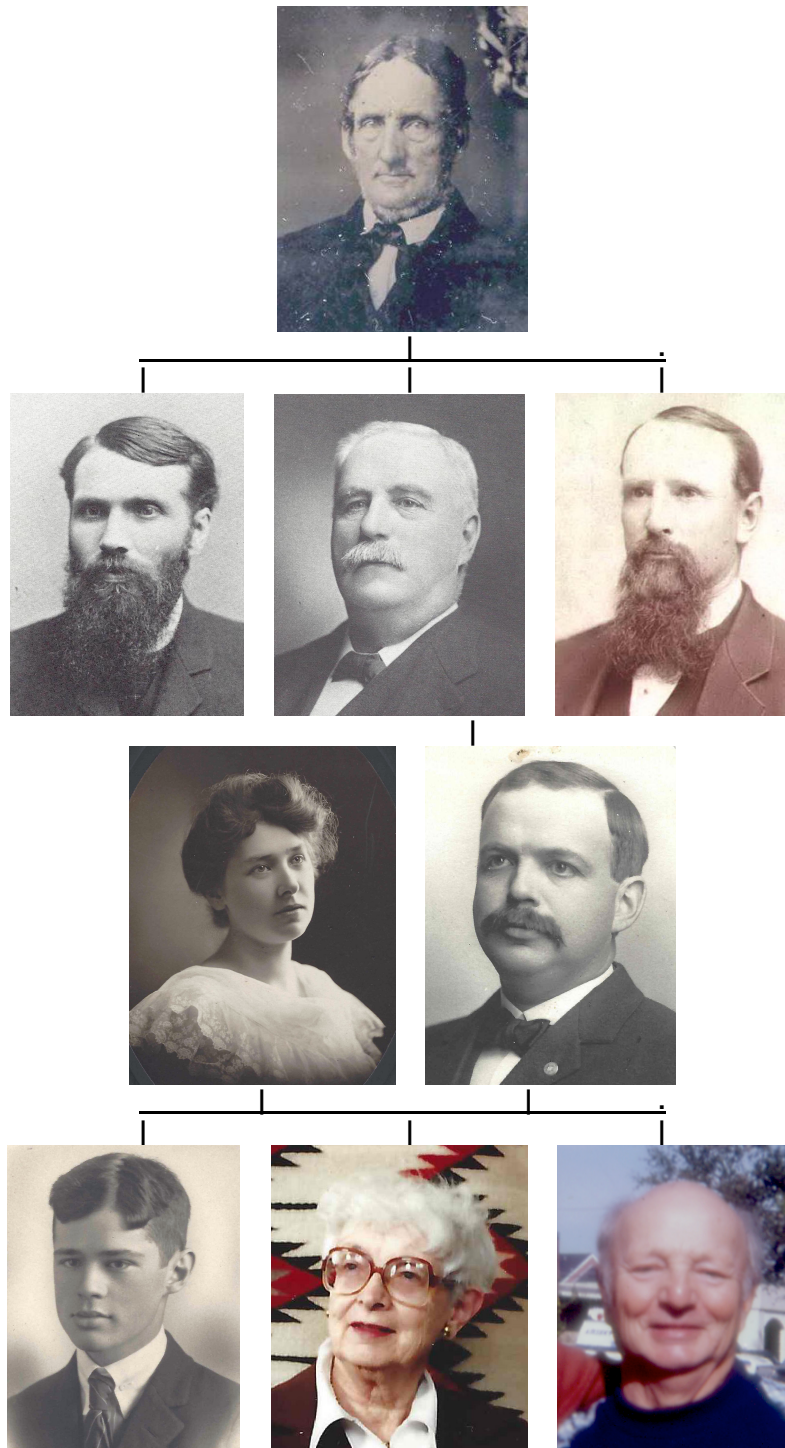


Charles Samuel Neff (1870-1940), his family, and the Neff family of river captains and Wisconsin settlers



Successive generations of the Neff family of Captains and ship masters. Top to bottom and left to right are Orrin Neff, Captain Edwin Marion Neff, Captain Samuel Neff, Captain William Wilberforce Neff, Kate Coad (Neff), Charles Samuel Neff (our featured person), Harold Henry Neff, Marcelia Coad Neff (Fisher), and Charles Samuel Neff Jr.

*by Frederick W. Klein (1948-), Neff family first cousin,
April 2021*

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Fred W. Klein
515 Magdalena Av
Los Altos CA 94024 USA

Orrin Neff (1798-1882) and his sons and their family tree

Captain Samuel Neff (1842-1904) and his son Charles Samuel Neff (1870-1940) were close neighbors of Henry Coad (1842-1904) and Elizabeth Jane Thompson (Coad, 1840-1922) in Milwaukee circa 1900. In fact, Charles S. Neff married Henry's daughter Mary Kate Coad (Neff, 1877-1945) cementing the relationship between the families. Charles and Kate had three children but no grandchildren, and that branch of the Neff line stopped with them. But because the Neffs and Coads socialized, they appear in photographs together, and their children shared a family history. A little should be said about the Neff family in the Coad family history. Also, Marcelia Coad Neff (1902-2003) was the last Neff in this line and was a historian of the Neffs, Coads and Thompsons.

The Neffs were a family of farmers that came from Otsego County, New York and settled Wisconsin farmland near Oshkosh. Neff history is beyond the scope of this report, but a few words and a tree diagram of part of the family relating to the Coads is useful as background to some Neff photographs. One of the definitive works on this branch of the Neff family is *By Paddle-Wheel, Sail and Steam: Abel Neff and His Nephews Captains Ed, Will and Sam 1850-1969* by Marcelia Coad Neff (Fisher), daughter of Charles S. and Kate Neff. A few sentences quoted from the book (in italics) will introduce the Neffs as they relate to the Coads. Another good Neff reference is an all-text is genealogy is *The Descendants of William Neff who married Mary Corliss January 23, 1665 Haverhill Massachusetts*, compiled by Dorothy Neff Curry, undated manuscript. We will start the family tree with Orrin Neff (1798-1882) as the father of three boat captains and the family members that mixed with the Coads.

"In the spring of 1837 Abel Neff (1802-1888), aged thirty-four, became the first of his family to enter Wisconsin from Burlington Green, Otsego County, New York. News of "limitless" forests and government farm land for sale in Wisconsin had been humming along among Burlington farm families like the moving winds... Samuel Neff [1814-1878] and his wife Mary Ann [1830-] followed Abel's route to Spring Prairie [Wisconsin], arriving there soon after the Wisconsin Territorial census was taken in 1840... One year after Wisconsin's 1850 federal census listed Abel, age 47, his wife and family, and his nephew Edwin [1829-1903], age 21, Orrin Neff [1798-1882] joined his younger brothers, Abel and Samuel in Wisconsin..."

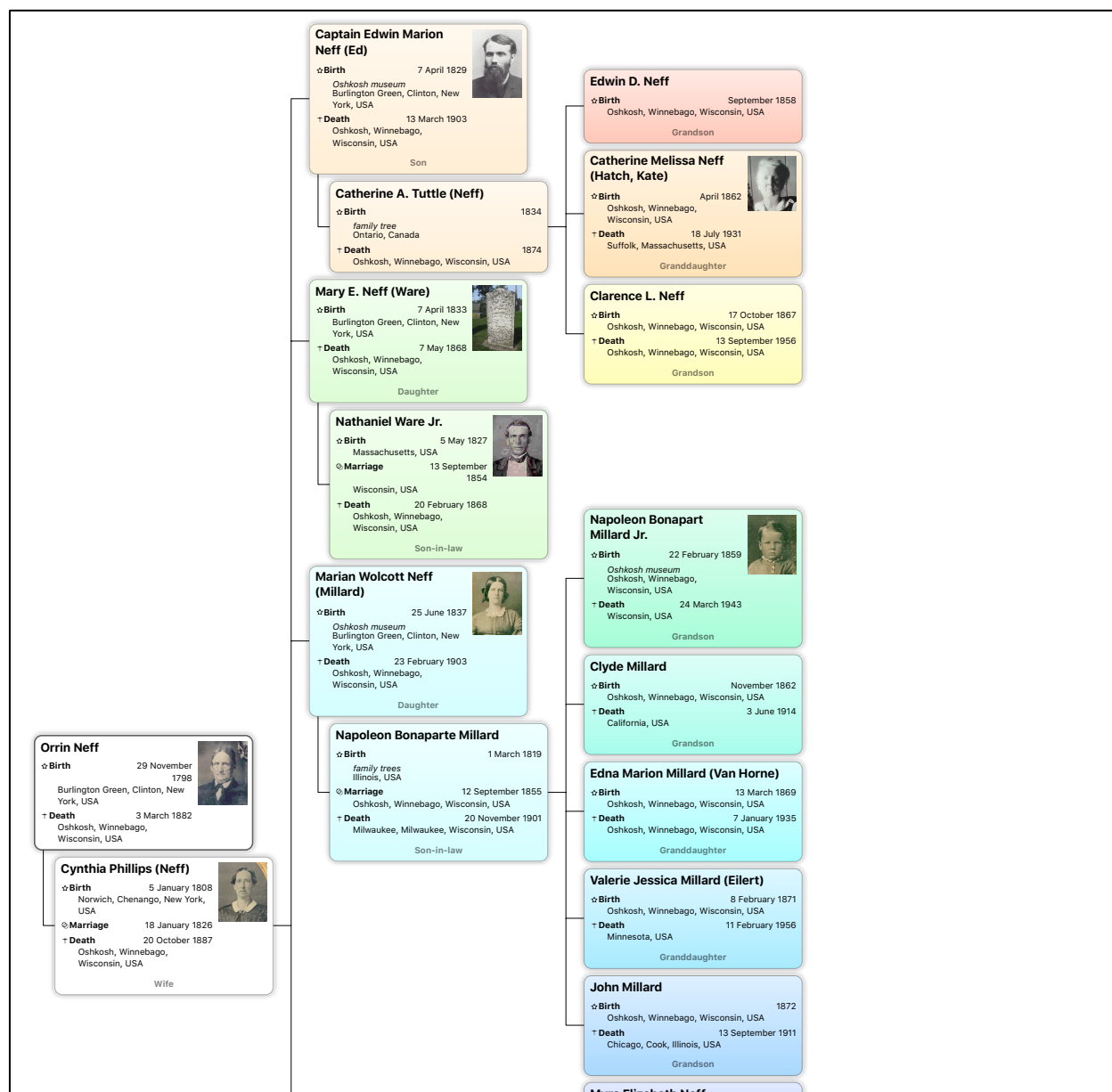
"Six years later, on May 10, 1857, Benjamin Ellenwood [1813-1896], his wife Parmella and their children arrived at Oshkosh from Peru, Clinton County, New York. Their farmland included today's Ellenwood Cemetery. Eventually, two of the Orrin's sons would marry two of Benjamin's daughters."

"A tangle of relationships resulted when the families came together in Oshkosh. Brothers abounded in four Neff families. Eight of these brothers owned and operated freight boats on lake Winnebago, the Fox and Wolf Rivers and connecting lakes, the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, and later the Great Lakes. Five others, a son, two nephews, a son-in-law and another relative by marriage, were associates. Two additional Neff families continued their former occupation as farmers..."

Captain Sidney Orrin Neff (1863-1907), his brother Charles S. Neff (1870-1940) and their father, Capt. Samuel Neff (1842-1904) formed the company Samuel Neff & Sons, General Freighters on the Great Lakes, in 1892. Captain Samuel Neff had been primarily hauling lumber on the Fox River east and west of Lake Winnebago, and connecting to Green Bay on lake Michigan. Sam worked and was raising his family from a home in Oshkosh on Lake Winnebago. But as his boats grew larger and more able to navigate to ports on the Great lakes, Sam built a house and moved to Milwaukee in 1888. His son Charles S. Neff was 18. During the late 1890s Neff & Sons continued with Sam and Sidney as captains and Charles as "desk man". In 1901, the Neff's first steel steamer, the 200 foot Charles S. Neff, was built by the Jenks Shipbuilding Company in Port Huron Michigan. The sleek freighter was christened on July 2.

