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DREADFUL ACCIDENT ON THE RIVER LOSS OF THE STEAMER SWALLOW! AND THREE LIVES!

We have received from the Hon. Mr. Hard of the Senate, Chairman of a meeting, and the Honorable Mr. Jarvis of the Assembly, Secretary, the following account of the disaster on board the *Swallow*. *At about nine o'clock* last (Monday) evening, when the boat was opposite Athens—with *about 250 passengers on board*—a village nearly opposite Hudson, during a thick snowstorm, she ran on to a rock about eight feet out of the water. The concussion was of course tremendous, and a rush was made by the passengers from below the deck. The darkness of the night—the terrors of the men and the shrieks of many of the ladies, mingled with the moans of others, struck the hearts of the boldest. Notwithstanding, *the boat was proceeding at rather a slow rate*, the surface of her deck was elevated to an angle of about 45 degrees.

To add to the horrors of the scene she took fire, which fortunately was extinguished either by her position in the water or the efforts of the crew. The dense smoke, however, which for a short time enveloped her, added nothing to the already existing Egyptian darkness, but it of course added to the fears of the passengers. About sixty of the passengers escaped over the bows of the boat and secured themselves on the rock. In the meantime *the Captain exhorted the passengers to be quiet*, and the bell of the boat immediately sounded to give alarm. It was heard at Athens and at Hudson, and responded to by bells from there, and in a short time many small boats from both places made their appearance; those from Athens, however, prudently kept from coming along side for fear that the passengers would jump into them, and they should be swamped. The boats were, however, employed in picking up a few passengers who were overboard.

Fortunately, the steamboats *Express* and *Rochester* were near at hand, and the former boat soon was enabled to approach the stern of the swallow, so that a plank was passed from one boat to the other. The *Rochester* was compelled to come to anchor, which detained her a short time. The passengers on the rock were taken in the small boats to the steamboats. Many of the passengers were obliged to swim from the cabin to the deck through the cabin door.—Two ladies attempted to jump upon the rock, and it is feared that one of them was lost. One young lady threw herself overboard but was rescued.

Mr. Charles A. Mann of Utica had two ladies under his charge, one of whom Mrs. Conklin could not be found; but it was hoped that she might have been taken off in some of the small boats.

The number of passengers, as stated above, is thought to be about 250, although rumor exaggerate them to 400. We shall of course know better when a list comes to hand. The baggage house was entirely submerged in water. The baggage will probably be recovered in such a state as might be expected considering its situation. We do not yet know what it is thought will become of the boat.

It is not known certainly that any lives are lost, although it is feared there may be. The shortness of the period during which the occurrences above stated took place, did not allow opportunity to ascertain. The passengers were not on the deck of the Swallow more than three-quarters of an hour.

It was fortunate that the disaster should have occurred between two places, at which the alarm bells of the boat could be heard. Still more fortunate was it that two steamboats should have been within hailing distance to come to her relief.

The attempt to exonerate the Captain from blame will hardly be effectual. Two other boats coming at the same time came safely. If the darkness was as great as is represented, then there is no justification for the Captain's proceeding at all.

[Meeting of the Passengers]

At a meeting of those persons who were passengers on board the Swallow, on her passage down the river, 7th of April, 1845, held on the same evening, on board the steamboat Rochester, the Hon. Gideon Hard, of Albion, was appointed chairman, and the Hon. James Jarvis of New York, secretary. John Paine, James Jarvis, Gideon Hard, Day O'Kellogg and Samuel Cary, were appointed a committee to recommend suitable resolutions for the consideration of the meeting.

The Committee reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the steamboat Swallow, at the time of the happening of the melancholy accident this evening, in the Athens channel, was *running considerably below her usual speed*, it being at the time very dark and the snow falling in such quantities as to render it very difficult for the pilot to discover the shores.

Resolved, That *Captain Squires, of the Swallow*, during the continuance of the danger to which the passengers were exposed, *conducted himself with a coolness and self-possession worthy of all praise*, and by so doing contributed essentially to the safety of the passengers.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are eminently due to the Captains of the steamboats Express and Rochester, as well as to the citizens of Athens and Hudson, for a very prompt relief by which we were rescued.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretary, and such of the passengers as are present, and be published.

GIDEON HARD, Chairman

JAMES JARVIS, Secretary.

