

NEW HAMPSHIRE STORY: JOHN PAUL JONES



John Paul Jones is famous for saying, "I have not yet begun to fight!"

He and his crew were fighting a naval battle against a British ship.

The captain of the British ship thought he was going to win the battle, so he sent a message to Jones suggesting that he surrender.

The story goes that Jones responded, "I have not yet begun to fight!"

No one knows if Jones actually said this, but he and his men won the battle, and the quote became famous.

John Paul Jones was a ship captain in the new American navy during the Revolutionary War.

In 1777, he came to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and stayed for several months to keep an eye on a new ship being built for the war. It was named the U.S.S. *Ranger*.

Four years later, Jones came back to Portsmouth while the U.S.S. *America* was built.

While Jones was in Portsmouth he made many friends with the people of the town. During his stay, he rented a room in a house. The house is now a museum called the John Paul Jones House because he stayed there.

The U.S.S. *Ranger* and the U.S.S. *America* were two of the first ships built for the American navy. Before to the American Revolution, the colonies relied on the powerful British navy for protection. But in October 1775, the Continental Congress voted to create their own navy. These ships captured weapons and other supplies traveling from Great Britain to British soldiers stationed in the American colonies.

