

TERRIBLE DISASTER ON THE OHIO.

Steamboat Collision—Both Boats in Flames—Seventy or Eighty Lives Lost.

MADISON, Ind., Saturday, Dec. 5.

The Madison Courier says: A terrible accident occurred on the Ohio River last night, at about 11:30 o'clock. The magnificent steamers *United States*, descending, and the *America*, ascending, collided at Bay's Landing, about two miles above Warsaw, on the Indiana side. The *United States* had a quantity of petroleum on her deck. The *America* struck the *United States* on the right-hand side, forward of the stops, cutting into her a considerable distance, and sinking her to her main deck in about two minutes. A fire communicated in some way to the petroleum, and as soon as the boats collided they were in flames. It is said that some mistake was made in the signals of the *America*. She blew her whistle twice, which the pilot on the *United States* apparently did not hear. The *America* again signaled by two blasts of the whistle, which the *United States* answered, but it was too late. The excitement was terrible, and it is supposed that seventy-five or eighty people were lost. Several citizens, three of whom are STEELE BRIGHT, LEWIS YANCEY and O. B. SAPPINGTON, of Madison, are among the missing. The receiving clerk, JAMES JOHNS, of the *United States*, is also missing. It is estimated that thirty-three women, who were passengers on the *United States*, were lost. W. C. TAYLOR, clerk of the *America*, after securing the books, register and valuables, went through the cabin, kicking in the doors of the state-rooms. Because of this precaution and cool intrepidity of Mr. TAYLOR, there were no lives lost on the *America*. Mr. INSKOR and wife jumped from the *United States* to the deck of the *America*, a distance of fifteen feet, and were saved. The survivors of the terrible accident unite in praise of the management of the *America* after the collision.

Not thirty seconds elapsed after the boats collided before the *United States* was a mass of flames from stern to stern. The *America* might have been saved, had she not attempted to rescue the passengers on the *United States*. Those who were saved owe their lives to the coolness and courage of the officers and crew of the *America*. The pilot stood at his post until the pilot-house was burning around him. He then left to avoid suffocation. The destruction of these fine and costly steamers, resulting in such a terrible loss of life, and the fears for the fate of those who are missing, have cast a gloom over the entire community.

Further Particulars—The Loss of Life Larger than at First Reported.

CINCINNATI, Sunday, Dec. 6.

Further particulars of the steamboat collision yesterday show a larger loss of life than was at first supposed. Immediately after the collision the *United States* was enveloped in flames, which instantly communicated to the *America*. Both steamers were completely destroyed in an incredibly short space of time. About seventy-five cabin passengers were on the *United States*, more than half of whom were lost. The reports of the officers are very conflicting; but, as near as can be learned, forty-five passengers, (including eighteen ladies,) and in addition seven of the officers and cabin crew, were lost, while only four out of twenty-two deck hands are known to be saved. The accident is attributed to mistakes in the whistles. The *United States* was built at Cincinnati, cost \$280,000, and was insured for \$100,000. The *America* was built in 1867, and cost \$250,000; insured for \$133,000, principally in Cincinnati.

The passengers on the *United States* known to be saved are M. Seickler and wife, of Fremont, Ohio; James Prince and brother, of Louisville; Lee Kahn and Dr. Leslie, of Cincinnati, and B. Nelson, of Allgheny City, Penn. Master Pearce was saved, but his mother and brother were lost. Capt. Joseph McCamant, of Cincinnati, bruised about the neck; Robert Nelson, of Newport, Ky., slightly injured; J. H. Green and lady, of Louisville; George A. Middleton, of Cincinnati; W. W. Hawley, of Cincinnati; Wm. Chamberlain, of Cincinnati; Mr. McFarren and wife, of Nashville; Mr. Hays, Nashville; J. D. Fisher, of New-York; S. P. Clark, of Memphis, are also saved. The following are missing, but are supposed to have been saved: J. Crawford and lady, Mr. Ruggs and wife, Mr. Hudie, wife and daughter, B. F. Morris, B. Stensinger, Mr. Otter J. Mallow, P. Hartman. Those lost on the *United States* are: Mrs. R. A. Jones and daughter Eva, of Wayneville, Ohio; Elijah Foot, colored. The list of the passengers of the *United States* cannot be correctly given, owing to the loss of the clerk's register. Rev. Mr. Parrin and Rev. Mr. Ribley, of New-York, are missing; also, Mrs. Harriet Warring, of New-Albany, and a young lady in her employ. Mr. Digley, John F. Burns, J. M. Ledower, M. J. Look, W. Garvin, L. R. Johnson, Mrs. Geo. W. Griffin. — Hidelberg, Mrs. Mary L. Johnson, Steele Bright, O. B. Sappington, L. H. Vance, M. Elfers, Mr. Hamner, Wm. Briggs, Charles Runk, Mr. Pope and Mr. Hogan are supposed to be saved.

The officers lost are John Fennel, steward; Richard Marshall, second steward; James Johns, third clerk; James Fennel, bar-keeper, and Dan, (colored,) barber. Mr. Hays, of Nashville, was severely bruised. Of ten firemen on the *United States*, only three were saved. Ole Bull was among the passengers saved.

Vice-President Smith, of the Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railroad, tendered the Mail Company a special train for the use of the wounded and unfortunate. The Mail Company has been organized thirty years, and only two accidents have happened in that time. The wife of Commodore Thompson and a lady traveling with her are lost. Mrs. Hays, of Nashville, is missing. John Moreo, of Owenville, Ohio, is lost. Harry Brunswick, billiard manufacturer, of this city, is missing. The yawl of the *United States* was swung up on stern davits, when the deck-hands made a rush for it, upsetting it, and throwing all in the river. Many of them were drowned. There were 96 passengers on the *America*, only one of whom is known to be lost. The wreck of the *America* lies against the bank on the Indiana shore, and the *United States* lies in eight feet of water about a hundred feet above.

MADISON, Ind., Sunday, Dec. 6.

Eight bodies have been recovered from the wreck of the steamer *United States*. Seven are so badly burned that they cannot be recognized. The other is supposed to be Mrs. PEANCE, of Louisville. The steamer *Graham* has been chartered, and will leave at 2 o'clock in the morning, taking skiffs, drags, nets, &c., to search for bodies.

LOUISVILLE, Sunday, Dec. 6.

Besides those already mentioned as having been lost on the steamer *United States*, are two ladies who were put on board at Cincinnati by Mr. WHELAN, of Philadelphia; a lame gentleman and wife from New-Hampshire, and a man and his sister from Natchitoches, La.

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