

It was as a ship broker that Wyatt was nearly unique on the Canadian Great Lakes in the 1850s and 1860s. As noted, he had been involved with the Ogdensburgh railroad interests which were actively chartering steam and sailing vessels between 1853 and 1855. We can only speculate about the extent

GEORGE H. WYATT,
COMMISSION AND SHIPPING AGENT,
TORONTO, C. W.,
A GENT for the Oswego, Ogdensburg, and Montreal
 Line of first-class Freight Steamers
BOWMANVILLE, BOSTON,
ST. NICHOLAS, BANSHEE,
CITY OF HAMILTON,
 and Steamers **WELLAND** for St. Catharines, &c.,
 and **GULLINGWOOD** for Sault Ste. Marie, &c.
 and **OGDENSBURG AND VERMONT CENTRAL**
RAILROADS.
 Passage Office for Liverpool and London.
 Vessels always on hand to charter or sell.
OFFICE, 21 FRONT STREET,
 Toronto, September 9, 1856 2002-121

An advertisement featuring Wyatt. (*Globe*, 9 Sept. 1856)

“Vessels always on hand to charter or sell.”²⁸ His offers ranged from sail and steam for sale, to vessels wanted or available for charter.²⁹ An 1862 ad stands alone for the offer of “Insurance on Hulls and Cargoes taken at the lowest rates.”³⁰

In expanding his range of activities from agent and ship broker to shipowner, Wyatt developed another strong relationship within the Toronto mercantile community. A.M. (Alexander Mortimer) Smith was ten years older than Wyatt. Despite poor beginnings and a limited education in his native Scotland, by the late 1850s Smith was a leading retail and wholesale grocer in partnership with John Smith (no relation). A.M. Smith had served on city council, the Toronto Board of Trade, and from 1863 served a term as the Reform Member of Provincial Parliament for Toronto East where he supported the Confederation movement.³¹

Wyatt, in partnership with the Smiths, became a ship owner. In 1859, he had acted as broker in offering for sale “a large vessel, now on the Stocks”

²⁷ *Globe*, 17 March 1855.

²⁸ *Globe*, 9 September 1856.

²⁹ *Globe*, 26 January 1857, 10 February 1857, 9 April 1857, 15 February 1861, 16 April 1861, 4 April 1862, 7 March 1874, 2 February 1875, 8 November 1876.

³⁰ *Globe*, 29 March 1862.

³¹ *DCB*, XII: 975-76.