

Ans'd Dec 21/40

742 Somerset Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
December 11 1940.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
c/o Curtis Publishing Company
Philadelphia, Pa. U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

When I read your "Blind MacNair" in the Post, I had not read the 'Keeping Posted', yet knew you were either a Nova Scotian or had lived there for some considerable time.

Enjoyed your story very much, and hope that you will continue to write for the Post. Would you mind telling me what village you had in mind when you described Shardstown. It would apply to numerous places I have visited, but imagine it would be on the Bay of Fundy when you make mention of the tides.

The last nautical news I had from Nova Scotia, was more than a year ago, when an old sailing ship captain wrote me about one of his trips from Antwerp to New York in 1882. Smallpox broke out when twentyfour days out, and this man who was then first mate, navigated the ship, nursed the sick, buried the dead, and brought the ship to New York without further mishap. There certainly were iron men in those days.

I regret to say that this captain died last March aged ninety-four and I have no marine correspondent at present. He was about the last of the captains of the square riggers from Nova Scotia.

My home town was Truro, and many noted captains came from that district. When I was a small boy, the deep water sailors would come home and tell fearful and wonderful stories of their voyages, and while most of these were fiction or were being repeated from the yarns of other sailors, it certainly was exciting to listen.

Wishing you the Compliments
of the Season.

Sincerely yours,

E. B. DeArmond

ED-J.

Ernest B. DeArmond.