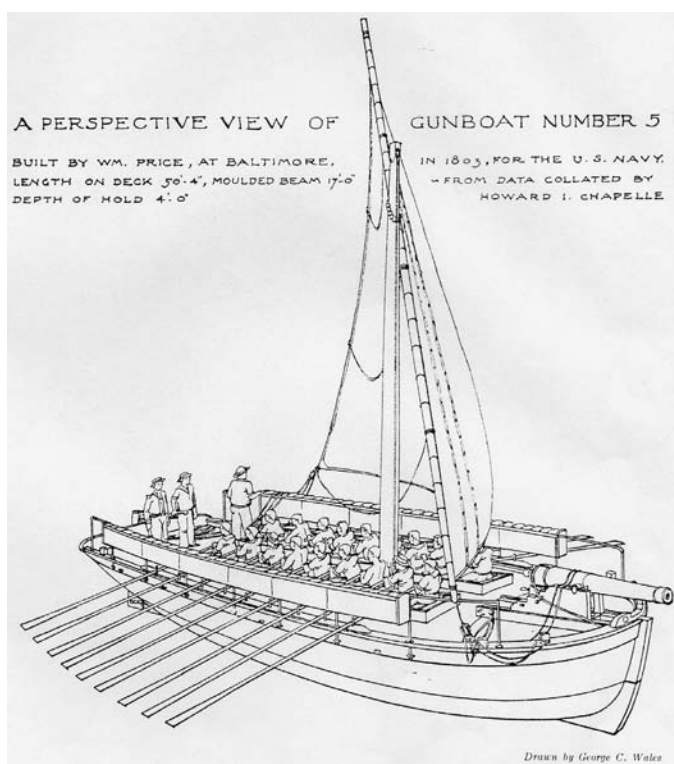


Fig 3.45: A sketch of Gunboat No. 5 by George C. Wales.

- No. 4: Built at Washington NYd. Launch 5 Mar 1804. Battery: 2-long 32 pdr. Service record: Mediterranean 1805.
- No. 5: Built at Baltimore, Md. (Price). Launch 1 Mar 1805. Service record: Mediterranean 1805. Stopped by British fleet off Cadiz and 3 men impressed, 12 Jun 1805. Captured by British on Lake Borgne, 14 Dec 1814. Ship captured: one unarmed pirate brig at sea, 23 Sep 1814.
- No. 6: Built at New York. Launch 4 Feb. 1805. Service record: Mediterranean 1805.
- No. 7 (I): Built at New York. Launch 6 Feb 1805. Service record: Sailed from New York to Mediterranean 20 Jun 1805; lost at sea with all hands.
- No. 8: Built at Boston. Launch 24 Apr 1805. Service record: Mediterranean 1805.
- No. 9: Built at Charleston, SC (Pritchard). Launch Mar 1805. Dimensions: 71' (bp)  $\times$  21'  $\times$  6'2". Service record: Mediterranean 1805.
- No. 10: Built at Washington NYd. Launch 30 Apr 1805. Service record: Mediterranean 1805. Ships captured: brig *Maria*, schr *Trimmer*, 1813.
- No. 11: Built for Preble at Portland, Me. (N. Dyer). Rate: 2 guns. Dimensions: 73'10"  $\times$  18'11"  $\times$  5'3". Schr rig. Service record: Sent to New Orleans. Condemned by 1812.
- No. 12: Built for Preble at Newburyport, Mass. (J. Coffin). Rate: 2 guns. Dimensions: 67'8"  $\times$  18'11"  $\times$  5'4". Schr rig. Service record: Sent to New Orleans. Condemned by 1812.
- Nos. 13-16: Built on Western Rivers, 1805–06; Nos. 13 and 14 at Cincinnati (John Smith), Nos. 15 and 16 at Eddyville, Ky. (Matthew Lyon). Dimensions: 60'  $\times$  18'6"  $\times$  5'. Battery: 2-24 pdr. Sloop-rigged.
- Nos. 17-27: Built on Western rivers, all completed 1807–08; nos. 17 and 18 at Cincinnati (John Smith), nos. 19 and 20 at Lexington (or Louisville), Ky. (J. Jordan and James Morrison), nos. 21 and 22 at Marietta, Ohio (Edw. Tapper and Thomas Vail), no. 23 at Charleston, Va. (John Connell and Peter Mills), no. 24 at Cincinnati (Thomas Reagan), nos. 25-27 at Eddyville, Ky. (Matthew Lyon). Similar to no. 13. Battery: 2-24 pdr.
- No. 23: Captured by British on Lake Borgne, 14 Dec 1814. Ship captured: one unarmed pirate felucca, Southwest Pass, Miss., 24 Sep 1814.
- No. 28: Built at Washington NYd, 1808.
- No. 7 (II): Built at Havre de Grace, Md. (Bennett Barnes). Dimensions: 59'6"  $\times$  16'6"  $\times$  6'1".
- Nos. 29-33: Built at Portland, Me. (3 by William Moulton, 2 by E. Higgins).
- Nos. 34-37: Built at Brunswick, Me. (Ephraim Hunt and Robert Given) (prob also no. 37).
- Nos. 38-41: Built at Middletown, Conn. (Wm. Van Deusen and J. and T. Childs).
- Nos. 42-43: Built at Newport, RI (Benj. Marble).
- Nos. 44-45: Built at Greenwich, RI (John Glozier).
- Nos. 46-57: Built in New York (nos. 46-49 by Adam and Noah Brown, nos. 50-53 by Eckford and Beebe, nos. 54-57 by Chr. Berghe), 1806. Dimensions: 47'4" (keel)  $\times$  18'  $\times$  5'6". Battery: 1-24 or 32 pdr, 2-12 pdr crde.
- Nos. 50-57: Built to a different design, with "Periagua" rig, in which masts did not have the same rake.
- No. 46: Wrecked off Newport, RI, 29 Oct 1812 (10 lost).
- No. 54: Captured schr *Favorite*, off New Bedford, Mass., Jun 1814.
- Nos. 58-78: Built in Virginia; nos. 58 and 59 at Hampton (Hope), nos. 60 and 61 at Hampton (Pool and Servant), nos. 62-65 at Mathews City (J. Patterson and H. Gayle), nos. 66-69 at Portsmouth (Forster), nos. 70-78 at Washington NYd, no. 73 differed in design.
- No. 62: Lost in gale off St. Mary's, Ga., 16 Sep 1812.
- Nos. 79-88: Built at Portland, Me. (D.Green) Battery: 1-32 pdr or 24 pdr.
- No. 81: Captured one launch, Nov 1814.
- No. 88: Captured schr *Chebacque*, off northeast coast, 14 Jul 1814.
- Nos. 89-92: Built at Norwich, Conn. (E. Tracy) and West-erly, RI (A. Cross).
- Nos. 93-115: Built to two designs at New York (5 by Eckford and Beebe, 5 by C.Bergh, 5 by A and N. Brown, 5 by Chas. Browne, 2 by R. Jenkins, 1 by T. Bell).
- Nos. 116-135: Built at Philadelphia NYd and 7 other shipyards.
- No. 121: Captured by boats from HMS *Junon*, 29 Jun 1813.
- Nos. 136-145: Built at Baltimore, Md. (some by Price). Dimensions: 60"  $\times$  16'6"  $\times$  6'6".
- No. 140: Blew up by accident in Ocracoke Inlet, NC (9 dead), 23 Oct 1814.
- Nos. 146-155: Built at Norfolk, Va. (T. Armistead).
- No. 151: Captured privateer schr *Fortune of War*, 3, at Sapelo Bar, SC, 9 Sep 1814.

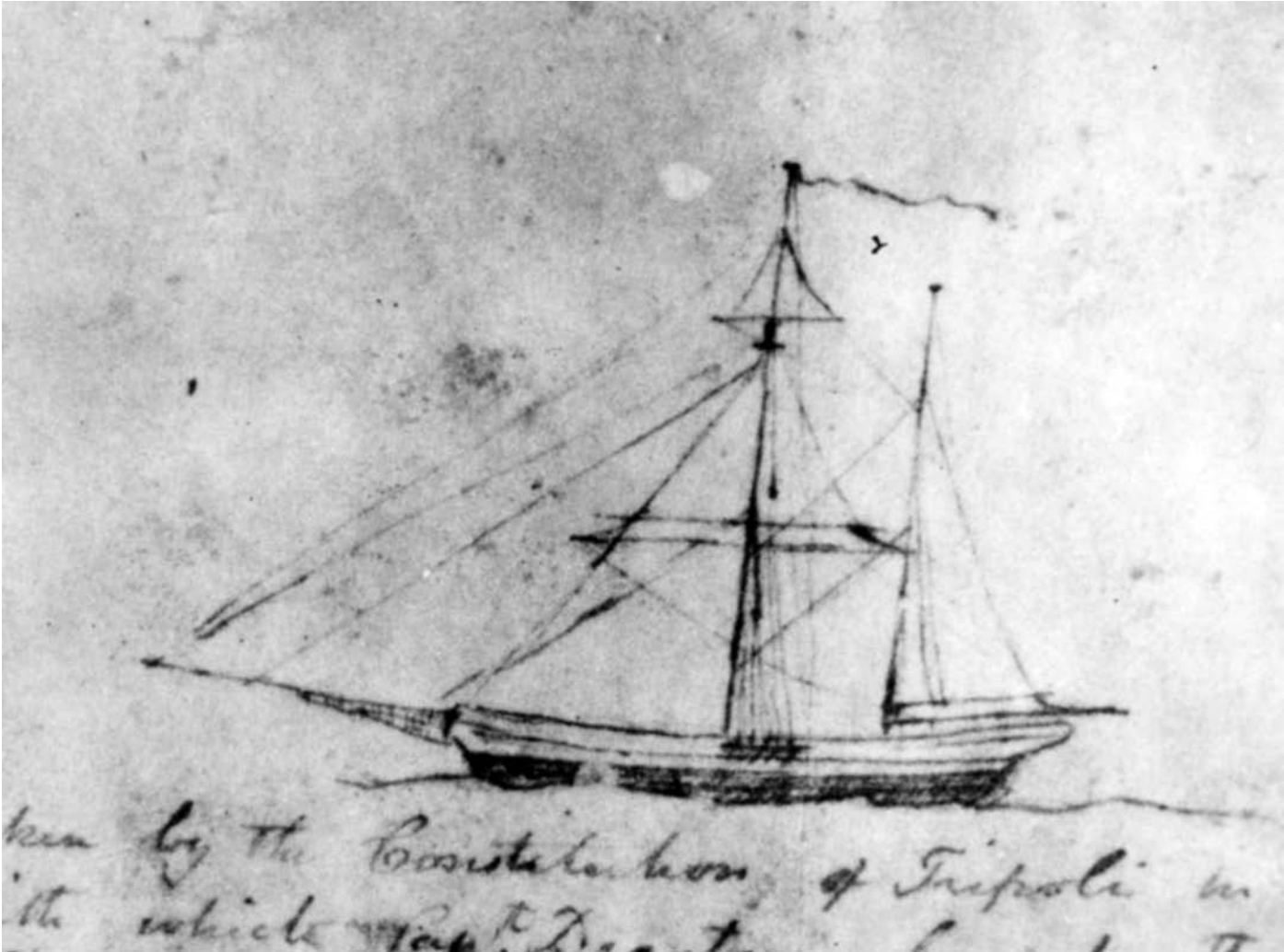
- No. 152: Struck by lightning and blew up in Mississippi River, 14 Jul 1815 (27 casualties).
- Nos. 156-165: Built at Charleston and Beaufort, SC (most by J. Marsh and F. Saltus, no. 158 by James Ingraham).
- No. 156: Captured by British on Lake Borgne, 14 Dec 1814.
- No. 158 (*Revenge*): Built in 1808. Laid up 1817–22. Mosquito Fleet 1822–24. Captured one pirate barge, Mar 1822.
- No. 159: Lost in gale off St. Mary's, Ga., Oct 1810 (no survivors).
- No. 160: (With no. 151) captured privateer schr *Fortune of War*, 3, at Sapelo Bar, SC, 9 Sep 1814.
- No. 161: Lost in gale off St. Mary's, Ga., 16 Sep 1812.
- No. 162: Captured by British on Lake Borgne, 14 Dec 1814. Captured schooners *La Franchise*, 5, *Santa Maria*, 4, *La Sophie*, *La Vengeance*, *La Divina Pastora*, 14, off Pensacola and Mobile, Aug–Sep 1811.
- No. 163: Captured by British on Lake Borgne, 14 Dec 1814.

- No. 164: Lost in gale off St. Mary's, Ga., 16 Sep 1812.
- Nos. 166-168: Built at Wilmington, NC (A. Perry).
- No. 166: Renamed USS *Alligator* in 1812 (q.v.).
- Nos. 169-176: No information available.

BOMB KETCHES

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Intrepid</i> ex- <i>Mastico</i>	France	1798	early 1804	1804
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	(in USN) 60' × 12'			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	70			
Battery	4-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Built for Napoleon's Egyptian expedition. Captured by *Enterprise* and *Constitution*, 23 Dec 1803 and purchased.



**Fig 3.46:** A contemporary sketch of the USS *Intrepid*, which was used by Decatur to destroy the captured frigate *Philadelphia* in February 1804. Later in the year, all on board were killed when she blew up while attempting to enter Tripoli harbor. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Service record:** Used by Decatur to destroy captured frigate *Philadelphia* in Tripoli harbor, 16 Feb 1804. Blew up prematurely as fire ship under Somers in Tripoli harbor (13 killed), 4 Sep 1804.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Etna</i>	Portland, Me. (Wm. Moulton)	(U)	18 Jun 1806	19 Jul 1806
<i>Vesuvius</i>	Newburyport, Mass. (Jacob Coffin)	(U)	31 May 1806	Sep 1806
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Etna</i> : 83'6" (deck) × 24' × 8' <i>Vesuvius</i> : 82'5" (bp) × 25'5" × 8'4"			
Tonnage	<i>Etna</i> : 139 tons <i>Vesuvius</i> : 145 tons			
Complement	30			
Battery	<i>Etna</i> : 1-13" M, 2-8" H, 8-8 pdr <i>Vesuvius</i> : 8-9 pdr, 2-24 pdr; (later) 10-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Jacob Coffin. Near sisters.

**Service records:**

*Etna*: Passage to New Orleans in 1806 and 1809. Sunk in a hurricane at New Orleans, 19 Aug 1812. Also reported to have disappeared off New Orleans (30 dead), 22 Nov 1812.

*Vesuvius*: In passage to New Orleans on 19 Oct 1806, went ashore in Gulf of Abaco, and was obliged to throw guns overboard; returned to New York 1807. Receiving ship New York, 1816. Was a decayed hulk alongside steamship *Fulton* when she blew up at Brooklyn, 1829, BU. **Ships captured:** pirate schooners *Duc de Montebello*, 5, *Diomedé*, 1, slaver *Alexandria*, 4, off Mississippi River, Feb 1810.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Spitfire</i>	Conn.	1803	25 Apr 1805	25 Apr 1805
Tonnage	92 tons			
Dimensions	(U)			
Complement	30			
Battery	1-13" M, 2-9 pdr; (later) 7 guns			

**Notes:** Ex-merchant sloop. Purchased at Boston and converted at Boston NYd.

**Service record:** Sailed for Tripoli, 22 Jun 1805. Laid up 1807. BU 1820.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Vengeance</i>	(U)	1804	Apr 1805	Apr 1805
Rate	3 guns; (later) 7 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	92 tons			
Complement	30			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Ex-merchant schooner. Purchased and converted at Boston NYd.

**Service record:** Sailed for Tripoli, 19 Jun 1805. Mediterranean 1805–06. BU 1818.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Etna</i>	New Orleans, La.	(U)	1813	(U)
Rate	11 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	220 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	2-6 pdr, 2-7.5" H			

**Notes:** Officially a brig. Purchased to replace lost *Etna* at New Orleans. Unfit for service 1814. BU 1817.

**Ship captured:** Spanish schr *Terrible*, Mar 1814.

BOMB BRIGS

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Etna</i>	(U)	(U)	Feb 1847	Mar 1847
<i>Hecla</i>	(U)	(U)	1846	9 Mar 1847
<i>Stromboli</i>	(U)	(U)	1846	18 Mar 1847
<i>ex-Howard</i> (brig)				
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	<i>Etna</i> : 84'3" × 26'5" × 9'10" <i>Stromboli</i> : 80' (bp) × 22'8" × 10'			
Tonnage	182 tons <i>Hecla</i> : 194 tons			
Complement	44			
Battery	1 H/M <i>Stromboli</i> : 1-10" Columbiad			

**Notes:** *Etna*: Converted at Boston NYd. Sold Oct 1848.

*Hecla*: Purchased in New York 1846. Mexican War. Vera Cruz, Tuxpan. Decomm 9 Sep 1848 and sold.

*Stromboli*: Mexican war. Decomm 6 Sep 1848 and sold.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Vesuvius</i>	Williamsburg, NY	1845	1846	1846
<i>ex-Saint Mary</i>				
Dimensions	97' × 26' × 10' 9'8"			
Tonnage	239 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	1-10" M; also reported as 10-6 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig, acquired at New York.

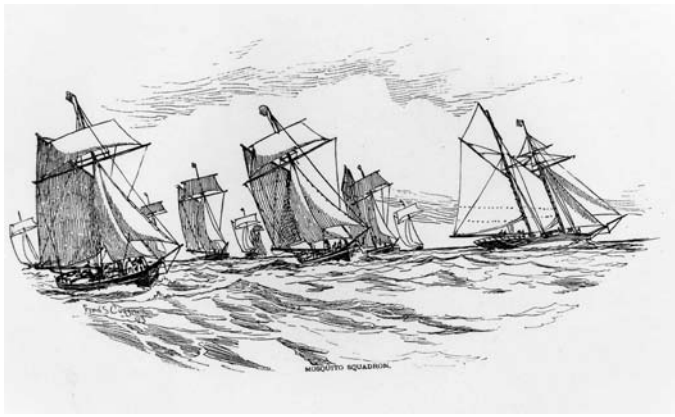
**Service record:** Attack on Tuxpan, 1847. Capture of Tabasco, Jun 1847. Sold Oct 1848.

**Ship captured:** Schr *Wasp*, 10 Oct 1847.

MOSQUITO FLEET

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Beagle</i>	(U)	(U)	20 Dec 1822	1823
<i>Ferret</i>	(U)	(U)	20 Dec 1822	1823
<i>Fox</i>	Baltimore	(U)	20 Dec 1822	1823
<i>Greyhound</i>	(U)	(U)	1822	(U)
<i>Jackall</i>	(U)	(U)	Jan 1823	(U)
<i>Terrier</i>	(U)	(U)	1822	Early 1823
<i>Weasel</i>	(U)	(U)	1822	(U)
<i>Wild Cat</i>	(U)	(U)	1822	(U)
Rate	3 guns, except <i>Wildcat</i> , 2 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Greyhound</i> : 65' × (U); others: (U)			
Tonnage	47 to 65 tons ; 51 tons <i>Beagle</i> : 52 tons <i>Fox</i> : 51 tons <i>Wildcat</i> : 48 tons			
Complement	31			
Battery	varied			





**Fig 3.47:** Several gunboats used as part of the Mosquito Fleet, as depicted by Fred S. Cozzens. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**Notes:** Purchased for David Porter’s “Mosquito Fleet” to suppress West Indian pirates. Particulars varied.

**Service records:**

*Beagle:* Piracy suppression in West Indies 1823–25. Attack on pirates at Cape Cruz, Cuba, 21–22 Jul 1823. Attack on pirates at Foxardo, PR, 14 Nov 1824. Sold Apr 1825.

*Ferret:* West Indies 1823–25. Capsized in gale off Canasi, Cuba (9 lost), 4 Feb 1825.

**Ships captured:** Five pirate launches, at Matanzas, Cuba, Jun–Jul 1823.

*Fox:* Gulf of Mexico 1823–26. Receiving ship Baltimore, 1826. Sold 8 Dec 1837.

*Greyhound:* Attack on pirates at Cape Cruz, Cuba 21–22 Jul 1823. Sold at Baltimore 1824.

*Jackall:* Suppression of pirates in West Indies. Sold 1825.

*Terrier:* West Indies 1823–25. Sold 1825.

**Ships captured:** One launch, one schr, (pirates) off Havana, 17–26 Aug 1824.

*Weasel:* Sold 1825.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Gallago Segunda*, at Colorados, Cuba, 3 Aug 1823.

*Wild Cat:* Lost with all hands in storm in West Indies (14 lost), Oct 1824.

Name	Builder	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Gallinipper</i>	(U)	1823	
<i>Gnat</i>	(U)	1823	
<i>Mosquito</i>	Washington NYd	1823	
<i>Midge</i>	(U)	1823	
<i>Sandfly</i>	(U)	1823	

**Notes:** Perhaps old gunboat barges of the War of 1812 refitted and renamed. Fitted to row and to sail. Large crews, one or two guns, useful for attacking pirates in shallow water. All sold by 1824.

**Service records:**

*Gallinipper:* Armed boat in West Indies. Fate unknown 1825.

**Ships captured:** (With *Mosquito*) pirate schr, 8 Apr 1823; schr *Catalina*, Jul 1823.

*Gnat:* FFU

*Mosquito:* Employed in West Indies under Porter. Sold summer 1825.

**Ships captured:** (With *Gallinipper*) pirate schr 8 Apr 1823; schr *Catalina*, Jul 1823.

*Midge:* Armed boat in West Indies 1823–24.

*Sandfly:* Armed boat employed in West Indies.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Flirt</i>	Baltimore	1839	Nov 1839	Dec 1839
<i>Phoenix</i>	Baltimore	(U)	1841	1841
<i>Taney</i>	New York (Webb and Morgan)	1833	1846	1846
<i>Wave</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1832	1836	1836
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	<i>Taney:</i> 74’6” (bp) × 20’8” × d7’6”			
Tonnage	<i>Flirt:</i> 150 tons <i>Phoenix:</i> 90 tons			
Complement	89			
Battery	<i>Flirt:</i> 2-18 pdr crde; also reported as 2-9 pdr, 6-24 pdr crde <i>Taney:</i> 4-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Mosquito Fleet

*Flirt:* Built for War Dept. Pilot boat. Purchased as survey vessel. Receiving ship, Charleston, 1842–43. Despatch vessel 1843–47. Gulf of Mexico 1847–50. Decomm 29 Nov 1850 and sold.

*Phoenix:* Seminole War 1842. Sold 1853.

*Taney:* Trfd from Revenue Service 1846. Mediterranean 1847–49. Trfd to USCS, Aug 1850. Capsized at New York, 3 Aug 1852, salvaged. Damaged by lightning off Tybee Island, Ga., 30 Aug 1857. Sold 5 Jan 1858.

*Wave:* Seminole War 1836–40. Surveying. Sold 1846.

