

The Three Sisters

In a previous article, “Unsung Hero”, I examined the life and times of HMCS/CNAV *Eastore* (510GT, 176 ft). In the course of researching that subject, I came across a number of references indicating that she had two sister ships of the FS (Freight and Supply) class, *Laymore* and *Westore*. The available information relating to these two vessels contain a number of anomalies that I put aside for further examination when I had the time. This brief note is an attempt to clarify the record.

The history of *Laymore* has been well documented elsewhere, including on the web site “For Posterity’s Sake”, from her commissioning in Halifax in June, 1945, to her ultimate demise on the B.C. coast some seventy years later. However her birthplace is variously given as either the Kewaunee Wisconsin Shipyard or the FMG Bay Shipbuilding Company of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Knowing that *Eastore* had been built in the Brunswick Marine Shipyard in Georgia, it seemed to me unusual that her sister ship would be constructed in Wisconsin. My doubts were reinforced by Don Gorham’s web site that gives her birthplace as Brunswick, Georgia. So I turned to Tim Colton’s web site on “U.S. Shipbuilding History, Shipbuilding Records” which shows that all six ships of the FS class from the Kewaunee yard and all fourteen from FMG built during the war years were delivered to the USCG or the USN and none to Canada. In fact no other U.S. shipyard building this class of vessel during WW2 sent any to Canada with the sole exception of Brunswick Marine. The shipbuilding history of that yard is also included in Tim Colton’s web site, updated as recently as November 20, 2016. It shows that only three FS 510-tonners were ever built there and all were completed in late 1944/early 1945. They were: