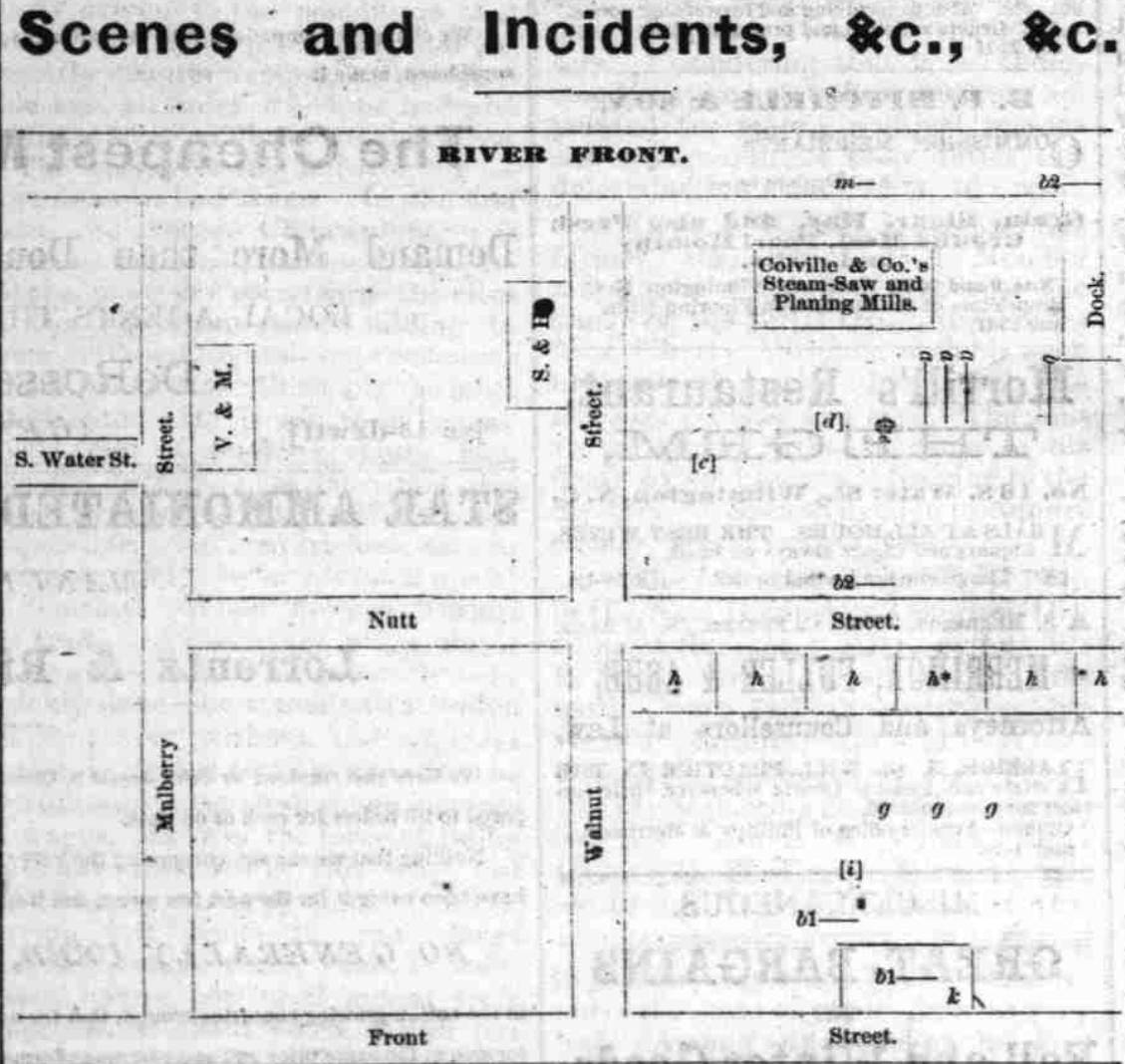


TERRIBLE DISASTER. Explosion of Boilers in the Steam Saw and Planing Mills of Colville & Co. TWO MEN AND ONE GIRL INSTANTLY KILLED. SEVERAL PERSONS WOUNDED. Scenes and Incidents, &c., &c.