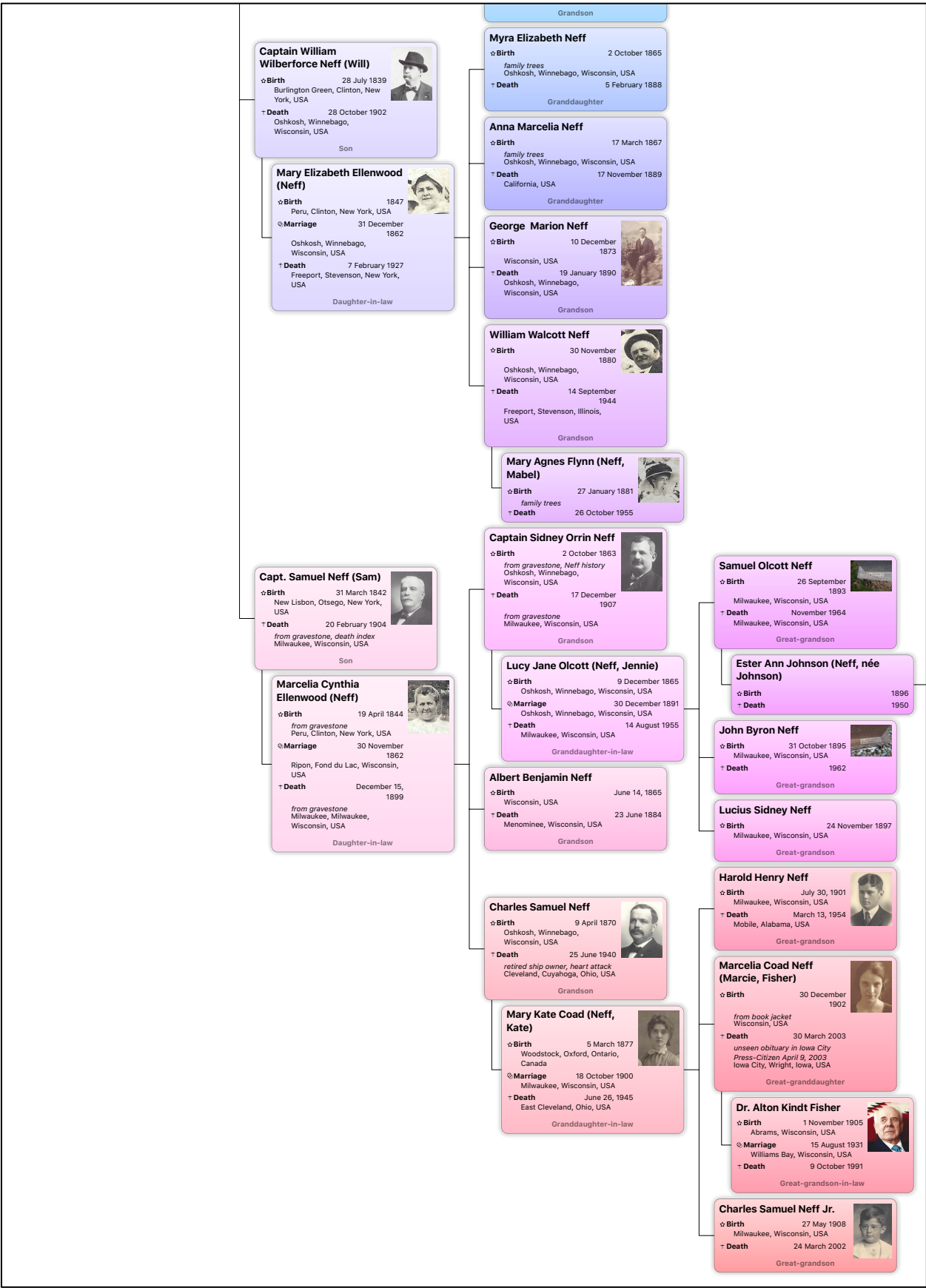
Following Sam's death in 1904, the brothers carried on a joint business until 1905 when they formed separate companies. In 1904 the brothers operated the ships Lucy Neff, the Adella Shores,

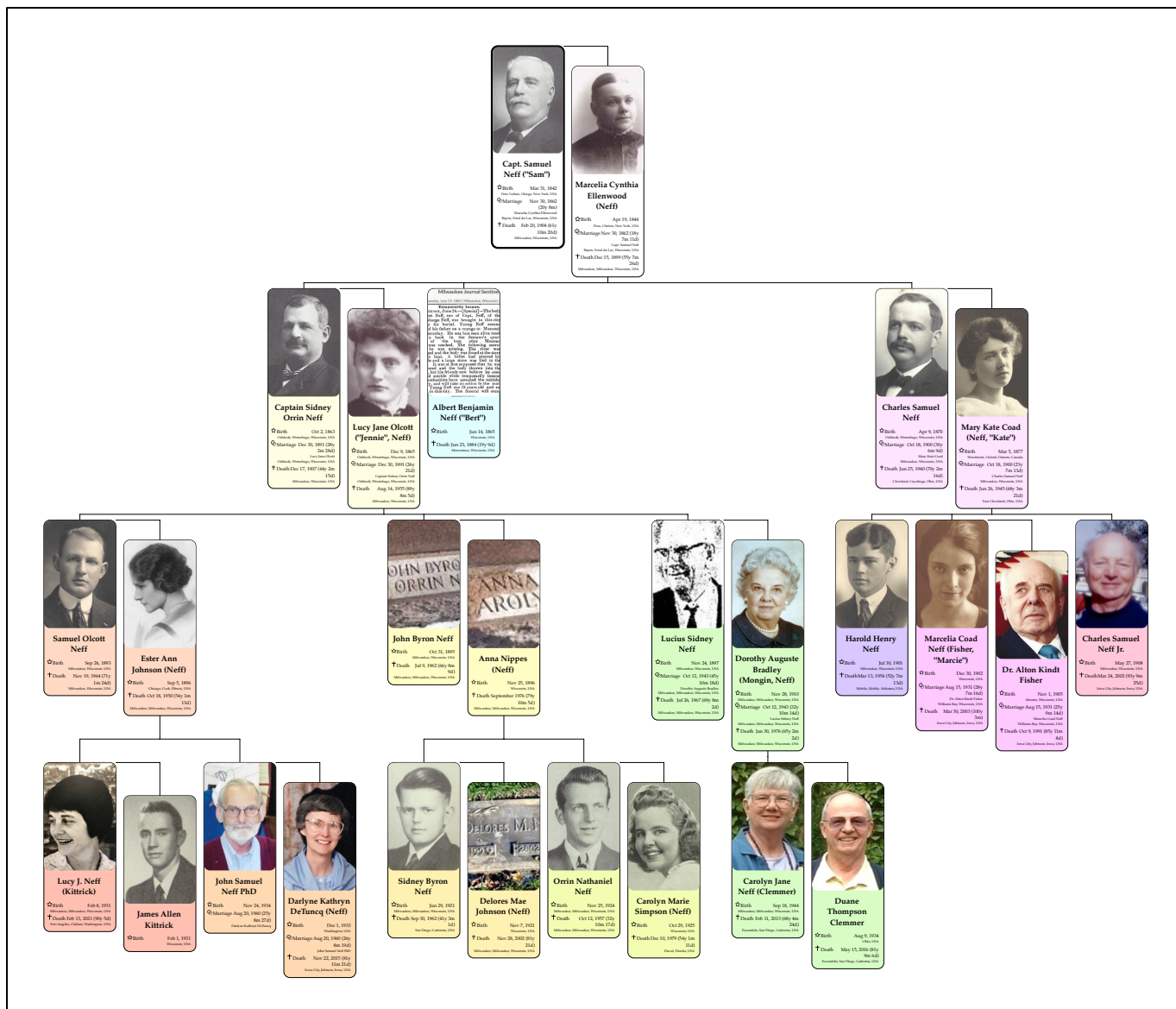
and the Charles S. Neff. Cargoes included ore, coal, salt, and lumber. After the captains in the family were gone, the business was managing and brokering the buying and selling of boats. Charles S. Neff Sr., his wife and sons moved from Milwaukee to Cleveland in 1929 when he was 59 to be closer to sources for their ship brokerage business. Ships sat idle during the depression of the 30s, and Harold worked as an accountant and Charles Jr. as a machinist. Charles S. Neff Sr. died of a heart attack while reading a newspaper in his Cleveland home. The shipping changed greatly with most business going to large ships, trains and trucks. Charles' two sons carried on in a shipping business.



The descendants of Orrin Neff (1798-1882) in Wisconsin, divided into two parts. This is not an exhaustive tree, but hints at the size of some of the family and shows family associated with the Coad family. Orrin, his brothers Abel and Samuel (both not shown) and their children settled in Wisconsin in the 1850s. All three of Orrin's sons became ship captains, and their portraits are from *By Paddle-Wheel, Sail and Steam* by Marcelia Coad Neff (Fisher). All of the known grandchildren of Orrin Neff are shown, but only the grandchildren of Capt. Samuel Neff are included. The wife of Charles Samuel Neff is Kate Coad Neff (at the bottom): she is the only Coad on the chart. None of Kate Coad Neff's three children had offspring. Their daughter, Marcelia Code Neff (Fisher) was a family historian and wrote about the Captains Neff and their boats, and researched much Coad and Thompson family history. The portraits of four people are associated with their names by inference with their position and expected age in the

1911 Coad Cottage picnic photo (see Coad report). They are Mary and Mercelia Ellenwood (Neff), William Walcott Neff and his wife Mary Agnes Flynn (Neff). These four portraits could be of other Neffs than indicated.





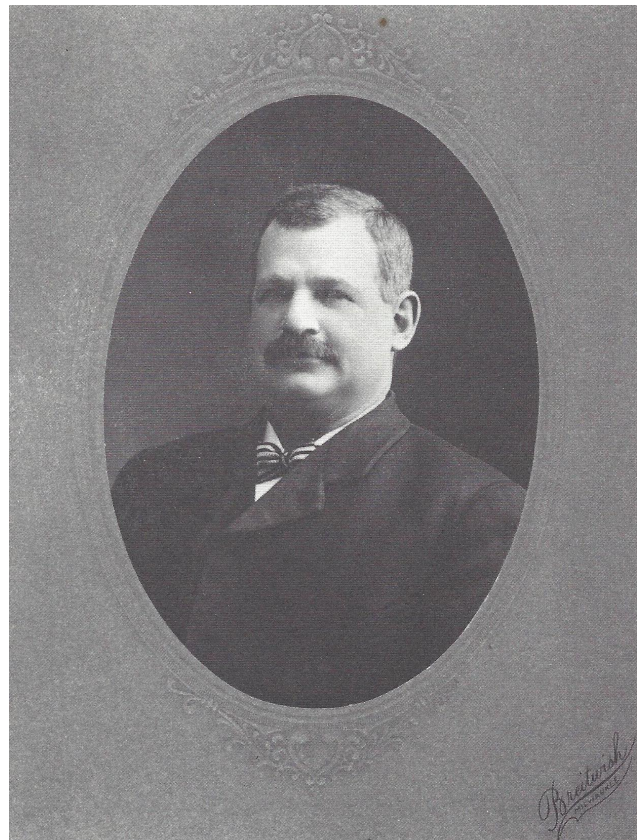
The descendants of Samuel Neff (1842-1904) and Marcellia Ellenwood (Neff, 1844-1899) to the great-grandchild level. The present report is mostly about Charles Samuel Neff and his 3 children. Charles' wife Mary Kate Coad (Neff), daughter of Henry Coad (1841-1904) (the author's great grandfather), is treated in another report on Henry Coad. Photos are from various sources including some high school yearbook pictures.



Orrin Neff (1798-1882) and Cynthia Phillips (Neff, 1808-1887), parents of Captain Samuel Neff (1842-1904).
Photos from the Oshkosh Museum.



Captain Samuel Neff, 1842-1904



Captain Sidney Orrin Neff, 1863-1907

Captain Samuel Neff was the youngest son of Orrin Neff and patriarch of Neff & Sons with Sidney and Charles.



Captain E. M. Neff, 1829-1903



Captain W. W. Neff, 1839-1902

Captain Samuel Neff's older brothers Captain Edwin Marion Neff (1829-1903) and Captain William Wilberforce Neff (1839-1902). These four photos are from *By Paddle Wheel, Sail and Steam* by Marcelia Neff Fisher.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Tuesday, June 24, 1884 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Page: 1

Temporarily Insane.

OSHKOSH, June 24.—[Special]—The body of Bert Neff, son of Capt. Neff, of the steambarge Neff, was brought to this city to-day for burial. Young Neff accompanied his father on a voyage to Menominee Saturday. He was last seen alive reading a book in the fireman's quarters of the boat after Menominee was reached. The following morning he was missing. The river was dragged and the body was found at the stern of the boat. A bullet had pierced his temple and a large stone was tied to the body. It was at first supposed that he was murdered and the body thrown into the river, but his friends now believe he committed suicide while temporarily insane. The authorities have accepted the suicidal theory, and will take no action in the matter. Young Neff was 19 years old and resided in this city. The funeral will occur to-day.

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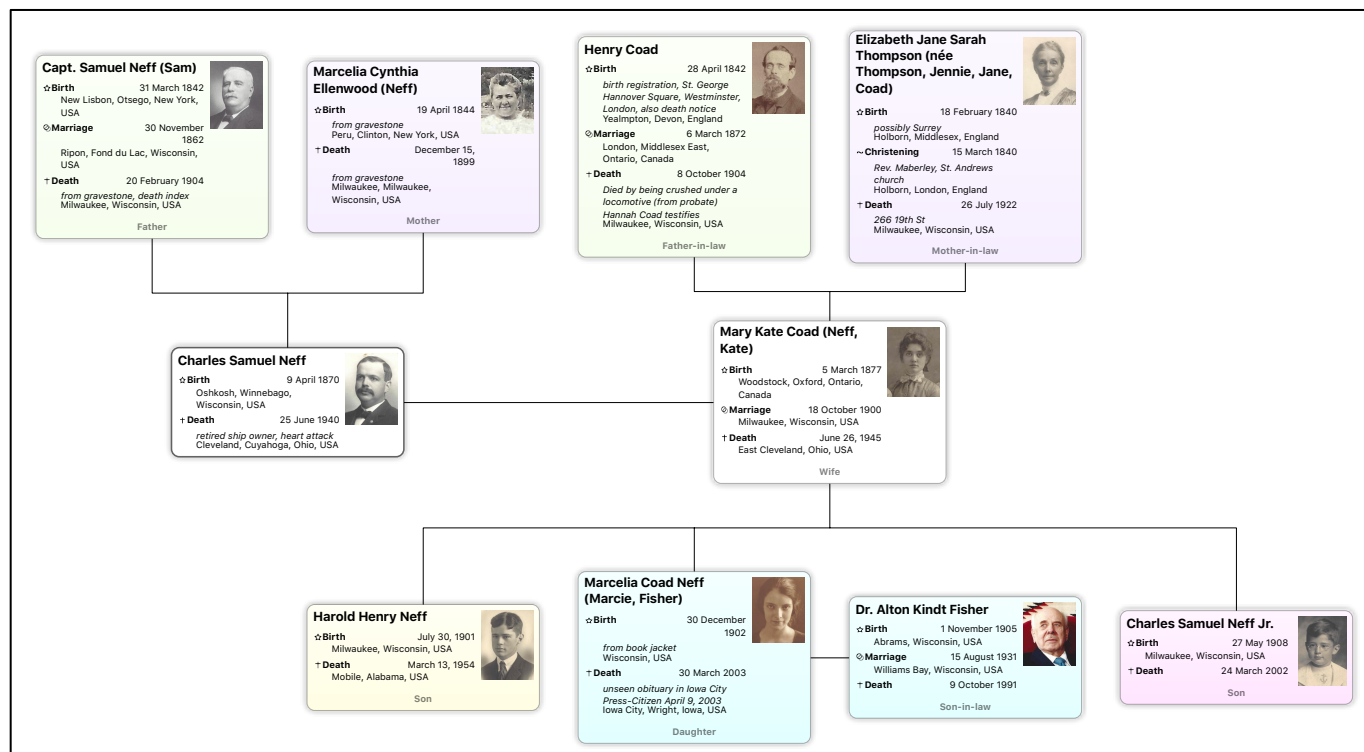
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Albert Neff (1865-1884) was the middle son of Samuel Neff (1842-1904) and brother to Charles Samuel Neff (1870-1940). His death was a mystery but is well explained here. I believe temporary insanity would not be a good explanation now, but a suicidal case of depression might be a modern explanation. The following is from descendant John Samuel Neff (1934-): "The family thought that Albert was murdered by the engineer. Evidently they hated each other. Albert was shot and there were no powder burns so he was shot from a distance. No weapon was found. They were from out of town, the chief suspect had disappeared and there was no way the county attorney could get a murder conviction. To clear the case they ruled it as a suicide."