**SUPPORT VESSELS**

**Storeships**

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Franklin</i>	Philadelphia, Pa.	1795	27 Apr 1805	Jun 1805
Rate	8 guns			
Dimensions	72’4” deck × 22’4” × (U)			

**Notes:** Brig transport, captured by Tripolitanian corsairs, 1802. Purchased at Trieste as a supply ship, Apr 1805. Sold at New Orleans, 21 Mar 1807.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Alert</i>	Howdenpoint, England	1803	13 Aug 1812	1812
ex-HMS <i>Alert</i> , ex-Oxford				
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	105’ (bp) × 29’ × 11’			
Tonnage	393 bm, 325 tons			
Complement	100			
Battery	2-12 pdr, 18-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Former collier, acquired by Royal Navy May 1804. Captured by USS *Essex* off east coast, 13 Aug 1812. Converted to storeship, receiving ship at Norfolk, 1818. BU at Norfolk 1829.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Greenwich</i>	(U)	(U)	28 May 1813	May 1813
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	338 tons			
Complement	25			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** British whaler (LofM), captured by *Essex* off Galapagos Islands, 28 May 1813. Armed storeship.

**Service record:** Burned to prevent capture in Marquesa Islands by her captain, Lt. J.M. Gamble, not having enough men to man her, 1814.

**Ship captured:** (With *Georgia*) *Seringapatam*, 13 Jul 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Tom Bowline</i>	(U)	(U)	1814	Late 1814
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	260 tons			
Complement	90			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Storeship. Brig or schooner. Purchased at Portsmouth, NH. Store vessel in 1814. Raiding in South Atlantic 1815. Sold 1818.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Decoy</i> <i>ex-Zodiac</i>	New York	(U)	27 Dec 1822	1822
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased. Storeship for “Mosquito Fleet.” Sold Jan 1826.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Relief</i>	Philadelphia NYd	1835	14 Sep 1836	1836
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	109' (bp) × 30' × 12'			
Tonnage	468 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-18 pdr, 2-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Ship rig. Slow sailer.

**Service record:** Survey expedition to South Seas Aug 1838–Jul 1842. Sold 27 Sep 1883.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Erie</i>	Boston NYd	(U)	1842	1843
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	117'11" (bp) × 32'4" × 17'10", d14'6"			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-9 pdr			

**Notes:** Sloop of war officially rebuilt 1840–43. Considered too small.

**Service record:** Pacific 1843–44 and 1845–48. Capture of Mazatlan, 11 Nov 1847. Sold 26 Nov 1850.

**Ship captured:** (With *Columbus* and *Warren*) schr *William*, at Monterey, Calif., 22 Mar 1847.

**Later history:** Bark rigged merchant ship.

Name	Builder	Keel Laid	Launch	Comm.
<i>Southampton</i>	Norfolk NYd	Oct 1841	1845	27 May 1845
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	156' × 27'10" × 17, d13'6"			

Tonnage	567 tons
Complement	(U)
Battery	2-42 pdr crde

**Notes:** Laid down as side wheel steamer but converted to sail. Two sisters not begun. Fast but tender.

**Service record:** Africa Sqn 1845–46. Pacific Sqn 1847–50 and 1850–52. Expedition to Japan 1853. Decomm 6 Apr 1855.

**Later history:** Merchant ship.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Fredonia</i>	Newburyport, Mass.	1845	14 Nov 1846	5 Jan 1847
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	160' × 32'11" × 16'6"			
Tonnage	800 tons			
Complement	37			
Battery	4-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Bark rig.

**Service record:** Mexican War 1847–48. Made several trips to California, 1848–53. Storeship at Valparaiso, Chile, 1853–62 and at Callao, Peru, 1862–68.

Wrecked in tidal wave at Arica, Chile (27 lost), 13 Aug 1868.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Supply</i>	Medford, Mass. (Ewell)	1846	8 Dec 1846	19 Dec 1846
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	547 tons			
Complement	40			
Battery	4-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Ship rig.

**Service record:** Mediterranean 1847. Sailed on expedition to explore the Dead Sea under William Lynch, Dec 1847. Expedition to Japan 1853. Transported cargo of camels from the Levant 1855. Paraguay expedition 1858. Sold 3 May 1884.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Electra</i> <i>ex-Rolla</i>	Philadelphia, Pa.	1843	15 Jan 1847	19 Mar 1847
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	100' × 25' × 11'			
Tonnage	248 tons			
Complement	21			
Battery	2 guns			

**Notes:** Bark, purchased and fitted out at New York NYd.

**Service record:** Storeship for Mexican War. Decomm 27 Oct 1848. Sold Nov 1848.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Release</i> <i>ex-Eringol</i>	Boston, Mass. (Brown and Lovell)	1853	3 Apr 1855	3 Apr 1855
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	113'9" × 27'2" × 11'9"			
Tonnage	327			
Complement	85			
Battery	2-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Bark

**Service record:** Arctic expedition 1855. Paraguay Expedition 1859. Sold, 25 Oct 1865.

## Tenders

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Advance</i>	New Kent Co., Va.	1847	7 May 1850	(U)
Dimensions:	88' × 21'9" × 8'5"			
Tonnage	144 tons			
Complement	17			

**Notes:** Brigantine. Loaned to Navy by Henry Grinnell for Arctic search and manned by volunteers.

**Service record:** Search for Franklin expedition north of Baffin Bay, May 1850–Aug 1851. Second search for Franklin Expedition started, Jun 1853. Imprisoned in ice, Sep 1853, and eventually crushed. Crew finally reached open water, July 1855.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Rescue</i>	(U)	(U)	1850	May 1850
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	91 tons			
Complement	16			

**Note:** Brig. Loaned by Henry Grinnell for Arctic search and manned by volunteers.

**Service record:** Search for Franklin expedition, May 1850–Aug 1851. Returned to New York and to Grinnell Sep 1851.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Fenimore</i>	(U)	1852	1852	1852
<i>Cooper</i> <i>ex-Skiddy</i>				
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	95 tons			
Complement	16			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Schooner, former New York pilot.

**Service record:** Tender for Ringgold's exploring expedition to North Pacific and China Seas. Went aground in typhoon in Kanagawa Bay off Yokohama, 13 Aug 1859.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>John P. Kennedy</i> <i>ex-Sea Nymph</i>	(U)	1853	1853	1853
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	350 tons			
Complement	45			
Battery	1-24 pdr H, 2-12 pdr H			

**Service record:** Purchased in 1853 for Ringgold's exploring expedition to North Pacific and China Seas. Decomm 31 Oct 1855 and sold Nov 1855 at Hong Kong.

## GREAT LAKES

The Great Lakes were not only a barrier between the United States and British Canada but also a highway for commerce and trade. Many Americans thought Canada would be easy to capture, and as in 1776, an expedition was mounted to do that. The American plan was two-pronged, crossing over at either end of Lake Erie, Detroit and Niagara. But the only American naval presence was a single brig, *Oneida*, on Lake Ontario. In 1812 the British captured Detroit, which made clear the necessity of naval ships on Lake Erie. Captain Isaac Chauncey had been given over-all command of the Navy on the lakes.

Conflicting opinions resulted in ships being built at both Presque Isle (now Erie), Pennsylvania, and Black Rock, New York (near Niagara). In addition a yard was erected at Sacket's Harbor, New York on Lake Ontario. On October 8, 1812, two British ships, *Detroit* and *Caledonia*, were captured near Black Rock, and their loss gave an advantage to the Americans.

Chauncey considered Lake Ontario more important than Lake Erie and the fighting there was more frequent. He held command of the lake. In November 1812 his squadron attacked Kingston, Ontario. In April 1813 he attacked and captured Fort York (now Toronto), which was burned. But the British reaction led to the burning of the yard at Sacket's Harbor and an evening of the balance of power. Later the British forced the Americans out of the Niagara positions while the two fleets had occasional engagements. The relative balance of power combined with the reluctance of the two commanders meant stalemate on the lake.

On Lake Erie, an aggressive American commander made a difference. The arrival of Oliver Hazard Perry in March 1813 helped speed the progress of shipbuilding there. Six ships were under construction together with a naval yard at Presque Isle. The American squadron was superior in weight of metal and number of ships when the two squadrons met in battle at Put-in-Bay in the southwest corner of the lake on September 10, 1813.\* It ended in a decisive victory for the Americans. As the enemy concentrated their fire on his flagship *Lawrence*, it became unmanageable and Perry transferred his flag to the virtually untouched *Niagara*. The British squadron surrendered. American casualties were 123 dead and wounded. Perry's message became legend, "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

During the summer of 1814, an American joint Army-Navy expedition to Lakes Superior and Huron captured enemy forts, although three ships were lost to capture.

On Lake Ontario, in October 1814, the British launched the 102-gun *St. Lawrence* and Chauncey laid down two 74-gun ships, *Chippewa* and *New Orleans*. The last of these remained on the stocks until her decaying hulk was sold in 1883.

The steam warship *Michigan* was commissioned on Lake Erie in 1844 and remained there until the 1920s.

\* British: *Detroit* 19, *Queen Charlotte* 17, *Lady Prevost* 13, *Hunter* 10, *Little Belt* 3, *Chippewa* 1.

LAKE ERIE SQUADRON

Sloops

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Trippe</i> <i>ex-Contractor</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	1812
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	60 tons			
Complement	35			
Battery	1 32 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased on Niagara River.

**Service record:** Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Captured by British and burned, after running aground near Buffalo Creek, Oct 1814.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Queen</i> <i>Charlotte</i>	Amherstburg, Ont.	1809	Sep 1813	Never
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	116' × 26' × 11'; also reported as 96' (deck) × 25' × 12'			
Tonnage	400 tons			
Complement	126			
Battery	14-24 pdr crde, 2-9 pdr; also reported as 14-24 pdr, 3-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Sloop. Canadian Provincial Marine. Captured at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Not put in service. Sold, 1825.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Detroit</i>	Amherstburg, Ont	1813	Sep 1813	Never
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	305 tons			
Complement	150			
Battery	2-24 pdr, 1-18 pdr, 6-12 pdr, 8-9 pdr, 1-24 pdr crde, 1-18 pdr crde			

**Notes:** British sloop, captured in sinking condition at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Laid up. Sold 1825.

**Later history:** Fitted as trading bark 1825. Reportedly sent over Niagara Falls with a cargo of wild animals as a spectacle 1841.

Brigs

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Lawrence</i>	Presque Isle, Pa. (Brown)	Mar 1813	24 May 1813	5 Aug 1813
Niagara	Presque Isle, Pa. (Brown)	Mar 1813	May 1813	4 Aug 1813
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	109'9" × 29' × 9'			
Tonnage	493 tons			
Complement	134			
Battery	2-12 pdr, 18-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Noah Brown. Built of green wood. Ready by 23 Jun 1813 but lacked crews. Both sunk in Misery Bay 1818–20 to preserve hulls.

**Service records:**

*Lawrence:* Battle of Lake Erie (22 killed), 10 Sep 1813; severely damaged, and Commodore Perry trfd flag to *Niagara*. Sold 12 Jul 1825. Raised and exhibited at Centennial Exhibition, 1876. Later destroyed by fire.

*Niagara:* Battle of Lake Erie (2 killed), 10 Sep 1813. Landings at Detroit River, Sep 1813. Receiving ship Erie, 1814–20. Sold 12 Jul 1825. Hulk raised in 1913. Restored, now a museum at Erie, Pa.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Mink*, schr *Perserverance*, schr *Nancy*, in Lake Superior, Jul–Sep 1814.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Adams</i>	(U)	1812	1812	never
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	200 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	6-6 pdr (as British?)			

**Notes:** Brig. Purchased at Detroit.

**Service record:** Surrendered with Detroit to British, not yet armed, 16 Aug 1812. Armed and commissioned as HMS *Detroit*. Recaptured by American boat expedition at Fort Erie but abandoned and burned, 9 Oct 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Caledonia</i>	Amherstburg, Ont.	1807	6 Feb 1813	1813
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	85 tons			
Complement	53			
Battery	2-24 pdr, 1-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Northwest Fur Co. trading vessel in Canadian Provincial Marine. British vessel captured by boarding off Fort Erie, Ont., 8 Oct 1812.

**Service record:** Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Sold May 1815.

**Later history:** Merchant *General Wayne*.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Hunter</i> <i>ex-General Hunter</i>	Amherstburg, Ont	1806	10 Sep 1813	(U)
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	180 tons			
Complement	45			
Battery	4-6 pdr, 2-4 pdr, 2-2 pdr, 2-12 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Canadian Provincial Marine ship captured at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Sold.

Schooners

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Somers</i> <i>ex-Catherine</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	1812
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	58'6" × 19' × (U)			
Tonnage	98 tons			
Complement	30			
Battery	1-32 pdr on pivots, 1-24 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased merchant schooner.

**Service record:** Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Captured by British, 12 Aug 1814.

**Later history:** HMS *Sauk*. RR 1831.

Name	Builder	Built	Launch	Comm.
<i>Ariel</i>	Presque Isle, Pa. (A. & N. Brown)		Apr 1813	Summer 1813
Rate	4 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	75 tons			
Complement	36			
Battery	4-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Schooner. Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. FFU.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Lady Prevost</i>	Amherstburg, Ont	13 Jul 1812	11 Sep 1813	Sep 1813
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	83' × 21' × 9'			
Tonnage	230 tons			
Complement	86			
Battery	1-9 pdr, 2-6 pdr, 10-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Captured by U.S. Sqn, 11 Sep 1813. Burned and sunk at Erie, Pa., 1815, then raised and sold.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Little Belt</i>	Canada	1812	Sep 1813	23 Oct 1813
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	59' × 16' × 7'			
Tonnage	96 tons			
Complement	18			
Battery	1-12pdr, 2-6pdr			

**Notes:** British schr. Captured by USS *Scorpion* and *Chippewa* off Put-in Bay, 12 Sep 1813. Driven ashore in storm at Black Rock, NY, 8 Dec 1813. Burned by British, 29 Dec 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ohio</i>	Cleveland, Ohio	1812	1813	Jun 1813
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	54' × 17'6" × (U)			
Tonnage	62 tons			
Complement	35			
Battery	1-24 pdr			

**Notes:** Merchant ship purchased. Captured by British near Fort Erie, 12 Aug 1814.

**Later history:** HMS *Huron*, 2. RR 1817.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Porcupine</i>	Presque Isle, Pa. (A. & N. Brown)	1813	1813	Spring 1813
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	60 tons			
Complement	25			
Battery	1-32 pdr on pivot, 2-12 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Transferred to Collector of Revenue, Detroit, 2 Jun 1819.

**Later history:** Sold 1821, merchant ship. Beached near Grand Haven, Mich., 1873.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Scorpion</i>	Presque Isle, Pa.	1812	Spring 1813	1813
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	62' × 17' × 5'			
Tonnage	86 tons			
Complement	35			
Battery	1-32 pdr, 1-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. 2 killed. Captured with schooner *Tigress* in Lake Huron, 6 Sep 1814.

**Later history:** HMS *Confiance*. RR 1831.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Tigress</i> <i>ex-Amelia</i>	Erie, Pa. (Brown)	Apr 1813		1813
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	50' × 17'6" × 5'			
Tonnage	52 tons			
Complement	27			
Battery	1 32 pdr			

**Notes:** Another schooner *Amelia* was purchased 26 Dec 1812, found unfit for service and sold May 1815.

**Service record:** Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813. Captured by British on Lake Huron near Mackinaw with *Scorpion*, 3 Sep 1814.

**Later history:** HMS *Surprise*. RR 1831.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ghent</i>	Presque Isle, Pa. (Thos. Eyre)	(U)	1815	1815
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	55' × 16' × 6'			
Tonnage	50 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	1-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Sold 20 Mar 1826.

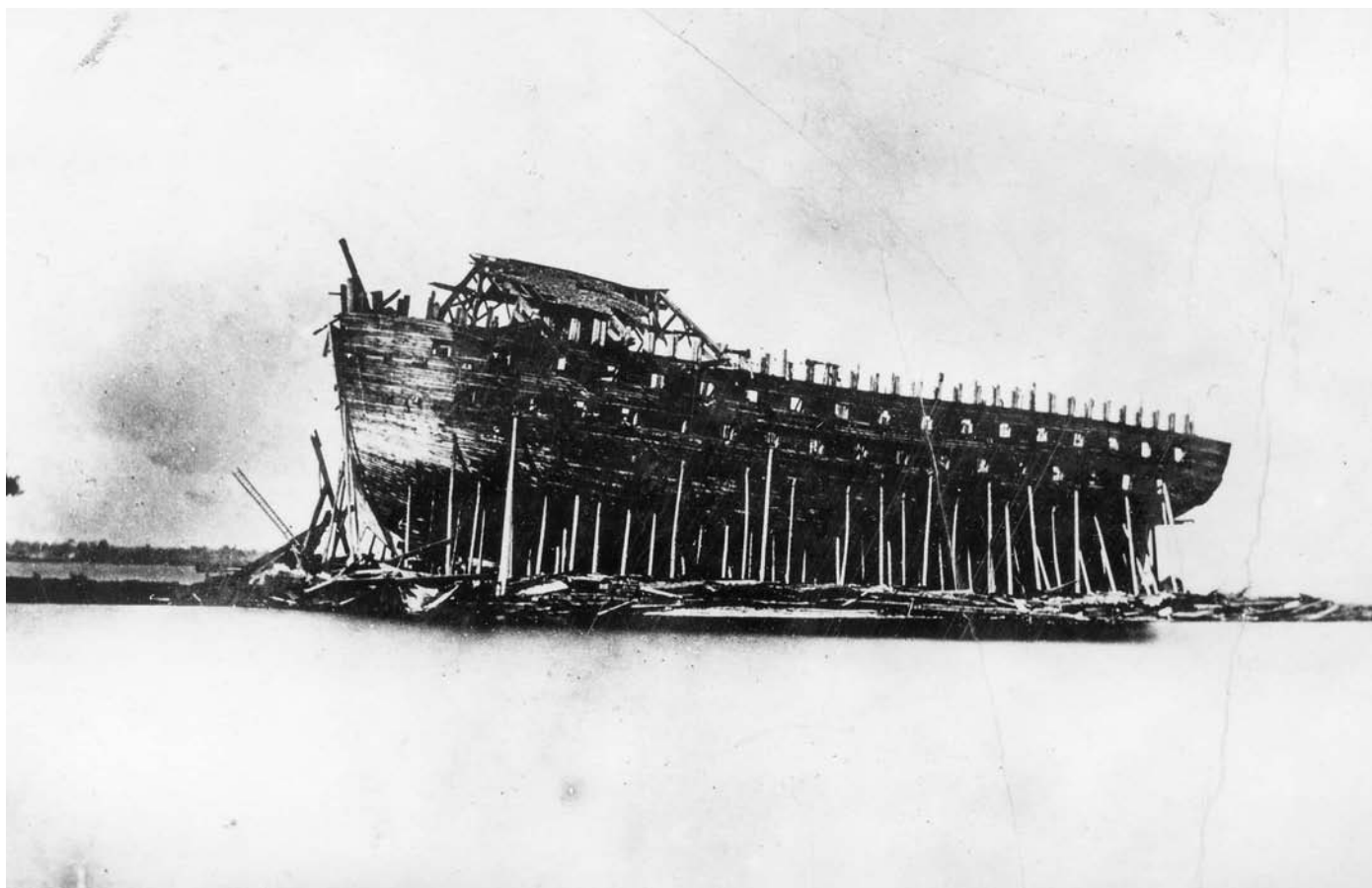
Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Chippewa</i>	Maumee, Ohio	1810	1813	1813
Dimensions	59' × 16' × 7'			
Tonnage	70 tons			
Complement	15			
Battery	1 18 pdr, 2 swivels			

**Notes:** Captured from British, 10 Sep 1813. Driven ashore in violent squall in at Black Rock, NY, Oct 1813. Burned by British landing party, 29 Dec 1813.

## LAKE ONTARIO SQUADRON

### Ships-of-the-Line

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Chippewa</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Adam & Noah Brown)	1815	never	never
<i>New Orleans</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Adam & Noah Brown)	Jan 1815	never	never



**Fig 3.48:** The incomplete ship-of-the-line *New Orleans*, laid down in 1815 at Sackets Harbor, N.Y., to serve on Lake Ontario, was still incomplete in 1882.

Rate	74 guns
Dimensions	212' (bp) 204' (keel) × 56' × 26'6"
Tonnage	2,805 tons
Complement	(U)
Battery	63-32 pdr, 24-32 pdr crde

**Notes:** Construction ceased at end of the war.

**Service records:**

*Chippewa*: Sold on stocks, 1 Nov 1823. Nearly completed in 1 month, never launched.

*New Orleans*: Sold on stocks, 24 Sep 1883.

## Frigates

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Superior</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Eckford)	11 Feb 1814	1 May 1814	1814
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	180' (bp) × 43' × (U)			
Tonnage	1,580 tons			
Complement	500			
Battery	30-32 pdr, 2-24 pdr, 26-42 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Henry Eckford. Lengthened 20' during construction. Largest U.S. vessel on the lake. Flag of Commodore Chauncey. Sold 1824.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Mohawk</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Eckford)	7 Apr 1814	11 Jun 1814	Jul 1814
Rate	32 guns			
Dimensions	155' (bp) × 37'6" × 15'6"			
Tonnage	1,350 tons			
Complement	350			
Battery	26-24 pdr, 16-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Henry Eckford. Completed and launched in 34 days.

**Service record:** Sold 1822 and BU.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Plattsburg</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (A. & N. Brown)	1814	Never	Never
Rate	44 guns			
Dimensions	185' (keel) × 46' × (U)			
Tonnage	1,749 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	32-24 pdr, 20-42 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Sold on stocks, 30 Apr 1825.



**Fig 3.49:** Spar and sail plan of the sloop *General Pike*, which served on Lake Ontario. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Sloops (corvettes)

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>General Pike</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY	9 Apr 1813	12 Jun 1813	Jul 1813
Rate	24 guns			
Dimensions	145' (bp) × 37' × 15'			
Tonnage	875 tons			
Complement	300			
Battery	26-24 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by Henry Eckford. Completed in 63 days.

**Service record:** Battle of Lake Ontario, 10 Aug 1813. Action off York; burst one of her guns and sustained considerable injury (3 killed), 28 Sep 1813. Action off False Ducks, Ont., 5 Oct 1813. Sold 1825.

**Ships captured:** (With *Sylph*, *Lady of the Lake*, *Gov. Tompkins*) sloops *Elizabeth*, *Mary Ann*, 5 Oct 1813.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Madison</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Eckford)	11 Sep 1812	26 Nov 1812	Apr 1813
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	112' × 32'6" × 11'6"			
Tonnage	593 tons			
Complement	200			
Battery	24-32 pdr crde; (1814) 14-18 pdr, 8-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Ship. Completed in 63 days, first frigate launched.

