

Published Articles
of
Boating Incidents
at
Ossining, NY
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The Democratic Republican
9.14.1895

Capsized and Rescued. On Thursday afternoon T J McMahon of New York was cruising up the river in an open catboat. When he arrived near the Prison, he was stuck by the sudden squall and capsized. McMahon clung to the bottom until help arrived. A row boat put out from the Prison basin, but was of no use beyond putting a line on the boat. Messrs. Ralph Stray, Albert Ward, and Warren Odell went to him in the lifeboat of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps, a branch which is stationed at the Ossining Yacht Club, while Irving S Haff accompanied them in his own boat. They succeeded in getting McMahon into their boat and after considerable hard work, righted his craft and towed it to the Ossining Yacht Club House.

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Democratic Register

--The Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club has been requested to take charge of the life-boat, which some years ago was presented to the Inland Life Saving Corps. by Mrs. Franklin Brandreth.

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The Democratic Register
7.16.1904

Yachting News.

--"Ned" Kipp, son of B Frank Kipp, performed some feats with his father's lunch last Saturday evening that were not down on the young man's programme for taking some friends out for an evening's sail. He started out for a preparatory "tuning-up" as it were, but neglected to remember that the cribbing for Peter Smith's new dock extends out into the Hudson for a number of feet and at high water is covered with nearly

a foot of water. He headed directly for the covered cribbing. And despite the gesticulated warnings of the spectators, he struck the piling at full speed, mounted it, slid over and went through a like performance on the other side. He was certainly a much surprised young man, and made for the float at once. An examination showed the damage to be but trivial, which was surprising as every once thought the launch would be badly injured. The excursion was postponed, however.

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The Democratic Register
5.20.1905

Capsized in Heavy Seas. Dr Stansborough, a dentist doing business in Newburgh, narrowly escaped death by drowning off Croton Point yesterday (Friday) morning. He was on his way home with his 22-foot sloop, which had been undergoing repairs at Ayer's ship yard in Nyack. There was a high north-west wind blowing, which kicked up a heavy sea. Dr. Stansborough, who was alone, concluded the weather conditions were too heavy for his little craft, and decided to run inside the shelter of Croton Point. Owing to the fact of his having no help, he was only able to handle the sails with the greatest difficulty. With mainsail and jib set he had almost reached his haven when an exceptionally heavy gust of wind upset the boat, throwing the doctor into the water. He scrambled back onto the bottom of the upturned boat. His predicament was notice from shore and Stephen Bloxom and George Sniffin, two of the hardy Upper Dock fishermen, put out in a skiff at considerable risk to themselves. They reached the wreck after a hard struggle and got Dr. Stansborough aboard their boat and returned to shore. Later the owner, accompanied by Bloxom, Sniffin, and Frank Valentine, went out in the latter's launch and brought the capsized boat into the yacht club.

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The Democratic Register
8.12.1905

Yacht Strikes on Bishop's Rocks. A large naphtha launch, carrying four women and four men, ran on Bishop's Rocks, below the Scarborough station,

Sunday afternoon last, where it struck hard and fast for several hours.

Bishop's Rocks are a ledge of rocks running at some distance from shore. At high tide they are totally submerged but at low water the tops of the rocks are plainly visible and considerably above the surface.

When the boat ran upon the rocks the operator in the signal tower nearby sent word to the operator at this village to send down help, and at the same time he got in communication with parties in row boats near the Scarborough station and they hurried to the yacht's assistance and conveyed the ladies ashore.

Shortly after, a boat arrived from Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club and a futile attempt was made to drag the launch off the rocks. Shortly after dark the rising tide floated the launch and she proceeded on her way, as no harm had been done to the hull.

Mishaps of this kind have been frequent. On several occasions boatmen unfamiliar with the locality have driven their boats upon these rocks. Fortunately their surface is broad and smooth and no serious accident has ever befallen the boats or their occupants.

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7.18.1908

Almost a Fatal Boating Accident. George LeFevre, Durbin Wood and two young ladies of this village had an experience while out boating Friday night of last week which will, no doubt, make them shudder when they think of it to the end of their lives.

They embarked upon Lester Wheeler's naphtha launch and had gone but a few feet from the wharf of the Northern Westchester Lighting Company when the naphtha took fire, and in a moment the little craft was enveloped in flames. So briskly did the fire burn that the occupants of the little craft were obliged to leap into the water and all but one of the ladies got ashore without much damage and only a wetting. Owing to her position in the boat she was forced to jump into the deeper water and while she can swim, the weight of her clothing

dragger her down. She disappeared for the third time when Mr. LeFevre dived after her and brought her to the surface, and with the assistance those who were attracted to the scene by the fire, succeeded in getting her to the wharf.

Mr. Wood and the other young lady escaped with nothing worse than a thorough drenching, but Mr. LeFevre had his right hand severely burned and the rescued Miss had three of her fingers burned.

The fire finally burned itself out after the interior woodwork had been consumed, and the hull was beached north of the power house.

