

**A HISTORY OF ROWING IN AMERICA.  
CONTAINING A TREATISE ON ROWING,  
TRAINING AND EXERCISE,  
WITH ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION  
FOR AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL  
OARSMEN, ALSO A HISTORY OF ROWING**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649750887

A History of Rowing in America. Containing a Treatise on Rowing, Training and Exercise, with All Necessary Information for Amateur and Professional Oarsmen, Also a History of Rowing by Robert B. Johnson & William Blaikie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ROBERT B. JOHNSON & WILLIAM BLAIKIE**

**A HISTORY OF ROWING IN AMERICA.  
CONTAINING A TREATISE ON ROWING,  
TRAINING AND EXERCISE,  
WITH ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION  
FOR AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL  
OARSMEN, ALSO A HISTORY OF ROWING**



*Stur.*  
*62*  
*1544.151*

*122894*  
*5138-B*

A HISTORY

OF

ROWING IN AMERICA,

BY ROBERT B. JOHNSON,

CONTAINING

A TREATISE ON ROWING, TRAINING AND EXERCISE, WITH ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION FOR AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL OARSMEN.

ALSO

A HISTORY OF ROWING: ITS INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AMERICA, BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT OARSMEN, DESCRIPTION OF BOAT-BUILDING, DICTIONARY OF BOATING TERMS, ETC., ETC., WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM

WILLIAM BLAIKIE,  
JOSHUA WARD,  
C. P. KUNHARDT,

BENJ. F. BRADY,  
STEPHEN ROBERTS,  
A. McC. DUNCAN,  
ROBERT FULTON.



MILWAUKEE.

COBBITT & JOHNSON, PUBLISHERS.

.....  
1871.

GV792  
.J65

Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year 1871,  
By ROBT. B. JOHNSON,  
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

TO

WILLIAM BLAIKIE,  
BOSTON.

BENJ. F. BRADY,  
NEW YORK.

Two honorable and honored American Amateur Club and College Oarsmen, this Work is inscribed, as a slight recognition of their noble efforts in behalf of American Rowing, and as a mark of personal esteem, by

THE AUTHOR.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

---

It is with the greatest pleasure that, in placing this Work before the Rowing Men of America, I am able to mention the names of a few who have cheerfully given all the assistance in their power, with no other reward than the knowledge of having done all that in them lay, to advance the cause of Rowing in America.

If the Work is not popular, it will not be because the Rowing Men of the country neglected to try and make it so.

To the following gentlemen, then, I return my sincere thanks as well as to a hundred others, some of whom I am not at liberty to mention:—

WILLIAM BLAIKIE,.....	Boston, Mass.
BENJAMIN F. BRADY,.....	New York City.
JOSHUA WARD,.....	Cornwall, N. Y.
STEPHEN ROBERTS,.....	New York City.
C. P. KUNHARDT,.....	United States Navy.
J. H. GIRVIN,.....	Albany, N. Y.
J. HARRY LEE,.....	Baltimore, Md.
GEO. R. WRIGHT,.....	Milwaukee, Wis.
R. E. CLEMENS,.....	Erie, Penn.
E. RUSSELL BERRY,.....	Milwaukee, Wis.
A. McC. DUNCAN,.....	Savannah, Ga.



## P R E F A C E .

---

This little volume, whose object is to treat of Rowing, Training, Racing, Exercise, etc., in all their bearings, was ready for publication early last fall, but the parties with whom I had supposed a definite arrangement concluded for its publication, seeing fit to avail themselves of a very small hole through which to escape from their engagement, made it necessary to hold it over until the present time.

The merely keeping back the publication of the Work, until this day, although a disappointment, would not be nearly so great, were it not that the delay has necessitated many changes in the arrangement of the matter, while some portions of the manuscript before intended for publication, have been left out entire, and others rewritten, making a task, which, much as I am devoted to the cause, I would willingly have escaped. While I am aware that many errors, must, from the nature and manner of its preparation, have crept into the Work, whether of theory or composition, or both, I must plead, as an excuse, that of John Locke, in the preface to his "Human Understanding:" "I will not deny but that, possibly, it might be reduced to a narrower compass than it is; and that some parts of it might be contracted, the way it has been writ in, by catches, and many long intervals of interruption, being apt to cause some

repetitions. But to confess the truth, I am now too lazy, or too busy, to make it shorter."

It has been said that a fashion prevails, of late, with authors, in lieu of identifying the preliminary pages with the subject matter of the Work, to embody in them an apology for intruding, somewhat after the style of Mr. Paul Pry, and that the difficulty of disguising this under an "excuse" for publication amounts to more than the toils of authorship.

The exception to this, says the same cynical authority, is to be found in the preface of an author who claims a philanthropic motive for the publication of his book, while still another was forced to succumb to the entreaties of innumerable friends, and print his little collection. In my position, as author of this volume, I think I may be excepted, in both these degrees, from the above charge. In the first, the object is to develop and encourage, among the youth of America, a love for exercise, and more especially that of Rowing; while, at the same time, it is a complete instructor upon everything pertaining thereto. In the second, although my friends were not so uncharitable as to urge me to sacrifice myself upon the altar of literary ambition, in the manner referred to, they yet accorded me such encouragement and assistance as led me to take the risk. Two years ago, a certain Boat Club just organizing, desired to obtain a book which should teach them the proper system of Rowing and Training. They tried all the leading publishing houses, but no such Work was to be had. A little later, the Harvard vs. Oxford Race, was about to take place, and innumerable articles appeared in every newspaper in America, some stating that the Harvards did not pull an American "stroke,"—others that they did. Some said that their "form"

was different from that of the Englishmen, and, just previous to the race, articles appeared in the prominent English journals, stating that "Harvard, at the last moment, adopts the English "stroke." This, of course, with a view to pave the way to a possible defeat of the Oxfords.

It was with these facts before me, and a knowledge that no special system of Rowing and Training appeared to be universally adopted in America, that I undertook the task of writing a treatise on these subjects, and submitting them to the rowing fraternity of America.

Boating has become so prominent among the recreative arts, in America, during the past few years, and international contests, giving rise to long and earnest discussion upon the relative merits of English and American training, have been so frequent that the want of some real American authority has been severely felt, and, in this volume, I modestly lay claim to this authority.

Wherever I have felt a doubt upon any point, I have not hesitated to consult the best authorities, before giving a positive opinion, and where such authorities seriously conflict, I have advised a course that may be pursued with safety.

The contributions, by the gentlemen whose names accompany them, will add much of value to it, as they are prominently known as boating men. In regard to the reliability of this Work, I can only say that, a year ago, I sent out circulars soliciting information and assistance, and that since that time, I have been in correspondence with the leading amateur and professional oarsmen on this side of the Atlantic, most all of whom have assisted me in many ways, and whose views upon these subjects can be traced, in various parts of the volume, by those acquainted with them.