

NINETEENTH CENTURY ADVENTURER NATHANIEL HOLMES BISHOP



I meant to point out this gem of an article by USA ultra historian and runner Davy Crocket a few newsletters ago but got sidetracked by life. In it, Davy tells the little-known story of 17-year-old **Nathaniel Holmes Bishop** (1827-1902) of Boston who left home to walk across South America in 1855. With only \$45 in his pocket he hired on as crew on a roach-infested merchant ship that was heading for Buenos Aires, Argentina. From there, the story unfolds. Check out <http://ultrarunninghistory.com/across-america-on-foot-1/>. It's a mind blowing adventure.

In 1868 Bishop published a booklet about the trip. Titled *The Pampas and Andes: A Thousand Mile Walk Across South America*, it made him famous. You can read the third edition of Bishop's amazing book, published in 1870, in its original book format at https://books.google.com.au/books/about/The_Pampas_and_Andes.html?id=n572enZLEz4C.

In the 1870s, Bishop took up canoeing and paddled from New York to Florida in a 58 pound paper canoe. Later he also rowed down the Mississippi River. He was a founding member of the American Canoe Association in 1880, and earned a fortune growing cranberries in New Jersey. He died and was buried in Toms River, New Jersey, in 1902. In his will, he left \$30,000 to fund a library in Dover, New Jersey, to be run by women. It was eventually established in 1941.

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