

Collection name: C. Patrick Labadie Collection

Collection number: TBRC -1 through 18 [TBRC-8 = SIDEWHEEL STEAMERS]

Dates: Late 18th Century to early 20th Century.

Quantity: 385 linear feet + 6 (5 draw) map cabinets.

Provenance note: Collection gathered & researched since early adulthood. Donated by C. Patrick & June Labadie in 2003 to NOAA; housed and managed by the Alpena County Library.

Biographical & Historical Information: The son and grandson of shipyard workers, Charles Patrick Labadie was reared in Detroit and attended the University of Detroit. He began his career with the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, became director of the Saugatuck Marine Museum, then earned a master's license for tugs and worked for Gaelic Tugboat Company in Detroit. He directed Duluth's Canal Park Museum (now Lake Superior Maritime Visitors Center) from its founding in 1973 until 2001. In 2003, he was appointed historian for the NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, Michigan.

Scope & Content: This is an extensive 19th Century Great Lakes maritime history collection. The vessel database is accessible through library's website. See the library's card catalog to search the book collection. The major components of the collection are: vessels, cargo, biographical, canals, owners, ports, technology / shipbuilding = broken down by vessels types (i.e. sail, tugs, propellers), and machinery. Files include photographs, newspaper accounts, publications, vessel plans, maps & charts, and research notes.

Access: Open to research.

Preferred Citation: C. Patrick Labadie Collection, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Alpena, MI.