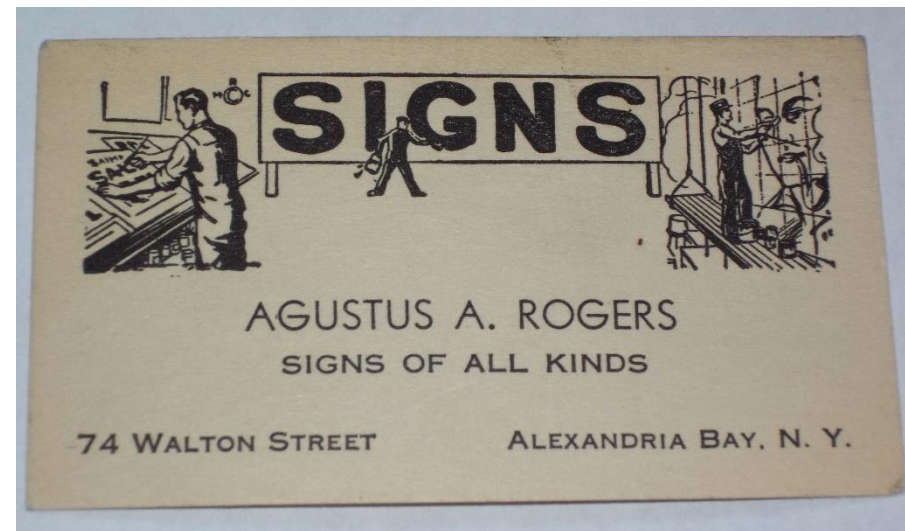


Agustus Arthur “Gus” Rogers

October 10, 1892 - April 15, 1938

Alexandria Bay, NY

Business card from Gus Rogers
sign shop.



Gus Rogers Buried Monday

Well Known Sign Painter of This Village Passed Away, Friday From A Kidney Trouble

Funeral services for Gus Rogers, 45, who passed away Friday, April 15th following a week's illness from Kidney trouble, were held Monday afternoon from his late home on Walton street. Rev. Earl D. Compton of the Reformed church and Rev. Roger F. Williams of the Methodist Episcopal church were the officiating clergy. Burial was made in the Highland Park cemetery.

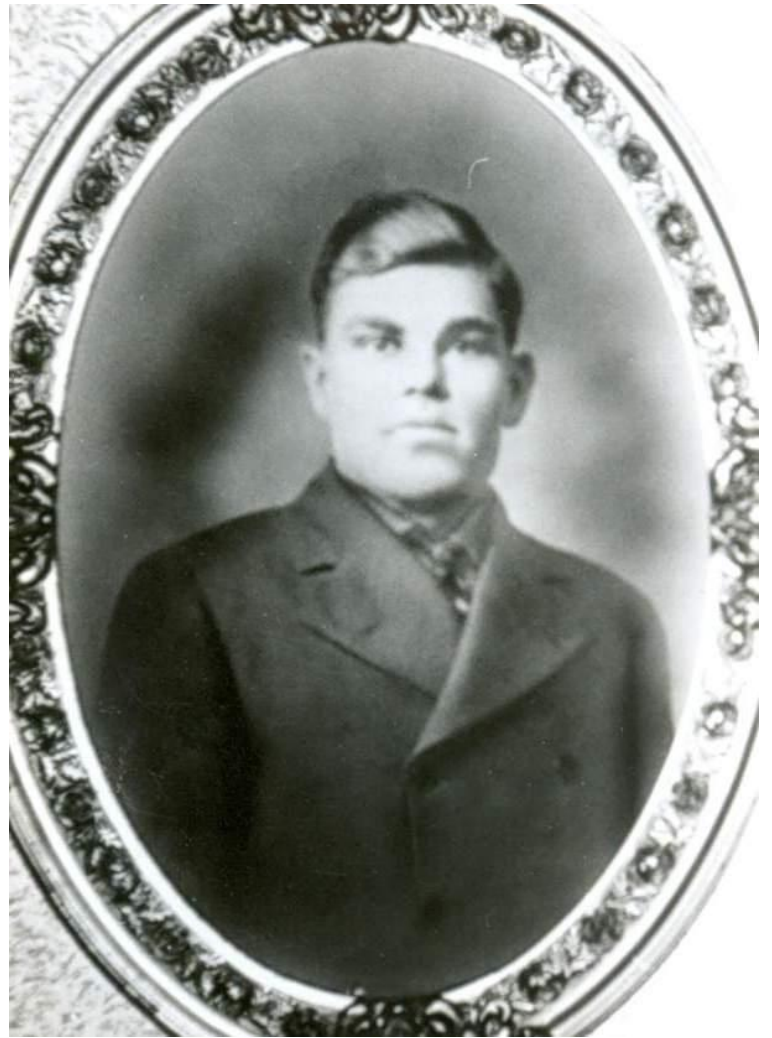
Mr. Rogers was taken to the Mercy hospital in Watertown in a serious condition on Thursday, April 14th, and continued to fail until his death.

He was born in this village on October 10, 1892, the son of Steven and Minnie LaVigne Rogers. After his graduation from the local high school he took a course in the Watertown School of Commerce. Later he took up the trade of sign painting and became very adept in that art.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Men's club of the Reformed church.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Alice Rogers, his mother, Mrs. George Warner, both of this village, and three half sisters and four half brothers, who live in the midwest, and his step-father.

Obituary for Gus Rogers printed on page 1 of the Thursday, April 21, 1938 edition of the Thousand Islands Sun. Gus Rogers was 45 when he died, assuming he was born in 1892.





