

This is the story passed down through the Brushett family of what happened to William Thomas Brushett and his brother, John Joseph on that fateful day as told by their brother-in-law William Drake, one of two crewmembers who never made that ill-fated trip.

On a fine Wednesday morning, February 7, 1917, William Thomas Brushett and his brother, John Joe were walking from Long Cove to Bulls Cove where their schooner, the "Mina Swim" was tied up. They were to set sail that evening at 3:00 PM. As they made their way over the old dirt road they met their brother-in-law, William Drake walking home with his clothes bag in hand. When asked where he was going he said he would not be sailing on that vessel. When asked why he stated he had seen a rat leaving the ship and that he figured something bad was going to happen to the "Swim" while she was out at sea. (I have heard it said his actual phrase was that "Sculpins would be swimming through her before the night was through"). Not heeding the warning from their brother-in law, the two brothers continued on their way to Bulls Cove.

The ill-fated Mina Swim let go her moorings right on schedule at 3:00 PM that evening. She sailed away into oblivion with 21 lives aboard never to be heard of again.

It is still a mystery to this day what true fate befell the Mina Swim, for there was never any wreckage or trace of what happened; only speculation.

Shannon Brushett (Great Great Grandson of William Thomas Brushett)