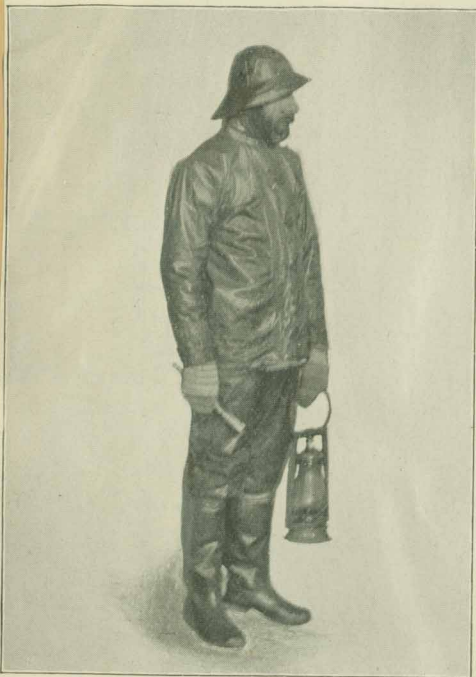


The Life Savers of Cape Cod.



SURFMAN WALKER, ORLEANS STATION, DRESSED FOR STORMY NIGHT ON THE BEACH.

Cape Cod's life savers are known the world over for their intrepid, enduring bravery, gallant deeds, and the success in rescuing life that they have achieved in their hazardous duties along the most dangerous winter coast of the world.

Every night, along the shores of Cape Cod, from Wood End at Provincetown to Monomoy at Chatham, in moonlight, starlight, thick darkness, driving tempest, wind, rain, snow or hail, an endless line of life savers steadily march along the exposed beaches on the outlook for endangered vessels.

The life saver's work is always arduous, often terrible. Quicksands, the blinding snow and cutting sand

storms, the fearful blasts of winter gales, are more often than not to be encountered on their journeys; storm tides, flooding the beaches, drive them to the tops or back of the sand dunes, where they plod along their solitary patrol with great peril.

When a ship is in distress, whatever way the crew is rescued by the life savers, the task involves great hazard of their lives, hours of racking labor, protracted exposure to the roughest weather conditions, and a mental and bodily strain under the spur of exigency and the curb of discipline that exhaust even these hardy fearless coast guardians. In cases of boat service tremendous additional peril and hardships are added.

Death has often claimed the life saver at his work. Or as a result of his gallant, unselfish toil for the safety of others in the rigors of winter, one life saver after another is compelled to retire from the service on account of shattered health.

Beyond their wages of sixty-five dollars per month the surfmen receive no allowances or emoluments of any kind except the quarters and fuel provided at the stations.

No person belonging to the service is allowed to hold an interest in or to be connected with any wrecking company, nor is he entitled to salvage upon any property he may save or assist to save. A surfman cannot be discharged from the service without good and sufficient reason. For well proven neglect of patrol duty or for disobedience or insubordination at a wreck the keeper may instantly discharge him; in all other cases special authority must be first obtained from the general superintendent.

The keeper lives at his station throughout the year, thus being on

- February 3, 1962 -
(See article next page)
(about his father's death)

Ralph L. J. Ellis

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Carlson Funeral Home, Wellfleet, for Ralph Luther Jensen Ellis, 58, of Baker Avenue, Wellfleet, who died suddenly of a heart attack while in his car in Needham Saturday night. Rev. Leonard Heap, pastor of the Wellfleet Congregational Church, officiated and interment was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Wellfleet.

Mr. Ellis, a retired Coast Guardsman, was born in Provincetown, the son of Sadie (Jensen) Ellis and the late Warren A. Ellis. He received his education in Provincetown schools and in 1944 retired from the Coast Guard as a motor machinist 1st class, having served at various Cape Cod stations. For the past six years he had been living with his mother and doing carpentry and painting work in Wellfleet.

