

Speed of Atlantic Steamers.

The first steamer that ever crossed the Atlantic was the Savannah, which sailed from the southern city whose name she bore, and reached Liverpool twenty-five days later. This was in 1819. She depended on her sails more than on her engines, however, and when the wind was favorable and all her canvas could be spread her paddle wheels were hauled on deck and folded up like an umbrella. It can be imagined that she was very little like an ocean steamer of the present day, and her success was so questionable that when she returned to the United States her engines were taken out of her and she was converted into a sailing ship.

Nineteen years later, after other experiments, it had been demonstrated that steam navigation was a practicable thing, and a regular line of steamers was established between England and America. One of these steamers was the Great Western, which made seventy voyages across the ocean. The quickest of these voyages was accomplished in twelve days and seven hours.

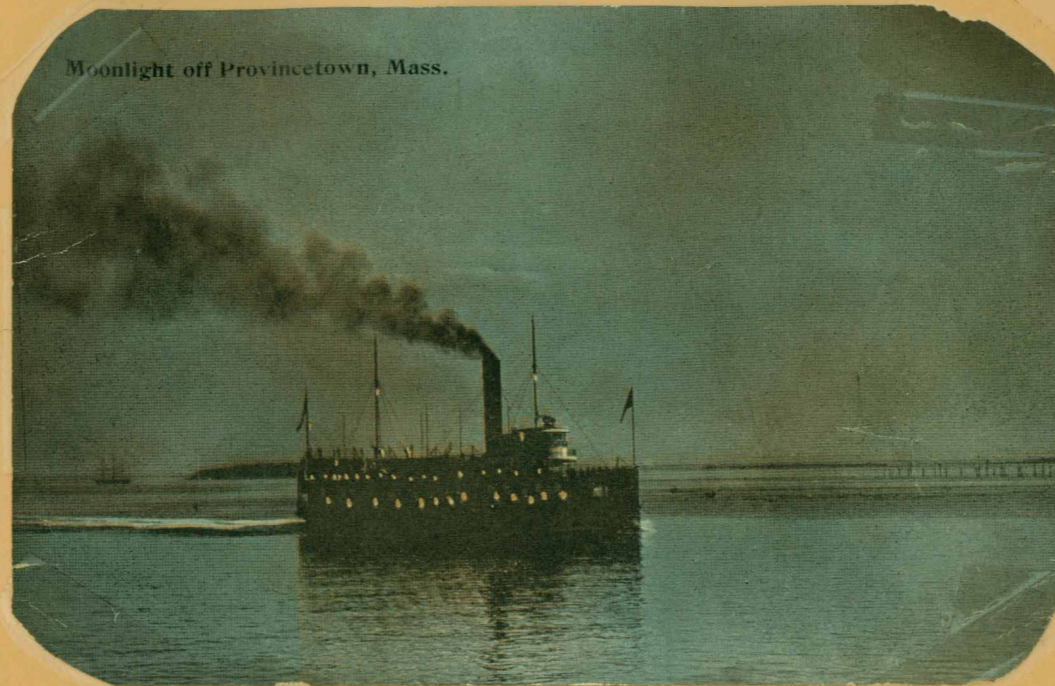
From that time to this there has been a constant effort, stimulated by competition and by improvements in machinery, to lessen the duration of the voyage. The old side wheel, or paddle, steamers were abandoned about fourteen years ago, and the modern type of vessel is the screw propeller.

The most recent steamers are "twin screws"—that is to say, instead of having one propeller, each steamer has two, and in this way it is expected that a higher power can be utilized. The twin screws are also an element of safety, since each screw is worked by a separate engine, and should one engine be disabled the other would have power enough to propel the ship into port.

The distance from New York to Queens-town is about 2,800 miles, and up to 1880 the fastest passage was a little over seven days, which was made by the Arizona. Since then it has been successively reduced by the Alaska, the City of Rome, the Servia, the Oregon, the Umbria, the Etruria and the City of Paris.—Youth's Companion.

1059
Steamer

Moonlight off Provincetown, Mass.



An Old Steamer Postcard - About 1910



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