

by a British frigate and brought in to Halifax where she was sold, and for some years previous to breaking out of the war had run as a packet between Halifax and Liverpool. She brought the first news of the war to Liverpool, and had been made ready for cruising before leaving that first named port and had to come to Liverpool for hands. She was nicknamed the "Black Joke." She was commanded by Capt. Joseph Barss, and the crew principally fishermen. She made four cruises before she was captured by the Americans. During the first cruise she sent in two ships; the second one a ship and a valuable Spanish prize. The other two cruises about fifteen prizes. She was then captured by an American privateer the "Tom." This privateer was afterwards captured and was owned in Liverpool, and when refitted was known as the Wolverine. The Sir John Sherbrooke was formerly the American brig of war Rattlesnake, and was owned by the Hon. Enos Collins, of Halifax, and Joseph Freeman, Liverpool, and others. She was an eighteen gun vessel, and when she left Halifax, had two hundred men aboard. She made two cruises and captured a number of prizes. On the second cruise she brought in with others, a very valuable prize laden with cotton and indigo. She was in Boston Bay the day previous to the battle between the Shannon and the Chesapeake and the captain reinforced the crew of the Shannon by about forty men; they being Irish immigrants originally bound to New Brunswick, but had been captured by an American privateer and retaken by the Sir John.

I knew one of the Irish immigrants who were taken by Capt. Brooke to reinforce the Shannon. He was, at the time I knew him, near ninety years of age. He lived in a little cottage on Pleasant Street, opposite Smith Street. He told me that one of the pressed men during the fight killed four of the Americans with a boarding pike before he himself was slain. Scarcely was war proclaimed by the United States, when a fleet of privateer vessels infested the coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Depending on their fleetness to get away from the heavy armed frigates and ships of war, they had the boldness to lay in wait for their victims within a few miles of Sambro light. Some of them carrying their temerity too far fell into the hands of H. M. Ships, making for Halifax after a cruise in search of the enemy's ships. On Friday, July the 17th, 1812, the barque William was captured by the American privateer Dolphin, and recaptured by the Indian, a sloop-of-war, which had its