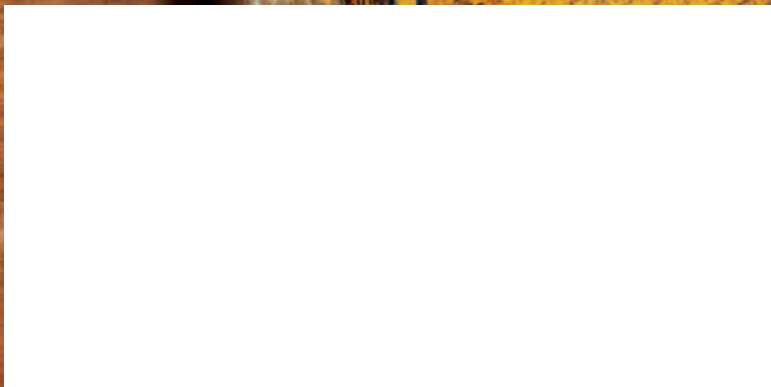


The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Fall 2012
Vol. 21 No. 4

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can•vas•back (kan'ves bak'), *n., pl. -backs*, (esp. collectively) — **back**.

1. a north american wild duck, the male of which has a whitish back and a reddish-brown head and neck. **2.** a style of decoy made famous by carvers of the Susquehanna Flats region. **3.** a quarterly publication of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Change is a constant thing.



Each day at the Museum we look at our exhibits, the text which describe our exhibits, our Festival plans and our magazine, *The Canvasback*. What can we do to improve our communications with our visitors, our exhibitors and our readers? Is the status quo good enough or is a change necessary? The staff and our

dedicated volunteers are always searching for ways to improve your museum.

By the time this issue reaches your mailbox there will be several significant changes to enhance your experience when you visit us. A new exhibit has recently been unveiled on the second floor of the museum. The exhibit features a lifelike figure of well-known carver and Havre de Grace native son, Jim Pierce. Surrounding Jim are some of his very own special carvings from early in his career. I welcome Jim to the Museum each morning as he has joined the other legendary carvers who reside here.

In addition to the Pierce exhibit, there is also another brand new display on the museum's second floor. You can now visit a collection of Ed "Pop" Sampson's decoy heads, miniatures and his home-made duplicating lathe. I spent many an hour visiting Ed in the little shop behind his home here in town.

On a personal note, my "Collector's Corner" article in this issue features a story of my cousin Kay Greer Parker's father. Kay's father was the late John Bailey Moltz. Kay came into my family when she was 8 years old. Years passed before I was to know her father's place in the decoy history of the City of Havre de Grace. Bailey, as he was best known in Havre de Grace, carved decoys and hundreds of decoy heads in the shop of R. Madison Mitchell. When Kay's sister passed away she left instructions for Kay to donate her decoy collection to the Museum. We are most grateful to Kay and to her late sister, Sally Liggett, for this generous donation.

This issue of *The Canvasback* is a special issue; it has been 14 years since we last ran this feature story. *The Canvasback* of Fall 1998 with the Marshy Point cover was marked on the bottom as a "Collector's Issue." The story of the gunning clubs of the Upper Chesapeake Bay will take you on a delightful journey to days much different than what we experience today. To the very best of our knowledge it is the only issue that was sold out. I understand through my collector friends that the issue occasionally appears for sale on eBay. As I continue my never-ending search for decoys I also continue my research on gunning clubs of the region.

—C. John Sullivan

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NEWS

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From the President

Dear Museum Member,

I would say that fall has been a busy season for all of us here at the Decoy Museum, but there is hardly a season that isn't a busy time! We are now in full swing planning and organizing the Decoy Festival to be held on May 3rd through 5th.

The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace, together with the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, have very generously made it possible for us to offer free admission to the Decoy Festival as part of the other events scheduled for that weekend. Our operating budget is always tight in this difficult economy, and our annual appeal letter was sent out a few weeks ago. Even if you are a Charter or Life member, we can use your help. Our efforts to renew current members and recruit new members have paid off, as you will see on page 19. We will continue those efforts.



Photo by Leo Heppner

The Museum's anniversary dinner on November 3rd was well attended with a delicious buffet by Dan and Cindy Lee at MacGregor's Restaurant. We used that occasion to unveil both the new Jim Pierce display and the Ed "Pop" Sampson duplicating lathe, and I encourage you to come see them. Allen Fair conducted a live auction after the dedication program. We are grateful for Michael Boxer's donation of decoys to the museum, several of which brought good prices in the auction. We also have some terrific items for the Fall Raffle, and lots of tickets are coming in. Another upcoming event is the Susquehanna Flats

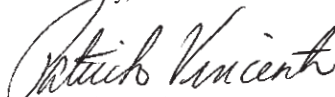
Show at the Level VFC banquet hall on January 26th, which also benefits the Museum, so mark that on your calendar.

We continue to enhance the Museum's Board of Directors; there are two open seats on the Board, which need to be filled. Our top priority at this is fundraising, so if you know someone who is a good rainmaker, please call me or one of our other directors.

Congratulations to C. J. Sullivan on his induction into the Easton Waterfowl Hall of Fame. John, since his youth, has been student, custodian, and historian of the Chesapeake Bay's waterfowl heritage.

In closing, the most important message I have for all of you—both members and staff—is thanks and appreciation. It is your support that keeps us going, whether it is financial contributions, volunteer time, in-kind contributions, word of mouth advertising, event attendance, etc. We are here because of you. Thank You!

Sincerely,


Pat Vincenti

FUNDED IN PART BY

Maryland State Arts Council • City of Havre de Grace • Harford County

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the arts, a federal agency.

Contributions made to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Tax may be deductible.

The Museum was incorporated in 1981 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which exists to document and interpret waterfowl decoys as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region.



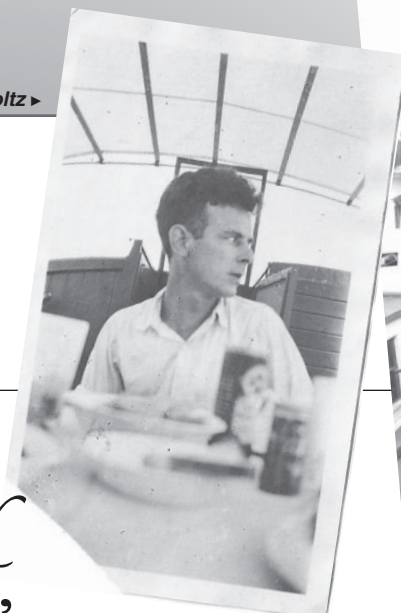


Collector's corner

BY C. JOHN SULLIVAN



LIFE WITH DECOYS & DECOY CONNECTIONS, JOHN BAILEY MOLTZ



Many decades ago and some years before I had my very first decoy, I became very much aware of a pair of decoys that rested in the living room on the fireplace hearth. Those old canvasbacks had been a gift from Grayson Hopkins who worked with my father as an assessor for Harford County. Grayson had gunned on the Susquehanna Flats and had, at one time, an extensive decoy rig.

In that same room, a pair of circa 1948 miniature canvasbacks carved by R. Madison Mitchell, held a place of honor on a built-in bookshelf. My father purchased those sweet miniatures from Mr. Mitchell as I was turning 3 years old.

It was in this very room that I was to meet my newly-adopted first cousin in 1954. Seven-year-old Kay Moltz, who was to become Kay Greer, came into my life in that room. My first recollection of my new cousin was of us sitting together on a hassock in front of a black and white television watching the *Howdy Doody Show*. Kay was the daughter of Bailey Moltz of Havre de Grace.

Following his service in World War II, my uncle Garland R. Greer was elected Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County.

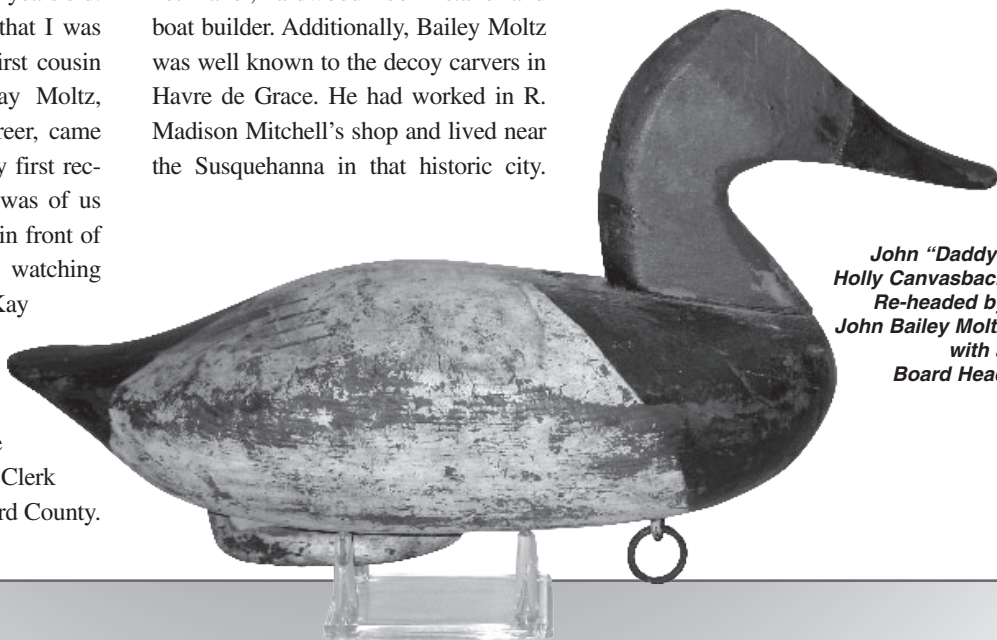
In the 1950s, adoption was conducted in a somewhat less formal arrangement than by today's standards. Kay arrived before the Court, and my uncle and aunt, having no children of their own, quickly decided that the cute little dark-haired, dark-eyed girl should go home with them.

My aunt and uncle were quick to adopt Kay and introduce her to her new extended family. I was delighted to have a brand new first cousin who was closer to my age than my other cousins. It was years later that I was to learn that Kay's natural father was John Bailey Moltz.