**Service record:** Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Sold 30 Apr 1825.

Brigs

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Oneida</i>	Oswego, NY (C. Bergh & H. Eckford)	1808	31 Mar 1809	1809
Rate	14 guns			

Dimensions	85'6" (bp) × 22'6" × 8'
Tonnage	242 tons
Complement	115
Battery	1-32 pdr, 16-24 pdr crde; (1814) 2-12 pdr, 14-24 pdr crde

**Notes:** Designed by Christian Bergh. First vessel of war built on the Lakes. Stoutly built, a dull sailer.

**Service record:** Action with British Sqn at Sackets Harbor, 19 Jul 1812. Attack on Kingston (1 killed), 9 Nov 1812. Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Sold 15 May 1815 but repurchased. Sold 1825.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Jefferson</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Eckford)	Feb 1814	7 Apr 1814	1814
<i>Jones</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Eckford)	Feb 1814	10 Apr 1814	Jul 1814
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	121'6" (bp) × 31'6" × (U)			
Tonnage	509 tons			
Complement	160			
Battery	<i>Jefferson</i> : 16-42 pdr cdre, 4-long 24 pdr <i>Jones</i> : 2-12 pdr, 20-32 pdr crde; (1815) 2-24 pdr, 18-42 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Henry Eckford.

**Service records:**

*Jefferson*: Nearly lost in gale and obliged to throw overboard 10 guns on her first cruise. Sold 30 Apr 1825.

*Jones*: Receiving ship several years after war. Sold 1821, BU.

Schooners

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Conquest</i> <i>ex-Genesee</i> <i>Packet</i>	(U)	(U)	8 Oct 1812	Nov 1812
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	82 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	3-18 pdr			

**Notes:** Purchased merchant ship.

**Service record:** Attack on Kingston, Ont., 8 Nov 1812. Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Sold 15 May 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Fair American</i>	(U)	(U)	10 Nov 1812	1812
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	82 tons			
Complement	52			
Battery	1-32 pdr, 1-12 pdr			

**Service record:** Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Converted to transport 1814. Sold 15 May 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Governor Tompkins</i> <i>ex-Charles and Ann</i>	(U)	(U)	4 Oct 1812	Oct 1812
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	96 tons			
Complement	40			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Also spelled *Governor Tomkins*.

**Service record:** Attack on Kingston, 8 Nov 1813. Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Action off False Ducks, Ont., 5 Oct 1813. Sold 15 May 1815.

**Ships captured:** (With *General Pike*, *Lady of the Lake*, *Sylph*) sloops *Elizabeth*, *Mary Ann*, 5 Oct 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Crowler</i> <i>ex-Experiment</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	1812
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	53 tons			
Complement	40			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Schooner, or sloop

**Service record:** Attack on Kingston, 8 Nov 1812. Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Captured by British at Battle of Lake Ontario, 10 Aug 1813, renamed HMS *Hamilton*. Recaptured, 5 Oct 1813. Reported recaptured by British at Oswego, 5 May 1814.

**Later history:** HMS *Hamilton*?

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Hamilton</i> <i>ex-Diana</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	1812
Rate	9 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	112 tons			
Complement	50			
Battery	1-24 pdr, 8-6 pdr, 1-32 pdr			

**Service record:** Attack on Kingston, 8 Nov 1812. Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Capsized in squall and lost with all hands, 8 Aug 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Julia</i>	Oswego, NY	1812	Sep 1812	1812
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	53 tons			
Complement	40			
Battery	(U)			

**Service record:** Attack on Kingston, 8 Nov 1812. Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Captured by British, renamed *Confiance*, 10 Aug 1813. Recaptured by U.S. and renamed, 5 Oct 1813. Sold.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ontario</i>	(U)	(U)	Oct 1812	1813
Rate	2 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	81 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased merchant ship.

**Service record:** Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Sold 15 May 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Pert</i> <i>ex-Collector</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	1812
Rate	3 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	50			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased.

**Service record:** Attack on Kingston, 8 Nov 1812; burst a gun which wounded her captain who later drowned. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Sold May 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Asp</i> <i>ex-Elizabeth</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	6 Feb 1813
Rate	2			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	57 tons			
Complement	45			
Battery	1-32 pdr, 2-6 pdr			

**Notes:** British merchant ship captured in 1812 by *Crowler*.

**Service record:** Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Sold 15 May 1815.

Name	Builder	Launch	Comm.
<i>Lady of the Lake</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Eckford)	6 Apr 1813	19 Apr 1813
Rate	5 guns		
Dimensions	(U)		
Tonnage	89 tons		
Complement	40		
Battery	1-9 pdr		

**Service record:** Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Action off False Ducks, Ont., 5 Oct 1813. Sold 2 Feb 1826.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Lady Murray*, off Presque Isle, 16 Jun 1813; (with *General Pike*, *Governor Tompkins*, *Sylph*) sloops *Elizabeth*, *Mary Ann*, 5 Oct 1813.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Raven</i> <i>ex-Mary</i>	(U)	(U)	6 Feb 1813	1813



Rate	1 gun
Dimensions	(U)
Tonnage	50 tons
Complement	(U)
Battery	1 M

**Notes:** Bomb schooner. Served as transport and supply ship. Sold 15 May 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Scourge</i> <i>ex-Lord Nelson</i>	(U)	(U)	May 1812	1812
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	110 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	1-32 pdr, 8-12 pdr crde			

**Notes:** British, captured May 1812 by USS *Oneida*.  
**Service record:** Capture of Fort York, 27 Apr 1813. Capture of Fort George, 27 May 1813. Capsized and sank in squall (all but 16 lost), 8 Aug 1813.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Sylph</i>	Sackets Hbr, NY (Eckford)	26 Jul 1813	18 Aug 1813	Aug 1813
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	300 tons			
Complement	70			
Battery	4-32 pdr, 12-6 pdr; (1814) 2-9 pdr, 16-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Rerigged as 18-gun brig, 1814. Ready for service in 33 days.  
**Service record:** Action off York, 28 Sep 1813. Action off False Ducks, Ont., 5 Oct 1813. Sold 1825.  
**Ships captured:** (With *General Pike*, *Governor Tompkins*, *Lady of the Lake*) sloops *Elizabeth*, *Mary Ann*, 5 Oct 1813.  
Schr *Lady Gore*, 6 Oct 1813; brig *Charwell* (chased ashore and burned), 5 Aug 1814.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ranger</i>	(U)	(U)	1814	(U)
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Brigantine. Transport/supply ship. Sold 15 May 1821.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN SQUADRON

During the War of 1812, both sides appreciated that Lake Champlain was strategically important, as it had been in 1776, and Lt. Thomas MacDonough arrived there to take charge in September 1812. By spring he had three ships, *Growler*, *Eagle*, and *President*. In June the first two were sent to engage the enemy and, in pursuing, ended up in enemy territory and were captured.  
A yard was set up at Vergennes, Vermont, while the British were building at Ile aux Noix at the north end of the lake. In the

summer of 1814 the British prepared to invade New York but their fleet\* was no match for MacDonough’s four ships, six gunboats, and four galleys. By September their two largest ships were ready, and on 11 September the second Battle of Lake Champlain took place, resulting in a decisive American victory. The Americans had 52 killed and 58 wounded. The ships were built of green wood, which decayed rapidly. After the war there was no further need for warships on Lake Champlain.

Sloop (corvette)

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Saratoga</i>	Vergennes,Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	7 Mar 1814	11 Apr 1814	1814
Rate	26 guns			
Dimensions	143’ (bp) × 36’6” × 12’6”			
Tonnage	734 tons			
Complement	212			
Battery	8-24 pdr, 6-42 pdr crde, 12-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Designed by Noah Brown. A successful ship.  
**Service record:** Flagship of MacDonough. Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold 1825.

Brig

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Eagle</i> <i>ex-Surprise</i> (6 Sep 1814)	Vergennes, Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	29 Jul 1814	11 Aug 1814	6 Sep 1814
Rate	20 guns			
Dimensions	128’ × 32’ × (U)			
Tonnage	500 tons			
Complement	150			
Battery	8-18 pdr, 12-32 pdr crde			

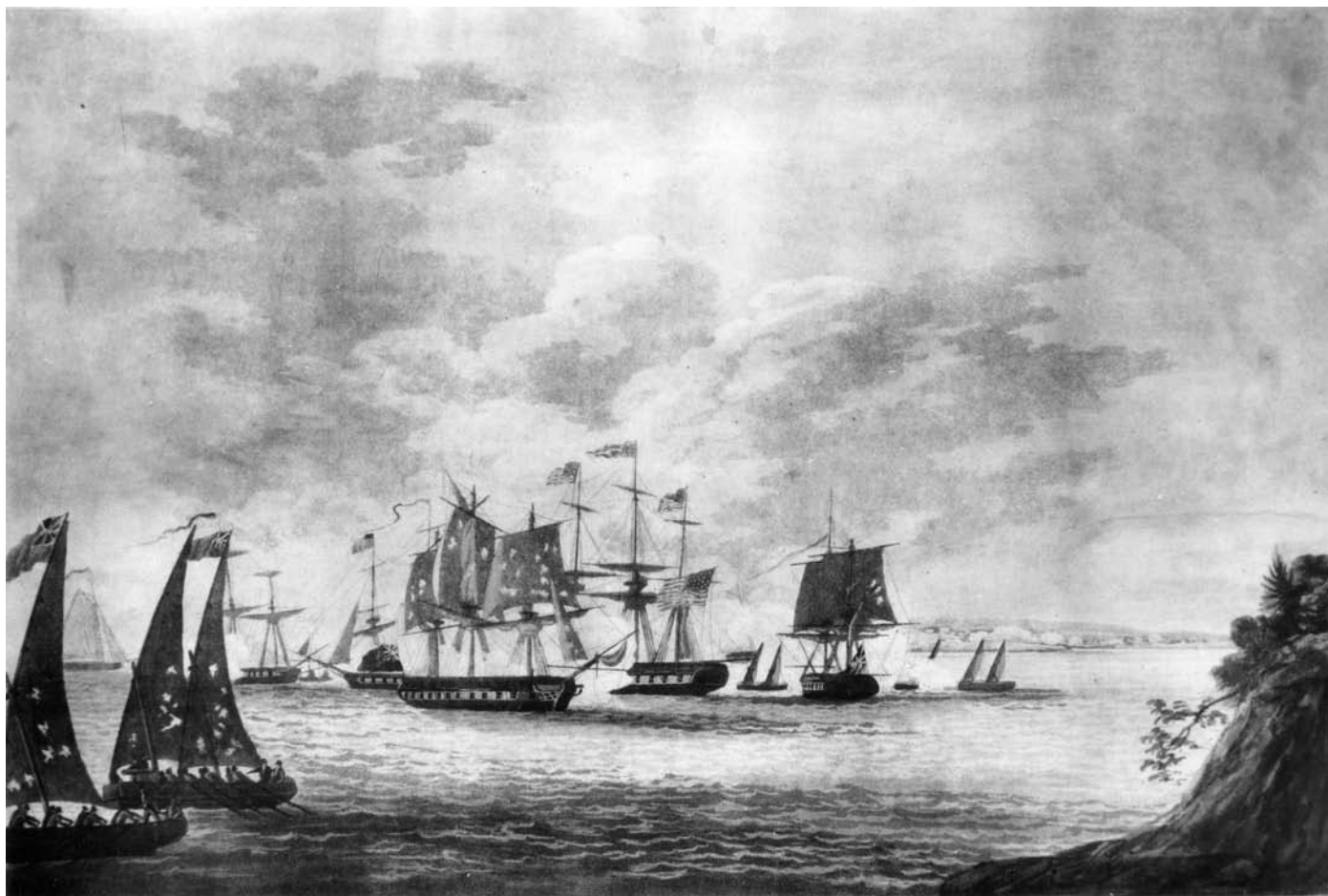
**Service record:** Battle of Lake Champlain, holed 39 times (13 killed), 11 Sep 1814. Sold 1825.

Schooner

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ticonderoga</i>	Vergennes, Vt. (Sherman)	1814	1814	1815
Rate	14 guns			
Dimensions	120’ × (U)			
Tonnage	350 tons			
Complement	112			
Battery	8-12 pdr, 4-18 pdr, 3-32 pdr cdre			

**Notes:** Built as steamer but converted to sail and relaunched on 12 May 1814.  
**Service record:** Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814 (6 killed). Sold 19 Jul 1825.

\* Ship *Confiance* 37, brig *Linnet* 16, sloops *Chub* 11, and *Finch* 11 and 7 gunboats, 2 or 1.



**Fig 3.50:** A depiction of the Battle of Lake Champlain in 1814. Left to right are the USS *Ticonderoga*, USS *Eagle*, HMS *Constance* (sails holed), USS *Saratoga* (flags flying), and HMS *Linnet*. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

## Sloops

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Eagle</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	1812
<i>ex-HMS Bull Dog</i>				
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	64' × 20'4" × 5'8"			
Tonnage	110 tons			
Complement	50			
Battery	1-6 pdr, 10-18 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Purchased. American sources give British name as *Finch*.

**Service record:** Captured by British near Ile aux Noix, 3 Jun 1813, comm as HMS *Chubb*. Recaptured at Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold Jul 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Crowler</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	(U)
<i>ex-Hunter</i>				
Rate	10 guns			
Dimensions	60' (bp) × 19' × 5'8"			
Tonnage	112 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	10-18 pdr crde, 1-6 pdr			

**Notes:** American sources report British name as *Chub*.

**Service record:** Captured by British near Ile aux Noix, 3 Jun 1813, renamed HMS *Finch*. Recaptured at Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold Jul 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Frances</i>	(U)	(U)	1813	(U)
Rate	5 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-12 pdr, 1-18 pdr columbiad			

**Notes:** Hired sloop. Returned to owner, 1814.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Montgomery</i>	(U)	1813	6 Aug 1813	(U)
Rate	6 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	9-9 pdr, 1-28 pdr columbiad; (later) 7-9 pdr, 4-18 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Sold 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Preble</i>	(U)	1813	6 Aug 1813	Aug 1813
Rate	9 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	30			
Battery	7-12 pdr, 2-18 pdr columbiads			

**Notes:** Sometimes called *Commodore Preble*.

**Service record:** Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold Jul 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>President</i>	(U)	(U)	1812	6 Aug 1813
Rate	12 guns			
Dimensions	65' × (U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Purchased by War Dept., trfd to Navy. Captured by British, 1813, renamed HMS *Icicle*. Sold 28 May 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Wasp</i>	(U)	(U)	1813	(U)
Rate	5 guns			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	(U)			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	4-12 pdr, 1-18 pdr columbiad			

**Service record:** Returned to owners, 1814.

Galley Gunboats

Name	Builder	Built	Comm.
<i>Allen</i>	Vergennes, Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	1814	1814
<i>Borer</i>	Vergennes, Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	1814	Summer 1814
<i>Burrows</i>	Vergennes, Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	Jun 1814	1814
<i>Centipede</i>	Vergennes, Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	Jun 1814	1814
<i>Viper</i>	Vergennes, Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	1814	1814
Rate	2 guns		
Dimensions	75' (bp) × 15' × 4'		
Tonnage	70 tons		
Complement	40		
Battery	1-24 pdr, 1-18 pdr columbiad		

**Note:** *Borer* may have been named *Boxer*.

**Service records:**

*Allen:* Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold 1824.

*Borer:* Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814 (3 killed). Sold 1825.

*Burrows:* Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold 1825.

*Centipede:* Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Laid up 1815. Sold 1825.

*Viper:* Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold 1825.

Name	Builder	Built	Comm.
<i>Aylwin</i>	Vergennes,Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	1813	(U)
<i>Ballard</i>	Vergennes,Vt. (A. & N Brown)	1813	(U)
Rate	1 gun		
Dimensions	(U)		
Tonnage	40 tons		
Complement	26		
Battery	1-12 pdr		

**Service records:**

*Aylwin:* Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold Jul 1815.

*Ballard:* Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold Jul 1815.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Ludlow</i>	(U)	1808	1812	(U)
Rate	1 gun			
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	40 tons			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	1-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold Jul 1815.

Name	Builder	Launch	Comm.
<i>Nettle</i>	Vergennes,Vt. (A. & N. Brown)	Jun 1814	Jun 1814
Rate	2 guns		
Dimensions	75' × 15' × 4'		
Tonnage	70		
Complement	41		
Battery	1-24 pdr, 1-18 pdr		

**Notes:** Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814. Sold 1825.

Ex-British

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Confiance</i>	Ile aux Noix, Canada	25 Aug 1814	11 Sep 1814	Never
<i>ex-HMS Confiance</i>				
Rate	36 guns			
Dimensions	147'5" deck × 37'2" × d7'			
Tonnage	1,200 tons, 831 bm			
Complement	300			
Battery	27-24 pdr, 2-18 pdr, 4-32 pdr crde, 6-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** British fifth-rate frigate, captured 11 Sep 1814 in sinking condition. Not used by the United States Navy. Sold 1825.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Linnet</i>	Ile aux Noix, Canada	1814	Sep 1814	1815
<i>ex-HMS Linnet, ex-Growler</i> (1813)				
Rate	16 guns			
Dimensions	82'6"deck × 27' × 6'8"			
Tonnage	350 tons			
Complement	125			
Battery	12-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Brig. British ship captured 11 Sep 1814. Not used by the United States Navy. Sold 1825.

COMBATANT PADDLE STEAMERS

A steamer designed by Uriah Brown was begun in Baltimore in 1815 but work stopped after the end of the War of 1812. It was to have iron-sheathed shot-proof inclined wooden sides. Although the Navy ordered machinery for a steam frigate in 1818, no ship was built.

Fulton

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Completed
<i>Fulton</i>	New York, N.Y. (Brown)	20 Jun 1814	29 Oct 1814	1 Jun 1815
Dimensions	153'2" (bp) × 58' × 10'4"			
Tonnage	2,475 tons , 1,450 D			
Machinery	Center wheel (48" × 5'), 2 boilers, HP 120, 6 knots			
Complement	200			
Battery	24-32 pdr crde			

**Notes:** The first steam warship. Designed by Fulton, with divided hull and two-mast lateen rig. Four funnels in two pairs. Engines were reversible, had two sets of rudders. Originally intended to throw hot water as well as shot. Four 100 pdr columbiads not mounted. Sides 58" thick. Intended for defense of New York but never placed in service. Sometimes called *Demologos*.

**Service record:** Housed over as receiving ship at Brooklyn NYd, 1821. Blew up when magazine exploded (24 killed), 4 Jun 1829.

Fulton

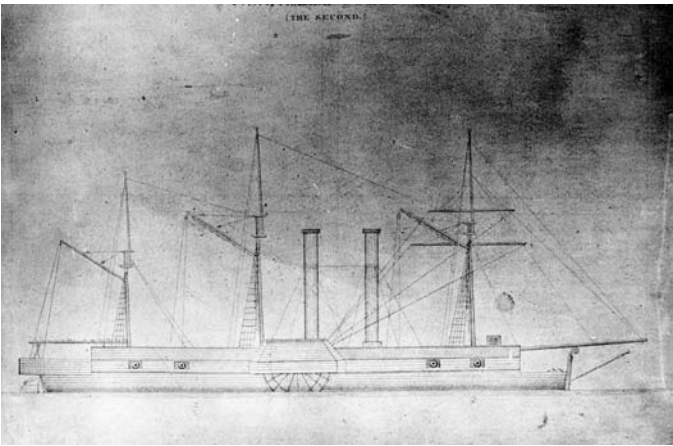
Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Fulton</i>	New York NYd	1835	18 May 1837	13 Dec 1837
Dimensions	181'6" (bp) × 34'8" × 13'			
Tonnage	720 tons, 1,011 D			
Machinery	Side wheels, 2-cyl. horizontal condensing engine (50" × 9'), 4 boilers, NHP 221, 12 knots (West Point)			
Complement	130			
Battery	8-42 pdr, 1-24 pdr; (1840) 4-8", 2-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Wood hull designed by Samuel Humphreys. Schooner rig, four funnels in pairs. Engines designed by Charles H. Haswell. Too weak for ocean work, too small for original armament. Used as gunnery practice ship.

**Service record:** Bested British steamer *Great Western* in speed contest, 23 Nov 1838. Decomm 23 Nov 1842 and rebuilt.

Mississippi Class

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Mississippi</i>	Philadelphia NYd	10 Aug 1839	5 May 1841	22 Dec 1841
<i>Missouri</i>	New York NYd	1839	7 Jan 1841	Early 1842
Dimensions	220' (bp) × 39' (66'6" oa) × 21'9"			
Tonnage	1,732 tons; 3,220 tons D			
Machinery	Side wheels <i>Mississippi</i> : 2-cyl. side lever engine (75" × 7'), IHP 650 (Merrick and Towne)			



**Fig 3.51:** The steamer *Fulton* built in 1837 was the second of the name. She had two pairs of funnels side by side,. She was too small for her guns and too weak for ocean operation. (Smithsonian Institution)

<i>Missouri</i> : 2-cyl. inclined direct-acting condensing engine (62.5" × 10'), NHP 515; 11 knots (West Point)	
Complement	257
Battery	2-10", 8-8"; (1857) 1-10", 10-8"; (1861) 1-9", 10-8"

**Notes:** Hulls designed by Samuel Humphreys, Samuel Hartt, and John Lenthall and machinery by Charles W. Copeland. Successful powerful steamers. Bark rig, carried 19,000 sq. ft. of sail. Had watertight bulkheads. The largest naval vessels yet built.

Service records:

*Mississippi*: Flag of Commo. M.C. Perry, H.A. Adams, and A.S. Mackenzie during Mexican War. Attack on Alvarado, 7 Aug 1846. Mediterranean 1849–51. Brought the Hungarian patriot Kossuth to safety, Sep 1851. Expedition to Japan (flagship of M.C. Perry), 1852–54. Far East 1857–60. Sunk by Confederate batteries at Port Hudson, La., 14 Mar 1863.

*Missouri*: Burned at Gibraltar after turpentine ignited and later blew up (crew saved), 26 Aug 1843.



**Fig 3.52:** The paddle frigate *Mississippi*, the first successful stream warship in the U.S. Navy. From an engraving in *Naval and Mail Steamers of the U.S.* by Charles B. Stewart. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Norman Polmar Collection)

Union

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Union</i>	Norfolk NYd	1841	12 May 1842	Early 1843
Dimensions	184’6” × 33’6” × 12’6”			
Tonnage	1,040 tons; 956 tons D			
Machinery	2 Hunter wheels; 2-cyl. horizontal noncondensing engine (28” × 4’), 3 boilers, HP 300, 5 knots (Washington)			
Complement	120			
Battery	4-8” SB			

**Notes:** Three-mast schooner. Hull designed by Francis Grice and William W. Hunter; machinery by Hunter and William M. Ellis. Completed at Washington NYd. The hull was narrower below waterline to accommodate the Hunter wheels while docking. Funnel forward of mainmast. Made experimental cruise 1843, repeated 1844–45; Hunter wheels were a total failure. New boilers 1844. Re-engined in 1846 with greater power, but this did not increase efficiency of the Hunter wheels. Engines removed 1848. Receiving ship Philadelphia. Sold 1858.

