

Defence

Corvette

Massachusetts Privateer Brigantine

Commander John Edmonds

6 July 1779-14 August 1779

Commissioned/First Date:

6 July 1779

Out of Service/Cause:

14 August 1779/destroyed in the Penobscot River to prevent capture

Owners:

Andrew Cabot (and Moses Brown) of Beverly, Massachusetts

Tonnage:

170

Battery:

Date Reported: 6 July 1779

| <u>Number/Caliber</u> | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Broadside</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 16/6-pounders | 96 pounds | 48 pounds |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|

Total: 16 cannon/96 pounds

Broadside: 8 cannon/48 pounds

Swivels:

Crew:

6 July 1779: 101 [total]

Description:

Built in 1779.

Officers:

(1) First Lieutenant Nathaniel Swazey, 6 July 1779-; (2) Second Lieutenant John Boardman, 6 July 1779-

Cruises:

Prizes:

Actions:

(1) Battle of Penobscot Bay, 14 August 1779

Comments: The 170-ton Massachusetts Privateer Brigantine *Defence* was commissioned on 6 July 1779 under Commander John Edmonds of Salem, Massachusetts. She was listed as having a battery of sixteen guns and a crew of 100 men. Her \$5000 Continental and £4000 Massachusetts bonds were signed by Edmonds and by Andrew Cabot and Moses Brown of Beverly, Massachusetts.¹ Nathaniel Swazey served aboard her as First Lieutenant, and John Boardman as Second Lieutenant, both presumably from Beverly.²

Defence was a newly-built vessel. On 30 June 1779 she was fitting out, anchored in Beverly Harbor. The plan was to send her to operate against the Quebec fleet.³ *Defence* participated in the ill-fated Penobscot Expedition and was destroyed in the Penobscot River on 14 August 1779 to prevent her capture by the British.⁴

¹ Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 110; Howe, *Beverly Privateers in the Revolution*, 407

² Howe, *Beverly Privateers in the Revolution*, 407

³ Howe, *Beverly Privateers in the Revolution*, 407

⁴ Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 110