

S. S. CRYSTAL STREAM BURNED AND THREE LIVES SACRIFICED AT COLE'S ISLAND EARLY TODAY

**Most Awful Tragedy in the History of the
St. John River.**

Number of Dead at First Reported as Three Was This Afternoon Increased to Four---Willard Logan, Allan Logan, Fred Smith and Edward Baxter the Victims--Caught While Asleep Beneath the Deck, They Were Roasted to Death---Grim Details of the Terrible Fatality.

William Logan, of Land's End, Fireman, Burned to Death.

Allan Logan, of Land's End, Deckhand, and a Brother of William Logan, Burned to Death.

Edward Baxter, Day's Landing, Kings County, Burned to Death.

Fred. Smith, of Shannon, Q. C., Deckhand, Burned to Death.

Herbert McAlary, of Long Reach, Mate, Badly Burned and May Die.

Archibald Belyea, of St. John, Purser, Slightly Burned.

Mrs. Chase, Stewardess, St. John, Slightly Burned.

Wentworth Roberts, Engineer, St. John, Slightly Burned.

Steamer Crystal Stream, Owned by D. J. Purdy, M. P. P., and Valued at \$22,500, Burned to the Water's Edge--A Total Loss.

Passenger Bridge at Cole's Island Burned.

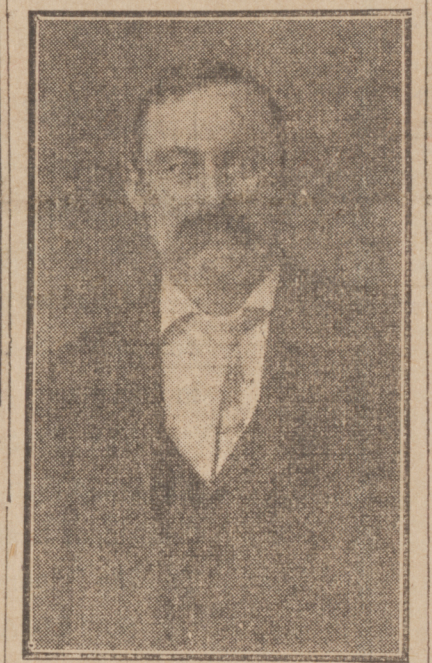
first fierce onslaught of the flames fought hard first to rescue their comrades and then to save the steamer. All efforts to reach Fireman Logan, Deckhand Logan and Deckhand Smith were fruitless.

A wall of flame barred the path to their sleeping quarters, while that portion of the steamer was a literal furnace.

The men were eventually dragged out and Doctors Armstrong and Earle, the only physicians on Cole's Island, were hastily summoned.

Before they arrived however the men were dead, probably having died before they were brought out.

Herbert McAlary, the mate, was frightfully burned. What medical aid could be



W. W. Roberts, Engineer

The Crystal Stream left her wharf at Indiantown yesterday morning about 10 o'clock for her route on the Washademoak of which Cole's Island is the terminal point. She arrived at Cole's Island about 6.30 and was tied up to her wharf about one o'clock this morning when the tragedy occurred. It is believed there was very little cargo on board but she carried as far as known, eleven people, all of whom are believed to have been on board when the fire broke out.

List of Those on the Steamer

Fred S. Mabce, of St. John, captain.
Herbert McAlary, of Long Reach, mate.
W. W. Roberts, of St. John, engineer.
Willard Logan, of Land's End, fireman.
Archibald P. Belyea, of St. John, purser.
Mrs. Chase, of St. John, stewardess.
Mrs. Coleman, of St. John, cook.
Mrs. M. McCutcheon, of St. John, waitress.

Allan Logan, of Land's End, deckhand.
Fred. Smith, of Shannon, Q. C., deckhand.
Edward Baxter, —, deckhand.

Caught Like Rats in Blazing Trap

As far as could be learned, all of these were on the steamer at the time, and it is believed they were asleep in their berths.

The fire is reported to have caught on the main deck and it probably spread with such rapidity that the victims were caught asleep and could not escape.

The deck hands and Fireman Willard Logan had their sleeping apartments beneath the deck, just below where the fire broke out. They were probably caught like rats in a trap, and roasted to death before they could escape. Edward Baxter, deckhand, was the only one of this party who escaped injury or death, and how he escaped is a mystery.

