

## James P. Stevens

Obituary, July 11, 2002, *Boothbay Register*

James Perkins Stevens of Boothbay, noted shipbuilder, marine historian and genealogist died peacefully with his family surrounding him, at his home on the River Road in Boothbay on July 6.

Born in Popham Beach on March 16, 1916, he was the second son of Jacob Arthur and Ella Stacey Stevens.

Mr. Stevens came to East Boothbay at the age of four and was a lifelong resident of the region. He attended Gould Academy in Bethel and graduated from Boothbay Harbor High School, class of 1933.

On January 1, 1936 he married Evelyn Thurston of Rumford Point, and together they had eight children.

Mr. Stevens began working with his father and older brother at Goudy & Stevens in East Boothbay. He spent the winter of 1940-41 as foreman at the Donaldson Shipyard in South Portland. During the early part World War II, he was foreman at Camden Shipbuilding & Marine Railway Company in Camden. He returned to Goudy & Stevens in 1943 becoming a partner with his brother, the late Jacob "Tunk" Stevens and his brother-in-law, the late Frank Cummings. Mr. Stevens retired in 1987 devoting his time to marine history and genealogy, having written several articles and one book, "Reminiscences of a Boothbay Boatbuilder."

Throughout his life he took an active role in community affairs and was a member of the following organizations: Crescent Chapter #54, Order of the Eastern Star and Bayview Lodge 196, lifetime member of each; Boothbay School Board, Maine Boatbuilders, past director; Bath Marine Museum, past director; and one of the original founders of the Boothbay Region Historical Society. Mr. Stevens was also awarded the lifetime service award from the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club in 1991. He was inducted into the Maritime Boatbuilders Hall of Fame in 1994. He was recently the subject of an article "Fifty Years a Boatbuilder," published in the June 2002 issue of *WoodenBoat*.

Some of the notable ships that Mr. Stevens built were: the *America*, launched in 1967; *Sea Star* launched in 1969 for Lawrence Rockefeller, and *Cassiar* launched in 1968 for the Mellon family.

Mr. Stevens is predeceased by his parents, brother, sister Eva, daughter Judith, grandson James Harvey and great-granddaughter, Emily Ann.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Evelyn Thurston Stevens and their seven children: Joel B. Stevens and wife Judy of Panama City, Florida; Elizabeth and husband Merle Smith of Farmington, Edith Stevens of Westbrook; Ella and husband William Ibarguen of Farmington; James Nathaniel Stevens and wife, Barbara of Dresden; Jacob A. Stevens, III and wife, Margaret of Bristol, Rhode Island; and Ellen and husband Robert Newton of Boothbay; 23 grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; three step-great-grand-children and several cousins, nieces and nephews. He leaves many cherished friends as well.

Those who wish may make contributions, in Mr. Stevens' memory to: Boothbay Region Historical Society, Boothbay Harbor, Maine, East Boothbay Methodist Church, East Boothbay, Maine and Popham Beach Chapel, Popham Beach, Maine.

Visiting hours were private. A funeral service was held at the East Boothbay Methodist Church in East Boothbay on Tuesday, July 9.