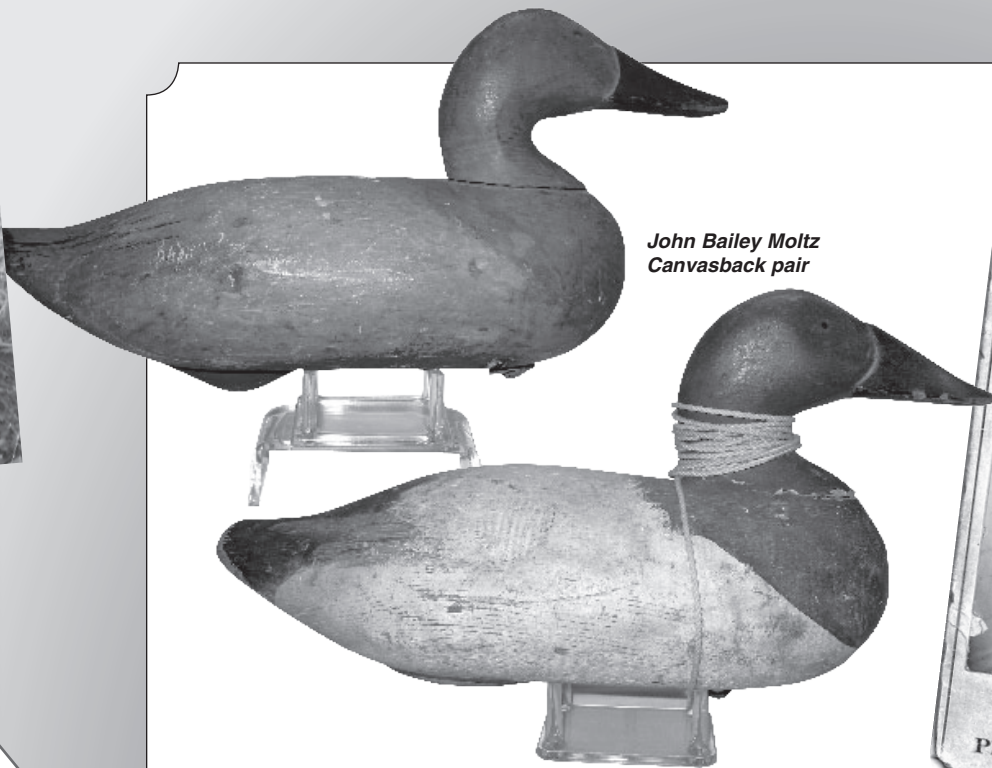
Bailey was an accomplished cabinet maker, hardwood floor installer and boat builder. Additionally, Bailey Moltz was well known to the decoy carvers in Havre de Grace. He had worked in R. Madison Mitchell's shop and lived near the Susquehanna in that historic city.

Bailey was born in Baltimore, March 21, 1888, and died in Ohio on March 22, 1963. Bailey's remains were returned to Havre de Grace to the Pennington Funeral Home, and he was laid to rest in the cemetery of Grove Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen.

Working in Madison Mitchell's decoy shop, he taught decoy head carving to Captain Harry Jobes and Jimmy Pierce. Captain Harry told me in a recent interview that Bailey could carve a head as well as anyone but was not a fancier of sandpaper. Bailey carved many heads in the style of Samuel Treadway Barnes of Havre de Grace. Those heads



John "Daddy" Holly Canvasback Re-headed by John Bailey Moltz with a Board Head



John Bailey Moltz
Canvasback pair



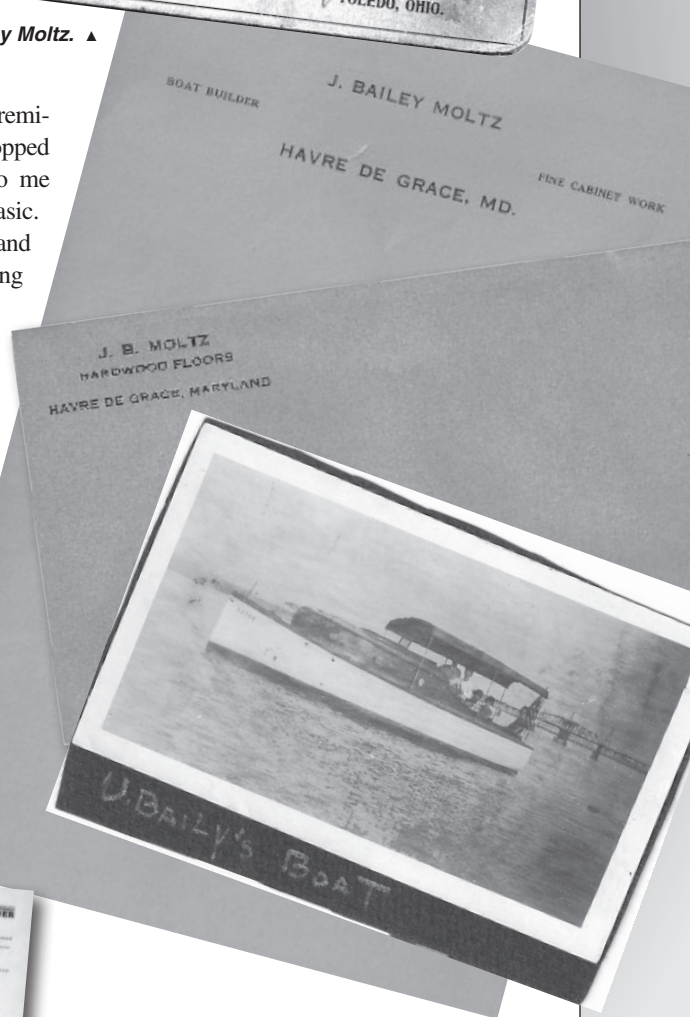
A young John Bailey Moltz. ▲

are best described as board heads, and although they are excellent at being sturdy and doing the job for which they were intended, they show little in the way of refined detail.

In addition to the “board heads,” Moltz carved more-round-out heads, which display strong knife marks over their entire surface. Some of his decoys have lathe-turned

bodies, while others are more reminiscent of Sam Barnes’ hand-chopped bodies. Captain Jobs related to me that Bailey’s paint style was basic. He knew white, black and red and never spent much time feathering his decoys.

It is impossible to determine the exact number of decoys and heads that Moltz created in his lifetime. His contribution to the Decoy World lives on through his students, Captain Harry Jobs and Jimmy Pierce. Many of the decoys attributed to Barnes or to Mitchell’s shop or to the Unknown Carver of Havre de Grace more likely than not felt the touch of John Bailey Moltz. ■



REGISTRAR'S REPORT				
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT				
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5'10"	155	Sallow	
	EYES	HAIR	Light	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy	
	Gray <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red	Dark	
Oriental	Hazel	Brown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Freckled	
	Brown	Black	Light brown	
Indian	Black	Gray <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dark brown	
		Bald	Black	
Filipino				

John Bailey Moltz's WW II draft registration

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1897 and on or before February 16, 1907)

SERIAL NUMBER U. 153 NAME (Print) John BAILEY MOLTZ ORDER NUMBER

2. PLACE OF BIRTH (Print) TOE RDAMS ST HAVRE DE GRACE HANFORD MD

3. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) (THIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION) LINE 1 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL

4. MARITAL STATUS SAME

5. TRADE, OCCUPATION, SERVICE OR DIVISION (Marked status if other than those indicated on line 3. If more than one mark.) (None) #9

6. PLACE OF BIRTH BALTIMORE

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS (State or county) MARYLAND

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS (State or county) SERVICE DIVISION CHEMICAL WARFARE EDGEMOOD ARSENAL EDGEMOOD MD

9. ADDRESS (What I Have Verified Above Answers and That They Are True) (State or county) MD

10. SIGNATURE John Bailey Moltz

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The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum has been very fortunate to have the strong support of its members during these times of great financial challenge, and we thank you for your donations, dues, Gift Shop purchases, volunteer effort, and other support. Another very important contribution you can make is... **decoys!**

Downsizing? Changing your collection? Many of us have decoys, other wildlife art, and waterfowling memorabilia packed away in closets, attics, garages, and basements that the Museum can turn into much-needed operating revenue. These donations are the principal source of raffle prizes, items for the gift shop, and auction lots for the Festival in the spring. They may also result in a tax-deductible donation for you.

Please take a look around and consider what is surplus to your needs. These in-kind gifts will be gratefully received by the Museum and may also enable you to take a tax deduction for the charitable donation. Your donations may be brought to the Museum any day of the week, or call the staff at 410-939-3739 and we will work something out with you. ■

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#82 issued in 1976*



5th Prize
WIDGEON

by Andrew Zelinski

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Ducking Clubs of the



The house at Marshy Point Ducking Club circa 1930

EDITOR'S NOTE: This fascinating article first appeared in the Fall 1998 issue of *The Canvasback*, which became a collector's item.

UPPER Chesapeake Bay

by C. John Sullivan

Some of us love history and long for days gone by. History is the core of our very fiber. It is all of the ingredients of our past that make us who we are. The passion to trace our heritage caught the attention of our generation and intensified when we reached the millennium. For me, gathering the waterfowling history of the Upper Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna Flats has become my primary avocation. The day I discovered that Thomas J. Hayward and Edward L. Bartlett cast their own ballast weights at the Bartlett and Hayward Foundry solved the mystery of those wonderful T.J.H. and E.L.B. decoys. The thrill was as good as

finding a good early rig of Susquehanna Flats decoys. It was history; it tied those decoys once and for all to whom they belonged and where they were used. Such discoveries inspire me to continue my unending quest to explore our region's rich waterfowling heritage.

The Susquehanna Flats has been the focus of most historic writings of this region. Less emphasis is given to the other major rivers which flow into the Upper Chesapeake Bay. These rivers were the sight of fabulous gunning during the last half of the nineteenth and the early decades of the twentieth centuries. Wealthy "sports" purchased "gunning shores" or formed exclusive clubs. Membership lists are a virtual who's who of our nation's early financial markets and industrial revolutions. These clubs built elaborate houses for their meetings and accommodations. They established precise rules and guidelines for their memberships. Their rules, although self-imposed, were strictly adhered to and became our earliest efforts at conserving an important natural resource.

