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1884 Earthquake Newspaper accounts

THE EARTHQUAKE

Undulating Waves Ripple Roughly Over the Ground's Surface
The Country was Shaken... Cracking Walls and Topping Chimneys
Accounts from Ohio to New England

Telegraphic reports afterwards brought the intelligence that the shock was ...unnoticed in Richmond [Virginia], and was scarcely felt in Portland [Maine]. In [Cleveland] Ohio it caused a ripple of excitement, but Indiana and Illinois read with surprise the news of the disturbance in the neighboring States.

(from an article in *The Easton Express*; Monday Evening, August 11, 1884; Easton, Pennsylvania.)

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Harrisburg [Pennsylvania]; August 10-- Large numbers of people in this city were startled this afternoon at 2 o'clock by a violent shock of about five seconds' duration. There was a very perceptible vibration of the earth and houses were shaken in a very lively manner. Some people were almost thrown from their chairs, and ...were awakened from sound slumber to see beds and other furniture shaken and to hear ... glassware rattle. Hundreds of persons were almost frightened out of their wits.

(from an article in *The Easton Express*; Monday Evening, August 11, 1884; Easton, Pennsylvania.)

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Columbia [Pennsylvania], August 10-[Special.]- The citizens of Columbia were gently excited at 2.12 o'clock this afternoon by a most mysterious shock, which, it is believed, came from an earthquake or some other internal disarrangement of the earth. In some parts of the town it was felt more severely than others. On Locust street, more especially at the upper end, the houses shook, while the dishes in cupboards and the windows rattled. The occupants of the houses of Locust and Fifth streets ran out into the street, so violently did their houses sway from side to side. The only damage done was the breaking of several window panes.

(from an article in *The Easton Express*; Monday Evening, August 11, 1884; Easton, Pennsylvania.)

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Doylestown [Pennsylvania], August 10-- This afternoon at 2 o'clock this afternoon a rumbling noise as of distant thunder was distinctly heard here, followed by a general vibration of the earth, causing dishes to rattle, furniture to move from its position, doors to unlatch and open. No serious damage has been reported in the vicinity of the town. The earthquake was also felt at other places.

(from an article in *The Easton Express*; Monday Evening, August 11, 1884; Easton, Pennsylvania.)

THE EARTHQUAKE

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Long Branch [New Jersey], August 10- The earthquake shock reached Long Branch just as people were sitting down to dinner. The first indication of the phenomenon was a rumbling noise, followed instantly by a trembling as it seemed of all creation. It was all over in half a dozen seconds, but the time was long enough to set all Long Branch in a panic. The cottages and hotels poured forth their inmates. Plazas and lawns were dotted with shaking men, weeping children and fainting women.

The seven hundred guests at the table at the West End made a rush for the doors and shrank back laughing foolishly when the danger was passed, but dainty food went almost untouched after that. ... When the first sound was heard and the startled guests were wondering what it all meant the fool somewhere in the crowded room shrieked, "Fire! Fire!" Then there was a wild rush. Instantly women and children fell and strong men ruthlessly stepped over and in some cases on them and forced their way first to the doors. ...

At one of the hotels a lady who was taking a bath in her room rushed out into the hallway clothed only in a towel. Chairs and beds rocked like hammocks. Henry Haggerty, a guest at the United States Hotel, who was taking a nap, was awakened by the swaying of his bed. The appearance of sky and sea was unchanged during the disturbance, but a woman who was in bathing was thrown off her feet. No serious injury or damage resulted, and after the shock the people were laughing at their own fright.

(from an article in *The Easton Express*; Monday Evening, August 11, 1884; Easton, Pennsylvania.)

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Asbury Park [New Jersey], August 10- The earthquake treated the saints of Ocean Groves and the sinners of Asbury Park alike. It scared pretty nearly everybody. There was a loud rumbling sound, quickly followed by a shock which set the cottages and hotels to rocking in the liveliest kind of a manner. People on the beach did not feel it. Houses were quickly emptied of their occupants, the dinner tables were deserted and people with napkins about their necks rushed into the streets with faces as white as chalk. Nobody seemed to know what was the matter for some time. Rumors that boilers in the Sheldon House had blown up caused a stampede in that direction over in the Grove, but there was nothing the matter there. ... The streets were filled with excited people, who stood around all the afternoon waiting for another shock and afraid to return to their rooms.

