

November 29, 1941

## Fielding L. Wooldridge, River Historian, Dies

Fielding L. Wooldridge, 62, river historian, who had one of the largest collections of steamboat pictures and data in the country and expected one day to compile a steamboat history, died at 11:45 last Saturday morning, November 22, at the Veterans Hospital in Memphis. Mr. Wooldridge had been ill for about seven months and about two months ago underwent an operation from which he never fully recovered. Word of his death was sent to The Waterways Journal Monday in an air mail letter from one of his closest friends in Memphis, Capt. Rees V. Downs.

He served on the packet boats on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers of the Diamond Jo Line, the St. Louis and Tennessee River Packet Company and the Streckfus Line. For the past 12 years he had been with the Spang-Chalfant Company river terminal in Memphis. He had written many articles on river history for The Waterways Journal.

Born in St. Louis, Mr. Wooldridge was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Memphis, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, and the St. Peter's Holy Name Society.

Funeral services were held at the Sacred Heart Church, Memphis, on Monday morning, after which the body was sent to St. Louis for burial from Lawrence Mullins Funeral Home on Wednesday morning, November 26, at 10:30. The pallbearers were Robert Kleine, James Fitzgibbons, Ed Davis, John Whalen, Joseph Kilcullen and William O'Connor, and the numerous floral tributes included a spray from the office staff of The Waterways Journal, to which Mr. Wooldridge had long been a contributor. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Marie Schulte Wooldridge; two sisters, Mrs. Dolly Lightfoot and Mrs. Carolyn McLaughlin of Denver, Colo.; and three brothers, Arthur W. Wooldridge of Hammond, Ind., Clarence Wooldridge of Denver and Harry Wooldridge of Chicago.