The following is a list of the portion of the passengers who were saved, and present at the above meeting after the disaster:

List of Passengers Saved.—

Mr. Hard, Albion; David L. French, New Lebanon; Roland Buck, Buffalo; A. W. Cowles; J. T. Potter, Leyden?, Livingston county; James B. Robinson, Stephentown; Edward Ivison, Auburn; W. Stipen, do; S. P. Cranson, do; Thomas Baldwin, Va; J.C. Abbott, Utica; James Barber, New York city; W. H. Miles, Brooklyn; Wm. McMurray, Lansingburg; James Lahriston Troy; James Dickson, Albany; W. H. Graves, Bellville; L. M. Hungerford, Signoit; Wm. Hamrig, Mechanicsville; A. Fellows, Galway; S.G. Crawford; Mr. Paine *and family*, Troy; D. O. Kellogg, do; Mrs. T. Vail, J.J. Gillespy, do; S.G. Ransford, do; Wm. H. Rice, do; Martin Russell, do; E. Wilson, do; W. Niffen, do; T. W. Phipps, do; J. M. Caswell, Lansingburg; Rev. M. T. Tenny, do; E. R. King, Troy; J. L. Thompson and 2 ladies, do; Joseph Elkins, N. York; Robert Elkins, do; A. Gordon, Staten Island; J. C. Rower, Troy; J. Speir; Schenectady; E. H. Cobb, N. York; W. R. Humphrey, Ithaca; Ch. Hinman, New York; L. A. Griswold, Whitesborough; J. C. Kneeland, Troy; J. Piper, Herkimer Co[unty]; N. L. Morgan; H. Whipple, Shaftesborough; Hiram A. Wilson, Jonesville; Robert W. Carnes, do; A. W. Cowles, New York

city; A. Loveland, Troy; Miss Loveland, do; J. C. Kimland, do; Jas M. Palmer, Canandaigua; Wm. W. Whipple, Troy; John D. Humphrey; Canandaigua; John Polhemus, do; J. S. Wibert, Buff; Mr. Denis, Cambridge; Z. H. P. Hale, Troy; Mrs. Robinson & child, do; **Two Miss Conklins**, Albany; Mr. Handley, N.Y.; Mrs. Fellows & daughter, do; R. E. Churchill, do; Mr. Newkirk, Trenton; H. M. Arnold, Greenfield; Mr. Merriam, Troy; Mr. Suler, do; L. H. Brayman, Buff; Mr. Buell, Troy; Mr. Morris, New York; J. C. Houghton, Shaftsbury; E. L. Clark, Adrian, Michigan; Henry Hewett, Petersburg, Rensselaer Co; D. Carr, Troy; Robt. Knapp, Lansingburgh; Elizabeth Hillmann, Troy; **Mrs. B. Starbuck, Troy** [=saved by Capt. Squires but died afterwards]; Mr. Frisbee, Fredoma, Fredonia, Chautauqua County; H. Swartwout, Troy; Rev. L. Howard, do; A. Rogers, West Troy; J. D. Adams, New York; Calvin Haynes, Troy; Samuel Fellows, do; Mrs. A. Nash, do; J. Bristol, Dutchess County; Miss. F. A. Allen, New York; **John K. Pruyn, Stillwater**; Mrs. P. Truesdell, Troy; Wm. Ellis, do; O. B. Herrick, Baldwinsville; Mr. Allen, Ithaca; D. K. Grim, Jordan; Mr. Green, do; B. Shin, Waterford; W. Peters, Levanna; M. Clark, Pawlett, Vermont; . J. L. Hale, Rensselaerville; Isaac Hubbard, West Troy; **John K. Pruyn, Stillwater** [double entry]; J. Burrel, Hoosick; T. J. Wallace, do; Ansel Cain, do; G. Steel, Troy; Isaac Weeks, Bennington; S. Bridge, Brattleboro; Mrs. French, Bennington, **Mrs. Conklin and two daughters** [double entry], do.; J. W. Hinstreet, N.Y.; P. Digraw, do; Daniel Gleason; Herod Conklin, Rensselaerville; Mrs. Garner, Hoosick; E. I. Clark, Michigan; Miss Thayer, Hoosick; E. C. Ray, Utica; C. Elwood, Frankford; L. Hansler, do; John Giney; Henry F. Harrington; S. H. Mann; Chancery Elwood; Mr. Ensler; J. W. McLane; John M. Potter.

Mrs. Conklin is not to be found.