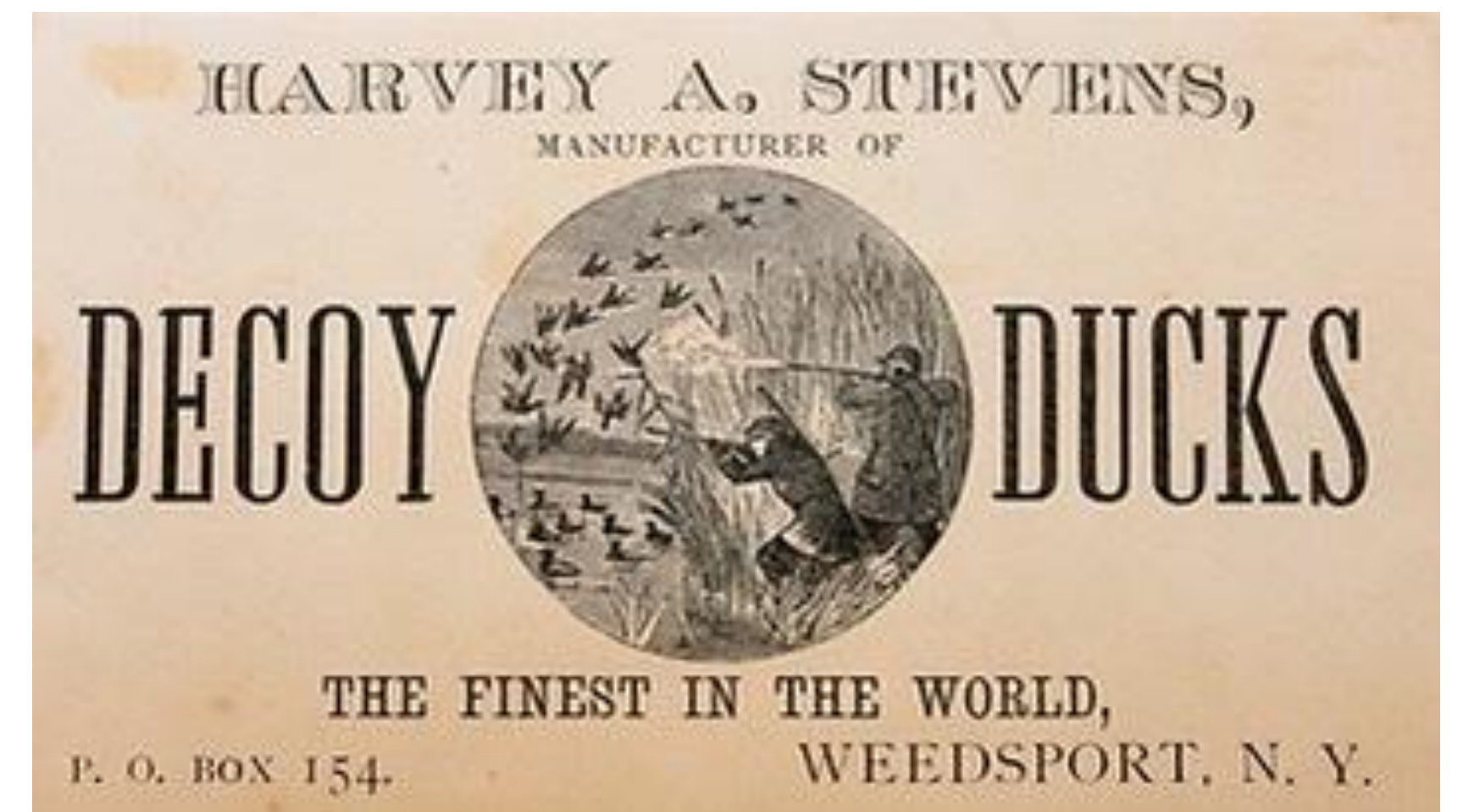