Marcelia Cynthia Ellenwood (Neff, 1844-1899), wife of Capt. Samuel Neff (1842-1904). She was the namesake of her granddaughter Marcelia Coad Neff (Fisher, 1902-2003).

The family of Charles Samuel Neff (1870-1940)



Charles Samuel Neff's parents, wife, her parents and their children. The Neff and Coad parents were close neighbors in Milwaukee. Marcelia Ellenwood (Neff, 1844-1899) and Jane Thompson (Coad) became good friends.



Charles S. Neff, 1870-1940

Kate Coad (Neff, 1877-1945) and Charles Samuel Neff (1870-1940) made a handsome couple.



The Neff children and women of the Coad family pictured about 1911 in Milwaukee at the Charles S. Neff house. At the center is the "matriarch" Jane Thompson (Coad, 1840-1922). She is surrounded by 3 of her four daughters and 3 of her grandchildren. Jane Coad holds Charles Samuel Neff Jr. (1908-2002). Clockwise from upper right are Mary Kate Coad "Kate" (Neff, 1877-1945), mother of the children, Harold Henry Neff (1901-1954), Priscilla Hooke Coad (1872-1935), Marcelia Coad Neff (1902-2003, usually with a bow in her hair) and Etta Drake Coad (1878-1944). Behind the house is a well with a hand pump to get household water. The house is on the shore of Lake Michigan so fresh well water should always be available.



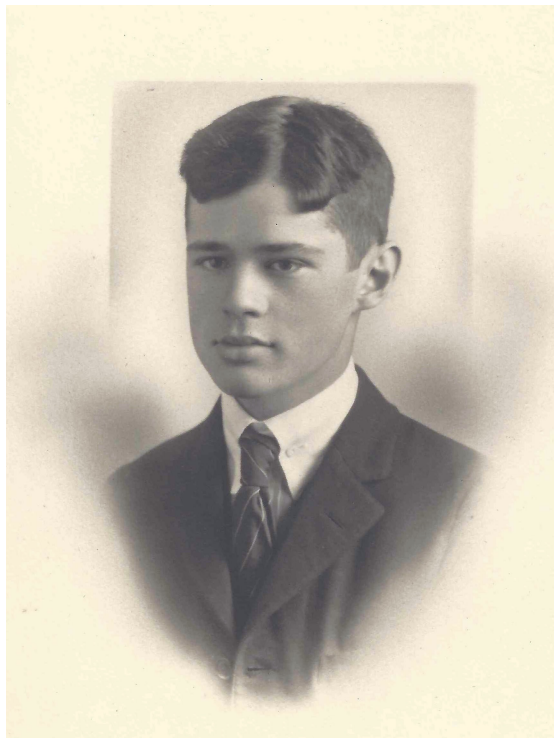
Kate Coad Neff dressed in a fur coat for a cold day, probably in the 1920s. The Charles Neff house about 1911 at 1598 Lake Drive at Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee. The family photo above is posed by the stone chimney.



Neff men and Neff (and Coad) women (and sons). Charles Samuel Neff with his sons Harold Henry Neff (1901-1954) and Charles Samuel Neff Jr. (1908-2002). His sons would join him in the boat brokerage business. Elizabeth Jane Thompson (Coad, 1840-1922) with her daughter Mary Kate Coad (Neff, 1877-1945) and Neff grandchildren.



The Neff family about 1918 in Milwaukee. From left to right, Charles Jr., mother Kate Coad Neff, Marcelia Coad Neff (1902-2003) and Harold. This appears to be coming-of-age occasion for Marce. Marce has abandoned the hair bow she always wore in her childhood pictures for a pretty dress.



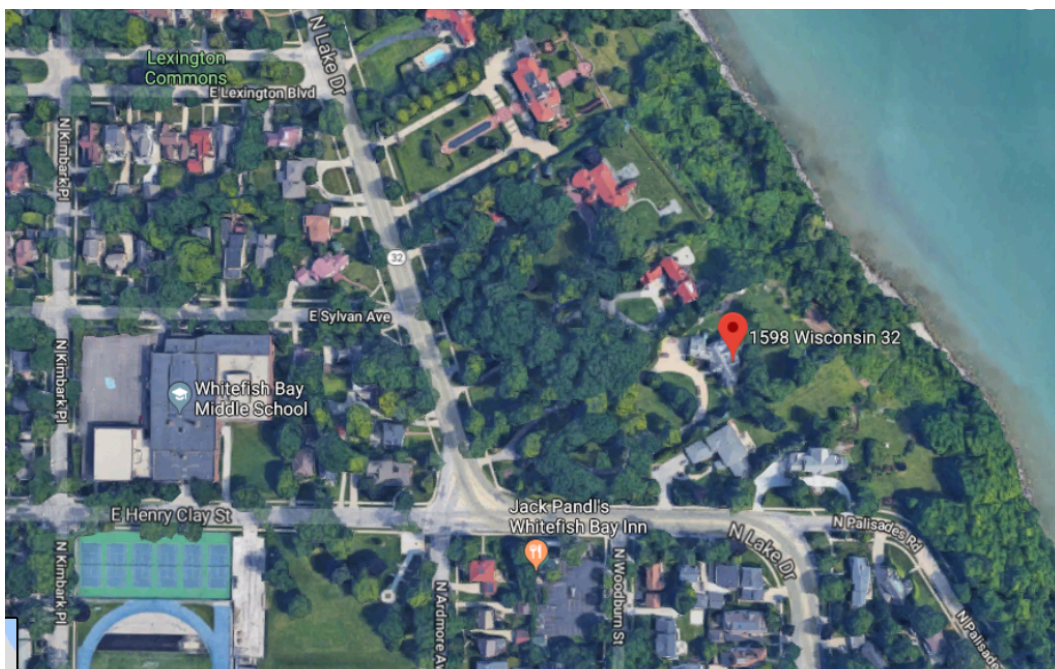
Harold Henry Neff (1901-1954). Harold was born in Milwaukee, worked with his father and brother in the shipping business, and never married. He was working with his brother Charles in Mobile Alabama when he died at the age of 52, and is buried with the rest of his family in Riverside cemetery in Oshkosh Wisconsin.



Marcelia Coad Neff (Fisher, 1902-2003). Marce would become a Milwaukee Journal reporter and marry Alton Kindt Fisher (1905-1991) in 1931. Charles Samuel Neff Jr. (1908-2002) was dressed as a sailor from an early age. He would become a tug boat captain working in Mobile Alabama. Charles Jr. was born in Milwaukee but never married. He is buried with the rest of his family in Riverside cemetery in Oshkosh Wisconsin.



Charles Neff and his family about 1911 at his house at 1598 Lake Drive at Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee. Harold is not in the photo. The house is on a small bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. From here, Charles could overlook the ships come and go. Being a shipping manager and broker, he was an expert at identifying ships and could name them from a distance. They must have just moved into the house because in the 1910 census they were on Grand Av. Charles would have a "crows nest" platform built to better observe the ships.



Charles Neff's 1911-1930 house location at 1598 Lake Drive overlooking Lake Michigan (red pointer). His original house is gone, having been replaced by a larger mansion in a very exclusive North Milwaukee neighborhood.



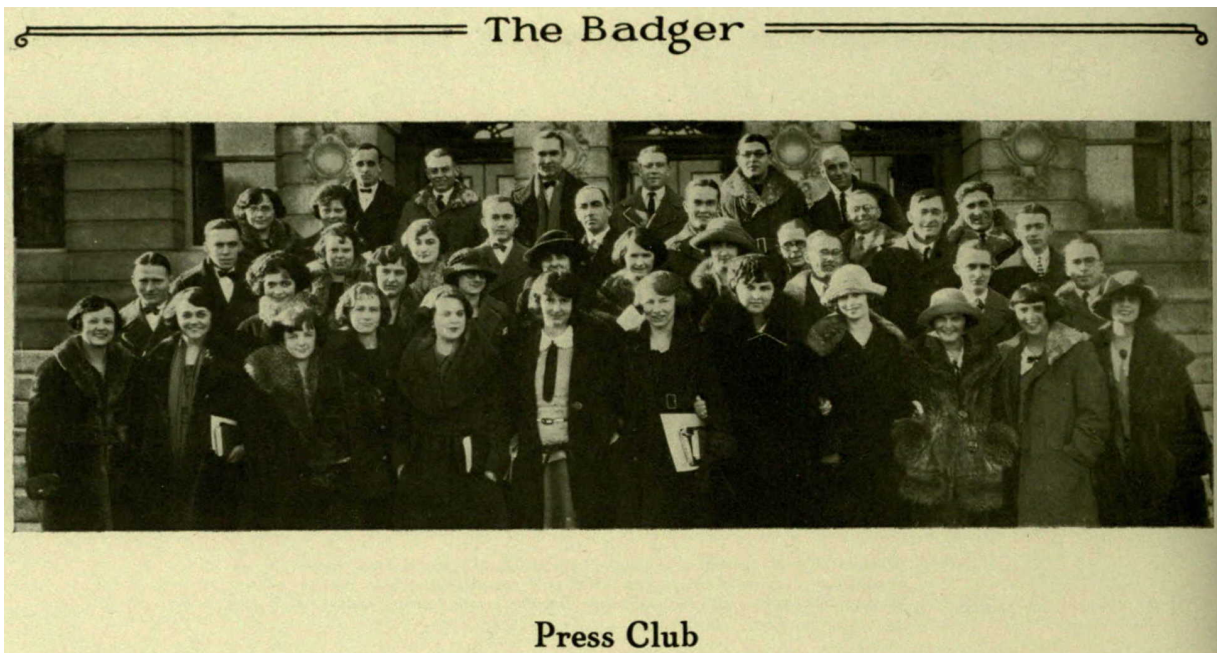
Charles Samuel Neff Jr. (1908-2002) in about 1910 and in 1979. He is pictured in front of his home (in either Mobile Alabama or the nearby town of Ocean Springs Mississippi) with his second cousin June Petran (Rankin, 1915-2012) and her husband Ernest Rankin (1909-2001). The Rankin family is treated in the Thompson report. Their son David William Rankin (1944-) was temporarily staying with Charles while studying at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi. Charles Neff at the wheel of his last tug boat the "Early Bird". After retirement, Charles purchased it to do small towing jobs around Biloxi like moving coal barges. The tug was destroyed by Hurricane Camile in 1969.

Marce Neff Fisher relates the final years of her brothers Harold and Charles. Harold (1901-1954) and Charles Neff Jr. (1908-2002) continued some ship management and brokerage business after World War II. In 1950 they decided to move to the warmer climate of the Gulf Coast and continue ship management. After Harold Neff died in 1954 at the age of 52, Charles carried on and continued the family tradition alone. He purchased the 45-foot tug *Early Bird* at Mobile Alabama in 1954, and began a business of towing barges along the Gulf Coast. Charles Jr. lived in Mobile Alabama. When hurricane Camille slammed into the Louisiana Coast on August 17, 1969, the wheelhouse was found a mile inland, and later the *Early Bird's* damaged hull was pulled ashore. During the night someone carried off the brass steering wheel and the lesser equipment remaining on board. The association of the Neff family and boats had ended. Charles Jr. retired in 1969 at the age of 61 but continued to live in either Mobile or the nearby town of Ocean Springs Mississippi until the 1980s. Charles Jr. then really retired to Iowa City Iowa to live near his sister Marce Neff (Fisher) and her husband Alton Fisher. Alton died in 1991, Charles Jr. in 2002 and Marce in 2003. All are buried together at Riverside cemetery in Oshkosh Wisconsin.

Marcelia Coad Neff (Fisher) and her husband Alton Kindt Fisher (1905-1991)



Marcelia Coad Neff "Marcy" (1902-2003) as a young lady about 1918. In 1924 she graduated with a BA from the Downer Seminary at the University of Wisconsin with a degree in journalism. She was a real writer and worked as a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal in the 1920s and 30s and subsequently wrote books.



Marcelia Neff enrolled in the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1921, and majored in journalism. She wrote for the student newspaper and was in the Press Club (pictured front and center in the black tie) in the 1924 yearbook.

