Westmoreland (2 July 1853 - 8 December 1854)

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Was it gold or grain she carried that fateful day she left Milwaukee?

Wednesday, December 6th and bound for Mackinac Island she navigated her way through the freezing waters, the Manitous in sight, she was riding low.

Doomed to take her place among the other skeleton ships that to this day reside on the Inland Sea bottom, the crew and passengers fumbled with the yawl boats—losing one to the wind while scrambling for the last.

Survivors claim 17 drowned
paper claims only two—
rumor has it the other 15 broke into the liquor hold and drank themselves silly-drowned.

Platte Bay now holds the mystery deep inside her womb ($100,000 in gold coins or grass seed, flour and oats?)
Many have tried to uncover her bones
many have tried to uncover her gold
Not me

for on a hot August afternoon as I look across the bay—I imagine those 15 unaccounted for silly-drunkent fools—drinking even still, playing poker in that hold upping the ante yet another gold coin?