

Death of Captain W. C. Flanders.

Wardwell Clement Flanders died yesterday at his home in the Third District, when within a month of attaining the octogenarian distinction. His was a seafaring life, and one full of adventure. An autobiography dictated to his daughter some time ago, recounts a curious series of adventure. He traced his family back to Stephen Flanders, whom the records show was elected one of the fifty-two commoners of Salisbury, N. H., on Feb. 3, 1651. This Flanders was the originator of the American line. When an infant, he was picked up, so tradition had it, on a battlefield in Flanders, France, supposedly the child of an English officer there killed. He was named after the country and taken to England, where he resided until 20 years of age. Then he emigrated to New England, where he married a Christianized Indian named Jane, whose Indian patronym was Sandusky. From this stock sprung a sturdy race. The father of W. C. Flanders was a ship captain and was a volunteer in the United States service in the war of 1812.

When 15 years old the youthful Wardwell was riding homeward, some fifty miles, on the family horse. The yearning for adventure was strong in him, and instead of continuing home he walked and rode to the sea coast, where he shipped on the brig Hampton, bound for New Orleans. He reached the Southern capital in 1826, landed below the Place d'Armes on the levee, being materially assisted by a cyclonic wind, which almost left the vessel high on the levee, discharged a cargo on the old Millaudon plantation and then left.

His adventures on the sea after the first voyage were numerous. One of the first was a winter spent on the British Columbian coast in a voyage around the world by way of the northwest passage.

In 1838 he married in New Orleans, purchased a home and made this city his home. During the Mexican war he was in the service of the nation transporting troops from this city to the Mexican ports. Afterwards he was captain of several steamships, but practically gave up the sea when the late war was declared.

Being a union man in sentiment, and advanced in years, Captain Flanders took no part in the hostilities. When the city fell into the hands of the federals, he was appointed acting surveyor of the port, which office he held for two years, and subsequently was appointed local inspector of hulls of steam vessels, a post he filled for thirteen years.

Then came retirement from all active business or political life. Full of years, with a happy family around him, respected by all, he lived to see many of his old companions die away. At length his turn came and the end was peaceful and painless.

Captain Flanders was a brother of Ex-Governor Ben. F. Flanders, who was assistant sub-treasurer under Grant. He leaves two sons, Clement C. Flanders, paying-teller of the Metropolitan Bank, and Ben. Flanders is bookkeeper for a large lumber company at Lake Charles; also three daughters, the widows of the late F. A. Woolsey, and Theo. V. Coupland and Mrs. Coos.