

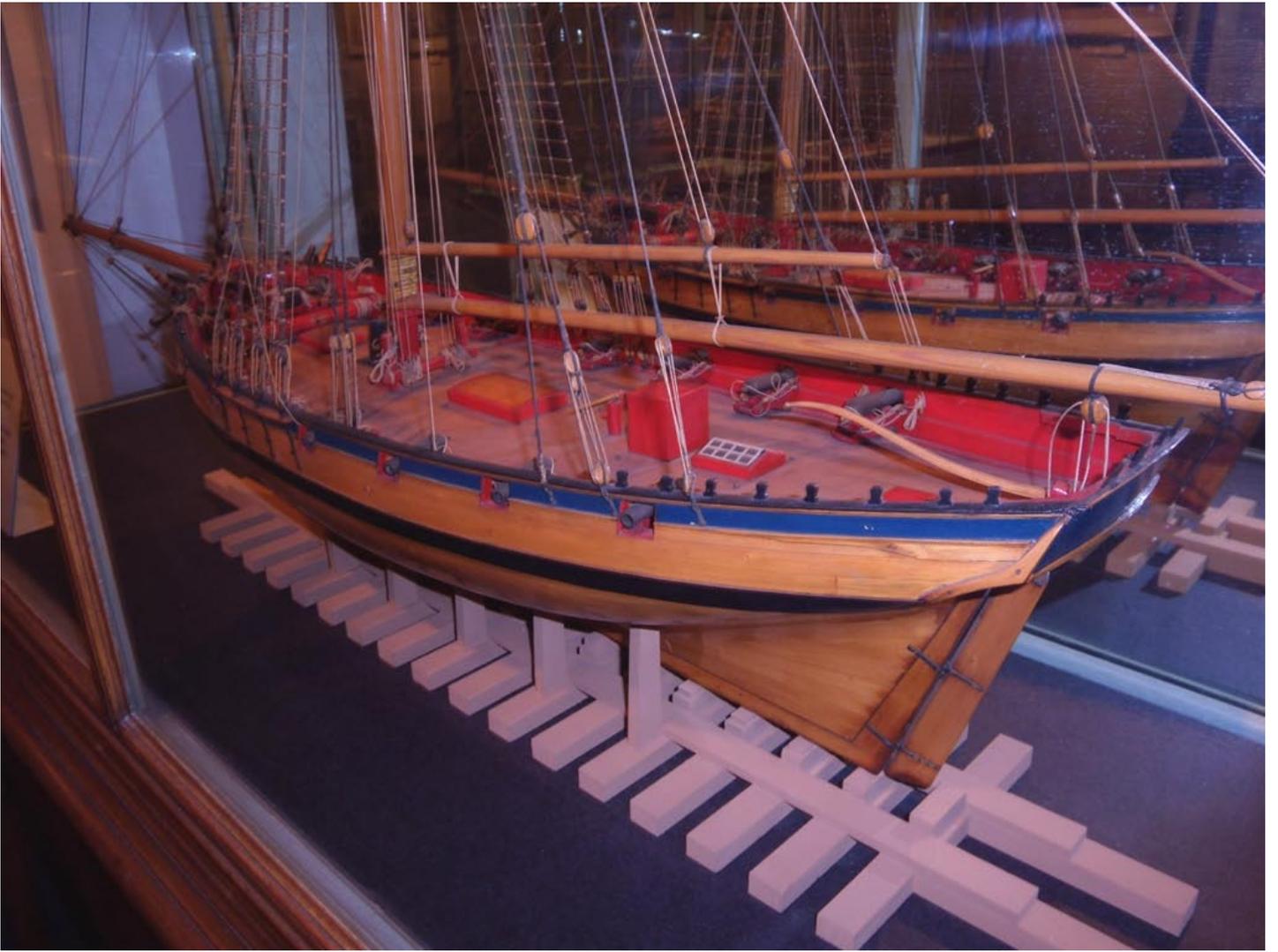
English Cutter Cheerful (1806)

A plank-on-bulkhead ship model for the first-time scratch builder

Welcome to the Cheerful project!! This project was designed with the first-time scratch builder in mind. The Cheerful class of cutters was a typical cutter for this time period. There were only two cutters built to this plan. The first was the cheerful and the subject for this project. The other cutter was the Surly. The Cheerful was not chosen for this project because it had a colorful history and career. It was built at Dover in 1806 and designed by Sir John Henslow. It was a typical purpose-built cutter used for patrolling and scouting. The Cheerful carried 10 twelve pound carronades on carriages and 2 six pound long guns as chasers. I chose this class of cutter because it was so prototypical in most regards. It has the all of the qualities you would expect for a cutter in hull shape and rig.

The other major factors for selecting the Cheerful were that such complete and detailed original drafts were available from the National Maritime Museum in England. These included a very well detailed inboard works plan as well as the inboard and outboard planking expansions. It was very easy to design a historically accurate plan for building the model with such detailed drafts. In addition, the Cheerful class was not clinker planked as many cutters were during this time period. The hull was carvel planked and this feature will make planking the model much easier for the first time scratch builder. Another important factor was the knowledge that two contemporary models existed. A model of the Surly is on display in the Art Gallery of Ontario as part of the Thomson collection. The second model is part of the Roger's collection in the Navy Museum in Annapolis Maryland. Although the later is contemporary, I believe this model is not properly identified as the Cheerful. There are too many differences between the model and the original drafts. Even though this is the case, the model can be used as inspiration as well as for historical reference. It is a cutter from the same time period and very similar to the Cheerful class. A photo of this model is shown on the next page and I shall be referring to it regularly as we build ours. Many other photos of this contemporary model and others will be used as reference throughout this monograph.

I will be building the model with plywood bulkheads and false keel, but other than that I will be using boxwood for everything else. It is the wood of choice for my model building. That being said, the beauty of scratch building will allow you to select any wood to fit your budget and preference. The model will be fully rigged. Built at $\frac{1}{4}$ " scale, the model will be $29 \frac{1}{2}$ " long and $25 \frac{1}{2}$ " high.



The incorrectly identified model from the Rogers Collection in Annapolis Maryland.