Members in University
Class of 1924
AGATHA McCaffrey
HELEN MOORE
MARCELIA NEFF
ARLEEN KLUG



Delta Delta Delta
Founded at Boston University 1888
Number of chapters, 65
Local chapter, Mu
Date established, 1898

Marcelia Neff in the 1924 University of Wisconsin Madison yearbook was graduated in 1924 with top honors as a "member". She was also in the delta delta delta sorority, a premier women's sorority.

Home Read THE CAPITAL TIMES Saturday Afternoon, February 2, 1924

The Capital Times Saturday School Page

LET'S CO-OPERATE!
This is Your School Page

Reporters For School Page: Here Are Hints

1. Reporters should bring in material to The Capital Times office, second floor, on Wednesday, from 4 to 5 o'clock.
2. Cover your school thoroughly. Make a note of every event.
3. Include as many names in your copy as possible.
4. If you have any special production you desire written up, phone B. 2200 and leave a message for the School Page Editors.
5. Write on one side of the paper only.
6. Sign your name, address and school.
7. Send in snaps of your school, your friends, your sports. Have action in your snap shots.
8. Be accurate! Be prompt! Send in all the news always!

LET'S CO-OPERATE!
Marcelia Neff,
Helen J. Baldauf,
School Editors.

School Grade Orchestra to Play Tonight

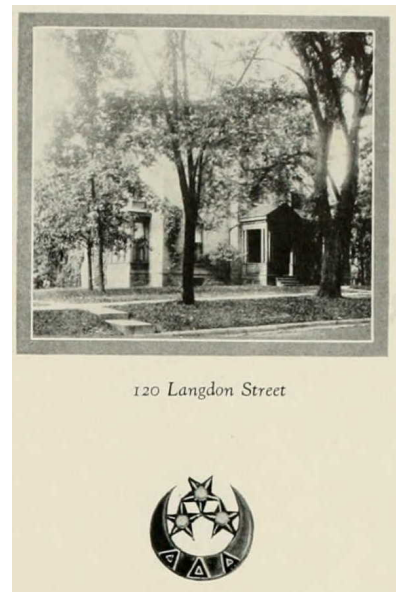
Picked Chorus Will Assist in Program at High School

By MARCELIA NEFF AND HELEN J. BALDAUF
(School Page Editors)

The Madison school grade orchestra classes assisted by a picked chorus will give their first annual recital in Central high auditorium tonight at 8 o'clock. Proceeds from the recital will go toward the grade school instrument fund.

The three-part program is as follows:

Part 1—Lent's Religiose, Chopin; I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls, Balfe; Meditation and Natural Hymn, Warren; The Old Clock in the Tower, Gordon; Choral from Nocturne, Chopin, Marche Majest.



Marcelia Neff went to college at the University of Wisconsin at Madison from 1921 until graduating in the class of 1924. She majored in journalism, and in her senior year she edited the school page for the *Capital Times*, the local Madison newspaper. These are a couple of the many articles she wrote. Marce was in the delta delta delta women's sorority at Madison. Their emblem is a gold crescent with 3 stars and 3 deltas. Their page in the 1924 yearbook shows the house where the sorority lived.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1924

THE EDITORIAL



NEARLY 100 persons are employed in the various editorial departments of The Journal—department editors, copy readers, reporters, sport writers, library workers and others under the direction of the man-

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

DEPARTMENTS



NEARLY 100 persons are employed in the various editorial departments of The Journal—department editors, copy readers, reporters, sport writers, library workers and others under the direction of the man-

The editorial staff of the Milwaukee Journal in a 2-page photo spread on Sunday, 16 November, 1924. Marcella Neff, age 21, is in the first row, fifth from the right.



Marce Neff (1902-2003) enlarged from the 1924 Milwaukee Journal editorial staff photo above. She graduated in 1924 from the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a degree in journalism. She began working as a reporter for the Journal in Milwaukee full time in 1924. Her grandparents were named Neff, Coad and Thompson, and Marce did family research for all three families. Her genealogical work contributed greatly to this author's historical reports of all three families.



Marce Neff and her first cousin and friend (Elizabeth) Jane Klein (1912-1998) in a Wisconsin spring about 1928. Marce had graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1924 with BA in journalism and was working as a reporter for the Milwaukee Journal. Jane would enroll at Simmons College in Boston in 1931 and complete a degree there.

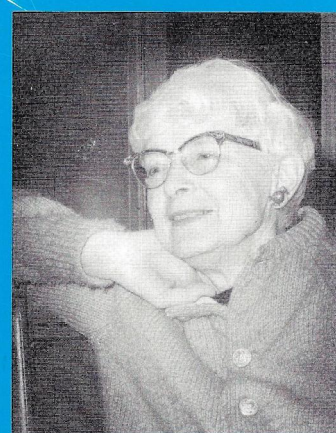
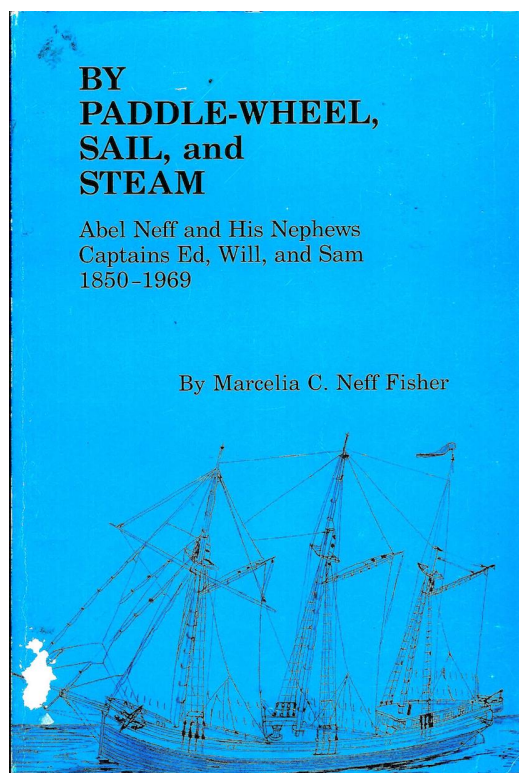
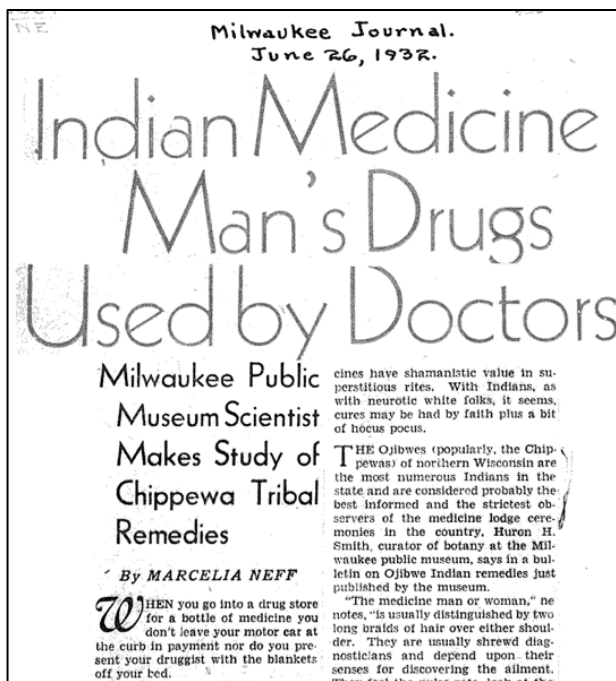


photo by Douglas O. deShazer

Marcelia C. Neff Fisher, daughter of Charles S. Neff, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on December 30, 1902 and developed an abiding interest in ships and shipping at an early age. She was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1924 with a B.A. in journalism, and soon became a member of the staff of *The Milwaukee Journal*. Her career as a newspaper reporter was interrupted when her Naval Reserve officer husband received orders to report for sea duty in 1940. During the ensuing several years "home" was determined by his various duty assignments. In 1949 they returned to the Midwest where her husband joined the faculty of the University of Iowa, and Marce, as she is known, joined the staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Marce Neff (Fisher) wrote the history of the Neff family's shipping business *By Paddle-Wheel, Sail and Steam*;, using the ledgers, account books and diaries kept by Samuel Neff, his brothers and son. Self-published in 1991, the book was the source for facts used here. Marce also wrote the book *They came on foot, horseback & riverboat: early Episcopal missionaries in Iowa City*, published by the author, 1996, 81 p.



Marce Neff worked as a reporter for the *Milwaukee Journal* from the late 1920s until 1942 and World War II. She married Alton Fisher in 1931, remained in Milwaukee, but travelled with him for various Navy postings during the war. These are two of the by-lined articles from 1932, sometimes using her maiden name and sometimes Fisher. from <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Newspaper/BA14883>.



Marce Neff (Fisher) and her husband Admiral and Dr. Alton K. Fisher. Marce was a reporter, author and historian. Dr. Alton Fisher was a dentist, an anthropologist, a professor of oral pathology, an Admiral in the Navy, among other things. They did not have children, and Marce was the last of the Charles Samuel Neff branch of the Neff family.



A conclave of cousins related to Marce and Alton Fischer. Left to right are (Elizabeth) Jane Klein (1912-1998), Ernie Rankin (1909-2001), his wife June Petran (Rankin, 1915-2012), Marcelia Neff (Fisher, 1902-2003), her husband Alton K. Fisher (1905-1991), Louise Thompson (1886-1969), and June & Ernie's son David Rankin (1944-). They are examining a map or diagram from Marce's book *By Paddlewheel, Sail and Steam*. Marce and Jane are first cousins (their mothers were sisters), were close friends living in Milwaukee, and collaborated on family history. June and Jane are second cousins (Jane's grandmother and June's grandfather were siblings). All live in California's San Francisco Peninsula except for the Fishers who were visiting from Iowa City. Fred Klein took the picture about 1966. The photo was taken in Los Altos California on Magdalena Ave. at the home of Jane Klein.



Alton Fisher, Marce Coad Neff (Fisher) and Charles Neff Jr. in their retirement. Alton is pictured on an Iowa farm. Marce and Charles lived in nearby apartments in a retirement complex in Iowa City. Photos from the collection of Marce's first cousin John Samuel Neff PhD (1934-) from his website <https://www.john-neff-iowa-city-ia.com>.

Alton Kindt Fisher (1905-1991): dentist , educator , pathologist

Here is Alton Fisher's career summary on Prabook, the World Biographical Encyclopedia:

Alton Kindt Fisher, American dentist, pathologist, educator. Research normal and pathologic tissue respiration, physical anthropology and paleopathology, from 1951; arctic animals Naval Arctic Research Laboratory, Point Barrow, 1958-1959, 68, 69-71. Recipient Lapham medal Wisconsin Archeological Society, 1946.

Background

Fisher, Alton Kindt was born on November 1, 1905 in Abrams, Wisconsin, United States. Son of Fred Ward and Edith Bertha (Kindt) Fisher.

Education

Student, University Wisconsin, 1932. Doctor of Dental Surgery, Marquette University, 1935. Bachelor of Science, Loyola University, 1948. Graduate study, Tulane University, 1949.

Career

Assistant anthropology, Milwaukee Public Museum, 1927-1932; intern, Milwaukee Children's Hospital, 1935-1936; private dental practice, Milwaukee, 1936-1940; research associate, Milwaukee Public Museum, from 1937; instructor histology, Marquette U., 1937-1940; attending dentist, St. Joseph's Hospital, 1937-1940; assistant professor pathology, Loyola University, New Orleans, 1945-1947; professor, Loyola University, 1947-1949; professor, head department oral pathology, U. Iowa, 1949-1973; professor, head department stomatology, U. Iowa, 1958-1965; assistant dean for research, U. Iowa, 1973-1974; professor emeritus, U. Iowa, from 1974; Adjunct Professor anthropology, U. Iowa, from 1976; physical anthropologist, Office of State Archeologist of Iowa, from 1976. Visiting dental surgeon Charity Hospital Louisiana, New Orleans, 1946-1949. Consultant VA Hosp., Des Moines, 1951-1954, Iowa City, 1954-1974.

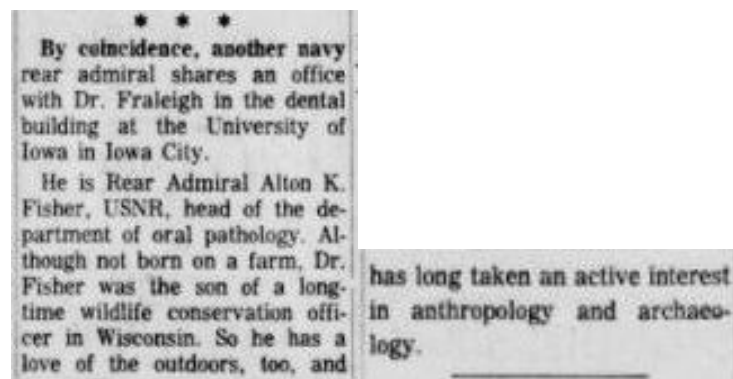
Achievements

Research normal and pathologic tissue respiration, physical anthropology and paleopathology, from 1951. Arctic animals Naval Arctic Research Laboratory, Point Barrow, 1958-1959, 68, 69-71.

Works Author articles on pathology.

Membership

Served to Commander United States Navy, 1940-1946. Rear admiral Reserve retired. Fellow American College Dentists, International Association Dental Research, American Academy Oral Pathology, American Anthropological Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Explorers Club. Member International Academy Pathology, American Dental Association, Federation Dentaire Internationale, American Society Clinical Pathologists, Wisconsin Archeological Society, Archaeol. Institute American, Arctic Institute North America, American Polar Society, American Association Physical Anthropologists, Sigma Xi, Omicron Kappa Upsilon. Clubs: Mason.



