

*S. S. America*



# Steamship America

A North Shore Legend  
1898-1928  
WDSE Documentary

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# Life on Lake Superior

- The Steamer America was purchased by the Booth Steamship Company in 1902
  - Moved to Lake Superior
  - Made three trips per week up the North Shore
    - Duluth, Grand Marais, Isle Royale, Thunder Bay, Ontario, and more.
  - Transported cargo, mail, and people to the various towns and settlements.

# A New Ship Arrives in Duluth

- “She has a speed of eighteen miles an hour, which will mean much in the North Shore traffic. In fact, previous trips have been tedious because of the average slowness of the boats.”
- Superintendent C. W. Turner
  - Booth Transportation Line

# Wrecks

- 1904: hit another Steamer
  - 5 staterooms were ruined
- 1909: ran aground
- 1914: ran aground
- 1926: hit another Steamer
- 1927: ran into a dock
  
- The SS America was able to get into the Duluth ship canal during the 1905 Matafa storm, passing the Matafa, which did not make it in.

# The Sinking of the America

- June 7, 1928: the America sinks off of Washington Island.
- The new first mate was given control of the ship in the early morning hours.
  - Within 5 minutes, the first mate, Wick, hit a submerged reef.
  - After 1 hour, only the front of the ship was above the surface of the water.
- Attempts have been made to refloat the ship, however, it has never resurfaced.

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