

USS ESSEX

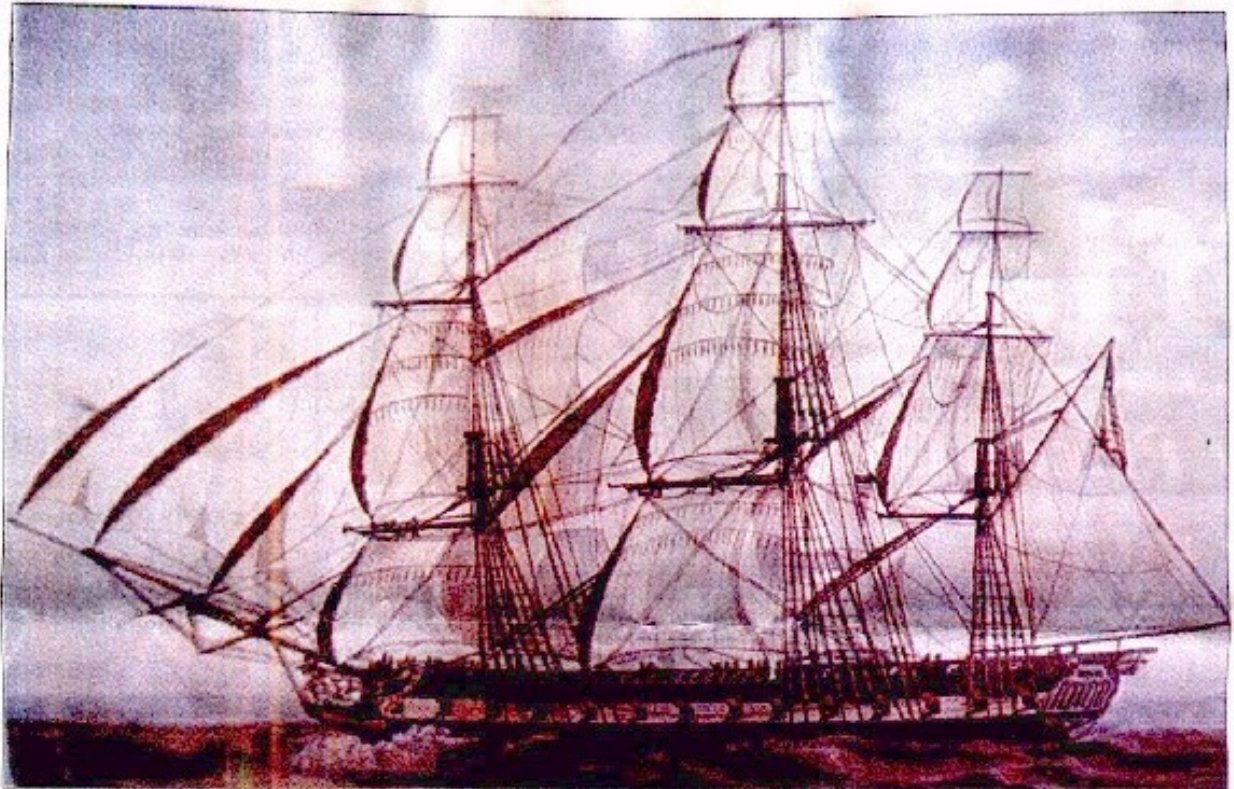


Photo courtesy of Peabody Essex Museum.

The U.S.S. Essex is shown in a 1799 reproduction of the only known contemporary portrait.

By **ALAN BURKE**
News staff

SALEM — More than an injustice, it was a calculated insult to American honor. But in 1799 there seemed little a young nation could do when French and British warships stopped U.S. merchantmen on the high seas, boarded their vessels and abused their crews.

In Salem, a city of Yankee traders dependent on the sea, they thought otherwise.

Merchants, seamen and ordinary citizens banded together to finance and construct a 32-gun U.S. Navy frigate, the USS Essex. Before she was cornered and subdued by British warships during the War of 1812, the Essex earned a reputation as one of the most successful American fighting ships of its era.

AHOY!

Search on for descendants of those involved with USS Essex

"Foreign powers were challenging U.S. trade, boarding U.S. ships," says William La Moy of the Peabody Essex Museum. "Then the Essex got into the fray and said, 'No, we're a United States vessel and we'll board you.'"

On the 200th anniversary of her launch, the Essex is being remembered with a new book, "The USS Essex and the Birth of the American Navy" by Frances Diane Robotti and James Vescovi. And it's more than

coincidence that the museum is joining in festivities surrounding the publication.

In fact, this is the 200th birthday of the museum as well. It came into existence a few months after the establishment of what would become the Peabody Essex Museum. In 1799, La Moy explains, it was called the East India Marine Society.

To honor the USS Essex, Robotti **ESSEX**, page A12

REPRODUCTION – VERB To produce a copy of something, or to be copied in a production process *Reprodukcija, ponovno proizvodjanje*

CONTEMPORARY – ADJECTIVE Belonging to the same or a stated period in the past *Sodoben, sočasen*

DESCENDANT – NOUN A person who is related to someone and who lives after them, such as their child or grandchild *Potomec, potomka*

INJUSTICE – NOUN Lack of fairness and lack of justice *Nepravičen*

INSULT – VERB To say or do something to someone that is rude or offensive *Žalitev, sramotenje*

MERCHANT – NOUN A person whose job is to buy and sell products in large amounts, especially by trading with other countries *Trgovec, veletrgovec*

VESSEL – NOUN A large boat or a ship *Ladja, plovni objekt*

ABUSE – NOUN When someone uses or treats someone or something wrongly or badly, especially in a way that is to their own advantage *Zloraba*

BAND – NOUN A group of people who share the same interests or beliefs, or who have joined together for a special purpose *Tolpa, četa, truma, skupina*

FRIGATE – NOUN A small fast military ship *Fregata*

SUBDUE – VERB To reduce the force of something, or to prevent something from existing or developing *Podvreči, podjarmiti*

REPUTATION – NOUN The opinion that people in general have about someone or something, or how much respect or admiration someone or something receives, based on past behaviour or character *Sloves, ugled*

FRAY – VERB If your temper frays or your nerves fray, you gradually become upset or annoyed *Ponositi; razrvati (živce)*

ANNIVERSARY – NOUN The day on which an important event happened in a previous year *Obletnica; jubilej*

COINCIDENCE – NOUN An occasion when two or more similar things happen at the same time, especially in a way that is unlikely and surprising *Sovpad, hkratnost; naključje*

ESTABLISHMENT – NOUN A business or other organization, or the place where an organization operates *Ustanovitev, osnivanje*

HONOR – (USED FOR HONOUR) NOUN A quality that combines respect, pride and honesty *Čast, spoštovanje*