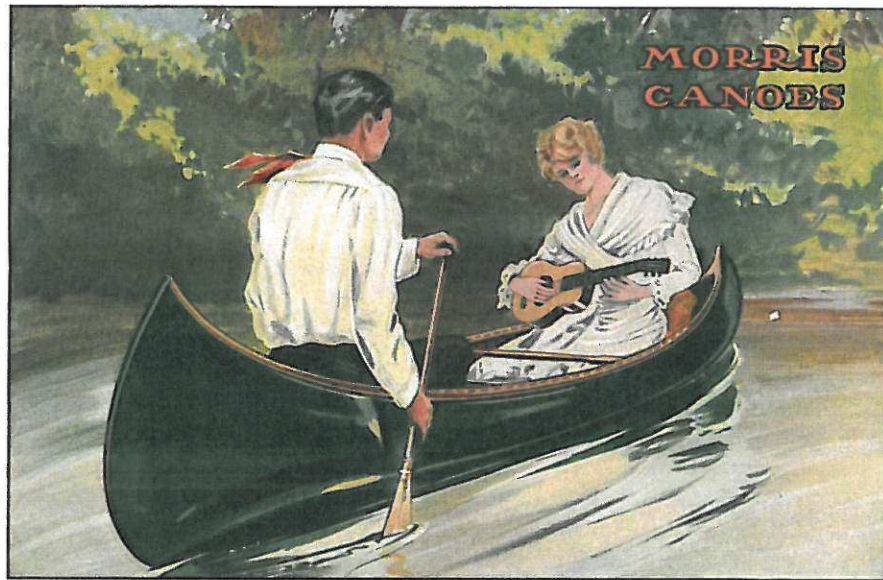


1915 B.N. Morris wood and canvas canoe Model A, Type 3



Owner & Restorer: Jerry Karbon
Home Port: Middletown, WI.

B.N. Morris was one of the earliest and finest builders of wood and canvas canoes in the United States. Morris claimed that his "were the first canvas covered canoes ever advertised, "first appearing in the magazine Field and Stream in the year 1887....". Although the origins of the wood and canvas canoe in Maine are not clear, Burt Morris was among the pioneer canoe builders. A tragic fire, set by an arsonist, burned his factory down in 1920. Thereafter, Burt Morris continued building canoes in a small shop on a much more limited scale until at least 1938.

This Morris is a 16-foot Model A, Type 3 canoe. According to the Morris catalog, "The Model A is the most popular in dimensions, and combines the most important features that are required in an all-around canoe.... great stability, good speed, good paddling qualities, together with a remarkable carrying capacity on slight draught".

The 16-foot model is 31 inches wide at the gunwale, 33 1/2 inches at the waterline and is 12 inches deep and 25 inches high at the ends. The Type 3 has 24-inch decks, mahogany gunwales, seats and thwarts, brass flag sockets and painter ring and outside stems. Though originally built with outside stems and keel, they were left off in the restoration.

The restoration was done by Jerry Karbon, Middleton, Wisconsin, in 2013. When acquired, the canvas was rotten and falling off, there was some rotting of the stem, gunwale and deck tips and a small hole in the hull. The ribs and planking were generally in sound condition. Most of the brass tacks holding the planking to the ribs were "rotten" and broken off and had to be replaced. The seats and floorboards were missing. Period Morris seat frames were found and hand caned. Floorboards were built from original patterns.