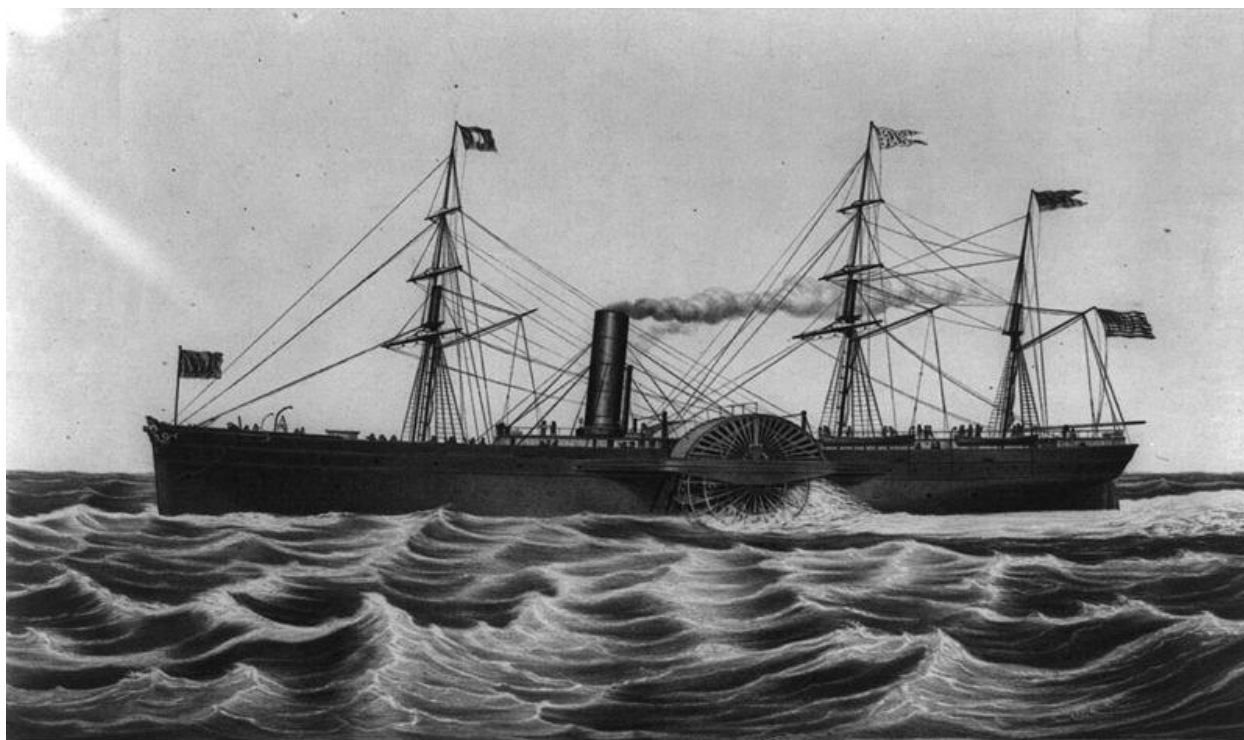


"The Color of Valor, the Gender of Loss: Race, Sex, and Journalism after the Arctic Disaster of 1854"

