

to him, but he saw such an one on the voyage in Margaret's trunks two of which were often open before him.

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Account of John Helstrom a Swede—Carpenter—last 2<sup>d</sup> mate—Davis interpreting.

The Ossolis, Paulina, cook steward Sandford, & himself & Westervelt were in the fore-castle till it commenced breaking up, which was a few minutes before the foremast fell. They all left the fore-castle immediately— He & Sandford went up the foremast—then the cook & Ossoli, he & Sandford helping the latter. The steward got up with the child in his arms, its legs & arms sticking out— ‘Did he take the child by force?’ He did not see, but supposed he did not.

At the same time Sandford had Padena in the fore

^ rigging. When he & Sandford helped Padena up she being first Madame Ossoli was standing behind her next to the mast, but when they turned for her, the sea had taken her. She was drowned before her husband or child— He was very sure of this. A few seas after washed off the “top” by which Ossoli held & left him nothing but the bare mast to cling to; then another sea washed him off. Either directly before or after this, or at the same time, he could

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not tell which, he looked up & saw that the child was no longer in the arms of the steward— Then came a sea & washed them all off together. It was only about fifteen minutes after the breaking up of the forecastle. —+ —+

Selah Wood & Daniel Jones of Patchogue, were the earliest on the spot of those who admit that they were there at all. They happened to be in the Bay in their oyster boat directly opposite. There were many other boats a little farther north seeking the shelter of the beach. Wood who behaved like one suspected & to be suspected said (I omit what has been related) that about 2 hours after sunrise, the storm a little abating, he saw the ship a mile & a half distant over bay & beach, & both went across. The foremast was standing, the midmast was off at the top, the mainmast cut off short. Every sea broke over all. The tide was falling when he got there. It had been over the beach as far as the sand-hills, & came over again afterward. The sailors kept shouting to him & he to them in vain through the wind & surf—he motioning toward Oakess that he would go there. Most of the sailors & passengers effects had already come ashore. There were many chests all stove open, & some with their locks pried off.” They looked

& his companion found a fresh wagon track & a man's track, leading at last towards Oakes'. Oakes was 'mad' with him for what he had said. When he got to the house Mr & Mrs Oakes were not to be found at once. Oakes had two men one of whom told Wood after he had pointed out the vessel to him that he had seen her two or three hours before & thought that 'she was sailing under bare poles' at which Wood laughed at him, & Oakes said, You damn fool you shut your jaws, you know nothing about it" The first man came ashore when he was at Oakes' & had a life preserver on— One or two more life preservers float[e]d ashore afterward. The sailor exclaimed "My trunks, chests, all a poor sailor's things robbed, broken open, & gone!" He had a rope tied round his body and stood in the water to catch those who were washed up. The captain's head was driven into the sand & it was with difficulty that they got him out. No dead body came ashore till the vessel broke up. The sailors ~~broke up~~ did not send their clothing ashore on planks. Their clothes probably were not washed off much except Paulina.— He delivered to Dominy & a large man (Prime said it was Le Roy) separate bundles of letters &

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papers”–which the latter opened on the spot & separated, & then threw down on the beach what he thought of no value He could have gone to the wreck in a skiff on Thursday. Bangs said he would rather have gone ashore among pirates.

Mr & Mrs Oakes’ account.

Oakes’ is a perfect pirate’s house, & his men good specimens of that nearly extinct class. There were the stern ornaments of wrecked vessels over the door, & the fragments of wrecks cluttered the yard. He himself was a carman in New York & the worst stories are told of him.

Officers have formerly searched his house–his wife has been arrested–he has concealed himself on the beach & been troubled in many ways on account of his dealings with wrecks.

–There had been no such storm since they lived there, or for 11 years.–few could remember such a storm at this season of the year– They compared it to the September gale. The fruit trees on the mainland were much injured by the spray. Their fire was put out by the rain.