

There came near being a tragedy near by, however, for the three-mast schooner, "Benjamin Russell," loaded with lumber, was lost on Pig Island, near Hog Island, during the storm. The vessel took a cargo of lumber from Coke Inlet, N. C., and was bound to New York, when the storm came down on her. When twenty miles off Sandy Hook, N. Y., the captain, seeing that his vessel could not enter the port of New York, had to scud southward for sixty-four hours. He was on the sea with wind blowing fifty miles an hour, and the sea rolling mountain-high, without anything to eat, or any sleep. At eleven o'clock on the second day out, he reached the coast of Hog Island, mistaking it for Chattoeague Island, and knowing that there was a good harbor in Thomas Cove, thought that he might reach it and save his vessel; but to his great surprise, when the fog lifted, he found that he had entered Hog Island Inlet and before he could put his vessel about, he ran ashore on Pig Island. Although the storm was raging its worst, Capt. J. E. Johnson, of the Life Saving Station, immediately launched the life-boat, and with his crew of stalwart surfmen, in less than half an hour, was alongside of the stranded vessel to save its crew from a watery grave.

There have been many wrecked vessels, where the captain and crew of the life-savers judged that a rescue, in the teeth of a raging storm, was hopeless; and that it would be folly to imperil precious lives in a chance of rescue. The extreme danger, in attempting to go to the assistance of the "Benjamin Russell," would have justified Captain Johnson in waiting