

The Beginning

According to Dana Story's book, "*The Shipbuilders of Essex*", the *Mina Swim* was launched April 4, 1904 from the yard of Arthur D. Story in Essex, builder of 409 vessels, total. She measured 92 gross tons, 60 net tons, length 82 feet, breadth 23.2, and depth of hold 9.8 feet. The annual *List of Merchant Vessels of the United States* confirms the 1904 building date, and gives a homeport of Boston, MA from 1905 through 1912. It also indicates a crew of 19 through this period, meaning that she was used for fishing throughout. After 1912, she is simply not listed, neither in the main listing, nor under Vessels Lost, so she probably was switched to Canadian/British registry at that time. Lefevure owned her in 1907, but either kept her under US registry or it is also possible that *List of Merchant Vessels US* was in error for a few years.

The *Mina Swim* is not listed in *Lloyds Register of Ships* for the 1912-1917 periods, but many smaller vessels were never listed in that registry. More may be found at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum also, *The Shipbuilders of Essex* by Dana Story is another excellent source of information pertaining to the yard where she was built.

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