

UNIT NUMBER:

ERIK

AREA OF SERVICE: LONDON-LABRADOR 1888-1891
LONDON-LABRADOR & HUDSON BAY 1892-1900

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Screw steamer, two-decked, three-masted, ship-rigged, carvel-built.

Construction: Wood -- hull of oak
Designer and builder:
Dimensions: Length: 157.8 Breadth: 29.5 Depth: 18.5
Draft:
Number of passengers: Number of crew:
Plans:
Power: 2 engines -- 80 HP (combined) by Gourlay Bros. of Dundee
Registered: Peterhead, London 52,665
Speed:
Tonnage: Gross: 533.32 Registered: 412.21

HISTORY:

1865 Built at Dundee for Greenland whale fishery.
1865-1887 Greenland whale fishery; acquired a reputation as a "lucky" ship.
1888, 7 March Purchased by Hudson's Bay Company from David Gray, Alexander Gray, Richard Badenach Crabb & William Baxter of Peterhead for £4,400.
1888-1900 Voyages to Labrador & Hudson Bay. First Hudson's Bay Company steamer to enter Hudson Bay (1892)
1900, August Stranded near Cape Tatnam, Hudson Bay Eventually floated off and sailed home.
1901 Sold to James A. Farquhar for £2,250.
1901-1918 Newfoundland Seal Fishery; acquired a reputation as a "clever" ship as well as a "lucky" one; also chartered as cargo ship and used as supply vessel for Commander Peary in 1902 and 1906.
1918, 25 August Captain Martin surrendered his unarmed vessel after shelling by U-156; crew made prisoners and *Erik* sunk by time-bombs; crew of *Erik* taken off U-boat by schooner *Willie G.*; U-156 disappeared on homeward voyage to Germany.

MASTERS:

1888-1890 W.N. Shaw
1891-1900 Alexander Gray
1906 Joe Vine
1918 ? Martin



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

G.A. Cuthbertson, "The 'Erik's' Saga", *The Beaver*, June 1936, pp. 52-55, 66
Also mentioned in *The Beaver*, July 1921, pp. 23-24 (1894 voyage) & September 1934, p. 32

PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART:

HBCA Photo Collection 1987/363-E-6

REFERENCES:

A.12/FT 225/1 Correspondence 1891-1900
C.7/53 Miscellaneous Papers 1888-1900
E.188/12-25 Agreements & Accounts of Crew 1888-1900
C.3/119 Portledge Book (with Crew Lists) 1888-1900
Search File: "Ships -- *Erik*"

MICROFILM REELS:

(817)
(2M147)

Filename: ERIK AM/nt January 1990; mhd/April/99