

## **Wreck of the Brig *Ellen Maria***

By George Curtis

The March 5, 1857 edition of the *Boston Herald* newspaper contained a column of news briefs on page two. One of which was:

*"The Shipwreck at Nauset. The names of the men lost from the brig Ellen Maria were Asa Curtis, Captain; Wm. Clark, Pilot; Elisha Bunkin, Albert Fernald, Peter Low and William Bailey, all seaman, and one unknown."*

A follow-up story on page one of the Boston Evening Transcript of March 9, 1857:

*"Bodies Found. We learn by the Cape Cod Marine Telegraph that the body of a man was found on Chatham Beach on Sunday, supposed to be one of the crew of the brig Ellen Maria, wrecked on Nauset Beach. Also that the body of the captain of the Ellen Maria was found on Sunday, with his name (Asa Curtis) marked with India ink on his arm. The bodies are in charge of Coroner Smith."*

According to the Curtis/s Family Society database, Captain Asa Curtis descended from Richard Curtis and Ann Hallett of Scituate, MA (1638); thus, Asa, Asa, Eli, Thomas, Thomas, Richard & Ann. Asa's grandfather Eli appears to have been first documented in Maine in 1797. Asa Jr. was born in Bucksport, Maine in 1802 to Asa Curtis and Nancy Lewis. His date of death on his tombstone in the Riverview Cemetery in Bucksport is 2 March 1857. He married Abigail D. (last name unknown) of Maine, probably about 1830 as their first known child, Caroline M. Curtis was born in 1832. They had two other daughters, Esther and Mary, plus one son Alfred N. Curtis in Bucksport. According to information on Ancestry.com, Alfred went west to Minnesota in 1866 and married Sarah M. Lilly in 1873. Sarah died in 1916 and Alfred followed in 1918. There were no children listed for this marriage.