

## CAPT. A. J. M'KAY ENTERS LAST PORT

**Veteran Shipmaster Sailed on  
Boats of D. & C. Fleet For  
More Than 40 Years.**

**Death Follows Illness That  
Caused Retirement From  
Work Two Years Ago.**

Captain Alexander J. McKay, veteran shipmaster, for more than 40 years in the service of the Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Co., died



**CAPT. ALEX. J. MCKAY.**

Saturday afternoon at his home, 232 Gladstone avenue. His death terminates an illness, which caused his retirement from active service about two years ago.

Few vessel masters possessed a wider circle of friends and acquaintances than Captain McKay. In the many years he had been with the Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Co., he had sailed the company's passenger steamers over all routes covered by them and had been brought in contact with hundreds of thousands of people coming from almost every section of the world.

### **From Seafaring Family.**

Captain McKay was a member of a family long associated with shipping. He was born 65 years ago at Steiln on the Isle of Skye, off the coast of Scotland. When 17 years old, he came to the United States and soon took up sailing on the lakes. He entered the service of the Detroit & Cleveland Navigation Co. in 1876 and speedily won recognition and advancement. In 1882 he was appointed master of the steamer City of Mackinac, predecessor of the steamer City of Mackinac II, now operated by the company.

In succeeding years, Captain McKay, by his caution in navigation and unflinching courtesy to passengers and others with whom he was brought in contact, was advanced to command of the larger and more modern steamers as they were added to the fleet, and for a number of years carried the title of "commandore" of the line. He brought out among others the two newest ships of the fleet, the City of Cleveland III and City of Detroit III, which are operated on the Detroit and Buffalo route.

In sailing ships on that route, however, Captain McKay missed the many close friends he had made while in command of the company's steamers on the Detroit and Cleveland route and about two years before his retirement, at his own request, he was restored to command of the steamer Western States on the Cleveland division.

Captain McKay for many years was active in affairs of the Shipmasters' association. He had been president of Detroit lodge No. 7, International Shipmasters' association. For a number of years he was of the grand lodge of the association. For a number of years he was treasurer of the grand lodge. He was a member of the Woodward Avenue Christian church and of Detroit Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar. His funeral arrangements, which are not yet completed, will take place under auspices of Detroit commandery.

Besides his widow, Captain McKay leaves five sons, all residents of Detroit. They are Duncan J. McKay, Alexander P. McKay, Thomas A. McKay, Robert S. McKay and Harry F. McKay. Harry F. McKay is now in the United States navy, serving aboard the cruiser Columbia. Another son, David C. McKay, who was chief boatswain's mate in the coast patrol service, died from influenza in October last year.