

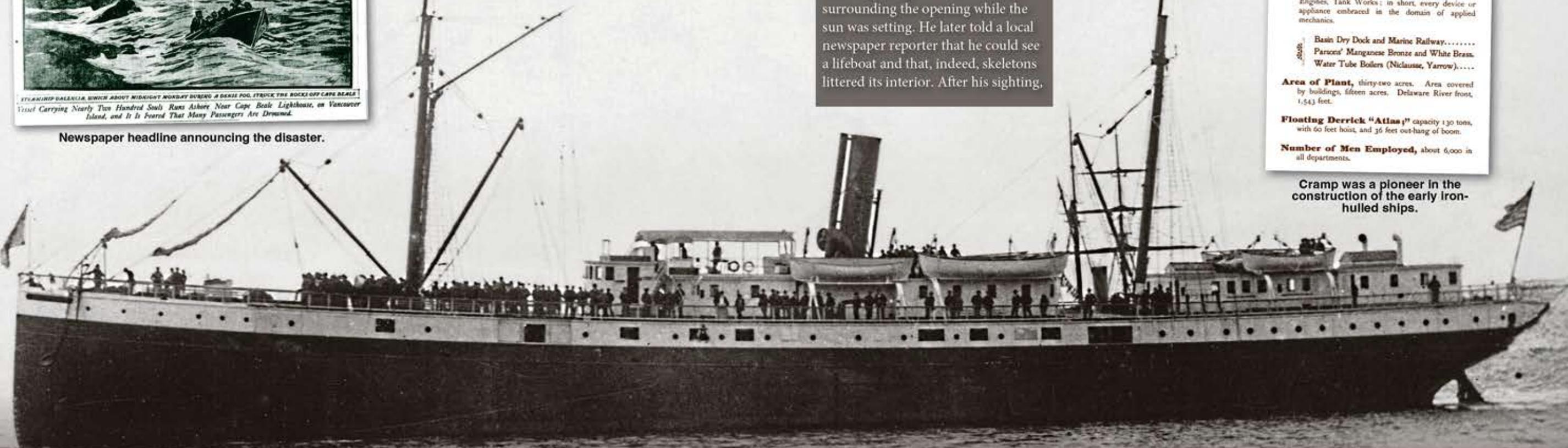
LINER OF LOST SOULS

IT HAS BEEN 120 YEARS SINCE THE IRON-HULLED STEAMER SS VALENCIA WAS RIPPED APART BY ROCKS OFF VANCOUVER ISLAND. WE EXAMINE THE REASONS FOR THIS MARITIME TRAGEDY

BY ADAM STANTON



Newspaper headline announcing the disaster.



The SS Valencia was a combination passenger/cargo vessel and was one of the first generation of iron-hulled ships.

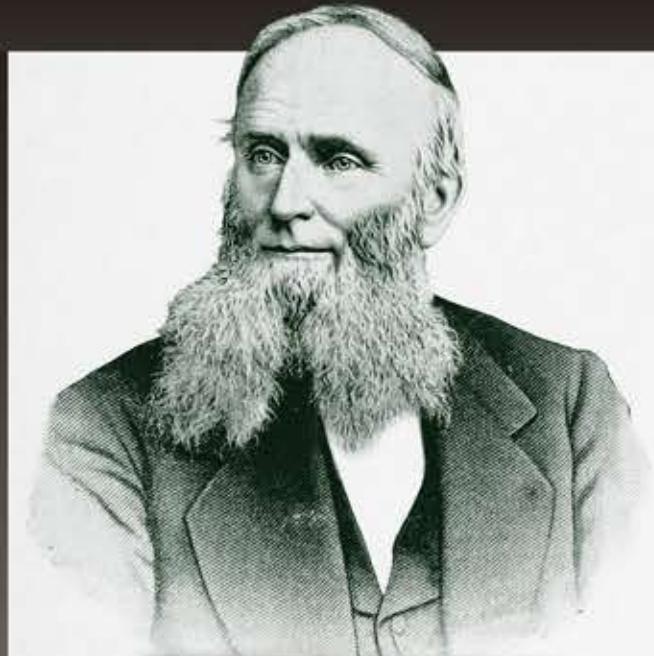


Flag of the Red D Line.

It was a dark late afternoon during July 1906 as local Nuu-chah-nulth fisherman Clanewah Tom and his wife passed down the shoreline of Pachena Bay on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. This rugged and foreboding area has numerous sea caves and many are fronted by large boulders with some of the caves running over 200 feet deep. Suddenly, the fisherman gripped his wife's arm and, pointing with his left hand, exclaimed "Look! Look!" She followed his directions and peered inside the dark depths of the sea cave and was horrified to see what appeared to be a lifeboat crewed by piles of human skeletons!

The pair managed to climb up the steep bluff to lightkeeper Philip Daykin and persuade him to accompany them back to the cave. Daykin did so but the last bit was dangerous since the sea was now running high and waves were exploding over the boulders surrounding the opening while the sun was setting. He later told a local newspaper reporter that he could see a lifeboat and that, indeed, skeletons littered its interior. After his sighting,

William Cramp was running the shipyard when Valencia was built.



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BATTLE SHIPS, CRUISERS, PASSENGER
AND FREIGHT STEAMSHIPS, &c.

Steam Machinery of every description, including boilers and all equipment. Marine Engines of any desired power, Mining Machinery, Hydraulic Plants, both for pumping and for power. Furnace Blower Engines, Tank Works; in short, every device or appliance embraced in the domain of applied mechanics.

Basin Dry Dock and Marine Railway.....
Parsons' Manganese Bronze and White Brass.
Water Tube Boilers (Nicolauze, Yarrow),.....

Area of Plant, thirty-two acres. Area covered by buildings, fifteen acres. Delaware River front, 1,543 feet.

Floating Derrick "Atlas" capacity 130 tons, with 60 feet hoist, and 36 feet out-hang of boom.

Number of Men Employed, about 6,000 in all departments.

Cramp was a pioneer in the construction of the early iron-hulled ships.