



Arrangements (i.e. Deck Lay-outs)

USS *Constitution*'s first voyage began on July 22, 1798, when Samuel Nicholson and his crew sailed the ship towards the Caribbean in defense of commerce. The Quasi-War, an un-declared war between the United States and Revolutionary France was underway. From that first sortie to her last sail in October, 1881, *Constitution* had an active career as a United States warship for 83 years, nearly 4 times longer than the average life of a wooden sailing ship. During those 8 decades, *Constitution* was frequently altered because of near-constant use and up-grades, battle/storm/accidental damage, and re-builds/restorations. The ship was also employed in many different Navy activities – as warship, Academy sail training ship, transport for US exhibits to the Paris Exposition, and a “barracks”/receiving ship.

The series of “arrangements” plans in this file reflect the varied physical/structural career of *Constitution*. When Lieutenant John Lord began his research into *Constitution*'s structural history in 1925, two years before the 1927-31 restoration, he was responsible for re-building an aged warship that carried her years heavily and the fact that the available documentary evidence ran the gamut of 130+ years.

Each of *Constitution*'s four deck arrangements plans as drawn under Lt. Lord's supervision represent the ship's decks after the research and reconstruction work of the 1927-1931 restoration. The conclusions arrived at were based upon 1849 plans of *Constitution* and partly from the requirements of the National Cruise the ship would take between 1931-1934

The deck arrangement plans no longer represent *Constitution* as she is today, because the ship is slowly being re-built/restored to her War of 1812 configuration; inevitable changes from the 1927 configuration are to be expected.