

**HULL, 1859**  
**BOOK 297, PAGE 102**  
**CAPTAIN JOSHUA JAMES**

**America's Most Celebrated Lifesaver**

**First Point Allerton Station Now Houses Hull Lifesaving Museum**

Hull native, Captain Joshua James' mother and sister drowned in a schooner accident when he was a child. He joined the Massachusetts Humane Society as a lifesaver at 15 years of age.

James is credited with saving hundreds of lives from damaged ships most notably during the hurricanes of 1888 and 1898 off the coast of Nantasket and Point Allerton in Hull. In 1889, when the United States Lifesaving Service established the Point Allerton Station, James was named as keeper of the new station despite being past the minimum retirement age.

In 1902, in response to a tragic loss of six lifesavers in a rescue attempt near Monomy, James called for a special training exercise for his men. At the conclusion of the exercise, James stepped off the lifeboat and died from a heart attack. He was buried in Hull with a life boat for a casket.

James' former Point Allerton Lifesaving Station now houses the Hull Lifesaving Museum; dedicated to the heroic efforts of Captain James and countless others who risked their lives to save others. The building is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Joshua James' achievements, from the hundreds of lives he and his crew saved to the many medals he was awarded, continue to be honored today. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has established the third Sunday in May as Joshua James Day. James' home in Hull is marked by a plaque in his honor. In addition, the United States Coast Guard grants a medal in his name annually to guardsman with long and dedicated service.

Courtesy of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.,  
Lory Newmyer, Executive Director, Hull Lifesaving Museum and  
James M. Tobin, Former Hull selectman

"From the "Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection"