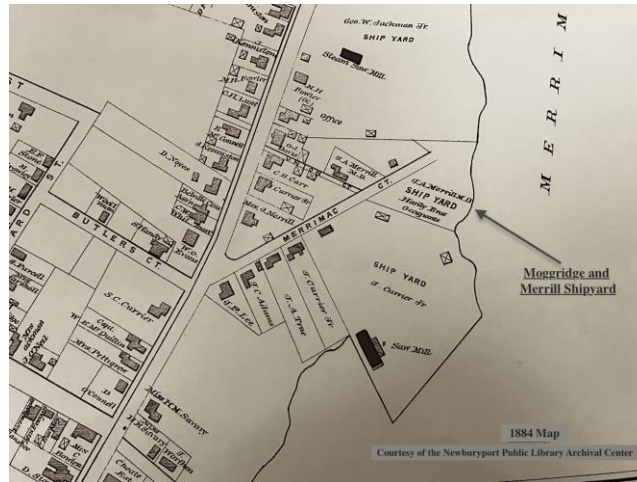


Moggridge and Merrill Shipyard

Between the foot of Forrester and Butler Streets, ships were built there for almost 100 years.



As early as 1730 Samuel Moggridge owned a shipyard between the foot of Forrester and Butler Streets, Mr. Moggridge and his sons built ships for nearly one hundred years.

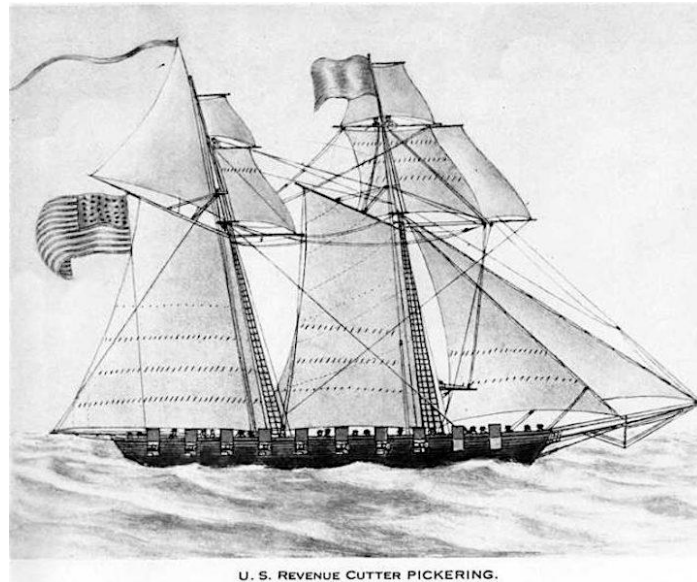
Three brothers Orlando B. Merrill, Jonathan Merrill, and Nathan Merrill bought part of the Moggridge shipyard in the late 1700s.

In 1794, Orlando B. Merrill invented the “water-line” model, which revolutionized the science of shipbuilding, showing the form and shape of the boat, and helped shipbuilders build more accurate vessels. The original model designed by Orlando Merrill was presented to the New York Historical Society in 1853.



The Merrill family built over sixty vessels at the Moggridge shipyard. In 1798 when American shipping was threatened by foreign privateers during the war between France and Britain, Merrill and his brothers Johnathan and Nathan were contracted to build a naval vessel. Ninety days from the contract date the U. S. Brig “Pickering” was

completed and launched from Merrill's yard in what was then a part of Newbury, now Newburyport.



In 1813 Orlando Merrill with Ralph Cross built the fourteen gun U. S. Sloop of War "Wasp" in the Merrill shipyard. The vessel was launched on September 18, 1813.



Lithograph from the USS Constitution Museum, showing the "Wasp" in battle

References:

History Newburyport

<https://historynewburyport.com/moggridge-and-merrill-shipyard/>

U.S. Marines aboard USS Wasp engage HMS Reindeer, John F. Clymer,
the U.S. National Museum of the Marine Corps, 1945

The Wasp and Reindeer, USS Constitution Museum Art Collection