The methods of taking fowl during this era on rivers of the Upper Chesapeake differed somewhat from methods used on the Susquehanna Flats. "Pass shooting" was popular among these early fowlers. This method would place the shooter in the direct path of the fowl as they traded from one feeding or resting ground to another. It was one of the most difficult and sportsmanlike methods. The speed of the fowl required great skill from the



John Cadwalader (left) and Mr. Rembold at Maxwell's Point circa 1915.

Continues on page 13

John Franklin "Home Run" BAKER

John Elton Cole, jr. approached the Decoy Museum several years ago with two priceless gifts: a rig of 263 decoys that had belonged to the early 20th century baseball great John Franklin "Home Run" Baker, along with a draft copy of Mr. Cole's meticulously chronicled tale that tied together this rig, its famous owner, and the Eastern Shore heritage of both.

Mr. Cole's generous financial support enabled the Decoy Museum to construct a wonderful exhibit of the "Home Run" Baker rig—now the first thing seen by every visitor to the Decoy Museum—as well as to help Mr. Cole transform his draft chronicle into a unique paperback book entitled "Decoys from the 'Home Run' Baker Rig." For the latter, we owe a debt of gratitude to the effort and perseverance of Director of Operations C. John Sullivan with his considerable experience in writing and publishing.

The Decoy Museum is thankful and honored to have been entrusted by Mr. Cole with this very important history. It is only through the generous support of Mr. Cole and donors like him that

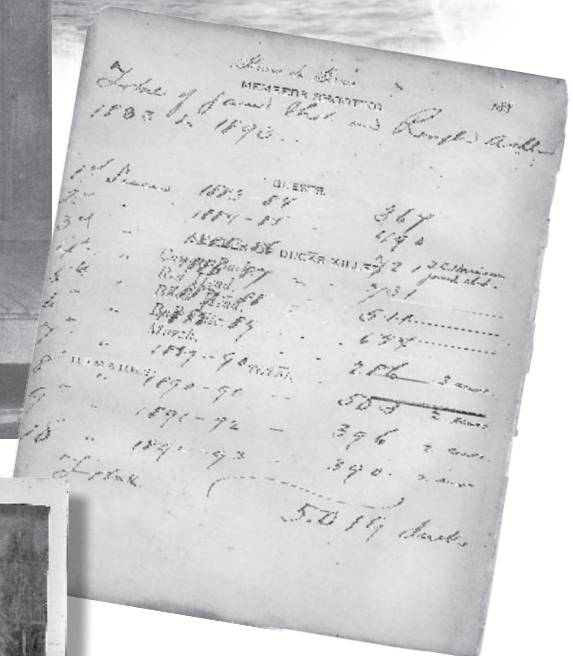
the Decoy Museum can preserve for future generations this folk art form along with the tales that enable its interpretation and enrich the visitor experience.

The first printing of Mr. Cole's book is now available in the Decoy Museum Gift Shop. If you are looking for a special stocking stuffer for your decoy lover or baseball fan, this could be it! ■





Gentlemen of the Elkridge Fox Hunting Club at the Marshy Point Ducking Club of Gen. George S. Brown (pictured at far left) circa 1883.



Continued from page 11

shooters. Another method was “bar shooting.” This method placed the shooter on sand bars which jutted into the rivers from the shore line. On the “bar,” the fowl were typically a direct overhead shot, intensifying the need to be highly skilled. Wooden decoys were widely used in shooting off of points. “Point shooting” was a pleasing and truly artistic method of taking fowl. With proper weather conditions, it was a successful enterprise for fowlers. Large bore shoulder guns were utilized in these methods. Most clubs had shooters who excelled with the big bores. Such shooters were given nicknames making reference to their expertise, “4 Bore Blogg” and “Big Gun Percy” to mention two. The clubs each had numerous blind locations with the best blinds being greatly coveted.

Another highly effective method used by the clubs was “tolling.” This tactic is described in the earliest histories of duck shooting and was most deadly for the curious fowl. J. S. Skinner described this technique in his book *The Dog and The Sportsman* in 1845. He stated he first heard of tolling in 1800. The gunners would hide in the marsh grasses along the shore while their “dog man” would toss an object to a playful trained dog. The dog would prance along the shoreline with his “toy” in his mouth. Skinner went so far as to recommend that a bushy tailed dog is



best for this sport, and a dog red in color is of great advantage. The resting fowl could not resist making a closer inspection of these antics on the shore. They would swim in for a better view not anticipating the waiting ambush. Canvasback and redheads were the easiest species to toll. Duck dogs behind the blinds often marked the flight or flocks of incoming wildfowl as anxiously as any sportsman himself. Guided by their instincts, they would often give evidence of approaching ducks well before they were observed by the waiting fowlers.

Below Havre de Grace, the Upper Chesapeake, with its coves and broad rivers, was prime territory for the fowl who fed on vallisneria, the succulent “wild celery grass”. For those local fowlers who had no advantage of ownership or membership to the numerous clubs along the shores, bridge shooting became an alternative. The railroad bridges which crossed the rivers provided great sport. The shooting was for the most part all overhead. The element of danger was also a factor in this sport due to passing trains and overzealous shooters. These factors, along with the claiming of downed fowl, made this endeavor a sport not for the timid duck hunter.

The best gunning shores in Harford County, those on the Gunpowder Neck, were lost forever by the Presidential Proclamation signed by President Woodrow Wilson on October 16, 1917. The Cadwalader family owned 7000 acres out of the 13,000 comprising the Gunpowder Neck. From 1884 until 1893, The San Domingo Club, a group of New York sports, paid John Cadwalader \$2,000 per year for their gunning shore. This fig-

Continues on page 14



Frank Gowan, gamekeeper at Cadwalader's Maxwell Point.



Harry Weiskittle, owner of Marshy Point, and fellow hunter, circa 1930.

Continued from page 13

ure is quite substantial today, yet consider what \$2,000 per year was worth over 100 years ago.

Crossing over the Gunpowder into Baltimore County, the gunning clubs continued to thrive after the government had condemned the gunning shores of the Cadwaladers. Here was located the Millers Island Ducking Club, off the mouth of Back River. The Bowley's Quarter Gunning Club was located on a tract of 822 acres with nine miles of shoreline. Along the Bowley shore were also located the Seneca Point Club and Briar Point. On Middle River the Biddisons had their club house at Log Point. This location was sold to John E. Hurst, brother of William B. Hurst, who also owned a large shore on the Bush River in Harford County at Legoe's Point.

The Club House at Benjie's Quarters is most famous for being one of President Benjamin Harrison's favorite gunning shores. The Carroll's Island Club is undoubtedly one of the most famous gunning clubs in this country. It consisted of 1,212 acres which were granted to Dr. Charles Carroll in 1746. Carroll's Island was

as renowned for its Chesapeake Bay dogs as it was for its great gunning. The island runs for about one mile dividing the Gunpowder River from the Chesapeake.

On Saltpeter Creek was Grace's Quarters, one of the Cadwalader family's Baltimore County gunning shores. It was 610 acres and located almost opposite their Harford Shores as it had a long strip of land with the Gunpowder River on its east. Another Cadwalader property was Marshy Point. Its 300 acres (by estimation) were on Saltpeter and Dundee

Creeks. General George Cadwalader sold this gunning shore to Alexander Brown of Baltimore on June 7, 1862. The Browns maintained this wonderful property for sport from 1862 until 1922. On April 17, 1922, the heirs of Alexander Brown sold Marshy Point on the Middle River Neck of Baltimore County to Harry C. Weiskittel and Daisy M. Weiskittel. It has remained the Weiskittel's property continuously since that time.

Continues on page 16

The home of Frank Gowan, gamekeeper at Cadwalader's Maxwell's Point. Note the pile of decoys on the table under the window.



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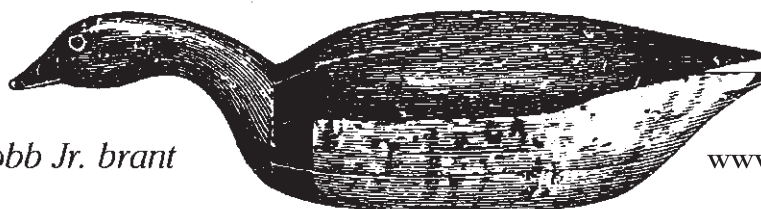
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Hunting clubs were elaborate. This is the Spesutie Island hunting club owned by wealthy New Yorkers, including banker John Pierpont Morgan. It was used for U.S. Army housing for many decades.

Continued from page 14

It is curious that the Brown family was occupying the property prior to its actual conveyance by deed. Cadwalader was obviously leasing Marshy Point to Brown by 1854. The 1854 Marshy Point Ducking Club Journal includes these names:

A.D. Brown	Frank Sullivan, Treasurer	Dr. A. Tyson
Gen. Geo. Stewart Brown*	Wm. Graham Bowdoin	Wm. Denison
Isaac Freeman	J. J. Sullivan	Wm. Williams
J. Lee Carroll	Dr. Chas. H. Tilghman	Wm. Young
Col. Chas. Carroll	John Stewart	Otho H. Williams
Harry Carroll	Wm. Gilmor	James H. Barney
H. Oelrichs	T. Harris Hodges	Thomas C. Harris
Jacob Brandt	Francis Cooke	Dr. J. H. Thomas
Robt. Lehr	Wilmot Johnson	T. N. Lee
J. B. Morris	Wm. Hoffman	Capt. Wm. Graham
Wm. Sperry	Wm. Kane	

* "General" refers to paymaster general for the State of Maryland.

Our earliest gunning clubs were frequently referred to in the first waterfowling histories. In *The American Sportsman* by Elisha J. Lewis, M.D. (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1857), the author said: "The principle sites on the Chesapeake Bay where sportsmen resort for this kind of pastime are the points immediately about Havre de Grace, The Narrows of Spesutie, a few miles farther down, Taylor's Island, Abbey Island, Legoe's Point, Marshy Point, Bengie's Point, Robbins's and Ricket's Point, Maxwell's Point and Carroll's Island."

