

Diamond

Corvette
Rhode Island Privateer Sloop

(1) Commander William Chace
6 July 1776-[15] August 1776
(2) Commander Thomas Stacy
21 August 1776-

Commissioned/First Date: 6 July 1776
Out of Service/Cause:

Owners: (1) John Brown of Providence, Rhode Island; (2) Nicholas Brown of Providence, Rhode Island; (3) John Brown of Providence, Rhode Island

Tonnage: 60

Battery: Date Reported: 6 July 1776
Number/Caliber Weight Broadside
6/4-pounder 24 pounds 12 pounds
Total: 6 cannon/24 pounds
Broadside: 3 cannon/12 pounds
Swivels: ten

Date Reported: 22 July 1776
Number/Caliber Weight Broadside
6/4-pounder 24 pounds 12 pounds
2/3-pounder 6 pounds 3 pounds
Total: 8 cannon/30 pounds
Broadside: 4 cannon/15 pounds
Swivels: ten

Date Reported: 24 July 1776
Number/Caliber Weight Broadside
6/
Total: 6 cannon/
Broadside: 3 cannon/
Swivels:

Crew: (1) 6 July 1776: 45 [total]
(2) 22 July 1776: 44 [total]
(3) 24 July 1776: 32 [total]

Description:

Officers: First Lieutenant Benjamin Almy, 6 July 1776-[25] July 1776; Second Lieutenant Henry Weedon, 6 July 1776-; Master Isaac Freeborn, 6 July 1776-; Lieutenant of Marines Thomas Curtis, 6 July 1776-

Cruises: (1) Newport, Rhode Island to Providence, Rhode Island, 12 July 1776-14 August 1776
(2) Providence, Rhode Island to, [25 August] 1776-[15 October] 1776

Prizes: (1) Brigantine [Brig] *Mary* (Isaac Marvill), [15] July 1776
(2) Ship *Jane*, (William Rome), 22 July 1776, at 33°21'N

(3) *Snow Portland* (Brumwell), 24 July 1776, at 33°20'N

(4) Ship *Star and Garter* (Thomas Hanson), 25 July 1776, at 34°20'N, 54°30'W

(5) Ship *Friendship* (Joseph Jones), [30] July 1776

(6) Schooner [unknown] (possibly brig *Mars*), [September] 1776

(7) British Transport Ship *Woodcock*, 22 September 1776

(8) Brig [Brigantine] *Mary and Joseph*, [September] 1776

(9) Brig [Brigantine] *Live Oak* (James Wallace), 3 October 1776

Actions:

Comments: Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond* was commissioned on 6 July 1776 under Commander William Chace.¹ Her owners were Nicholas and John Brown and Chace.² *Diamond* sailed out of Providence, Rhode Island.³ *Diamond* was described as a 60-ton sloop, armed with six 4-pounders, ten swivel guns and as having a forty-man crew. Benjamin Almy served aboard as First Lieutenant, Henry Weedon as Second Lieutenant, and Isaac Freeborn as Master.⁴ Thomas Curtis was aboard as Lieutenant of Marines.⁵ Although based in Providence, *Diamond* underwent her fitting out at Newport, Rhode Island.⁶

Diamond was ordered to sea on 7 July 1776⁷ and sailed on 12 July 1776.⁸

Possibly the first prize made was the brigantine⁹ or brig¹⁰ *Mary*¹¹ (Isaac Marvill)¹² *Mary* was from bound from Tortola to Liverpool,¹³ with sugar, cotton, fustic,¹⁴ and slaves.¹⁵ She was already a prize of "Newman of Philadelphia," but Chace took control because Newman had failed to put a copy of his commission aboard. *Mary* arrived at Providence on 29 July 1776. The

¹ NDAR, "Application for Commission for Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," V, 945 and note

² NDAR, "Application for Commission for Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," V, 945 and note; "Nicholas and John Brown to Captain William Chace," V, 960-961

³ NDAR, "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 3, 1776," VI, 30-31 and 31 note

⁴ NDAR, "Application for Commission for Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," V, 945 and note

⁵ NDAR, "Agreement of Officers and Crew of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 16

⁶ NDAR, "Statement of Benjamin Almy, First Lieutenant of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 584 and note

⁷ NDAR, "Nicholas and John Brown to Captain William Chace," V, 960-961

⁸ NDAR, "Statement of Benjamin Almy, First Lieutenant of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 584 and note

⁹ NDAR, "A Journal of A Voig kept By Jabez Whipple Captn of the Armed Sloop the *Independent Boun* on a Cruse with Gods primishon this 24 Day of July 1776—," V, 1301-1303 and 1303 note

