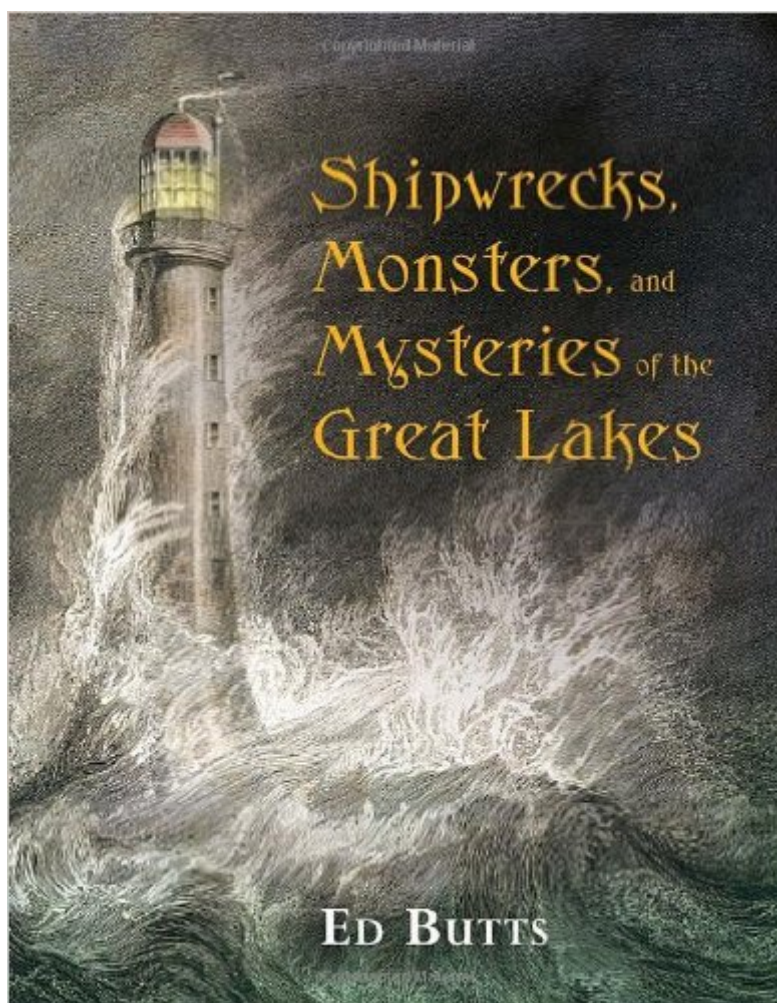


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Shipwrecks, Monsters, And Mysteries Of The Great Lakes



Synopsis

In 1679, a French ship called the Griffon left Green Bay on Lake Michigan, bound for Niagara with a cargo of furs. Neither the Griffon nor the five-man crew was ever seen again. Though the Griffon's fate remains a mystery, its disappearance was probably the result of the first shipwreck on a Great Lake. Since then, more than six thousand vessels, large and small, have met tragic ends on the Great Lakes. For many years, saltwater mariners scoffed at the freshwater sailors of the Great Lakes, "puddles" compared to the vast oceans. But those who actually worked on the Great Lakes ships knew differently. Shoals and reefs, uncharted rocks, and sandbars could snare a ship or rip open a hull. Unpredictable winds could capsize a vessel at any moment. A ship caught in a storm had much less room to maneuver than did one at sea. The wreckage of ships and the bones of the people who sail them litter the bottoms of the five lakes: Ontario, Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior. Ed Butts has gathered stories and lake lore in this fascinating, frightening volume. For anyone living on the shores of the Great Lakes, these tales will inspire a new interest and respect for their storied past.

Book Information

Paperback: 88 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

This is a thoroughly entertaining little book about some of the mysteries and shipwrecks on the Great Lakes located between Canada and the United States. These lakes are the scene of many

deadly storms and many ships have been lost in these treacherous waters. Mr. Butts has 8 or 10 little vignettes about some of these losses from as early as 1804 to the puzzling loss of the big Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975. Some of these ships just seemed to disappear and no flotsam was ever found. I found the book extremely entertaining to read and enjoyed it very much. I love books about the aquatic mysteries, and this little book is full of them.

An excellent, excellent book. I was raised on the Wisconsin side of Lake Michigan. Many tales over the years about lost ships. I bought this for my husband but I ended up reading it first. It is easy reading and good for all ages. In this 'modern age' you never hear about the sea monsters anymore. I was very glad to read the history of several shipwrecks that I'd heard stories about as a kid.

Shipwrecks, Monsters and Mysteries of the Great Lakes is one of those works of nonfiction with a narrative style that will please even a devoted young fiction reader. It manages to convey a sense of how very immense the great lakes must while at the same time presenting a cross-section of North American history from the treatment of Native Americans, to the treatment of Australian convicts. My only complaint about the book was the lack of captions in the photos that head each chapter, particularly the clean, crisp image that accompanies the tale of the wreck of the 'Speedy' in 1804. However, this is a minor complaint and I doubt that the young reader will notice it. After I finished reading the book I let my 9-year old son, an avid reader who hates nonfiction, read it and he actually liked it a lot so that makes two thumbs up. I'd recommend it for advanced elementary and middle school readers.

An excellent series of tales and history of a little known era, that is sadly almost forgotten. A wondrous collection indeed.

The book was not long, but it was very interesting. I learned some things that I didn't know before. Good read.

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