

# SIX MEN LOST

## MONDAY IN TERRIBLE TRAGEDY OF THE SEA.

Schooner Drives on Shore in the Gale  
and Goes to Pieces Quickly.--Only  
Two Men of the Crew Saved.

*From Our Bellport Correspondent.*

BELLPORT, FEB. 25TH -- Washington's birthday was a sad holiday in this little community. The tragic end of the Geny C. Cromwell and her ill-fated crew will not be soon forgotten in our village. Capt. Dan'l Petty was the first man to spread the news of the disaster, and almost immediately the bay was dotted with scooters making their way through the fog to the wreck.

The first news that reached us here was that the crew were still in the rigging and might possibly be saved if the spars stood until the sea went down. Reporters from the various city papers began to arrive, and every telephone and telegraph connection was besieged with anxious news seekers.

About nine o'clock word came that one of the ashore had managed to reach shore by riding the breaker on top of the cabin. By this time all the masts had gone by the board and the balance of the crew were driven to the deck. Several lines shot from the life savers' mortar had reached them, but the exhausted sailors had been unable to haul them aboard.

Twice the life boat had attempted to rescue them, but the tremendous surf, filled with flying timbers, hurled them back upon the shore. Soon the deck upon which the six survivors stood was torn away from the timbers of the hull and began to drift toward shore. Submerged by every wave, the men's plight became desperate, and their heartrending cries for help could be heard above the roar of the angry waters.

Then a mighty comber rolled in from the outer bar, and gathering strength and impetus hurled itself upon the fragile raft, burying it from sight. When it reappeared two of the men were gone. Once again was this scene repeated, and when the wreckage grounded only two were left to battle for their lives. Brave men plunged in and succeeded in reaching one of them, but the other was swept back, even after he had gained a foothold on the sand, and was seen no more.

W. F. G.

Another terrible tragedy of the sea occurred off our coast Monday morning in which the lives of six sailors were lost, only two of the crew of eight being saved. As usual the vessel went ashore through the carelessness of the captain in not taking his soundings.

The vessel was the three masted schooner, Benjamin C. Cromwell, loaded with yellow pine. She was 196 feet long, 16 feet draft and 616 tons. She was bound for Fall River from Charleston. Forest Jayne, of the Bellport life saving station, discovered the wreck about half past five a quarter of a mile east of the station. The crews of the Blue Point and Smith Point stations were immediately summoned to help, and the men of the three stations worked hard to save the crew.

The waves were tremendous and were knocking the vessel to pieces at a rapid rate. The men were clinging to the rigging and could not get down to make fast the lines which were shot to the deck time after time by the life savers. Finally the masts went by the board and cabin and quarter deck were torn off leaving the men on the deck with

who appeared to be the weaker, and dragged him to safety, and while they were doing that Phillips, who was right beside them and was struggling toward the shore, was caught by a great wave, thrown down and dragged out to sea in the undertow and they never saw him again. Before night there was scarcely a vestige of the schooner in sight, the powerful waves tearing her to pieces. The lumber and wreckage was piled in great heaps over the beach.

The body of Captain Cooley was found Wednesday by the Southpoint crew and was brought to Patchogue by Undertaker Roland. The two sons of the Captain came on from Portland, Me., and took the body home.

Frank Raynor, of the Blue Point Station, was quite badly injured by the wreckage when he went into the water after the sailor Olsen, and he is now at home in Patchogue.

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