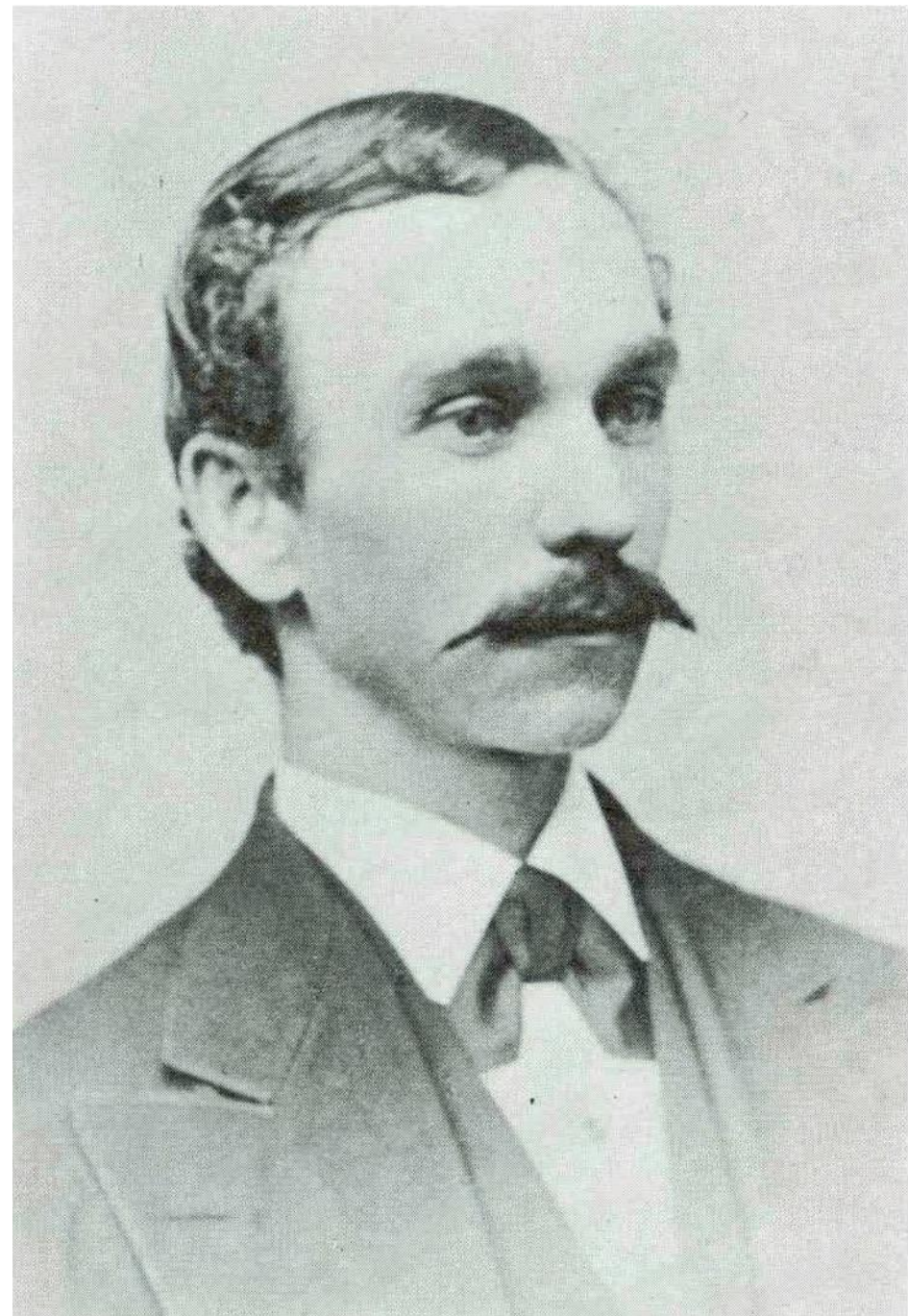


