

JOHN JAY PHELPS, FINANCIER, DIES, 86

Noted as Yachtsman—Was a
Grandson of the Sheffield
Scientific School Founder

John Jay Phelps of Red Towers, Hackensack, N. J., financier and yachtsman, who in 1945 completed his fiftieth year as a trustee of the United States Trust Company of New York, died Saturday in his summer home on Yoncomis Island, Stony Creek, Conn., after a brief illness. His age was 86. He had also been a director of the Hackensack Trust Company.

During the Spanish-American War he served as a lieutenant in the Navy, and in the first World War he commanded a squadron of submarine chasers. In 1885 he built and sailed the schooner yacht Brunnhilde around the world. The Brunnhilde was said to be the first American yacht to make such a trip.

Born in Paris, France, Sept. 27, 1861, he was the son of William Walter and Ellen Sheffield Phelps. His father, a lawyer and a benefactor of Yale, had served as a Representative in Congress, Minister to Austria and to Berlin in the days when there were no United States Ambassadors and later a judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals of New Jersey. His mother was a daughter of Joseph E. Sheffield, founder of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale.

Started With Bank Here

He was graduated from Yale in 1883, and spent the next two years in the employ of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company in New York. Since 1885 he had devoted himself to various financial enterprises. He was vice president of the Hackensack National Bank and a director of the Cayuga & Susquehanna Railroad.

For many years he was president of the Strong & Trowbridge Company of New York and for two terms served as a member of the board of chosen freeholders of Bergen County, N. J.

During the Spanish-American War he was acting lieutenant and signal officer on the U.S.S. Celtic. During the first World War he commanded the U.S.S. Calumet with the rank of captain.

In Many Organizations

Mr. Phelps was a member of the American Museum of Natural History, New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, American Geographical Society, New England Society, Founders and Patriots of America, American Forestry Association, United States Reserve Officers Association, Waterway League of America, Roosevelt Memorial Association, Naval Order of the United States, Naval Relief Society, National Security League, National Marine League, National Child Welfare Association and the National Association of Audubon Societies.

He belonged also to the Big Brother Movement, the New York Zoological Society, New Jersey and Bergen County historical societies, American Legion, Sons of the American Revolution, Military Order of Foreign Wars, Navy League of the United States, United Spanish War Veterans, Psi Upsilon fraternity and Scroll and Keys Society of Yale.

His clubs included the Union League, University, Yale, Circumnavigators, Submarine Chaser of America and Motor Boat of America in New York, the Graduate, Connecticut Auto and Motor of New Haven, the Lantern League of Boston, and the Oritani Field and Cruising Club of America.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Davenport West and Miss Rose Phelps.



JOHN JAY PHELPS

1945