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Dragonfly Canoe Works

Discovering the History of Wooden Canoes

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Kennebec Canoe Company

The Kennebec Boat & Canoe Company built its first canoes in December of 1909 (per Company Ledgers). The company was founded by George F. Terry, who was formerly a railroad station agent, ice cutter, publisher and merchandiser. Terry's son, George F. Terry, Jr. later joined the company and ran it until 1939. In 1939, the company was sold to Frank Terry and James Dean (Millis). A small number of canoes were built until the factory was closed for good in 1941.

Walter D. Grant was Supervisor of the Kennebec Boat & Canoe Company from its inception in 1909. Prior to that, Grant lived with his parents and was listed in the 1900 US Census as being a painter. Grant, described on his WWI draft card as of stocky build with blue eyes, brown hair and missing parts of some fingers, was married to wife Mary, and had two children, Clifford (b. 1906) and Marguerite (b. 1909). Walter had a twin brother, Wendell B. Grant, who worked for E.M. White's canoe business most of his life. Walter's sister Delia I. Grant was married to E.M. White.

In 1930, Grant left Kennebec to found the Skowhegan Boat & Canoe Company.

Identifying Features:

- Heart-shaped decks.
- Short rail caps on open gunwale canoes are usual.
- Serial Number: 4 to 6 digit number + length stamped on stem or on brass builder's plate. Format typically the same as Old Town. Records are available through WCHA.

Kennebec Canoe Models

Model	Dimensions (LxWxD)	Years Produced	Notes
Aristocrat	16x35½x12¼ 17x36x12¼ 18x36½x12¼	1918	3-ply construction
Camp Chief	17x35x12¼ 18x35x12¼	1932-1941 1940-1941	
Camp Special	16x35½x12¼ 17x36x12¼ 18x36½x12¼	1918	
Charles River 1915	15x31x12 16x31½x12 17x32x12 18x32½x12	1910-1916	
Invisible Sponson	16x39x12¼ 17x40x12¼ 18x41x12¼	1929-1941	
Junior (One-Man)	12x32x12	1922-1928	
Katahdin	17x34½x12¼	1922-1928, 1940-1941	
K Special	16x32x12 17x33x12 18x34x12	1915-1917	Modified Kennebec model

Model	Dimensions (LxWxD)	Years Produced	Notes
Kennebec	15x33x12½ 16x33½x12½ 17x34¼x12½ 18x35½x12½	1910-1941	
Kineo	15x36x13 16x36x13 17x37x13 18x37x13	1910-1941	
Maine Guides Model	18½x37½x13 20x39x13	1910-1941	
Open Gunwale Canoe	16x33x12 17x33½x12 18x34x12	1911-1918	
Sponson Canoe	16x42x12¼ 17x43x12¼ 18x44½x12¼	1911-1928	
Torpedo	16x32x11½ 17x33x11½ 18x34x11½	1917-1927	
War Canoe	25x44x16 30x46x16 35x48x16	1915-1933	25' offered 1940-1941
White Water Canoe	15½x37½x12½	1940-1941	Original form by Dan Neal

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