Some of the scenes were ludicrous. Women with babies in their arms rushed into the streets, and some of the big hotels there was the liveliest kind of a panic. The earthquake shock had no effect whatever upon the water. Thousands of people loitered upon the boardwalk hunting for a tidal wave, but beyond some ships out at sea, some gulls hunting for fish and a grand surf they saw nothing.

(from an article in *The Easton Express*; Monday Evening, August 11, 1884; Easton, Pennsylvania.)

THE EARTHQUAKE

Undulating Waves Ripple Roughly Over the Ground's Surface
The Country was Shaken... Cracking Walls and Topping Chimneys
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Stamford, Conn., August 10- A very perceptible shock of earthquake was felt at 2.09 P.M. today, shaking buildings and causing considerable excitement. A centre table was overturned in the resident of R.H. Gillespie and a handsome ornament smashed. Pictures fell from the walls and other damage was done. Fifteen years ago a similar shock was felt at night, and forty years ago a still greater one was experienced.

(from an article in *The Easton Express*; Monday Evening, August 11, 1884; Easton, Pennsylvania.)

An Earthquake Shock
Houses Shake and Chimneys Fall in Philadelphia;
The Atlantic Coast Disturbed from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Me.-
No lives Reported lost.

Reading, Pennsylvania., August 10-- At 2.12 this afternoon two distinct shocks of earthquake were felt throughout this city and country, shaking houses, moving furniture and dropping blinds. Considerable excitement prevailed among the people, many running into the street.

(from an article in *The Philadelphia Record*; Philadelphia; Monday Morning, August 11, 1884)

An Earthquake Shock
Houses Shake and Chimneys Fall in Philadelphia;
The Atlantic Coast Disturbed from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Me.-
No lives Reported lost.

Bordentown, N.J., August 10- At precisely eight minutes after 2 o'clock this afternoon the people of this place were thrown into a state of great excitement by an earthquake shock, which lasted fully half a minute. The people were panic-stricken, and rushed pell-mell into the street. Farnsworth Avenue was immediately alive with women and children. The shock was most severely felt at the hilltop, where several children were prostrated. The chimney of Mr. Valentine Woods' house, in Church street, was tumbled into the street. Pans and dishes were thrown off Mr. James Powell's dresser in West Street. Those who were at the riverfront say that the Delaware sent up large waves over the Pennsylvania and Jersey shores.

(from an article in *The Philadelphia Record*; Philadelphia; Monday Morning, August 11, 1884)

An Earthquake Shock
Houses Shake and Chimneys Fall in Philadelphia;
The Atlantic Coast Disturbed from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Me.-
No lives Reported lost.

Peekskill, N.Y., August 10- At 2.07 P.M. Peekskill experienced two severe shocks of earthquake. The shock caused windows, shutters, and dishes to shake and rattle loudly, persons ran out of their houses wondering and fearful as to the cause of the terrible sensation.

(from an article in *The Philadelphia Record*; Philadelphia; Monday Morning, August 11, 1884)

An Earthquake Shock
The Atlantic Coast Disturbed from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Me.-
No lives Reported lost.

Mount Vernon, N.Y., August 10- At 10 minutes after 2 o'clock this afternoon, Mount Vernon, Yonkers, New Rochelle, Port Chester, White Plains and other places in Westchester country, had a lively shaking up by an earthquake. The chimneys of a house were shaken down and the brick walls badly shattered.

(from an article in *The Philadelphia Record*; Philadelphia; Monday Morning, August 11, 1884)

An Earthquake Shock
Houses Shake and Chimneys Fall in Philadelphia;
The Atlantic Coast Disturbed from Washington, D.C., to Portland, Me.-
No lives Reported lost.

Washington, DC, August 10- Commander Sampson, Assistant Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, reports that he observed slight vibrations of the earth around 2 o'clock this afternoon, lasting about sixteen seconds. He was in the second story of his house, adjoining the observatory. The windows of the room rattled and the articles on a marble-top table moved. No phenomena were observed on the lower floors of the house. A few persons have reported this evening that they observed some unusual motion of the earth about 2 o'clock this afternoon, but very few such reports have been made.

