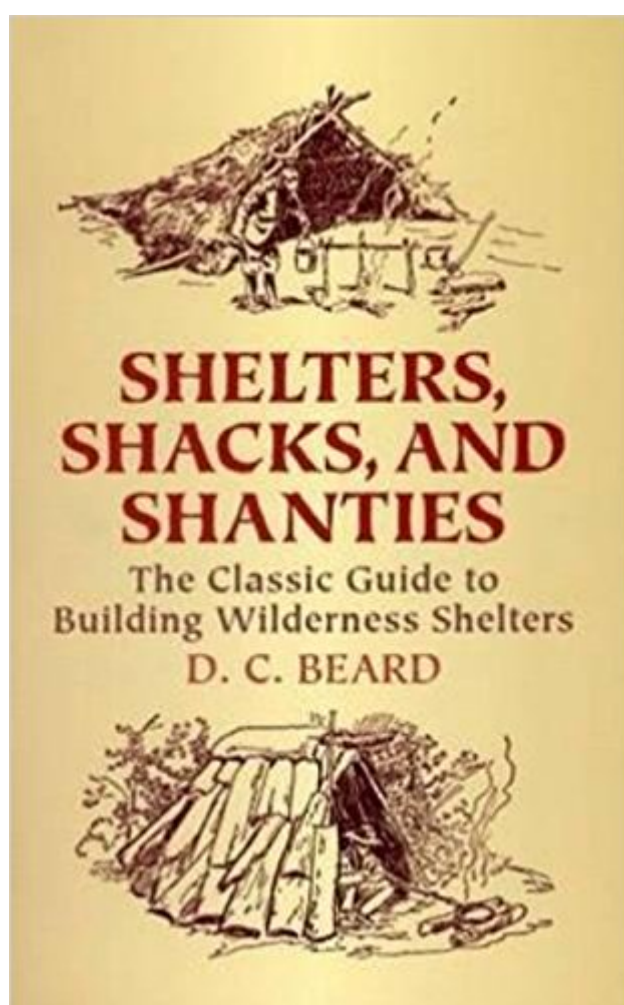


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# Shelters, Shacks, And Shanties: The Classic Guide To Building Wilderness Shelters (Dover Books On Architecture)



## Synopsis

This excellent hands-on guide by one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America contains a wealth of practical instruction and advice on how to build everything from a bark teepee and a tree-top house to a log cabin and a sod house. No professional architects are needed here; and knowing how to use an axe is more important than possessing carpentry skills. More than 300 of the author's own illustrations and a clear, easy-to-follow text enable campers to create such lodgings as half-cave shelters, beaver mat huts, birch bark shacks, over-water camps, a Navajo hogan, and a pole house. Additional chapters provide information on how to use an axe, split and notch logs, make a fireplace, and even build appropriate gateways to log houses, game preserves, ranches, and other open areas. An invaluable book for scouts, campers, hikers, and hunters of all ages, this guide and its fascinating collection of outdoor lore "still has intrinsic value," said *Whole Earth Magazine*, and will be of keen interest to any modern homesteader.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Known as "Uncle Dan" to those who knew him well, Daniel Carter Beard (June 21, 1850-June 11, 1941) was a famed author, illustrator, and social champion. Inspired by the rugged traditions of the American frontier, Beard founded the Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905. Five years later, he merged the organization with the newly formed Boy Scouts of America.