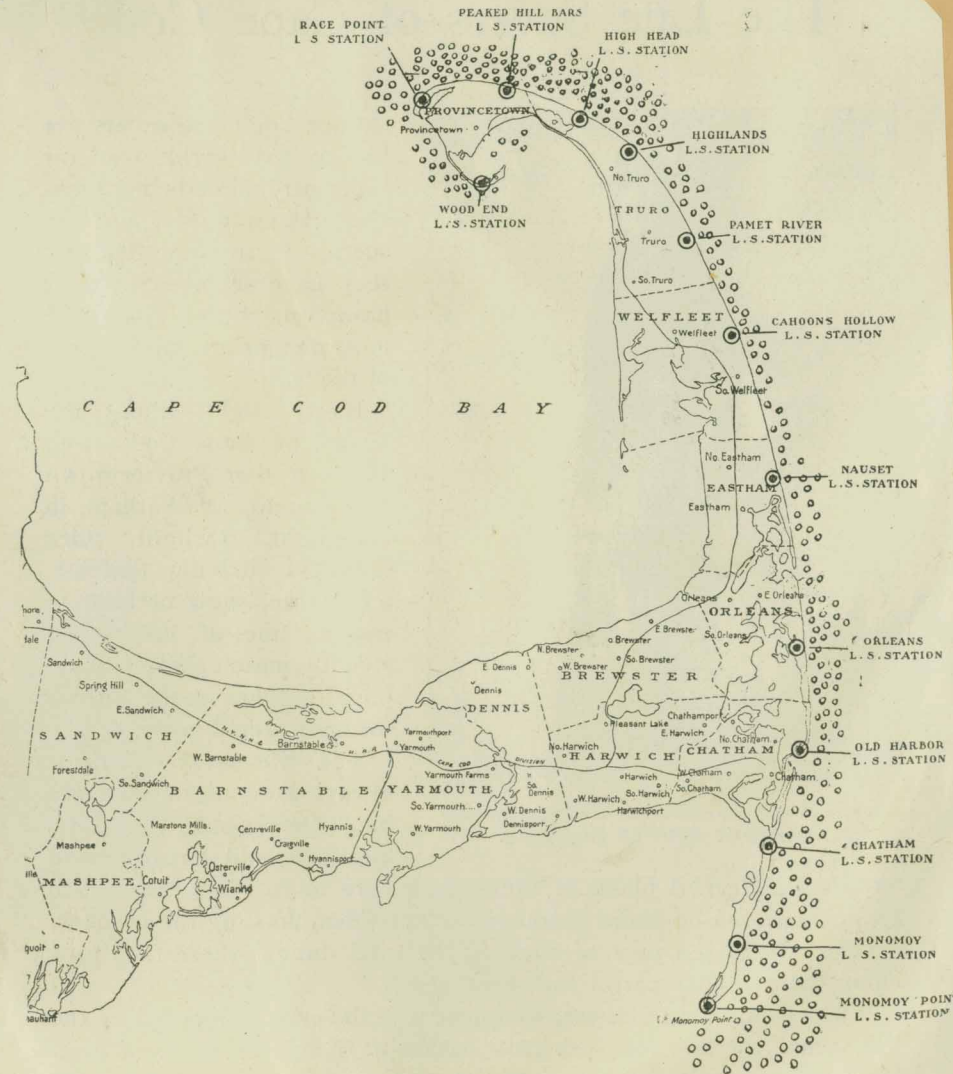
Other survivors include a daughter, Jean Ellis, and a son, Richard Ellis, both of Needham; two sisters, Mrs. Alfred Rose and Mrs. Norman Young, both of Wellfleet; a brother, Warren Ellis of South Wellfleet, and several nieces and nephews.

From: "The Life Savers of Cape Cod." - 1902

hand during the two summer months to summon the crew and volunteers in case of shipwreck or accident.

In "The Life Savers of Cape Cod" it has been the aim of the author to pen-picture some of the heroic deeds performed by these guardians of the "ocean graveyard," as the shores of Cape Cod are known, the terrible hardships they are called upon to endure, and the peril they constantly face in the work of saving life and property, together with illustrations of the life-saving stations on Cape Cod, the boats, beach apparatus, breeches-buoy, etc., used in saving lives, photographs of the crews of the different stations, a historical sketch of the life-saving service, and stories of historic disasters, with biographies of the life savers of Cape Cod, their duties, manner of living, and their achievements.

Cape Cod extends directly out into the Atlantic, like a gigantic arm with clutched hand, bidding defiance to the mighty ocean, for a distance of forty miles. Shifting sand bars parallel its eastern shores, which are



MAP OF CAPE COD, SHOWING LOCATION OF U. S. L. S. STATIONS. Small circles show where principal wrecks have taken place within past fifty years.