

**COURTESY OF THE
GREAT LAKES MARITIME INSTITUTE**

P.O. Box 1990

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN 48121



A WAR SHIP

*Discovered by Two Submarine
Divers at the Rouge.*

*It Proves to be a British Craft Stuck
in the Mud,*

*Whither She Was Sent by Shots
from an American Battery*

*During the Little Trouble with England
in 1812.*

*The Story of the Affair, as Related by
an Eye Witness.*

*Belief That There are Treasures Still
on Board.*

"There, there," says Mr. Boueneau, "there was where Captain Dekan (they call him Dequindre now) placed dat cannon." It was during the early part of the summer, Mr. B. thinks, that the armed schooner attempted to pass up the Rouge. Her coming was kept as secret as possible by the British, but there were many friends of the Americans on the Canadian side, as well as occasionally a British sympathizer on this side, so that it was difficult to undertake any enterprise without its being foretold in advance. The informant in the present instance is understood to have been one Labellan, who lived in Windsor and kept the ferry.

Slowly and confidently the vessel began to pick her way up the Rouge. The settlers thought she might only be coming in from Detroit River to cast anchor, but when the site where now stands the glass works was passed there could be no mistaking her hostile intentions. The inhabitants were few in number and poorly armed, so that they offered no resistance. It was not long, however, before it was excitedly whispered around that help was coming from Detroit. The rumor could scarcely be believed, so lately had the vessel appeared at the mouth of the Rouge that there had been no time to send word to the town, four miles distant. But ere the invader had reached a mile from Detroit River it was discovered by those on shore that she was not going to have it all her own way. Labellan, the ferryman, had informed the people of Detroit of the expected

invasion, and a company was organized for the emergency. Capt. Dequindre took command. He had one field piece and about 80 men, and as soon as the schooner was seen coming up the river the party started for the Rouge. The inhabitants of the latter place were, if anything, more surprised at the appearance of Capt. Dequindre's company on the scene than at that of the schooner in the river. The crew on board little dreamed that preparations had been so promptly made to meet them. They were enjoying themselves on deck, as if on an excursion, relying with confidence on their four cannon to silence any opposition. The whole settlement was looking on the progress of the schooner with breathless suspense, for they fully expected her to be able to do as she pleased, while none knew but that her hold was filled with Indians, and that the Brownstown and Frenchtown massacres might be repeated.

The vessel was getting along smoothly. The bend in the river, near the site of the present glue factory, was reached, and, just as she was sheering to make the turn, the report of a cannon in the ravine not much more than 100 yards distant was heard. This was followed by three or four more, and as many holes were punched in her hull near the water line. Not a cannon was fired from her deck. The surprise was most complete. A few musket shots were fired by those on board, doing no harm, and there was a grand rush for the lifeboats. These were filled in a hurry, and the vessel was left to sink. She did so in a short time, with her entire equipment, not an article of consequence being taken off by the disheartened invaders, who lost no time in rowing to Detroit River and crossing over to Canada.

**IN JULY 1812 THE MICHIGAN MILITIA UNDER THE COMMAND OF
CAPTAIN ANTOINE DEQUINDRE BROUGHT A CANNON TO THE
ROUGE RIVER AND SANK A BRITISH GUNBOAT.**