# Stevens Decoys of Weedspport New York

## The Harvey and George Stevens Story



Presented by Mark Malys

# Early Beginnings

- **Captain William Stevens, Harvey and George's Great-Grand Father fought in the Revolutionary War**
- **Participated in the Boston Tea Party**
- **Was awarded and drew Lot Number 76, in the Town of Brutus**
- **Harvey and George's parents were farmers on a portion of the original military lot**
- **Farmed about 70-80 acres**



# Amos and Sarah Stevens

## Parents

- **Successful farming family in Weedsport, New York**
- **Raised and sold corn, wheat, oats, cabbage, and potatoes**
- **Also had horses, cows, chickens, and hogs**



# **Amos and Sarah Stevens**

## **Early Beginnings**

- **Had 5 sons**
  - **Harvey** The oldest, founder of **Stevens Decoys**
  - **Perry**
  - **Royal**
  - **George** Carved with Harvey and then independently
  - **Fred** Assisted with carving and painting to some degree

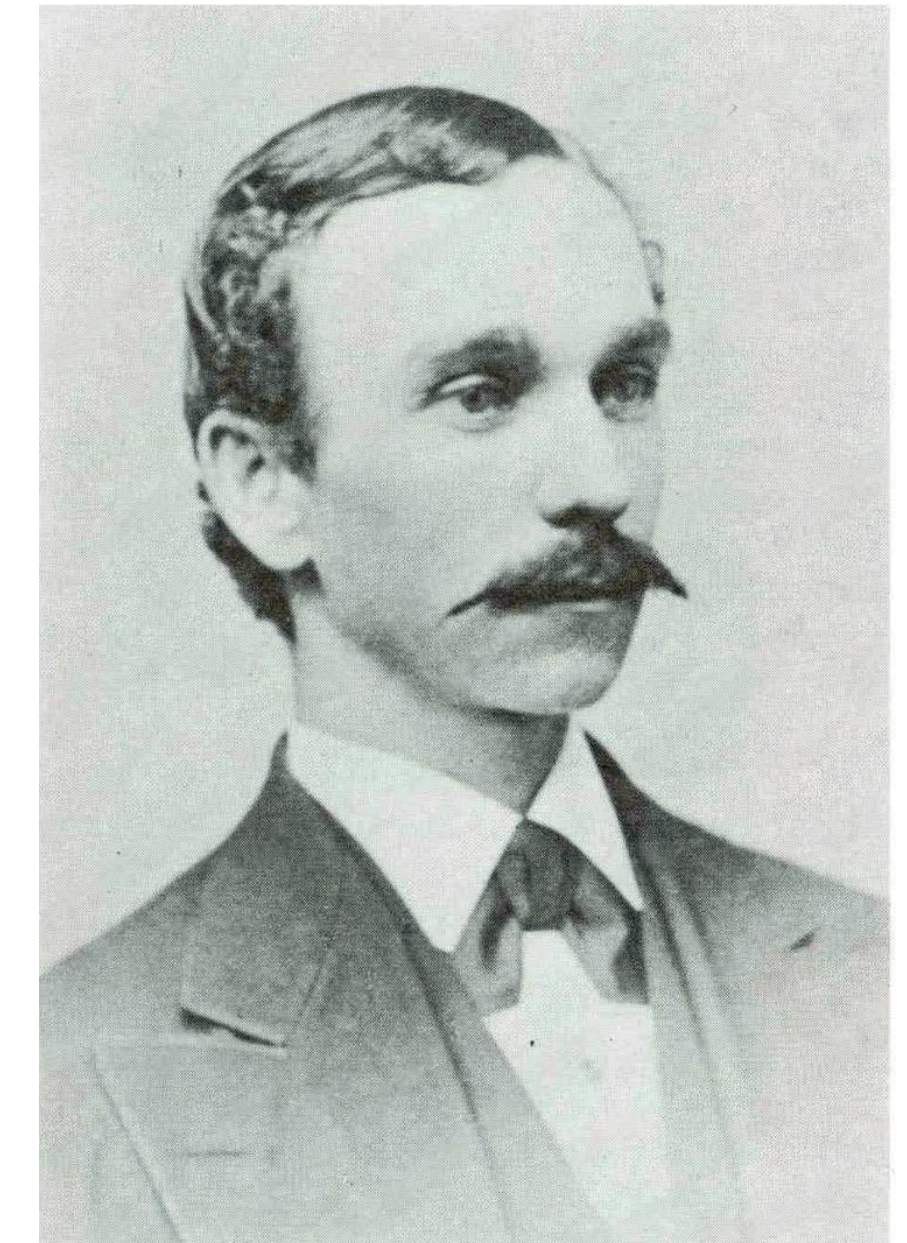
# Stevens Homestead Circa 1955



# Harvey A. Stevens

## Biography

- **Founder of Stevens Decoys**
- **Born October 1847**
- **Died August 28, 1894 of Tuberculosis and Influenza**
  - **46 years old**
- **Married twice**
  - **Fanny Peck Fuller, possibly dies during childbirth?**
  - **Daughter dies at birth or in infancy?**
  - **Marries Fanny Hall 5 years later, one step child**



