



ROYALISTE

Royaliste is an interpretation of a ketch-rigged privateer typical of those in service during America's Colonial Wars (1755 - 1812)

*The ketch developed around the middle of the 17th century when a mizzen mast was added to single-masted ships. Adding a second mast resulted in more seaworthy vessels that were more controllable during heavy weather, thus allowing them to leave coastal waters and become deep-water sailing vessels. The original ketch design gradually developed into three variations: the **bomb ketch**, the **gun ketch**, and the **trading ketch** -- any of which might be armed. Ketches ranged in size from 40 feet to over 120 feet for some of the 19th century versions, with a displacement of fifty to three hundred tons.*

Bomb ketches are probably the best known of the three variants. What distinguished them from all other ships was their ordinance. A ketch design was chosen over other vessels for this bomb duty because the location of the main mast allowed a foredeck hold to be filled with coiled rope, upon which were mounted one or two 10 to 13 inch mortars capable of firing exploding shells (called bombs) or incendiary rounds (called carcasses) that could reach targets up to a mile away! Bomb ketches were invented by the French in the 1660s in order to bombard port towns on the Barbary coast more efficiently. The Barbary pirates built their fortifications in the middle of port towns which made regular cannon fire largely ineffective. The bomb ketch's mortars could easily reach those sites. A bomb ketch was generally eighty to a little over one hundred feet in length with a crew of eighty to one hundred men.

Gun ketches were used primarily for coastal patrol, small convoy escort, and fishery protection. A gun ketch would carry between four and eight cannon (ten on some large ketches built by the French), usually four to six pounders, and was generally 60 to 80 feet in length with a large crew of 70 to 90 men. Probably the most famous gun ketch in history was the USS *Intrepid*. *Intrepid* was a 64-ton, four-gun ketch, originally built in France in 1798. She was subsequently sold to Tripoli, renamed *Mastico*, and used by the Barbary Pirates based there to capture the USS *Philadelphia* on October 31, 1803. She herself was captured by the USS *Enterprise* on December 23 of that year.

Trading ketches tended to be smaller than their naval peers, averaging 40 to 80 feet. One reason, of course, was to reduce crew size. Average crew on a trading ketch was about two dozen. The smaller trading ketch could easily maneuver in all sizes and depths of harbors to load and unload merchandise directly at the pier. In addition, the smaller ketches were easier to handle than larger ships. Trading ketches were used by many nations in and between the Caribbean and the Americas.

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SPECIFICATIONS

Designer:	James Rosborough
Builder:	Arthur F. Theriault & Sons
Location:	Meteghan River, Nova Scotia
Launched:	1971
Home Port:	San Francisco, California
Flag:	U.S.A.
Rig Type:	Gaff-rigged, square tops'l ketch
Hull Type:	Privateer Ketch
Length:	
Sparred:	65'
On Deck:	50
Waterline:	43
Beam:	13'6" (inside)
Draft:	6'
Tonnage:	45 Gross / 36 Net
Aux. Power:	Perkins diesel
Construction:	Carvel planked, mahogany over double sawn oak frames & scantlings
Ballast:	Iron keel, iron trim ballast
Armament:	4 carronades, assorted swivel guns
Crew:	
1755:	25 - 40
Now:	5 - 8