(from an article in *The Philadelphia Record*; Philadelphia; Monday Morning, August 11, 1884)

An Earthquake Shakes Us

Bethlehem, PA. For the first time since the year 1828, so the oldest citizens say, a perceptible shock of an earthquake was felt in the Bethlehem's at 2.06 o'clock yesterday afternoon. A rumbling noise, resembling that which is heard when approaching the skating rink, accompanied the shock, which lasted about twelve seconds. Houses were shaken in all sections of the town, and in many instances mantel ornaments were thrown to the floor, window curtains knocked down and doors unlatched. The damage done in Bethlehem was slight. The handsome residence of William Stubblebine, situated at the corner of Church and New streets, was damaged, the southeastern wall being cracked. The residence of Wm. King, on Leibert Street, West Bethlehem, was also damaged. The walls on the inside were cracked to such an extent to resemble a map of Hungary. We are informed that the doorbells of Drs. Wilson and Detwiller were rung by the shock.

The shock of the earthquake yesterday afternoon caused much alarm among our citizens. Women and children ran out of their homes crying and for a time much consternation prevailed. In some residences on Fountain Hill vases, brick-a-brac, &c., were knocked off the mantelpieces. In the First Reformed Church, Forth Street, the bible was thrown from the pulpit. The shock was most severe in the elevated portions of the town, persons residing on Second Street and in the Third Ward scarcely feeling it.

(from an article in the *Bethlehem Daily Times*; August 1884; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania)

Shaken by an Earthquake

A Very [illegible word] shock of an Earthquake startles York.

Yesterday afternoon, about ten or twelve minutes after two o'clock, York [Pennsylvania] went through a novel experience, in the very sensible feeling of an earthquake shock. The shock lasted, perhaps, from eight to ten seconds, and was felt with more or less effect in the various parts of town.

Many who were taking their Sunday afternoon nap were awakened from their slumbers by the shaking of their beds; and not a few nervous people were badly frightened. Windows rattled, buildings trembled, pictures and looking-glasses trembled on the walls, and for a few moments the town seemed to have a general shaking up.

Few people seemed to have an idea of the cause of the singular sensation. Some thought an explosion had occurred somewhere; to others it appeared as if an unusually heavy team had passed the house shaking the foundations, while others again looked upon it as a token of evil and their forebodings of direful disaster soon to come, made them terrible with fright. In some sections of town it was more perceptible than others and the beds on which people were comfortably resting shook so perceptibly as to awaken the sleepers. In one instance an individual thought some one was under the bed moving it. Many people thought the end of all things was at hand, and there was doubtless more praying than the usual amount of Sunday praying for a little while at least.

(from an article in *the York Dispatch*, August 1884, York, Pennsylvania)

New York Agitated.

Samuel J. Randall's Luncheon Interrupted by the Rumbling Earthquake.

Special Dispatch to The Press. **New York**, Aug 10.- The city and vicinity felt a smart earthquake shock at about five minutes past 2 o'clock this afternoon, or rather two or three distinct shocks, which startled the whole city and set everybody to talking about it.

At the Brevoort House, at Fifth Avenue and Eight Street, the shock was also perceptibly felt. The night clerk, who was still in bed, was awakened by the low rumbling noise, which jarred the furniture in the room sufficiently to break his slumbers. He rushed to the window and found half the windows in the block filled with excited people. Mr. Murant Haistead, of the Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette and the new evening paper was engaged in the writing in an upper room of the same hotel. Mr. Haistead says the vibration was perfectly perceptible but thinks it did not last longer than two or three seconds.

At the New York on Broadway, Mr. Samuel J. Randall, of Pennsylvania, and a few political friends were lunching. Suddenly there was a rattling of glass and a general shaking of dishes, which brought the ex-Speaker to his feet in a jiffy. A South American gentleman in the party recognized the sensation at once. "Why, that is an earthquake!" he exclaimed, and the room was vacant in less time than one can count one.

Two blocks above the Vienna Café was filled with Sunday afternoon strollers, who had stopped for a little refreshment. The shock caused quite a panic among them. The cut glass prisms of the Chandelier tinkled like sleight bell-cups and saucers danced about in the trays in the most festive fashion, while the rumbling in the cellar shook the house from top to bottom and three of the globes on the chandeliers fell to the floor and were shivered a thousand pieces.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia Pa.)

Along the Jersey Coast- The Phenomenon Divides Itself Into Three Sections at Atlantic City.

