

Onboard the *Effie M. Morrissey*

After many years of exploring alongside Peary, or working for others, Bartlett decided to explore on his own, using his schooner the *Effie M. Morrissey*. Bartlett and the *Morrissey* sailed together between 1926 and 1945 and explored many regions of the Arctic, including Labrador and Greenland. Bartlett was accompanied by many different students, scientists, and photographers.

Many experiments and studies were conducted on board the *Morrissey*, and Arctic animals were taken south to zoos. The scientists and students gathered flora and fauna, tested the ice and water, visited Inuit communities, and more. Bartlett was keen on always having an individual with a motion picture camera onboard when in the Arctic; providing a good account of the events during his expeditions.



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Medals and Honors

- ◆ The Peary Polar Medal
- ◆ Medal of the Explorers Club
- ◆ Medal of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia
- ◆ Medal of the Harvard Travelers club
- ◆ The Hubbard Medal of the National Geographic Society
- ◆ The Back Grant of the Geographical Society

BOOKS TO READ

Bartlett: The Great Canadian Explorer by Harold Horwood (Doubleday & Company, 1977)

The Karluk's Last Voyage by Robert Bartlett (Cooper Square Press, 2001)

The Ice Master: The Doomed 1913 Voyage of the Karluk by Jennifer Niven (Hyperion, 2000)

WEB SITES TO VISIT

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum/tours-education/bartlett>

<http://www.historicsites.ca/hawthorne-cottage>

What sits on the bottom of the cold Arctic Ocean and shakes?



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A. A nervous wreck!

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Robert Abraham Bartlett



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**Who was Robert Bartlett?
What ship did Bartlett own?
What happened on the *Karluk*
expedition?**



The Peary-MacMillan
Arctic Museum
& Arctic Studies Center

Bowdoin College

Who was Captain Bob Bartlett?

Robert Abram Bartlett was born in Brigus, Newfoundland on August 15, 1875. Bartlett attended Brigus High School and was later sent to Methodist College in order to become a minister. Bartlett knew that he would rather spend his days on the ocean. He set about to learn how to sail and command his own vessel.

After Bob Bartlett had served many years as a crew member, one of Bartlett's many uncles introduced him to Robert E. Peary. Peary liked what he saw in Bartlett and asked him to be captain of the S.S. *Roosevelt*, a ship Peary used on his last two North Pole expeditions, in 1905-06 and 1908-09. Ultimately, Bartlett would be known as the greatest ice navigator of the time.



Quick Facts

- ◆ Bartlett's family home is called Hawthorne Cottage.
- ◆ Robert Bartlett died in 1946 in New York.
- ◆ He is buried in Brigus, Newfoundland.

The *Karluk* Disaster

In 1913 Bartlett was captain of the *Karluk* on an expedition led by Vilhjalmur Stefansson. He and his crew faced a life and death situation while aboard the *Karluk*, north of Alaska. Many peoples' lives were put in grave danger when the *Karluk* was caught in densely packed ice. The pressure caused by ice against the ship continuously got worse, keeping the vessel trapped with the crew onboard. Finally, the *Karluk's* hull opened up, and water poured into her. Everyone on board got off the *Karluk* and watched her as she sank. Bartlett led the crew across the ice to Wrangel Island, which was uninhabited. Bartlett left most of his crew there while he and an Inuit companion, Kataktovik, traveled 700 miles over ice and snow to the Siberian mainland to seek help.

Almost half the people left on Wrangel Island died because of their lack of survival skills. Bartlett and his Inuit companion found help, and rescued the remaining crew members. Soon after Captain Bob Bartlett returned to Newfoundland he was honored for his courage and skills.



WORD SEARCH

Can you find the following words in the box?

ROBERT
BARTLETT
PEARY
ARCTIC

KARLUK
CAPTAIN
SCHOONER
SHIP

C	A	P	T	A	I	N	P	O	O	G	T
W	N	P	O	O	B	H	J	K	D	R	P
S	T	Y	W	E	B	N	H	A	H	P	E
H	C	M	M	R	O	B	E	R	T	E	A
I	R	H	Y	O	P	P	O	L	M	R	R
P	A	D	O	S	H	C	O	U	P	O	Y
G	N	M	O	O	D	G	S	K	L	S	H
C	O	W	Q	C	N	O	O	H	E	T	J
B	B	A	R	T	L	E	T	T	W	H	O
R	C	A	T	I	R	A	R	C	T	I	C



The *Effie M. Morrissey*

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