In 1901, George Bird Grinnell, in his book *American Duck Shooting* (New York, Forest and Stream Publishing Company), mentioned four clubs: Carroll's Island, Spesutie Island, Maxwell's Point, and Benjies.

Ferdinand C. Latrobe's *Iron Men and Their Dogs*, published in 1941, includes references to Edward L. Bartlett (of Bartlett and Hayward fame) supplying Chesapeake Bay dogs to the clubs at Grace's Quarters, Marshy Point, Maxwell Point, Benjies ...in the mid-1800s. Latrobe also makes reference to the great clubs whose records go back to the early 1800s: Grace's Quarters, Marshy Point on Saltpeter Creek, Bengie's, and Carroll's Island.

The records of these early clubs kept in the form of a log or journal are much more than a simple tally of the harvest of fowl. They are a picture of society in those times, a social commentary. The October 1, 1855 entry at Marshy Point set forth charges to members for the necessities of life on Saltpeter and Dundee Creeks: Board per day \$1.25, Champagne \$2.00, Brandy \$1.50, Whiskey \$1.00, Horses per day \$0.50, Ale per bottle \$0 .12, and Saratoga water \$0.02.

The log recorded the toll on ducks directly adjacent to the collection of fees by the members. On December 30, 1855, "Frances Cooke: Rivers tight as bricks not a duck. pd. \$4.00." On April 6, 1856, fees are noted for various members along with this entry: "all sober except _____we will not say who - whilst you -?"

On November 4 and 5, 1857, W. Keith, J. Brandt, J. S. Oelrichs, and Frank Sullivan shot 129 ducks all on the wing. A side note is entered in the margin of the log with illustrations of three hands with a pointing finger indicating that W. Keith and F. Sullivan shot 101 of the 129 ducks. A most interesting aside to this harvest is found in *The Reminiscences of an Old Sportsman* by Frederick Gustavus Skinner compiled by Harry Worcester Smith and published in 1936. Skinner tells the tale of a day he was toling for ducks near

Carroll's Island with others when they had great shooting. After the sport, "more than an hour was consumed in gathering the spoil and when counted it mounted to one hundred and twenty head, chiefly redheads and canvasbacks." "When it is remembered that this slaughter was done with double guns fired from the shoulder and not with a swivel (gun), it may be pronounced to have been the heaviest toll ever made upon the Chesapeake waters within the memory of man."

While the carefree and adventurous sportsman's life was thriving, the country was in the midst of turmoil. On April 19, 1861, a mob of Baltimoreans opened fire on the Sixth Massachusetts Union Army as they passed through the city streets en route to Washington. The citizens of Baltimore believed the troops should have marched around the perimeter of Baltimore, saying "these Northern troops should not be allowed to pollute the soil of the state of Maryland by their march to the rendezvous." These were to be the first casualties in the bloody War of Northern Aggression. The Massachusetts troops fired on the men from Baltimore, leaving the toll of four soldiers and nine civilians dead plus many others wounded. A Maryland delegation demanded that no more Union troops be sent through the state. Lincoln responded that he must have troops in Washington, but no more troops were to come through Baltimore. Almost four years of this horrible war passed when General Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox, Virginia. Throughout those awful times, the shooting at Marshy Point never stopped; the northern invaders from the sky were killed both spring and fall. "On October 11, 1862, Alexander D. Brown killed the first pair (of ducks) of the season. On October 18, A. D. Brown, Wm. Young, and F. Sullivan killed thirty-eight ducks, October 24, forty-six ducks. An easterly storm on Sunday last the 26 of November



House of William Hurst's gunning club.

caused great shooting at all the points around Marshy for the 27th, 28th and 29th a very large number of ducks were killed on Benjies Pt. and the soundings while no one was shooting at Marshy Point."

"On November 9, 1863, Mr. Young, Mr. E. M. Greenway Jr., A. D. Brown, and George Brown, Jr., harvested six ducks, one crow, two blackbirds, five gulls, and two partridges." The guests and members liked to shoot; this is obvious. But they also liked birds and enjoyed watching them. They recorded putting up the martin boxes with such entries as this: "The Great Raising of the Morris and Sperry Martin Boxes took place today after great labor wren boxes placed likewise." In addition to "birding", the Marshy Point Club enjoyed picnics at the point. As it does today, life

went on at Marshy Point in spite of national turmoil. Twelve days after the death of Abraham Lincoln, a picnic took place at Marshy Point. On April 27, 1865, a small party set the table with "turkey, fried oysters, crabs, and snipe," the delicacies of the shooting point.

A retirement was noted on November 8, 1865. "The worthy ex-president H. Oelrichs departed, leaving on a memento, his shoot-

ing box and his ducking coat, which he said had been imported by him and served him faithfully twenty-eight years." Some club members owned sailing yachts, and on July 3, 1866, this entry is listed: "the Yacht Rapidan, Capt. Young commanding, left Baltimore at 1:24 pm and arrived at Marshy Pt at 5:24 making the run from Chases Wharf in the unprecedented time of four hours. The party on board consisting of Capt. Tighbractry as star mate and O. H. Williams, H. D. Carroll and Wm. Gilmore, on the same afternoon F. Sullivan drove T. H. Hodges down by the road making the drive in one hour and thirty minutes to the door. Immediately after, A. D. Brown arrived having driven his mares Empress and Kate Howard down in one hour and nineteen minutes the fastest road ever known." Such entries give us an insight into the sport these gentlemen enjoyed, not the yacht or the mare, but the speed of travel needed to set records for the fastest journey.

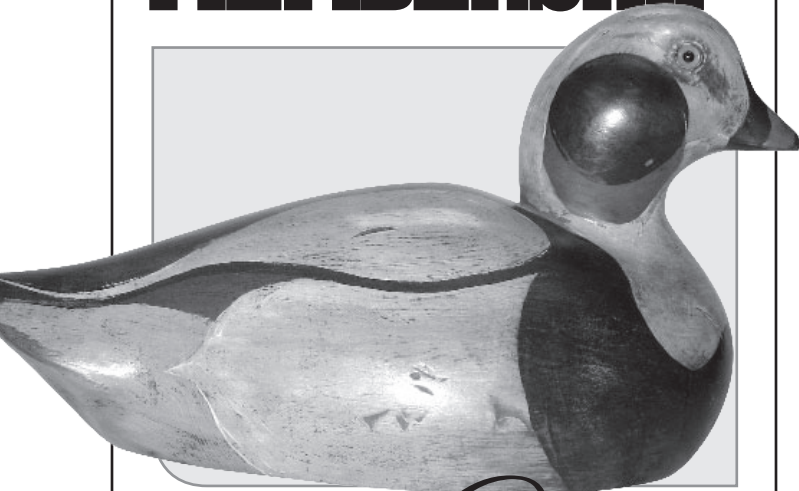
"Nov. 29, 1875 Mr. A. D. Brown and C. H. Tilghman killed 28 baldpate at Point, Hughes (killed) 10 Redheads." "Nov. 30, 1875. Very cold wind N. W. and freezing Bitters all gone and the ducks going and so are we." Dec. 1st 1875 Geo. Brown and Tilghman got up at day light went to Marshy Point to find nothing but ice which extends to Graces Quarter. Number of ducks flying up the Gunpowder – No shooting two days like the last without bitters or ducks didn't suit this party so all left for town on 12 o'clock train.



Gunning was not just for men. One of the Cadwalader ladies draws a bead.

Continues on page 22

HELP US TO GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP



Refer a FRIEND!

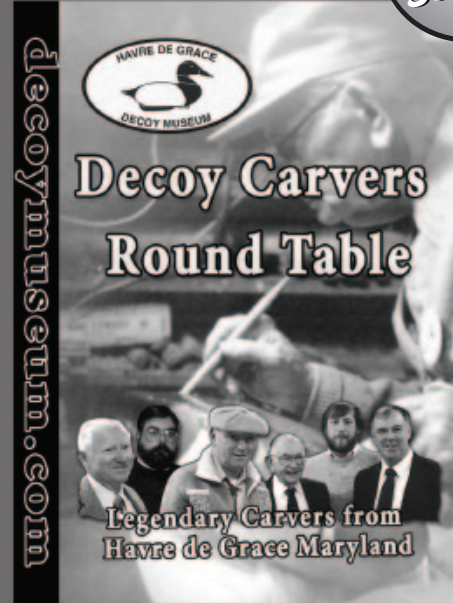
The Museum needs your help to increase our membership base of decoy lovers and admirers of waterfowl art. Individual Members (\$35) and Family Members (\$50) will each receive a membership card, free admission year-round, subscription to The Canvasback magazine, advance invitations to special events, and 10% discount off purchases in the Museum Gift Shop.

Refer a friend and you will both receive two special prints from the Museum's Gift Shop. Each referring member will also be entered in a drawing to be held at the annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment dinner in March for an antiqued oldsquaw drake decoy by Connecticut carver Kevin Kerrigan. The more friends you refer, the better your chances of winning this beautiful and interesting decoy!

Call Membership Coordinator Bonnie Castillo or email (membership@decoymuseum.com) and ask for details about this special Refer a Friend offer and the member benefits offered to each of our new membership levels. See Museum News on page 20 for more information. ■

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Thank you and welcome to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership or newly joined us. Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decoy Museum:

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JON DEETER	RON HOFFMANN	LAWRENCE S. POLLIN	PHILLIP WOOD



New Exhibits to Open!

Two new exhibits opened in November.

The newest edition to the wax figures was unveiled by the Pierce family at the Museum's fabulous anniversary dinner on November 3rd. The figure of Jim Pierce is located in a brand new case in the second floor gallery near the top of the stairs. Jim is seated at his work table with a collection of his decoys on the shelves around him. In this picture Jim (*back to the camera*) is watching over the unwrapping and placement of his handsome visage.



New Membership Categories

In addition to **Individual Members (\$35)** and **Family Members (\$50)**, the Decoy Museum has added five new membership levels, which are available to both

new members and current members who wish to upgrade. All members receive a membership card, free admission year-round, subscription to *The Canvasback*

magazine, advance invitations to special events, and 10% discount off purchases in the Museum Gift Shop:

- ▶ **Legacy Members (\$150):** also receive a discount on classes and seminars.
- ▶ **Legacy Bronze Members (\$250):** receive Legacy Member benefits plus four guest passes and a Legacy Bronze Member pin dated and available each subsequent year upon renewal.
- ▶ **Legacy Silver Members (\$350):** receive Legacy Bronze Member benefits plus two complimentary tickets to the annual Decoy Festival, two guest

passes, and a Legacy Silver Member pin dated and available each subsequent year upon renewal.