A minor mention of Alton Fisher is in an article "Eastern Iowa claims four Admirals raised on farms" in *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, of November 6, 1966, page 22. Though not raised on a farm, Alton shares an office with another dental professor who was.



RETIREES—Rear Adm. Alton K. Fisher of Route 1 has retired from the Navy after 43 years of active and reserve service. The rank is one of the highest ever attained by an Iowa City area

resident. He also is one of the few men ever to begin service as a seaman second class and advance in rank as far as rear admiral.

Rear Adm. Fisher Retires From Navy After 43 Years

Rear Adm. Alton K. Fisher of Route 1 has retired from the Navy after nearly 43 years of active and reserve duty.

At a retirement dinner at the University Athletic Club Saturday night, he received a certificate of merit from the Naval surgeon general "in recognition of your distinguished career in the service of our country."

Dr. Fisher, professor and head of the department of oral pathology at University Hospital, is one of only a few men to start as seaman second class and advance in rank as far as rear admiral.

During World War II, Dr. Fisher designed and supervised the organization of mobile dental units which remain in use today. He served aboard the U.S.S. Paduchan just prior to the war.

Dr. Fisher served at the Naval Training Center at Newport from 1941 to 1944. He served as the sixth district dental officer in 1945.

Among numerous other Naval duties, he served on a three-month Arctic research expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska

to study tissue physiology of Arctic animals. This expedition was made in 1958.

Post Office Carrier, Clerk Positions Open

The Iowa City postmaster is seeking applicants for clerk and carrier positions.

Starting salary is \$2.64 per hour, with periodic increases to \$3.60 an hour. Ten per cent extra will be paid for work between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

Area Youth To Tour With ISU Chorus

WEST LIBERTY — Tomas Carey of West Liberty is among 65 Iowa State University members of the Iowa State Singers who will go on tour March 2-6. The chorus will give 11 performances in four states.

Listed as a highlight of the tour is a "Salute to the Nebraska Centennial," to be presented in Omaha on March 3.

Born at Abrams, Wis., Nov. 1, 1905, Dr. Fisher attended the University of Wisconsin from 1925 to 1932. He received his dental degree from Marquette University in 1935 and his bachelor of science degree in biology and pathology at Loyola University in 1948. He did graduate study at Tulane University in 1948-49.

He has been at U-Hospital since 1949, and is the author of numerous articles that have appeared in medical and dental publications.

Dr. Fisher received the Lapham Medal from the Wisconsin Archeological Society and is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, American Academy of Oral Pathology and American Anthropological Association.

He is a member of the International Academy of Pathology, American Dental Association, Federation Dentaire Internationale, Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, American Society of Clinical Pathology and International Association of Dental Research.

3 of 36

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This 1967 article about Alton K. Fisher is an excellent summary of his career and the first 62 years of his life.

SUMNER GAZETTE

THE NEWSPAPER WITH A FUTURE, SERVING SUMNER, THE CITY WITH A FUTURE!

VOL. 87, NO. 21

SUMNER, BREMER COUNTY, IOWA, MAY 23, 1968

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$5.00



REAR ADMIRAL
ALTON K. FISHER
USNR (Ret.)

The program at the cemetery will include a brief dedication of the newly installed podium, a ceremony honoring those of this community who gave their lives while in service, and the featured address by the distinguished Alton K. Fisher, Rear Admiral, USNR (Ret.).

Rear Admiral Fisher is a member of the faculty, College of Dentistry, State University of Iowa, Iowa City.

A native of Wisconsin, he began his naval career as a seaman, second class in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force which became the U. S. Naval Reserve in 1925.

He held the rating of gunner's mate third class when he was commissioned as a deck officer in the rank of ensign in 1929. Although he had earned his dental degree soon after being promoted to lieutenant (junior grade), he continued to maintain his qualifications as a line officer and was ordered to sea duty in 1940 as a watch, division and gunnery officer.

In 1941 he was transferred to

the Dental Corps and was assigned to duty ashore in a series of administrative capacities. By 1945 he had been promoted to Commander and was serving as assistant to the District Dental Officer of the Eighth Naval District. He was returned to inactive duty in 1948.

After the war, Fisher joined the faculty of Loyola University in New Orleans, La. He came to the University of Iowa as a professor and head of oral pathology in 1949.

Fisher was promoted to Captain in 1954. In 1958 he was in command of an Arctic research project sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1961. Admiral Fisher was retired in 1967.

Alton Fisher, even after retirement, was frequently called upon to make public presentations and speeches. Here he dedicated part of a cemetery at a memorial day ceremony. The article also gives a brief summary of his military career. This is an excerpt from an article published in the *Sumner (Iowa) Gazette* on May 23, 1968.

Iowa Professor of Old Bones Is Here Studying Museum's

Bones and skulls brown with age are the research province of Dr. Alton K. Fisher of Iowa City, Iowa.

He is in Milwaukee studying the public museum's collection of prehistoric Indian remains. Dr. Fisher is a former Milwaukee dentist and a former research assistant in anthropology at the museum. His wife is the former Marcela C. Neff, formerly of The Milwaukee



Dr. A. K. Fisher

Journal editorial staff. Dr. Fisher helped collect the skulls and bones he is studying. He will use data and photographs from the research for reports and for classes he teaches at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Fisher was an instructor in Marquette university's dental school and a staff member of St. Joseph's hospital while in Milwaukee. He left Milwaukee in 1940 to go on active duty with the navy. He now is professor of oral pathology in the university's college of dentistry and assistant professor of pathology in the college of medicine.

His studies so far have convinced him that one of Wisconsin prehistoric man's most common diseases was arthritis. Spine sections swollen with the addition of abnormal bone growth show that prehistoric man was attacked by spinal arthritis, Dr. Fisher said.

He will bring back photographs of the affliction to show his classes. The university collection, he said, has no such examples.

Other pieces of bone pierced with arrowheads show that the ancient tribes lived violently.

One Indian is believed, from the bone remains available, to have lived despite an arrow that entered through the abdomen and lodged in his backbone. He pulled out all but the arrowhead. That stayed with him through life, Dr. Fisher said.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1973



Dr. A. K. Fisher

Oral Pathologist, Arctic Researcher, Retired Admiral

A couple of newspaper articles about Alton Fisher. The article above from 3 August 1950 in the *Milwaukee Journal* tells of his anthropological work on a trip to work in Milwaukee. The article could have been written by his wife Marce, a former Milwaukee Journal reporter. The article at right is a lengthy summary of Alton's career in several fields including oral pathology, Arctic research and Admiral in the Navy. It is from the 25 April 1973 edition of the *Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*. Only the photo and the first of 3 sections are shown.

The Arctic Lures Admiral-Dentist

By Art Hough

IOWA CITY — You'd better believe it. A. K. Fisher, 67, is a man of varied talents. He has been an admiral in the navy, an anthropologist, an Arctic researcher and a dentist during his lifetime. And yet, he is a man whose life has "jelled" in a way you wouldn't believe.

Dr. Alton K. Fisher has been head of the oral pathology department of the University of Iowa's college of dentistry since 1949.

He retired as a rear admiral in 1967. He made his most recent research journey to Alaska in 1971.

Among other honors and affiliations, he is a fellow in the American Academy of Oral Pathology; a fellow, American Anthropological Assn.; fellow, American College of Dentists, and fellow, American Assn. for the Advancement of Science. He received the Laphan medal of the Wisconsin Archeological Society in 1946 "for distinguished anthropological research."

Dr. Fisher says his early interest was in anthropology — really an interest in ancient history, in which his mother had an interest.

"I remember," he said, his

42 years of navy life showing in his erect military bearing, "when I was about 8 years old, she took me to visit the Milwaukee public museum, at that time the largest city-owned museum in the U.S. Things just started to bloom from then."

Fisher was born at Abrams, Wis., 30 miles northwest of Green Bay, but the family moved to Gillett when he was 6, and still later, lived near Madison.

Interest In Chemistry

"Another event occurred when I was about 11. I saw a movie which had to do with chemistry, which I knew nothing about, and it intrigued me. It was instrumental in getting me interested in chemistry in a very, very simple sort of way."

He said he didn't have one of those home chemistry sets. "I sort of fabricated things out of old jars and bottles. I didn't have anything much more dangerous than vinegar to work with."

Dr. Fisher believes that his early impressions had a permanent effect on his later life.

"When I was a few years

"I didn't know anything about navy ships. I asked him what it was all about. He explained it and said, 'Do you want to enlist?'"

"I said 'Yes.' It was as simple as that."

Assistant Curator

Fisher was 20 when he enlisted in the naval reserve in 1925. He got some active duty, then made up his mind to go to school. He matriculated at the University of Wisconsin on a reduced schedule.

"This continued for a little while and then my anthropological interests started to express themselves."

Because of his interest in anthropology, he and W. C. McKern, the curator of the museum, hit it off. Before long Fisher was offered a job as an assistant. He turned it down to continue his school work in anthropology as well as required biological science. But when the opportunity arose again later he accepted the job — for seven years —

(Continued on Page 6B, Col. 5)

Mornin' K 4444

"When I was a few years older, I saw another movie about a merchant ship. I had no conception of the sea, but that intrigued me, too."

By the time he was in high school, young Alton fully intended to get into biological work, but, did various jobs, including a spell in the lumber camps and a summer as an orderly in a Milwaukee hospital.

In Milwaukee one day, he saw a sailor sitting by a dock where a small navy ship was tied up.

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REGISTER PHOTO BY HARRY BAUMERT



Dr. Alton K. Fisher, retired rear admiral, looks through a magnifier in the pathology laboratory at the University of Iowa dental school. He works daily without salary.

An article about the life of Alton K. Fisher (1905-1991) in the Des Moines Register on June 23, 1982, when Alton was 76. He led an accomplished life and continued working into retirement. He was head of the oral pathology department at the University of Iowa dental school, but also was a professional archeologist and physical anthropologist, and a rear Admiral who organized mobile dental units in the Navy in World War II. The text of the article is below.

The article mentions research conducted by Alton Fisher at the Arctic Research Laboratory in Barrow Alaska. A mention of his work in *A HISTORY (1947-1966) OF THE NAVAL ARCTIC RESEARCH LABORATORY AT POINT BARROW, ALASKA (PREPARED UNDER OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH)* is "Alton K. Fisher and his group from the State University of Iowa continued work on the project begun in 1958 on the oxygen consumption of tissues, in this case, seal tissues. During the 1959 season Fisher and his assistants .. extended the study to include also the tissues of lemmings, mice, ground squirrels, whales, and walrus."

How the retired rear admiral and ancient bones found identity

By ROBERT HULLIHAN

Register Staff Writer

IOWA CITY, IA. — It seems an unlikely place to find a retired rear admiral at work, this brightly lighted room where human skulls and lesser bones in wooden trays await the attention of Alton K. Fisher.

Fisher, a magisterial presence at 76, is the rear admiral, retired.

Most of the bones are those of people who lived centuries before their land became Iowa.

It is Fisher's job to make a general identification of the individuals who once contained the bones — sex, stature, race, age at death.

He is the state's foremost authority on the identification of humans from their skeletal remains and teeth.

If this seems to be an oblique ability to find in an admiral, it is not so in Fisher's case.

His skills range from being "a pretty fair electrician" through anatomy, pathology, anthropology, physiology, maxillo-facial surgery, dentistry and research.

And, if Fisher has the time, he is happy to chat about medieval days. "The 14th is my favorite century," he said.

Distinguished Iowa Scientist

He was named a Distinguished Iowa Scientist earlier this year by the the Iowa Academy of Science.

It is a recognition for which Fisher had, at last, the full academic qualifications.

"I always got into jobs before I was academically prepared for them," he said.

For example, he was chairman of the pathology department at Loyola University in New Orleans before he had an undergraduate degree.

The admiral and the ancient bones come together now because Fisher began his professional career as a physical anthropologist working for the Milwaukee Public Museum in the late 1920s.

He didn't have the degree for it, but he had been attending the University of Wisconsin off and on for several years. He simply hadn't gotten around to being graduated.

Now, in retirement, he has come full circle and works again as a physical anthropologist in the offices of the state archaeologist here.

The old bones come to Fisher because state law requires that human remains older than 150 years found in Iowa be sent to this office for examination and reporting to the State Health Department.

He works every day — without salary — among the bones or in an office he has at the University of Iowa Dental School. He was head of the department of oral pathology here for 25 years.

Fisher works on because he seems to be a man who must have questions to answer and in science, he said, "you just never run out of questions."

Fisher became a dentist as a response to the Great Depression. When it seemed his job in the museum might be eliminated, he went to the school of dentistry at Marquette University. "I didn't intend to be jobless," he said. "I wanted to set my own economic future."

He already had an interest in teeth

because he had been studying the dental diseases of prehistoric Indians of Wisconsin.

He got his D.D.S. in 1935 although he still didn't have an undergraduate degree. But he was a lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy Reserve, an organization he had joined 10 years earlier as an enlisted man.

He had joined because, as a boy, he had seen a movie "about an old skipper on a small steamer and I felt I would like to do that. How young I was; I was very impressionable."

Starting Point

Fisher knows exactly the starting point of many of his professional careers. It is as though his early memories are sorted and set aside in special trays, like the old bones around him.

"When I was 8 years old my mother took me to the Milwaukee Museum and I saw a natural Peruvian mummy."

"That same night she made wieners and sauerkraut — ruined my taste for it for years."

But seeing the mummy set Fisher's course toward anthropology, and he overcame his early, delicate response to the dead.

