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Woodcraft and Camping

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- Skills and guides - Library - Free Books -



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Description :

Pdf version of Woodcraft and camping from Nessmuk.

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Nessmuk :

George Washington Sears, alias Nessmuk, (1821-1890). North American writer and outdoorsman.

Nessmuk was a major proponent of light weight camping. His kit was minimal and his canoes were nearly unbelievably light, (10 to 22 pounds). He drew upon the forest resources for shelter, light, heat, and food. His gear list was very straightforward and minimal.

Sears was born in Oxford Plains, Mass., Dec. 2, 1821, the oldest of 10 children. A Narragansett Indian named Nessmuk ("wood drake") befriended him and taught him wilderness. It later became his pen name.

In his youth he was a commercial fisherman and sailor, but fell ill, probably from tuberculosis. He wrote that he taught school in Ohio, "bullwhacked" across the plains, mined silver in Colorado, edited a newspaper in Missouri, was a cowboy in Texas, a "webfoot" in Oregon, and camped and hunted in the then wilderness of Michigan. His family moved in 1848 to Wellsboro, Penn., his home for the rest of his life.

At the age of 59, a little more than 5 feet tall, weighing less than 105 pounds, and weak with acute pulmonary tuberculosis, Sears decided to see if the Adirondack lakes and forests could improve his health. William Henry Harrison ("Adirondack") Murray, pastor of Park Street Church, Boston, had published a book in 1869, Adventures in the Wilderness, which praised the North Woods as a health resort for consumption sufferers. (Later, Saranac was to become the site of one of the most famous American sanatoria for tuberculosis care.)

Although Nessmuk seems to have spent few nights actually under canvas, and more time around the "camps" (resort hotels) than the fishing holes, and when available he used steam boat decks rather than paddle, he did through his writings greatly popularize and demonstrate that it was possible to paddle your own canoe through the wilderness without destroying the environment or a working man's savings.

He wrote "Woodcraft and Camping" in 1884.



Woodcraft and Camping The famous North American Outdoor book by author George W sears, alias Nessmuk also available online [here](#).