- ▶ **Legacy Gold Members (\$450):** receive Legacy Silver Member benefits plus two complimentary tickets to the annual Decoy Festival, one family membership to give as a gift, and a Legacy Gold Member pin dated and available each subsequent year on renewal.

- ▶ **Life Members (\$2,000):** receive free life time admission to the Museum for members year-round, two complimentary tickets to the Decoy Festival annually, one family membership to give as a gift annually, two guest passes annually, name on Life Member plaque at museum, life Member pin, lifetime subscription to *The Canvasback* magazine, free admission to classes and seminars, 15% discount off gift shop purchases.

Also new to the second floor gallery is the Ed “Pop” Sampson exhibit that was also unveiled at the Museum’s anniversary dinner by the Sampson family. This new exhibit showcases the unique lathe that Pop made himself and used to turn the bodies of his miniature decoys. It includes some tools and good examples of his masterful work. For a better appreciation of this machine and the Webke lathe in the first floor gallery, read “*Muskets and Mallards*” on page 27.

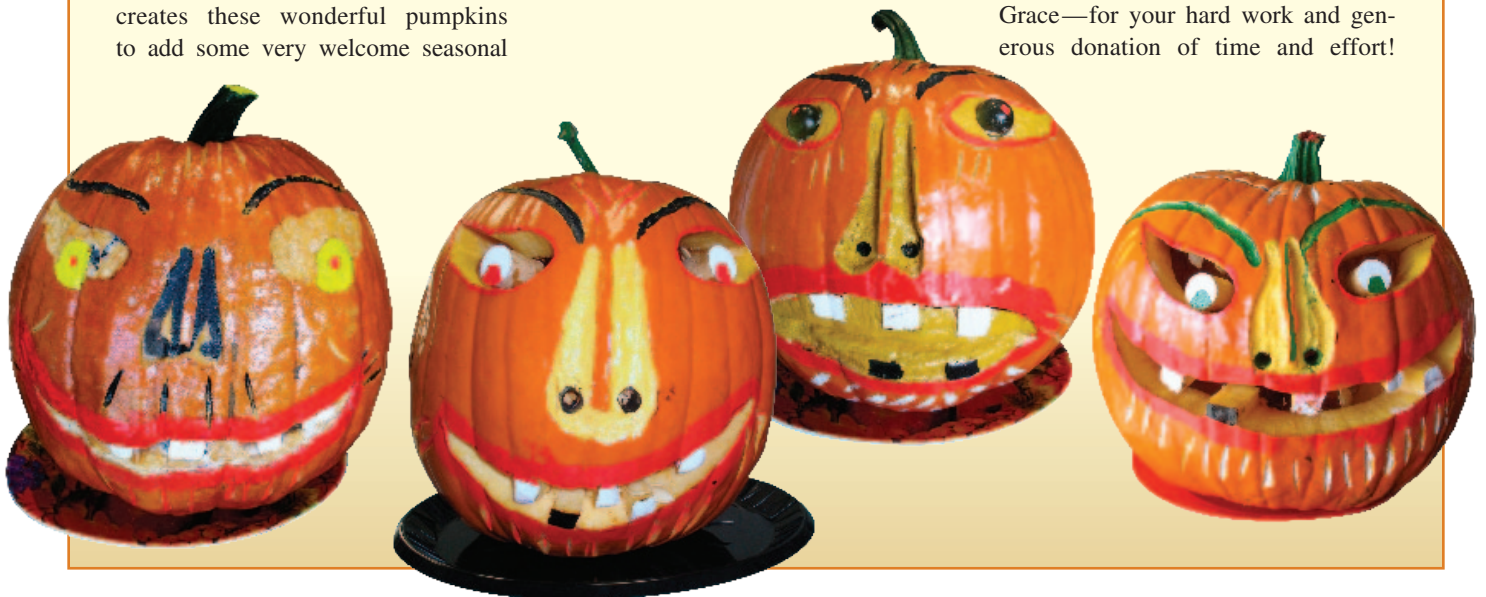


The Great Pumpkin

The Great Pumpkin graced the Museum with his festive presence again this year. Jay Freeman Wright creates these wonderful pumpkins to add some very welcome seasonal

color to the Museum. Kids of all ages enjoyed his whimsical creations, which became the main topic of conversation

by visitors during the pumpkin season. Thank you Jay Freeman Wright—the “Great Pumpkin” of Havre de Grace—for your hard work and generous donation of time and effort!



The Baltimore American Newspaper reported on major sporting events of those times. The Browns, in addition to being avid duck hunters and yachtsmen, followed the hounds as well. The Elkridge Fox Hunting Club was founded March 6, 1878. It was not until 1880 when George S. Brown and his son Alexander Brown returned from fox hunting in England that the English style and method of hunting was introduced by them in Maryland. Alexander Brown was elected Master of Fox Hounds and his father elected President of the Club. This report was found in the Baltimore American on Friday, November 30, 1883:

Reynard's Thanksgiving Day

Rejoicing That He Escaped from the Hounds of the Elkridgers

The Elkridge Hunt held their annual Thanksgiving meet yesterday at Gen. George S. Brown's ducking shore. Quite a large party left the city on Wednesday morning and spent the night as the guests of General and Mrs. Brown. Among these were Mr. John Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Brown, Miss MacTavish, Mr. Cary McHenry, Mr. Hoffman Gilmore, Mr. Fred Shriver, Prof Rowland, Mr. Frank Hambleton and Mr. Joseph Voss. On Thursday morning the party was enlarged by the arrival of Messrs. Harry Harwood, T. Swann Latrobe, T. Edward Hambleton, Francis S. Hambleton, Walter Brooks and Colonel Blackistone. The horses of the members had been sent down with their grooms on Wednesday. The meet was at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr. Brown hunted the hounds. The first covert was drawn on Mr. Gillespie's place. This proved a blank, but Mr. Williams' covert turned out a fine redfox. He gave the hunters a sharp run for a short time, but took to the water, and in this way baffled the hounds for a time. They however, afterwards struck his trail again in a dense wood, and swinging around to the right Reynard made for Middle River, and skirting the shore for some time, he at last broke cover, and for some distance led them across grass fields at a rattling pace. Many stiff jumps were taken, which brought one or two of the members to grass. Finally making for Holly Neck, the fox once more threw the hounds off his trail. After casting them around for some time, Mr. Brown again got them right, and away they went at a breakneck pace through the woods, but about half after one o'clock the fox finally succeeded in escaping, and hounds were called in after a run of near two and a half hours. Returning to Gen. Brown's a bountiful lunch was served, and the members of the hunt returned to the city last night. One of the pleasant features of the day was the photographing of a number of spirited groups. Prof Rowland, of the John Hopkins University, had taken his fine camera with him, and was successful in securing a number of negatives of the members, the hounds and the scenes.

Two weeks after the fox hunt at Marshy Point, a good duck hunt was enjoyed by all but the ducks. "Dec 4, 1883 Splendid shooting wind south west, ducks flying gloriously killed 113 Ducks and would have killed more but for the amount."

The last entry in the 1st Marshy Point Ducking Club Log reads as follows: "1884 Dec 19th After having spent two weeks at the Point we concluded to return to Brooklandwood for Christmas. There was no shooting the Ducks all having left the River. Yesterday it commenced snowing and the thermometer rapidly fell to eight degrees and this morning the river is frozen over from shore to shore Mrs. B. and the two dogs drove to Baltimore in the Coupe. Jerry the Tabby Cat is to be sent by Express."

When the Weiskittel family moved into Marshy Point Farm, they totaled the statistics from the early days of the Browns. They compiled the kills for twenty-three seasons between the years of 1857 until the end of the Alexander Brown years:

688 shooting days, 1787 guns, 11,697 ducks

<i>Average no. of ducking days per season</i>	30
<i>Average no. of guns per day</i>	2 1/2
<i>Average no. of ducks per day</i>	17
<i>Average no. of ducks per gun only 2 days with over 100 ducks</i>	6 8/10

For comparison purposes, records are provided to show game shot from the Rough Ashlar, a gunning scow gunning a sink box rig out of Havre de Grace. The Rough Ashlar Club members were gentlemen sportsmen, not shooters for the market:

Total of game shot on Rough Ashlar 1883 to 1893.

<i>1st Season</i>	<i>1883-84</i>	<i>367</i>	
<i>2nd Season</i>	<i>1884-85</i>	<i>490</i>	
<i>3rd Season</i>	<i>1885-86</i>	<i>721</i>	<i>T.L. Harrison joined club</i>
<i>4th Season</i>	<i>1886-87</i>	<i>731</i>	
<i>5th Season</i>	<i>1887-88</i>	<i>511</i>	
<i>6th Season</i>	<i>1888-89</i>	<i>624</i>	
<i>7th Season</i>	<i>1889-90</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>Three months</i>
<i>8th Season</i>	<i>1890-91</i>	<i>503</i>	<i>Two months</i>
<i>9th Season</i>	<i>1891-92</i>	<i>396</i>	<i>Two months</i>
<i>10th Season</i>	<i>1892-93</i>	<i>390</i>	<i>Two months</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>5,019 ducks</i>	

Across the Gunpowder in Harford County at Maxwell's Point, the Cadwalader Family was filling their gunning logs with some interesting entries. On April 18, 1892, "John Cadwalader, Jr., walked to Waterson's Creek and found an old man shooting cat-tails!" There must have been few birds flying that day, or perhaps the gentleman had rather poor vision. Another interesting entry

appears on April 6, 1893, "Game Shot: two swans, 2 blackbirds, and 1 nonde-script."

