

Henry Fry, of Quebec, Shipowner

Extract from *Wooden Ships and Iron Men, The Story of the Square-rigged Merchant Marine of British North America*. By Frederick William Wallace, illustrated by photographs and drawings. 8vo. Hodder and Stoughton, 1924, p. 97 :

“ In 1868 McKay and Warner built the ship ‘ Rock City,’ 825 tons, for Henry Fry, of Quebec. This Ship had double diagonal ceiling, which greatly increased the Strength of the hull. That She was a stout ship is Evidenced by the fact that she was afloat as a Russian barque in 1905.

“ One of the best known shipping men in Quebec was Henry Fry. He was of well known Quaker ancestry, and hailed from Bristol, England, and became President of the Dominion Board of Trade, as well as Lloyd’s Agent for Quebec. He owned a number of Ships, between 1861 and 1880, and operated them himself in various foreign trades, and did a great deal to improve the quality of Quebec-built vessels, not only building superior Ships for his own fleet, but urging others to do so. When wooden ship-building declined, Fry tried hard to stimulate the building of iron or Steel vessels in Quebec, but his Efforts in this direction were devoid of results. In 1895, he published ‘ The History of North Atlantic Steam Navigation,’ a carefully compiled volume, but it is to be regretted that he did not write a record of Quebec Shipping and Ship-building. No man had a better knowledge of the Subject.”

Ship-building in Nova Scotia, p. 12. “ The ‘ Harriet ’ was of 600 tons burden and pierced for 24 guns, and was supposed to be the finest Ship built up to that time in the Province.

“ The ‘ Harriet ’ carried 4 real guns and 20 ‘ quakers ’ or wooden imitations. In those days, it must be remembered, the British were involved in war with France, and the guns on the ‘ Harriet ’ were for the purpose of intimidating roving privateers and letters-of-marque.”

Extracted by Thomas R. Dyne, of Grays, Essex.

We have been at some pains to identify this Henry Fry. He was not of the Fry family of London, or that of the cocoa-firm in Bristol, or that of Ashgrove, Wilts. Mr. George S. Fry, of the Ashgrove family, sends particulars of a Capt. Henry Fry (1795-1864), who retired from the army to Canada, and had a son, Henry, who was born in 1826, perhaps the Henry Fry of *Wooden Ships*. We discovered a copy of *The History of North Atlantic Steam Navigation*, on a bookstall at Bournemouth, and purchased it.

EDITOR.