

## Lake Captains

Mentor Headlands, Ohio, was known as the place where the 'Old Lake Captains' lived. Over time I have been surprised just how many of my relatives were lake captains. We knew of Capt. Daniel Green and that Alonzo had been his cabin boy. But Alonzo was himself a Captain on the Great Lakes. So were Daniel's brothers Godfrey and Jeremiah. Daniel's brother-in-law James McAdams was also one, and was the lighthouse keeper, too. Some of the other McAdams sailed the lakes. One of Daniel's sisters, Polly, had a son named John W. Averill who was a captain, and his son was not only a lake captain but the most prominent fisherman in the area. Another of Daniel's sisters, Ruth Ann, was married to a lake captain, Charles Bard. [That's all the children of John A. Green, except Jane Bates, and we don't know enough about her to tell.] Daniel married Mary Ann Lockwood, and his brother Godfrey married her sister Sarah. The Lockwoods were ship builders. And some Lockwood relatives also were captains. [Supposedly Mary Ann Lockwood Green sailed often with her husband and came close to a watery death a few times. Amongst the families I've listed there were one or two relatives who did die in ship disasters on Lake Erie.]

Go here to see the ship lists by owner's name, captain's name, name of ship:

<http://www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca/enrolment/>

### Relatives and Descendants of John A. Green who owned/captained ships on the Great Lakes.

[Number after name is the number of vessels listed for these captains. Relationship to John Green stated in brackets.]

#### CAPTAINS:

Averill, John W. 5 [grandson]

Averill, Captain William L., Capt. John W. (also owned fisheries), Capt. Benjamin H. [great-grandsons]

Bard, Charles M. 5 [son-in-law]

Bessant, George W. [grandson-in-law]

Gifford, Newton 3 [related on Lockwood side]

Green, Alonzo H. 7 [grandson]

Green, Daniel H. 17 [son, married to member of shipbuilding family]

Green, Delos [grandson, partner with Alonzo in Clear Lake]

Green, Edwin E. [grandson, partner with Alonzo]

Green, Godfrey E. 8 [son, brother to DH, also married to sister of DH's wife]

Green, Jeremiah F. 4 [son, another brother to Daniel]

Green, Thomas W. [immigrant from England, relationship not determined]

Hall, James [Connected through Lockwood and Hopkins' lines]

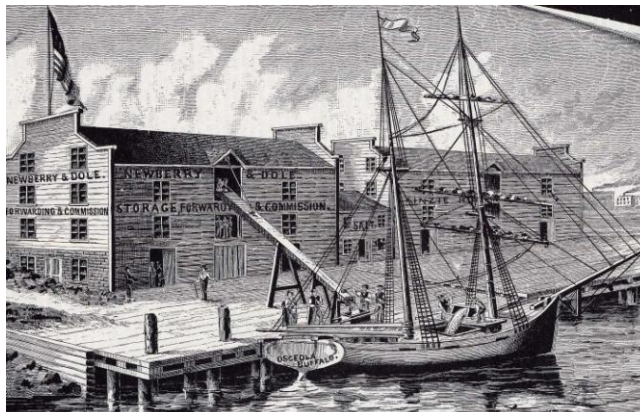
Hayward, Solomon G. [married to Helen Mar Green, granddaughter]

McAdams, Andrew 4 [grandson]

McAdams, Daniel 1 [grandson] [He was a new captain and with his wife and mother-in-law died in a ship collision, 1862]

McAdams, James 1 [son-in-law, keeper of Fairport Harbor lighthouse]

Shepard, Lewis 4 [related on Lockwood side]  
Shepard, Orson 14 [related on Lockwood side]



**SAILORS:**

Charles E. Green  
Andrew, Daniel, James McAdams, Jr., and Solon McAdams  
James H. Stover [grandson in-law]

**Obit for Jeremiah F. Green:**

"spent much of his life at Mentor Headlands and Fairport.  
Sailed on the great lakes for many years. Leaves  
wife and one dau., Mrs. Thomas Fisher of Cincinnati, several g-ch., one of  
whom, Jerry Green of Perth Amboy, NJ, resided with him."

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A comment by a living Lockwood descendant about the Lockwood brothers:

Phillip a preacher, Stephen a lawyer, Erastus a lumberman and vessel owner, Solomon a farmer, Garret a bridge and dock contractor, Hiram a blacksheep and a real one. (Last known of him he commanded his own junk in China and was on the shadow list of Great Britain, died supposedly in China.)

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From the *Painesville Telegraph*, Lake County, OH, Saturday, 11 June 1927 "Captain George Bessant, Pioneer Mariner, Is Dead"

One of the most beautiful and enduring marital companionships in the history of the Western Reserve was concluded today with the death of Captain George W. Bessant, 89, a pioneer mariner and one of Painesville's most beloved characters. ...He and Ruth Ann, his bride of more than three score years, would have celebrated their sixty-first anniversary had he lived until September 4. Captain Bessant was born on a farm near Southampton, England on September 18, 1837, and at the tender age of 14 answered the call of the sea. He became a captain while still in his twenties and during an eventful trip to America met Edwin Green of Mentor Headlands, a son of Capt. Daniel Green and a brother of Ruth Ann Green, who later became his bride. The romance developed when Capt. Bessant accompanied his new friend to the Green home at Mentor Headlands for a visit. Edwin Hayward, Of West Erie St., is the only person living who attended the wedding ceremony at the headlands on September 4, 1866, when pretty Ann as she was best known, became the wife of the stalwart young Captain Bessant... Captain

Bessant transferred his professional affections from the seas to the Great Lakes and became one of the best known pioneer navigators on the inland waters. He started his Great Lakes career as a master of the schooner Rob Roy and later sailed many vessels, including four of the first steam driven ships to make their appearance on the lakes.

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1844 paper:

*From the Painesville, Ohio Telegraph, April 17.*

**LAUNCH OF THE BRIG EUROPE.**—On Thursday last, at about 4 o'clock, P. M., a very staunch built, beautifully modelled vessel of the largest class, was launched into her appropriate element at Richmond. She measures 280 tons, and will carry 1800 bbls. flour below decks. She was built by Capt. Lockwood, under the superintendence of Capt. Perkins, who is to sail her. She was named at the moment of her launch, by Capt. Perkins, the Brig "Europe."

**ANOTHER.**—The Schooner *Atalanta*, which has been undergoing extensive and thorough repairs, was relaunched at Richmond on Monday last. She has been considerably enlarged, and Capt. Green says she will be the fastest sailer on the Lake. We are sure she has the tallest Captain.

☞ The new steamboat *St. Louis*, building at Perrysburgh, is fast approaching completion. We learn that she will be launched some time next week. Her boiler and cylinder are now being shipped from Buffalo. She is about as staunch and neat looking a craft as we have seen lately out of water, and if she does'nt sit like a duck in the water, then we will admit that we are no Yankee, and will give up guessing.—*Maumee Times.*