

**Time Frame for an American Writer to Write and Smuggle**

The conflagration of the steamboat *Erie* on Lake Erie: **August 9, 1841**

The wreck of the steamboat *Swallow* on the Hudson River: **April 7, 1845**

**Augustus Fuller**, wheelsman of the *Erie*, is among the “lost.” Captain **T. J. Titus** of the *Erie* thinks: “Fuller remained at the wheel and never left it until burned to death.”

The Captain of the *Swallow* is **Abraham H. Squires**, who rescued drowning passengers and members of the crew of the *Erie*. His pilot, **William Burnett**, comes under fire from the Press.

Linkage

Captain Abraham H. Squires of the *DeWitt Clinton* rescues at least nineteen passengers together with Capt. Titus of the *Erie*.

**Chief Justice of the State of New York, Samuel Nelson** of Cooperstown, takes the boy **Levi Beebee** to Buffalo so that he can board the *Erie* on his way to Cleveland. The boy survives due to his stamina and heroism.

On **April 21, 1845**, William Burnett, the pilot of the *Swallow*, is indicted by Grand Jury and arrested on **May 1, 1845**. **Associate Justice Samuel Nelson of the United States Supreme Court**, Cooper’s closest friend and neighbor in Cooperstown, presiding the full length of the Circuit Court trial. Extensive news coverage accusing Burnett of negligence and manslaughter.

Resurrection of the Fuller legend in the form of John Maynard; instead of the worst tragedy on Lake Erie, all passengers and crew are saved!

The time frame for crafting the sketch: **Between April 22 and May 15, 1845.**

Defense of helmsmen in general. Exoneration of Burnett. Implicit repudiation of the American Press. Burnett is pronounced not guilty on **April 13, 1846**.

**May 16, 1845:** **James Fenimore Cooper** dispatches *Satanstoe* to his London publisher, **Richard Bentley**.

—With a “stowaway” manuscript” of “The Helmsman of Lake Erie.”

**Ca. June 1, 1845**, arrival of manuscript[s] in London.

**June 7, 1845:** Publication of “The Helmsman of Lake Erie” in *The Church of England Magazine*, London, England.  
**June 7, 1845:** Bentley announces forthcoming publication of *Satanstoe*.  
**June 10, 1845:** *Satanstoe* is published in London.

**July 19, 1845:** Publication of “The Helmsman of Lake Erie” in Poughkeepsie, New York, in the *Poughkeepsie Journal & Eagle*.