Several of the early sporting books make reference to "pot-hunters" shooting large numbers of bedded ducks at night. Elisha J. Lewis, M.D., in his book *The American Sportsman*, Philadelphia, Lippincott, 1857, says this: "a pothunter is the most disgusting, the most selfish, the most unmanly, the most heartless ... without regard to etiquette, humanity, law, or even the common decencies of life." John Cadwalader, Jr., wrote in his journal on March 21, 1901, "arrived Friday afternoon to start the spring season ... got (just) three ducks. Much disgusted by night gunners making their large bags in the clear moonlight on an absolutely calm river."

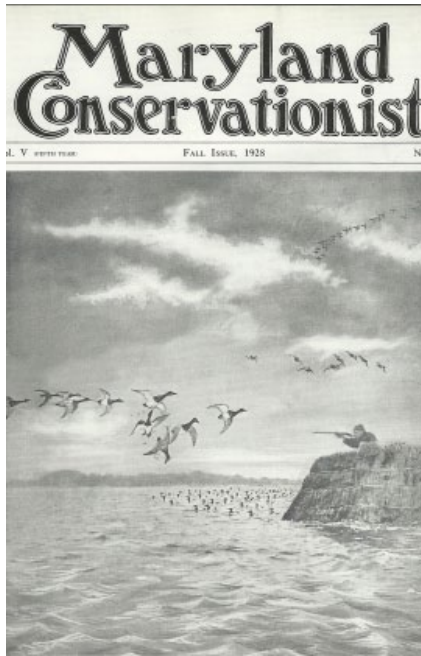
Thomas Cadwalader made this interesting notation on Friday, December 4, 1903: "Waterfowl everywhere, but not a duck to shoot. Fired towards contingent of sixty geese on Middle Ground. De ribber done Fruz from Day's Pint clar down to Carroll's."

A better day of shooting took place at Maxwell's Point on Saturday, March 19, 1904:

Saturday's bag	
<i>Blackducks</i>	23
<i>Green Mallards</i>	4
<i>Bald pates</i>	7
<i>Ring billed blackheads</i>	2
<i>Springtail</i>	1
<i>Redhead</i>	1
	38

Five years later on Saturday, March 20, 1909: "a bag of fifty-one ducks including six redheads, six blackducks and spring-tails, balance widgeon or baldpate." A colder day was Friday, December 18, 1909: "Game thirteen ducks, Creeks frozen but we broke ice for the decoys One crippled cygnet escaped from Thomas F. Cadwalader and Flint."

The gentle life at Maxwell's Point included not just sport, but fun as well: "May 23, 1910 The Family Circle acted



scenes from Hansel and Gretel with orchestra! Strawberries (ready) May 24, Peas May 25th, May 27, 1910 Best view of Halley's Comet ever seen."

The United States Government negotiated with the Cadwaladers over the period of several years to purchase Maxwell's Point for an Army installation. The Cadwaladers tried to persuade the Army to locate their new Arsenal on Kent Island with no success. Maxwell's Point, with its 7,000 plus acres, vast waterfront, and direct railroad access all worked against the family. President Wilson signed a Proclamation on October 16, 1917, taking their land. The final and saddest entry is written on November 24, 1917:

"The End of Everything 'Finis'"

The whereabouts of a gunning log of Marshy Point from 1885 to 1922 are unknown. The Weiskittel family continued the tradition after they moved into Marshy Point Farm in 1922. The Farm was now enjoyed by Harry C. Weiskittel and Daisy M. Weiskittel in the same manner as the Browns had enjoyed it, ducking, hunting, fishing, and picnicking. Where the family of Alexander Brown had a long history in the financial world, the Weiskittel family engaged in iron works. The family patriarch, Anton Weiskittel,

had located his iron foundry in Baltimore City by 1850. The family had a long history working in iron in Germany prior to immigration to the United States in the mid-1830s. The iron works were on Aliceanna Street. The iron business produced cast iron stoves, bath tubs, sewer and water pipes, ornamental and structural iron. Harry C. Weiskittel produced an iron base and frame work for his shooting blind at Marshy Point.

As a sales promotion and gift for the dealers and friends who sold Weiskittel products, he manufactured miniature cast iron ducks in the form of paper weights and ashtrays as early as the 1920s. Ducking was such an enjoyable recreation for the Weiskittels that cast iron duck decoy ballast weights were produced in the foundry. Some Weiskittel employees produced decoy bodies and heads similar in style to rough lathe turned factory decoys. By 1940, the Weiskittels were producing stoves from a lighter metal alloy. The miniature decoys of this era included the words "Real Host Gas Stoves."

It was also at this time that they began production of a cast metal alloy duck decoy head. Decoy head loss and breakage had been a common problem since the first head was carved. Harry Weiskittel set out to solve this problem at Marshy Point once and for all. The heads were fastened onto older, headless bodies with three inch-long wood screws, one at the base of the neck and two in the front. These heads had indented eyes, were hollow and left open on the underside of the bill. Lead paint adhered well to the unprimed metal alloy. The heads were not only highly utilitarian, they were a well formed and an attractive style as well. In addition to the iron ballast weights cast, cast iron anchor weights were produced in different sizes and weights. One bell-shaped model was cast with the raised letters "H.C. Weiskittel." The Marshy Point decoys were all branded in one inch high letters "H.C.W."

Shooting at Seneca was the choice of the Weiskittels prior to purchasing Marshy Point. Those entries appear in the Seneca Ducking Club Log Book. On Nov. 10, 1915, "H. C. Weiskittel, M.

Continues on page 26

32nd Annual

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May 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2013

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Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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Admission

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Call for more information

410-939-3739

info@decoyfestival.com

or visit us online

www.decoyfestival.com

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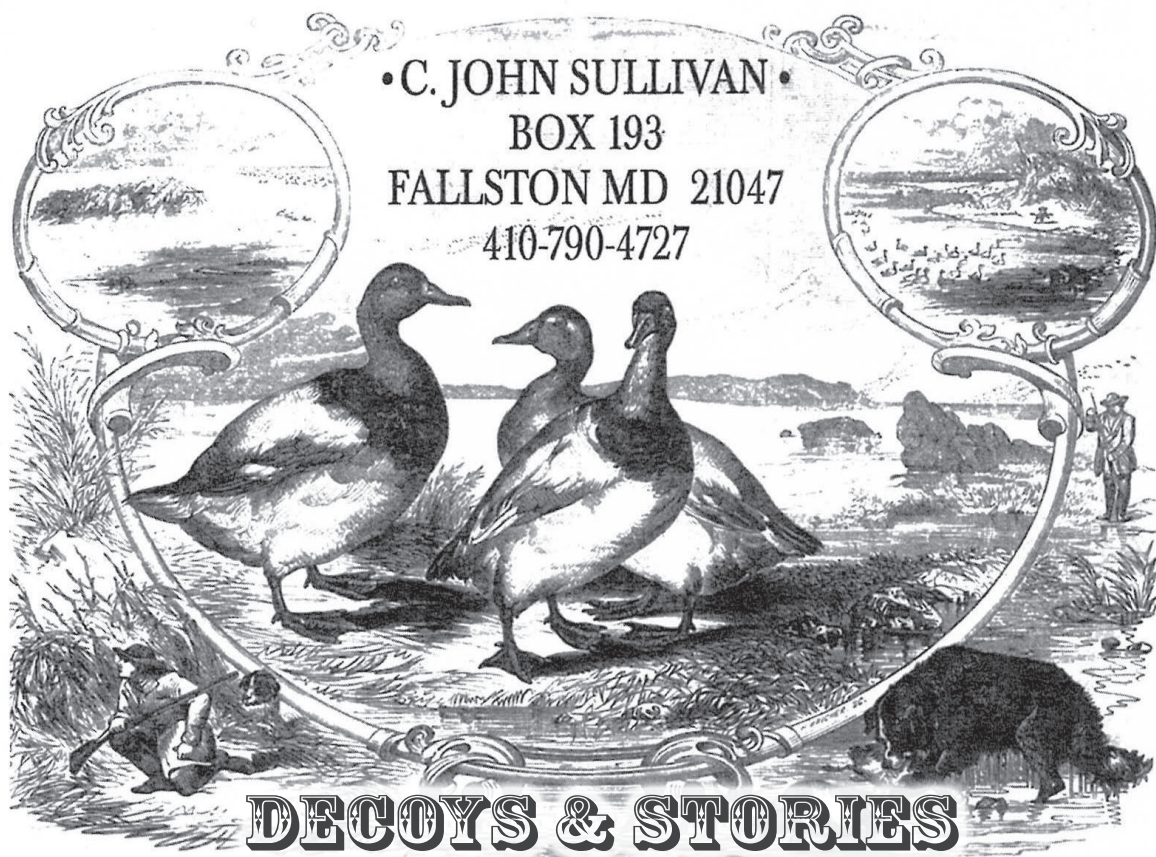
Decoy Museum
Market & Giles Streets

Havre de Grace
Activity Center
401 Lewis Lane
(behind Middle School)

Please be aware

the Havre de Grace Bicentennial Commemoration of the War of 1812 will be held the same weekend as the Festival. Book your room early and plan accordingly.





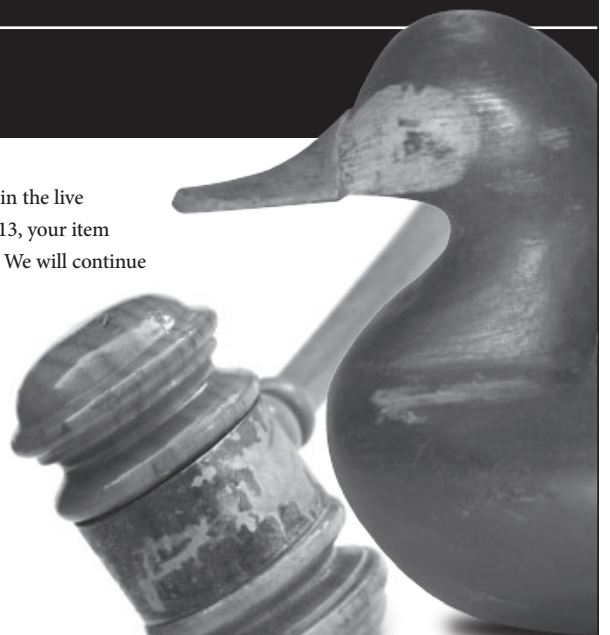
Wanted

Auction items for the Live Auction to be held Saturday, May 4, 2013 during the 32nd Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival.