Wentworth Roberts, the engineer; Herbert McAlary, mate; Mrs. Chase, Mrs. McCutcheon and Mrs. Coleman had their berths on the main deck, while Captain Mabce's cabin was on the hurricane deck.

How the fire originated is not known. The first information the people of Cole's Island had of it was when the little steamer was seen enveloped in flames and the cries of the burning men were heard. The members of the crew who escaped the

given him was hastily rendered and he was brought to the city on the steamer Aberdeen, which arrived here early this afternoon. A coach and the ambulance met the Aberdeen at Indiantown and McAlary was conveyed to the hospital, where he is reported to be in a critical condition.

Engineer Roberts was painfully burned while fighting the fire, but his injuries are not serious. Mrs. Chase, the stewardess, was also slightly burned.

Capt. Mabce remained at Cole's Island to look after the bodies.

Steamer Burned to Water's Edge

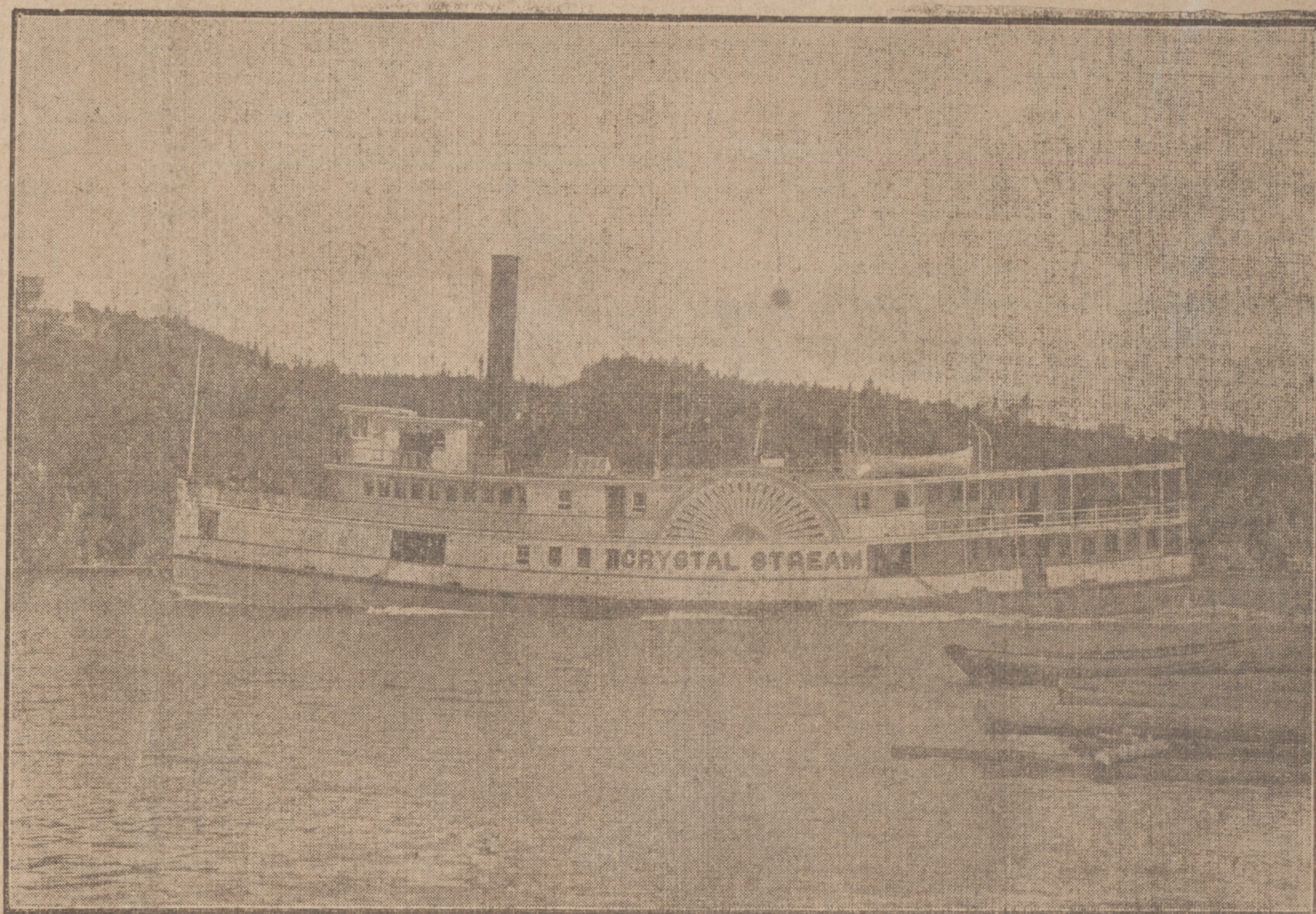
At the time of the accident the Crystal Stream was tied up to the western wharf at Cole's Island. As the fire gained headway so suddenly it was impossible to fight it effectively and the steamer was soon a roaring mass of flames. It was a spectacular fire but none of those who saw the tongues of flame sharply silhouetted against the sky and river dreamed of the fearful tragedy being enacted before their very eyes. As the steamer was moored close to the wharf it was, of course, supposed that all on board had made their escape.

