



BOOK RELEASE

History / Travel
ISBN 13: 978-0-86492-628-9
\$17.95 / 160 pp / 6 x 8 / illustrated / pb
Pub Date: September 24, 2010 (Canada)
October 22, 2010 (US)

The Travel Journals of Tappan Adney: 1887-1890 **Ted Behne (ed.)**

It was only gradually, as my horizon widened, that I came to have a larger interest in nature and nothing did more to direct in broader channels a strong love of nature, and nothing had a more positive influence upon my life than the journey on which I was now setting out. — from *The Travel Journals of Tappan Adney*

In 1887, at the age of 18, intellectually and artistically gifted American Edwin Tappan Adney (1868 – 1950) embarked on his first trip to New Brunswick. He had plans to enroll at Columbia University in the fall, and was primed for a career in academia — but fate intervened, and what was to be a brief summer vacation in the sleepy town of Woodstock became the guiding inspiration for his life.

A keen observer and trained artist, Adney became fascinated with the Maliseet language and culture, recording legends, names, customs, and stories. The wilderness and all of its denizens held a special attraction for him as he recorded encounters with everything from groundhogs and porcupines to bears and caribou. He fell under the spell of the New Brunswick wilderness and the local Maliseet people. His early travels took him from New Brunswick to Nova Scotia to Maine. He met Canadian literary figures — Montague Chamberlain, Bliss Carman, Edmund Collins, Charles G. D. Roberts, and his younger brother, Goodridge Roberts. Adney recorded his wilderness adventures in his journals through evocative sketches and memorable prose, including the detail of a caribou hunt decades before their extinction in this area of the country.

Tappan Adney's writings, illustrations, and photographs of his later travels found a constant home in the pages of *Harper's Weekly*. ***The Travel Journals of Tappan Adney: 1887-1890***, the first volume of four, is a previously unpublished account of the early experiences he found noteworthy. It takes us back to a time when wilderness was something easily accessible and wildlife abundant. These experiences, seen through the eyes of an impressionable young man and illustrated with Adney's own sketches and remarkably accurate maps, bring readers into this world, allowing them to walk and canoe the roads and rivers with him. His models of aboriginal canoes, now housed at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, helped save the birchbark canoe from oblivion.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Ted Behne's interest in Tappan Adney began when he attended a birchbark canoe-building class. Now retired, Behne worked for nearly 30 years as a writer and editor. His articles on the birchbark canoe and Tappan Adney have appeared in *Native Peoples Magazine*, *Prairies North*, and *Wooden Boat Magazine*. He lives in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, where he is now working on a biography of Tappan Adney.

— more —

Corey Redekop, Publicity & Promotions
Tel (506) 450 4251 / Toll free 1 (888) 926 8377

credekop@gooselane.com www.gooselane.com

ACCOLADES

“Unquestionably the most important scholar the canoe world has known . . . [Adney] single-handedly assured that the great heritage of the bark canoe would not die.” – John Jennings, author, *Bark Canoes: The Art And Obsession Of Tappan Adney*

“Edwin Tappan Adney . . . knew more about the bark canoes of the North American Indian than anyone else in the world . . . the most remarkable genius I have ever known.” – George Frederick Clarke, author, *Someone Before Us*

“The Native people of the North woods were given a precious gift in these beautiful watercraft, and Adney has given us the means to preserve that gift for future generations.” – Steve Cayard, bark canoe builder, Wellington, Maine

“For me, finding Adney’s book was like discovering a lost scroll . . . I still use it; still need it. It’s priceless.” – Tom Byers, birchbark canoe builder, Whitefish, Ontario

TOUR INFORMATION

Ted Behne will be touring New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in support of ***The Travel Journals of Tappan Adney: 1887-1890***. Join Ted in a remarkable discussion on Adney’s legacy and its importance to Canadian history. These events are free and open to the public, and books will be made available for purchase.

Woodstock NB – Sept 23, 7 pm
Book Launch
Carleton County Historical Society
128 Connell Street

Miramichi, NB – Sept 28, 6:30pm
Public Lecture
NB Community College, Main Campus
80 University Avenue NBCC

Fredericton, NB – Sept 25, 2pm
Public Lecture
York-Sunbury Museum
571 Queen Street

Halifax, NS – Sept 29, 7:00pm
Public Lecture
Museum of Natural History
1747 Summer Street

Saint John, NB – Sept 26, 2pm
Public Lecture
New Brunswick Museum
Market Square

— 30 —

CONTACT INFORMATION

For review copies, author interviews, or publication excerpts, please contact Corey Redekop at credekop@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377.

High-res book cover and author image files are available at www.gooselane.com.

Corey Redekop, Publicity & Promotions
Tel (506) 450 4251 / Toll free 1 (888) 926 8377

credekop@gooselane.com www.gooselane.com