Water Witch

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Water Witch</i>	Washington NYd	1843	1844	(U)
Tonnage	190 tons			
Dimensions	100’6” × 21.4” × 7’6”; (1845) 130’ length.			
Machinery	Hunter wheel, 2-cyl. inclined engine (22” × 4’), AHP 100, 6 knots; (1845) 2 screws, 2-cyl. inclined engine (20” × 2’); (1846) side wheels, 1 inclined engine (37.6” × 6’), 5 knots			
Complement	25			
Battery	(as built) none ; (1845) 1-8”, 2-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Designed by John Porter, fitted with Hunter propeller. Intended for harbor duty as tug and tender. Iron hull. Cut in two at Philadelphia NYd, lengthened, and re-engined with twin Loper propellers, 1845. Altered to side wheel steamer, 1846.

**Service record:** West Indies 1847–50. Broke down, used as gunnery target. Decomm 25 Apr 1851.

Ex-Mexican Vessels

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Spitfire</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1846	25 May 1846	21 Aug 1846
<i>Vixen</i>	New York (Brown and Bell)	1846	1846	1846
Dimensions	118 × 22’6” × 9’6”			
Tonnage	240 tons			
Machinery	Side wheels, horizontal beam engine (36” × 6’), 2 boilers, AHP 90, 6 knots			
Complement	55			
Battery	1-8”, 2-32 pdr crde; (later) 1-long 32			

**Note:** Built for Mexican Navy, acquired on declaration of war.

**Service records:**  
*Spitfire:* Siege of Veracruz, 9–29 Mar 1847. Sold 1848.  
**Later history:** Destroyed by fire at New York, 12 Oct 1849.  
*Vixen:* West Indies during war and until 1851. Attack on Alvarado, 16 Oct 1846. Capture of Tabasco, 23–27 Oct 1846. Siege of Veracruz, Mar 1847. Sold 1855. Reacquired 26 Aug 1861.

Saranac

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Saranac</i>	Portsmouth NYd	May 1847	14 Nov 1848	12 Oct 1850
Dimensions	216’ (oa) 210’ (bp) × 37’9”, 60’ (oa beam) × 16’6”			
Tonnage	2,100 tons D; 1,446 tons B			
Machinery	Side wheels, 2-cyl. inclined direct-acting condensing engine (60” × 9’), 3 boilers, 1,700 HP, 12 knots (Coney)			
Complement	228			
Armament	6-8” SB; (1854) 9-8”; (1862) 9-8”, 2-20 pdr R			

**Notes:** Bark rig. Hull designed by Samuel Hartt; engines by Charles W. Copeland. A successful design. Reboilered 1857.

**Service record:** Home Sqn, 1850–52. Brazil, 1852–53. Mediterranean, 1853–56. Pacific coast, 1857–75. Wrecked in Seymour Narrows off Vancouver Island, 18 Jun 1875.

Susquehanna

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Susquehanna</i>	Philadelphia NYd	8 Sep 1847	5 Apr 1850	24 Dec 1850
Dimensions	257’ (bp) × 45’, 69’ (oa beam) × 19’6”, d26’6”			
Tonnage	2,450 tons, 3,824 tons D			
Machinery	Side wheels, 2-cyl. inclined direct-acting condensing engine (70” × 10’), 4 boilers, IHP 1,450, 12 knots (Murray)			
Complement	300			
Armament	3-8” SB, 6-32 pdr R; (1851) 9-8”; (1856) 15-8”; (1861) 15-8” SB, 1-24 pdr H, 2-12 pdr H			

**Notes:** Hull designed by Lenthall; engines by Copeland. Engine was very reliable, but machinery was removed after Civil War; conversion to screw propulsion never completed. Bark rig.

**Service record:** East India Sqn 1851–55. Expedition to Japan 1853–54. Mediterranean Sqn 1856–58, 1860–61. Decomm 14 Jan 1868. Sold 27 Sep 1883 and BU.

Powhatan

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Powhatan</i>	Norfolk NYd	14 Jul 1847	14 Feb 1850	2 Sep 1852
Dimensions	276’6” (oa) 250’ (bp) × 45’, 69’6” (oa beam) × 20’9”			
Tonnage	2,415 tons, 3,765 tons D			
Machinery	Side wheels, 2-cyl. inclined direct-acting condensing engine (70” × 10’), 4 boilers, IHP 1,500, 11 knots (Mehaffy)			
Complement	300			
Armament	3-8” SB, 6-32 pdr R; (1852) 9-8”; (1857) 1-11”, 10-9”; (1861) 1-100 pdr R, 1-11”, 7-9”; (Nov 1861) 1-11” SB, 10-9”SB, 5-12 pdr			

**Notes:** Hull designed by Francis Grice; engines by Charles H. Haswell. Bark rig. Similar to *Susquehanna* but engines of a different design. Engines most reliable, a fast steamer even in old age.

**Service record:** East India Sqn 1853–56. Expedition to Japan, 1853–54. Aided British and French attack on forts in Peiho River, China, 25 Jun 1859. Ship’s captain Tattnell is noted for his statement “Blood is thicker than water.” Sold 30 Jul 1887 and BU.

## PADDLE SLOOPS

### Allegheny

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Allegheny</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Stackhouse),	1844	22 Feb 1847	22 Feb 1847
Dimensions	185' (deck) × 33'4" × 14'8"			
Tonnage	989 tons, 1,020 tons D			
Machinery	Hunter wheels, 2-cyl. horizontal condensing engine (60" × 4'), NHP 243, 6 knots (Tomlinson) (1852) 1 screw			
Complement	190			
Armament	4-8" SB; (1847) 2-8"; (1852) 2-8", 8-32 pdr; (May 1863) 4-32 pdr/33, 2-32 pdr/27			

**Notes:** Iron hull. Hull and machinery designed by Hunter, engines by Charles Haswell. Bark rig. Went downriver to Memphis and New Orleans. Rebuilt 1852 by Mehaffy and Co. at Portsmouth, Va., as a screw steamer using original engines as converted by Isherwood, but was still a failure and was laid up.

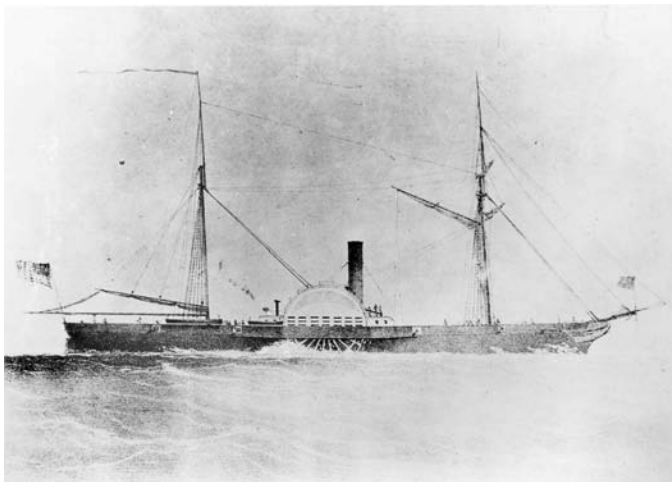
**Service record:** Brazilian Station and Mediterranean 1848. Gulf of Mexico 1849. Receiving ship, Baltimore, 1856–68. Sold 15 May 1869.

### Fulton

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Fulton</i>	Brooklyn NYd	1851	30 Aug 1851	25 Jan 1852
Dimensions	181'6" (bp) × 34'10" × 10'6"			
Tonnage	1,200 tons D; 750 tons B			
Machinery	Side wheels, inclined condensing engine (50" × 4'10"), HP 500, 11 knots (Dunham)			
Complement	79			
Armament	4-8" SB, 4 32 pdr SB; (1858) 2-9" SB			

**Notes:** Hull designed by Humphreys, engines by Charles B. Stuart. Officially the 1837 vessel rebuilt. Schooner rig, 2 masts.

**Service record:** Home Sqn 1852–58. Paraguay Expedition 1859. Anti-slave trade patrol off Florida 1859; stranded near Pensacola, 23 Aug 1859. While undergoing refit, captured by Confederates at Pensacola NYd, 12 Jan 1861, and destroyed by them, 10 May 1862.



**Fig 3.53:** The paddle frigate *Fulton* was built in 1851, officially as the 1837 vessel rebuilt and third of the name. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

## Water Witch

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Water Witch</i>	Washington NYd	1852	1852	8 Feb 1853
Dimensions	150' (bp) × 23' × 9'			
Tonnage	378 tons, 450 D.			
Machinery	Side wheels, inclined condensing engine (37.6" × 3'), 2 boilers, HP 180, 11.5 knots (Ellis)			
Complement	55			
Armament	1-32 pdr; (1862) 4-32 pdr SB, 1-24 pdr H			

**Notes:** Hull designed by Lenthall; engine by Isherwood. Machinery taken from the previous *Water Witch* built in 1845. Schooner rig.

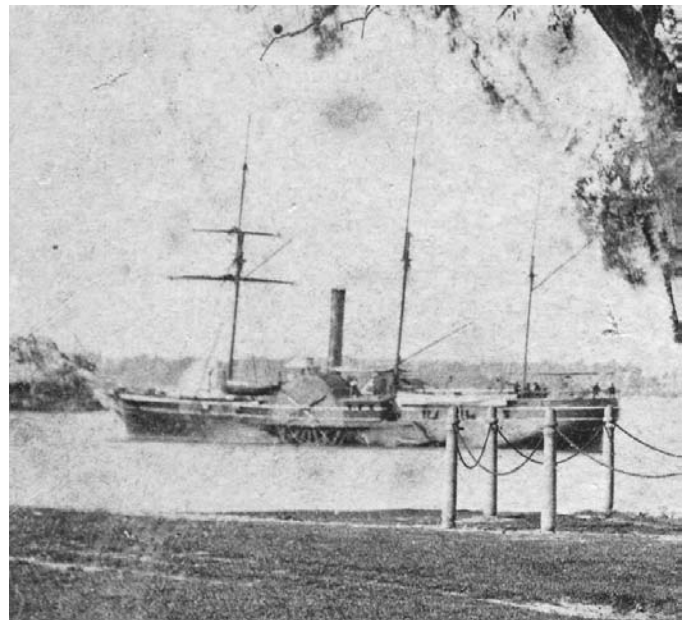
**Service record:** Surveyed rivers of South America 1853–56. Fired on in Paraguay River while surveying, 1 Feb 1855. Paraguay Expedition 1859. Captured by Confederate boarders in Ossabaw Sound, Ga., 3 Jun 1864 and taken into CSN service.

## SIDE WHEEL GUNBOAT (LAKE)

### Michigan

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Michigan</i>	Stackhouse	1842	5 Dec 1843	29 Sep 1844
Dimensions	163'3" (bp) × 27', 45'10" (oa) × 9'			
Tonnage	582 tons, 685 tons D			
Machinery	Side wheels, 2-cyl. inclined direct-acting condensing engine (36" × 8'), 2 boilers. HP 365, 10.5 knots (Bldr)			
Complement	85			
Armament	2-8" SB, 4 32 pdr SB; (1862) 1-30 pdr, 5-20 pdr, 6-24 pdr SB			

**Notes:** First iron-hulled vessel in the Navy. Built in Pittsburgh and reassembled at Erie, Pa.; remained on the Great Lakes during her entire service. Hull designed by Hartt; engines by Copeland. Barkentine rig. Pilot house enlarged and rig reduced by 1890s.



**Fig 3.54:** The sidewheel gunboat *Michigan* was the first iron-hulled ship in the U.S. Navy. She served on the Great Lakes from 1844 to 1927. This shows her appearance during the 1870s.

**Service record:** Lake Erie. Renamed *Wolverine*, 17 Jun 1905. Transferred to City of Erie, Pa., as a relic, 1927. BU 1949.

SCREW STEAMERS

San Jacinto

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>San Jacinto</i>	Brooklyn NYd	Aug 1847	16 Apr 1850	3 Mar 1852
Dimensions	237' (oa) 210' (bp) × 37'9" × 17'3"			
Tonnage	1,446 tons, 2,150 tons D			
Machinery	1 screw, 2-cyl. horizontal condensing engine (62.5" × 4'2"), 3 boilers, HP 782, 9.9 knots (Merrick); (1854) 2-cyl. horizontal engine (70"x 4'), IHP 550, 8.5 knots			
Complement	235			
Armament	6-8" SB guns; (1862) 1-11" SB, 10-9" SB, 1-12 pdr R			

**Notes:** Frigate. Hull designed by Hartt; engines by Haswell. Competitive sister with paddle frigate *Saranac*. Propeller shaft was off center. Engines were inadequate and unreliable. Re-engined and shaft centered, 1853–54.

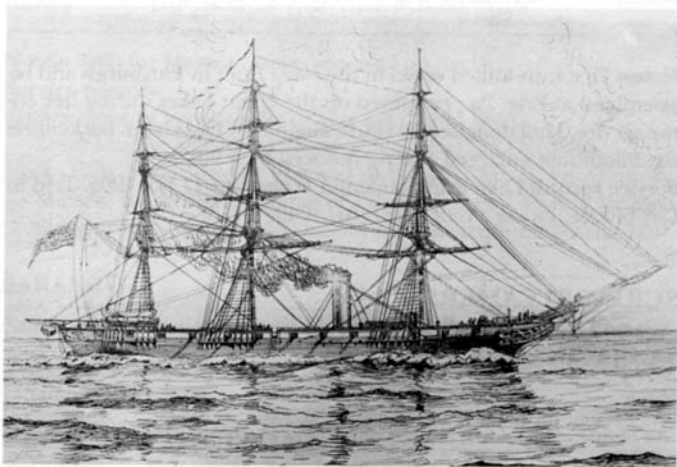
**Service record:** Far East 1855–58. Bombardment of Canton forts, 20–22 Nov 1856 (4 killed). Africa Sqn 1859–60. Wrecked on Grand Abaco Island, Bahamas, 1 Jan 1865.

**Ship captured:** Brig *Storm King* with 619 slaves off Congo River, 8 Aug 1860.

Princeton

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Princeton</i>	Philadelphia NYd	20 Oct 1842	7 Sep 1843	9 Sep 1843
Dimensions	156'6" (bp) × 30'6 × 19'11"			
Tonnage	672 tons, 1,046 D			
Machinery	1 screw, 1 semi-cylinder engine; 3 boilers, NHP 204, 7 knots (Merrick and Towne)			
Complement	166			
Battery	2–12", 12-42 pdr crde; (1844) 1-12", 12-42 pdr crde; (1845) 1-8", 12-42 pdr crde; (1847) 1-8", 8-42 pdr crde			

**Notes:** First screw warship and first screw propeller built for U.S. Navy. Machinery designed by John Ericsson and hull by Robert F. Stockton. Excellent sea boat, efficient cruiser. Also first with machinery (designed by Ericsson)



**Fig 3.55:** The second USS *Princeton*, built using the engines of the first *Princeton*.

entirely below the waterline and first with telescoping funnel. She carried two 12" guns, one of which—named "Peacemaker"—exploded on 29 Feb 1844 killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of the Navy Thomas Gilmer, and other officials, and narrowly missing President John Tyler. Ericsson propeller replaced by Stevens propeller 1845. Boilers replaced in 1847.

**Service record:** Attack on Alvarado, 7 Aug 1846. Home Sqn 1846–47. Mediterranean 1848–49. Condemned 17 Jul 1849 and BU.

Princeton

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Princeton</i>	Boston NYd	Jun 1851	29 Oct 1851	18 May 1852
Dimensions	184' (oa) 177'6" (wl) × 32'6" × d21'8"			
Tonnage	900 tons 1,370 tons D			
Machinery	1 screw, 2 direct-acting half cylinder condensing engines, 3 boilers, IHP 490, 10 knots (Murray)			
Complement	190			
Armament	4–8" SB, 6–32 pdr SB			

**Notes:** Hull designed by Samuel Pook using engines of the previous gunboat *Princeton*.

**Service record:** Developed engine trouble and missed expedition to Japan 1852. Eastern Sqn 1853–54 and West Indies 1854–55. Receiving ship, Philadelphia, 1857–66. Sold 9 Oct 1866.

SUPPORT VESSELS

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Sea Gull</i> <i>ex-Enterprise</i>	Hartford, Conn.	Nov 1818	1822	(U)
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	105 tons			
Machinery	Rotary engine, 1 boiler			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	3 guns			

**Notes:** Steam galliot. Second steamer in U.S. Navy.

**Service record:** Mosquito Fleet. West Indies 1823–24. Recaptured schr *Pacification*, Mar 1824. Receiving ship Philadelphia, 1825. Sold 1840.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Engineer</i>	Baltimore Md.	(U)	1836	(U)
Dimensions	105' × 17'2" × 7'			
Tonnage	142 tons			
Machinery	Side wheels, beam engine (25" × 7'), 1 boiler, AHP 112, 7.5 knots			
Complement	20			
Battery	1 gun			

**Service record:** Employed principally as tug and dispatch boat at Norfolk NYd. Survey southern coast, 1839. Sold Apr 1857.

**Later history:** Merchant *Albert Horn*, 1857. S/F 1860.

Name	Builder	Built	Comm.
<i>Germ</i>	Norfolk NYd	1841	(U)
Dimensions	60' × 9' × 2'		
Machinery	9 knots		

**Notes:** Small experimental steamer, built to demonstrate Hunter's submerged horizontal paddle wheels.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Poinsett</i> ex- <i>New Brighton</i>	New York	1840	1840	1840
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	250 tons			
Machinery	Side wheels			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	1–32 pdr pivot gun			

**Notes:** Transferred from War Dept.

**Service record:** Employed against Florida Indians during Second Seminole War and for survey of Tampa Bay 1840–45. Returned to War Dept. at Pensacola, 1845.

**Later history:** Merchant *Duncan C. Pell*. Abandoned 1850.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Colonel Harney</i>	Baltimore, Md.	1840	1844	1844
Dimensions	133' × 22' × 9'			
Tonnage	300			
Machinery	Side wheels			
Complement	50			
Battery	1–32 pdr			

**Notes:** Transferred from Army 1844, for protection of live oak industry. Returned to Army, 18 Mar 1846.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Edith</i>	Boston (Samuel Hall)	14 Nov 1844	Mar 1849	1849
Tonnage	407 tons			
Dimensions:	120' × 26' × 14'			
Machinery	1 screw			
Complement	25			
Battery	2 guns			

**Notes:** Three-mast steam bark transferred from War Dept., Mar 1849. Machinery built by Hogg & Delamater.

**Service record:** West coast. Ran aground in fog and wrecked off Point Conception, Calif., 24 Aug 1849.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>General Taylor</i>	New York	(U)	1842	(U)
Dimensions	105' × 17'6" × 8'6"			
Tonnage	150 tons			
Machinery	Side wheels, square engine (25" × 6'), 1 boiler, AHP 98, 8 knots			
Complement	25			
Battery	1 gun			

**Notes:** Purchased by War Dept. 1840 and trfd to Navy 1842.

**Service record:** Burned at Pensacola, 1846. Rebuilt and employed as tug at Pensacola until 1852, then sold.



**Fig 3.56:** The steamer USS *Edith* served briefly with the Navy until wrecked in 1849. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)



Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Scourge</i> ex- <i>Bangor</i>	Wilmington, Del. (Harlan)	May 1844	30 Dec 1846	Early 1847
Dimensions	120' × 23' × 9'			
Tonnage	231 tons			
Machinery	2 screws, horizontal engine (22" × 2') 1 boiler			
Complement	50			
Battery	1–32 pdr, 20–24 pdr crde			

**Note:** First iron hulled seagoing merchant ship in U.S. Two Loper propellers.

**Service record:** Attack on Alvarado, 31 Mar 1847. Sold 7 Oct 1848.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Relampago*, 1 Apr 1847; schr *San Pablo* in Gulf of Mexico, Mar 1848.

**Later history:** Merchant *Scourge*. Seized as blockade runner by Venezuelan gunboat *Libertador* off Maracaibo, Oct 1848. FFU.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Petrita</i>	U.S.	(U)	1846	(U)
Dimensions	109' × (U)			
Tonnage	242 tons			
Machinery	Side wheels			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	1 gun			

**Notes:** Captured by a U.S. Sqn at Frontera in Grijalva River, 23 Oct 1846. Had engine defects. Grounded off Alvarado (all saved), 21 Jun 1848.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Scorpion</i> ex- <i>Aurora</i>	New York (Bishop & Simonson)	1846	7 Jan 1847	23 Feb 1847
Dimensions	160'9" × 24'6" × 8'			
Tonnage	339 tons			
Machinery	Side wheels, inclined direct-acting engine (Hogg and Delamater), 7.5 knots			
Complement	60			
Battery	2–8", 2–18 pdr crde			

**Service record:** Expedition against Tabasco, Apr 1847. Sold Dec 1848.

**Ship captured:** Schr *Renaissance* in Gulf of Mexico, 6 Nov 1847.

**Later history:** Merchant *Isthmus*. (Also known as *Southerner*) Lost by stranding 60 miles south of Cape Flattery, Wash., 26 Dec 1854.

Name	Builder	Built	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Iris</i> ex- <i>Osprey</i>	New York (Bishop & Simonson)	1847	1847	25 Oct 1847
Dimensions	145' × 26'7" × 9'9"			
Tonnage	388 tons			
Machinery	Side wheels, 1 steeple engine (59" × 6')			
Complement	70			
Battery	1–32 pdr			

**Notes:** Radial paddle wheels, wood hull. Purchased on completion.

**Service record:** Employed in Gulf of Mexico. Decomm and sold, 16 Dec 1848.

**Later history:** Merchant *Osprey*. Destroyed by fire at Kingston, Jamaica, 18 Apr 1856. May have been renamed *General Mosquera*, 1855.

Name	Builder	Launch	Acquired	Comm.
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Boston (Samuel Hall)	23 Jul 1845	1 Aug 1849	1 Aug 1849
Dimensions	156'6" (bp) 161' (deck) × 32'2" × 15'6"			
Tonnage	750 tons, 1,168 tons D			
Machinery	1 screw, 2–cyl. inclined engine (25" × 3'), 2 boilers, 170 HP, 8 knots (Hogg and Delamater), lifting screw			
Complement	75			
Battery	2–9 pdr; (1854) 8–32 pdr			

**Notes:** Funnel aft. Designed by R.B. Forbes. Purchased by War Dept., 16 Oct 1846 for use as a transport. Transferred to the Navy at Mare Island, Calif., 1 Aug 1849.

**Service record:** Storeship, Mare Island. Rebuilt in 1857 at Norfolk NYd with new boilers, Ericsson lifting screw replaced. Returned to War Dept. May 1859; laid up. Returned to Navy 27 Jan 1862 and converted to storeship, engines removed. Renamed *Farralones*, Jan 1863. Sold 15 May 1867.

**Later history:** Bark *Alaska*. Wrecked at Callao, Peru, 24 Jul 1871.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>John Hancock</i>	Boston NYd	1850	26 Oct 1850	19 Mar 1853
Dimensions	113' (bp) × 22' × 10'6"; (1853) 165'6" × 22' × 10'6"			
Tonnage	230 tons; (1853) 382 tons			
Machinery	1 screw, 2-cyl. oscillating HP engine (20" × 1'9"), 9 knots. (Washington); (1853) 2-cyl. oscillating LP engine (20" × 2')			
Complement	20, (later) 61			
Armament	1–6 pdr SB			

**Notes:** Designed by Pook with original machinery by Copeland. Brig rig. Rebuilt (cut in two), re-engined and lengthened with bark rig, 1853; relaunched 24 Feb 1853.

