



National Research  
Council  
Canada

Conseil National de  
Recherches  
Canada

Institute for Ocean  
Technology

Institut des Technologies  
Océaniques

## Ship-Iceberg Collision Incident Report



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### Vessel Characteristics

<b>Name:</b> John Rutledge	<b>Prime Mover:</b> Sail
<b>Flag:</b> USA	<b>Transmission:</b> Unknown
<b>ASPPR Ice Class:</b> Unknown	<b>Power (kW):</b>
<b>Lloyd's Class:</b> Unknown	<b># Propellers:</b>
<b>Baltic Class:</b> Unknown	<b>Prop. Type:</b> Unknown
<b>Vessel Type:</b> Sailing Vessel	<b>Service Speed:</b>
<b>Owner:</b> New York and Liverpool Packet Co.	<b>Stern Form:</b>
<b>Registered Country:</b> USA	<b>Steel Grade:</b> Unknown
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b> 1852	

**Miscellaneous Vessel Notes:**

Owned by Messrs. Howland and Ridgeway and engaged as a regular packet between New York and Liverpool. Built in Baltimore. NYH quotes 1852, other sources c.1840.

**Bow Shape:** Unknown  
**Stem Angle:**

<b><u>Dimensions (m):</u></b>	<b><u>Mass (tonnes):</u></b>	
<b>Length:</b>	<b>Gross:</b>	1060
<b>Beam:</b>	<b>Net:</b>	
<b>Depth:</b>	<b>Dead:</b>	

### Collision Details

<b>Date:</b> 20-Feb-1856	
<b>Visibility (nautical miles):</b>	<b>Air Temperature:</b>
<b>Visibility:</b> Unknown	<b>Water Temperature:</b>
<b>Visibility - Fog:</b> Mist	<b>Wind Speed:</b> 10
<b>Visibility - Snow:</b> Unknown	<b>Wave Height:</b>
<b>Visibility - Light:</b> Daylight	<b>Sea State:</b> Unknown

**Collision Speed:**

Kerwin Place  
P.O. Box 12093  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1B 3T5  
Fax:(709) 772-2462

Place Kerwin  
C.P. 12093  
St. John's, Terre-Neuve  
A1B 3T5  
Télécopieur:(709) 772-2462



## Damage Details

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<b>Damage Sustained:</b> Yes	<b>Damage Report No. :</b>
<b>Scenario:</b> Direct Impact	<b>Steel Failure Type:</b> Unknown
<b>Severity:</b> Sinking	<b>Size - Length (m):</b>
<b>Location:</b> Bow	<b>Size - Height (m):</b>
<b>Code:</b> Hole	<b>Damage Below WL (m):</b>
<b>Length of Downtime:</b>	<b>Damage Above WL - Height (m):</b>
<b>Cost of Downtime:</b>	<b>Damage Above WL - Length (m):</b>
<b>Cost to Repair:</b>	
<b>No. Lives Lost:</b> 135	
<b>No. Injuries:</b>	<b>Cause of Deaths/Injuries:</b> Hypothermia/frostbite
<b>Cargo Loss:</b> Unknown	
<b>Pollution:</b> Unknown	<b>Pollution Potential:</b> Unknown

### Cause of Damage:

Struck a berg on the Grand Banks shortly before 10 a.m. Steady breeze. Came into contact with an iceberg under the bow starboard side. This could mean a growler or field ice. A couple of different locations have been given, one at about 45°30'N 45°56'W and the other at 46°N and 52°W. Passed first icebergs on 18th in 46°34'N, 46°56'W. In and out of ice over the next day with light winds and sail make latter position

### Damage Description:

Bow holed and cargo shifted and jettisoned, quilts and mattresses put in place but nothing would contain the leak and the vessel was abandoned a few hours later. All but 2 of the approximately 136 passengers and crew took to 5 boats. All but one of those perished over the next 9 days before being rescued by the "Germania".  
John Rutledge at:

## Ice Details

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**Ice Briefing Received:** Unknown

**Iceberg Population:**

**IIP Iceberg Number:**

**Sea Ice Concentration:**

**Position of Nearest Known Iceberg:**

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**Iceberg Shape:** Unknown

**Latitude:** 0 ° ' " N

**Iceberg Size:** Growler

**Longitude:** 0 ° ' " W

**Length:**

**Date of Observation:**

**Width:**

**Iceberg Tonnage:**

## Route Details

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**Geographic Area:** Grand Banks

**Origin:** Liverpool

**Collision Latitude:** 45 ° 30 ' " N

**Destination:** New York

**Collision Longitude:** 045 ° 56 ' " W

**Distance:**

**Locale Accuracy:** Known

**Cargo at Event:**

**Voyage:**

**Displacement:**

**Draft FWD (m):**

**Captain's Experience:** Unknown

**Radar Equipped?:** Unknown

**Radar Details:**

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