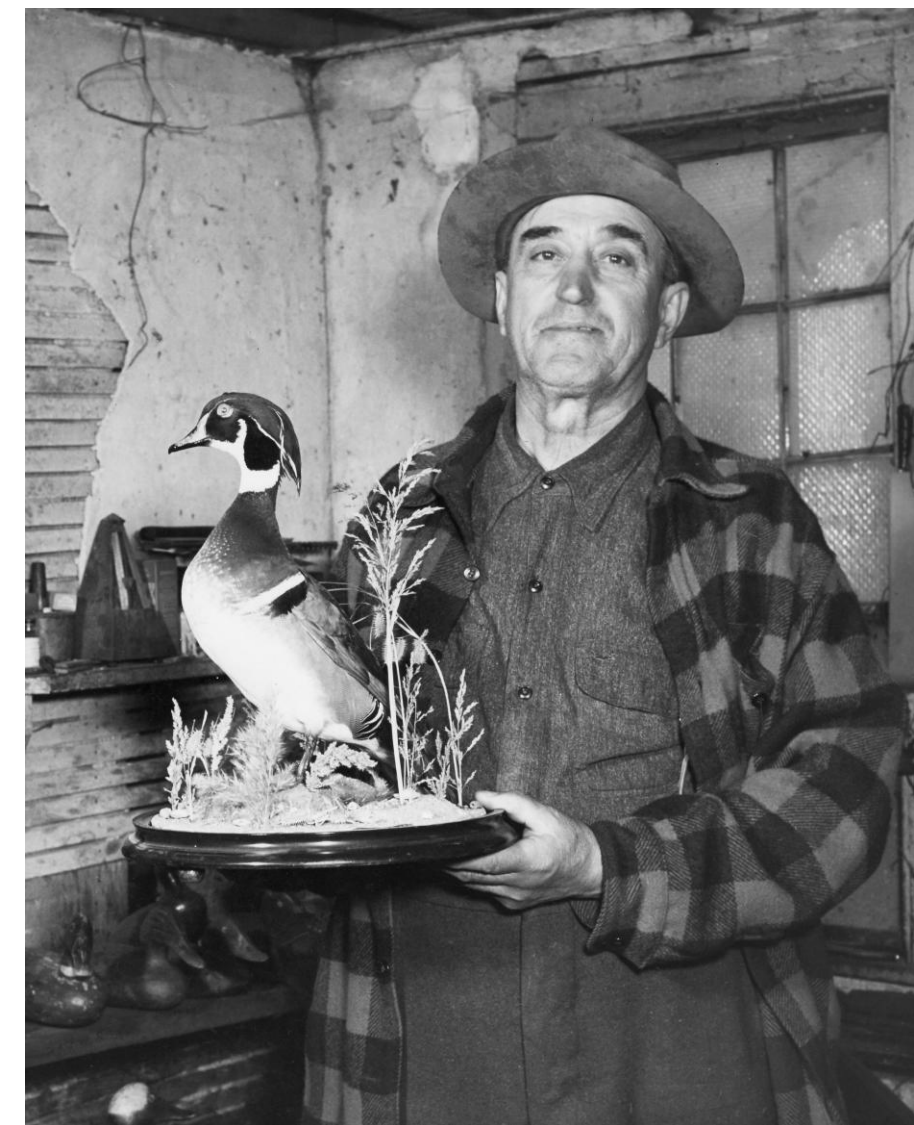
# **George W. Stevens**

## **Biography**

- **Born 1856**
  - **Was born a “cripple” with a “hunch back”. He wore an iron lift on one shoe. Probably had spinal scoliosis with a leg length discrepancy.**
- **Never married**
- **Died February 15, 1905**
  - **49 years old**
- **Died of Tuberculosis**
- **Also farmed and gardened as a source of income**
- **Began working with Harvey around 1876**
- **Started carving independently in 1891 and continued until his death in 1905**

# Harvey Stevens Early Beginnings

- **Was a skilled cabinet maker and taxidermist**
- **Hunted ducks around the Weedsport area in the Marshes of Montezuma**
  - **Part-time hunting guide and market hunter**
- **Founding member of the Weedsport Sportsman Club**
  - **Harvey was an avid trap shooter**
- **Started carving decoys in the early 1860's for his own use, "To bring the ducks to me"**



# Harvey Stevens Early Beginings

- **His decoys worked so well in attracting ducks, locals began requesting some decoys for their own use**
- **Encouraged by his local decoy sales, Harvey set his ambitions on selling his decoys nationwide**
- **His first national advertising ad appeared in 1874 in “Field and Stream” magazine**

# Field & Stream Magazine

April 4, 1874

and White and Liver and White, beautifully marked  
 ren weeks old. Dam, "Nellie," imported stock.  
 Frank," a No. 1 dog.

Price per Pup, \$10.

If dispose of "Nellie" for \$50. She is well broken,  
 s old. Address,

Box 113, Patoka, Ind.

## GILL NETS.

new Gill Nets, 80 feet long, 1 1/2 and 2 in. mesh; price,  
 Also, one 25 feet long, \$4.50; a bargain.

JNO. R. MAYBERRY.

ROCKFORD, ILL.

## A. M. DECKER,

Professor of

## Taxidermy and Embalming,

CHICAGO, - ILLINOIS.

