

## Edward Emory Rheome (1903-1973) Ogdensburg



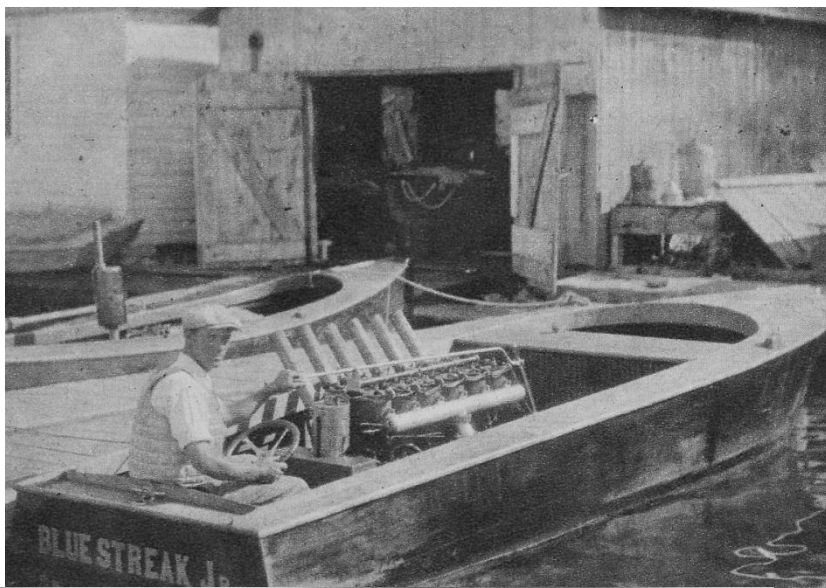
- Lived in Ogdensburg his entire life.
- His primary occupation was fuel delivery, initially working for Gulf Oil and later for his own company.
- Hunted mainly on Black Lake, even though he lived near the St. Lawrence River. Started carving decoys around 1920.
- A cousin, Edgar Rheome, who was raised by Edward's parents, was a fishing guide on Black Lake, and also made hunting decoys.

## Orin Raymond "Ray" Rogers (1898-1969) Alexandria Bay



Cyriel Heath standing left, Ray Rogers and his dog Spike in the center, Bert Hutchinson standing on the right.

- Born on Wellesley Island at the Bolt family "back farm".
- Worked at Hutchinson Brothers Boat Works until he started his own marina business in Alexandria Bay in 1948.
- Made one rig of 85 decoys in 1942. Remaining known examples include 8 mergansers and 4 broadbills. The broadbills all have one or two circular hollowed areas with inset bottom boards.



Francis Conroy "Roy"  
Stanley (1886-1960)  
Cape Vincent



- Born in Detroit, his family moved to Kingston, Ontario, and then to Cape Vincent.
- Spent most of his life in Cape Vincent where he was a boat builder and designer, operating Stanley Boat Works.
- He also was a chauffeur, and a carpenter in the Air Brake Company pattern shop.
- Operated a wildlife sanctuary.
- Roy was an amateur photographer, including motion pictures of wild life. Unfortunately, the location of most of his photos and any surviving films is unknown.

## Clair Clement Snyder (1921-1973) Alexandria Bay



Max Patterson on left and Clair Snyder on the right; opening day early 1950s.

- Operated Paul Boat Line with his father and sons.
- Clair hunted with Cyriel Heath and Gordy O'Brien. He was a good friend of Roy Conklin.
- Carved some "Coombs style" high-head hunting decoys with Cyriel Heath. No examples are known.
- In the 1960s, after recovering from rheumatic fever, Clair began carving decorative decoys, miniatures, and half-flyers. Crafted several paintings with applied miniatures.

Full-size standing  
goldeneye



Clair Snyder carvings and paintings.

## George D. Oliver (1840-1924) Watertown



- Oliver was born and raised in Waddington. Interesting to note that his decoy bodies are similar to the LaFlair family.
- He was an architect and owned a construction company in Watertown.
- Oliver experimented with different ways of rigging his decoys, and winding the anchor lines.
- Some of his decoys are branded "FOX ISLAND CLUB".

## Frank L. Clark (1875-1958) Clayton



Frank Clark black duck with Alex Bay style reverse feather stippling.

- Born and raised in Clayton. Began working in the family grocery and hardware store. Later had his own insurance business.
- Carved decoys in a number of different styles, some of which can be confused with Denny or Wheeler. Some of his decoys were definitely painted by Sam Denny, and some have very nice Alex Bay style reverse feather stippling.
- His work was recognized as that of a previously unidentified carver in the Jan/Feb 1993 issue of Decoy Magazine, where he was given the temporary name of “pseudo-Denny”.

## Lawrence “Dodie” Jones    Alexandria Bay



One of four known black ducks by “Dodie” Jones.

