

# Diana

Corvette  
Massachusetts Privateer Snow

Commander William Herrick

19 September 1780-

Commissioned/First Date: 19 September 1780  
Out of Service/Cause: 15 June 1781/captured by a British cruiser

Owners: John Loviet of Beverly, Massachusetts

Tonnage: 140

Battery: Date Reported: 19 September 1780  
Number/Caliber Weight Broadside  
8/  
Total: 8 cannon/  
Broadside: 4 cannon/  
Swivels:

Crew: 19 September 1780: 24 [total]

Description:

Officers: (1) First Mate Benjamin Bickford, 19 September 1780-; (2) Second Mate William Gage, 19 September 1780-

Cruises:

Prizes:

Actions:

Comments: The 140-ton<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Privateer Snow *Diana* was commissioned on 19 September 1780 under Commander William Herrick of Salem, Massachusetts. She was listed as having a battery of eight guns and a crew of twenty-three men. Her \$20000 bond was signed by Herrick and by Larkin Thorndike and Silas Meriam, both of Salem.<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Bickford served aboard her as First Mate, and William Gage as Second Mate; both residents of Beverly and both aboard by 19 September.<sup>3</sup>

*Diana* was captured by a British cruiser on 15 June 1781 and her crew imprisoned.<sup>4</sup> It is possible that this is the *Diana* captured by HM Frigate *Danae* and HM Frigate *Surprize*. The two British ships were escorting a convoy from St. Johns, Newfoundland to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The British reported that *Diana* had a crew of thirty-seven men and was armed with ten guns. She was brought into Halifax.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Howe, *Beverly Privateers in the Revolution*, 408

<sup>2</sup> NRAR, 267; Allen, *Massachusetts Privateers of the Revolution*, 113

<sup>3</sup> Howe, *Beverly Privateers in the Revolution*, 408

<sup>4</sup> Howe, *Beverly Privateers in the Revolution*, 408

<sup>5</sup> *The London Gazette*, Tuesday, October 16, to Saturday, October 20, 1781