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Excerpt from “The Burning of the Erie”:

Among the passengers on board the ill-fated Erie, who were saved, there was only one woman, Mrs. Lynde. A letter from Buffalo to the editors of the Journal of Commerce, says: Mrs. Lynde was saved by a life preserver. Her husband who was with her had a life preserver and put it on; but she thinks that in the confusion of the moment, he omitted to secure the air from escaping; for he soon sank. A Mr. Williams saved himself, but lost his wife. He is here in a state of phrenzy [sic], and is confined. Several similar cases I hear of in this place.”