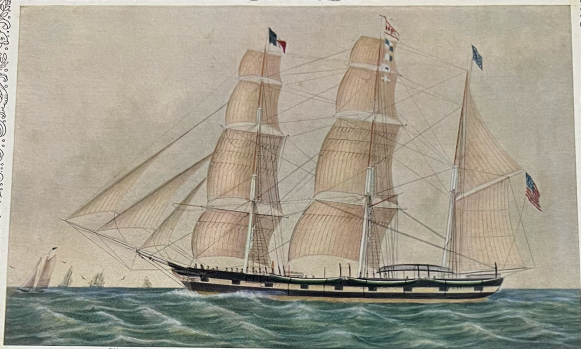




This original water color by Benjamin Russell, the famous New Bedford marine artist, may be seen at our Main Office.

Bark HENRY TABER of New Bedford, Captain Timothy C. Packard, Bound in from Sea

This whale ship was built at New Bedford in 1855 for Henry Taber and set sail on her first voyage on July sixth of that year under command of Captain Prince W. Ewer, returning to her home port on July 25, 1859, after a long cruise of just one day less than four years. She left on an even longer voyage under Captain David C. Kirby on October 25, 1859, and on later voyages she was commanded by Captain David H. Bartlett, Captain Frederick S. Howland and Captain Timothy C. Packard. The career of this model whaler ended when she had to be abandoned in the Arctic with thirty-two other whalers in 1871, a disaster that is recorded in a series of prints which may be seen in one of the conference rooms at the Main Office of the State Street Trust Company.

Henry Taber, for whom this vessel was named, was born in New Bedford, went to sea at the age of fourteen, and before long

won promotion by his pluck and ability. By the time he was twenty-one he was in command of a packet running between New Bedford and New York. In 1852 he engaged in the ship chandlery and grocery business and in 1856 became agent for many well-known whaling vessels, under the name of Henry Taber & Co. and later under the title of Taber, Gordon & Co. Many articles from the Taber office, which was at the head of Central Wharf, are now on exhibition in the rooms of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society.

A granddaughter of Henry Taber, to whom we are indebted for this information, was usually taken by her grandfather on his final tour of inspection previous to the sailing of a vessel for which he was agent. She also recalls that after returning home she was never allowed to stay in the capota of their house to watch a ship go downstream and out of sight, as her grandfather considered it unlucky to do so.

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