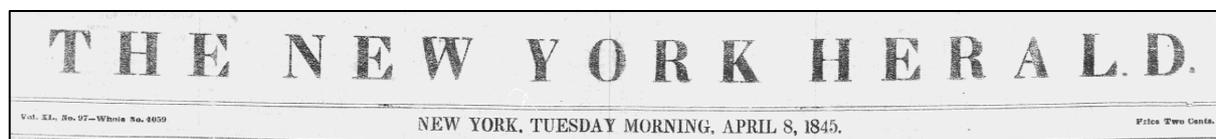


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Accident to the Swallow— Fearful Excitement

We learn from Livingston & Co. that the steamer *Swallow*, Capt. Squire[s], while on her passage from Albany to this city, was wrecked on Monday evening, at eight o'clock, by running on a ledge of rocks near Hudson. *She had between three and four hundred passengers on board at the time, but it is now supposed that all have been saved.*

This is a brief account of the disaster. It came near being a terrible calamity, and we may yet hear of the loss of several lives. Much is yet in doubt. It appears that three boats, the *Swallow*, *Rochester*, and *Express*, were coming down the river in sight of each other—the *Swallow* leading. *Her pilot, a careless fellow, determined to keep ahead, run [sic] with unchecked speed through a narrow passage off Athens*, where a ledge of rock bulges up from the river. These rocks are plainly to be seen, and every pilot on the river is acquainted with their locality; yet, strange as it may seem, the *Swallow* run [sic] plump on to them and immediately “broke her back.” This occurred about eight o'clock. She lay on the rocks a few minutes before she began to sink—time enough to lull the first alarm of the passengers.—Water, however, soon entered the cabin when her stern went down almost immediately. All her passengers rushed into the saloon. When the water reached the fires and boilers it generated so much steam and gas, and sending a lurid flame, consternation spread among the passengers, and twenty or thirty instantly threw themselves into the river—one lady exclaiming, “My God! My God! Are we to be burnt alive?” By this time the *Rochester* and *Express* were alongside rescuing passengers from the wreck, and small boats from the shore were picking up those in the water.

Of the three or four hundred, the greater portion were brought to this city in the *Express* and *Rochester*. We cannot ascertain positively that any lives were lost. Previous to the *Rochester* and *Express* leaving the *Swallow*, Mr. Pomeroy, Captain Squires and others, waded through the cabins bursting in all the state room doors, but could find no one. And a colored woman states that several children, only, had retired, and those she knew were saved.

Among the passengers in the *Swallow*, were Senator Hard, who was slightly injured by a fall; Wm. Davis and sister, of Albany—the former missing, supposed to have been taken ashore; Mrs. Conklin, of Bennington, also thought to have been carried ashore: Mrs. Hastings, elderly, of Troy, nearly drowned, but alive at the last accounts.

Daniel Webster was a passenger on board the *Rochester*.

In addition to the above, we have received a letter from Livingston & Co, which we annex:—

STEAMBOAT ROCHESTER, 10 o'clock, P.M.

We left Albany at 6 o'clock this evening, following in the wake of the steamboat *Swallow*. As we neared Athens, opposite Hudson, we observed that the *Swallow* was apparently aground,

and as she was well on the West shore, we steered to the eastward.—When close to her, her bell was rung, but we were under too much headway to come to until we had passed some distance ahead, although it was evident to us that she was sinking. Every effort was made to bring the *Rochester* about, but being on the Hudson flats, with a strong north-west wind, we were unable to accomplish it until an anchor could be rigged and let go, which enabled the boat to drift round and head toward the wreck. Much credit is due to Capt. Cruttenden and his pilots. They made every effort for dispatch, but our anxiety, and the cries for aid of the sufferers ringing in our ears made each moment seem an hour. On coming along side of the *Swallow* we found her bow completely out of the water, high up on a rock, the boat broken in two, and her stern under the water, which was over the hurricane deck. ***Capt. Squire[s] was truly in command, “Ah!” said he, “my good fellow, this is better than Lake Erie, for here we have the bottom, and I hope all are safe.”*** The ladies’ cabin was about ten feet under water, and much anxiety was felt lest some of them were drowned. But from inquiries made among the passengers ***I think that all the ladies came upon the upper deck and were saved.*** When the water came up to the furnaces, it caused the flames to rush out, and in the confusion many thought that the boat was on fire and jumped overboard, but we have every reason to suppose that all who did so were rescued. The evening was extremely dark, so as to require that the boats should be run with less than their usual headway. The steamer *Express*, which was also in the wake of the *Swallow*, got alongside of her before the *Rochester*. Both boats remained alongside until all the passengers and as much of the baggage as could be got at were taken off. There was much excitement on board the *Rochester*, and the hundred ready to advise, and the many obstacles in the way of getting the boat about, rendered it at the time of peculiar embarrassment to her commander. The moment when it was supposed that the *Swallow* was on fire was indeed one of trial to Capt. Cruttenden, yet he was cool, calm, and collected, and commanded his vessel in such a manner as showed that he is a man to be depended on in an emergency.

[Concluding paragraph of newspaper article:]

This disaster, which came so near being dreadful in its results, was caused by the gross carelessness of the pilot of the Swallow. On him all the blame rests; and we hope and trust that the proper authorities will not let this affair rest without a searching investigation. The lives of the thousands of human beings who travel on the Hudson, indeed, who travel all over the United States, ought not to be endangered and trifled with by the carelessness which has been displayed on this occasion. The ledge of rocks, on which the *Swallow* struck, is well known; and there is not a particle of excuse for wrecking this fine boat, or playing at “paw paw” with the lives of the three hundred passengers on board. Let the affair be thoroughly investigated.