It becomes our painful duty to chronicle one of the most terrible and heart-rending disasters this morning which has ever visited our city. It was about twenty minutes to 7 o'clock yesterday morning that a fearful concussion was felt throughout the city, while many were yet in their beds, and the news soon became generally circulated that it was caused by the explosion of a boiler in the steam saw mill of Messrs. Colville & Co., located on the wharf West of Nutt street and between Walnut and Red Cross streets. We visited the scene of the disaster soon after it occurred and found that three persons had been killed outright by the explosion and several others wounded, while the scene of destruction that met our gaze beggars description.

As before stated, occurred just about twenty minutes to 7 o'clock, making a terrific noise, the shock being felt for squares around, and heard with distinctness in every part of the city. There were three boilers, one of which was forced through the air in an almost straight line in the direction of Front Street, as represented in the diagram above, striking the gable-end on the south side of a small bar-room on East side of Nutt Street, occupied by Mrs. Sarah Richardson, carrying away a portion of the roof, knocking down a chimney in the rear, leveling trees and fences as it went, finally striking the walls of the brick basement to the house on Front Street, occupied jointly by Messrs. Joseph Meir and James S. Williams, where it parted, the larger portion of the boiler entering the basement, knocking the first wall down and striking with great force against the outer wall, making a deep indentation; but, as this wall was below and adjacent to the sidewalk, it was here arrested in its course. The basement referred to was occupied by two families of colored people named Hall and Farmer. A daughter of the former by the name of Hannah Hall was out in the yard at the time, near or inside a small house on the premises. The house was completely demolished by the boiler and the girl instantly killed. The man Farmer, together with his wife, Esther Farmer, and Caroline Hall, were in the basement, the latter lying on a bed in a corner of the room and Esther Farmer somewhere about the fire place when the catastrophe occurred. The basement was badly wrecked and the bedstead upon which the woman lay knocked down and covered by bricks and rubbish. The man escaped with slight injury, but Esther Farmer was severely wounded about the head and Caroline Hall received a terrible wound on the right leg, just below the knee. She lay stunned for some minutes, when she finally revived sufficiently to crawl out from beneath the rubbish, but utterly unconscious of what had happened until she had reached the yard and was informed of what had occurred and that her daughter was among the victims. Hannah Hall, the girl who was killed, was about 14 years old.

The upper part of the building on the side where the boiler struck was occupied by Mr. James S. Williams, a night watchman, who had gone down town for a few minutes previous to retiring to sleep. His wife and child were lying down in the bed room when the explosion occurred, and the shock which startled her was followed by fragments of some sort crashing through the windows on the side fronting the river and going through the opposite windows into the street, scattering fragments of glass over the floor and the bed upon which she was lying. The windows of the hall were shattered in like manner, some of the fragments passing directly over the bed upon which Mr. Williams would have been sleeping had he been at home. All the supports of the rear side of this part of the house were also knocked down with the exception of one pillar, and workmen had to be immediately employed to make the necessary repairs, while a door above was broken in by flying bricks or a fragment of the boiler. The other part of the boiler remained in the yard near the entrance of the basement, where it had been parted by the force of the concussion.

Another boiler was torn asunder, one part striking off obliquely and falling in the dock, while the other was hurled in the direction of Nutt street, striking a pile of lumber, breaking a quantity of it into fragments and finally revolving and rolling through the yard with the force of the impetus given to it until at last it came to a stand-still just inside of the fence dividing the mill yard from Nutt street. Had it gone a little higher the probability is that it would have crashed through the houses on the East side of Nutt street and added materially to the number of the victims. A piece of boiler or some other attachment of the machinery was hurled through the air in the direction of the river to the height of about fifty feet, striking just above the mast-head of the Schr. Delmar, lying at the end of Messrs. Colville & Co.'s wharf, taking in lumber, carrying away both gibs-stays, part of her bow-stay, and the fore-topmast nearly to fragments, until it buried itself in the river some distance from the vessel. It had the appearance of a seven-foot stack and was apparently about seven feet long. The other boiler was hurled a short distance from the scene of the explosion, where it remained almost intact, being but slightly damaged. Bricks and fragments of lumber were hurled in every direction, almost darkening the atmosphere. The windows of Messrs. Sprunt & Hinson's office, a fine two-story brick building, about a hundred yards from the mill, were shattered to atoms, while a piece of lumber, about five feet in length, was hurled through the middle window in the second story and lodged against the front door. The glass in the cupola was also demolished and the top of the building literally covered with bricks and rubbish.

and arms and left hand bruised, besides being badly scalded. Gilbert Taylor, sawyer, hurt through the head, being at the saw when the accident occurred. Also badly scalded. Richmond James, log hauler, residing on 11th, between Market and Dock streets, severely scalded and otherwise injured. Caroline Hall and Esther Farmer, injuries referred to elsewhere. All of the killed and wounded were colored.

