



# Profiles of the Vessels

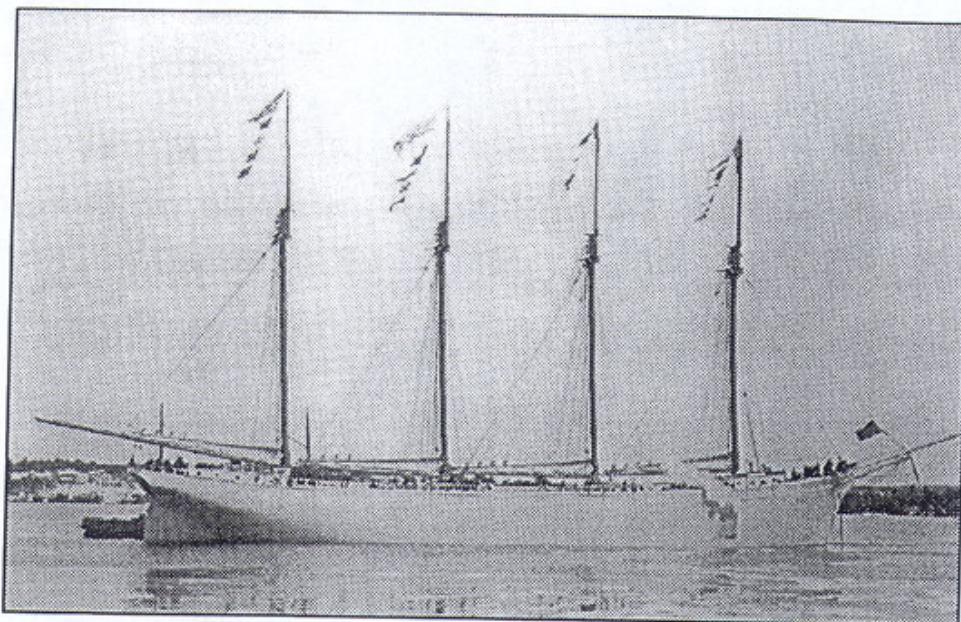
## Palmer-Crary Shipwreck Backgrounder



### *Frank A. Palmer*

**Built:** 1897 (by Nathaniel T. Palmer in Bath, ME)  
**Sank:** December 17, 1902  
**Owner:** J.S. Winslow and Co.  
**Home port:** Portland, Maine  
**Length:** 274' 5"  
**Beam:** 43' 5"  
**Depth of hold:** 21'  
**Net tonnage:** 1832  
**Gross tonnage:** 2015

According to marine historian Paul C. Morris, the *Palmer* had a short and unlucky career. He notes in his book, "American Sailing Coasters of the North Atlantic" (1973), that on May 25, 1902, while following the 5-masted schooner *Arthur Seitz* during thick weather, both the *Palmer* and *Seitz* stranded on Skiff Island Reef, five miles southwest of Muskeget Island, Nantucket Sound. The *Seitz*, which was only one year old, broke in two and was a total loss. The *Palmer*, with 3350 tons of coal, was freed and towed to Boston. Seven months later, the *Palmer*, with a cargo of some 3700 tons of coal, sank in the collision with the *Crary*. She was valued at \$60,000, and not very well insured according to the company.

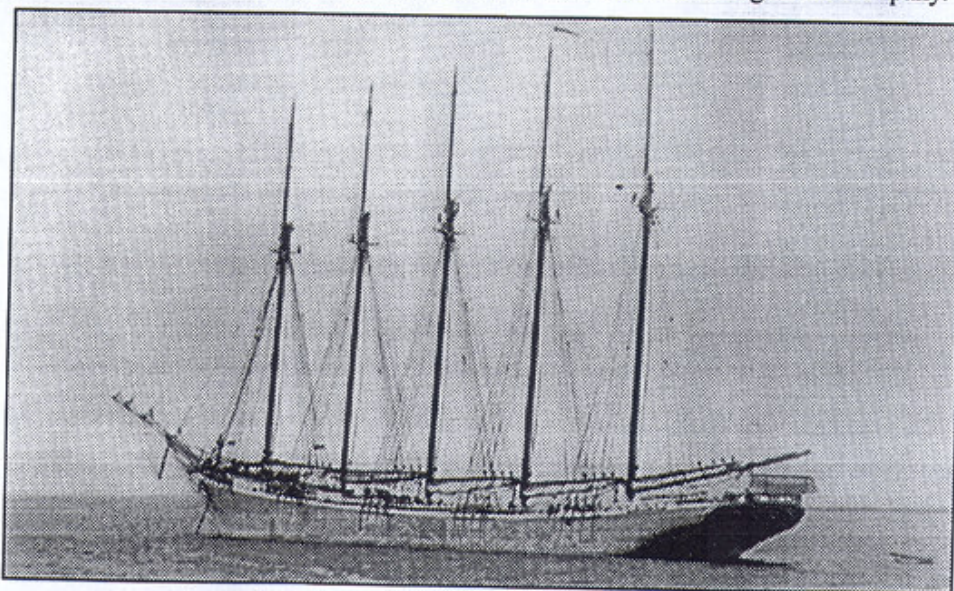


*Frank A. Palmer*, the largest 4-masted schooner ever built  
Photo courtesy of the Maine Maritime Museum

### *Louise B. Crary*

**Built:** 1900 (by New England Shipbuilding Co., Bath, ME)  
**Sank:** December 17, 1902  
**Home port:** New York, NY  
**Length:** 267'  
**Beam:** 46' 2"  
**Depth of hold:** 21'  
**Net tonnage:** 1998  
**Gross tonnage:** 2231

The Boston Herald called the *Crary* "one of the finest five-masters on the coast." She was only partially insured, while her cargo of coal was fully covered.



*Louise B. Crary*, one of the nation's 5-masted schooners  
Photo courtesy of the Maine Maritime Museum