Rogers' family memorial at Highland Park Cemetery, Alexandria Bay, NY.

Form 1 **2139** REGISTRATION CARD No. **36** New York

1 Name in full Augustus Arthur Rogers Age, in yrs. 23

2 Home address Walton Alexandria Bay N.Y.

3 Date of birth Oct 10 1893

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? natural born

5 Where were you born? Alexandria Bay N.Y. U.S.

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? boat livery 30

8 By whom employed? C. S. Thomson
Where employed? Alexandria Bay N.Y.

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? mother

10 Married or single (which)? single Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank _____; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? yes deformed arm

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

If person is of African descent, name

Augustus Arthur Rogers
(Signature or mark)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **31-3-8-A**

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? medium Slender, medium, or stout (which)? slender

2 Color of eyes? blue Color of hair? brown Bald?

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? hand deformed +

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Albert R. DeYoung
(Signature of Registrar)

Precinct W Alexandria

City or County Jeff

State N.Y. 6/5/17
(Date of registration)

Gus Rogers' WW I draft registration card. Note the spelling of his name, his date of birth and age, that he was working at a boat livery at the time, and the comments about "deformed arm", and "hand deformed".

Feb. 12, 1938.

Mr. Augustus Rogers,
Alexandria, Bay, NY.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Have your letter of the 8th., and note what you say regarding the blocks of cedar I have. These came in a car of lumber I had coming into Binghamton, NY. and they are down there now. If they are not already cut out I will bring them up with out getting them cut and we will get Sterling Garlock to cut them for us. However I fortunatly took down one of Chanceys decoys for them to use as a model in cutting the blocks so they could be about as your patterns.

I will be going to Binghamton within the next two weeks and will then get them and put them in my car so I can bring them up to you when I come to the Bay next time. I will also at that time bring up my old decoys which need painting. The following is the way I beleive we had this worked out and I am listing it out so as to be sure we understood what I wanted.

2.00	12 Black ducks (2 drake mallards)	1.25 ea.
1.50	12 Broad bills (all females you have made)	1.00 ea.
1.00	24 decoys with long necks from my blocks	.75 ea.
.35	repainting of decoys.	.25 ea.

I am inclosing my check for \$2.25 for two broadbills (one male and one female) which I wish you would put in a carton and send me parcel post at once as several of my friends would like to see them and I may be able to get a few orders for you from them. If the .25 does not cover the postage I will reimburse you when I come up. These will be in addition to the ones you have on order for me.

1.50 12 Blue Bell (6 ea) Howard Chynow 100
Very truly yours,

THE ROGERS SIGN SHOP
LETTERING OF ALL KINDS
74 WALTON STREET
ALEXANDRIA BAY, N. Y.

Decoy

Feb 8, 1938

Mr Donald B Baxter

Syracuse
N. Y.

Dear Sir: I am writing to you in
regard to the material which you
wished me to make your decoys from
you suggested cutting out the bodies
& I have them ready to go, but Mr
Baxter we forgot to give you my
patterns for bodies; so as a suggestion,
would it not be better if you left
the body blocks in their square shape
& mark them out after I received them
& have Mr Garlock cut them out after

my patterns that would give me
a chance to use the templates I
use in making decoys. It would not
cost you any more than the price I
made you

Yours very truly
Augustus C. Rogers

P.S. If you want to cut them out
down there I will ship you my
patterns

Black duck Bodies are $13\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" x 6"
Brood Bill " " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" x 6"

Black 1.25

B.B. 1.00

B.B. any stock $.75$

Repainting $.75$

Correspondence between Gus Rogers and Donald Baxter, Syracuse, NY, regarding the carving of a group of black duck, mallard, and broadbill decoys, and cost for repainting other decoys. Note in the letters that Baxter mentions the possible use of Chauncey Wheeler decoys as patterns for cutting-out the body blocks, and that Gus Rogers offers to send copies of his own patterns to Baxter for the same purpose. Decoys patterns are obviously just a starting point for carving decoys, but it also appears clear that the sharing of patterns was not uncommon.

Note the dates of the letters, Feb. 8 and Feb. 12, 1938, and that Baxter mentions he will have to retrieve the body blocks from Binghamton, NY, and then bring them to Alexandria Bay. Gus Rogers died April 15, just 62 days after Baxter's letter was written, and it is unknown whether he completed or even started on this rig of decoys.

From auction and private sales we know that Donald Baxter must have had a large rig of hunting decoys including a number of examples by Gus Rogers and Roy Conklin. Many have small brass tag affixed to their bottoms with Baxter's name and address.

Although Gus is today recognized as an important decoy carver from the St. Lawrence River, that was not always the case. Limited information about Rogers was available locally from area “old timers” such as Bill Aiken, but on a national level Gus Rogers was largely unknown. That situation changed in 1992 with the publication of Decoys of the Thousand Islands, and a follow-up article published in the 1994 March/April issue of Decoy Magazine. Together, these two sources raised the awareness of collectors throughout North America to the work of Gus Rogers.

In addition to hunting decoys, Gus produced a variety of other items including miniature decoys, fish carvings, and decoy wall plaques. A number of other items such as life-size flyers and boat half models have been attributed to him.



Miniature drake broadbill by Gus Rogers, about 5 inches long.



Half decoy on a plaque by Gus Rogers.



Incomplete wooden fish carving and a metal fish template, both by Gus Rogers.



Four generations: Gus Rogers top right, his mother Minnie Trickey Rogers top left, his grandmother Christine Landon Trickey bottom left, and his great grandmother Harriet Ducolon Landon bottom right.