

From the  
*History Desk*  
*One Hundred Years Hence*

In July **1924**, Bay View Yacht Club was halfway through its first full season under that name, having evolved from the Toledo Power Boat Club the year before. It was a time of rebuilding as the club had endured a mass exodus of over 100 members in the early 1920s. This brief article intends to examine a few newsworthy stories from our history one hundred years ago.

Our leadership was Commodore Edward and Lady Jube. While this couple did not garner much attention for prowess in yachting, their names graced the society pages more than once as they were nearly constant figures at every social luncheon, fundraiser, committee ball, and dinner dance the City of Toledo, or the clubhouse could throw.

On February 6, 1924, the membership voted to purchase a brand new dredge to maintain the depth of the lagoon at Bayview Park. This was done so the club did not have to depend or rely on the city for the work as it had previously done. BVYC has seemingly always been an institution based on independence and self-reliance and that is evident here as \$3,000 of the club's account was allocated to the purchase (perhaps \$55,000-\$60,000 today). The following Saturday night a huge party was thrown to both celebrate and raise additional funding. "The Dredge and Pile Driving Night" party was described by local news outlets as "A Big Blowout" - though as a dry party (the nation was shackled by prohibition and BVYC was now a strict adherent) it is difficult for one to imagine what this may have entailed.

With the above notice of prohibition, it should be stated that in October of that year (1924) George Herman Dittman was the last individual finally brought into court and formally charged with violating the nation's prohibition laws in a rum-running scandal that had rocked the club to its core from 1920-1922. Ultimately seven arrests were made and at least one murder was attributed to the small crime syndicate focused in Point Place and Monroe. Mr. Dittman pled not-guilty and was held on \$2500 bond.

Also, that fall, the club sadly mourned the loss of William Galloway Alexander, one of the longstanding titans in the leadership of the club who passed away October 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 84. Alexander was serving as the vice-commodore of I-LYA at the time of his death, a rank which denoted the esteem the boating community held for the man. W.G. Alexander was a Civil War veteran and an auctioneer in professional life. His home at 1971 Summit Street still stands. (the yellow house third from the bend by Galena Street) He served as Commodore of the Toledo Power Boat Club 1911-1912 and was the first commodore elected in our current clubhouse. This election was a private ceremony in November, the new building officially opened to the public on December 29, 1911.



W. G. Alexander was the first Commodore elected in our current clubhouse, November 1911. This photograph depicts the building in February 1914 in *Rudder Magazine*. The leadership is posing on the east porch.

Past Commodore Alexander was instrumental in seeing the club through the troubled times the recent federal investigation had caused and chaired a committee along with city commissioners and government officials to ferret-out the unwanted elements and clean the club's reputation. No doubt wishing to see a new start made, it was shortly thereafter the club announced the name change and negotiated a new lease on the land at Bayview Park.



W. G. Alexander's vessel *Toledo* as photographed circa 1913 from the north shore of Put-In-Bay (Middle Bass Island in the background) It is difficult to make out if the flag flying at the bow is an early TPBC burgee or a personal ensign, which was also a common practice of the time. Perry's Victory Monument was being constructed on the island at the time of the photograph.

The title of this research, *One Hundred Years Hence*, is derived from a nineteenth century poetry collection. But it begs curiosity - in the year **2124** what will historians recall about our current sailing season?

- *Bay View Club Historian, John HC Thompson*