Ajuan Maria Mance
May Treat Morrison Professor of English
Mills College



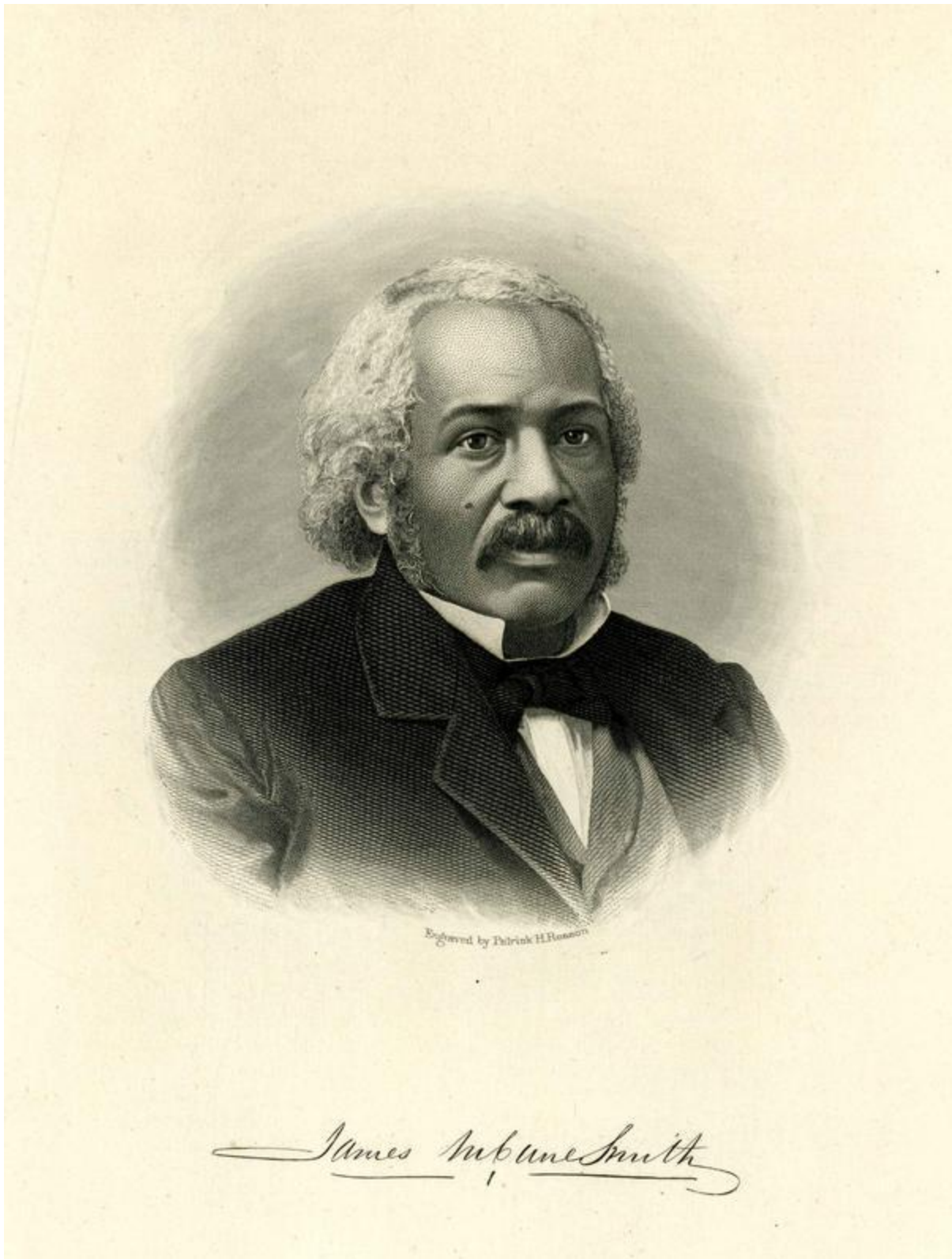
United States Mail Steamship Arctic (N. Currier, Printer, 1850).



Wreck of U.S.M. Steamship Arctic (N. Currier, Printer, 1854).



Onboard engineering trainee Stewart Holland (N. Currier, Printer, 1855).



Dr. James McCune Smith (Patrick H. Reason, Engraver, ca. 1860).

The Sinking of the Arctic: A Timeline

- September 27, 1854: The U.S.M. Steamship the Arctic collides with the French iron steamer Vesta in the North Atlantic Ocean, off Cape Race, Newfoundland, Canada.
- October 2-5, 1854: The *New York Daily Times* (known today as the *New York Times*) prints short notices informing its readership that the Arctic has not yet been sighted.
- October 11, 1854: *The New York Daily Times* publishes an article confirming the "total loss of the Arctic."
- October 12, 1854: *The New York Daily Times* publishes the first interviews by surviving crew members of the Arctic, including Second Office William Baahlam.
- October 17, 1854: *The New York Daily Times* published the first interview with the Arctic's Captain James Luce. Luce praises German sailor Ferdinand Keyn (survivor) Euro-American engineering trainee Stewart Holland (deceased), and African American Chief Stewardess Anna Downer (deceased) for their heroic deeds on board the sinking ship.
- November 1, 1854: *The New York Daily Times* reprints a *Washington Globe* article demanding that a monument be erected in honor of the Stewart Holland's courageous refusal to abandon his post.
- November 3, 1854: *Frederick Douglass' Paper* publishes "Heads of the Colored People: The Schoolmaster," in which author James McCune Smith speaks out against the failure of the mainstream press to issue a call for a monument in Anna Downer's memory, "because she is a woman, and a colored woman."
- November 4, 1854: *The New York Daily Times* prints a brief notice that another Washington, D.C. newspaper, *The Washington Union*, has echoed the *Globe's* call for a monument to the fallen hero, Stewart Holland.