As far as can be learned, the young men, in filling the reservoir, allowed some of the gasoline to spill onto the bottom of the launch and some of it came in contact with the heated portion of the engine and became ignited.

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6.12.1909

Motor Boat Broke Down. Next time W J Olmsted returns from a fishing trip he is going straight home with James J Leslie, his companion on those piscatorial excursions. He reached this conclusion after a long drawn out trip in John Axton's motor boat one night this week.

On arriving home from the vicinity of Croton Point, Mr. Olmsted was induced to take a ride with Mr. Axton and his companions, Preston Wood, William Wood, and Herman Kahrs. Everything went beautifully on the way to Rockland, but just as they started for home the motor, with characteristic cussedness, refused to work and the upshot of the matter was they had to send for Steward Peter Clausen, of the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club, who put out in another boat and towed the cripple home, reaching Ossining after midnight.

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The Register
8.21.1909

Wind Upsets Canoes. This section was visited by an unusually heavy rainfall on Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday and the storm was preceded by a gale whose

severity was felt by boating parties out on the river.

Five canoes manned by inexperienced parties capsized in the neighborhood of Croton Point. No one was drowned fortunately, and among those who assisted in the rescue work were John O. and Tax Collector Samuel F Knapp, who had rowed over to the Point.

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Democratic Register
7.29.1911

George Romaine is Some Canoeer. Al Smith and Herman Lewis say if you want to enjoy (?) a memorable day on the river just look up George A Romaine and ask him to take you for a canoe ride.

Last Sunday Mr. Romaine invited his two friends to accompany him for a ride and they accepted. They were gliding over the water near Croton Point in about twenty feet of water, and Lewis and Smith sat entranced at Romaine's skill and a sculler. George was conscious that admiring eyes were riveted upon him and he dug down deeper with his paddle and gave a mighty lunge, which caused the canoe to leap from the water, and then something happened, and the salts found themselves in the water.

They seized the upturned canoe and swam ashore. Romaine and Lewis headed for home in their wet clothing but poor Smith lost his, his only remaining duds being a scanty bathing suit. He did not feel particularly embarrassed until he reached the clubhouse of the Shattemuc Yacht and Canoe Club when he became conscious of his unconventional attire. Then murmuring a silent prayer that an officer would not see him, and calling down maledictions upon the head of Romaine for not, at least, bringing a barrel along, he fled for home.

Now if you mention the incident to Romaine, he is just heartless enough to laugh.

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9.21.1912

Miss Brandreth Aids in Life Saving. John P Heeney, William Dean and

George Bruce narrowly escaped drowning last Saturday while fishing and can owe their lives to the prompt and clever work of Miss Paulina Brandreth, daughter of Col. and Mrs. Franklin Brandreth, and Frank Lobus.

The three young men were in a frail and unseaworthy skiff out at the Reef, and when a heavy southwest gale started to kick up a nasty sea they decided to go elsewhere. Dean was rowing and Heeney tried to lift the anchor. The movement caused the boat to ship considerable water and the fishermen began bailing vigorously, but a moment later another wave washed over the boat, filling it completely.

The little boat foundered, stern first, and the men disappeared with it, after they had cried "Help! We are sinking". A number of other fishing parties were about, the farthest away being Col. Brandreth's "Phalarope". Frank Lobus had just pulled along side the larger boat to take off some of the party and the first to enter the tender was Miss Brandreth. Col. Brandreth was about to follow her when the cry of distress arose and without waiting for him, Lobus bent to his oars and hurried to the assistance of the three men.

Heeney was the first to appear and seized the front of the tender and was hauled on board, Dean came up astern of the boat and Miss Brandreth clutched at his hand but missed it. Her second attempt was more successful and getting a firm grip upon Dean, who was exhausted and had swallowed considerable water, she dragged him on board.

Mr. Bruce is an expert swimmer, but when he did not reappear after going down, Lobus prepared to dive for him, but before this was accomplished his head showed above the water and Lobus grabbed him and hauled him on board of the boat.

Mr. Bruce and Mr. Dean, who can both swim and are ordinarily at home in the water got their legs entangled as the boat went down and to make matters worse the former was seized with a

cramp which made it impossible to move.

Those who witnessed the thrilling rescue speak in the highest terms of the coolness and quick thinking of Miss Brandreth and Mr. Lobus. Col. Brandreth feels extremely proud of the splendid work done by his daughter and Mr. Lobus, and he is particularly grateful that three of his best men at the Allcock works were spared from a watery grave.

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Ossining Daily Citizen
8.24.1914

Rough Canoeing. Three or four canoe parties who left Croton Point Beach, after dark last night, had an experience in coming to this village which they will remember for several days. There was a brisk breeze blowing and this stirred up a sea, which rolled higher and higher as they approached this village. Some of the canoes shipped wave after wave and the water lay in the bottom of the tiny boats two or three inches deep when they finally reached Ossining.

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*The above clippings were transcribed
from the original newspapers, which
reside at the Ossining Historical Society
in Ossining, New York*