

armament, but Yeo certainly surpassed in keeping open the communications on the lake, and acting in consort with his land forces.

With much fairness Roosevelt ("Naval War of 1812") sums up the year 1814 on Lake Ontario: "The success of the season was with the British, as they held command over the lake for more than four months, during which time they could co-operate with their army, while the Americans held it for barely two months and a half."

With the conclusion of the war the fleets faded out of existence, a few ships only having been kept in service. The dismantled ships were laid up in port and, having been built of unseasoned timber, cut fresh from the forests, either became victims in two or three years to decay and dry rot, or were sunk to preserve their timbers, so thus their form and appearance were soon forgotten. The illustration of "Kingston in 1819" shows the little bay, the lofty derrick in the shipyard for raising the masts, and warships, dismantled and housed in. If there are any records of the working plans of the ships, it would be of much interest that they should be brought to light.

Mr. Justice John Hamilton (born 1833, died 1907), eldest son of the Hon. Senator John Hamilton, of Kingston, said that he remembered as a boy fishing from a boat around the hulls of the old sunken war vessels in the anchorage of Point Frederic, some of the timbers still projected and the shape of the hulls could be seen under water, in form very much like half a walnut shell.

The fine ship *Madison*, at Sackett's Harbor, is described in the *Kingston Gazette*, February 16th, 1813, as "A corvette-built ship of the dimensions—112 ft. keel, 32 1-2 ft. beam, 11 1-2 ft. hold; she carried 24 32-pound guns and a crew of 200." This would be a very round-shaped vessel, with a beam almost a third of her length, and approximates closely with Judge Hamilton's description of the shape of the British ships.

The *Superior*, of 1814, carried 62 guns, with a crew of 500; the *Prince Regent*, 58 guns, and a crew of 435, and the *St. Lawrence*, which never sailed, was a two-decker, to carry 100 guns, which makes one wonder where they placed such guns and stowed such crews upon a draught which could not, for utility, have exceeded 11 or 12 feet.

Much has been written about the movements of the land forces in the war, but there is here infinite opportunity and an untouched chivalrous field for the historic novelist who will revive these ships, man them again with their gallant crews, place his characters on board them and sail them over the lakes in the stirring attacks and adventures, midnight landings and lake engagements, with which the sea story of the War of 1812 abounds.