

*Captain T. J. Titus: His Final Years 1854 and 1855,
together with a Poem on "Sandusky's Shore"*

The Sun
Baltimore, Maryland
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Death of an Old Lake Captain.

BUFFALO, Aug 11.—Capt Titus, an **old** lake commander [47 !], was drowned at Sandusky yesterday. He was captain of the steamer *Erie*, and saved from that vessel when she burned several years ago. He was also saved from the steamer *Alabama* [cf. *New York Times*] when she sunk last year.

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Jamestown Journal
Jamestown, Chautauque County, New-York

August 17, 1855
(p. 2)

☞ Capt. Titus, an old commander on the Western Lakes, was drowned in Lake Michigan on the 12th inst. He was commander of the Propeller *Montezuma*, and in running down from Chicago on the 12th, in a heavy sea, he found it necessary to come to anchor opposite Kalamazoo River and take on wood, and it was at this point that the accident occurred. The Buffalo *Commercial* gives the particulars as follows:

“He started to go ashore in company with **four** [five men, six total?] men in a yawl, he steering. They proceeded without any difficulty until the boat got into the breakers, caused by a sand-bar at the mouth of the river, when the boat capsized and filled about forty rods [40 x 16.5 ft. = 660 ft.] from the shore. Capt. Titus was seen shortly after struggling to gain the shore, but not being a swimmer, he soon sank – of three other men who struck out for the shore, only one succeeded in gaining it. The other two men clung to the boat until assistance was rendered from the shore, and were taken off in one of Francis’ Metallic Life Boats. The bodies of the three, including that of Capt. Titus, washed ashore in about three hours and were taken into a neighboring house, where they remained until Friday morning, when the sea having gone down, they were taken on board the Propeller and carried to Chicago. The remains of Capt. Titus were sent immediately to this city where his family resides and arrived last evening. His funeral took place this morning from his residence, and was attended by a large number of friends and acquaintances.”

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The Liberator
Boston, Massachusetts

April 2, 1841

Vol. XI – No. 14 (Whole No. 585)

(p. 56, column 1)

An EXCERPT:
POETRY

MY FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHERS, SISTERS
BY REV. JOHN PIERPONT

Lake Erie's waters cold
Over a brother rolled;
The day was bright; the lake scarce felt a breeze;
While I have yet been spared,
Though dangers I have dared,
Storms, rocks and pirates in the Grecian seas.
Dear brother! in my dreams
Thy floating body seems
To lift its hand, and my poor aid implore!
I'm wakened by my weeping,
And know that thou art sleeping
In thy lone grave, on low Sandusky's shore.

* * * *

The New York Times
August 30, 1854

Loss of the Steamer *Alabama*
on Lake Erie.

BUFFALO, Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The steamer *Alabama*, which left this port at 4 o'clock this morning, bound up, sprung a leak when about two miles out and immediately sunk. Fortunately she grounded on a bar where the water was not more than twenty feet deep, and sunk only to her upper deck. The crew was taken off by the steam tug *Hamilton Morton*. There was deep water on both sides of the spot where the *Alabama* went down. She is not insured.