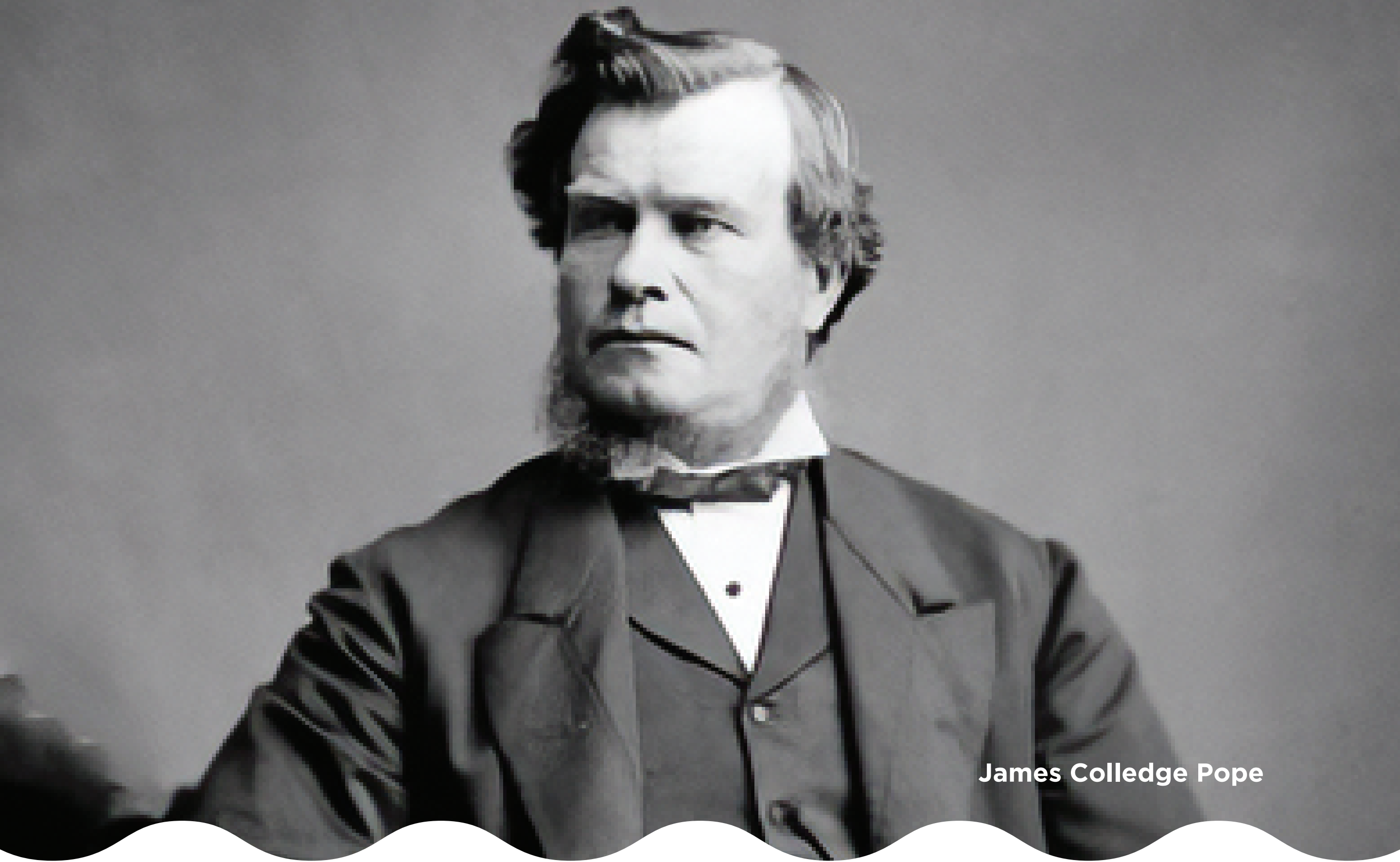




Seaside

CITY SHIPS



James Colledge Pope

Prominent People

Perhaps one of the most prominent Summersiders tied to the Shipbuilding industry was John Lefurgey. Born in Bedeque in 1825, he received little formal education but was wise in the ways of the world and was known for his good common sense.

John Lefurgey married Dorothea Read whose father, Ephraim, was wealthy through farming, tanning, shoe making, harness making and shipbuilding. Around 1854 he established a general store in Summerside and gradually took over his father-in-law's shipyard. In 1864 he registered his first ship in his name. In the next twenty years he built approximately twenty-one ships at "The Golden Shipyard" in Summerside, and seven more in other locations.

John Lefurgey used his ships to enter the transportation business. His brothers-in-law Captains Whittemore Read and Joseph Read were his two best captains as his ships traveled the world in the transport of cargo. As his wealth and social status grew, he and his family moved into a Gothic style home on Prince Street in

Summerside (known today as the Lefurgey Cultural Centre). Sadly, his son, Charles Lefurgey, whom he was grooming for the shipbuilding business, died suddenly at the age of twenty-one in 1883. The following year a 936-ton barque called the Charles E. Lefurgey was launched from the shipyard. It was the yard's final vessel and was considered the Queen of the Lefurgey fleet.



Summerside's Shipbuilders

Summerside had a number of shipbuilders who dominated the local industry. There were also a number of small-scale builders who may have built only one or two ships for their own purposes. The first shipbuilders in Summerside were George and James Walsh who had previously built ships in Bedeque. Their first ship was launched in November 1851. Named The Two Ladies, the ship was a 122-ton square-rigged brig. At that time the shipyard was at the foot of what is now Cedar Street.

James Colledge Pope established the second yard in Summerside. It was located west of what is now known as Holman's wharf in an area that has been land filled. Between 1856 and 1877, the J.C. Pope shipyard built 98 sailing vessels. This number accounted for half the ships built in the Bedeque - Summerside area. In 1875 he sold the shipyard to merchant R.T. Holman who built several ships.

Between 1864 and 1873, **James L. Holman**, a brother to R. T. Holman, built four vessels in Summerside.

James Muirhead had a shipyard towards the east end of Summerside harbour. He produced four ships in the years between 1863 and 1867.

Charles Green built six ships between 1865 and 1868.

Colin McLennan was a merchant and shipbuilder who moved his business over from Bedeque as early as 1860.

Angus MacMillian was another prominent Summerside shipbuilder. His shipyard was located where The Shipyard restaurant is today. He was considered a second-generation shipbuilder in Summerside since he didn't arrive until the later years of the industry. He was second behind J.C. Pope in the number of ships he built.

Meanwhile John Ramsay had a shipyard between those of Angus MacMillian and John Lefurgey.

