

Milwaukie Daily Sentinel
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Wednesday, June 4, 1845
Vol. 1, p.2

MILWAUKIE DAILY SENTINEL.

WE WILL CLING TO THE PILLARS OF THE TEMPLE OF OUR LIBERTIES, AND IF THEY MUST FALL WE WILL PERISH AMID THE RUINS.

VOLUME I.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 4, 1845.

NUMBER 150

CAPT. SQUIRES AND THE SWALLOW.— A card signed by a large number of merchants, masters of steam and sail vessels out of the port of Buffalo, and other residents in Buffalo, has been published, expressing their undiminished confidence in Capt. Abraham H. Squires as a skillful, prudent and valuable commander—as a man in whom there is no guile, and as one ever attentive to the wants and the safety of those placed in his care, and recommending him to the travelling public as every way worthy of their confidence and esteem. We cheerfully give place to the following from the *Troy Budget*, respecting Capt. Squires.

“Up to the time of the accident to the *Swallow*, her noble commander had been blessed beyond his compeers with success in Navigation. Among the many accidents on Lake Erie, it was his good fortune to escape with his vessel and passengers unharmed. *When the Erie was lost by fire on the Lake, Capt. Squires discovered the fire at a distance of twenty miles and against the advice of his passengers who pronounced it a trifling fire, he proceeded that whole distance out of his course and saved large numbers from a watery grave.* And many has been the occasion in storm and danger, that the generous heart of Squires has led him to the rescue of those in peril and the succoring [of] the distressed. His intrepidity, courage, skill and humaneness, were proverbial with all who knew him. In his care the passenger felt as safe as it were possible to feel, even where the waves ran highest and where the storm raged most furiously. And they who parted with him as commander on the Lake, did it with regret followed by their most cordial wishes for his success in the new sphere where he was called to serve the public.

“The *Swallow* before she was placed into the hands of Capt. Squires had been thoroughly overhauled and refitted, and under his popular command was receiving the general preference of the travelling public. Down to the night of the accident, she was carrying more passengers than any other boat and the voice of the public was vocal with applause to her commander. An ill-starred moment, however, intervened. The vessel was doomed to a change in the tide of her fortune.—As if led on by fate, she dashed upon a rock and threatened a watery grave to all on board. Her faithful commander who was at the time attending to his legitimate duties of his station in his office, was instantly on deck with light in hand learning the nature of the accident, and giving instant directions by which nearly all on board were saved, and which if they had been more strictly followed would have saved every living body from death.—In this trying and alarmful moment all who saw him bear witness to the manly bearing of the Capt. And acknowledge that none could have done more or done it better than he did. Whatever blame might be attached, if anywhere, all were ready to acquit Capt. Squires of the remotest dereliction of duty.

“From the moment the accident occurred, Capt. Squires has been constant in his attendance at the wreck, except only when called away by business connected with the raising of the vessel or to appear before the committee. From that moment until this, no effort was spared by him to find the bodies of any that might have been lost beyond those recovered at the time of the accident. Whilst the cabins remained unexplored, he would not consent to leave the wreck but remained on the spot contributing all in his power to the raising of the vessel.—That having been accomplished, and *the apprehensions of the public having been relieved by the absence of a single body in any part of the boat*, we shall expect to see him at a post which he is so capable and worthy of filling, in the command of the *Albany*, which is temporarily upon the day line until the appearance of the *Niagara*.