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A sloop closely resembling the first *USS Maryland*



Just two decades after the Revolutionary War, America was mired in an undeclared conflict with France. The dispute led to the construction of the sloop *USS Maryland* (which closely resembled the *USS Erie* depicted here).

Built in Baltimore and commissioned in 1799, the first *Maryland* was designed to protect American shipping. This conflict also prompted Congress to create a Secretary of the Navy and generated the construction in Baltimore of the great frigate *Constellation* - the first commissioned ship of the United States Navy and a major tourist attraction today in its home port of Baltimore.

