

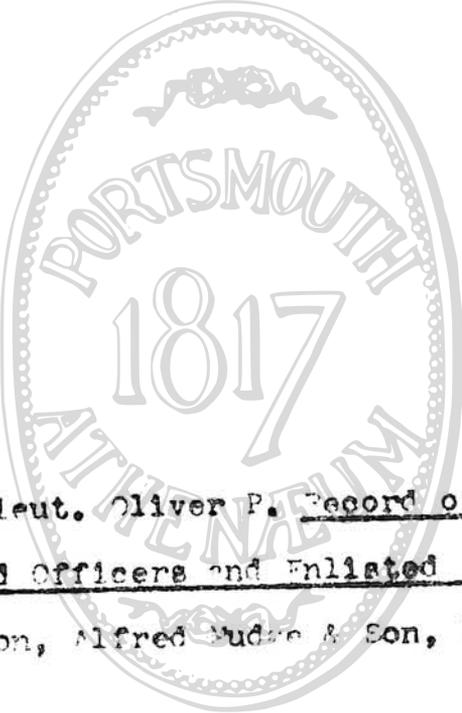
Continental warship "Ranger".

The Continental warship "Ranger" was built and launched from the island, then called Langdon's, now called Badger's, during 1777, in the town, on the same blocks and ways used for the "Raleigh" previously. Capt. John Paul Jones was appointed to command her, by the Navy Board, June 18, 1777; under his superintendence she was fitted out; she carried eighteen guns and about one hundred and thirty men, including about twenty men from the town.

The "Ranger" was one hundred and sixteen feet long over all, beam twenty-eight feet, dept of hold thirteen and one half feet, three hundred and eight tons measurement, and was the first American ship to be coppered; there was a light topgallant forecastle open aft, and a short poop deck for a Captain's cabin, and two small staterooms on the transoms. She carried fourteen nine-pounders, and four six-pounders, all carriage guns; her masts raked more than any other ship of the day, and she was considered a beauty by the sailors. With the wind anywhere abaft the beam, she was the fastest ship afloat. Her crew was recruited to full complement, with a large proportion of able seamen, and nearly all were native Americans. Captain Jones said it was the best crew he had ever seen.

She sailed from the river between 8 and 9 A. M., on Saturday, Nov. 1, 1777, for France, carrying dispatches and

and the news of General Burgoyne's surrender; she captured two brigantines on her way across the ocean, and arrived at Beaubouf Roads on river Loire, about twenty-seven miles from Nantes, France, on Dec. 2, and remained there, refitting, until end of the year. Captain Jones said after the war she was the best ship he had command of during the war in active service, and he commanded ten American war vessels during the Revolution.



Remick, Lieut. Oliver P. Record of the Services of the
Commissioned Officers and Enlisted Men of Fittery and Mill,
Maine, Boston, Alfred Mudge & Son, 1901, pp.9-10.