

Save these spaces in between  
the article of Life Savers' deaths

an unbroken line of sandy beaches from Monomoy Point at Chatham to Wood End at Provincetown, a distance of about fifty miles. Myriads of shoals lie along the coast, and unnumbered vessels have met their doom along its shores, which rightly bear the name "Ocean Graveyard."

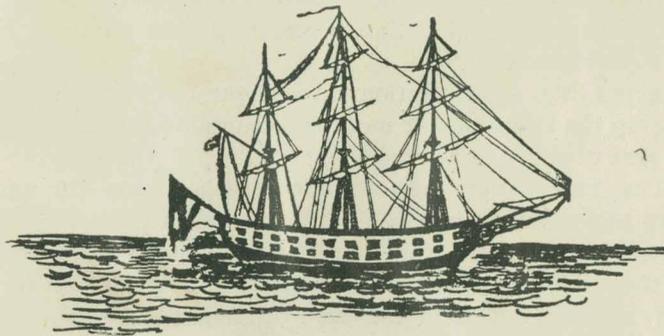
The shores of Cape Cod from Monomoy to Wood End are literally strewn with the bones of once staunch crafts, while unmarked graves in the burial-places in the villages along the coast mutely relate the sad tale of the sacrifice of human life.

Scenes of awful terror and heroic rescues have taken place at the time of shipwreck along these shifting sand bars, and here, too, the life savers have given up their lives in devotion to their duty.

**HISTORIC WRECKS.**

Thousands of lives have been lost in the wrecks that have taken place along the shores of Cape Cod since the *Mayflower* cast anchor in the harbor at Provincetown in 1620. There is no record of the disasters previous to the establishment of the United States Life-Saving Service in 1872, other than mention in town records and histories of the dates and circumstances of the most memorable, or those attended by great loss of life.

The first shipwreck on Cape Cod, of which there is any record, occurred in 1626, when the historic ship *Sparrowhawk*, Captain Johnson, from England, with colonists bound for Virginia, stranded on



BRITISH FRIGATE SOMERSET.

the shoals near Orleans, and became a total loss. The story of the wreck is told by Governor Bradford in his diary of the Plymouth Colony. The ship's bones were discovered in a mud bank in 1863, the washing away of the shore line disclosing them to view.

Another historic wreck was that of the British frigate *Somerset*, which stranded on Peaked Hill Bars, Nov. 2 or 3, 1778. The *Somerset* was one of the fleet of British men-of-war, whose guns had stormed the heights of Bunker Hill, and terrorized the commerce of the colonies. She was at anchor in Boston Harbor the night that Paul Revere made his famous ride. When she met with disaster she was in pursuit of a fleet of French ships, which were reported to be in Boston Harbor. The *Somerset* had been at anchor in Provincetown harbor for some time, leaving there a few days before she was lost, to go in search of the French ships. She struck Peaked Hill Bars during a northeast gale, while trying to round the Cape, and enter the harbor at Provincetown. She had a complement of four hundred and eighty men, and is supposed to have carried sixty guns, thirty-two, twenty-four, and twelve pounders. She struck on the bars with terrific force, and instantly the seas began to pound her to pieces.

Loss of Captain David H. Atkins, Frank Mayo, Elisha Taylor, crew of life-saving station at Peaked Hill Bars, November 30, 1880.

(Died Mar. 2, 1956)

**Funeral Yesterday For Warren Ellis**

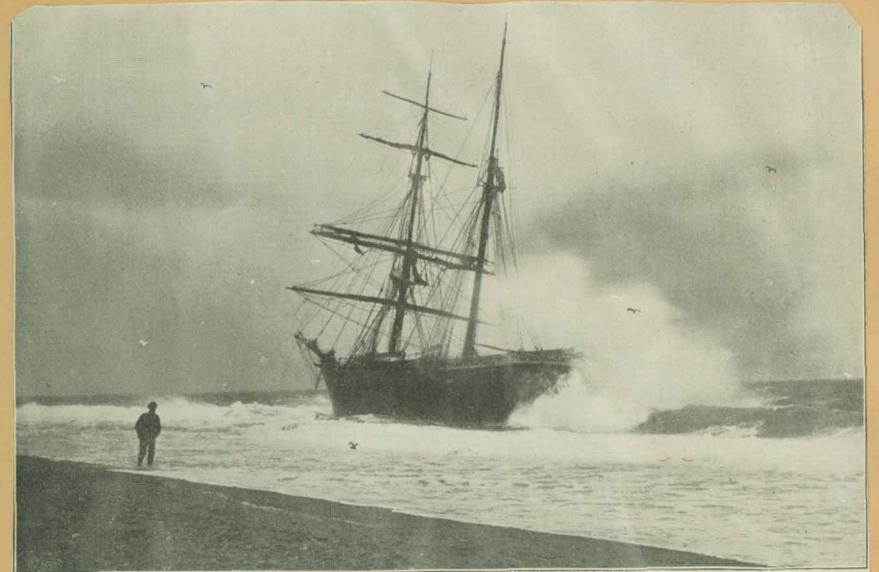
Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at the Nickerson Funeral Home in Wellfleet for Warren Augustus Ellis, 81, of Baker Avenue, Wellfleet, a retired Coast Guardsman whose service covered more than 32 years and participation in more than 20 rescues, both successful and attempted. Mr. Ellis died Saturday night on his birthday at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Brockton, after a long illness.

Masonic memorial service was held at the funeral home Tuesday night. The Rev. Lynne P. Townsend, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Wellfleet, officiated at the service yesterday. Interment was in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Wellfleet.

Mr. Ellis was born in Provincetown, son of the late William and Mary Lockwood Ellis. During his long service with the Coast Guard he became well known from Scituate to Provincetown, Monomoy to Great Pond Light, Nantucket. In his time the call for help from vessels in danger was far more frequent than now. Among those he often recalled was the rescue in December 1926 of seven members of the crew of the Barbadoes three-master W. M. Reinhardt which he and two Guardsmen were the first to board. The Irving J. Luce off Race Point in 1932 was his last wreck.

Mr. Ellis was a veteran of World War I and a member of King Hiram's Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Provincetown.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Sadie Jensen Ellis of Wellfleet; two daughters, Mrs. Alfred Rose and Mrs. Norman Young, both of Wellfleet; two sons, Warren L. Ellis, Wellfleet, and Ralph L. Ellis, Needham, and several grandchildren.



MATILDA BUCK.

She was finally thrown up on the beach by the tumultuous walls of water, and Captain Aurey and the few of the crew who had not perished reached the shore.

The residents of Provincetown viewed the wreck from High Pole Hill, and summoned Capt. Enoch Hallett, of Yarmouth, and Colonel Doane, of Wellfleet, who, with a detachment of militia, made Captain Aurey and the survivors prisoners.

Captain Hallett took charge of the prisoners, marching them up the Cape to Barnstable, and later to Boston, Colonel Doane being left to look after the wrecked craft. There was much jubilation on Cape Cod and in Boston over the disaster. The bones of the *Somerset* remained buried for a century, when the shifting sands exposed them



AN OLD WRECK.