Special Dispatch to The Press. **Atlantic City**, August 10.-- There was a series of three mysterious shocks felt here this afternoon at exactly nine minutes after 2 o'clock, which had all the effects of an earthquake. Inquiries were made generally concerning the phenomenon, in the belief that it resulted from an explosion, and the rumor prevailed that the gasworks had blown up.

At the Jackson House alarm was occasioned among the guests, who were seated at their dinner table, when the dishes rattled and the table shook as though it was affected by palsy. At Kuebrie's Hotel and at Joseph A. Harstow's house, on Pennsylvania Avenue, water pitchers were overturned and spilled over the floor. James Beckwith and John Hill Martin, of the Ocean House, were alarmed in their beds while William G. Bartlett's family, on North Carolina Avenue, near Atlantic, ran out of doors in great consternation. ...

At the Lighthouse the shock startled Major Wolf, the keeper, whilst he was writing, overturning the inkbottle over his Sunday trousers. A hundred such incidents are talked about through the town tonight and everybody was waiting for a tidal wave, which, old watermen say, is always sure to follow an earthquake.

Conductor-Bartlette, of the Camden and Atlantic railroad, says he was thrown from his chair while sitting at home. An unoccupied car on one of the roller coasting roads on Tennessee Avenue is said to have been started by the force of the shock, and to have gone dashing over the circuit.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Rhode Island's Shaken Ground.

Special Dispatch to The Press. **Providence**, August 10. – The earthquake shock was felt very perceptibly in this city and state and people were temporarily alarmed. It happened at about 7 minutes past 2 o'clock this afternoon and was felt in various parts of the city. Mr. John Kendrick, one of Providence's foremost citizens, was reading in his brick mansion on Westminster Hill, when suddenly the walls and floor of the room shook like a steamship at sea breasting the billows, and the statuary so agitated that Mr. Kendrick was in momentary fear that they would tumble from their pedestals. The duration was perhaps fifteen seconds and then after a quarter of a minute came a second shock of less violence.

In another ward of the city a chair was shaken so violently that a girl sitting on it was knocked over. In the tall Narragansett and Dorrance Hotels the guests felt the tremor very strongly. Some people who were enjoying Sunday afternoon naps were awakened from their slumber by the shaking of their beds. At Pawtucket, a large town four miles North of here, , houses were shaken like reeds and the timbers of wooden buildings creaked like those of a ship in a heavy sea.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

West Chester's Bells Rung How Bottles Rattled and a Chimney Lost Its Terra Cotta Top

Special Dispatch to The Press. **West Chester**, August 10. – The earthquake was felt very perceptibly in this borough, and lasted for fully a half minute. The quaking were divided into three distinct shocks. In the drug stores of Joseph S. Evans, H.R. Kervey and others the bottles on the shelves rattled quite loudly. The front door bell at the residence of Dr. Edward Jackson was rung. The shock sent people into the streets to find out what had happened, some thinking that duPont's powder mill, at Wilmington, had exploded. The tremulous motion of the earth produced the effect of seasickness with some persons.

Telephone bells were rung, as were other bells in various parts of the town. At the Pennsylvania Railroad station one of the employees stated that he actually noticed the walls of the freight house shaking.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Milton's Up Heaving Pavements

Special Dispatch to The Press. **Milton**, PA, August 10. –A loud, heavy noise, like the rumbling of a continuous peal of thunder, was heard, and then followed by a terrible trembling of the earth. The shock was very perceptibly felt by those lying in bed. The furniture in some houses trembled .. The pavements were seen to vibrate as if an upheaval was about to occur. Those who have experienced the feelings attendant upon an earthquake say that this of today here is exactly like it. There has been neither rain nor thunder storm here today, and a clear sky has prevailed since early this morning.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

A Plum-Picker Shaken From a Tree

Special Dispatch to The Press. **Allentown**, August 10. – It was about 2.05 o'clock this afternoon, when a distinct shock of earthquake was felt in this city. It continued about fifteen or twenty seconds. Windows rattled, doors shook and chandeliers swung. The first thought was that a dynamite mill had exploded, but the shock lasted too long to hold to that theory. People ran out of their houses in flight, and many who were asleep were awakened by the quaking buildings. A lady on Seventh Street was thrown from a sofa. A man named Shafter, while picking plums, fell off the tree and broke his leg, whether from fright or from the shaking, is not known. The children in Sunday schools were badly frightened.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Pike Country Caught in the Wave

