



SeaHistory

FOR KIDS

Build Yourself a Boat in One Day

Have you ever wanted to own your very own boat? You could take it down to the water on a warm summer morning and paddle it out to go fishing or to explore islands. The Six-Hour Canoe is designed for you to build in one day and take out on the water the next. This step-by-step book shows you how to construct a 16-foot plywood craft, seal the seams, paint it your favorite color and even how to make your own paddles. Thousands of kids across America are building these boats in schools (and at home in the garage) and then paddling them out onto the water. So get ready to saw, hammer, paint and paddle with your family and friends. Oh, and **ALWAYS** wear a PFD.

Find *Building the Six Hour Canoe* at www.tillerbooks.com

Building The Six-Hour Canoe



Designed By Mike O'Brien
Text By Richard Butz
Illustrations By John Montague
Line Plans Drawings By William Bartoo

The Titanic's Other Survivors

Ten of the lifeboats that provided some of *Titanic's* passengers the only refuge on that cold dark night of 15 April 1912, might still exist, overlooked and neglected, in a dusty warehouse in Brooklyn, New York. The lifeboats were delivered to Manhattan by the SS *Carpathia*, the ship that rescued the *Titanic's* survivors. After the boats were unloaded from *Carpathia*, the US Coast Guard inventoried the contents. Then the Lane Lifeboat Company towed them to a warehouse in Brooklyn, to be resold for use on other ocean liners. Apparently, ship owners showed little interest in purchasing a lifeboat from the ill-fated *Titanic* (sailors are a superstitious lot) and the boats were never sold.



Photo shot from *Carpathia* April 15, 1912

According to John Eaton, author of numerous books on the *Titanic* and former president of the Titanic Historical Society, twelve lifeboats had been salvaged by *Carpathia*. A thirteenth lifeboat, discovered adrift with three dead passengers, was retrieved and then released again at sea. One of the twelve acquired by Lane Lifeboat Company may have been used as a floating duck blind for a hunting club on Long Island, and one may have been displayed in a dingy Brooklyn tavern in the 1930s. The rest of these historic boats might still be collecting dust in the upper floors of the former Lane Lifeboat Company's warehouse in Brooklyn.

A Blast from the Past

A cannon from the wreck of a Civil War gunship nearly fired the final shot of the Civil War...100 years too late. In 1863, the Union gunship USS *Cairo* was sent on a mission to seek out and destroy Confederate mines anchored in the Yazoo River near Vicksburg, Mississippi. Instead of destroying the mines, however, the *Cairo* struck two of them simultaneously and sank in less than 15 minutes. The hull of the gunship was uncovered in 1959, after having been buried for nearly 100 years on the muddy river bottom. Salvors retrieved one of her well-preserved cannon and brought it to the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg, where it was carefully cleaned, oiled and put on display. For



more than ten years, thousands of visitors handled this time-traveling time bomb in the museum. Then curators examining the cannon discovered that it was still loaded and ready to fire enough active black powder to blast a hole through the museum.