INJURY TO PROPERTY. In addition to the loss sustained by the loss of the boilers, the middle frame of the mill was almost completely demolished. Where the boilers stood there was not a particle of brick or other material left to show that the space had ever been occupied. The large chimney belonging to the mill was considerably cracked, but can be easily repaired. Messrs. Colville & Co. estimate their loss at \$10,000, including loss of time, &c.

THE INQUIRY. Coroner Hewlett having been notified of the circumstances of the disaster, summoned and empaneled the following jury: R. F. Eydin, Foreman; W. J. Penton, J. H. Fillyaw, Charles Strode, W. H. Biddle, J. P. King, Eli Herring, G. F. Lillington, R. W. Brown, W. E. Davis, J. A. White and David Cowan, who, after reviewing the remains of the unfortunate dead, adjourned to the Court House, where an examination of the witnesses took place.

G. M. Sumnerell sworn: I got at the mill at 6 o'clock. I have charge of the yard, and have nothing to do with the steam; know nothing about it until the explosion; hands all there at work; was in the office at the time of the explosion and ran out. I am unable to state the cause of the explosion, as I am not an expert in steam machinery; don't know that there was anything attended to his business, was sober, &c. No one has spoken to me of danger to the boilers on account of steam. Don't think all three of the boilers exploded; one may have exploded and stove the others up. Have not examined carefully. There were three boilers alongside; they were put in last Summer, I think.

J. W. Taylor sworn: I left the mill last night at 7 P. M. I generally get to the mill in the morning about the time it is started. The watchman gets up steam. When I got there this morning about 6 o'clock I saw no signs of any unusual amount of steam. I walked through the mill and gave the usual orders to go ahead. The boilers were all sound as far as I knew; I think the gauge cranks were all in order; don't know whether the steam valve was in order or not. We carried 80 pounds of steam; the safety valve was set at that gauge; she always blew off at that point; don't know whether the engine was blowing off at that time or not. We put in the boilers last Summer; had been in use before, but had not been burned to my knowledge. We deemed them to be good or we would not have put them in. We have run at 80 pounds ever since we put them in. We had employed this engineer for 7 years and always considered him trustworthy. I can form no idea of the cause of the accident. It was entirely unforeseen.

Bryant Holmes sworn: I worked in the yard and helped Mr. Sumnerell. I have worked in this yard for 4 years. The engineer and firemen were sober men. I never saw them drunk. They were there when I came to the mill at 6 o'clock this morning. No hands are missing from the yard. I have no idea how the boiler came to explode. I believe it was purely an accident. The engineer and firemen were there on time. The verdict of the jury was that the deceased Samuel Carter, George Bynum and Hannah Anderson (called Hall), "came to their death by the accidental explosion of a steam boiler at the steam saw mill of Colville & Co."

STATEMENT. "The calamity that befell our establishment this morning is one of those accidents which is very difficult of explanation. The boilers were three in number, 36 feet long and 3 feet in diameter, and known as the plain cylinder boilers. They had been in use about two years. They were fitted up in the most substantial and approved manner in every respect. The engineer in charge of them we considered reliable, having been in our employ about seven years in that capacity. The mill started this morning at the usual time, 8 o'clock, and ran about forty minutes when the accident happened. We ask the sympathy of the citizens for those families who are in distress through this calamity, and we invite a full investigation of the whole matter.

"COLVILLE & CO." INCIDENTS. Thousands of our citizens visited the scene of the disaster during the day, examining the ruins, viewing the bodies of the dead, &c. Col. J. G. Burr was knocked down by the concussion while walking on Front street and received a few trifling scratches. Bricks were thrown by the force of the explosion as far as the Railroad shops, resulting in slight damage to some of the coaches. The large sign on the roof of Messrs. Vick & Mebane's office, about one hundred and fifty yards from the mill, was "knocked into a cocked hat" by the flying bricks. Mr. Taylor was on the wharf attending to the delivery of lumber when the explosion occurred, and Mr. Sumnerell, another

Spirits Turpentine.

