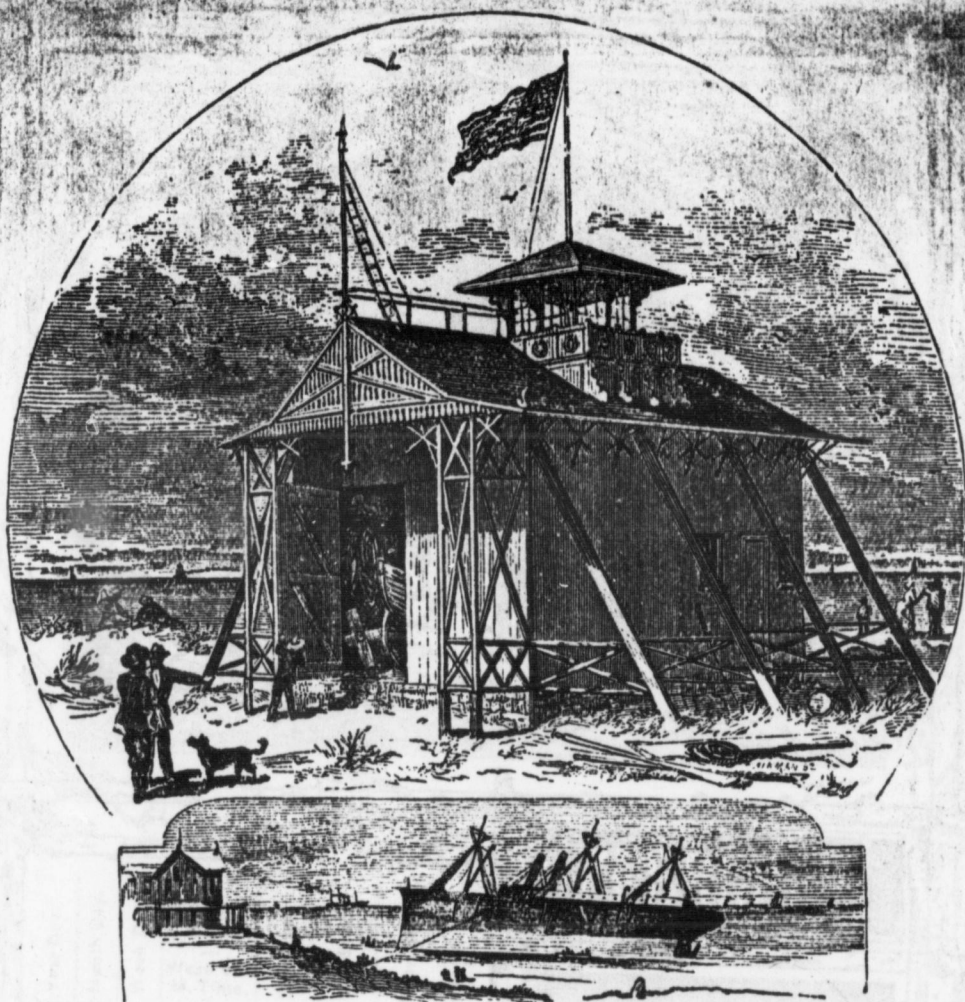




UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING STATION.

THE sea and lake coast line of the United States exceeds ten thousand miles in length, a greater extent than that of any other nation. It has, of course, in this great extent, every variety of configuration, and presents every feature of danger to the mariner. We have the iron-bound coast of Maine, the islands and capes of Massachusetts, the six-hundred-mile stretch of sand beach from Montauk to Cape Fear, the comparatively safe coasts of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, and the bold unbroken coast of the Pacific, with the coast line of the lakes, 2,500 miles long.

The coasts that present the most ghastly record of disaster are the shores of Long Island and New Jersey. The surf has swallowed up and the sand entombed hundreds of lives and great treasure on these inhospitable beaches.

The method of aiding stranded vessels by the establishment of buildings for the shelter of the shipwrecked and the preservation of lifeboats and other apparatus was first considered by the government in 1848. The Humane Society of Massachusetts had put this method into practice as early as 1789, when a hut for the shelter of shipwrecked persons was erected on Lovell's Island, near Boston. The first lifeboat station was built at Cohasset in 1807.

The Life-Saving Establishment now embraces eleven districts with one hundred and eight stations. There is a superintendent for each district and an assistant superintendent for district No. 4, the coast of New Jersey. A keeper and a crew of six surfmen are employed at each station, the keeper having charge of the station during the whole year, and the crew being employed during the inclement season from November or December to April or May. A system of inspection is maintained by officers detailed from the Revenue Marine, and the whole service is in charge of an officer of the Treasury Department.

It may be added here that the storm-signal system of the Signal Service is connected with several of the life-saving stations on the Atlantic coast, and that the combination of the two services has been productive of very satisfactory results.

Our illustrations give a view of Station No. 4, Monmouth Beach.

MANHATTAN.—This term, as applied to the island on which the city of New York stands, is taken from the name given by the Indians to the original Dutch settlement in 1621, and means "the place where they (the Indians) all got drunk."

RAPHAEL was born on Good Friday and died on Good Friday.