Special Dispatch to The Press. Matamoras [Pennsylvania], August 10. Two distinct shocks of earthquake were felt in this country this afternoon. Houses were shaken, dishes rattled and buckets of water slopped over. The two shocks were a few seconds apart and lasted about one minute. It was at first thought to be the explosion of a locomotive on the Erie Railway, but this was proven untrue.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Doors Opened by the Shock

Special Dispatch to The Press. **Honesdale [Pennsylvania]**, August 10. A severe shock of earthquake was felt here this afternoon. Dishes rattled on the tables and doors were opened by the shock.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Saratogians Become Seasick

Special Dispatch to The Press. **Saratoga, N.Y.**, August 10. A slight tremor at 2.07 P.M., standard time, was felt at Saratoga. Some people at dinner were affected much as though by seasickness. Curiosity was excited to know the cause, and it was only after a dispatch came from New York and other points announcing an earthquake shock that its meaning was comprehended.

(from an article in *The Press*, August 11, 1884, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Wilkes Barre, PA. There was a perceptible tremor of terra firma about 2:15, and consisted of a series of vibrations, ranging from 2 to 5. The direction was from east to west or from northeast to southwest. It was not felt by everybody, and did not knock down any brick buildings, yet attracted the attention of hundreds of our citizens...

It was thought by the inquirers that a powder mill must have exploded in the vicinity of Wilkes-Barre...a mine blast, or possibly a crash in the mineral spring colliery. Marcus Smith was lying on a sofa reading and was almost thrown off. He thought both gas-o-meters had gone up.

W. W. Brown saw the walls of his residence vibrate. Dick Brundage saw the pictures on the wall begin to rattle. Mrs. Douglass Smith was sitting quietly in a rocking chair, the vibration being strong enough to set her chair rocking. Mrs. M. B. Houpt felt the window shutters and doors rattle...

Editor J. C. Coon felt a north by northeast tremor and pinched himself to see if he wasn't getting paralyzed. Harry Wilbur was napping on a lounge when he jumped up thinking all the mules in the stable were having a kicking picnic. Mrs. Bookseller Butler noticed her sewing machine trying to get up motion.

(from an article in the *Wilkes-Barre Recorder*, 11, Aug, 1884. Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania)

Badly Shaken Up An Earthquake Visits Atlantic Cities People Panic Stricken

New York, August 11th. A few minutes past 2:00 PM yesterday afternoon the city was visited by a genuine shock of earthquake which lasted for a full 15 seconds. In several uptown bar-rooms glassware was shaken from shelves and broken. The police central building in Mulberry street was shaken from foundation to roof. The shock was very perceptible on the Brooklyn Bridge. All accounts agree that the shock was preceded by a low rumbling noise.

While a congregation of 250 were celebrating the consecration of the Holy Scroll in the B’Nai Drebnine synagogue on the second floor at the old building at Hester and Ludlow St., the building trembled, and several of the window panes broke and fell into the street. The worshippers rushed to the doors in alarm. Stalwart ushers turned them back. They sprang to the windows, and some tried to jump to the ground, a distance of twenty feet, but were held back.

The Italians occupying the row of tenements known as “the Barracks” opposite the Mott street end of the Central office, swarmed into the opened air, evidently remembering their earthquake experiences in their own country.

(from an article in the *Trenton Evening Times*, 11 August 1884, Trenton, N.J.)

Badly Shaken Up
An Earthquake Visits Atlantic Cities
People Panic Stricken

Bridgeport Ct., Aug 11th – About 2:05 yesterday afternoon people in the city and vicinity were startled by a rumbling sound accompanied by a violent shaking of buildings. At first it was thought a violent explosion at the cartridge factory had occurred.

In some places dishes were thrown from the shelves and broken. At Stratford bricks were shaken from the chimneys, and in one house a man who was lying on a lounge was thrown to the floor.

In the Housatonic River a curious phenomenon occurred. Just as the rumbling began a wave started from either shore, and meeting in the center of the river rolled over and over, presenting a magnificent spectacle.

(from an article in the *Trenton Evening Times*, 11 August 1884, Trenton, N.J.)

