



## **USS CONSTITUTION ANCHORS, CABLES & STOWAGE**

### **1798-1815**

USS *Constitution* sailed on her first voyage from Boston on July 22, 1798. Between that first voyage and the end of the War of 1812, the following anchors are referred to in different sources:

#### **1798**

Dec. Main anchor weighed 59[hundred weight].2[quarters].21 lbs [over 6690 lbs]<sup>1</sup>

#### **1799**

Sheet & waist<sup>2</sup> anchors referenced in *Constitution's* logs

#### **1803**

Oct. Reference made to two 120-fathom 22" anchor cables<sup>3</sup>

#### **1810**

2 Aug Stream anchor stowed in larboard fore chains<sup>4</sup>

#### **1812**

8 Sep Received a 1671 lb stream anchor<sup>5</sup>

12 Oct Received a 468 lb kedge anchor<sup>6</sup>

General references are made to the anchors being stowed on the "gunwales", in the "chains" (i.e. rigging channels), in the waist, and even a stream anchor that was un-stocked and placed in the main hold.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Log Book of the United States Frigate *Constitution* from December 1, 1798 to February 15, 1800. Samuel Eliot Morison Memorial Library, USS Constitution Museum

<sup>2</sup> "Waist" anchors were a stowed aft of the rigging channels, flanking the waist – the open, center section of the upper deck – hence the nomenclature 'waist' when referencing that anchor.

<sup>3</sup> USS *Constitution's* log book. National Archives & Records Administration (NARA)

<sup>4</sup> 'Stream anchor ...carried as a spare..., normally about one-third of the weight of the bower anchors and sheet anchor, but larger than kedge[anchor].' *The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea*, ed. Peter Kemp, 1994. *Constitution* log entry, NARA

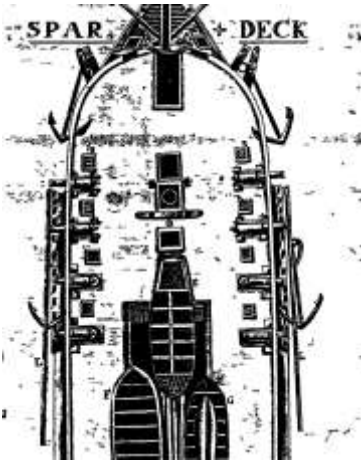
<sup>5</sup> Navy Agent Amos Binney, Summary Account, 1-30 September 1812, RG217, 4<sup>th</sup> Auditor's Accounts, Alphabetical Series, Box 39, NARA

<sup>6</sup> Binney, 4<sup>th</sup> Auditor's Accounts, 1-31 October 1812

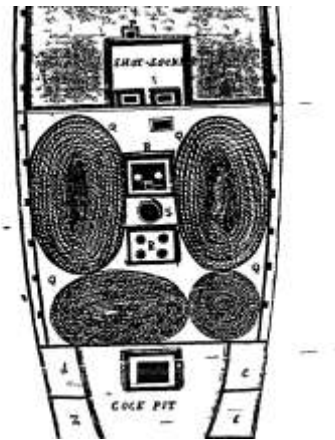
Based upon the above references, USS *Constitution* carried at least the following anchors between 1798 and 1815:

- 2 Bower Anchors
- 1 Sheet Anchor
- 1 Stream Anchor (possibly 2)
- 1 Kedge Anchor (possibly 2)

See below the cropped portions of the plans of the spar deck (left) and of the cable tier (right) of USS *United States*. Note the stowage of the bower and sheet anchors and the 4 different cables coiled on the cable tier.<sup>7</sup>



Spar deck, USS *United States*, c. 1820, plan by Charles Ware



Cable tier, USS *United States*, c. 1820, plan by Charles Ware



USS *President*, watercolor attributed to Antoine Roux, c. 1805. Navy Art Collection



Detail, 'waist' anchor stowed aft, starboard channels, USS *President* Navy Art Collection

**Naval History and Heritage Command Detachment Boston**  
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<sup>7</sup> 'Plans of the Frigate *United States* Decks', c. 1820, Charles Ware. Plan #70887196