

CAPTAIN JAMES B. WATTS

DETROIT, Aug. 5 (AP)—Captain James B. Watts, who in the great storm of November, 1913, was the only shipmaster to run his freighter the length of Lake Huron, died at his home here yesterday after a year's illness. His age was 80.

Captain Watts went on his first ship at the age of 13. At 17 he was the youngest master on the Lakes, handling a scow-built schooner for two trips. He retired at the close of the 1930 season from the steamer Nettleton.

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rites Friday for J. B. Watts

Man Who Was Ship Master At
17, Dies In Detroit At 80

St. Clair, Aug. 6—Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in the William R. Hamilton funeral home, Cass avenue and Alexandrine street, Detroit, for Capt. James B. Watts, 80, former resident of this city, who died Tuesday in his Detroit home after a year's illness.

Captain Watts who was reared in St. Clair, went on his first lake vessel at 13 and at 17 was the youngest master on the Great Lakes, handling a scow-built schooner on two trips.

In 1890 he was the first man to sail St. Mary's river at night and two years later directed the laying of the first buoys in the river.

Captain Watts was the only ship master to run his freighter the length of Lake Huron during the tragic storm of November, 1913, which took so many lives.

He retired at the close of the 1930 season, his last vessel being the steamer Nettleton.

Captain Watts is survived by his widow, Mrs. Katherine Holzman Watts, and a sister, Miss Mary Watts, Detroit.

He was a member of Detroit lodge, No. 7, International Ship Masters association.