

EXPLOSION TEARS STEAMER TO BITS

Scatters Corpses of Passengers and Crew Along Banks of the Mississippi.

TWELVE KNOWN TO BE DEAD

Scovil, of Vicksburg, Wrecked When Boiler Blows Up—Pilot Swims Ashore With Dislocated Shoulder and Engineer Escapes.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 19.—The steamer W. T. Scovil, plying in the Vicksburg and Davis Bend trade, was destroyed today by an explosion and between 10 and 16 persons killed and a like number injured. The white dead are:

The Dead.

Captain John Quackenboss, master of the boat, Vicksburg.

Clerk Wade Quackenboss, Vicksburg.

Lovell Yergor, cottonseed salesman, Jackson, Miss.

Clerk Joseph Smith, Yazoo City, Miss.

The white injured—Tennie Roberts, assistant pilot, Vicksburg, Miss., injured internally, serious; John Dougherty, pilot, shoulder dislocated; Charles McKenna, passenger, painfully injured; -- Butterfield, slightly injured in the head.

The number of dead and injured negroes cannot be stated at this time, but of a crew and passenger list of 50 about half are missing. The negro dead and a number of injured were cared for at the place where the accident occurred. Five of the injured negroes were brought to Vicksburg tonight on the steamer Senator Cordill, with the white dead and injured.

Explosion Sinks Boat.

The accident occurred at Gold Dust Landing, about 17 miles south of this city. The Scovil was at the landing taking on freight when suddenly the explosion occurred. Many of the timbers of the boat were thrown hundreds of yards. The boat was so badly damaged that she began to sink immediately. When the Cordill left her late this afternoon she was listing heavily and her cargo of 1000 sacks of cottonseed and 85 bales of cotton will be lost.

Pending the arrival of the Senator Cordill the injured were cared for at Gold Dust Landing as well as possible. Of the white dead only the body of Lovell Yergor has been recovered. Dougherty was blown several hundred feet out into the river, but, despite a dislocated shoulder, managed to swim to the bank.

Engineer Just Escapes.

The story of the accident as told by J. I. Bruce, the engineer of the boat, is as follows:

"We were lying at Gold Dust Landing this morning, taking on cargo, when I noticed a small quantity of water coming from the boiler. I suspected that something was wrong and proceeded to make an examination. About this time the Scovil broke her headlines and drifted, so that I did not have time to make a thorough examination. As soon as I got her back to the bank I crawled on top of the boiler and proceeded with the investigation. I had just got down from the boiler when the explosion occurred."

It is said the accident was caused by a defective boiler plate. Mr. Bruce was not injured. The injured were taken to the Vicksburg Sanitarium.

Captain a River Veteran.

Captain Quackenboss was one of the oldest and best-known residents of this city, and was well known on the river. The steamer Scovil was only recently bought by him and others for the Vicksburg-Davis Bend trade. Wade Quackenboss was the son of the captain.

DEATH LIST TOTALS TWELVE

Tremendous Force of Explosion

Drives Bodies Under Bank.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 19.—Full details of the packet Scovil explosion have been received here. The reports place the number of dead at 12—four whites and eight negroes. The force of the explosion was so tremendous that a part of the boiler, after cutting through a mast, continued on its flight for a distance of 200 yards, plowing up several hundred feet of earth, and finally stopping 50 feet beyond.

The body of Lavalie Yergor was found beneath the bank on a log, which had crushed out his life. Under this same log was the body of a negro.