**Service record:** Ringgold's N. Pacific Survey Exp 1853–54. Decomm 23 Aug 1856. Receiving ship, San Francisco. Sold 17 Aug 1865.

**Later history:** Merchant *John Hancock* 1865. Converted to schooner 1869.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Arctic</i>	Philadelphia NYd	(U)	1855	1855
Tonnage	125 tons			
Dimensions	125' × 25' × (U)			
Machinery	1 screw, direct-acting engine.			
Battery	1–12 pdr			

**Service record:** Sailed with *Release* to rescue Kane Arctic Expedition, Jun 1855. Atlantic cable laying, 1856. Decomm 21 Oct 1856. Trfd to USCS, 1857–58. Machinery removed, converted to lightship, *Lightship No. 8*, 1859. Sold 16 Apr 1879.

# UNITED STATES REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE

The United States Revenue Cutter Service was the first armed service organized by the new government to deter smuggling and enforce customs laws and payment of tariffs. On 4 August 1790 Congress passed the bill authorizing the employment of forty officers and the construction of ten boats to collect revenue. President George Washington signed the commissions of the first officers on 21 March 1791, and Hopley Yeaton became the first seagoing officer commissioned by the United States.

The early operations were led locally with a collector of customs in various ports who was responsible for obtaining and operating the cutters—usually small schooners or sloops. This situation continued for decades with little attention to preserving records of either the ships or their activities. (A fire at the Treasury Department destroyed the few existing records in 1832.)

In times of war, cutters were taken into the Navy or operated with the Navy, and these operations are noted in particular for the undeclared war with France, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War. Revenue cutters were active in the Nullification Crisis of 1832 when South Carolina attempted to nullify federal laws, and in the Seminole Indian wars in Florida. By the 1830s revenue cutters were engaged in safety at sea and attending to lighthouses.

In 1839 Secretary of the Treasury Walter Forward ordered two iron steamers, shortly followed by six more. Fitted with Hunter wheels, they were a disaster and all were phased out from the Revenue Service within a few years, setting back the acquisition of steam vessels until the Civil War.

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Newburyport, Mass.	23 Jul 1791	60' × 17'8" × 7'8"	70	
<i>Argus</i>	New London, Conn.	1791	47'9" × 16'3" × 6'2"	48	New London
<i>General Greene</i> (i)	Philadelphia, Pa.	5 Aug 1791			Philadelphia
<i>Scammel</i> (i) <i>ex-Ferret</i>	Portsmouth, NH	Aug 1791	57'10" × 15'8" × 6'6"	51	
<i>Vigilant</i> (i)	New York, NY	1791	47' × 15' × 4'6"	35	Newport
<i>Virginia</i> (i)	Hampton, Va.	1791	40' × 17' × 6'6"	47	Norfolk
<i>Active</i>	Baltimore, Md. (David Stodder)	9 Apr 1791		50	Baltimore
<i>Diligence</i> (i)	Washington, NC	1792		40	New Bern, NC
<i>South Carolina</i> (i)	Charleston, SC	1793		35	Charleston
<i>North Carolina</i>	(U)	1792			
<i>Eagle</i> (i)	Savannah, Ga.	1793		50	Savannah
<i>Massachusetts</i> (ii)	Cohasset, Mass. (Adna Bates)	1793		50	Boston
<i>General Greene</i> (ii)	Baltimore, Md. (Price)	1797		98	Delaware Bay
<i>Virginia</i> (ii)	Norfolk, Va.	1797	50' × 18'10" × 8'6"	187	Norfolk

## Notes and service records:

*Massachusetts* (i): Sold 29 Sep 1791.

*Argus*: Rerigged as sloop, probably 1802. Sold 1804.

*General Greene* (i): Sold Dec 1797.

**Ship captured:** (with *Delaware*): *Marsouin*, 5 Mar 1799.

*Scammel*: Sold 16 Aug 1798.

*Vigilant*: Sold Sep 1798.

*Virginia (i)*: Sold 1798.

*Active*: Sold 26 Feb 1800.

*Diligence*: Sold 5 Nov 1798.

*South Carolina*: Sold 1798.

*North Carolina*: Sold 1798.

*Eagle*: Sold 1799.

*Massachusetts (ii)*: Sold Jun 1804.

*General Greene (ii)*: Sloop. Rate 10. USN 1798. In Decatur's Sqn off Havana 1798–1800. Sold 1802.

*Virginia*: Schooner, Rate 14. Complement 70. Battery: 6-6 pdr, 8-4 pdr. USN 1798. In Truxtun's Sqn off St. Kitts 1798–1799. Returned to USRCS, Jun 1799.

**Ship captured:** *Schr Louis*, 26 Apr 1799.

## DILIGENCE CLASS

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Diligence</i>	Philadelphia (Humphreys)	1797	77' (deck) × 23'8" × 9'2"	135	North Carolina
<i>Eagle</i>	Philadelphia (Brown)	4 Aug 1798	77' (deck) × 23'8" × 9'2"	135	S. Atlantic coast
<i>Governor Gilman</i>	Portsmouth, NH (Hackett)	1798	77' (deck) × 23'8" × 9'2"	135	Portsmouth, NH?
<i>Governor Jay</i>	New York	27 Jun 1798	58' (keel) × 20' × 9'	187	
<i>Pickering</i>	Newburyport, Mass. (O. Merrill)	Jul 1798	58' (keel) × 20' × 9'	187	
<i>Scammel</i>	Portsmouth, NH (Hackett)	11 Aug 1798	75' (deck) × 21'2" × 9'6"	131	
<i>South Carolina</i>	Charleston, SC	27 Nov 1798			

### Notes and service records:

*Diligence*: Schooner. Rate 12. USN 1798. Returned 1801. In Barry's Sqn off St. Kitts, and Barbados, 1798–1800. SE 1802.

*Eagle*: Brig. Rate 14. Battery: 16-9 pdr. USN 1798, cruised in West Indies in Sqn of Barry, Truxtun, and Decatur. Sold 17 Jun 1801.

**Ships captured:** *Le Bon Père* (later USRC *Bee*), 1799. (With *Adams*) French *schr La Fouguese*, 10 Jan 1800. *La Favorite*, *Dolphin*, *La Magdalen*, 1800.

*Governor Gilman*: Rate 12. Sold 22 Feb 1802.

*Governor Jay*: Schooner. Rate 14. USN 1798–1800. In Decatur's Sqn off Havana 1798–1800.

*Pickering*: Brig. Rate 14. Complement: 90. USN 1798. Cruised under Preble in Barry's Sqn. Sailed from Newcastle, Del., for Guadeloupe, 20 Aug 1800; lost at sea with all hands (90 lost).

**Ships captured:** (with *Ganges* and *Merrimack*) recaptured *Schr John*, 16 Aug 1799, privateer *LeConquereur d'Egypte*, 13 Nov 1799. *Atalanta*, *Fly*, *Voltigeur*, 10, *Active*, 12, 1800.

*Scammel*: Schooner. Rate 14. USN 1798. In West Indies Sqn of Barry, Truxtun, and Decatur. Sold 20 Jun 1801.

**Ships captured:** *Le Felix*, 1800.

*South Carolina*: Schooner. Rate 12. USN 1798. In Tingey's Sqn off Cuba 1798–1800. Returned to USRCS, 20 Aug 1799.

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Pinckney</i>	Charleston, SC (Pritchard)	17 Oct 1798	62' × 23' × 10'6"	195	
<i>Bee</i>	(U)	1799+			
<i>ex-Le Bon Père (Bon Pierre)</i>					
<i>Patriot</i>	Hampton, Va.	1800			Norfolk, Savannah
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Boston, Mass.	1801	56'6" × 17'9" × 7'	62	Boston
<i>St. Mary's</i>	St. Mary's, Ga.	1801+	52' × 15' × 5'8"		Georgia
<i>Governor Williams</i>	Wilmington, NC	1802+			North Carolina
<i>Collector</i>		(U)			Philadelphia
<i>ex-Kitty</i>					
<i>General Greene</i>		1802			Charleston
<i>Jefferson</i>		1802			Norfolk
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Portsmouth, NH	1802			Portsmouth
<i>Vigilant</i>		1802			New York
<i>Diligence</i>		1803			

### Notes and service records: (+Purchased)

*Pinckney*: Brig. Rate 16. Trfd to USN while under construction. Sold 1800.

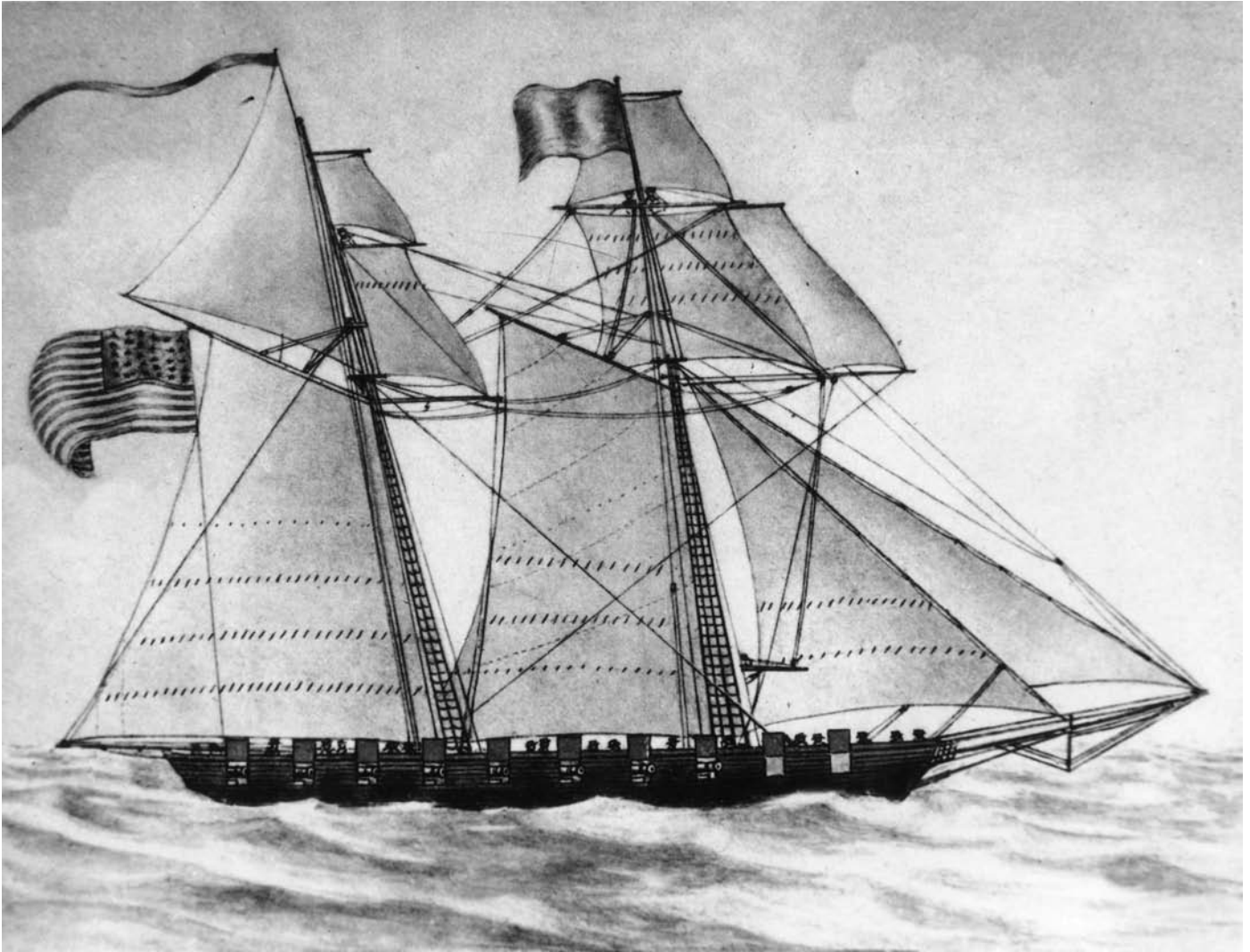
*Bee*: Captured by *Eagle*, 5 Apr 1799, and purchased. Sold 1801.

*Patriot*: Purchased. Sold 1805.

*Massachusetts*: Topsail schooner. Sold 1816.

*St. Mary's*: Lateen galley, ex-USN.

*Governor Williams*: Lateen galley, ex-USN, Lost off Ocracoke, NC, Sep 1806.



**Fig 4.1:** The revenue cutter *Pickering*, “jackass brig,” built in 1798 and transferred to the Navy in 1800. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

*General Greene*: Sold 1808, at Charleston SC.

*Jefferson*: USN 1812–17. Sold 1817.

**Ships captured:** *Schr Patriot*, brig *Ariadne*, 1812.

*New Hampshire*: Sold, May 1816.

*Vigilant*: Sold 1807.

*Diligence*: Lost in hurricane, 1806.

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Louisiana</i>	Baltimore, Md.	1804	70'6" × 22'4" × 5'7"	74	New Orleans
<i>Argus</i>					
<i>Dolly</i>		1805+		172	Norfolk
<i>Surveyor</i>	Baltimore, Md. (Parsons)	1807	68' × 19'6" × 8'	75	Baltimore
<i>Gallatin</i>		1807+			Charleston
<i>James Madison</i>	Baltimore	1807	94'4" × 24'2" × 10'6"	252	Savannah
<i>Mercury</i>		1807			Ocracoke and New Bern
<i>Virginia</i>		1807			Baltimore
<i>Hazard</i>		1808			Ocracoke, NC
<i>Sally</i>		1808+			Newport, RI
<i>Thorn</i>		1808+			Boston

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Union</i>		1808+			
<i>Argus</i>		1809			New York
<i>Eagle</i>		1809+			Boston
<i>Independence</i>		1810+			
<i>Pilgrim</i>		1811+			Wilmington, NC
<i>General Greene</i>	Philadelphia, Pa.	1811	60' × 21' × (U)		
<i>Vigilant</i>	Newport, RI (Marble)	1812	60'7" × 18'9" × 6'8"	65	Newport, RI
<i>Active</i>		1812+		38	New London
<i>Commodore Barry</i>		1812+			Passamaquoddy, Me.
<i>George</i>		1812+			Newport, RI
<i>Lynx</i>		1814+			
<i>Dallas</i>	New York (Brown)	1816	56'8" × 17' × 6'	51	Savannah
<i>Surprise</i>	New York (Brown)	1816	56'8" × 17' × 6'	51	Norfolk
<i>Detector</i>	Newport, RI (Cook & Gyles)	1815	60'7" × 16'9" × 6'8"	65	Portland, Me.
<i>Search</i>	Newport, RI (Cook & Gyles)	1815	60'7" × 16'9" × 6'8"	65	Boston
<i>Gallatin</i>	Baltimore	1815			Charleston
<i>South Carolina</i>	Baltimore	1815			
<i>Active</i>		1816+		38	Chesapeake Bay

**Notes and service records:**

*Louisiana*: At New Orleans, Dec 1804. Recaptured schr *Felicity* from pirates, 1805. Sold 1812.

*Argus*: Sold 1809.

*Dolly*: Sold 1807.

*Surveyor*: Schooner. Battery: 6-6 pdr. Captured by British on York River, Va., 12 Jun 1813 and taken into service.

*Gallatin*: Purchased at Charleston, 1807. Sunk by accidental explosion at

Charleston, 1 Apr 1813. 3+ killed.

**Ships captured:** Brig *General Blake* (LofM), 1812.

*James Madison*: Captured by HM frigate *Barbadoes* near Savannah, Ga., 24 Nov 1812.

**Ships captured:** Brig *Shamrock*, 6, Jul 1812.

*Mercury*: Out of service 1820.

*Argus*: Sold 1812.

*Eagle*: Battery: 4-4 pdr, 2-2 pdr. Captured by British brig *Dispatch*, 18, Oct 1814 after being forced aground in Long Island Sound.

*General Greene*: Sold 1815.

*Vigilant*: Battery: 4-4 pdr. USN 1813–14. Sold 13 May 1842.

**Ships captured:** Privateer sloop *Dart*, 4, off Newport, RI, 4 Oct 1813; armed brig *B of Bristol*, 11 Oct 1817; Spanish brig *Belle Corunes*, 17 May 1818.

*Active*: USN, 1812. Sold 1817.

*Commodore Barry*: USN 1812. Captured by British vessels off Maine, 3 Aug 1812.

*Lynx*: Returned 1819.

*Dallas*: Sold 1821.

**Ships captured:** Privateer *Young Spartan*, 17 Jun 1818; brig *General Ramirez*, 8 Jul 1820.

*Surprise*: Sold 1817.

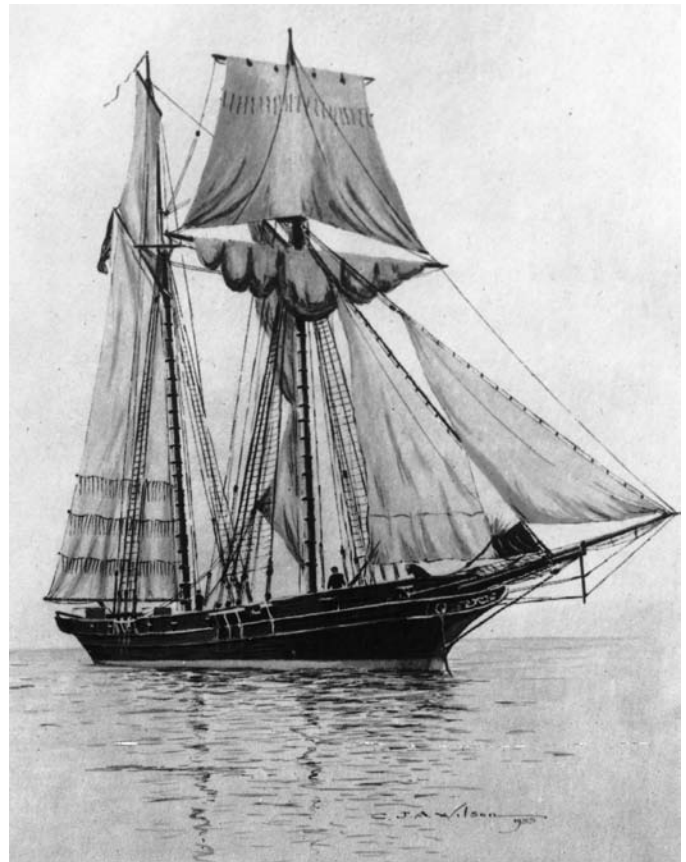
*Detector*: Sold Dec 1825.

*Search*: Sold 1820.

*Gallatin*: Out of service 1824.

*Active*: SE 1823.

**Ships captured:** Ship *Margaret*, 12 Aug 1817; privateer *Hornet*, 21 Dec 1818; pirate *Irresistible*, 16 Apr 1819.



**Fig 4.2:** The revenue cutter *James Madison*, built in 1807. Print by C. J. A. Wilson. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Eagle</i>	New York	1816			New Haven
<i>Monroe</i>	Norfolk, Va. (Servant)	1817			Norfolk VA
<i>Alert</i>	New York (Bergh)	Apr 1818	58' × 19' × 6'6"	75	Eastport, Me.
<i>Alabama</i>	New York (Bergh)	Jun 1819	52' × 18'6" × 5'9"	56	Mobile
<i>Louisiana</i>	New York (Bergh)	1819	52' × 18'6" × 5'9"		New Orleans
<i>Search</i>	Boston (Wade)	1820			Boston
<i>Crawford</i>	New York	1821			Savannah
<i>Florida</i>	New York	1822	63'3" (bp) × 17'5" × 6'4"	73	Florida
<i>Vigilant</i>	Baltimore (Flannigin)	1824		75	Chesapeake
<i>Marion</i>	Baltimore	Sep 1825	78'8" × 19'6" × 9'3"	115	Charleston
<i>Pulaski</i>	Baltimore	1 Sep 1825	78'8" × 19'6" × 9'6"	115	Key West and Mobile
<i>Swiftsure</i>	New York	1825		110	Eastport, Me.
<i>Detector</i>	N. Yarmouth (Fisher & Webster)	1825	52' (bp) × 18'3" × 6'2"	62	Portland, Me.
<i>Wasp</i>	N. Yarmouth (Fisher & Webster)	1825	52' (bp) × 18'3" × 6'2"	62	Norfolk, VA
<i>Louisiana</i>	New York	1825			New Orleans
<i>Benjamin Rush</i>	Erie, Pa.	13 Sep 1828		39	Erie, Pa.
<i>Alert</i>		1829	74'3" × 20'6" × 7'9"	120	New York and Eastport, Me.
<i>Portsmouth</i>	Connecticut	1829+	60'6" × 17'5" × 6'8"	61	
ex-Hiram (1829 purchased)					

**Notes and service records:***Eagle*: Sold 1829.*Monroe*: Sold 30 Jun 1825.**Ships captured:** Venezuelan brig *Columbia*, 23 Oct 1818; privateer *General Artigas*, 16 Mar 1819.*Alert*: Sold 1829.*Alabama*: Sold Aug 1833.**Ships captured:** (with *Louisiana*) Pirate *Bravo*, 31 Aug 1819.*Louisiana* : Sold Mar 1824.**Later history:** Probably renamed *Cecil*.**Ships captured:** (with *Alabama*) Pirate *Bravo*, 31 Aug 1819; (with *Peacock*) schr *Carmen* and five others in W. Indies, 28–30 Sep 1822.*Search*: Battery: (1830) 2-6 pdr, 2-4 pdr. SE 1830.*Crawford*: Lost off St Mary's, Ga., 27 Mar 1829.*Florida*: Sold 1831.**Ships captured:** Recaptured schr *Nuestra Señora de los Angeles* in Florida Keys date.*Vigilant*: Renamed *Dallas*, Jan 1830. Seminole War, 1832–33. Lost at Tampico, Mexico, during war between Texas and Mexico, 21 Sep 1836.*Marion*: Seminole War, 1832–33. Renamed *James Madison*, 1833. In USN 1837–39, Seminole War 1841–42. to Coast Survey, 6 Dec 1850. Sold 1858.*Pulaski*: Sold 1833.*Swiftsure*: Renamed *Crawford*, 21 Dec 1835. Sold 1 Apr 1839.*Detector*: Sold 1832.*Wasp*: Sold 7 Jan 1831*Louisiana*: Sold Jun 1830.**Ships captured:** Pirate *Bolivia* (or *Bolivar?*), 11 May 1827.*Benjamin Rush*: Sold 1833.*Alert*: Nullification crisis, Charleston, 1833. Sold Apr 1853.*Portsmouth*: Battery: 2-4 pdr. Sold 1 May 1833.**MORRIS-TANEY CLASS**

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Crawford</i>	New York (Webb and Allen)	1830		112	Norfolk and Savannah
<i>Dexter</i>	New York	1830		112	Norfolk and Mobile
<i>Gallatin</i>	New York NYd	1830	80'6" × 21' × 7'1"	112	Wilmington, NC
<i>Alexander Hamilton</i>	New York NYd	1830	78' × 21'3" × 7'8"	112	Boston and Charleston, SC
<i>Ingham</i>	New York (Webb and Allen)	1830		112	New Orleans
<i>Andrew Jackson</i>	Washington NYd	1832		112	various
<i>Jefferson</i>	New York (Webb and Allen)	1833		112	
<i>McLane</i>	New York (Webb and Allen)	1832	72'dk × 20' × 7'7"	112	Charleston, SC
<i>Morris</i>	New York NYd	30 Jun 1831		112	Portland, Me.



