

The Belfast News-Letter

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WRECK OF THE STEAMBOAT SWALLOW.—

[An excerpt] From the New York Herald, April 12.

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.

Our accounts differ in regard to the number of lives lost — some saying fifty, others a hundred. It will be impossible to ascertain with exactness how many are lost, as the passengers were probably not all booked. Several bodies have been recovered.

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 with unchecked speed through a narrow passage off Athens, where a ledge of rocks 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* ran 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 up 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.

[Among the saved is Mr. M. G. Lenghi, a merchant in this city. After a great effort he succeeded in reaching the shore.]

We learn that four Sisters of Charity were supposed to be on board [the *Swallow*. They were from Albany to visit this city.]