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 half mile from the river channel and as I dared not try to run the skinner through the trees and brush I tied up to a big cottonwood and took the skiff and went to his relief when I got the le said you had better go over there my neighbors house is in much stronger current than mine I started to another 3/4 of a mile but when about a hundred yards 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 year 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 shift as possible as it was nearly overloaded with the 2 women and 3 children but talked as chily to them as I could and they seemed to have confidence in me though the gunwale was scorely 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 the was Stumps or something and how 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 shift and said very seriously right down the is the well it Curb was probably 4 to 6 feet under water and seemed relieved when I answered that all right it won't
1841 hurt us all 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 destruction 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 (as she was a Major) well when I got far 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 arms had lightened an inch from wrist to elbow the rest was very short until the first house was reached where I got in it led with the excuse that I wanted examine it but the Major gave me a book that spoke plainly that she understood the situation and it paid 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