**Fig 4.3:** U.S. Coast Survey Schooner *Gallatin*, built in 1830 as a revenue cutter and seized by the Confederates at Savannah in 1861. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Richard Rush</i>	New York (Webb and Allen)	1831	71' dk × 20'2" × 6'8"	112	New York
<i>Roger B. Taney</i>	New York (Webb and Allen)	26 Dec 1833	71' dk × 19'6" × 7'2"	112	Norfolk, Eastport, Me.
<i>Washington</i>	New York	1832		112	Mobile, Ala.
<i>Oliver Wolcott</i>	New York	1831	71'4" × 20'6" × 7'	112	various

**Notes and service records:**

*Crawford*: Sold 27 Jul 1835.

*Dexter*: Nullification crisis, Charleston, 1833. Seminole War, 1836–37. Sold 25 Feb 1841.

*Gallatin*: Nullification crisis, Charleston, 1833. Trfd to USCS, 1840. Returned to USRCS, 1848–49. Seized by Confederates at Savannah, 1861; became Confederate privateer.

*Alexander Hamilton*: Foundered in gale at Charleston, 9 Dec 1853 (1 survivor).

*Ingham*: Sold 14 Jan 1836. to Texas.

**Later history:** Texan *Independence*; captured by Mexicans, 17 Apr 1836, renamed *Independencia*.

*Andrew Jackson*: Nullification crisis, Charleston, 1833. Seminole War 1833 and 1836. Sold 31 Oct 1865.

*Jefferson*: Damaged in collision, Jan 1833. USN 1836–37; Seminole War. Reconditioned and rebuilt, 1839. Renamed *Crawford*, Apr 1839. Wrecked at Gardiners Point, NY, 15 Dec 1847.

*McLane*: Nullification Crisis, Charleston, 1833. Capsized in tornado at Hadleys Harbor, Mass., 1 Sep 1837; salvaged. Sold 21 Oct 1840.

*Morris*: Mexican War. Wrecked in hurricane at Key West, Fla., 11 Oct 1846; sold and salvaged.

*Richard Rush*: Severely damaged by ice, Jan 1840. Trfd to Lighthouse Service, 30 Mar 1840.

*Roger B. Taney*: Capsized at New York, 3 Aug 1852; repaired. Trfd to USCS 1847–50. Sold 5 Jan 1858.

*Washington*: Seminole War, 1836. Sold 26 Jan 1837.

*Oliver Wolcott*: Driven ashore on Florida coast, 23 Jan 1846. Sold Jan 1851.

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Campbell</i>	New York	1830		60	Norfolk and Baltimore
<i>Argus</i>	Surrey, Me.	1830	39'7" × 10' × 5'		
<i>Veto</i>	Blue Hill, Me.	1832	49'6" × 13'6" × 6'2"	45	Castine, Me.
<i>Erie</i>	Presque Isle, Pa.	1833		60	Erie, Pa.
<i>Campbell</i>	Oxford, Md.	1834+		40	New Orleans
<i>Washington</i>	Baltimore (McCully)	1837	91'2" (bp) × 21'2"	190	
<i>Levi Woodbury</i>	Baltimore (Duncan)	27 Mar 1837		120	Gulf of Mexico

**Notes and service records:**

*Campbell*: Sold 30 Jun 1834.

*Argus*: Sold 1834.

*Veto*: Sold 1850.

*Erie*: Sold 31 Jul 1849.

*Campbell*: Battery: 2-6 pdr. Second Seminole War, 1837. Sold Jun 1839.

*Washington*: With USCS, summer 1838, summer 1839, 1840–52. Damaged in hurricane (11 killed), 1847; repaired at Philadelphia. Trfd from Treasury Dept.

Employed principally on survey of coast. Gulf of Mexico during Mexican War. Seized by Confederates at New Orleans, 31 Jan 1861.

**Ship captured:** Slaver schr *Amistad*, off New London, Conn., which had been taken over by slaves. 26 Aug 1839.

*Levi Woodbury*: Battery: 4-12 pdr, 1-6 pdr Mexican War. Sold 1 Jun 1847.

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Jefferson</i>	Baltimore (McCulley)	1 Jan 1839	84'6" (bp)		Mobile
<i>Van Buren</i>	Baltimore	1839			Charleston, SC
<i>Ewing</i>	Baltimore	1841	91'6" × 22'9" × 9'2"	170	New York and New London
<i>William J. Duane</i>		1841			Mobile
<i>Walter B. Forward</i>	Washington, DC (Easby)	1842	89' × 21'2" × 8'6"	139	Baltimore
<i>Nautilus</i>	Baltimore	1843+	76' × 19' × 7'		Key West
<i>Vigilant</i>	New York (Webb and Curtis)	1843	56' (bp) × 18'5" × 4'8"	50	Key West
<i>Lawrence</i>	Washington (Easby)	1848			San Francisco

**Notes and service records:**

*Jefferson*: Brigantine. Battery: 4-12 pdr crde. USN 1841–42. Sold 22 May 1843.

*Van Buren*: USN 2 Aug 1841–18 Aug 1842; Seminole War. Mexican War. Sold 1 Jun 1847.

*Ewing*: Mexican War. Trfd to USCS, Oct 1848. Decomm 1876.

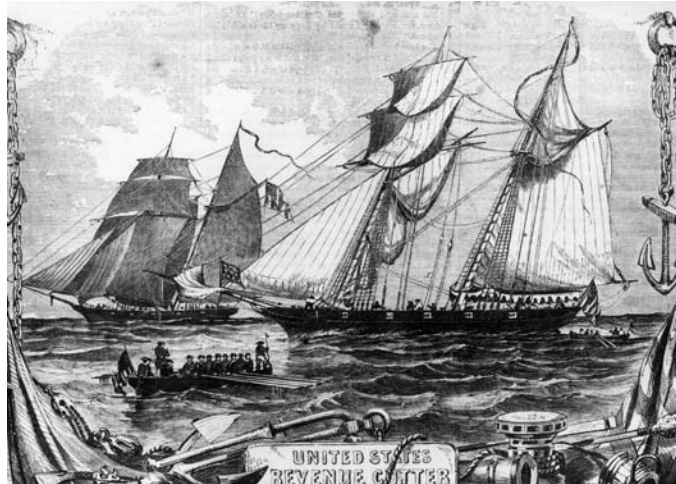
*William J. Duane*: Sold Nov 1844.

*Walter B. Forward*: Battery: (1845) 1-18 pdr, 4-9 pdr. Comm 23 Apr 1842. USN 1846–47. Sold Nov 1865.

*Nautilus*: Trfd from USCS, Returned 13 Jun 1844. Again trfd to USRCS, 30 Oct 1847; returned to USCS, Mar 1848. SE 1859.

*Vigilant*: Lost in hurricane off Key West (2 survivors), 5 Oct 1844.

*Lawrence*: Lost at entrance to San Francisco Bay, 25 Nov 1851.



**Fig 4.4:** The revenue cutter *Morris*, one of several sister ships built in 1849. (U.S. Naval Historical Center)

**CAMPBELL CLASS**

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Campbell</i>	Portsmouth, Va. (Graves)	7 Jul 1849	102' × 23' × 8'8"	155	Astoria, Ore.
<i>Crawford</i>	Philadelphia (Tees)	1849	102' × 23' × 8'8"	155	Charleston, Key West, Newport
<i>William J. Duane</i>	Philadelphia (Tees)	1849	102' × 23' × 8'8"	155	Norfolk
<i>Morris</i>	Baltimore (Brown)	26 Apr 1849	102' × 23' × 8'8"	155	Boston, Baltimore

**Notes and service records:**

*Campbell*: Severely damaged in collision with schr during gale, 27 Aug 1851. Renamed *Joseph Lane*, 1855. Sold 20 Jul 1869.



*Crawford*: Trfd to USCS, 21 Jun 1852–31 May 1861. Sold 21 Jun 1869.

*William J. Duane*: Seized by Confederates at Norfolk, 18 Apr 1861.

*Morris*: Sold 10 Dec 1868.

## HARRISON CLASS

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Harrison</i>	Erie, Pa. (Carrick)	1849	(U)	115	Oswego, NY
<i>Ingham</i>	Erie, Pa. (Carrick)	1849	(U)	115	Erie and Detroit

### Notes and service records:

*Harrison*: Sold 6 Oct 1856.

*Ingham*: Sold 24 Sep 1856.

## CUSHING CLASS

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>James Campbell</i>	Somerset, Mass. (Hood)	9 Jul 1853	91' × 21' × 8'6"	152	New London
<i>Caleb Cushing</i>	Somerset, Mass. (Hood)	12 Jul 1853	93'7" × 21'8" × 9'		Portland, Me.
<i>Jefferson Davis</i>	Bristol, RI (Hood)	1853			West coast
<i>James C. Dobbin</i>	Somerset, Mass. (Hood)	13 Jul 1853	93'9" × 22'6" × 10'	174	Wilmington, Savannah, Ga.
<i>William L. Marcy</i>	Bristol, RI (Hood)	Jun 1853	94' × (U)		San Francisco
<i>Robert McClelland</i>	Somerset, Mass. (Hood)	11 Jul 1853			Mobile, New Orleans

### Notes and service records:

*James Campbell*: Sold 8 Jul 1875.

**Later history:** Merchant *Pedro Varela*. Lost 1916.

*Caleb Cushing*: Captured at Portland, Me., by CSS *Archer*, 27 Jun 1863; burned.

*Jefferson Davis*: Pacific coast 1854–62. Hospital ship, 1862. FFU.

*James C. Dobbin*: Sold 6 Apr 1881.

**Later history:** Merchant *John L. Thomas*.

*William L. Marcy*: Trfd to USCS, Mar 1862.

*Robert McClelland*: Seized by Louisiana, 18 Feb 1861.

**Later history:** CSS *Pickens*.

Name	Builder	Acquired	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>William Aiken</i> ex- <i>Eclipse</i> (pilot boat)	Charleston?	1855+	(U)	82	Charleston

**Service record:** Seized by Confederates at Charleston, 27 Dec 1860 .

**Later history:** Confederate privateer *Petrel*. Sunk by USS *St. Lawrence*, 28 Jul 1861.

## ALLEN CLASS

Name	Builder	Launch	Dimensions	Tonnage	Principal Station
<i>Philip Allen</i>	Portsmouth, Va. (Page & Allen)	1855	80' (oa) × 23' × 5'6"	93	Baltimore
<i>Lewis Cass</i>	Portsmouth, Va. (Page & Allen)	1855	80' (oa) × 23' × 5'6"		Mobile
<i>Henry Dodge</i>	Portsmouth, Va. (Page & Allen)	1855	80' (oa) × 23' × 5'6"		Galveston

### Notes and service records:

*Philip Allen* : SE 1865.

*Lewis Cass*: Seized by by rebele in Alabama, 31 Jan 1861.

**Later history:** CSS *Lewis Cass*

*Henry Dodge*: Seized by rebels at Galveston, 2 Mar 1861.

## LEGARE CLASS STEAMERS

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Bibb</i> <i>ex-Tyler</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Knapp)	(U)	10 Apr 1845	(U)
<i>Dallas</i>	New York, NY (Stillman; Stratton)	(U)	4 Apr 1846	(U)
<i>McLane</i>	Boston, Mass. (Alger)	(U)	1845	(U)
<i>Spencer</i>	New York, NY (West Pt Fdry)	(U)	1845	(U)
Dimensions	160' × 24' × 9'3"			
Tonnage	<i>Bibb</i> : 409 tons			
<i>Dallas</i> :	391 tons			
<i>McLane</i> :	368 tons			
<i>Spencer</i> :	398 tons			
Machinery	Hunter wheel, engine (24" × 3', except <i>Spencer</i> : 36" × 2')			
Complement	60 (est.)			
Battery	<i>Bibb</i> : 1-long 18 pdr, 4-32 pdr			

**Notes:** Iron hulls. Not successful, Hunter wheels a failure.

**Service records:**

*Bibb*: Leaked, beached during trials to prevent sinking. Converted to side wheels at Cincinnati, Ohio, 1845. Mexican War. Trfd to USCS, Jul 1847. Rebuilt with wood hull at Boston NYd. Relaunched 12 May 1853.

*Dallas*: Laid down at Buffalo. Converted to side wheels during construction. Trfd to USCS 1848. No service. Sold 1851.

*McLane*: Converted to side wheels prior to launching. Mexican War. Sold 3 Dec 1847. Converted to light vessel.

*Spencer*: Modified to Loper propellers 1846. Boilers failed May 1846. Converted to light vessel, 1848.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Jefferson</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Knapp)	(U)	1845	(U)
<i>Legare</i>	New York, NY (Schuyler)	(U)	(U)	May 1844
Dimensions	<i>Jefferson</i> : 160' × 24' × 9'9"			
Tonnage	<i>Jefferson</i> : 343 tons <i>Legare</i> : 364 tons			
Machinery	1 screw (36" × 2'8")			
Complement	58			
Battery	<i>Legare</i> : 1-18 pdr, 1-12 pdr, 1-9 pdr, 2-4 pdr			

**Notes:** Ordered 1839.

**Service records:**

*Jefferson*: Ericsson's propellers replaced with Loper propellers, Sep 1845. Re-erected at Oswego, NY, 23 Jun 1847. Operated on Great Lakes. Trfd to New York 1848. Trfd to USCS but did not serve. Sold 1861.

*Legare*: Ericsson's propellers replaced with Loper propellers. Trfd to USCS. 12 Nov 1847. Converted to light ship 1857.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Polk</i>	Richmond, Va. (Anderson)	(U)	1846	Jan 1847
<i>Walker</i>	Pittsburgh, Pa. (Tomlinson)	(U)	Nov 1847	(U)
Dimensions	(U)			
Tonnage	400 tons			
Machinery	side wheels			
Complement	(U)			
Battery	(U)			

**Notes:** Iron hulls.

**Service notes:**

*Polk*: Sailed to Gulf under Navy orders, Mar 1847, but returned, leaking badly. Returned to USRCS, May 1847. Converted to bark, 1848. San Francisco 1850. Sold at San Francisco, 29 Dec 1854.

*Walker*: Trfd to USCS Jan 1848. Sunk in collision off Absecon, NJ, 21 Jun 1860.



# 5

## TEXAS NAVY

Settlement of Texas by Americans started in 1821, and negotiations with Mexico led to Texas becoming part of the republic of Mexico. In 1830 the Mexican Congress enacted legislation that the settlers regarded as violating their rights. Relations worsened until in 1835 armed violence broke out, leading to the siege of the Alamo, which fell on 27 March 1836. On 21 April the Mexicans were defeated at the Battle of San Jacinto and the independence of Texas was established. Texas's request for annexation was denied by the U.S. Congress.

Some small vessels were armed and fought under the Texas flag during this period. In 1838 a sloop and two brigs were ordered to be built and some other vessels were acquired. Relations with Mexico were poor, and Texas participated in the Mexican civil war against the central government, helping the Yucatan faction. Without sufficient funds, the ships of the navy deteriorated and by 1843 the navy ceased to exist. Texas was finally annexed by the United States on 1 Mar 1845; the surviving ships were taken into the United States Navy on 11 May 1846 but were of no use and were quickly sold.

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Austin</i> <i>ex-Texas</i>	Baltimore (Schott & Whitney)	1839	1839	5 Jan 1840
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	130'2" (bp) × 31'9" × 15'10", also reported as 125' × 31' × 12'6"			
Tonnage	589 tons			
Complement	174			
Battery	16-24 pdr, 4-18 pdr; (1840): 2-18 pdr, 18-24 pdr crde			

**Notes:** Sloop. Designed by Francis Grice. Built for Texas Navy. Taken into USN, 11 May 1846; never used in active service.

**Service record:** (In Texas Navy) Supported Yucatan in civil war with Mexico, Dec 1841. Captured Mexican brig *Progreso*, 6 Feb 1842. Captured schr *Doloritas*, 1 Apr 1842 and schr *Dos Amigos*, 3 Apr 1842. Action with Mexican Sqn off Campeche, 30 Apr 1843. Hit 17 times and damaged during second action with Mexican Sqn off Campeche (3 killed), 16 May 1843. Decomm at Galveston, Jul 1843. (In USN) receiving ship, Pensacola, 1846–48. BU 1848

Name	Builder	Laid Down	Launch	Comm.
<i>Colorado</i>	Baltimore (Schott & Whitney)	1838	1838	Oct 1839
<i>Galveston</i>	Baltimore (Schott & Whitney)	1838	1838	Apr 1840
Rate	18 guns			
Dimensions	112' × 29' × 11'			
Tonnage	419 tons			
Complement	86			
Battery	16-18 pdr; (1842) 1-9 pdr, 15-18 pdr			

**Notes:** Brigs. Too rotten for USN service, never comm. Trfd 11 May 1846.

**Service records:**

*Colorado:* Renamed **Wharton**, 1840. Damaged in action with Mexican Sqn off Campeche, 30 Apr 1843 (2 killed). Damaged in second action off Campeche (2 killed), 16 May 1843. Decomm at Galveston, 14 Jul 1843. Sold 30 Nov 1846.

*Galveston:* Renamed **Archer**, 1840. Sold 30 Nov 1846.

Name	Builder	Built	Comm.
<i>Zavala</i> <i>ex-Charleston</i>	Philadelphia	1836	23 Mar 1839
Dimensions	201' × 24' × 12'		
Tonnage	569 tons		
Machinery	Side wheels		
Complement	126		
Battery	4-12 pdr, 1-9 pdr		

**Notes:** Steamer.

**Service record:** Sank at mooring at Galveston, Jun 1842; beyond repair.

## MISCELLANEOUS VESSELS

Name	Type	Acquired	Tonnage	Battery	Crew
<i>Brutus</i>	Schr	Jan 1836	160	1-18 pdr, 9 others	40
<i>Independence</i> ex-USRC <i>Ingham</i>	Schr	Jan 1836	112	9 guns	
<i>Invincible</i>	Schr	Jan 1836	100	1-9 pdr, 6 crdes	40
<i>Liberty</i> ex-William Robbins	Schr	9 Jan 1836	70	6 guns	40
<i>Potomac</i>	Brig	1838			
<i>San Antonio</i>	Schr	7 Aug 1839	170	6-12 pdr	82
<i>San Bernard</i>	Schr	31 Aug 1839	170	6-12 pdr	82
<i>San Jacinto</i>	Schr	27 Jun 1839	170	4-12 pdr, 1-9 pdr	

**Notes and service records:**

*Brutus*: Lost rudder and went aground during engagement at Galveston, 27 Aug 1837; total loss.

**Ships captured:** (With *Invincible*) schr *Telégrafo*, schr *Adventure*, at Sisal, 25 Jul 1836; schr *Eliza Russell*, 8 Aug 1836; *Correo de Tobasco*, 12 Aug 1836; schr *Rafaelita*, 17 Aug 1836.

*Independence*: Captured by Mexican ships *Vencedor del Alamo*, 7, and *Libertador*, 16, 17 Apr 1836.

**Ship captured:** Brig *Pocket*, Mar 1836.

**Later history:** Mexican *Independencia*.

*Invincible*: Ran aground and became total loss after engagement at Galveston, 27 Aug 1836.

**Ships captured:** (With *Brutus*) schr *Telégrafo*, schr *Adventure*, at Sisal, 25 Jul 1836; schr *Eliza Russell*, 8 Aug 1836; *Correo de Tobasco*, 12 Aug 1836; schr *Rafaelita*, 17 Aug 1836.

*Liberty*: Former privateer. Sold Oct 1836.

**Ships captured:** Schr *Pelicano*, Mar 1836; brig *Durango*, 3 Jan 1836.

*Potomac*: Useless, never converted to warship. Served as receiving ship at Galveston.

*San Antonio*: Supported Yucatan in civil war with Mexico, Dec 1841. Captain, Lt. Fuller killed in mutiny at New Orleans, 11 Feb 1842. Missing in Gulf of Mexico, Oct 1842.

*San Bernard*: Supported Yucatan in civil war with Mexico, Dec 1841. Went aground in gale, Sep 1842, repaired. Trfd to USN, 11 May 1846. Sold 30 Nov 1846.

*San Jacinto*: Went aground in Arcas Islands, 30 Oct 1840. Wrecked in gale, 25 Nov 1840.

# Appendix

## ROYAL NAVY LOSSES IN NORTH AMERICAN WATERS

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The following are chronological lists of losses of Royal Navy ships in North American waters during the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Ships preceded by an asterisk (\*) were taken in U.S. service. Dates in parentheses, unless otherwise noted, signify date built.

### LOSSES DURING THE REVOLUTION

*\*Enterprise*, 10, tender. Taken by Americans at St. Johns, Richelieu River, 14 May 1775.

*Diana*, 6, schooner. (Purchased 1775.) Abandoned and burnt at Boston, 28 May 1775.

*Margaretta*, schooner. Taken by 8 small American vessels near Machias, Me., 12 Jun 1775.

*Diligent*, 6, schooner. Taken by Americans at Machias, Me., 15 Jul 1775.

*Hunter*, 10, sloop (1756). Taken by American privateer off Boston, 23 Nov 1775 (later retaken).

*Gaspe*, 6, brig. Taken by Americans in the St. Lawrence, Nov 1775 (retaken Apr 1776).

*Hawk*, schooner (1775). Captured by Americans, 4 Apr 1776.

*Bolton*, 12, gun brig. Captured by Americans, 4 Apr 1776.

*Edward*, tender. Taken by USS *Lexington*, 16, off Virginia, 17 Apr 1776.

*Actaeon*, 28, 6th rate (1775). Grounded and burned during attack on Charleston, SC, 29 Jun 1776.

*Despatch*, 6. Taken by American privateer *Tyrannicide*, 14, 12 Jul 1776.

*Cruizer*, 8, sloop (1782). Wrecked and burned off South Carolina, 2 Oct 1776.

*George*, tender. Wrecked near Piscataqua River, 26 Dec 1776.

*Repulse*, 32, 5th rate (ex-French *Bellone*, taken 1759). Foundered off Bermuda with all hands, Dec 1776.

*\*Racehorse*, 8, bomb sloop (ex-French *Marquis de Vaudreuil*, 1757). Taken by American *Andrew Doria*, 14, off Puerto Rico, Dec 1776.

*Fox*, 28, 6th rate (1773). Taken by American *Hancock*, 32, 7 Jun 1777 (retaken 8 Jul 1777).

