

4 or 5 miles we came to what we called South Prairie and I saw a man on the roof of his cabin waving a sheet his house was about a $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the river channel and as I dared not try to run the steamer through the trees and brush I tied up to a big Cotton wood and took the skiff and went to his relief when I got there he said you had better go over there my neighbors house is in much stronger current than mine I started to another $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile but when about a 100 yds of the began to cry and was afraid to stay there and I was afraid to leave them for fear the cabin would go away before I could get back so I took the man wife and 5 children in and went to the other house where I found a woman on a small raft with 2 little boys probably 5 or 7 years old the man up to his waist kicking the clap boards off his house to save it from washing away when I told the man first taken onboard that he must get out that my boat would carry only the 2 women and the 7 children the first woman

Bean to cry and said she did not want to leave
 her Husband the woman said Captain take
 my Boys and I will stay here but I would
 not have it so and told the man to get out any-
 way I wanted to get as much weight out of the
 skiff as possible as it was nearly overloaded
 with the 2 women and 7 children but talked as cheer-
 fully to them as I could and they seemed to have
 confidence in me though the gunwale was scor-
 sely 3 inches above the water. just as we were
 leaving this house the laugh that I gave I think
 caused a good deal of the confidence I could see
 by the water that there was stumps or something
 and knew if I ran on one it meant drowning to
 some if not all so I said there is stumps
 about is there not her answer was by pointing to
 3 or 4 different spots but the fun was when she
 pointed close to the skiff and said very serio-
 usly right down the is the well it curb was
 probably 4 to 6 feet under water and seemed reliev-
 ed when I answered that all right it wont >

1861 Hurt us well that was the hardest fall I ever
 had in all my 55 years of work on the water for to
 drop back below the house ment distraction
 for all I could see the rough water as if over
 a fall but all the time keeping my passengers
 quiet by telling them how soon I would have them
 on the steam boat I could see the last Lady taken
 in was watching me closely and anxiously though
 saying nothing nothing (say she was a Major) well
 when I got fare enough into smooth water to lay
 on my oars for a rest I saw the sigh that she
 gave and the glance of Confidence in me well
 it seemed that my armes had lightened an inch
 from wrist to elbo the rest was very short until
 the first house was reached where I got in it
 lea with the excuse that I wanted examine it
 but the Major gave me a look that spoke plainly
 that she understood the situation and it fraid
 me for the hard work but I was troubled yet for
 there there was 3 or 400 yards of timber and brush
 to go through with very swift water to go through