



The Wooden Canoe Heritage Association

A photograph of a wooden canoe on a body of water. The canoe is light-colored with a dark interior and a wooden paddle resting inside. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding reeds. The background shows a shoreline with tall grasses and reeds.

Since 1979, the
WCHA has
been devoted
to preserving,
studying, building,
restoring, and
using wooden
canoes.

www.WCHA.org



Martha Martha

1904-1905 J. Henry Rushton Indian Girl, 15' Grade A

We have nicknamed our Indian Girl, Martha Martha, in memory of J. Henry Rushton's mother and sister. She is in remarkable condition, having all her original wood and canvas. We found her at an auction held in Hop Bottom, PA, November 2, 2009. She was previously owned by a prominent resident of Susquehanna County, PA.

Our focus for her preservation was threefold; address the interior finish that would blister when exposed to the hot sun; remove paint that was slopped on the gunnels; repair a rub on the canvas and several small splits on the canvas, uncover her original color and give her original color back to her color. We also wanted to repair and preserve the original caning on the rear seat and recane the front seat. All hardware is original; however an original painters ring was purchased for her in August 2010. And an original floor button was donated in order for her to be completely original. We would like to thank the donor of the floor button for helping return her to complete original condition. The broken stembands were also repaired by braising additional brass.

She truly demonstrates J. Henry Rushton's place among the premier boat builders of his day. In fact, her resilience and condition strongly supports Atwood Manley's claim that, "If boats lasted as long as violins and cherished as much, he might become the Stradivarius of the canoe." We did not want to preserve her to look new, but rather preserve the 'makers' intent'. So we have not tightened any screws (except those to remove and reinstall the seats and thwart), nor have we sanded any wood, all wear and marks from the last one hundred plus years remain. The interior has been refinished similar to that described by Harry Rushton in, *Rushton and his Times in American Canoeing* by Atwood Manley. Two coats of dewaxed shellac were applied, followed by two coats of varnish. Several splits were repaired on the original canvas. We uncovered what we believe is the original moss green and had a custom mix made. The caned rear seat is intact. We used the original binder and pegs when we recaned the front seat.

We believe we have been blessed with the stewardship of this canoe, and have been entrusted to preserve her for future generations to enjoy. We would like to thank the many people whose expertise guided us through this project. Please enjoy her as much as we do.

Peggy & Dave Davidson

EDWARD COMSTOCK, JR.

P.O. Box 966
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
(518) 891-9009

Estate and Insurance Appraiser and Consultant
Since 1979

P.O. Box 942
Old Forge, NY 13420

11 October 2011

Mr. and Mrs. David Davidson
106 Mill Road
Mehoopany, PA 18629

**RE: Appraisal, J. H. Rushton Indian Girl model wood-and-canvas canoe circa 1904-1905.
As of 15 July 2011.**

Dear Dave and Peggy:

At your request, I submit this appraisal for insurance purposes of your antique canoe built by J.H. Rushton of Canton, NY, one of the country's preeminent boat builders. I examined the boat at the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association assembly at Paul Smith's College, Paul Smiths, NY, in July 2011.

The canoe is an Indian Girl model, 15 x 32, introduced by Rushton in 1902, and built in four lengths in Grades A (yours) and B. In his 1904 trade catalogue (p. 46), the builder declared that it was "... beyond a doubt, the most attractive canoe [he] every offered." Refer to the enclosed photocopies (pages 45-46) for a full description of the Grade A model from that catalogue.

Rushton also noted that he produced 600 Indian and Indian Girl models in 1902 and 1903. Your boat, serial number 1281, is thus likely to have been built in 1904 or 1905 prior to the boat shop reorganization in 1906. Typical of Rushton canoes are the stamped hardware, thwart, and stem feet.

Prior to restoration, the canoe was in remarkably good condition and your subsequent sensitive rehabilitation is exemplary.

I appraise the canoe at \$7500, fair market value.

Type of Valuation: Fair Market Value. Fair Market Value (FMV) is the price that property would sell for on the open market. It is the price that would be agreed on between a willing buyer and a willing seller, with neither being required to act, and both having reasonable knowledge of the relevant facts. *IRS Publication 561*

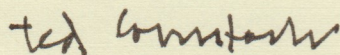
Comparable Market Data Approach. The most commonly applied approach is that in which the appraised value is based upon past prices for similar boats by or associated with the same builder, or similar boats by or items associated with another builder of equal standing with related reputation.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct. The requested FMVs, as well as the opinions and conclusions, are this appraiser's personal unbiased professional opinions and conclusions. Compensation is not contingent upon the values stated in this appraisal report.

My qualifications for this appraisal: Since 1979 I have brokered the sale of well over 100 antique and classic canoes, Adirondack guideboats, and other paddling and rowing boats built from the 1870s to 1950. In addition, I have twice appraised the entire small boat collection at the Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake, NY, the home of one of North America's major collections.

My invoice is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Edward Comstock, Jr.
Appraiser 051346221

EC:krs
Enc.