*Merlin*, 18, sloop (1757). Abandoned and burned in Delaware River, 23 Oct 1777.

*Augusta*, 64, 3rd rate (1763). Accidentally burned in Delaware River, 24 Oct 1777.

*Vestal*, 20, 6th rate (1777). Foundered in gale off Newfoundland with all hands, Oct 1777.

*Pegasus*, 14, sloop (1776). Foundered in gale off Newfoundland with all hands, Oct 1777.

*Siren*, 28, 6th rate (1773). Wrecked off Rhode Island, 10 Nov 1777.

*Charity*, sloop (1770). Lost in Lake Niagara, 1777.

*Liverpool*, 28, 6th rate (1758). Wrecked on Long Island, NY, 11 Feb 1778.

*Drake*, 14, sloop (ex-*Resolution*, purchased 1777). Taken by USS *Ranger*, 18, off Belfast, 24 Apr 1778.

*Spy*, 16, sloop (1776). Wrecked off Newfoundland, 6 Jun 1778.

*Mermaid*, 28, 6th rate (1761). Driven ashore by French squadron in Delaware Bay, 8 Jul 1778.

*York*, 12, brig-sloop (1777). Taken by French off N. America 10 Jul 1778 (retaken 23 Aug 1778, lost 1779).

*Alarm*, armed ship ex-galley (purchased 1777). Destroyed to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 1 Aug 1778.

*Falcon*, 16, sloop (1771). Sunk as blockship in Narragansett Bay, 5 Aug 1778.

*Kingfisher*, 16, sloop (1770). Destroyed to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 7 Aug 1778.

*Juno*, 32, 5th rate (1757). Destroyed to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 7 Aug 1778.

*Lark*, 32, 5th rate (1762). Destroyed to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 7 Aug 1778.

- Cerberus*, 28, 6th rate (1758). Destroyed to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 7 Aug 1778.
- Flora*, 32, 5th rate (ex-French *Vestale*, captured 1761). Destroyed to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 7 Aug 1778 (salved by Americans, returned to France, and became privateer *La Flore*, retaken 1798).
- Somerset*, 64, 3rd rate (1748). Wrecked near Cape Cod, 12 Aug 1778.
- Senegal*, 14, sloop (1760). Taken by French *L'Hector*, 74, off Rhode Island, 14 Aug 1778 (retaken 2 Nov 1780).
- Orpheus*, 32, 5th rate (1773). Burned to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 15 Aug 1778.
- Thunder*, 8, bomb (ex-merchant *Racehorse* purchased 1771). Taken by French *Le Vaillant*, 64, off Rhode Island, 17 Aug 1778.
- Zephyr*, 14, sloop (ex-*Martin*, 1756). Taken by French *La Gracieuse*, 24, off Newport, RI, 23 Aug 1778.
- Otter*, 14, sloop (1767). Wrecked on coast of Florida, 25 Aug 1778.
- Minerva*, 32, 5th rate (1759). Taken by French *Concorde*, 32, off Santo Domingo, 28 Aug 1778.
- Stanley*, 10. Taken by French *Le César*, 74, Aug 1778.
- Active*, 28, 6th rate (1758). Taken by French *La Charmante*, 38 and *La Dedaigieuse*, 26, off Santo Domingo, 1 Sep 1778.
- \**Pigot*, 8, galley (purchased 1778). Run ashore to prevent capture at Rhode Island, 28 Oct 1778.
- Grampus*, 32, storeship (ex-3rd rate *Buckingham*, 1751). Foundered off Newfoundland, Nov 1778.
- Swift*, 14, sloop (1777). Wrecked off Cape Henry and burned, Nov 1778.
- Dispatch*, 14, sloop (1777). Capsized in the St. Lawrence, 8 Dec 1778.
- Ceres*, 18, sloop (1777). Taken by French *L'Iphigénie*, 32, off St. Lucia, 19 Dec 1778.
- Cupid*, 14, sloop (purchased 1777). Foundered off Newfoundland, 28 Dec 1778.
- Mercury*, 24, 6th rate (1756). Wrecked near New York, 1778.
- Enterprise*, 10, tender. Taken by the Americans and burned, 1778.
- Weazle*, 16, sloop (purchased 1745). Taken by French *La Boudeuse*, 32, near St. Eustatius, 30 Jan 1779.
- \**Diligent*, 10, sloop (purchased 1776). Taken by USS *Providence*, 14, 7 May 1779.
- Egmont*, 10, schooner (purchased 1770). Taken by American privateer *Wild Cat*, 14, off Newfoundland, 14 Jul 1779.
- Haerlem*, 10, sloop (1778). Taken by American privateer *Impertinent*, 16 Jul 1779.
- York*, 12, brig-sloop (ex-*Betsy*, purchased 1777). Captured by French squadron in West Indies, Jul 1779.
- Thorn*, 16, sloop (1779). Taken by an American frigate, 25 Aug 1779 (retaken 20 Aug 1782).
- \**Ariel*, 20, 6th rate (1777). Taken by French *L'Amazone*, 26, off South Carolina, 10 Sep 1779.
- Rose*, 20, 6th rate (1757). Sunk as blockship at Savannah, 16 Sep 1779.
- Savannah*, 14, brig-sloop (purchased 1779). Sunk as blockship at Savannah, 16 Sep 1779.
- Serapis*, 44, 5th rate (1779). Taken by USS *Bonhomme Richard*, 42, off Flamborough Head, 23 Sep 1779.
- Countess of Scarborough*, 20, armed ship. Taken by USS *Pallas* off Flamborough Head, 23 Sep 1779.
- Experiment*, 50, 4th rate (1774). Taken by French *Sagittaire*, 50, off Georgia, 24 Sep 1779.
- Champion*, storeship. Taken by French *Sagittaire*, 50, off Georgia, 24 Sep 1779.
- Myrtle*, victualler. Taken by French *Sagittaire*, 50, off Georgia, 24 Sep 1779.
- Tortoise*, 26, transport (ex-merchant *Grenville*, purchased 1777). Foundered off Newfoundland, Sep 1779.
- Sphinx*, 20, 6th rate (1775). Taken by French *L'Amphitrite*, 32, in West Indies, 20 Oct 1779.
- Hussar*, 28, 6th rate (1763). Wrecked in Hell Gate, New York, Nov 1779.
- North*, 20, armed ship. Wrecked near Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1779.
- Hope*, 14 (comm 1764). Taken by an American privateer, 1779.
- \**West Florida*, 14. Taken by American *Morris* at Pensacola, 1779.
- Leviathan*, 50, storeship (ex-*Northumberland*, 3rd rate, 1750). Foundered on passage from Jamaica, 1779.
- Defiance*, 64, 3rd rate (1772). Wrecked on Savannah bar, 18 Feb 1780.
- Fortune*, 14, sloop (1778). Taken by French *L'Iphigénie*, 32, and *Gentille*, 32, in West Indies, 26 Apr 1780.
- Courier*, 8, lugger (ex-French *Le Coureur* taken 1778). Taken by two American privateers off Newfoundland, 21 Jun 1780.
- Unicorn*, 20, 6th rate (1776). Taken by French *L'Andromaque* off Tortuga, 4 Sep 1780.
- Rover*, 18, sloop (ex-American *Cumberland*, taken 1777). Taken by French *Junon*, 32, in West Indies, 13 Sep 1780.
- Phoenix*, 44, 5th rate (1759). Lost in hurricane off Cuba, 4 Oct 1780.
- Stirling Castle*, 64, 3rd rate (1775). Wrecked on Silver Key near Hispaniola in hurricane, 5 Oct 1780.
- Scarborough*, 22, 6th rate (1756). Wrecked on Silver Key near Hispaniola in hurricane, 5 Oct 1780.
- Thunderer*, 74, 3rd rate (1760). Wrecked on Silver Key near Hispaniola in hurricane, 5 Oct 1780.
- Victor*, 10, sloop (1777). Wrecked on Silver Key near Hispaniola in hurricane, 5 Oct 1780.
- Laurel*, 28, 6th rate (1779). Lost in hurricane at Martinique, 10 Oct 1780.
- Viper*, 12, cutter (1762). Wrecked in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 11 Oct 1780.
- Blanche*, 32, 5th rate (French prize taken 1779). Wrecked in hurricane at Martinique, 11 Oct 1780.
- Andromeda*, 28, 6th rate (1777). Wrecked in hurricane at Martinique, 11 Oct 1780.
- Deale Castle*, 24, 6th rate (1756). Wrecked in hurricane at Puerto Rico, 11 Oct 1780.
- Barbadoes*, 14, brig-sloop (1778). Wrecked in hurricane at Puerto Rico, 11 Oct 1780.

*Chameleon*, 14, sloop (1777). Wrecked in hurricane at Puerto Rico, 11 Oct 1780.

*Beavers Prize*, 16, sloop (ex-American privateer *Oliver Cromwell* taken 1778). Wrecked in hurricane at Puerto Rico, 11 Oct 1780.

*Endeavour*, 14, sloop (purchased 1763). Wrecked in hurricane at Jamaica, 11 Oct 1780.

*Ontario*, 16, sloop (1780). Foundered on Great Lakes, 1 Nov 1780.

*Active*, 14 (purchased 1776). Taken by Americans near New York, 1780.

*Scorpion*, 16, brig sloop (ex-merchant *Borryon* purchased 1771). Damaged in North America, 1780 and sold.

*Shark*, 28, 6th rate. Foundered in storm off N. America, 1780.

*Tapageur*, 14, cutter (taken 1779). Wrecked in West Indies, 1780.

*Vigilant*, 20, armed ship (ex-merchant *Empress of Russia* purchased 1777). Burned as unfit at Beaufort, SC, 1780.

*Culloden*, 74, 3rd rate (1776). Wrecked off Long Island, NY, 23 Jan 1781.

*Delight*, 14, sloop (1778). Foundered on passage to N. America, 25 Jan 1781.

*Romulus*, 44, 5th rate (1777). Taken by French *Eveille*, 74, off Virginia Capes, 19 Feb 1781.

*Rover*, 14 (ex-American *Cumberland* taken 1777). Wrecked on N. American coast, Feb 1781.

*Atalanta*, 16, sloop (1775). Taken by USS *Alliance*, 36, in North Atlantic, 28 May 1781.

*Trepassy*, 14, brig-sloop. Taken by USS *Alliance*, 36, in North Atlantic, 28 May 1781.

*Snake*, 14, sloop. Taken by American privateers *Pilgrim* and *Rambler*, 13 Jun 1781.

*Loyalist*, 14, sloop. Taken in Chesapeake Bay by French *Le Glorieux*, 74, 30 Jul 1781.

*Pelican*, 24, 6th rate (1777). Foundered in hurricane off Jamaica, 2 Aug 1781.

*Sandwich*, 24, armed ship (1780). Taken off Charlestown, Mass., by French fleet, 24 Aug 1781.

*Cormorant*, 14, sloop (1776). Taken off Charlestown, Mass., by French fleet, 24 Aug 1781.

*Swallow*, 14, sloop (1779). Driven ashore by four American privateers off Long Island, NY, 26 Aug 1781.

*Savage*, 14, sloop (1778). Taken off Charleston by USS *Congress*, 24, 6 Sep 1781 (retaken Sep 1781).

*Iris*, 32, 5th rate (ex-USS *Hancock*, taken 1777). Taken in Chesapeake Bay by French fleet, 11 Sep 1781.

*Richmond*, 32, 5th rate (1757). Taken in Chesapeake Bay by French fleet, 11 Sep 1781.

*Terrible*, 74, 3rd rate (1762). Burned as unserviceable after action with French off Chesapeake Bay, 11 Sep 1781.

*Fowey*, 24, 6th rate (1749). Sunk by American shore batteries at Yorktown or in action with the French in Chesapeake Bay, 10 Oct 1781.

*Guadeloupe*, 28, 6th rate (1763). Sunk to avoid capture by the French in Virginia, 10 Oct 1781 (salved by French).

*Charon*, 44, 5th rate (1778). Burned at Yorktown, 10 Oct 1781.

*Vulcan*, 8, bomb (ex-*Vesuvius*, 1776). Burned and sunk by red-hot shot at Yorktown, 10 Oct 1781.

*Bonetta*, 14, sloop (1779). Taken by French fleet in Chesapeake Bay, 10 Oct 1781.

*Fly*, 14, cutter (1778). Taken by French off U.S. coast, 1781.

*Duchess of Cumberland*, 16 (purchased 1781). Wrecked off Cape St. Mary, Newfoundland, 1781.

*Hope*, 14, brig-sloop (purchased 1780). Wrecked off Savannah, 1781.

*Blonde*, 32, 5th rate (French, taken 1760). Wrecked off Nantucket, 21 Jan 1782.

## LOSSES DURING THE WAR OF 1812

\**Oxford*, 18, collier (purchased 1804). Taken by USS *Essex* off U.S. coast, 13 Aug 1812.

*Guerriere*, 38, 5th rate (1799, French, taken 1806). Captured by USS *Constitution* in Western Atlantic, 19 Aug 1812.

\**Macedonian*, 38, 5th rate (1810). Taken by USS *United States*, 25 Oct 1812.

*Southampton*, 32, 5th rate (1757). Wrecked near Conception Island, Bahamas, 27 Nov 1812.

*Subtle*, 12, schooner (purchased 1807). Foundered with all hands off St. Bartholomew, 30 Nov 1812.

*Plumper*, 12, gun-brig (1807). Wrecked off New Brunswick, 5 Dec 1812.

*Java*, 38, 5th rate (French *Renommée*, taken 1811). Taken by USS *Constitution* off San Salvador, 29 Dec 1812.

*Sarpedon*, 10, brig-sloop (1809). Foundered with all hands, 1 Jan 1813.

*Rhodian*, 10, brig-sloop (1809). Wrecked at Port Royal, Jamaica, 21 Feb 1813.

*Peacock*, 18, brig-sloop (1806). Taken by USS *Hornet* off Demerara, Guyana, and sunk, 24 Feb 1813.

*Gloucester*, 10, brig (1807). Taken by Americans at York, Lake Erie, 27 Apr 1813.

*Algerine*, 10, cutter (1810). Wrecked in Bahamas, 20 May 1813.

*Persian*, 18, brig-sloop (1809). Wrecked on Silver Keys, Bahamas, 16 Jun 1813.

*Dominica*, 10, schooner (French *Duc de Wagram*, taken 1809). Taken by U.S. privateer *Decatur* off Charleston, SC, 5 Aug 1813.

*Colibri*, 18, brig-sloop (French prize, taken 1809). Wrecked at Port Royal, Jamaica, 22 Aug 1813.

*Boxer*, 12, gun-brig (1812). Taken by USS *Enterprise* off Portland, Me., 5 Sep 1813.

*Highflyer*, 8, schooner (American privateer taken 1813). Taken by USS *President* off Nantucket, 9 Sep 1813.

\**Queen Charlotte*, 16, sloop (1812). Taken by Americans at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813.

\**Detroit*, 18, sloop (1813). Taken by Americans at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813.

\**Hunter*, 10, brig (1812). Taken by Americans at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813.

\**Lady Prevost*, 12, schooner (1812). Taken by Americans at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813.



- \**Little Belt*, 3, sloop (1812). Taken by Americans at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813.
- \**Chippeway*, 2, schooner (1812). Taken by Americans at Battle of Lake Erie, 10 Sep 1813.
- Bold*, 12, gun-brig (1812). Wrecked on Prince Edward Island, 27 Sep 1813.
- Hamilton*, 2, schooner (ex-USS *Growler*). Taken by Americans on Lake Erie, 5 Oct 1813.
- Confiance*, 2, schooner (ex-USS *Julia*). Taken by Americans on Lake Erie, 5 Oct 1813.
- Detroit*, 6, brig (ex-USS *Adams* taken 1813). Recaptured on Lake Erie and burned, 9 Oct 1813.
- Laurestinus*, 22, 6th rate (ex-*Laurel*, 1806). Wrecked on Silver Keys, 22 Oct 1813.
- Tweed*, 18, sloop (1807). Wrecked in Shoal Bay, Newfoundland, 5 Nov 1813.
- Woolwich*, 44, storeship, ex-5th rate (1785). Wrecked off Barbuda, 6 Nov 1813.
- Atalante*, 18, sloop (1808). Wrecked off Halifax, Nova Scotia, 10 Nov 1813.
- Dart*, 10, cutter (1810). Foundered with all hands in Atlantic, Dec 1813.
- Pictou*, 10, brig-sloop (American *Bonne Foi*, purchased 1813). Taken by USS *Constitution* in West Indies, 14 Dec 1814.
- \**Epervier*, 18, brig-sloop (1812). Taken by USS *Peacock* off Cape Canaveral, Fla., 29 Apr 1814.
- Ballahou*, 4, schooner (1804). Taken by U.S. privateer *Perry* off U.S. coast, 29 Apr 1814.
- Halcyon*, 18, brig-sloop (1813). Wrecked in Anato Bay, Santo Domingo, 19 May 1814.
- Reindeer*, 18, brig-sloop (1804). Taken by USS *Wasp* in English Channel, 28 Jun 1814.
- Leopard*, 50, transport, ex-4th rate (1790). Wrecked on Anticosti Island, Gulf of St. Lawrence, 28 Jun 1814.
- Landrail*, 4, schooner (1806). Taken by U.S. privateer *Syren* in English Channel, 12 Jul 1814.
- Magnet*, 10, brig (ex-*Sir Sidney Smith*, ex-*Governor Simcoe*, 1806). Burned to avoid capture on Lake Champlain, 5 Aug 1814.
- Avon*, 18, brig-sloop (1805). Sunk in action with USS *Wasp* in English Channel, 27 Aug 1814.
- Peacock*, 18, sloop (ex-American *Loup Cervier*, taken 1812). Foundered with all hands off southern U.S. coast, 29 Aug 1814.
- Confiance*, 36, 5th rate (1814). Taken at Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814.
- Linnet*, 16 (1813). Taken at Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814.
- Chubb*, 10, (ex-USS *Eagle* taken 1813). Taken at Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814.
- Finch*, 8, brig (ex-USS *Growler* taken 1813). Taken at Battle of Lake Champlain, 11 Sep 1814.
- Hermes*, 20, 6th rate (1811). Damaged by American batteries at Mobile, grounded and burned, 15 Sep 1814.
- Crane*, 18, brig-sloop (1809). Foundered with all hands in West Indies, 30 Sep 1814.
- Racer*, 14, schooner (former American *Independence*, taken 1812). Wrecked in Gulf of Florida, 10 Oct 1814.
- Elizabeth*, 10, schooner (former French, captured 1806). Foundered while chasing American privateer in West Indies, Oct 1814.
- Fantome*, 18, brig-sloop (French privateer, taken 1810). Wrecked at mouth of St. Lawrence River, 24 Nov 1814.
- Cuttle*, 4, schooner (1807). Foundered with all hands off Halifax, 1814.
- Herring*, 4, schooner (1804). Foundered with all hands off Halifax, 1814.
- Sylph*, 18, sloop (1812). Wrecked on Southampton, Long Island, NY, 17 Jan 1815.
- \**Cyane*, 22, 6th rate (1806). Taken by USS *Constitution* near Madeira, 20 Feb 1815.
- Levant*, 22, 6th rate (1813). Taken by USS *Constitution* near Madeira, 20 Feb 1815 (retaken).
- Statira*, 38, 5th rate (1807). Wrecked off Cuba, 26 Feb 1815.
- St. Lawrence*, 12, schooner (American *Atlas*, taken 1813). Taken by U.S. privateer *Chasseur* off Havana, 26 Feb 1815.
- Cygnnet*, 16, sloop (1804). Wrecked off French Guiana, 7 Mar 1815.
- Penguin*, 18, brig-sloop (1813). Taken by USS *Hornet* off Tristan da Cunha, 23 Mar 1815.
- Penelope*, 36, transport, ex-5th rate (1798). Wrecked on coast of Newfoundland, 30 Apr 1815.

