

[Golden, Anna B.]

APPALLING CALAMITY¹
THE BOILER OF THE STEAMER HON. TITUS SHEARD EXPLODES
SORROW AND DESOLATION IN A DOZEN HOMES

That most frightful of accidents, a steam boiler explosion, has spread death in our midst and cast a gloom over this community such as it never before experienced.

While making its first trip to the Taylor cycling park Thursday afternoon the boiler of the steamer Titus Sheard exploded, killing twelve persons and injuring four...

Thursday was the day appointed for the races of the League of American Wheelmen on Taylor Cycling Park...Among the means of conveyance to the park was the steamer Titus Sheard, which plied on the [Erie] canal between the grounds and Leigh's lock...

The boat left Leigh's lock about 1:28 P.M., with sixteen persons aboard. Nothing of special interest occurred on the trip...To avoid delay it was decided to land the passengers of the Sheard about a hundred feet below the grand stand and the steamer was accordingly cut in toward the towpath. The engineer was seen to stoop down to shut off the steam and in an instant came the explosion. Several hundred people were in the grand stand and heard or witnessed the disaster... Broken wood, iron, canvas and dismembered bodies were thrown high into the air.

The spectators in the grand stand and on the grounds rushed to the scene...The wheelmen, too, were not behind the neighbors and friends of the victims in affording assistance... The races were immediately declared off, amid excitement and profound grief.

...Miss Anna B. Golden, badly scalded and shoulder crushed; her death was instantaneous, as no water entered her lungs; her body was the last recovered. Miss Golden was the companion of Miss [Rhoda E.] Warren [who survived] on this ill fated trip...

[Following the above are brief notices of the people who were killed. The notice for Anna B. Golden is printed below.]

Miss Anna B. Golden was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Golden, and was a bright and attractive girl of seventeen years. She was a universal favorite with a large circle of young people, and in her family no daughter or sister could be more fondly loved. She was of a happy and affectionate disposition and her death is a terrible blow to her family and friends. She graduated at Little Falls Academy a year ago. Her funeral was held from the Garden street home Sunday morning, Rev. V. [Vincent] E. Tomlinson officiating. The regular morning services of the Universalist church were dispensed with and the Sunday school attended in a body. This was one of the largest funerals ever held in Little Falls.

¹...
¹Compiler's note: I have considerably abridged this long and horrifying account.

[Golden, Anna B.]

In Memory of Anna B. Golden

At the regular meeting of the Young People's Christian Union held last evening, the following resolution was adopted:

We, the members of the Young People's Christian Union of the Universalist church, having lost by death from our membership Miss Anna B. Golden, desire to record our appreciation of her many services and her faithful life. Conscientious and willing in the performance of her duty, modest and loving in her conduct, her memory is an inspiration to us. To the members of her family circle we tender our deepest sympathy, and on our records make this mention of her pure and gentle life.

[Rev.] V.[Vincent] E. TOMLINSON
CLARA TAYLOR
JAMES WISWELL

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Transcribed on 15 Dec 2010 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY