



Cobb (Howell Cobb), 1857

Builder: Merry and Gay, Milan, OH
Cost: Unknown
Rig: Schooner
Length: 57' 6"
Beam: 17' 6"
Draft: 5' 10"
Displacement: 50 tons
Keel Laid: Unknown
Launched: Unknown
Completed: June-July 1857
Decommissioned: Unknown
Disposition: Lost on 27 December 1861
Complement: Unknown
Armament: 1 6-pdr.

Design History:

Bids were taken for six shallow-draft cutters in 1856. Merry and Gay of Milan, OH bid \$4,050 for each and received the contract. Captain William C. Pease supervised the construction; the design was based on a reduced scale of a 140-ton model furnished by the Revenue Service. Construction was delayed by winter weather and a controversy over Ohio versus Long Island locust. In the end there was a cost overrun and lien against the builders. The vessels were of white oak, yellow pine, and locust, with copper fastenings. They were provided with centerboards and named for members of President James Buchanan's cabinet.

Cutter History:

This vessel was first stationed at Oswego, NY and then joined four of the rest of this class in the passage to the East Coast. Under Douglass Ottinger- all were towed below Quebec without loss, despite severe winter weather they then sailed south. *Cobb* needed a complete re-rig to make the journey. She went ashore at Cape Ann, MA on 27 December 1861 in a gale and was a total loss. The cutter *Morris* rescued her crew.

Sources:

Donald Canney. *U.S. Coast Guard and Revenue Cutters, 1790-1935*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1995.