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# INDEX

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## PLAN OF THE BOOK

Preface	vii
Abbreviations	ix
Explanation of data	xi
U.S. Naval Ordnance 1773 – 1855	xiii
Chronology	
The Continental Navy 1775 – 1783	1
Ships built for the Navy	2
Ships acquired in America	6
Ships acquired in Europe	10
Prizes taken into service	12
Miscellaneous vessels	13
Lake Champlain squadron	15
State Navies	17
United States Navy 1794 – 1854	21
Ships-of-the-line	23
Frigates	26
Sloops	37
Brigs	44
Schooners	49
Miscellaneous	53
Galleys	56
Gunboats	56
Bomb ketches	58
Bomb brigs	59
Mosquito fleet	59
Support vessels	60
Great Lakes	62
Lake Erie	63
Lake Ontario	64
Lake Champlain	68
Combatant paddle steamers	71
Paddle sloops	73
Screw steamers	74
Support vessels (steam)	74

United States Revenue	
Cutter Service	77
Texas Navy	87
Appendix:	
Royal Navy Losses in North	
American Waters Losses	
during the Revolution	89
Losses during the War of 1812	91
Bibliography	93
Index	95

## SHIP SERVICE YEAR

CN= Continental Navy	
RCS = Revenue Cutter Service	
<i>Active</i> (CN), 14	
<i>Active</i> , 55	
<i>Active</i> (RCS) 1791, 77	
<i>Active</i> (RCS) 1812, 80	
<i>Active</i> (RCS) 1816, 80	
<i>Adams</i> , 32	
<i>Adams</i> (Lake Erie), 63	
<i>Advance</i> , 62	
<i>Alabama</i> , 25	
<i>Alabama</i> (RCS), 81	
<i>Albany</i> , 42	
<i>Alert</i> , 60	
<i>Alert</i> (RCS) 1818, 81	
<i>Alert</i> (RCS) 1829, 81	
<i>Alexander Hamilton</i> (RCS), 81	
<i>Alfred</i> (CN), 6, picture 6	
<i>Allegheny</i> , 73	
<i>Allen</i> (Lake Champlain), 70	
<i>Alliance</i> (CN), 4, picture 5	
<i>Alligator</i> 1812 gunboat 54	
<i>Alligator</i> 1813 sloop 54	

<i>Alligator</i> 1820 schooner 51, picture 51	
<i>America</i> (CN), 2, picture 2	
<i>Andrew Doria</i> (CN), 6, picture 6	
<i>Andrew Jackson</i> (RCS), 81	
<i>Archer</i> , 87 see <i>Galveston</i>	
<i>Arctic</i> , 76	
<i>Argo</i> (CN) 1779, brig 13	
<i>Argo</i> (CN) 1779, schooner 14	
<i>Argus</i> 1803 brig 45	
<i>Argus</i> 1814 sloop 38	
<i>Argus</i> (RCS) 1791, 77	
<i>Argus</i> (RCS) 1804, 79	
<i>Argus</i> (RCS) 1809, 80	
<i>Argus</i> (RCS) 1830, 83	
<i>Ariel</i> (CN), 10	
<i>Ariel</i> , 52	
<i>Ariel</i> (Lake Erie), 64	
<i>Asp</i> , 54	
<i>Asp</i> (Lake Ontario), 67	
<i>Augusta</i> , 45	
<i>Austin</i> (Texas Navy), 87	
<i>Aylwin</i> (Lake Champlain), 70	
<i>Bainbridge</i> , 48	
<i>Ballard</i> (Lake Champlain), 70	
<i>Baltimore</i> (CN), 14	
<i>Baltimore</i> , 34	
<i>Beagle</i> , 59	
<i>Beaufort</i> , 56	
<i>Bee</i> (RCS), 78	
<i>Benjamin Rush</i> (RCS), 81	
<i>Bibb</i> (RCS), 85	
<i>Bonhomme Richard</i> (CN), 10, picture 11	
<i>Bonita</i> , 53	
<i>Borer</i> (Lake Champlain), 70	
<i>Boston</i> (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16	
<i>Boston</i> (CN), 3	

- Boston* 1799 frigate, 31  
*Boston* 1825 sloop, 39  
*Bourbon* (CN), 5  
*Boxer* 1815 brig, 47  
*Boxer* 1831 schooner, 52  
*Brandywine*, 35  
*Brutus* (Texas Navy), 88  
*Buffalo*, 54  
*Bull Dog*, 54  
*Burrows* (Lake Champlain), 70  
*Cabot* (CN), 7, picture 7  
*Caleb Cushing* (RCS), 84  
*Caledonia* (Lake Erie), 63  
*Camel*, 54  
*Campbell* (RCS) 1830, 83  
*Campbell* (RCS) 1834, 83  
*Campbell* (RCS) 1849, 83  
*Carolina*, 50  
*Centipede* (Lake Champlain), 70  
*Champion* (CN), 14  
*Charleston*, 56  
*Chesapeake* 1799, frigate, 30, picture 31  
*Chesapeake* 1799, sloop, 37, see *Patapsco*  
*Chippewa* 1815, 47, picture 48  
*Chippewa* (Lake Erie) 1813, schooner, 64  
*Chippewa* (Lake Ontario) 1815 ship of the line, 64  
*Collector* (RCS), 78  
*Colonel Harney*, 75  
*Colorado* (Texas Navy), 87  
*Columbia*, 35, picture, 36  
*Columbus* (CN) 1775 ship, 6  
*Columbus* 1800 ship of the line, 23  
*Columbus* 1819 ship of the line, 24, picture 24  
*Comet*, 54  
*Commodore Barry* (RCS), 80  
*Concord*, 39  
*Confederacy* (CN), 5  
*Confiance* (Lake Champlain) 1814 frigate, 70  
*Congress* (CN), 4  
*Congress* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Congress* 1799 frigate, 28, picture 30  
*Congress* 1839 frigate, 37  
*Connecticut* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Connecticut*, 33  
*Conquest* (Lake Ontario), 66  
*Consort*, 55  
*Constellation*, 1797, 28, picture 29, 30  
*Constellation*, 1854, 44, picture 44  
*Constitution*, 26, picture 28  
*Corporation*, 54  
*Crawford* (RCS) 1821, 81  
*Crawford* (RCS) 1830, 81  
*Crawford* (RCS) 1839, 82, see *Jefferson*  
*Crawford* (RCS) 1849, 83  
*Crescent*, 30  
*Cruizer* (CN), see *Fly*  
*Cumberland*, 35, picture 36  
*Cyane* 1815 frigate, 35  
*Cyane* 1837 sloop, 40  
*Dale*, 41, picture 42  
*Dale* class, picture 42  
*Dallas* (RCS) 1816, 80  
*Dallas* (RCS) 1845, steamer 85  
*Decatur*, 41  
*Decoy*, 61  
*Delaware* (CN), 4  
*Delaware* 1798 frigate 34  
*Delaware* 1820 ship of the line 25, picture 25  
*Demologos*, see *Fulton*  
*Despatch* (CN) 1778, 14  
*Despatch* 1814 schooner, 54  
*Detector* (RCS) 1815, 80  
*Detector* (RCS) 1825, 81  
*Detroit* (Lake Erie), 63  
*Dexter* (RCS), 81  
*Diligence* (RCS) 1792, 77  
*Diligence* (RCS) 1797, 78  
*Diligence* (RCS) 1803, 78  
*Dolly* (RCS), 79  
*Dolphin* (CN) 1777, 11  
*Dolphin* 1821 schooner 51  
*Dolphin* 1836 brig, 47  
*Duc de Lauzun* (CN), 12  
*Eagle*, 51  
*Eagle* (Lake Champlain) 1812 sloop, 69  
*Eagle* (Lake Champlain) 1814 brig, 68  
*Eagle* (RCS) 1793, 77  
*Eagle* (RCS) 1798, 78  
*Eagle* (RCS) 1809, 80  
*Eagle* (RCS) 1816, 81  
*Edith*, 75, picture 75  
*Effingham* (CN), 4  
*Electra*, 61  
*Engineer*, 74  
*Enterprise* (CN) 1776 schooner, 14  
*Enterprise* (CN) (Lake Champlain) 1775, 15  
*Enterprise* 1799 schooner 49, picture 49, 50  
*Enterprise* 1831 schooner 52, picture 52  
*Epervier*, 46  
*Erie* 1813 sloop, 38, picture 38  
*Erie* 1842 storeship, 61  
*Erie* (RCS) 1833, 83  
*Essex*, 1799 frigate, 33, picture 33, 34  
*Essex* 1813 frigate, 35  
*Essex* Junior, 53  
*Etna* 1806, 59  
*Etna* 1813, 59  
*Etna* 1847, 59  
*Ewing* (RCS), 83  
*Experiment* 1799 schooner, 49  
*Experiment* 1831 schooner, 52  
*Fair American* (Lake Ontario), 66  
*Fairfield*, 39, picture 40  
*Falcon*, 53  
*Falmouth*, 40  
*Fame* (CN), 14  
*Fenimore Cooper*, 62  
*Ferret* 1806, 50  
*Ferret* 1812, 54  
*Ferret* 1822, 59  
*Firebrand*, 51  
*Firefly*, 46  
*Flambeau*, 46  
*Flirt*, 60  
*Florida* (RCS), 81  
*Fly* (CN), 14, picture 15  
*Flying Fish*, 55  
*Fox* 1817, 55  
*Fox* 1822, 59  
*Frances* (Lake Champlain), 69  
*Franklin* (CN) 1775, 13  
*Franklin* 1800 ship of the line, 23  
*Franklin* 1805 storeship, 60  
*Franklin* 1815 ship of the line, 24  
*Fredonia*, 61  
*Frolic*, 39  
*Fulton* 1814, 71, picture 71  
*Fulton* 1837, 71, picture 73  
*Fulton* 1851, 73  
*Gallatin* (RCS) 1807, 79  
*Gallatin* (RCS) 1815, 80  
*Gallatin* (RCS) 1830, 81, picture 82  
*Gallinipper*, 60  
*Galveston* (Texas Navy), 87  
*Ganges*, 30  
*Gates* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*General Arnold* (CN), 14  
*General Gates* (CN), 12  
*General Greene* 1799 frigate, 32  
*General Greene* (RCS) 1791, 77  
*General Greene* (RCS) 1797, 77  
*General Greene* (RCS) 1802, 78  
*General Greene* (RCS) 1811, 80  
*General Mifflin* (CN), 14  
*General Pike* (Lake Ontario), 66, picture 66  
*General Schuyler* (CN), 14  
*General Taylor*, 75  
*General Washington* (CN), 14  
*George* (RCS), 80  
*George Washington*, 34  
*Georgia Packet* (CN), 14  
*Georgiana*, 53  
*Germ*, 74  
*Germantown*, 43  
*Ghent* (Lake Erie), 64  
*Gnat*, 60  
*Governor Davie*, 56  
*Governor Gilman* (RCS), 78  
*Governor Jay* (RCS), 78  
*Governor Tompkins* (Lake Ontario), 67

- Governor Williams* 1798, 56  
*Governor Williams* (RCS) 1802, 78  
*Grampus*, 52  
*Greenwich*, 60  
*Greyhound*, 59  
*Growler* (Lake Champlain), 69  
*Growler* (Lake Ontario), 67  
*Guerriere*, 35  
*Gunboat No.5*, picture 57  
*Hamilton* (Lake Ontario), 67  
*Hampden* (CN), 9  
*Hancock* (CN) 1775 schooner, 13  
*Hancock* (CN) 1776 frigate, 2, picture 2  
*Hancock* (CN) 1778 frigate, 4  
*Hannah* (CN), 13, picture 13  
*Harrison* (CN) 1775, 13  
*Harrison* (RCS) 1849, 84  
*Hassan Bashaw*, 30  
*Hawke* (CN), 14  
*Hazard* (RCS), 79  
*Hecla*, 59  
*Helen*, 54  
*Henry Dodge* (RCS), 84  
*Herald*, 34  
*Hornet* (CN) 1775 sloop, 8, picture 8  
*Hornet* 1804 sloop, 38  
*Hornet* 1805 brig, 46  
*Hornet* 1813 schooner, 54  
*Hornsnake* (CN), 14  
*Hudson*, 37, picture 37  
*Hunter* (Lake Erie), 63  
*Independence* (CN) 1775 sloop, 8, picture 8  
*Independence* 1814 ship of the line, 23, picture 23  
*Independence* (RCS) 1810, 80  
*Independence* (Texas Navy), 88  
*Ingham* (RCS) 1830, 81  
*Ingham* (RCS) 1849, 84  
*Insurgent*, 35  
*Intrepid*, 58, picture 58  
*Invincible* (Texas Navy), 88  
*Iris*, 76  
*Jackall*, 59  
*James C. Dobbin* (RCS) 1853, 84  
*James Campbell* (RCS) 1853, 84  
*James Madison* (RCS) 1807, 79, picture 80  
*Jamestown*, 43, picture 43  
*Java*, 35  
*Jefferson* (Lake Ontario) 1814, 66  
*Jefferson* (RCS) 1802, 78  
*Jefferson* (RCS) 1831, 81  
*Jefferson* (RCS) 1839, 83  
*Jefferson* (RCS) 1845 steamer, 85  
*Jefferson Davis* (RCS), 84  
*Jersey* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*John Adams* 1799 frigate, 32  
*John Adams* 1830 sloop, 39  
*John Hancock*, 76  
*John P. Kennedy*, 62  
*Jones* (Lake Ontario), 66  
*Joseph Lane* (RCS), see *Campbell*  
*Julia* (Lake Ontario), 67  
*Lady of the Lake* (Lake Ontario), 67  
*Lady Prevost* (Lake Erie), 64  
*Lady Washington* (CN), 14  
*Lawrence* 1843, 49  
*Lawrence* (Lake Erie), 63  
*Lawrence* (RCS), 83  
*Lee* (CN), 14  
*Lee* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Legare* (RCS), 85  
*Lelah Eisha*, 30  
*Levant*, 40, picture 41  
*Levi Woodbury* (RCS), 83  
*Lewis Cass* (RCS), 84  
*Lexington* (CN) 1776, 8, picture 9  
*Lexington* 1826, sloop 39  
*Libertad*, 56  
*Liberty* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 15  
*Liberty* (Texas Navy), 88  
*L'Indien* (CN), 10  
*Linnet* (Lake Champlain), 70  
*Little Belt* (Lake Erie), 64  
*Louisiana* 1812, 38  
*Louisiana* (RCS) 1804, 79  
*Louisiana* (RCS) 1819, 81  
*Louisiana* (RCS) 1825, 81  
*Ludlow* (Lake Champlain), 70  
*Lynch* (CN), 14  
*Lynx* 1814, 54  
*Lynx* (RCS) 1814, 80  
*Macedonian* 1813, 35  
*Macedonian* 1836, 37, picture 37  
*Madison* (Lake Ontario), 66  
*Mahonese*, 56  
*Malek Adhel*, 55  
*Marion*, 41  
*Marion* (RCS) 1825, 81  
*Maryland*, 37  
*Massachusetts* 1849 steamer, 76  
*Massachusetts* (RCS) 1791, 77  
*Massachusetts* (RCS) 1793, 77  
*Massachusetts* (RCS) 1801, 78  
*McLane* (RCS) 1832, 81  
*McLane* (RCS) 1845 steamer, 85  
*Mercury* (CN) 1776, 14  
*Mercury* (CN) 1781, 14  
*Mercury* (RCS) 1807, 79  
*Merrimack*, 32, picture 33  
*Michigan*, 73, picture 73  
*Midge*, 60  
*Mississippi*, 71, picture 71  
*Missouri*, 71  
*Mohawk* (Lake Ontario), 65  
*Monroe* (RCS), 81  
*Montezuma*, 34  
*Montgomery* (CN), 4  
*Montgomery* (Lake Champlain) 1813, 69  
*Morris* (CN) 1778 ship, 14  
*Morris* (CN) 1779 schooner, 14  
*Morris* 1846, 56  
*Morris* (RCS) 1831, 81  
*Morris* (RCS) 1849, 83, picture 83  
*Mosquito* (CN) 1775, 14  
*Mosquito* 1823, 60  
*Natchez*, 39  
*Nautilus* 1803, 50  
*Nautilus* (RCS), 83  
*Nettle* (Lake Champlain), 70  
*New Hampshire* 1863 ship of the line, 25  
*New Hampshire* (RCS) 1802, 78  
*New Haven* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*New Orleans* (Lake Ontario), 64, picture 65  
*New York* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 1776 16  
*New York* 1800 frigate, 31  
*New York* 1820 ship of the line, 25  
*Niagara* (Lake Erie), 63  
*Nonata*, 56  
*Nonsuch*, 50  
*Norfolk*, 44  
*North Carolina* (RCS), 1793, 77  
*North Carolina* 1820, 25, picture 25  
*Norwich*, 54  
*Ohio* (Lake Erie) 1813, 64  
*Ohio* 1820, 26, picture 26  
*Oliver Wolcott* (RCS), 82  
*Oneida* (Lake Ontario), 66  
*On-ka-hy-e*, 55  
*Ontario* (Lake Ontario) 1812, 67  
*Ontario* 1813 sloop, 38, picture 38  
*Oregon*, 55  
*Otsego*, 55  
*Pallas* (CN), 12  
*Patapsco* 1799 sloop, 37  
*Patapsco* 1813 schooner, 54  
*Patriot* (RCS), 78  
*Paul Jones*, 37  
*Peacock* 1813 sloop, 39  
*Peacock* 1828 sloop, 40  
*Pennsylvania*, 26, picture 26  
*Perry*, 49  
*Pert* (Lake Ontario), 67  
*Petrel*, 53  
*Petrita*, 76  
*Philadelphia* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Philadelphia* 1799, 30, picture 31  
*Philip Allen* (RCS), 84  
*Phoenix* (CN), 14  
*Phoenix* 1841, 60  
*Pickering* (RCS), 78, picture 79  
*Pilgrim* (RCS), 80  
*Pilot*, 55  
*Pinckney* 1798, 45  
*Pinckney* (RCS), 78  
*Pioneer*, 55  
*Plattsburg* (Lake Ontario), 65

- Plymouth*, 43  
*Poinsett*, 75  
*Polk* (RCS), 85  
*Porcupine* (Lake Erie), 64  
*Porpoise* 1820 schooner, 51  
*Porpoise* 1836 brig, 47, picture 47  
*Portsmouth* 1798, 32  
*Portsmouth* 1843, 42, picture 43  
*Portsmouth* (RCS), 81  
*Potomac*, 35  
*Potomac* (Texas Navy), 88  
*Powhatan*, 72  
*Preble* (Lake Champlain) 1813, 70  
*Preble*, 41  
*President* 1800 frigate 26, picture 27  
*President* (Lake Champlain) 1812 sloop, 70  
*Princeton* 1843, screw gunboat, 74  
*Princeton* 1851, screw gunboat, 74, picture 74  
*Prometheus*, 53  
*Providence* (CN) 1775, 7, picture 7  
*Providence* (CN) 1776, 3  
*Providence* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Pulaski* (RCS), 81  
*Queen Charlotte* (Lake Erie), 63  
*Queen of France* (CN), 10  
*Racehorse* (CN), 12  
*Raleigh* (CN), 3, picture 3  
*Randolph* (CN), 4  
*Ranger* (CN) 1777, 5, picture 1, 5  
*Ranger* 1814 schooner, 54  
*Ranger* (Lake Ontario) 1814, 68  
*Rattlesnake*, 46  
*Raven* (Lake Ontario), 67  
*Reefer*, 53  
*Release*, 61  
*Relief*, 61  
*Reprisal* (CN) 1776, 8, picture 9  
*Repulse* (CN), 14  
*Rescue*, 62  
*Resistance* (CN), 9  
*Retaliation* (CN) 1778 brigantine, 14  
*Retaliation* 1798, schooner, 49  
*Revenge* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Revenge* (CN) 1777, 11  
*Revenge* 1806 schooner, 50  
*Revenge* 1808 gunboat, 58  
*Revenge* 1813 schooner, 54  
*Richard Rush* (RCS), 82  
*Richmond*, 44  
*Roanoke*, 54  
*Robert McClelland* (RCS), 84  
*Roger B. Taney* (RCS), 82  
*Royal Savage* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Sabine*, 36  
*Sachem* (CN), 12  
*St. Lawrence*, 35  
*St. Louis*, 39  
*St. Mary's*, 1798 galley, 56  
*St. Mary's* 1844 sloop, 43  
*St. Mary's* (RCS) 1801, 78  
*Sally* (RCS), 79  
*San Antonio* (Texas Navy) 1839, 88  
*San Bernard* (Texas Navy) 1839, 88  
*San Jacinto* 1850, screw frigate, 74  
*San Jacinto* (Texas Navy) 1839, schooner, 88  
*Sandfly*, 60  
*Santee*, 36  
*Saranac* 1815 brig 47  
*Saranac* 1848 paddle frigate 72  
*Saratoga* (CN) 1780 sloop 5  
*Saratoga* (Lake Champlain) 1814 sloop 68  
*Saratoga* 1842 sloop 42  
*Savannah* 1798 galley 56  
*Savannah* 1820 frigate 35  
*Scammell* (RCS) 1791 77  
*Scammell* (RCS) 1798 78  
*Scorpion* 1812 sloop 54  
*Scorpion* 1847 steamer 76  
*Scorpion* (Lake Erie) 1813 schooner 64  
*Scourge* 1804 brig 45  
*Scourge* 1846 steamer 76  
*Scourge* (Lake Ontario) 1812 schooner 68  
*Sea Gull* 1822 steamer 74  
*Sea Gull* 1838 55  
*Sea Horse*, 54  
*Search* (RCS) 1815 80  
*Search* (RCS) 1820 81  
*Senator Ross*, 56  
*Shark*, 51, picture 51  
*Siren*, 45, see *Syren*  
*Skjoldebrand*, 30  
*Somers* 1842, 48  
*Somers* (Lake Erie), 63  
*South Carolina* 1798, 56  
*South Carolina* (RCS) 1793, 77  
*South Carolina* (RCS) 1798, 78  
*South Carolina* (RCS) 1815, 80  
*Southampton*, 61  
*Spark* 1814, 47  
*Spark* 1831, 52, picture 47  
*Spencer* (RCS), 85  
*Spitfire* (CN) 1775 galley 14  
*Spitfire* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Spitfire* 1805, 59  
*Spitfire* 1814, 51  
*Spitfire* 1846, paddle, 72  
*Spy* (CN), 14  
*Stromboli*, 59  
*Success* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Superior* (Lake Ontario), 65  
*Supply*, 61  
*Surprise* 1815, 54  
*Surprise* (RCS) 1816, 80  
*Surprise* (CN) 1777, 11  
*Surveyor* (RCS), 79  
*Susquehanna*, 72  
*Swiftsure* (RCS), 81  
*Sylph* 1831 schooner 52  
*Sylph* (Lake Ontario) 1813 brig 68  
*Syren* 1803 brig 45  
*Tampico*, 53  
*Taney*, 60  
*Tchifonta*, 53  
*Terrier*, 59  
*Thorn* (RCS), 79  
*Tickler*, 54  
*Ticonderoga* (Lake Champlain), 68  
*Tigress* (Lake Erie), 64  
*Tom Bowline*, 61  
*Torch*, 51  
*Torpedo*, 54  
*Trippe* (Lake Erie), 63  
*Troup*, 53  
*Trumbull* (CN) 1776, 3  
*Trumbull* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Trumbull* 1799, 33  
*Truxtun*, 49  
*Turtle* (CN), 15  
*Union* 1842, 72  
*Union* 1846, 53  
*Union* (RCS), 79  
*United States*, 26, picture 27  
*Van Buren* (RCS), 83  
*Vandalia*, 39  
*Vengeance* (CN), 12  
*Vengeance*, 59  
*Vermont*, 25, picture 25  
*Vesuvius* 1806, 59  
*Vesuvius* 1846, 59  
*Veto* (RCS), 83  
*Vigilant* (RCS) 1791, 77  
*Vigilant* (RCS) 1802, 78  
*Vigilant* (RCS) 1812, 80  
*Vigilant* (RCS) 1824, 81  
*Vigilant* (RCS) 1843, 83  
*Vincennes*, 39  
*Viper* 1809, 50, see *Ferret*  
*Viper* (Lake Champlain), 70  
*Virginia* (CN), 4  
*Virginia* 1827 ship of the line, 25  
*Virginia* (RCS) 1791, 77  
*Virginia* (RCS) 1797, 77  
*Virginia* (RCS) 1807, 79  
*Vixen* 1803, 50  
*Vixen* 1813, 46  
*Vixen* 1846 paddle, 72  
*Walker* (RCS), 85  
*Walter B. Forward* (RCS), 83  
*Warren* (CN) 1775 schooner, 14  
*Warren* (CN) 1776 frigate, 3  
*Warren* 1799 frigate, 33  
*Warren* 1826 sloop, 39  
*Washington* (CN) 1775, 14  
*Washington* (CN) 1775 schooner, 13  
*Washington* (CN) 1776 frigate, 4

*Washington* (CN) (Lake Champlain), 16  
*Washington* 1814 ship of the line, 23,  
    picture 23  
*Washington* (RCS) 1832, 82  
*Washington* (RCS) 1837, 83  
*Wasp* (CN) 1775, 9, picture 10  
*Wasp* 1806, 45, picture 46  
*Wasp* 1813, 39,  
*Wasp* (Lake Champlain), 70  
*Wasp* (RCS) 1825, 81  
*Water Witch* 1844, 72  
*Water Witch* 1852, 73  
*Wave*, 60  
*Weasel*, 59  
*West Florida* (CN), 14  
*Wharton*, 87, see *Colorado*  
*Wild Cat*, 59  
*William Aiken* (RCS), 84  
*William J. Duane* (RCS) 1841, 83  
*William J. Duane* (RCS) 1849, 83  
*William L. Marcy*, (RCS), 84  
*Yorktown*, 41  
*Zavala* (Texas Navy), 87





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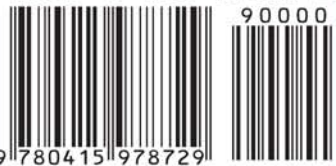
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