¹⁰ NDAR, "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 3, 1776," VI, 30-31 and 31 note; "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

¹¹ NDAR, "A Journal of A Voig kept By Jabez Whipple Captn of the Armed Sloop the *Independent Boun* on a Cruse with Gods primishon this 24 Day of July 1776—," V, 1301-1303 and 1303 note

¹² NDAR, "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

¹³ NDAR, "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 3, 1776," VI, 30-31 and 31 note; "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

¹⁴ NDAR, "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 3, 1776," VI, 30-31 and 31 note; "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

¹⁵ NDAR, "*Providence Gazette*, Saturday, August 3, 1776," VI, 30-31 and 31 note

courts found in favor of Newman on 2 September 1776.¹⁶

The 220-ton¹⁷ ship *Jane* (William Rome),¹⁸ laden with sugar¹⁹ and oil,²⁰ was captured on 22 July 1776²¹ at 33°21'N.²² She was bound from Jamaica²³ or Dominica to Bristol.²⁴ *Jane* was armed with four 4-pounders.²⁵ She arrived in Providence on 6 August 1776.²⁶ She was libeled on 8²⁷ or 10 August 1776.²⁸ *Jane* was tried on 26 August 1776.²⁹ She was advertised with a sale date of 6 September 1776 at Providence.³⁰ She was sold for £8188.4.6.³¹ *Jane's* sailors subsequently reported that *Diamond* was armed with six 4-pounders and two 3-pounders, ten swivels, and had a crew of forty-four men.³²

The snow *Portland* (Brumwell), bound from Grenada to Lancaster with cocoa, coffee, indigo, and cotton,³³ had sailed on 7 July 1776 as part of a convoy of twenty-five sail under escort of HM Frigate *Hind*. *Portland* was captured on 24 July³⁴ at 33°20'N³⁵ by the *Diamond*. The British reported the *Diamond* was armed with six guns, had two wooden guns aboard, and had a crew of thirty-two men. Brumwell and the first mate were removed from the snow and a prize crew of twelve men from the *Diamond* was put aboard, with First Lieutenant Benjamin Almy as prize master. During the following night one Dickenson and the second mate rose and recaptured the *Portland*, confining Almy. The *Portland* arrived at Lancaster on 31 August 1776.³⁶ Almy was detained as a prisoner.³⁷

¹⁶ NDAR, "Newport Mercury, Monday, August 5, 1776," VI, 60 and note

¹⁷ NDAR, "Interrogation of Thomas Stacy, Prize Master of the British Ship *Jane*," VI, 93-94 and 94 note; "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

¹⁸ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

¹⁹ NDAR, "Interrogation of Thomas Stacy, Prize Master of the British Ship *Jane*," VI, 93-94 and 94 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

²⁰ NDAR, "Interrogation of Thomas Stacy, Prize Master of the British Ship *Jane*," VI, 93-94 and 94 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

²¹ NDAR, "Interrogation of Thomas Stacy, Prize Master of the British Ship *Jane*," VI, 93-94 and 94 note; "Extract of a Letter from Lancaster, Aug. 31.," VI, 578; "Statement of Benjamin Almy, First Lieutenant of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 584 and note

²² NDAR, "Statement of Benjamin Almy, First Lieutenant of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 584 and note

²³ NDAR, "Cotton Tufts to John Adams," VI, 93

²⁴ NDAR, "Interrogation of Thomas Stacy, Prize Master of the British Ship *Jane*," VI, 93-94 and 94 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

²⁵ NDAR, "Interrogation of Thomas Stacy, Prize Master of the British Ship *Jane*," VI, 93-94 and 94 note

²⁶ NDAR, "Cotton Tufts to John Adams," VI, 93

²⁷ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

²⁸ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 10, 1776," VI, 136-138 and 138 note

²⁹ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

³⁰ NDAR, "Advertisement of Sale of Prize Ships and Cargoes at Providence," VI, 360

³¹ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

³² NDAR, "Statement of Benjamin Almy, First Lieutenant of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 584 and note

³³ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

³⁴ NDAR, "Extract of a Letter from Lancaster, Aug. 31.," VI, 578; "Statement of Benjamin Almy, First Lieutenant of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 584 and note

³⁵ NDAR, "Statement of Benjamin Almy, First Lieutenant of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*," VI, 584 and note

³⁶ NDAR, "Extract of a Letter from Lancaster, Aug. 31.," VI, 578

³⁷ NDAR, "Condemnation in Rhode Island Maritime Court of the Prize Ship *Star and Carter*," VI, 676-677