Birds and Animals Prepared and Mounted by  
 the New Process—Embalmed with  
 Flesh all in,

(The only process known to man that Preserves Flesh Per-  
 fectly and Makes Perfect Specimens;) and also by the old  
 method of Skinning and Stuffing, as parties may desire.

Orders may be left at the Store of F. J. Abbey.

49 CLARK STREET

## DECOY DUCKS.

THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

Send for Price List.

H. A. STEVENS, - Weedsport, N. Y.

And the following sized

## BUCK SHOT AND BALLS:

Nos.	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Diameter	26	28	31	33	34	36	38	44
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

and the TRADE BALL, of 54-100ths diam., or 1/4 ounce weight.

The sizes of our BUCK SHOT and BALLS are tested by  
 STANDARD CALIBRE GAUGES, and are adapted to the  
 various sizes of Pistols, Rifles and Carabines in use.

Trade Mark printed on Drop Shot bags in Blue. Trade Mark printed on Buck Shot bags in Black.



Our aim is to manufacture an article of Shot that is unsur-  
 passed in

Roundness, Solidity, Perfection of Polish,  
 Uniformity of Size, and Accuracy of  
 Weight in Each Bag.

All orders by mail, from the trade, will receive  
 prompt attention, and are solicited

the peculiar kinds of game and fish which they afford.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL HISTORY, under  
 the charge of a gentleman distinguished in this branch of  
 science, will be of especial interest and value—an intimate  
 acquaintance with the various characteristics of the game  
 pursued being one of the essentials in a thorough Sports-  
 man. Carefully written papers upon the nature and  
 habits of Beasts and Birds will regularly appear.