If you have decoys that you would like to sell or donate to the Museum for inclusion in the live auction, please contact the Museum. If we receive the item BEFORE February 15, 2013, your item will be photographed and included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine. We will continue to take consignments and donations for the auction until we have reached the 100 lot limit. Any items received AFTER February 15th will not be included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine but, will be listed on the AMENDED list that will be made available as soon as the 100 lots are filled.

The commission rate will be 10% from the buyer and 25% from the seller. All proceeds will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Consignments must be received by February 15, 2013, in order for photographs to be included in the Festival catalog.

If you have any questions or have an item to consign or donate to the auction, please do not hesitate to call the Museum Monday — Friday between 10am and 4pm at 410-939-3739 or email festival@decoymuseum.com.



Jos. Bryne, and Percy Thayer Blagg (see *The Canvasback*, Winter, 1998) shot at Briar Point in morning and killed one hen redhead at 9 am., went after rabbits killed fourteen rabbits, two doves, one field lark.”

Season 1917

H. C. Weiskittel with his son Anton

Tuesday November 1st 35 ducks in all

1 Canvasback

Good wind from southeast in morning shifting to northwest in afternoon late

Denmead

Hartman in morning

Blagg

Mr. Harry Weiskittel

Anton Weiskittel in afternoon

Dr. Dunot

From 6:30 until 11 o'clock killed ducks

30 Blackheads

16 American coots (crowbills)

6 Butterballs (dippers)

2 Whistlers

3 Ruddy

1 Blackduck

2 Red breasted mergansers

60 Total

Tuesday

Nov. 20, 1917

3 red heads

2 Black mallards

2 Gray mallards

27 Black heads

wind south water very rough

The official log maintained by the Weiskittels was kept in a guest register format. Listing name, residence, arrival, departure, and a column for remarks. The remarks area was the location of most comments concerning duck shooting. On November 29, 1923, John Hoefgen of Bedford, Pennsylvania said, “Ducks plentiful, shooting bad, killed three.” On January 17 1924, James P. Gorler commented, “Perfect day and perfect sport.” The register shows the return of one Alexander E. Brown on February 7, 1924.

Bob Edge, a nationally renowned radio announcer, visited Marshy Point in December of 1939. His partner in the blind was the former home run king, Babe Ruth. This comment appears in the log of December 9, 1939: “When better ducks are bred Marshy Point will produce em. Bob Edge.” Mr. and Mrs. John P. Stelle of St. Michael, Maryland, wrote in the log on December 12, 1939, “A most enjoyable day watching Bob Edge and Babe Ruth banging away.” Two clever entries appear on January 7, 1941 from friends from Pennsylvania. “When the ducks quack I want to come back” and “I always feel that I’m in luck when asked to eat a Weiskittel duck.”

On December 18, 1965, this entry is found: “shot nineteen ducks at Post Hollow Blind low tide in morning but rising in afternoon weather partially cloudy and warm (50) we quit shooting at 2:30 because we felt bad about shooting so many”

The records of these early days of our waterfowling heritage are an extremely rare and valuable insight into this area’s

rich history. I am confident that the entries were made as accurately as possible, and numbers were not exaggerated nor tolls assigned incorrectly.

President Grover Cleveland, one of our most sporting Presidents, said the following about the Serene Duck Hunters in his book *Fishing and Shooting Sketches*, The Outing Publishing Company, New York, 1906:

The Serene Duck Hunter

How True Duck Hunters Stand Together

“When the ducks have ceased to fly for the day the serene duck hunter returns to camp in a tranquil, satisfied frame of mind befitting his fraternity membership. He has several ducks actually in hand, and he has fully enjoyed the self-deception and pretense which have led him to the belief that he has shot well. His few confessed misses are all satisfactorily accounted for; and he is too well broken to the vicissitudes of duck shooting, and too old a hunter, to be cast down by the bad fortune which has thickly scattered, over distant waters and marshes, his unrecovered dead.”

These thoughts from a gentle sportsman ring true today in most endeavors that we enjoy. Perhaps we missed a great decoy at a yard sale or arrived at an unadvertised auction just after a wonderful Ben Dye was sold. Whatever the case may be, the chase is the most important. To find the best and to be able to tell about it is the most gratifying of all. But, when we miss one, we can at least talk or write about it. Hopefully, now we can better understand where it all began. ■

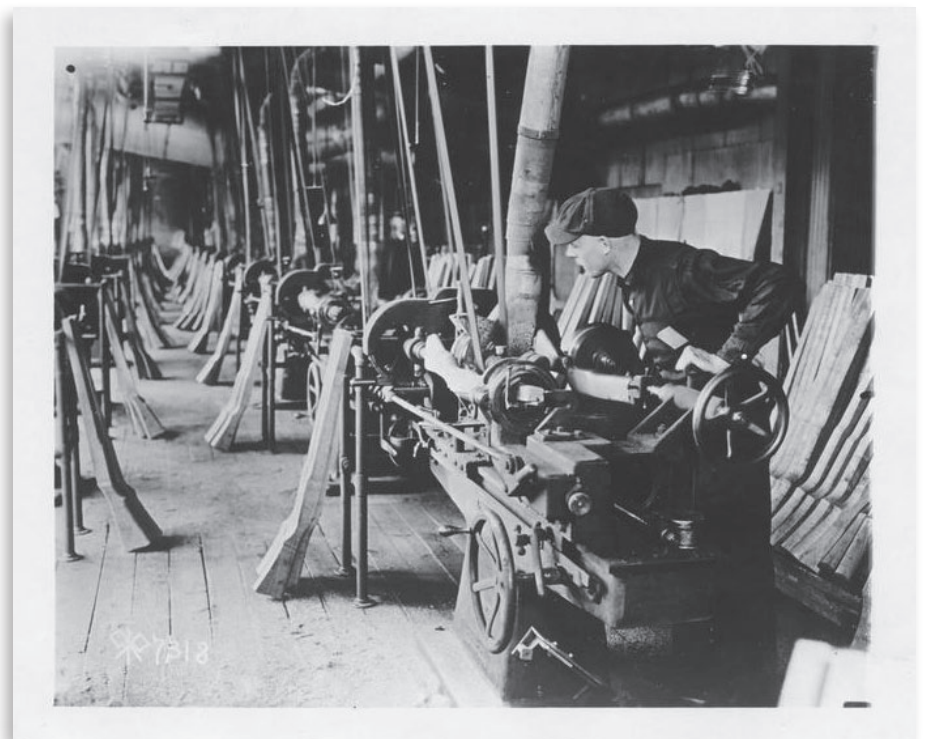


The Michael Family after a morning hunt on Spesutie Island.

MUSKETS & Mallards

by James W. Carroll, Jr.

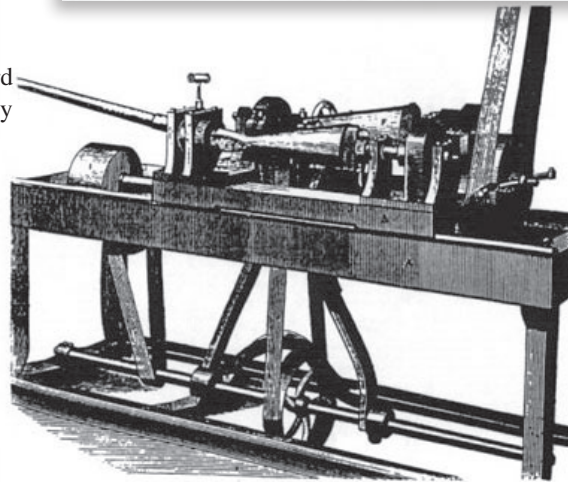
Ducks, decoys, and guns. The connections are obvious to any waterfowl hunter or decoy aficionado. But the three are all also connected in a way that is not so obvious. Turn back the clock nearly 200 years to Millbury, Massachusetts where machinist and inventor Thomas Blanchard (1788-1864) worked in the factory of Asa Waters turning out musket barrels for the Springfield Armory.



Rifle stock lathes in production at Springfield armory.

At Asa Water's factory, Blanchard created a lathe for uniformly cutting the exterior surface of musket barrels. Using a cam to control the cutter, Blanchard's replicating machine automatically formed the final three inches of the breech partly flat-sided, as in hand-made barrels. By 1818, Springfield Armory had this machine in operation.

The story goes that a craftsman who carved the wooden gun stocks was heard to express that no machine could replicate his skill at shaping wood.



Early Blanchard lathe, circa 1859.

However, by 1819 Blanchard had patented his replicating machine for cutting the irregular forms of gun stocks.

The modern duplicating machine for cutting keys is derived from Blanchard's original design. On one side is a guide that follows the teeth of the original key. On the other side is a cutting wheel that is moved by the guide and grinds the identical irregularities along the length

of a key blank resulting in a duplicate of the original key.

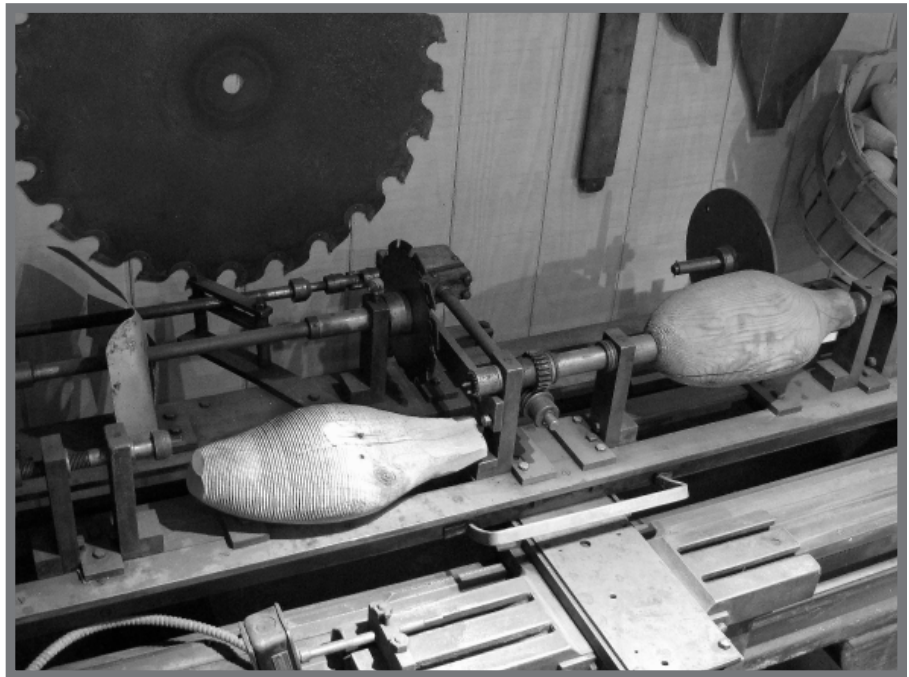
But, the key duplicating machine works in only two dimensions: the length of the key edge and the depth of the teeth. If you were to start those parts rotating, you now have the means to work in three dimensions and duplicate irregular shapes.