On 25 July³⁸ the *Diamond* was at 34°20'N, 54°30'W³⁹ where she captured the 200-ton⁴⁰ ship *Star and Garter*,⁴¹ (Thomas Hanson)⁴² *Dominica*⁴³ (or St. Kitts)⁴⁴ to London, England,⁴⁵ with a cargo of sugar,⁴⁶ rum,⁴⁷ and oil. She arrived at Newport on 5 August 1776⁴⁸ with six prisoners aboard,⁴⁹ and moved to Providence on 13 August.⁵⁰ *Star and Garter* was libeled on 13⁵¹ or 17 August 1776.⁵² *Star and Garter* was tried on 4 September 1776 and condemned.⁵³ She was advertised with a sale date of 6 September 1776 at Providence.⁵⁴ Other records show that she was sold on 2 September 1776 for £7907.3.4.⁵⁵

The 230 ton⁵⁶ ship *Friendship* (Joseph Jones), bound from Grenada to London with sugar, coffee, cocoa, rum, indigo, and cotton⁵⁷ was also captured. She was libeled on 15 August 1776 and tried on 2 September 1776.⁵⁸ She was advertised with a sale date set for 6 September 1776 at Providence,⁵⁹ and later with the sale date of 12 November 1776.⁶⁰ She sold for £10,191.18.0.⁶¹

³⁸ NDAR, "Captain William Chace to George Babcock, Prize Master," V, 1221-1222; "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note

³⁹ NDAR, "Captain William Chace to George Babcock, Prize Master," V, 1221-1222

⁴⁰ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁴¹ NDAR, "Captain William Chace to George Babcock, Prize Master," V, 1221-1222; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁴² NDAR, "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁴³ NDAR, "Connecticut Gazette, Friday, August 9, 1776," VI, 129-130 and 130 note

⁴⁴ NDAR, "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁴⁵ NDAR, "Connecticut Gazette, Friday, August 9, 1776," VI, 129-130 and 130 note; "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁴⁶ NDAR, "Connecticut Gazette, Friday, August 9, 1776," VI, 129-130 and 130 note; "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁴⁷ NDAR, "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁴⁸ NDAR, "Connecticut Gazette, Friday, August 9, 1776," VI, 129-130 and 130 note

⁴⁹ NDAR, "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note

⁵⁰ NDAR, "Condemnation in Rhode Island Maritime Court of the Prize Ship *Star and Garter*," VI, 676-677

⁵¹ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁵² NDAR, "Interrogatories Answered by George Weight Babcock Prize Master of the Prize Ship called the *Starr and Garter*," VI, 153-154 and 154 note

⁵³ NDAR, "Condemnation in Rhode Island Maritime Court of the Prize Ship *Star and Garter*," VI, 676-677

⁵⁴ NDAR, "Advertisement of Sale of Prize Ships and Cargoes at Providence," VI, 360

⁵⁵ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁵⁶ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁵⁷ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁵⁸ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁵⁹ NDAR, "Advertisement of Sale of Prize Ships and Cargoes at Providence," VI, 360

⁶⁰ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 9, 1776," VII, 96-97 and 97 note

⁶¹ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

On 1 August 1776, Lieutenant of Marines Thomas Curtis reported the captures of the *Mary*, *Friendship*, and other vessels, in a letter.⁶² *Diamond* made Providence 14 August 1776.⁶³

Diamond was re-commissioned under Commander Thomas Stacy⁶⁴ (Stacey)⁶⁵ on 20 August 1776, with Nicholas Brown listed as the owner.⁶⁶ Stacy was given his cruising orders on 21 August 1776.⁶⁷

Diamond reportedly captured a large schooner, which was sent into Providence on 28 September 1776.⁶⁸

The 300-ton⁶⁹ British Transport⁷⁰ Ship⁷¹ *Woodcock* was captured⁷² on 22 September 1776.⁷³ *Woodcock* was bound from Quebec to Spithead, England⁷⁴ or London, with coal and ballast.⁷⁵ The transport was armed with six guns,⁷⁶ 4-pounders and 3-pounders,⁷⁷ and was returning to England from a mission lifting troops to Quebec.⁷⁸ She was libeled on 22 October 1776 and tried on 11 November 1776.⁷⁹ She was advertised with a sale date of 19 November 1776.⁸⁰ *Woodcock* was sold for £6670.0.0.⁸¹

The next prize was a brig, possibly the *Mary and Joseph*, with a cargo of fish,⁸² coal and copper kettles,⁸³ bound from

⁶² Claghorn, *Naval Officers of the American Revolution*, 80-81

⁶³ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, August 17, 1776," VI, 214

⁶⁴ NDAR, "Owners of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond* to Captain Thomas Stacy," VI, 252-253