It was reported that the passenger bridge at Cole's Island had caught fire from the steamer and had been burned but at noon this could not be verified.

Something About the Three Victims

William Logan, fireman, and Allan Logan, deckhand, who were burned to death were the sons of the late Joseph Logan, of Land's End and were well known and highly respected along the river and in this city where they numbered many friends.

Allan Logan has been living at Grand Lake. He leaves a widow and one child. Walter Logan, of R. P. & W. F. Starr's, is a relative of the Logan boys.



THE ILL FATED STEAMER CRYSTAL STREAM
Which Was Burned to the Water's Edge at Cole's Island This Morning, When Four Lives Were Lost.

Fred. Smith, the other deckhand who was burned to death, was a son of Allan Smith, of Shannon, Queens county. He had been on the boat but a short time.

Herbert McAlary, the mate, who was so badly burned that he may die from his injuries is a nephew of Captain Peatman of the Elaine, and was formerly on that craft himself.

Wentworth Roberts, the engineer, who is slightly burned, is especially well known at Indiantown. He resides on Albert street. He has a wife and family. Mrs. Roberts, his mother, had received no details of the tragedy this morning beyond the rumor that her son had been burned to death. She was prostrated with grief until later she was assured that his injuries were slight and she had been spared the terrible bereavement of other mothers and wives.

Purser Archibald P. Belyea, who was slightly burned lives in Indiantown, while the stewardess, Mrs. Chase, also slightly burned, made her headquarters on the boat.

History of the Burned Steamer

The steamer Crystal Stream was a side wheeler and was built at Bull's Ferry, New Jersey in 1873. She was 132 feet long, 25 feet beam and had a draught of 9 feet 3 inches. She was purchased in New York about five years ago by the People's Steamship Company and was put on the Washademoak route from St. John to Cole's Island. She was a most satisfactory boat in every respect. Last spring she was elaborately painted and refitted and new staterooms added and when she went on the route this season was valued at \$22,500.



Herbert McAlary, Mate.

In March 1906 Daniel J. Purdy, M. P. P., bought the controlling interest in the boat from the People's Steamship Company and, under a new charter, formed the Crystal Stream S. S. Co. and put the boat on the route. Captain Fred Mabce her commander was formerly on the steamer Elaine and this was his first season on the ill-fated Crystal Stream.

The Scene of the Tragedy

Cole's Island, the scene of the tragedy, is on the Washademoak River, about 60 miles from this city and 33 miles from the junction of the Washademoak and the St. John. It is the terminus of the service and quite a trade in agricultural products is done with the farmers living on the island.

Cody's, five miles distant, on the Central Railway is the nearest point to Cole's Island, and many anxious inquiries as to the details of the tragedy were made there this morning.

Details however were meagre as no one at Cody's knew the exact circumstances and Cole's Island was inaccessible either by telephone or telegraph.

Mr. Purdy Talks of the Disaster

Daniel J. Purdy, owner of the Crystal Stream, was almost overcome with grief when seen this morning. He lives at Riverside during the summer months, and it was not until he arrived in the city on the 9 o'clock train this morning that he learned of the disaster. David H. Nase met him at the train and imparted the fearful details. Mr. Purdy was shocked when he learned of the accident. He was not so much concerned over the loss of his steamer, but was overcome at the terrible fatality which resulted from the fire. He said the Crystal Stream was insured in Lloyd's, in England, but the insurance would not half cover the loss. When she left her wharf yesterday she had the lightest cargo she has taken up river this season. She had in her cargo four bundles of pressed hay, consigned to Cole's Island, but this, he thought, had been discharged before the fire broke out.