Asked to recall one of the most deeply moving experiences of his life, Fisher remembered the Christmas Eve when he had to do seven autopsies at the Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

"I was depressed after that," he said.

When World War II began, Fisher was called to active duty in the Navy as the line officer he was and assigned to a ship too small to have a dental officer on board.

Fisher began doing the dental work his crew needed. When the Navy realized Fisher was a dentist he was transferred to the dental corps and rose to be a rear admiral in 1961. He served six years as a flag rank officer.

"Admirals," said Fisher, thought-

fully. "Not all of 'em are good company."

The Navy also fulfilled for Fisher another ambition that began for him during that first visit to the Milwaukee Museum.

He saw a habitat exhibit of an Eskimo fishing through the ice and decided he wanted to go to the Arctic.

He was so intent upon going to the Arctic that he studied meteorology, passed government examinations to be a weather observer and received an appointment — but not to an Arctic station, so he didn't go.

But the Navy sent him several times to the Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow, Alaska, where he did research on "energy metabolism of Arctic mammal tissues."

For all of his several careers, Fisher may be best known in the scientific community for his studies of energy metabolism in dental tissues.

"But now," he said, "when this room is empty I'll consider my job is done."

Final Report

Fisher, a man whose dignified bearing would be prized by a Supreme Court justice, looked around the room where several trays of old human bones await his final report.

In one tray lie some of the bones of "four individuals" found in a gravel pit near Turin in Monona County in western Iowa.

There is the skull Fisher says is that of a male who died at about age 30 some 4,080 years ago.

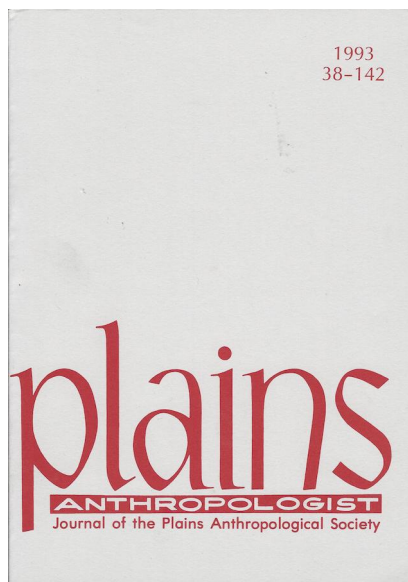
Probably he had died too soon to have ever considered how young he once had been, how impressionable.

But for Fisher the scientist, the bones have no emotional content.

"Oh, no," he said, "I'm interested in people as biological creatures."

Fisher led the way out of the room, locking two doors behind him.

The skull looked faintly surprised that eternity already had lasted so long and seemed to have so long yet to run.



Alton K. Fisher



The obituary of Alton Fisher published in the journal *Plains Anthropologist*, February 1993, v 38-142, emphasizes his anthropological career and accomplishments. The full 4-page obituary is in the appendix.

The steamer ships *Charles S. Neff* and *Sidney O. Neff*

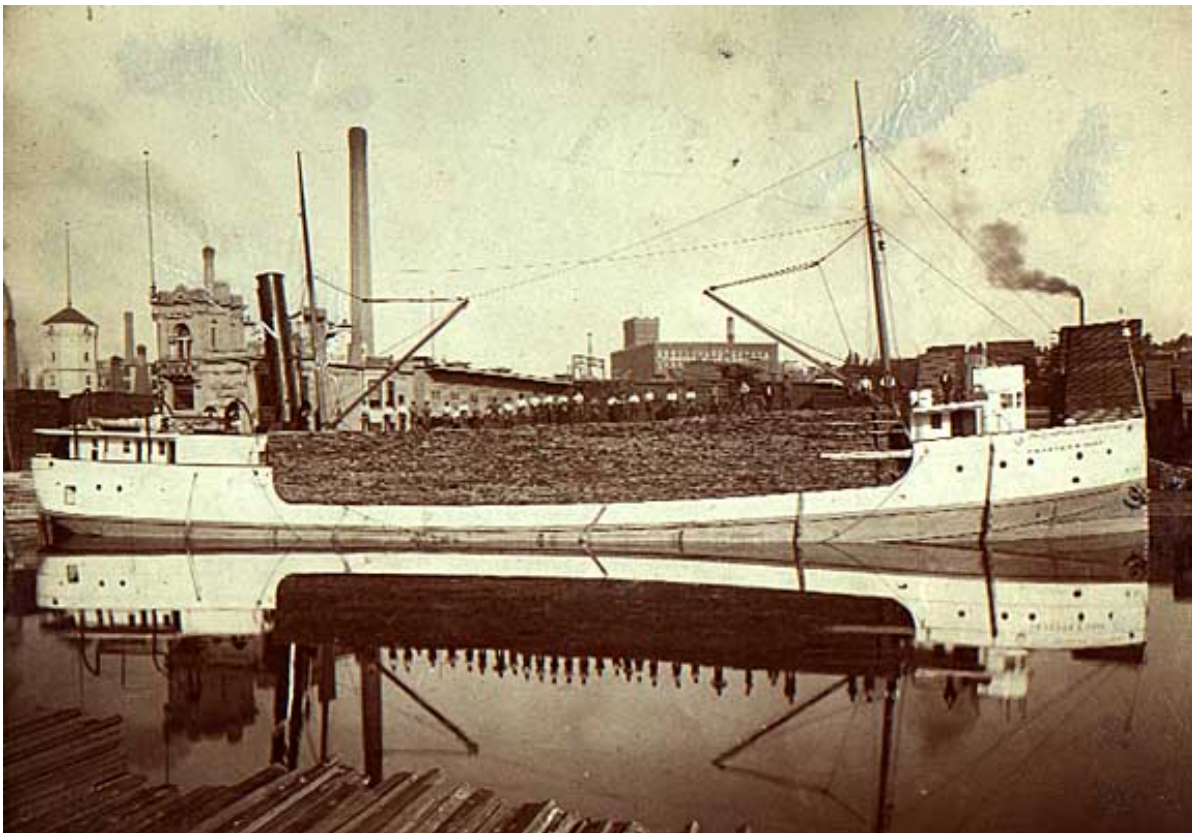
The new steel steamer CHARLES S. NEFF built by the Jenks Ship Building Co., for Samuel S. Neff & Sons of Milwaukee, was successfully launched at 2:10 this afternoon at the Company's yard of Black River. The launch was to have taken place some time ago, but the delay was caused by the loss the company sustained in the recent fire which partially destroyed the plant. She will be used in the salt trade on Lake Michigan; together with other boats of the fleet. Her dimensions are: 215 feet overall, 200 feet keel by 38 x 12. There will be two boilers 11 x 12 feet with 125 pounds pressure. They will supply steam for a fore and aft compound engine 22 by 44 inches, with a stroke of 30 inches. The NEFF is valued at \$100,000.

Port Huron Daily Times
Wednesday, June 5, 1901

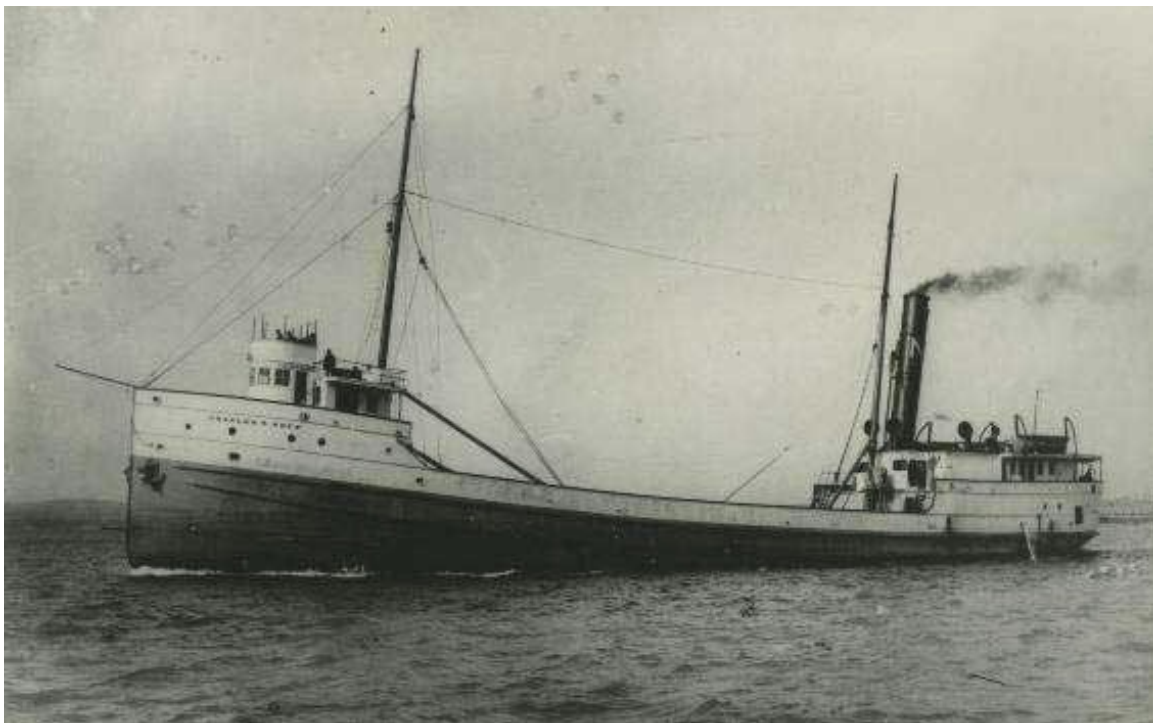
Steam screw CHARLES S. NEFF. U. S. No. 127547. Of 992 tons gross; 800 tons net. Built Port Huron, Mich., 1901. Home port, Milwaukee, Wis. 200.0 x 38.0 x 11.6
Merchant Vessel List, U. S., 1901



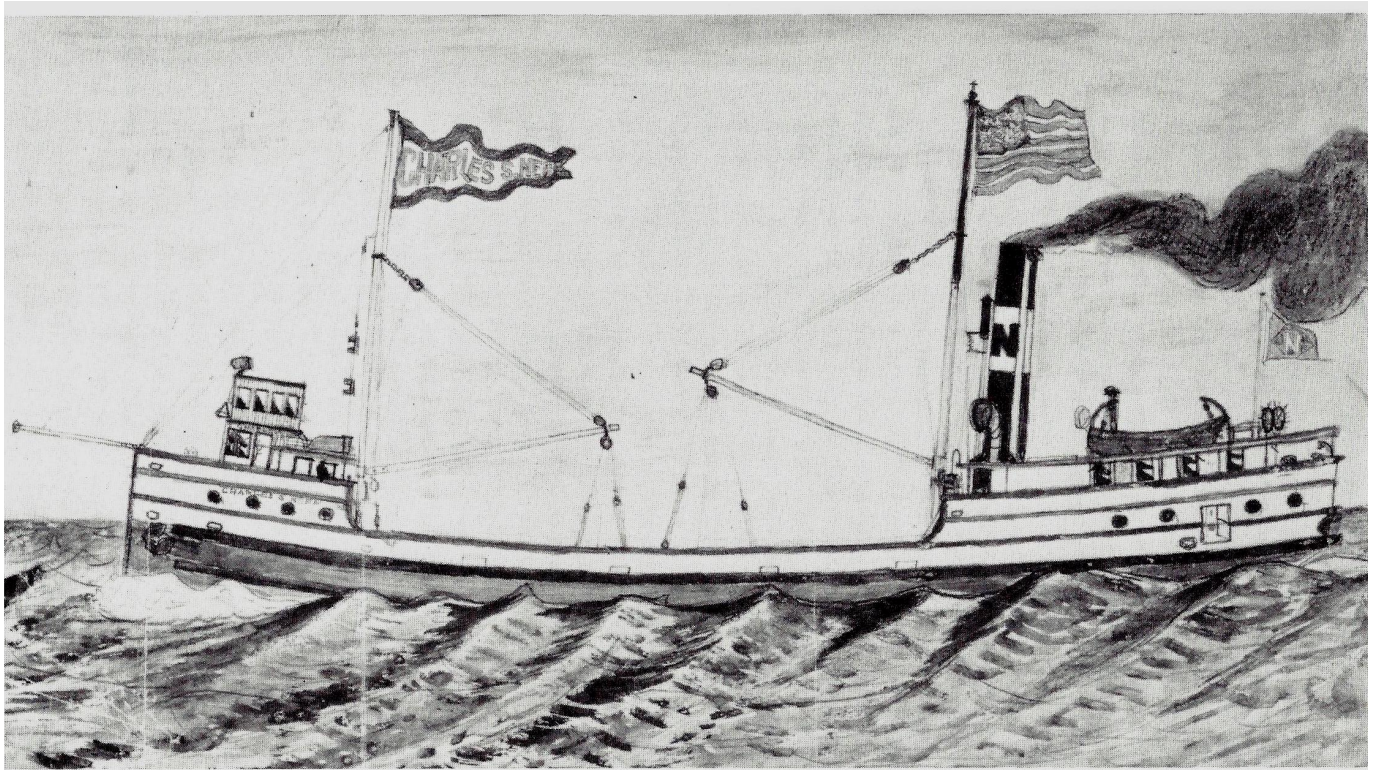
The first steel boat built and owned by the Samuel Neff & Sons Transportation Company was named after Samuel Neff's son Charles Samuel Neff. The boat was launched on 5 June 1901 when its namesake was 30 years old.



The 200' freighter *Charles S. Neff* in port in Milwaukee in 1901, soon after delivery from Jenks shipbuilding. The ship is fully loaded with logs. The N on the smokestack stands for Neff & Sons. Photo from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.



