

Owen played in the shift from war to peace on the Great Lakes, in 1815.

Sir Edward's Early Career

Edward William Campbell Rich Owen, the first illegitimate son of Welsh born Royal Navy Captain William Owen, came into the world on 19 February 1771, at Campobello, Nova Scotia.³ Captain Owen returned to England and managed to have his son's name placed in Sir Thomas Rich's ship's muster, as a servant, in 1774.⁴ Edward's navy experience began in earnest in 1780, and followed much the same path as other contemporary officers. After the required time as a midshipman, followed by a lieutenancy he became a captain in 1798, with the requisite patronage of senior officers.⁵ Edward Owen's experience on the French and Dutch coasts during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, honed his skills in cutting out expeditions, coastal bombardment, and trade interdiction. He participated in the doomed Walcheren expedition in 1809, earning accolades for his work in the frigate *Clyde*.⁶ More inshore activity followed until he was moved into the *Dorset* yacht in July 1814, at Deptford. On 12 December he received orders to take command on the inland seas of the North American Station. In April 1815, among the many honours awarded for service during the Napoleonic War, Owen was created a Knight Commander of the Bath.⁷

University of Toronto, 1968), 110-129; C. P. Stacey, "The Myth of the Unguarded Frontier 1815-1871" *The American Historical Review* 56:1 (October 1950), 1-18; A. L. Burt, *The United States Great Britain and British North America: From the Revolution to the Establishment of Peace after the War of 1812* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1940); and Kenneth Bourne, *Britain and the Balance of power in North America 1815-1908* (Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, 1967). There is no mention of Sir Edward Owen in R.A. Preston "The Fate of Kingston's Warships" in M. Zaslow (ed.), *The Defended Border: Upper Canada and the War of 1812* (Toronto, ON: Macmillan Company, 1964), 283-95. Owen is not mentioned and there is very little coverage of the dismantling of the war effort in 1815 in Gerald S. Graham's work *Sea Power and British North America 1783-1820* (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1941). In terms of his biography see, William O'Byrne, *A Naval Biographical Dictionary*, Vol. 2, (London, UK: 1849), 845-846; John Marshall (ed.), *Royal Naval Biography* Vol. 2, (London, UK, 1824), 126-135; "Owen, Sir Edward William Campbell Rich (1771-1849) of Deal, Kent" History of Parliament Online at <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/owen-sir-edward-1771-1849> [History of Parliament]; "Obituary, Adm. Sir E. W. C. R. Owen, G.C.B." *Gentleman's Magazine* 182 (December 1849), 647. While there is an entry for his half-brother William Fitzwilliam Owen, Sir Edward does not have an entry in the *Canadian Dictionary of Biography*. There is no mention of his time on the Great Lakes in the biographical entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, v 42, (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2004), 195.

3 With the creation of New Brunswick in 1784, the island was transferred to that jurisdiction.

4 See "Owen" entry, History of Parliament, para. 1. Unless otherwise noted, Sir Edward W. C. R. Owen's naval career summary is taken from O'Byrne. The ship was HMS *Enterprise*.

5 His patrons included Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Rich, and Vice Admiral John Colpoys.

6 G. C. Bond, *The Grand Expedition: The British Invasion of Holland in 1809* (Athens: University of George Press, 1979), 45-50, & 139.

7 "New Regulations respecting the Order of the Bath." *The Scots Magazine and Edinburgh Literary* 77 (April 1815), 263-8, see 266.