

Captain Lambert Wickes

American Naval Officer

One of the senior officers of Continental Navy in the opening years of the Revolutionary War. Noted for his daring raids on British shipping. In his Sloop-of-War **Reprisal** he took Benjamin Franklin to France in 1776. He was the first American Naval Officer in European waters after the Declaration of Independence. Born near Rock Hall, Maryland on Eastern Neck Island, c 1735. He was lost with his ship in a storm off Newfoundland October 1, 1777. *(On September 14, Wickes left France in **Reprisal**, in company with **Dolphin**, bound for home. Around October 1, (1777) **Reprisal** foundered off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, with the loss of all hands except the cook.)* Benjamin Franklin called him “a gallant officer, and a very worthy man.”

Wickliffe

Major Joseph Wickes, who settled on Eastern Neck Island c. 1658, was Chief Justice of Kent County. Before 1674 the Court met at Wickliffe, his home on Eastern Neck (no longer standing). By 1680 he had acquired 864 acres, the southern half of the island, which he held until his death in 1692. His great-grandson Captain Lambert Wickes, who spent his early years here, served with distinction in the Continental Navy, was lost at sea with his Sloop-of-War **Reprisal** October 1, 1777.