- Born and raised in Alex Bay, he was remembered as a construction worker.
- Harold Evans attributed these distinctively carved black ducks to “Dodie” Jones. No examples of decoys representing any other species are known.
- The Jones family moved from the Alex Bay area around 1949 or 1950.
- “Dodie” had at least two children, a son Garth who was reported in the Rochester area, and a daughter Irene Reich who was reported living in Florida.



William Emery "Will" Burtch (1881-1960) Alexandria Bay



- Best known for his black ducks which have inset hard wood tail pieces.



- He began sailing the Great Lakes at age 14, eventually becoming a

marine engineer.

- Worked as a boat builder, both in his own shop, and for Hutchinson Brothers in Alex Bay and Leyare in Ogdensburg.
- An example of a traditional St. Lawrence by him hangs in the show room at Garlock's in Alex Bay. Reportedly, he could build a skiff by himself in about one week.

John Edward "Punkin" Dingman (1872-1957) Alexandria Bay



Hen merganser attributed to Ed Dingman.

- Also known by the nicknames "Ed" and "Punk".
- Life-long resident of Alex Bay. Fishing guide, and caretaker for cottages on Cherry Island.
- Lived next door to Chauncey Wheeler on Holland Street.
- Harold Evans attributed mergansers of this type to Ed Dingman. Some had a circular ballast weights with raised letters "ED". Other decoys with this same "ED" ballast weight have been attributed to Ed Dingman.
- Ed's brother Robert Eugene "Bob" Dingman was a very good friend of Chauncey Wheeler's. Bob's hobbies were listed in his obituary as hand carving and fine carpentry. Family members claimed he also carved hunting decoys.
- Decoys of a number of different styles have been attributed to the "Dingman family".

## William L. "Bill" Barlow (1908-1992) Clayton

Bill Barlow on a successful duck hunting trip. Note the two Sam Denny black duck decoys on the bow of the boat.

- Born in Burlington, VT, but raised in Clayton.
- Worked as a blacksmith, bartender, tool and die maker, machinist, and fishing guide.
- Built his own guide boat in 1952 using a boat kit.
- Hunted ducks for local markets through the 1930s and early 1940s. Bill often hunted with Leonard Denny, one of Sam Denny's son.
- Reportedly they received \$2.00 each for broadbills and goldeneyes, \$2.50 to \$3.00 each for blacks, canvasbacks and redheads. Mostly he hunted broadbills and goldeneyes.
- Made several dozen broadbill and goldeneye decoys in 1938 to assist in his duck hunts. He patterned his decoys after Sam Denny's, receiving some guidance and comments from Denny.
- Bill marked almost all his decoys with his initials and the date 1938 shortly before he died.



## Andrew H. "Toot" Seymour (1872-1963) Clayton

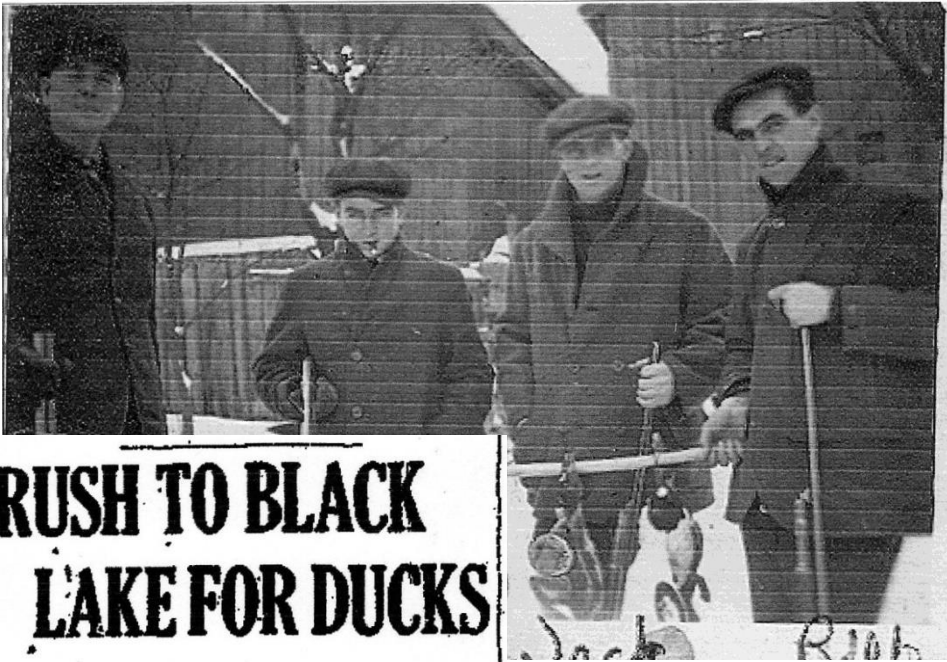
Right: Andrew Seymour (standing at left) with a fishing client thought to be the boxer, "Gentleman" Jim Corbett.

