

Burlington to Keeseville Stage falls through the Ice into Lake Champlain.

THROUGH THE ICE.

The Keeseville Stage Has an Exciting Experience.

The Keeseville stage went through the ice on its return trip from this city Thursday afternoon about half way across the lake. Horses and sleigh went in and were lost, but the passengers escaped by jumping. The stage carried, besides the driver, John Whallon, George Sweeney and Edward Ouimette of Keeseville, Arthur Condon of Willsboro, Mrs. Edith Smith of Attleboro, Mass., and the latter's two year old daughter.

A passing skater, who saw the accident came as soon as possible to the Vermont shore, where he found the ice boat Why Not, owned by Charles Chiott, who with R. D. Denning, went to the scene of the accident and returned with the woman and child to this city.

Mr. Chiott is entitled to a great deal of credit for his promptness and humanity. It is due to him that the loss of at least one life, that of the child, was averted. The sleigh was drawn from the bottom of the lake this morning with much difficulty. It was sunk in about 15 feet of water. It is not damaged to any extent, but the freight aboard was soaked with icewater. The sleigh was drawn up town to H. C. Smith's livery stable.

The stage and horses were the property of Liveryman J. D. Sweeney of Keeseville and were worth about \$450.—[Burlington Free Press.

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Years ago the frozen lake was a highway during the winters. Charles Chiott who owned the Iceboat named "Why Not" and many generations of Chiotts owned and operated Chiott Marine in Burlington. The family was French Canadian and immigrated from the Chambly Basin area at Chambly Quebec where they were named Brault dit Chaillot; a surname that was spelled many different ways in Vermont, finally settling as Chiott. The family raced iceboats on the lake for many years.

Henry Chiott also built the first gasoline powered boat on Lake Champlain in 1894. See this article by David Blow.

Chiott, Henry (1841-1907)

A Burlington native and owner of the Chiott Boat Works at the foot of King Street, Henry Chiott bought a gasoline internal combustion engine from the Sine Motor Company in Detroit in 1894 and installed it in a 25-foot runabout built for it. Chiott's boat was the first gasoline engine to operate on LAKE CHAMPLAIN. The two-cycle, four-horsepower engine with no muffler allowed the boat to cruise at 8 to 10 miles per hour. Lakeside dwellers claimed they could hear it from miles away over the lake. This noisy craft was also the first registered inboard motorboat in Vermont.

David Blow

Two Chiott's served our country in the Civil War. They were Henry Chiott and Francis Shiatte.

See their information at <http://www.johnfishersr.net/StJosCivilWar.html>