

rags were plunged into the barrel, the pole was thrust upwards and the incipient flame quenched.

The oldest settlers on the island were the Fletchers, Kellys, Carpenters, Chinns, Bells, Dalbeys, Harrisons, and Cottins, whose descendants own the island to-day.

THE EARLIEST SETTLERS WERE WRECKERS

There were no markets for fish or game in those days, but the natives obtained the luxuries of life just the same, and old ocean, so merciless and cruel to men, yet was a bountiful provider to her children who dwelt within sound of her voice ; for many a wreck has she tossed up on the island shores, and at times the natives reaped a rich harvest, for it was not until 1875 that the Government established a life-saving station at that place.

It has never been charged against the natives of Hog Island that they ever lured vessels, driven out of their course, to their destruction, by false lights and signals as did the wreckers of Nags Head, North Carolina ; nor did they decoy them in the shallows like the natives of Roanoke Island. Nor is there any tradition that tells of their ever having robbed or murdered a castaway.

Many vessels were driven by storms on the sand bars, and the people simply helped themselves and paid no salvage.

There are, in many homes on the Eastern Shore, queer things of a by-gone day, that could tell strange tales : chronometers, huge charts, old fashioned flags, curious tables