

# *The War at Sea*

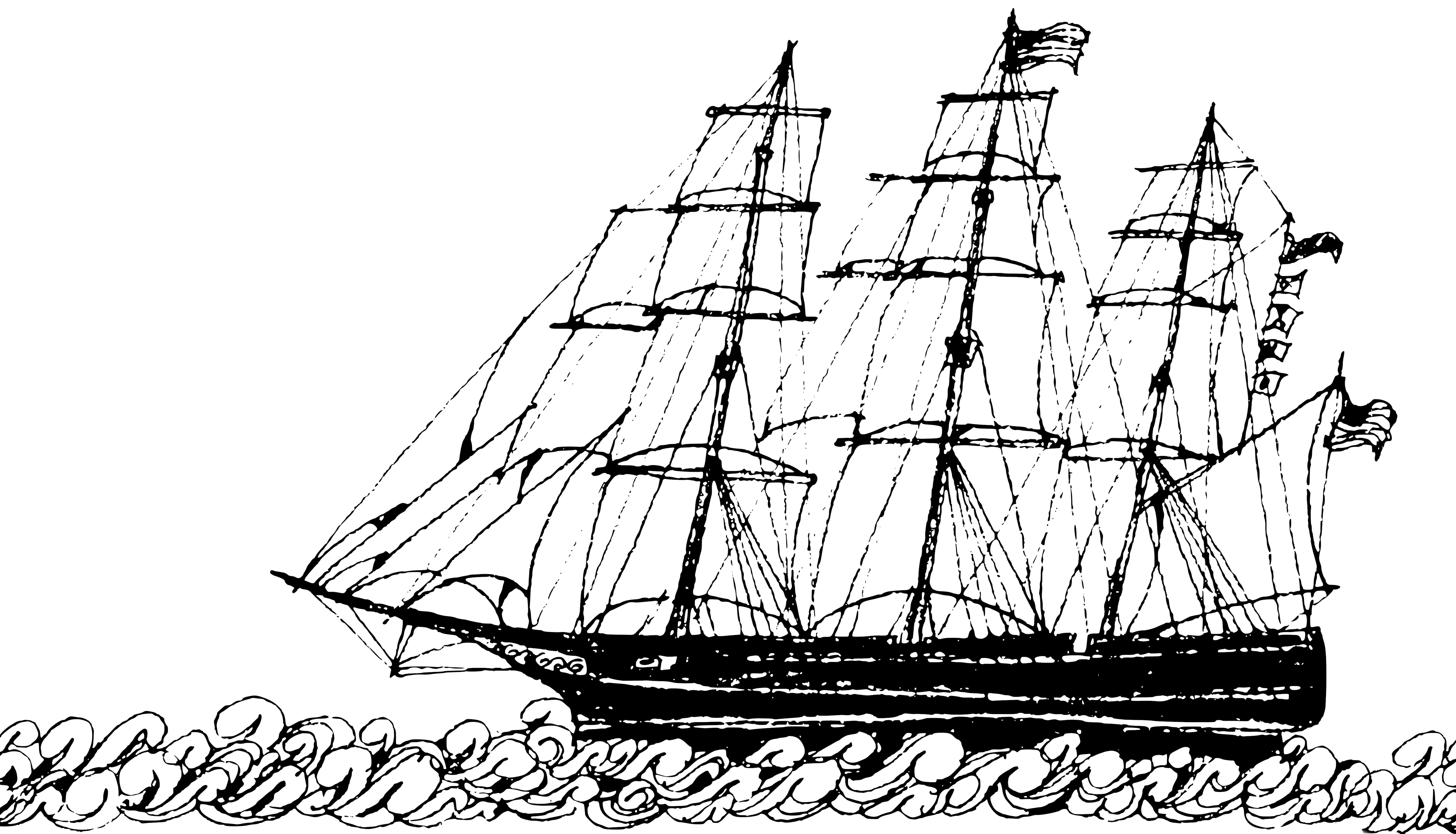
## **Jeremiah Hibbert (1753–1778)**

**An adventurous young privateer who achieved much success but ultimately lost his life on the dangerous high seas.**

One of Manchester's privateer commanders was Jeremiah Hibbert who, in October 1776, had married Martha (Patty) Lee, sister of his fellow privateer captain, John Lee Jr.

A privateer lieutenant on board the privateer schooner "Franklin" out of Marblehead, Captain Hibbert was given command of the 75-ton privateer schooner "Hawke," of Newburyport, carrying 10 cannons and eight swivel-guns, in June 1777. By October 1777, they were off Bilbao, Spain, capturing British vessels coming in with cargoes of fish. After many adventures, naval and diplomatic, Hibbert left Spain for home, having captured several very valuable prizes.

In 1777, Jeremiah had purchased part of a house located at today's 3 School Street for him and Martha to live in, but he unfortunately wasn't destined to live in it long. In early summer 1778, he took command of the privateer brigantine "Civil Usage," 14 guns and 75 men, and cleared away from Newburyport for more adventures on the high seas. The vessel and her men ran into a terrible gale off Portland; heavily laden with food and munitions, she battled to fight her way through high cresting waves, but at last was smashed in. Captain Hibbert, just 25, and all of his men were lost in the sinking of the "Civil Usage." Jeremiah and Martha did not have any children.



*Revolutionary  
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