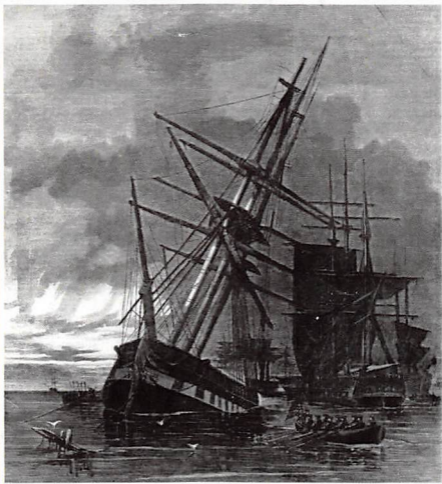


# New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park



## The Stone Fleet

# The Stone Fleet

Stone Fleet One: Dec/19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>/1861

Twenty-four retired whaling ships set sail out of New Bedford by the end of 1861 heading not to the whaling grounds that had made New Bedford one of the richest cities in the world, but to the Confederate port of Charleston, South Carolina. Their purpose was to be sunk in Charleston Harbor with the aim of preventing the Confederates from fully utilizing that city's economic potential.

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**New Bedford Whaling  
National Historical Park**

[nps.gov/nebe](http://nps.gov/nebe) [flickr.com/nebe](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nebe/)

*Image: Harper's Weekly Jan/11/1862*