Under the head of IN-DOOR AMUSEMENTS will be  
 presented a carefully revised report of Dramatic, Billiard-  
 istic and Chess Items—at home and abroad—each of these  
 Departments being under the supervision of gentlemen  
 familiar with the duties assigned to them.

Articles on the CARE AND TRAINING OF DOGS, to-  
 gether with valuable RECIPES for the cure of the disea-  
 ses to which he is subject, will be found in our columns.

Gentlemen interested in TRAP-SHOOTING will find our  
 reports of this branch of amusement full and accurate.

To the lower order of sports no attention whatever will  
 be devoted. Under no circumstances will our columns be  
 opened to the admission of anything tending in anywise to  
 demoralize or degrade public sentiment.

In short, we intend that FIELD AND STREAM shall fill  
 the vacancy long existing in Western Sporting Circles,  
 where the need of a LIVE paper, devoted to gentlemanly  
 sports, has long been felt and deplored. No pains or ex-  
 pense will be spared to make it the MODEL JOURNAL  
 OF ITS CLASS. The editors are assisted by competent  
 gentlemen in charge of the several Departments, all expe-  
 rienced—not only in the duties of their positions—but in  
 Journalism as well.

# Harvey Stevens Early Beginings

- Harvey was advertising Stevens Decoys as “The Best Decoy Ducks in the World” and “The Finest in the World”
- Harvey Stevens was the
  - “First” decoy maker to advertise to a National Market
  - “First” to make decoy carving a full-time occupation



**THE KENNEL.**  
**VETERINARY,**  
**TRAINING AND BOARDING KENNELS,**  
 Duvall's Bluff, Ark.  
 ADDRESS—  
**T. M. HORSFALL,**  
 Kennel Editor THE FIELD, Chicago,  
 Duvall's Bluff, Ark.

**DOGS LOST!**  
**A. WHITE SETTER DOG,**  
 Tall and rather light built, dark eyes; nearly pure white except a few small red spots on one ear; age about 7 years; answered to the name of "York." Also,  
**DARK BROWN SETTER DOG,**  
 no white, except small white specks on breast, large head, dark eyes, square muzzle, about 5 years old; answered to the name of "Jicks."  
 Both the above dogs were probably taken from the city, and may have been sold or offered for sale in the country, or in other towns. Any information concerning either of them, will be appropriately acknowledged at the office of "The Field," Chicago.

**RIVERVIEW SETTERS.**  
**EDWARD W. HOPE,**  
 (Riverview Place.) LA GRANGE, MO.  
 References—W. B. BULL, Banker, Quincy, Ill.  
 The Editor of "THE FIELD."

**A Black Setter Dog,**  
 Four years old; bred from imported stock; and perfectly broken. Retrieves thoroughly on land or water. Good nose, and a first-class dog in every respect. Price \$100.  
 Address, E. W. HOPE, LaGrange, Missouri.

**W. H. HOLABIRD'S**  
**Waterproof Shooting Coats,**  
 An Article Indispensable to the Sportsman.

Mr. Holabird, the inventor, is now manufacturing a shooting coat that for **QUALITY, COLOR and CONVENIENCE**, has not been equalled in any country. The material is of the best English Duck, is firm and lasting, and of a dead grass color. It contains pockets for shells, socks, wads, whistle, extractor, etc., so arranged as to balance well, and will carry easily seventy-five shells.  
 For special measurement, send chest measure, waist measure, length of sleeve with arm at right angles—from center of back to hand, and height.  
 I also make a Vest, with sleeves, which will also carry shells, etc., to be used with, or without, a sleeveless coat, thus giving the freest movement of the arms. The coat worn without the vest makes the coolest rig imaginable for grouse and quail shooting.