If only this book would of fell into my hands 30 years ago! I was lucky enough to be raised on 38 acres of land that was partially used for farming. A large portion of this land was just "woods" and it was here where my some of my best childhood memories were formed. The place was literally my playground and I can remember going back in those woods to build forts and pretending to be Daniel Boone. I was never in the Boy Scouts but participated in a very similar program for boys known as the "Royal Rangers" for many years. I've always loved camping and being outdoors and I have continued this interest to the present day. Unfortunately, gone are the days of the fields, farms, and "the woods" for me. Today, my job has taken me away from my childhood home and into the city where I live on a piece of property about the size of a postage stamp. I have a five year old son and I have been determined to give him the opportunity to experience the outdoors by taking him camping. Whenever possible, I still travel back to my childhood home, and it is here that I think this book by D.C. Beard will become a valuable resource of ideas for my son and I. The book was written nearly a 100 years ago by a man who is considered to be one of the founders of The Boy Scouts. The book is very conversational, easy to read, and you feel like the author is speaking to the imaginative child within us all. There aren't a lot of technical details about how to build these "shelters, shacks, and shanties", just enough information, advice, and great illustrations to get you pointed in the right direction. As I am reading this book, I can't help but to think of the ideas and possibilities of how I could start building these things and it really makes me want to rush out and start building my next fort/campsite. It's like my inner child looking at a toy catalog! The book has a lot of good advice too. I can remember being a kid and building my lean-to shelters with my branches just thrown on the top and sides in any way they would lay. Beard gives advice on laying the branches in a way so that water runs off of them easily (ends pointing down). The book is full of facts and practical advice that is really helpful. I had a lot of fun reading through it, making notes all along the way of things that I want to try out when we next venture back home. As my son grows older, I hope to incorporate more of these lessons, ideas, and the enjoyment of the outdoors suggested by D.C. Beard. Just reading the book certainly gets me excited about our annual camping trip to the mountains of North Carolina as well. I look forward to reading some of the other books by this author and I highly recommend this one!

This book is "Old School" and one of the best I have seen for making shelters. It has a good bit of detail and pictures that really help. I got it for my Nephews but started reading it and was very pleased. It is a lot more than just shelters. The book talks about building ladders, Long term shelters even how to build a proper fireplace, doors and much much more. You could do well with this book.

Many of the newer books do not carry this kind of instruction but just skim over a subject. This book is great! If you are serious about making it when the time comes then you will need this book along with many others but this one is a high value item. After water, shelter and food are what you are going to need and this one book covers shelter nicely.

This teaches the basic progression of shelter. Which most people don't understand. Your first night in the woods could be sheltered by low hanging branches under a fir tree. Your second night may give you an idea to build something bigger that may be able to have a fire near enough to warm you and your new home. As things progress we all want some creature comforts and more control over the effects of nature, so we build a more permanent shelter that allows fire to enter the home.

If you ever have the opportunity to build a camp, playhouse, or cabin in the woods, then you should definitely read this book before you start. It has illustrations and examples of every sort of woodland shelter from a single-person brush lean-to to quite elaborate cabins, with simple layouts for the latter. There are also sections on some of the skills necessary to build the examples, such as how to split shakes and shingles and how to store and notch logs for a cabin. He also shows samples of cabins of different regions, historical shacks built by railroad workers and sod farmers, and platform shelters similar to the Seminole chickee suitable for damp or marshy ground. There is even an extensive section on home-made latches and door lock, including a couple of combination locks!

I purchased this book after JoeRobinetBushcraft , a guy I watch from youtube who does Bush Craft builds, recommended it. I found the information in this book to be really well laid out and easy to understand. If you enjoy any aspect of building wilderness shelters or enjoy camping in a shelter you made then this is the book for you. If nothing else this is a very informative and interesting book to read and I am happy with my purchase of it.

...if you don't own any other books on the subject. I imagine much of this information can be gleaned from similar publications. The book is well written and easy to read. The illustrations, I'm sure were excellent in 1914 and, are still adequate now. Most of the designs seemed repetitive, though. I wish more attention had been given to lashing materials. If you are looking for that you will find almost none here. The book was fun to read and provided enough inspiration to make my brother and me attempt a large hut.

This book gives an interesting overview of how to build all sorts of shelters from a simple lean-to to a log cabin. He throws in simple details that I had tended to overlook, such as the different ways of jointing and joining a log cabin's logs. Another example is how to clay in a wooden chimney so that it will not catch fire.

If you are a hiker or camper or a survivalist. .this is the book for you. There are many illustrations and many different types of shelters for any needs you may encounter whether its for one person or for several. It doesnt take up much room and may save your life to show you how to stay out of the elements which may just save your life some day.

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