The *Charles S. Neff* on Lake Michigan. The walls of the upper forecastle pilot house have been removed. The ship is fully steam powered: the "masts" are not for sails, but are cranes to lift cargo such as lumber and barrels of salt from the hull. The *Neff* hauled salt from Luddington Michigan to the Morton Salt Works in Chicago, along with other cargoes. Charles S. Neff as the "desk man" had to calculate what cargo was best suited to which boat, and when to buy, repair and sell the ships. In 1917 the *Neff* was sold to a Canadian company that renamed her the *Serpentine*.



The steel steamer, Charles S. Neff.

Captain Samuel Neff painted and drew many of his boats as a hobby, even when photography was available. His drawing of the *Charles S. Neff* must have been made between 1901 when she was launched and 1904 when he died. Compare to the photo above. The drawing shows a boat fully loaded and riding low in the water, as a captain would like to see. The photo above shows the boat riding higher.



The steamer *Sidney O. Neff*, named for Captain Sidney Orrin Neff (1863-1907), Charles Samuel Neff's brother. The photo shows a typical log load stacked on the open deck.

Charles S. Neff composed a story about the cargoes his ships carried. He dictated it to his daughter Marce Neff, who published it as an article in the Milwaukee Journal where she worked as a reporter. This article is lifted from her book *By Paddle-Wheel, Sail and Steam*.

The "Iron Men in Wooden Ships"
They Sail The Lakes No More

In the 1930s, the *Milwaukee Journal* published a story with the headline quoted above. The story told of the cargoes lake freighters once carried, as remembered by Charles S. Neff, and as written by the author of this book:

They were cargoes that today make quaint reading. At least 22 types of cargoes reached a peak of popularity in those days and then slipped from their heyday into limbo. Except in old logs you never hear of those cargoes.

Consider cobblestones. The iron shod feet of horses and mules needed some rough material so that they could draw the cars on Milwaukee and Chicago streets. Much of this stone was brought from the shores of Lake Superior and Lake Huron and from northern Lake Michigan. Millions of pebbles were once shipped in bags from Jackfish, Ont., and consigned to the steel mills where they were used in grinding.

A large fleet of schooners used to carry cordwood and maple slabs. All Milwaukee burned wood in cook stoves and in heating homes. Slabs were used by the brick yards to bake the brick. Factories burned slab for steam and the packers to smoke their hams. Roofing gravel capped every well built home once upon a time. The gravel was found plentifully on the shores of the Great Lakes and the smallest of schooners used to edge close to shore and the crew would load the ship. Racine point once produced much of this gravel.

Most of the oldtime steamboats used wood to get up steam, and at night they made a brilliant display of fireworks against the sky. The Goodrich Transportation Co. had its woodyard at Manitowoc and a fleet of chartered schooners brought the wood from the lumber mills to the docks. Glen Haven, Mich., Mackinac island and St. Clair had similar wood docks.

Ice vessels had a glorious heyday while pure ice was in demand. Twelve vessels used to ply between Sturgeon Bay and Chicago carrying ice. The *Ellen Williams*, a spirited three-masted schooner, was long in this trade. Some of the ice barges looked like Noah's arks, and the Hudson river ice barges had picturesque windmills on deck to pump out the 'shrinkage' of the cargo as the ice melted.

When the ice houses flourished the sawdust trade kept scores of other vessels occupied. Much of the sawdust came from the east shore of Lake Michigan and was consigned to lower Lake Michigan. The stuff was coarse—something like sand—and it completely filled the vessels' holds.

One of the lightest—and sweetest—of all the early day loads was bailed hay. It was shipped from Manitowoc, Kewaunee and nearby ports and sent to lumber camps all over the district. Milwaukee took some of the hay for horse feed. The street railroad company was one of the biggest users.

Remember the old fashioned grindstone? This, too, was a good trade. Schooners got a full load of grindstones from Grindstone City, Mich., and distributed them to most of the Great Lakes ports. The John Pritzlaff Hardware Co., ordered these grindstones by the ton.

On the shores of Lake Superior huge blocks of red sandstone were carved out, loaded upon schooners and shipped to supply the building trade. The old courthouse in Milwaukee is of this grindstone. The alabaster trade also had a brief reign. The stone came from the shore of Saginaw bay and all the buildings of the world fair in Chicago in the nineties were coated with it.

Most picturesque (or so it seems today) were the small vessels that carried camp supplies up and down the lakes. Wisconsin once ranked first in the production of lumber, and the vessel carried horses, oxen, hay, prunes, molasses, barreled pork and beef, flour and feed, coffee, cant

hooks, axes and clothing to lumber camps.

To speak of lumber to any old timer is to conjure up long, golden days of romance in commerce. Muskegon, Mich., once had 62 sawmills. Hundred of schooners, barges and steamers were in the lumber trade. One steamer had 10 barges in tow in the Saginaw-Lake Erie trade.

Lumber drew scores of lesser trades to it. Deal lumber was carried by schooners from Lake Michigan and Lake Superior to Kingston, Ont. There the lumber was made into rafts and sent to Montreal, and from there to England. One firm was in this specialized trade for 75 years.

Log towing was carried on extensively. Schooners and steamers also carried full loads of shingles, and for a time quantities of California redwood were taken by rail to Duluth and then sent by water to Buffalo.

Another fragrant load was cedar. Many boats carried cedar to Chicago, where the wood was used for paving blocks. Railroads used cedar cross ties and telegraph poles were hewn of cedar. The cedar came from forests in northern Michigan. It took 15 to 20 men to load and unload the telegraph poles, 40 and 60 feet in length.

Fat men used to be asked to jump up and down on the piles of tan bark, stripped from hemlock trees that scores of vessels took to the tanneries in Milwaukee, Chicago, Racine and Kenosha. The bark was used in tanning hides and was packed tightly so that there would be no air spaces.

Two Rivers, Wisc., received thousands of logs by barge, and from them were fashioned wooden pails, tool handles and a thousand other articles. One of the favorite trades was that of cull lumber. The crew of the hookers—two men—would go to the lumber yards and buy odds and ends at several dollars a thousand—and made a profit selling it to box factories. As logs went through the mill one end might be rotten; the plank would be short. It became a "cull."

Another romantic, picturesque and fragrant trade was that of Christmas trees. Twelve vessels were in this trade at one time. Usually the vessels tied up at the dock and there sold off their cargoes. In Milwaukee for many years the holiday season was not complete for children until Santa Claus and the Christmas tree boat had been visited.

It is somehow significant, perhaps, that sentiment kept this trade alive many years after commerce had doomed all the others.

Memorials and obituaries

Lake Veteran, Neff, Is Dead

Ship Owner, Formerly of
Milwaukee, Succumbs
at Cleveland, Ohio

Charles S. Neff, 70, a former Milwaukee ship owner and operator, died of a heart attack Tuesday at Cleveland, Ohio, where he had lived nine years.

Mr. Neff was bred to the sea. He was born in 1870 in Oshkosh, Wis., where his father, Samuel, operated a fleet of vessels serving the Fox River valley region.

As Charles Neff grew up, he and his father inaugurated a fleet which plied the Great Lakes. This became the Neff Transportation Co., with offices in the old Pabst building. At one time, the firm was one of the biggest owners and operators of vessels on the lakes, having 43 ships.

Carried Lumber, Ore

That was the era when the great forests of northern Wisconsin and the Michigan peninsula were providing many of the sinews for the development of the expanding American nation. The decks of the Neff line vessels were piled high with lumber. Other cargoes were malt, iron ore and grain.

Mr. Neff's knowledge and memory of ships were phenomenal. On the bluff at Whitefish Bay, where he had his home on Lake dr., a crow's nest was erected. There Mr. Neff would stand with a telescope, watching the ships. He knew them all by sight and would name them while they were still only specks to the naked eye.

He watched, too, during the days that fog rolled over the bay, imperiling the ships, and several times gave the first alarm to the coast guard when a vessel went aground.

Mr. Neff was fond of ship pictures, of which he possessed a large number. Logs of the old vessels were retained and Mr. Neff was consulted, on occasion, by persons interested in the brave sailing days on the inland waters.

Moved to Cleveland

In the World war the Neff fleet was large and busy. The depression brought a lull to lake shipping here. Nine years ago, Mr. Neff moved to Cleveland, where he conducted a ship brokerage business with his sons, Charles, jr., and Harold H.

He also is survived by his wife, Mary, and a daughter, Mrs. Marcelia Fisher, a member of The Journal staff.

A thirty-second degree Mason, Mr. Neff was a member of the Independence lodge, F. and A. M.

Charles Samuel Neff (1870-1940) obituary from the Milwaukee Journal about June 26, 1940.

Iowa City Press-Citizen (Iowa City, Iowa)

Harold Neff, 52, Dies in Alabama

Harold H. Neff, 52, a former Oshkosh man, died at Mobile, Ala., at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

He was born July 30, 1901 in Milwaukee. In Mobile he operated the Neff Transportation Company with his brother, Charles Neff. The brother and a sister, Mrs. A. K. Fisher, Iowa City, Ia., are the only survivors.

The body will arrive in Oshkosh this evening and funeral arrangements have been tentatively set for 2 p.m. Wednesday. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery. Spiks & McDonald Funeral Home will be in charge.

OSHKOSH DAILY NORTHWESTERN
MARCH 16, 1954

Marcelia Fisher, 100

Marcelia "Marcy" Coad Neff Fisher, 100, of 701 Oaknoll Drive, died Sunday, March 30, 2003, at Oaknoll Retirement Residence after a brief illness.

Memorial services will begin at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Oaknoll Retirement Residence, 701 Oaknoll Drive with the Rev. Mel Schlachter officiating. Burial of her cremated remains will take place at a later date in Oshkosh, Wis.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, 303 Locust Street, Suite No. 402, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Obituary

NEFF — Funeral services for Charles S. Neff, formerly of Oshkosh, who died at Cleveland, O., were held Thursday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock at Riverside cemetery. Commitment rites were conducted by Oshkosh lodge, No. 27, of Masons. Members of the Masonic fraternity served as pallbearers. They were Robert Jones, Richard Weber, George Finch, Fred Sanders, George Oleson and A. L. Nelson. The body was accompanied here on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad by Mr. Neff's son-in-law, Dr. Alton Fisher, of Milwaukee. Other relatives who were in attendance from out of the city were Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Neff, Freeport, Ill.; Lucus O. Neff, Waukegan; and Mrs. Otto Klum and son and daughter, of Waukegan.

Obituaries for the three children of Charles Samuel Neff: Harold Henry Neff (1901-1954), Marcelia Coad Neff (1902-2003), and Charles Samuel Neff Jr. (1908-2002).

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (WI)

April 3, 2003

Edition: Final

Section: B News

Page: 99

Fisher, Marcelia "Marcy"

Article Text:

Fisher, Marcelia "Marcy" 100, of 701 Oaknoll Drive, Iowa City, died Sunday, March 30, 2003 at Oaknoll Retirement Residence following a brief illness. Burial of her cremated remains will take place in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, 303 Locust Street, Ste #402, Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Online condolences can be sent to the family at www.lensingfuneral.com

Marcelia was born December 30, 1902, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the daughter of Charles Samuel Sr., and Mary Kate Coad Neff. Marcy graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1924 with a BA in Journalism and later attended the Milwaukee-Downer Seminary. She was united in marriage to Alton **Fisher**, the former head of Oral Pathology at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry on August 15, 1931 in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. She had worked as a staff reporter for the Milwaukee Journal for many years and later worked for the Iowa State Historical Society. Marcy, her husband and her brother Charles made a substantial contribution of original Maritime materials to The Maritime Collection in Milwaukee.

Marcelia "Marcy" Coad Neff **Fisher**, 100, of 701 Oaknoll Dr., died Sunday, March 30, 2003, in Oaknoll Retirement Residence following a brief illness.

Memorial services: 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12, Oaknoll Retirement Residence, 701 Oaknoll Dr., by the Rev. Mel Schlachter. Burial of her cremated remains will take place at a later date in Oshkosh, Wis. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, 303 Locust St., Suite 402, Des Moines, IA 50309. Online condolences can be sent to the family at www.lensingfuneral.com

Marcelia was born Dec. 30, 1902, in Milwaukee, Wis., the daughter of Charles Samuel Sr. and Mary Kate Coad Neff. Marcy graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1924 with a B.A. in journalism and later attended the Milwaukee-Downer Seminary. She was united in marriage to Alton **Fisher**, the former head of Oral Pathology at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, on Aug. 15, 1931, in Williams Bay, Wis. She had worked as a staff reporter for the Milwaukee Journal for many years and later worked for the Iowa State Historical Society.

Mrs. **Fisher** moved to Iowa City in 1949 and was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, DAR and the N.N. Book Club. She particularly enjoyed writing, even in her later years. Among her works was a book entitled Paddle-Wheel, Sail & Steam, Able Neff & Nephews, Captains Ed, Will & Sam, 1850-1969.

Marcelia is survived by her cousins, John and wife Darlyne Neff of Iowa City, and their sons, Paul and Jim, Lucy Kittrick of Washington and Carolyn Clemmer of California.

She was preceded in death by her husband and two brothers, Harold Henry Neff and Charles Neff.

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Obituaries for Macelia Code Neff transcribed from the Milwaukee Journal, a newspaper for which she worked as a reporter from the late 1920s until World War II in 1942. The second obituary (below and to the right) is from the Iowa City Press Citizen and the Cedar Rapids Iowa Gazette, April 3, 2003, page 14. After the war in 1949 Marce and her husband Alton Fisher settled in Iowa City where he was a professor of oral pathology. Marce spent much of her time in Iowa working for the State Historical Society and writing about history.

DEATHS

Alton Fisher, 85

Services for Dr. Alton K. Fisher will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at Trinity Episcopal Church, with burial at a later date in the Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh, Wis. The Rev. Jason Parkin will officiate.