⁶⁵ Claghorn, *Naval Officers of the American Revolution*, 293

⁶⁶ Sheffield, *An Address Delivered by William P. Sheffield before the Rhode Island Historical Society*, 59

⁶⁷ NDAR, "Owners of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond* to Captain Thomas Stacy," VI, 252-253

⁶⁸ NDAR, "Newport Mercury, Monday, September 30, 1776," VI, 1057

⁶⁹ NDAR, *Newport Mercury*, Monday, October 21, 1776," VI, 1349; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, October 26, 1776," VI, 1421; "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁷⁰ NDAR, "Permission Granted to British Prisoners in Rhode Island to Depart for Great Britain," VII, 165-168

⁷¹ NDAR, *Newport Mercury*, Monday, October 21, 1776," VI, 1349; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, October 26, 1776," VI, 1421

⁷² NDAR, "Permission for Exchange of British Naval Prisoners of War," VII, 113-114; "Permission Granted to British Prisoners in Rhode Island to Depart for Great Britain," VII, 165-168

⁷³ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁷⁴ NDAR, "Permission for Exchange of British Naval Prisoners of War," VII, 113-114; "Permission Granted to British Prisoners in Rhode Island to Depart for Great Britain," VII, 165-168

⁷⁵ NDAR, *Newport Mercury*, Monday, October 21, 1776," VI, 1349; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, October 26, 1776," VI, 1421

⁷⁶ NDAR, "Permission Granted to British Prisoners in Rhode Island to Depart for Great Britain," VII, 165-168; "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 16, 1776," VII, 185

⁷⁷ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 16, 1776," VII, 185

⁷⁸ NDAR, "Permission Granted to British Prisoners in Rhode Island to Depart for Great Britain," VII, 165-168

⁷⁹ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁸⁰ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 16, 1776," VII, 185

⁸¹ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁸² NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 2, 1776," VII, 17-18 and 18 note

⁸³ Claghorn, *Naval Officers of the American Revolution*, 293

Newfoundland to Spain.⁸⁴ *Mary and Joseph* was described as an 80-ton brigantine.⁸⁵ She arrived safely.⁸⁶ *Mary and Joseph* was libeled on 26 October 1776.⁸⁷ She was advertised with a sale date of 6 November 1776,⁸⁸ however she was not tried until 18 November.⁸⁹

The brigantine⁹⁰ or brig⁹¹ *Live Oak* (James Wallace),⁹² 200 tons⁹³ or 260 tons,⁹⁴ was captured on 3 October 1776. She was laden with sugar, rum, mahogany, logwood, and copper,⁹⁵ bound from Jamaica to London.⁹⁶ The prizemaster ran her ashore coming into Providence but she was refloated without damage.⁹⁷ *Live Oak* was libeled on 7 November 1776, and tried on 27 November.⁹⁸

Diamond was re-commissioned on 5 November 1777, again under Stacy. Her owner was now listed as John Brown.⁹⁹

⁸⁴ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 2, 1776," VII, 17-18 and 18 note

⁸⁵ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁸⁶ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 2, 1776," VII, 17-18 and 18 note

⁸⁷ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁸⁸ NDAR, "Providence Gazette, Saturday, November 2, 1776," VII, 17-18 and 18 note

⁸⁹ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁹⁰ NDAR, "Libel of Thomas Stacy, Commander of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*, Against the Prize Brigantine *Live Oak*, VII, 73; "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁹¹ NDAR, "Independent Chronicle, Thursday, November 14, 1776," VII, 139-141 and 141 note

⁹² NDAR, "Libel of Thomas Stacy, Commander of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*, Against the Prize Brigantine *Live Oak*, VII, 73; "Independent Chronicle, Thursday, November 14, 1776," VII, 139-141 and 141 note

⁹³ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁹⁴ NDAR, "Independent Chronicle, Thursday, November 14, 1776," VII, 139-141 and 141 note

⁹⁵ NDAR, "Libel of Thomas Stacy, Commander of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*, Against the Prize Brigantine *Live Oak*, VII, 73

⁹⁶ NDAR, "Libel of Thomas Stacy, Commander of the Rhode Island Privateer Sloop *Diamond*, Against the Prize Brigantine *Live Oak*, VII, 73; "Independent Chronicle, Thursday, November 14, 1776," VII, 139-141 and 141 note

⁹⁷ NDAR, "Independent Chronicle, Thursday, November 14, 1776," VII, 139-141 and 141 note

⁹⁸ NDAR, "List of All the Vessels Cargoes &c Brought into the Port of Providence and Libelled Tried and condemned in the Maritime Court AD 1776," VII, 642-647

⁹⁹ Sheffield, *An Address Delivered by William P. Sheffield before the Rhode Island Historical Society*, 60