



SB-MH-003-2007

Palmer/Crary Facts

Frank A. Palmer

Length: 274feet

Beam: 43 feet

Depth of Hold: 21 feet

Net Tonnage: 1,832

Builder: Nathaniel T.
Palmer, Bath, Maine

Owner: J.S. Winslow and
Company

Year Built: 1897

Year Lost: 1902

Louise B. Crary

Length: 267 feet

Beam: 46 feet

Depth of Hold: 21 feet

Net Tonnage: 1,998

Builder: New England
Shipbuilding Company,
Bath, Maine

Owner: Consortium of
41 investors

Year Built: 1900

Year Lost: 1902



GERRY E. STUDDS
STELLWAGEN BANK
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

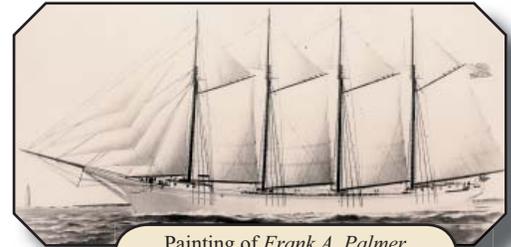
Schooners *Frank A Palmer* and *Louise B. Crary*

The multi-masted coal schooners *Frank A. Palmer* and *Louise B. Crary* collided on 17 December 1902 and their connected remains lie in the sanctuary's deep waters. The two Maine-built vessels represent some of the largest 19th century coastal trading vessels. Each vessel is still loaded with 3000 tons of coal shipped from Virginia. In 2002, the sanctuary and the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut, located the shipwreck with side scan sonar using information provided by shipwreck researchers Arnold Carr and John Fish.

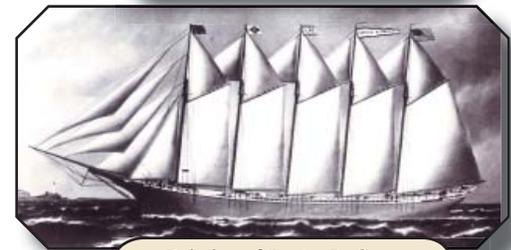
The 274-foot long 4-masted schooner *Frank A. Palmer*, the longest 4-master ever built, and the 267-foot long 5-masted schooner *Louise B. Crary* were both built for the New England coal trade. Investigations of the site have revealed the vessels' hulls to be nearly intact up to their main deck with rigging splayed across the deck from the toppled masts.

In 2006, the shipwreck site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its historical and archaeological significance to the nation. At no other known location is there the same opportunity to study two New England coal schooners with such extensive preservation. The circumstances of the schooners' sinking and the site's present condition provide a unique opportunity to compare and contrast two similar, but slightly different vessels engaged in the same trade. The schooners exemplify a critical transportation network that supplied the northeast's energy needs and connected New Englanders to Americans throughout the East Coast.

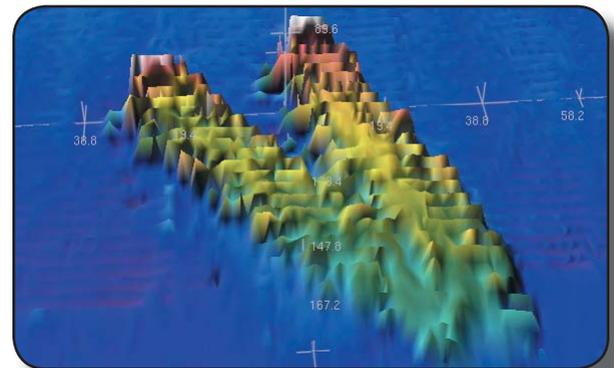
Top photo: *Frank A. Palmer's* captain's head with toilet and sink; Bottom photo: frilled anemones cover ship hulls. NOAA/SBNSM and NURC-UConn



Painting of *Frank A. Palmer*
courtesy of Maine Maritime Museum



Painting of *Louise B. Crary*
courtesy of Leigh Irwin



Multibeam image showing two interlocked shipwrecks. NOAA