Dr. Fisher, 85, of 701 Oaknoll Drive, professor emeritus of oral pathology, died Wednesday at Mercy Hospital after a long illness.

The body has been cremated. Donohue-Lensing funeral home is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations will go to the Dr. Alton K. Fisher Memorial Fund in care of the University of Iowa Foundation.

Dr. Fisher was born Nov. 1, 1905, in Abrams, Wis., the son of Fred Ward and Edith K. Kindt Fisher. He married Marcelia "Marcy" Neff Aug. 15, 1931, in Williams Bay, Wis.

He attended the University of Wisconsin and earned his degree in dentistry from Marquette University School of Dentistry. He earned his bachelor's degree from Loyola University in 1948 and attended graduate school at Tulane University.

He was a professor and head of the department of oral pathology at the University of Iowa in 1949-74. He continued to be active in the College of Dentistry for the next 17 years as professor emeritus. He was a professor of pathology at Loyola University in

New Orleans in 1947-49.

He was an archaeologist and served as assistant curator to the Milwaukee Public Museum. He taught archaeology at the UI College of Liberal Arts in 1949-90. He was awarded the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1985 for his service assisting in the state archaeologist office. He served from 1976 to 1985.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran and served during World War II. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church and Independence Masonic Lodge No. 80 in Milwaukee. He was active in many professional and scientific organizations.

Survivors include his wife of Iowa City; one sister, Ruth Fisher Flynn of Waukesha, Wis.; one brother-in-law, Charles Neff of Iowa City; and cousins John Neff of Iowa City and Lucy Neff Kittick of Squim, Wash.

John Rehbehn, 85

John W. Rehbehn, 85, formerly of West Liberty and Durand, died Thursday at the Lutheran Home in Muscatine after a long illness.

Services are pending at the West Liberty Chapel of the Barker Funeral Home.

Marjorie Scott, 89

Marjorie Lawler O'Rourke Scott, 89, of Cedar Rapids died Wednesday at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids after a short illness.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Tuesday, December 17, 1907 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | Page: 4

VESSEL OWNER DIES.

Capt. Samuel Neff Passes Away at Home.

Capt. Sidney O. Neff, aged 44, a prominent vessel owner of Milwaukee and a son of the late Capt. Samuel Neff, died last night after a month's illness, at his home, 2910 Wells-st. The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon at 2, under the direction of Independent lodge No. 80, F. & A. M.

Capt. Neff was born at Oshkosh, Wis., and sailed the lakes from his boyhood until after the death of his father, four years ago. He was heavily interested in a line of freighters plying the great lakes. He was also deeply interested in Milwaukee real estate. Capt. Neff is survived by a wife and three sons.

Mrs. Lucy Neff

Services for Mrs. Lucy Neff, 89, widow of a Great Lakes ship captain, will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Brett funeral home, 2001 W. Wisconsin av. Cremation will be at Valhalla cemetery.

Mrs. Neff died Sunday at the home of a son, Samuel O. Neff, 2443 N. 69th st., Wauwatosa. She had lived there the last two months.

Her husband was Capt. Sidney O. Neff, who died in 1907. He had owned a fleet of Great Lakes ships.

Mrs. Neff, who came to Milwaukee in 1890, was graduated from the old Oshkosh Normal school, now Wisconsin State college, Oshkosh. She taught at the Dover Street school here many years ago.

Mrs. Neff was a member of Grand Avenue Congregational church. She was a past matron of Bethany chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and a past president of Ladies of Ivanhoe commandery.

Besides her son, Samuel, she is survived by two other sons, J. Byron, Wauwatosa, and Lucius Sidney, Milwaukee.

Left to right, obituary for Alton K. Fisher (1905-1991), husband of Marcelia Coad Neff. Obituaries of Capt. Sidney Orrin Neff (1863-1907) and his wife Lucy Jane Olcott (Neff, 1865-1955). The Lucy Neff obituary is from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel from 16 August 1955.

The Oshkosh Northwestern (Oshkosh, Wisconsin) • 22 Feb 1904, Mon • Page 1

The king visited Portsmouth of a royal inspection stations and decided to take a tour of the Cumvass walking under the when although the ship illuminated with electric's foot struck the sillient door and he stumbled forward. In his fall leg, but when assisted ared the hurt was slight. ore almost unaided, but ed of pain and was comhle reviewing the gym-s given in the naval bar-

TRIES SUICIDE.

al History From the

CAPT. S. NEFF DEAD.

Former Oshkosh Boatman Passes Away at Milwaukee.

Relatives in this city have received the announcement of the death of Capt. Samuel Neff of Milwaukee, formerly of this city, brother of the late Capt. E. M. Neff and the late Capt. W. W. Neff. Announcement of the former Oshkosh man's death is contained in a telegraphic dispatch elsewhere in this paper. Those in this city surviving are a sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary E. Neff of Nebraska street, widow of the late W. W. Neff, and her son, William W. Neff. The remains will be brought here for interment, but funeral arrangements are not yet completed.

Obituary of Charles Samuel Neff's father Capt. Samuel Neff "Sam" (1842-1904).



The graves of Charles S. Neff, his parents Sam and Marcelia, wife Kate, sons Harold and Charles Jr., daughter Marce Neff Fisher and her husband Alton Fisher. All are in the Samuel Neff plot at Riverside cemetery in Oshkosh.



The gray granite stone is the grave of Captain Sidney Orrin Neff (1863-1907), son of Captain Samuel Neff (1842-1904) and brother of Charles S. Neff (1870-1940). Sidney Neff is buried with his wife Lucy Jane Olcott (Neff), Samuel Olcott Neff, and his wife Ester Ann Johnson (Neff). The brown granite stone is for Captain Sidney Orrin Neff's other son John Byron Neff and his son Orrin Neff. They are buried in the Forest Home cemetery in Oshkosh.

Appendix: Obituary of Alton K. Fisher published in the *Plains Anthropologist*

This scholarly obituary was published in the journal *Plains Anthropologist*, February 1993, v 38-142.

OBITUARY

ALTON K. FISHER

1905-1991

Alton K. Fisher, D.D.S., died on October 9, 1991. He had contributed to North American archaeology and biological anthropology from 1927 through 1990. In his lifetime Alton influenced a wide range of students and colleagues and made substantial research contributions in archaeology, osteology, and dental science.

Born in Abrams, Wisconsin, Alton studied as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin (Madison). In 1927 he began working for the Milwaukee Public Museum as an assistant to Will C. McKern. A close, life-long friendship developed between the two researchers. They worked together at excavations throughout Wisconsin, including the especially important Trempealeau County and Vernon County excavations which defined formal characteristics of Hopewell in the Upper Mississippi Valley and determined Woodland and Oneota temporal relationships through stratified deposits. While Alton's duties eventually included directing the field work, his major laboratory responsibilities at the Milwaukee Public Museum centered on paleopathology. He conducted extensive research on human skeletal remains from archaeological contexts and published several landmark reports on the osteological and dental characteristics of Wisconsin Indians.

Alton wrote that "In 1930 I proposed to the curator of my department, W. C. McKern, that it might be helpful to attempt to apply a Linnaean type of classification of cultural characteristics to the increasing diversity of traits that were being revealed by our archaeological field work. Our discussions, and McKern's specific efforts, during the next two years led to the first formulation of

what was eventually to become the Midwestern Taxonomic System" (Fisher n.d.:2). Alton presented detailed descriptions of the development of the Midwestern Taxonomic System at the Second Indianapolis Conference (1986) and the Midwest Archaeological Conference (1987). Unfortunately, these papers have not yet been published.

Because the Great Depression made job prospects in anthropology appear unlikely, at least in Milwaukee, Alton enrolled in the Marquette University School of Dentistry, receiving the D.D.S. degree in 1935. His career shifted toward research and teaching in oral pathology, and on studies of energy metabolism in dental pulp and periodontal tissues. After teaching at Marquette and Loyola (New Orleans), in 1949 he was appointed professor and department head in oral pathology at the University of Iowa School of Dentistry, a position he held until 1974. He spent five seasons conducting research on arctic mammal tissues at the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory in Point Barrow, Alaska. His involvement with the U.S. Navy spanned the years 1925-1967, from his enlistment as Seaman 2nd Class in the Naval Reserve through promotions, transfer to the Dental Corps, and eventual retirement as a Rear Admiral.

During his tenure in the University of Iowa School of Dentistry, Alton maintained his strong interest in archaeology and physical anthropology. He held the position of Research Associate in Anthropology at the Milwaukee Public Museum, spending the summer of 1950 at the museum conducting studies of dental caries and other pathological conditions represented in its skeletal collections. From 1950 through 1952, he helped

strengthen the University of Iowa's anthropology program by working with David Stout in organizing a fund for archaeological research and helping to bring the Human Relations Area Files to campus. Alton conducted physical anthropological work from 1957 to 1960 with the Mesquakie Indians of Tama, Iowa, funded by the National Institutes of Health. He also served on the Mesquakie Indian Scholarship Committee administered by the University of Chicago. A founding member and organizer of the Iowa Archeological Society in 1951, Alton stayed active in state and local archaeological activities during and after his tenure in the oral pathology department.

When he retired in 1974, Alton devoted enormous energy once again to studies of paleopathology, this time in a strictly volunteer capacity as physical anthropologist in the Office of the State Archaeologist at The University of Iowa. Crisis situations at several burial sites in the early and mid-1970s led to passage in 1976 of the first state statute which explicitly required both scientific examination and reburial of ancient human remains. While recognizing the ultimate loss to science of reburied skeletal remains, Alton firmly believed that a great amount of useful bioanthropological data never would have been collected in the absence of the reburial law. The requirement for scientific examination kept him involved with skeletal studies as long as his health permitted. He taught human osteology from 1977 through 1987 (he held an adjunct professorship in the Department of Anthropology) and wrote over 100 technical reports, including 20 or so forensic reports for Iowa law enforcement agencies. The fees charged for forensic services permitted acquisition of some laboratory materials and supplies, but much of the osteology laboratory was built through Alton's personal contributions.

Alton, who was highly respected by Indians in and around Iowa, showed colleagues and students that the reburial compromise could work for those on both sides of the issue. The collected information is useful for paleopathological and population studies and for the individual age and sex identifications and determinations of cultural affiliation which are important to the Indians involved in Iowa reburials. Of course, an "essential tension" exists between the ideals of maximum



Alton K. Fisher

study on the one hand and the quickest possible reburial on the other. Alton understood the situation and was always completely honest and open about the work he conducted. His studies contributed greatly to the corpus of knowledge of Iowa's ancient peoples. Other than Elizabeth Glenn's study of Oneota crania, his was the first and only substantive human osteological work conducted in Iowa until his students and associates began assisting him and eventually assumed the burden of work in the late 1980s. That we know so much about several hundred sets of now-reburied skeletal remains is due to Alton's unselfish and uncompensated efforts over fifteen years. That the reburial program continues with widespread support is due to his legacy of careful and professional work.

Recognitions and awards Alton received include the Wisconsin Archeological Society's Lapham Medal for Distinguished Anthropological Research (1946), the Iowa Academy of Science's Distinguished Iowa Scientist Award (1982), and

the Iowa Archeological Society's Keyes-Orr Award (1986). His service with the Office of the State Archaeologist led to his receipt in 1985 of the Iowa Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Alton's sharp intellect, keen recall, and dry wit were evident to all of his students and colleagues, especially as demand increased for his reminiscences of early 20th-century Wisconsin archaeology. His popular presentations in La Crosse, Iowa City, and elsewhere during the 1980s, which drew upon unique personal involvement with McKern and other pioneers, were illustrated by scores of tinted glass slides copied from the Milwaukee Public Museum archives. Alton reminded the current crop of midwestern archaeologists that they were part of a long tradition of scientific work and that the records and experiences of earlier practitioners contained material of value to modern workers. One example is his 1987 article on a petroglyph almost certainly carved by a member of McKern's 1928 field party in western Wisconsin. Although referred to as a prehistoric solstice marker or a Christian cross, Alton carefully and persuasively argued that the petroglyph was the symbol of an early 20th century crafts organization to which the field party's chef belonged. He named but did not condemn the perpetrator.

In Alton's last years, health problems forced him to cut back on traveling and on osteological work. He spent much time helping his wife Marcelia complete a book on her family's history in the Wisconsin lumbering and shipping business. He also continued to donate sizeable collections of scientific books and papers to the Office of the State Archaeologist.

Colleagues, friends, and students marvelled at Alton's depth and breadth of scientific expertise and at his skill in communicating both the importance and the joys of his work. We all miss Alton's blend of graciousness, humor, and enthusiasm in the quest for knowledge of human beings past and present.

NOTE

Photo by the Cedar Rapids Gazette, February, 1973. I thank Duane C. Anderson, Shirley J. Schermer, and Joseph A. Tiffany for their valuable

assistance in preparing this obituary.

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- 1988b Review of Prehistoric Tuberculosis in the Americas, edited by J. E. Buikstra. *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society* 35:78.
- in press Endemic Treponematoses in Prehistoric Western Iowa (by S. J. Schermer, A. K. Fisher, and D. C. Hodges). In *Skeletal Biology in the Great Plains: A Multidisciplinary View*, edited by D. Owsley and R. Jantz. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D. C.

William Green
Office of the State Archaeologist
Iowa City, Iowa
October, 1992

Name Index

The name index lists all of the relatives mentioned, treated, or in photographs. It does not list every instance of the name but is just a guide for more detailed searches. Women are listed under their maiden names with married names in parentheses. A few places are listed if in Charles Neff's life. Bold numbers indicate primary sections.

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