Business men of Charlotte express that the Mayor of Fayetteville is sick. Senator Merrimon has arrived in Raleigh. Interest is increasing in the Baptist meeting in Raleigh. Charlotte and Statesville are to go on a joint temperance picnic soon. Thirty marriage licenses were issued during the past month in Wake. Charlotte Observer thinks cold weather has killed off the peach prospects of that section. The Biblical Recorder wants a State Historical Society. We want a State Historical Society. "A girl Hashed by her own consent," is the way Mr. Hask's marriage comes out of the Biblical Recorder Mills. Mr. Johnstone Jones has bought the interest of Mr. McLaughlin in the Charlotte Observer, and is now sole proprietor. Joe Davidson a colored express wagon driver of Charlotte, had a thumb cut off a few days since in attending to his duties. Charlotte Observer: Miss Ella Parker, of Portsmouth, Va., died in this city on Friday night last, at the residence of Mr. B. H. Fresson. Mr. J. S. Means, an enterprising young farmer of Cabarrus, has two Poland China pigs, eight months old, each of which weighs 300 lbs., says the Southern Home. Mr. W. C. Bullock, a prominent and most estimable citizen of Granville county, died a few days ago. He was a leading member of the Presbyterian church. Dr. M. C. Whitaker, one of the most prominent citizens of Halifax, and who was Senator from that county in the General Assembly, died at his residence three miles from Enfield last Saturday morning.

The Robesonian states that Mr. Josh. T. James, Local of the Wilmington Journal and late editor and proprietor of the North Carolina Argus, is about to establish at Wadesboro' a new paper to be called the Chronicle. Hillsboro Recorder: Kitchen thieves are all the go in Hillsboro. Mr. Cooley and Mr. Phillips lost heavily by their operations. An attempt seemed to have been made on the premises of Jesse Hedgepeth, and his watch dog was killed, but nothing was taken. Raleigh News: Duncan Glenn, Esq., a worthy citizen of Oak Grove township, in this county, committed suicide on Friday morning, by hanging himself to an apple tree. No cause for the act is known. Mr. Grove was universally respected and in prosperous circumstances. He leaves a wife and one child. Newbern Times: Robert Williams, a cartman, left his horse and dray last evening upon the corner of Middle and South Front streets, without being hitched. The animal ran away and collided with another horse and dray owned by Thomas Attmore. The collision resulted in the runaway, but the driver of the Attmore horse was thrown violently to the ground and severely injured, and both vehicles badly smashed. Mrs. Nancy Vaughan, aged 100 years, an aunt of Hon. Josiah Turner, died in Haywood county, Tenn., Feb. 29th. The venerable lady was the last surviving sister of the nearly equally venerable Josiah Turner Sr., who at the age of 97 still enjoys good bodily health. It is very suggestive of the longevity of the family, says the Hillsboro Recorder, that the deceased lady leaves children of an age far beyond the average of human life.

D. Rumley, Collector or Customs. S. W. Vick is saved and has arrived here with twelve other cabin passengers saved. The total number lost is five hundred and sixty-three. E. M. MacDonald, Collector of Customs. These telegrams, of course, changed the apprehensions of our citizens into rejoicings at his safety.

Archbishop Bailey, of Baltimore, who is returning home from a Southern trip, arrived here Monday night and registered at the Purcell House. He left for Baltimore yesterday morning. Senator Osborne, of Florida, was also in the city yesterday and registered at the "Purcell."

Not True. We learn that it is reported in Lilesville that the small pox has assumed a regular epidemic form in this city, there being many cases of the disease and the people greatly alarmed and leaving the city. The news is said to have been carried up by a mail agent. Suffice it to say that the report is wholly and entirely false. There is not a case of small pox in the city.

Furious Gale. There was a furious gale of wind, with heavy rain and hail, at different points in Richmond and Anson counties on Tuesday afternoon. We hear of no more serious damage than the blowing down of some fences, gardens, trees, &c., together with a pretty general scare. Released. Josh. Sanders, arrested a few days since on the charge of breaking open a baggage car on the W. C. & A. R. R., had a hearing before Justice Woodford yesterday, which resulted in his release, the evidence not being sufficient to convict.

