

**SCITUATE, 1747**  
**BOOK 39, PAGE 85**  
**BRIGGS SHIPYARD**

**Hobart's Landing**  
**“Where the Ship Columbia was built”**

In 1747, James Briggs purchased nine and three quarters acres of land in Scituate from “Bathsheba Wade Widdo and Israel Nichols Shipwright”.

In 1773, Briggs built at his shipyard on Hobart's Landing, the vessel ‘Columbia’, the first American vessel to circumnavigate the globe. Leaving Boston Harbor in 1787, the Columbia was commanded by Captain John Kendrick of Wareham. It was, by the ship's log, a 50,000 mile trip arriving back in Boston Harbor in 1790. The Columbia is credited with being the first ship to carry the flag of the United States around the world.

Among other voyages, the Columbia was commanded by Captain Robert Gray on a 1792 voyage which led to the discovery of the river which was named for the ship, the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. During this voyage, the land which became Oregon, Washington and Idaho was claimed on behalf of the United States.

The space shuttle Columbia was later named for the sailing ship Columbia.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.  
and Arnold Briggs  
Descendant of James Briggs  
From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”