Below: Otis Brooks Lumber Company with smoke belching from the steam boiler.



- Initially Andrew worked as a boiler tender at the Otis Brooks Lumber Co. and the village electric plant, and was a carpenter.
- He began guiding fishermen around 1908.
- He owned and operated a boat livery on French Creek, building his rental boats during the winter.
- According to his son Alvah, Andrew hunted ducks and carved a rig of decoys. Just two examples remain, both with out-carved bills and tack eyes. The hen goldeneye has thin, worn, old paint, applied in a rather different pattern with unique combing.

# Elijah Leavens Hyatt (1859 or 1860-1947) Ogdensburg



Left: Successful late season duck hunt with (from left to right) Elijah Hyatt, Walter Hollis, and Elijah's sons John (Jack) and William (Bob).

## RUSH TO BLACK LAKE FOR DUCKS

**Many Shooters Were on Hand Yesterday to Get First Shots at the Birds.**

The duck shooting season opened on local waters yesterday and there was the usual rush of shooters to Black Lake, which will be the favorite hunting grounds until late in the fall, when the birds will migrate to the St. Lawrence, where the open water provides feeding throughout the winter. Many of the shooters who went to the lake planned to pass a day or two while others made preparations to stay until the end of the week. One of the parties consisted of Elijah Hyatt and his two sons, William and John, and Walter Hollis.

Right: Article from The Ogdensburg Republican Journal, Wednesday,

September 17, 1919, describing an opening day duck hunt by the same four hunters as pictured above.

- Elijah was a marine engineer working for both the Rutland and Hall Boat Lines.
- Hunted on both Black Lake and the St. Lawrence River.
- On December 9, 1927, Elijah and Hollis Burton became stranded on Chimney Island, east of Ogdensburg, when their boat drifted from shore down the St. Lawrence River.
- Three canvasback decoys by Elijah are still known to exist.

## Ivan Henry “Blackie” Delair (1899-1962) Morristown



Hollow goldeneye decoy by Ivan Delair with a wooden bottom board; originally painted as a drake, repainted as a hen.

- Born in South Hammond, and raised on family farms in South Hammond and on Black Lake Road. Moved to Morristown in 1936.
- Guide, well driller, and county dog warden beginning in 1956.
- Ivan was an avid outdoorsman participating in fishing, hunting, and trapping. He was also a dedicated trap and skeet shooter.
- Carved both solid and hollow bodied decoys. Some of the hollow decoys had thin wooden bottom boards; some had sheet metal covering their bottoms.
- Duck hunted both on Black Lake and the St. Lawrence River.

## Roy Apple (1899-1992) Hammond - Black Lake



Hen broadbill by Roy Apple from the rig of Ken Keller.

- Roy Apple was a life-long resident of Black Lake.
- His primary occupation was a fishing and hunting guide on Black Lake, but he also worked as a cook at the Silver Hill Hunting Club, operated a gas station in Gouverneur, and worked in Rochester during WW II.
- The Apple family has a long history of fishing and guiding on Black Lake. This included Roy's father Fred (1853-1944); his three brothers, James (1886-1962), George (1896-1973), and Myles (1906-1972); his uncle Jerry (1852-1908), and his cousin John (1892-1972).
- George Apple, Roy's brother, has also been credited with carving hunting decoys, but no examples are known.

## William F. "Bill" Constantine (1897-1978) Hammond



Drake goldeneye by Bill Constantine.

- Bill was born in Alexandria Bay, but lived most of his life in Hammond where he was a self-employed well driller.
- His obituary states he was active in outdoor sports.



## Leslie Kenneth LaFleur (1900-1983) Wellesley Island



Drake goldeneye by Leslie LaFleur

- Life-long resident of Fine View on Wellesley Island.
- Worked for many years at Frink Sno-plows in Clayton.
- His first marriage was to Violet Patterson, daughter of Joseph and Catherine Patterson, and Chancy Patterson's cousin.
- Some of Leslie's decoys have bodies with beveled bottom edges, very similar to the LaFlair decoys from Ogdensburg.

## Charles Patterson (1868-1937) Wellesley Island



Drake redhead from a rig marked with the initials "HB", attributed to Charles Patterson.

- Charles was a life-long resident of Wellesley Island; a River guide and a fisherman.
- His son Chancy was better known as a carver of decoys, but Charles began carving before 1900 and developed the "Patterson paint patterns" that his son was later known for.
- A large rig of decoys with the initials "HB", and partially inset ballast weights, was recently rediscovered, split among two households. The rig has been attributed to Charles Patterson, and contained broadbills, goldeneyes, and redheads,



Decoys attributed to Charles Patterson