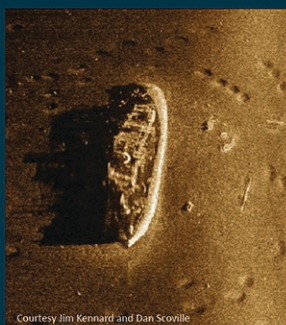
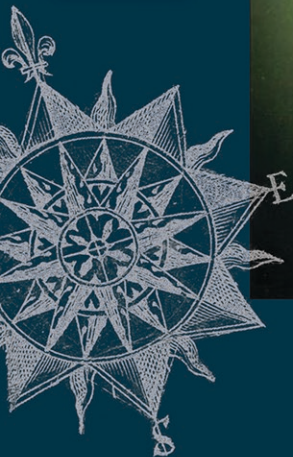


FINGER LAKES



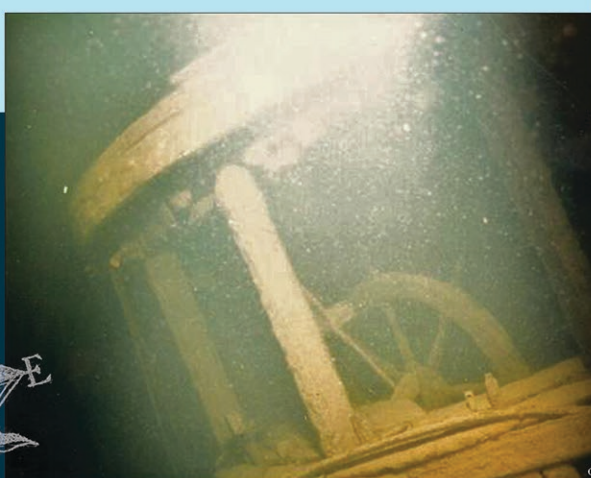
Courtesy Jim Kennard and Dan Scoville

TUGBOAT THOMAS H

May 29, 1945

Six ore-laden barges were being towed across Oneida Lake by the tugboat *Thomas H*, bound for Oswego, NY. Around 11pm, the weather turned fierce.

Pounding waves opened her seams, and the tug's pumps were unable to keep up. Shortly after midnight, she sank, along with three of the six barges.



Courtesy Tim Caza

FINGER LAKES At a Glance

- Eleven Lakes (traditionally): Otisco, Skaneateles, Owasco, Cayuga, Seneca, Keuka, Canandaigua, Honeoye, Canadice, Hemlock, Conesus
- Longest: Cayuga Lake 38 miles (12 km)
- Deepest: Seneca Lake 618 feet (188 m)
- Keuka: "Canoe landing" in Iroquois
- Canandaigua: "Chosen spot" in Seneca



All but one crewmember jumped to the floating tow and were rescued by the Standard Oil tanker *Poughkeepsie*.



Courtesy H Lee White Maritime Museum

Today, Artifacts such as the wheel, ship's bell, and plates have been conserved and are on exhibit at the H. Lee White Maritime Museum.

STEAMBOAT FRONTENAC

Seaworthy and safe.

-State Steamboat Inspectors, June 1907

8 DROWNED, LEAPING FROM BURNING BOAT

Steamer Frontenac Beached on Lake Cayuga Shore, a Blackened Hull.

COOL CREW SAVED MANY

Say That Men Passengers Were Cowardly and Impeded Their Efforts to Equip People with Life Preservers.

Special to The New York Times.

My God, she's on fire!

Between the screams, the fire, the wind and the waves, we have seen purgatory.

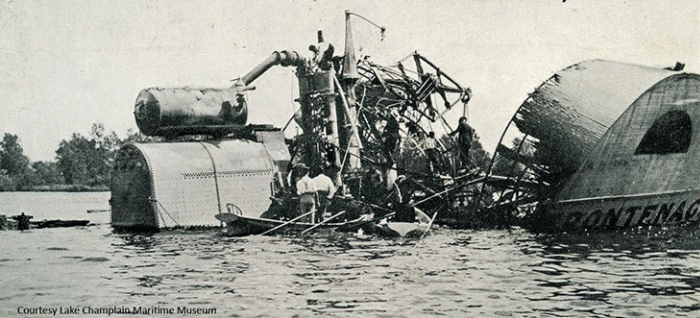
-Eyewitness accounts, 1907

Queen of the Cayuga Fleet,

Frontenac was the largest boat on Cayuga Lake, built in 1870 and licensed to carry 370 passengers. For \$1, passengers would travel from Cayuga to Ithaca and back in luxury.

On the windy night of July 27, 1907, fire broke out on board, and spread rapidly, consuming the lifeboats. Captain Melvin T. Brown ran *Frontenac* aground, got passengers into life preservers, and encouraged them to jump into the water to swim or wade ashore.

Eight people perished in the chaos of the event. The cause of the fire was never determined.



Courtesy Lake Champlain Maritime Museum



Seneca, N.Y., Steamer Frontenac Cayuga Lake.

Courtesy Lake Champlain Maritime Museum