He said at this season the blow was a hard one. He would get another boat "in fifteen minutes," if he could, but he had no idea where to procure one.

How the Sad News Reached the City

As far as known, the news of the disaster first reached the city in a telephone message to D. H. Nase from Capt. Mabce. As soon as the fire had spent its force Capt. Mabce hastened to get word

of the awful occurrence to the city, and for that purpose went to Cody's. He telephoned just the simple facts of the fatality, but these facts were more eloquent in their simplicity than any embellishment could make them. The story was sufficiently terrible. Three--and perhaps four--lives had been sacrificed and thousands of dollars worth of property destroyed.

Dr. Matthew L. MacFarlane, of Fairville, was the first to communicate the news to the Evening Times, and the subse-



Willard Logan, One of the Men Burned to Death

quent details were learned from Mr. Nase, Mr. Purdy and from Miss Roberts, of Cody's.

This was the first accident for most of the members of the Crystal Stream's staff, although Mrs. Mary Coleman, the cook, who previous to her marriage was Miss Wilson, was on the steamer Star when that steamer was burned some years ago.

Other Steamers Lost on the River

The history of the river steamers is indeed a tragic one, but the awful fatality of today is generally regarded as the worst. Other steamers which have been burned are the Belleisle, the Acadia, the David Weston and the Star. The tragic fate of most of these is still fresh in the minds of the readers, but in none of them was the loss of life and property so severe as in that grim happening of the early hours of this morning, when the good steamer Crystal Stream was reduced to ashes and three brave men sent to eternity.

A telephone message received by D. J. Purdy at 1.49 o'clock, reported the Aberdeen passing Oak Point. She was expected at Indiantown about 3 o'clock.

LATER

List of Dead Is Now Four

The shocking news reached Indiantown this afternoon that the body of Edward Baxter was found in the hull of the burned steamer. This makes the list of dead four and proves conclusively that the first overpowered the deck hands and firemen as they were asleep in their berths just beneath that portion of the main deck where the fire started.

It is now learned that McAlary had also slept last night in the quarters with the deckhands and the firemen. He barely escaped with his life but was terribly burned. Those who were asleep in other portions of the boat escaped with very slight burns or were uninjured.

Edward Baxter, the fourth victim, was 21 years of age and was a son of Joseph Baxter of Day's Landing. He was unmarried. About two years ago he was employed by F. H. J. Ruel in the capacity of man servant at Mr. Ruel's country house. Mr. Ruel was informed of Baxter's death expressed sincere sorrow. He said he was an honest, upright young man and a faithful employe.

Up to 1.15 the steamer Aberdeen, with Herbert McAlary aboard had not reached Indiantown.

The steamer Champlain arrived about 1.15 but her captain said he had not seen the Aberdeen.

THE JUDGE REFUSES

FREDERICTON, June 21 (Special).—Announcement was made in the circuit court here this morning by Dr. Pugsley that the defamatory libel case of the King vs. Crocket would not be tried this term. He applied for a commission to take the evidence of two men named Foster and O'Brien, former employees of the St. Lawrence Hall, and the court refused it. He also asked that the question raised by defendant's plea of justification be referred to the supreme court. On this point his honor took until Monday to decide.

He then stated that in view of the court's decision yesterday he did not propose to go on with the trial this term, and the defendant's witnesses might as well return home.

See Second Edition for Emmerson Case



Capt. Mabce of the Crystal Stream

These few short sentences tell in a nutshell the grim story of the most awful tragedy ever recorded in the history of the beautiful St. John river.

Three souls went to eternity in the early hours of this morning.

Three homes are today plunged into poignant grief by the sudden visitation of death in awful guise, while the whole city is shocked at the terrible tragedy enacted at Cole's Island.

The steamer Crystal Stream was burned to the water's edge about one o'clock this morning.

Willard Logan and Allan Logan, of Land's End, and Fred Smith, of Shannon, Queens County, were burned to death in the holocaust and Herbert McAlary, the mate of the little steamer, was so badly burned that he may not recover. Archibald Belyea, purser, and Mrs. Chase, stewardess of the steamer, were also slightly burned while all that remains of the steamer itself is some charred and blackened beams and a few tons of scrap iron.

Details of Tragedy Not Yet Known

The details of the tragedy are not yet definitely known, and probably will not be for some hours after the Times is published. Enough is known, however, to show that the disaster is the worst ever recorded in the history of the lower river.