



Crane Beach on the Crane Estate *Ipswich*

SHIPWRECK: THE ADA K. DAMON? *Resurfaced in 2004*

IN THE CASTLE HILL COLLECTION, we have many photos of the Annual Crane Beach Picnic. The Crane family would host the area school children and have a steamboat bring the children to the beach. Pictures from the first year of the picnic show adults and children exploring a shipwreck on the beach. Over time that shipwreck disappeared as shifting sands covered the boat up to its deck, obscuring its hull, until a further beach shift revealed it again in 2004.

For years it was debated whether or not this shipwreck was the *Ada K. Damon*, a schooner that went down in the Great Christmas Snowstorm of 1909. The captain, A. K. Brewster, had sold his farm in York, Maine and invested everything in this sand schooner, only to have it sink during his first trip out loaded with sand from Plum Island. Others thought the wreck might be the *Edward S. Evelyth*, an older ship skeleton that also lies near the water's edge.

In 2015, Vic Mastone, Director & Chief Archaeologist for the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources, led a team of archaeology students from Salem State University to settle the debate. Through careful measurements of the shipwreck's ribs, these experts were able to confirm once and for all that it is indeed the *Ada K. Damon*.

