

The Fate of Chaptain Charles Bissell



St. Kitt's

The War of 1812 caused a collapse to American trade. The tiny American fleet was no match for the British blockading squadrons. Chowan County was on guard from the beginning.

The first 79 local recruits left for Tarboro in August under the command of Captain Jesse Copeland.

The difficulty in reaching foreign ports was great but profits unusually high. Therefore most of Edenton merchants who attempted it shared the fate of Captain Charles Bissell, master of the sloop Betsy.

When Bissell tried to sneak from Edenton to St. Bartholomew Island in November of the year, he was run down by a privateer.

Bissell was taken to St. Kitt's Island in the Carribbean and relieved of his

ship and valuable cargo of shingles before being permitted to find passage back to the United States.