

**Cases of Historical Interest
In the Southern District of New York**

In re Knickerbocker Steamboat Co. (*The General Slocum*)

Judge George B. Adams

On June 15, 1904, *The General Slocum*, a paddlewheel steamer, was on a pleasure trip up the East River with 1,358 passengers, mostly German-Americans from the Lower East Side. A fire broke out around 10 a.m. near Hells Gate and 1,021 aboard perished. The owner of the vessel brought a limitation of liability proceeding to fix its liability to the representatives of the deceased.

136 F. 956 (S.D.N.Y. 1905)

United States v. Van Schaick, 134 F. 529 (C.C. SDNY 1904), aff'd 159 F. 847 (2d Cir. 1908) (criminal prosecution)

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2011/06/13/great-slocum-disaster-june-15-1904>



225th Anniversary
1789-2014