WANTED.—A young man who has been in the dry goods business and wishes a situation in a first class retail house. References required. Apply at this office.

TO DEALERS! WE OFFER BUYERS OF BOOTS and SHOES the greatest inducements of any house in the State, and equal to any jobbing house in the country. GEO. E. FRENCH & SON, ap 3-4f 39 North Front street. Apples, Cheese, Crackers. 50 BBL'S BALDWIN APPLES. 15 BBL'S BUTTER. 25 Cases Sea Foam, 15 Cases Soda Crackers. 25 Cases Sugar Crackers. For sale by F. W. KERCHNER, 27, 28 and 29 North Water street. Flour! Flour! Flour! 500 BBL'S BOB WHITE FLOUR. 500 BBL'S Extra Super and Super Flour. For sale by F. W. KERCHNER, 27, 28 and 29 North Water St. Bacon, Pork and Lard. 325 BBL'S D. S. SIDES AND SHOULDERS. 25 BBL'S D. S. SIDES AND SHOULDERS. 250 BBL'S PORK. For sale by F. W. KERCHNER, 27, 28 and 29 North Water st.

Table with 2 columns: Description of advertising space and corresponding rates. Includes rates for one square per day, per week, per month, and per year.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Corn, Oats and Meal. 5,000 BUSHELS WHITE CORN. 2,000 BUSHELS YELLOW CORN. 600 BUSHELS OATS. N. C. Bacon—Lard. PRIME LOT OF N. C. BACON—HOG ROUND. NORTH CAROLINA LARD. Flour! Flour! EXTRA FAMILY FLOUR. SUPER FLOUR. Butter! Dried Apples. 10 FIRKINS OF ROLL BUTTER. 3 BARRELS OF DRIED APPLES. Lime! Lime! NOTHER CARGO OF THAT SUPERIOR ROCKLAND LIME. Truss Hoops OF ALL SIZES. FOR SPIRIT, ROBIN & TURPENTINE PRES. AT NEW HARDWARE STORE.

Wilmington Steam Fire Engine Co. No. 1. REGULAR MEETING THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING, at 8 o'clock. TAX NOTICE. Wilmington Township. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND TAX LISTERS for the township and city of Wilmington will proceed on the first day of April, 1873, and for twenty days thereafter, at the City Hall, in the City of Wilmington, between the hours of Nine A. M. and Three P. M., and every Friday Evening during the month of April between the hours of Six P. M. and Nine P. M. on said days to list the taxable lands and property, and make the assessments required by law.

ROBESONIAN. HILLSBORO RECORDER. NEWBERN TIMES. RALEIGH NEWS. DUNCAN GLENN. JOSH. SANDERS. ARCHBISHOP BAILEY. SENATOR OSBORNE. NOT TRUE. FURIOUS GALE. RELEASED. WANTED. TO DEALERS! WE OFFER BUYERS OF BOOTS and SHOES.

ROBES BLANKETS. I AP ROBE'S WOOL MATS, TRUNKS, HATS, SADDLES, BRIDLES, COLLARS, HEMES, CHAIRS, SADDLERY, HARDWARE, TRAVELLING BAGS, FEATHER DRESSERS. Stock Large and Prices Low. J. S. TOPHAM & CO. No. 3 South Front St. WILMINGTON, N. C. T. O. DELOSSET, General Insurance Agents. FIRE, MARINE, LIFE. Princess Street, near Water. MISCELLANEOUS. FIRMONT & ARLINGTON Life Insurance Company, Richmond, Virginia. Over 15,000 Policies Issued. Annual Income Over \$1,500,000. Progressive! Prosperous! Prompt! SMALL EXPENSES, SMALL LOSSES, SECURE INVESTMENTS, AMPLE RESERVE, AND GOOD SURPLUS! Premiums Cash, Policies Liberal, Annual Division of Surplus. ATKINSON & MANNING, Gen'l Agents, Insurance Rooms, S. N. Water st.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. I HEREBY FORBID ANY PERSON HARBORING or trusting any wife Lane, as I shall proceed against them according to law, and will pay no debts of her contracting. BENJAMIN LANE. Wilmington, April 1, 1873.