Badly Shaken Up
An Earthquake Visits Atlantic Cities
People Panic Stricken

New Haven, Ct., Aug. 11th – Two severe shocks of an earthquake were felt in this city at about 2:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The first was about five seconds in duration and the latter thirty seconds later was much more severe.

Pictures on the walls rattled, mirrors vibrated, and the citizens were much frightened. No serious damage was done however.

In Branford the water in a small brook on the Rose farm was thrown up into the air quite a distance.

(from an article in the *Trenton Evening Times*, 11 August 1884, Trenton, N.J.)

Badly Shaken Up An Earthquake Visits Atlantic Cities

Albany, NY, Aug 11th – At 2:09 o'clock yesterday afternoon a shock of earthquake was experienced in this city, which lasted seven seconds. There were two distinct shocks which shook the houses throughout the city.

Dishes were thrown together on tables, oranges and other fruit thrown to the floor, doors thrown open and blinds closed by the force of the shock. The course of the shock was from east to west apparently.

(from an article in the *Trenton Evening Times*, 11 August 1884, Trenton, N.J.)

Badly Shaken Up An Earthquake Visits Atlantic Cities People Panic Stricken

Marlborough, NY, Aug 11th – A few minutes after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon people along the Hudson river were startled by a dull, rumbling sound, followed by a trembling motion. In the vicinity of Marlborough houses were shaken so much that glasses jingled and mirrors shook perceptibly. Ladies and children were badly frightened, and dogs and beasts of burden were strangely affected.

(from an article in the *Trenton Evening Times*, 11 August 1884, Trenton, N.J.)

Badly Shaken Up An Earthquake Visits Atlantic Cities

Buffalo, NY. Aug 11th – A shock that was almost imperceptible was felt at 2:30 yesterday afternoon at Black Rock and East Buffalo. It attracted little attention, and no damage was done. So far as can be learned there was no shock in the city. If there was it was too slight to excite any general apprehension.

(from an article in the *Trenton Evening Times*, 11 August 1884, Trenton, N.J.)

Monday August 11, 1884 Cape May Point, NJ, August 10. There is no doubt that the tremor of an explosion or earthquake was felt both here and at Cape May by numbers of persons. They describe quite a shaking of furniture and rattling of window sashes about two o'clock.

(from an article in the *Public Ledger*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Burlington, Vt., August 11.--Two slight but very distinct earthquake shocks were felt here yesterday afternoon, the first at 2:30 and the second at 5:30.

(from an article in the *New York Evening Post*, Monday August 11, 1884)

Historic Earthquakes

Springfield, MA, August 11 – The shock was preceded by a deep rumbling sound...in several parts of the city doors were thrown open, bells were rung and pictures swung from the walls. One person reports that he was aroused from a nap by the knocking of a pitcher against the marble sink in his room, and describes the motion like that of swinging in a hammock.

(from an article in *the Boston Globe*, Monday August 11, 1884)

Historic Earthquakes

Boston, MA, August 11: Boston has had an earthquake. Not much of one, not enough to shake down any buildings nor throw anybody out of bed...It was accompanied by swaying chandeliers, rocking tables and furniture, and a rumbling heavy sound like that of a well laden cart going over frozen ground. This lasted about ten seconds and then ceased.

D. J. Saunders was reclining in a room of his house at the South End at the time, reading a paper and inhaling tobacco fumes through the stem of a black 'T. D.' pipe, when he felt his couch quivering and saw that his pipe was vibrating in an unusual manner.

An old woman was sleeping in the Collins block at Beach street and the jar woke her up. Mr. Nason, night manager of the Western Union Telegraph, was lying down and felt his bed shake for several seconds.

At the Fitchburg depot the restaurant cook and his wife were awakened from a sound sleep. Pictures upon the wall swung to and fro.

A gentleman in the upper story of the new savings bank on School Street felt the whole building sway and rock like a vessel at sea and thought the chimneys would all fall down.

On Charles St. several persons were aroused from sleep. On Ashburton place and at the offices as well as in many other parts of the city picture frames, books, crockery and other movables were were endowed with sudden powers of locomotion. A young man employed at Ricker's pharmacy says "The earthquake made the bottles on the shelves move " None of the bottles was thrown from the shelves.

(from the *Boston Globe* August 11, 1884)