Blanchard's duplicating lathe used an iron master form in the shape of the gun stock and slowly rotated that master form allowing a guide wheel to roll over it. The rising and falling of the guide wheel along the length of the rotating master form caused a cutting wheel to rise and fall identically along the length of the rotating wooden stock blank thereby creating an exact duplicate of the master form.

Blanchard's invention was adopted in the early 1820's at both of our national armories and mechanized much of the traditional handwork of gunstock production. In commercial production by private industry, the Blanchard lathe produced things such as shoe lasts and axe handles.

It is not much of a leap from the duplication of irregularly-shaped gun stocks and axe handles to the production of decoy bodies. Renowned Havre de Grace carver Bob McGaw (1879-1958) acquired a rifle stock duplicating lathe after World War I and was reputedly the first carver to use it for shaping decoy bodies.

A decoy maker's duplicating lathe in production looks like a serious industrial accident waiting to happen. It is said that the McGaw lathe had a tendency to throw a blade occasionally. And the cutting side of the blade in the McGaw lathe rotated



Webke lathe at the Decoy Museum.

out from the machine, which would cause the wooden blank to fly toward the operator if it came loose from the spindle or if the blade struck a nail or other debris in the wood. Either event would have been a truly unforgettable experience.

Perhaps for that reason, Mr. McGaw later sold his duplicating lathe to R. Madison Mitchell (1901-1993) who made modifications enabling it to produce tens of thousands of decoy bodies over the succeeding decades without a serious mishap.

Many carvers continue to hand chop their decoy bodies, but it is important to

keep in mind that the lathe does not turn out a finished decoy. It merely eliminates the drudgery of reducing a rectangular block of wood to a smaller block of wood that is roughly shaped like a duck body. The "body" that comes off the lathe has a spiral of coarse saw kerf from one end to the other and still requires extensive skilled use of hand tools (draw knife and spokeshave) to define the breast and tail areas and for the final shaping and finishing of the body.

Mr. Mitchell's duplicating lathe is now at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum along with three other fine examples of this ingenious machine, one of which is Ed "Pop" Sampson's homemade lathe for miniature decoy bodies. Newer custom-made examples of the duplicating lathe can be found in the shops of carvers throughout the region. They all share a common ancestry from Thomas Blanchard's marvelous machine that changed both the art of gun making and the art of decoy making. Please come see them! ■

A decoy maker's duplicating lathe in production looks like a serious industrial accident waiting to happen.

Sources: The National Park Service and Springfield Armory National Historic Site; rifle stock lathe photo courtesy of New York Public Library; Webke lathe is in the Decoy Museum.

Flock to the Shop

Be sure to come by the Gift Shop for unique Christmas gift ideas.

We have hand-painted ornaments, books, contemporary waterfowl carvings, a limited supply of collectible decoys, like this Gilmore Wagner black duck and Jim Currier bluebill, and many other unique and whimsical items for lovers of decoys, waterfowling, and waterfowl art.



Remember, as a member of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum you receive a **10% discount** on all but a few select items.

DECOY MUSEUM Gift Shop

Located inside the HdG Decoy Museum



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

40th Annual Candlelight Tour—December 9, 2012

Museum Hours: Noon–4 p.m. Candlelight Tour: 4 p.m.–8 p.m.
Admission after 4 p.m. requires Candlelight Tour tickets (available at the museum, call for prices).
Len Burcham will conduct a carving demonstration from 2 p.m.–6 p.m.



The Ward Foundation Education Series

Call the Ward Foundation for a complete listing of this year’s seminars, classes and workshops, programs and exhibits. Call Salisbury University Education Department at (410) 742-4988 ext 110 or visit their website at www.wardmuseum.org



Highlights of the Decoy Museum’s Current Exhibits

The magnificent Michael bequest: an extraordinary pair of “Daddy” Holly canvasbacks \ A homemade duplicating lathe for making miniature decoy bodies donated by “Pop” Sampson \ “Tools of the Market Gunner” exhibit featuring a number of punt and battery guns, on loan from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust \ Potomac Decoy Collector’s Association Exhibit \ An exhibit of Factory Decoys, donated by Dr. M. Kramer \ The new Jim Pierce display



Tour Reservations

Book your tours early. Talk to your children’s or grandchildren’s teachers now about signing up for educational programs and tours of the Decoy Museum. Harford County school system classes are free and we have several different tours to offer different age or grade levels. Programs for scouts and home schooled children are also available.



NOVEMBER 11TH	DECEMBER 7TH
<p>Veteran's Day Observances 11am. Come to Tydings Park to join members of the American Legion in recognition of our veterans. For more information call: 410-939-0234</p>	<p>First Friday! 6pm. Join us for the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting at the corner of Washington St. & St. John Street. Santa is coming to town! For more information call: 410-939-1811 or email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit www.mainstreethdg.org</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 17TH</p> <p>Historic/ Nature Walk 10 am. Enjoy a free, guided nature and historical walk of the north Park Trail. Walk is approximately one hour. Free to the public. For more information contact: 410-939-5780. Email: lockhousemuseum@gmail.com or go to their website: www.thelockhousemuseum.org</p>	<p>Guided Historic Walking Tour 6:00 pm. Enjoy a guided historic walking tour of the national register historic district during HdG's First Fridays event. Learn about Havre de Grace's history through the old buildings that tell their stories. Reserve your space by purchasing tickets at mainstreethdg.com--follow the link. The tour begins at Jana's Java, 217 N. Washington Street. Admission is \$12.00. For more information contact: Kathy Keen: 410-939-0565 or visit their website: www.mainstreethdg.com</p>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 7TH (CONTINUED)

First Fridays! 5:00-9:00 pm. Have a fun-filled night for the whole family. Come to downtown Havre de Grace where you will find bargains galore, restaurant specials with outdoor cafe seating, music on the street corners, face painting, and other fun attractions. For more information call: 410-939-1811, email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit their website: www.mainstreethdg.com

DECEMBER 8TH TO DECEMBER 9TH

Christmas Boutique At The Susquehanna Lock House Museum Sat. 9-3 pm, Sun. noon-8pm. Enjoy shopping in an historic setting at the Lock House, hand crafted items, gourmet treats and fresh green arrangements will be on sale for the holidays. For more information call: 410-939-5780, mail: lockhousemuseum@gmail.com or visit their website: www.thelockhousemuseum.org

Christmas Open House At Stepping Stone Farm Museum 12-4pm. Historic farmhouse decorated for the holidays, music in the parlor, cider and cookies in the kitchen. Museum store will be open for holiday gift shopping. For more information call: 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762, email: steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit their website: www.steppingstonemuseum.org

DECEMBER 9TH

The Lock House Museum's 40th Annual Candlelight Tour Of Historic Havre de Grace 4-8pm. Take a tour of selected Havre de Grace historic homes and buildings. Enjoy the candlelight illuminated streets of Havre de Grace and the songs of Christmas carolers. Admission is required. For more information call: 410-939-5780, email: lockhousemuseum@gmail.com or visit their website: www.thelockhousemuseum.org

Maritime Christmas 10am-5pm. Stop by the Maritime Museum to enjoy a cup of hot apple cider and a holiday treat. Check off names on your shopping list. Our What*Knots Museum Shop has plenty to offer for people of all ages! Free admission. For more information call: 410-939-4800

Have You Got What it
Takes to be a
Museum Volunteer?

Contact Margaret Jones
at the Museum 410-939-3739 or email us at
info@decoymuseum.com to see how you can become
a part of our volunteer staff.

DECEMBER 30TH

Susquehanna Ministerium: Annual Open House Of The HdG Churches 2-4pm. Enjoy a free, self guided tour of the HdG 19th and 20th century churches. Beautiful stained glass windows & Nativity scenes, angelically decorated for the Christ's birth. For more information call: 410-939-2464

DECEMBER 31ST

New Years Eve Duck Drop & Fireworks Begin the countdown to 2013 by enjoying the annual Duck Drop and Fireworks celebration at 451 Lewis Lane (on the grounds of the Activity Center and HdG Middle School). For more information call: 410-939-2100

MAY 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH, 2013

32nd Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival
Come to Havre de Grace and spend the day visiting and shopping for decoy and wildlife art! If you are a collector of decoys either old or new, you enjoy fine art or photography you will find something at the festival. Over 125 artists, carvers, hunting and fishing suppliers, hunting guide services, photographers will be located in three festival locations. Carving competitions, retriever dog demonstrations, kids activities, music and food will be available over the weekend. Free shuttle bus service will pick you up and take you to the various festival locations and satellite parking areas located in Havre de Grace. For more information contact the Decoy Museum at 410-939-3739 Monday – Friday 9am- 4pm or Saturdays 10:30am -4:30pm. New exhibitors always welcome.

Bicentennial Commemoration of the War of 1812 May 3, 1813 the British sacked and burned the city of Havre de Grace during the closing of the "Second War for Independence." Many activities are planned including 1812 re-enactors, firework display and waterfront and town festivities. For more information call: 410-939-2100.

SIXTH ANNUAL Susquehanna Flats

*Vintage Hunting & Fishing
Collectibles Show*

The Banquet Hall—Level Volunteer Fire Company
Level, Maryland

Saturday, January 26, 2013

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