

JOHN HEINTZMAN BASCOM

We regret to inform our members of the passing of John Heintzman Bascom after a brief illness, at the Wellesley Hospital, Toronto, on Monday, July 17th, 1995. He was in his 85th year. The funeral service was held on Friday, July 21st, and interment was in the Heintzman family plot in one of the oldest sections of Toronto's Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

He was born at Toronto on March 15, 1911, and lived his entire life in this city. He became a summer resident of the Toronto Islands in 1917, and his journeys across the Bay on such famous old ferry steamers as LUELLA, JOHN HANLAN, CLARK BROS. and JASMINE helped to encourage a rapidly growing interest in lake shipping. By the early 1920s, he was using a camera regularly to record the ships of the harbour, and his interest soon spread to vessels that he could observe on excursions to the old Welland Canal and then, in the 1930s, along the new Welland Ship Canal.

John H. Bascom was an insurance broker by profession, but by avocation he was one of the most highly respected recorders of marine history, and he also was an excellent photographer of ships. He worked very hard at his hobby and built up what is believed to be the largest private collection of shipping material on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes. For almost half a century, he travelled to Sault Ste. Marie each summer to photograph lake ships under the most ideal conditions.

He was a founding member of the Toronto Marine Historical Society, and served as its Secretary from the time of its formation in 1968 until his passing, although he had been unable to attend entertainment meetings for several years. He did, however, participate actively in the work of the Executive Committee. He was a member of many other historical groups, and was honoured by the Marine Historical Society of Detroit as its Marine Historian of the Year in 1973, being only the fifth recipient of that distinguished award.

We shall miss his wise counsel, his vast historical knowledge, and his friendship. He worked hard to ensure that each prospective new member received an early reply to an application, and that each issue of "Scanner" was mailed out promptly to all members. His son, Jay, and his wife, Margaret, wish to thank the very many members of T.M.H.S. who have made expressions of sympathy. They cannot all receive personal responses, but they should know that their messages are very much appreciated.

In memory of John H. Bascom, we intend to carry on our very best efforts with the marine collection and with the production of "Scanner", for we know that he wanted them to continue for the benefit of all who shared his great interest in the shipping scene and, in particular, the ships of Toronto Harbour and Lake Ontario.

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T.M.H.S. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

In order to fill two vacancies, the Executive Committee of the Toronto Marine Historical Society wishes to welcome Ronald F. Beaupre, of Port Elgin, and Capt. Gerry Ouderkirk, of Toronto, who have accepted invitations to join the Committee in the administration of our Society. Both are avid marine historians and researchers, and have contributed to our meetings and to "Scanner" over the years. We will value their counsel, and we know that the membership at large will join us in welcoming them to the Executive Committee.

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