

I wrote this letter in response to a picture appearing in the 2003 March/April issue of Canadian Geographic—it appeared in the 2003 May/June issue.

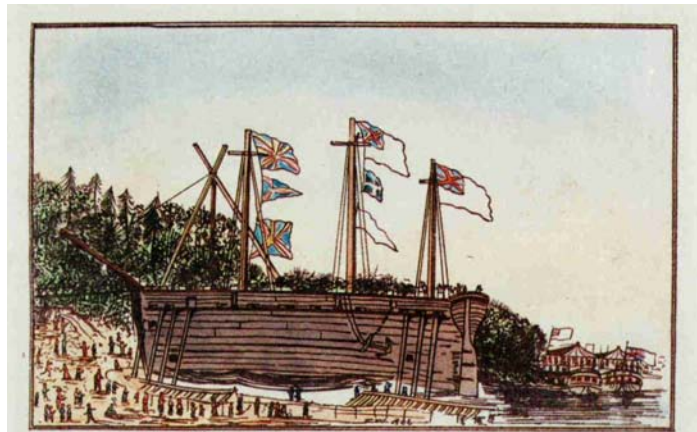
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Good day Rick,

I bought a digital camera about a year ago and have taken thousands of pictures with it in that short time. None have captured my attention though like the one I found on page 63 of the March/April 2003 issue of Canadian Geographic -- of the ship Columbus on launch day in 1824. Our Edgar family history tells of my great-great-grandfather, Charles Edgar, arriving in Canada from County Down around 1820 with his two sons, James (my great-grandfather) and Robert, cutting down logs in the forest north of Quebec, using the lumber to build a ship, sailing it back to Ireland, dismantling the ship, and selling the lumber to build homes. With the proceeds, Charles then emigrated with the rest of the family to settle on a plot of land in Lancaster, Ontario -- the same farm where my father was born in 1906.

When I saw the Columbus picture, I was astounded, riveted, and thrilled! This was about our family -- it confirms what sounded like a far-fetched story from the past and made it come alive. So there really were such ships built and sailed to Britain, just like our family story said. Wow! What an adventure that would have been.

Thanks once again for bringing our Canadian history and heritage to us all.
Warmest regards,

James Edgar
Melville SK



VIEW of the large Ship COLUMBUS on the day of her launch at the Island of ORLEANS 8 miles from Quebec being Wednesday the 28th of July 1824. The length of this Vessel which is the largest on record is 308 feet in the keel. 52 feet wide and 30 feet high. She measures 3700 tons register and carries 7000 loads of Timber. -

The ship *Columbus* is launched at Île d'Orléans, Que. (ABOVE), in an 1824 lithograph by an unknown artist. Rafts of squared lumber arriving at Québec were dismantled, then cobbled together into large, clumsy "timber ships" for the transatlantic crossing. On arrival in British ports, the vessels would be broken up and the timber milled into planks. No other such detailed image of this key process in the British timber trade exists in the National Archives of Canada holdings.