Prices—Coats With Sleeves, \$10.00.  
 Sleeveless Coat, with Vest, \$14.00.  
 Hats, \$ 2.50.  
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Goods sent C. O. D. to any part of the U. S., or Canada.  
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**THE BEST IN THE WORLD,**  
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**WEATHER VANES,**  
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**Emblematic Signs,**  
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**CRESTINGS, FINIALS,**  
 and building ornaments of all kinds.  
**Druggists' Mortar Signs,**  
**Jewelers' Watch Signs, etc.**  
**MANUFACTORY AND OFFICE**  
**253 LAKE ST., CHICAGO.**




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**CHICAGO.**  
 This well-known Hotel, rebuilt upon the old site, has all the modern conveniences—Passenger Elevator, Bath Rooms, Hot and Cold Water in each Room, Elegantly Furnished, and located in the business centre of the city.  
**TERMS: \$5.00 Per Day.**  
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 Orders for the Table filled only during Spring and Summer;  
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APPROVED by the *Academie de Medicine* of France, and its sale in France authorized by special order of the French Government.  
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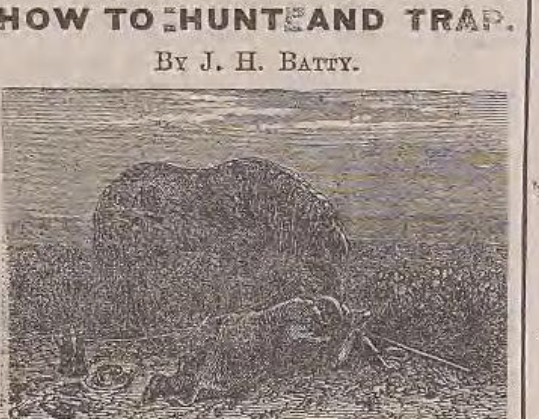
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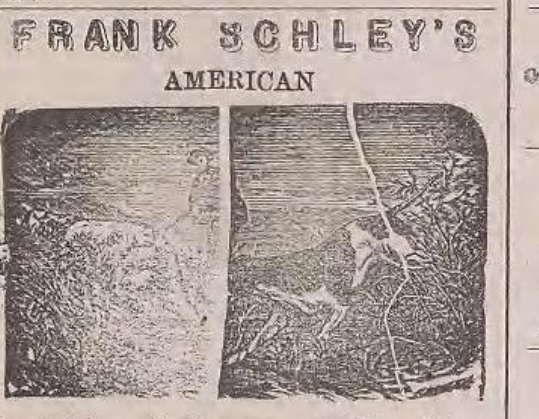
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 SEND FOR NEW PRICE LIST OF THE BEST DECOY DUCKS IN THE WORLD.  
**H. A. STEVENS, Manufacturer.**  
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**The Ludlow Trout Club**  
 Will this year furnish a million brook trout eggs (ready for shipment from Nov. 10 to Dec 20) at lowest prices. Send for price list. Address  
**B. FREEBURG, SUPERINTENDENT,**  
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MANUFACTURER OF

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DUCKS

THE FINEST IN THE WORLD,

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WEEDSPORT, N. Y.

Return if not called for in 10 days, to

HARVEY A. STEVENS,  
Manufacturer of



DECOY DUCKS,  
Woodsport, N. Y.



Mr C. W. Bowen

Providence

R. I.

~~care~~ Otis Clapp & Son  
307 Westminster, St.

# Harvey Stevens Early Beginnings

- **Started carving in a converted wood shed**
- **Began carving by himself**
- **George joined Harvey in 1876**
- **Moved to a larger shop on the outskirts of Weedsport in the 1880's**
- **Employed up to 8 people at times, to assist in decoy production**
- **Fred Stevens a painter by trade, assisted to some degree, blending paints and rough shaping the decoys**

# Stevens Decoy Helpers

- **Fred Stevens**
- **Adelbert McWethy**
- **Oscar McWethy**
- **Allen Stickle**
- **Others?**



BOB BIRCHLER  
CHAIRMAN  
N. SYRACUSE, N.Y.

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WM. MACKAY  
CONTEST JUDGE  
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CONTEST JUDGE  
WATERTOWN, N.Y.

ROBT. STANIFORD  
CONTEST JUDGE  
WESTHAMPTON  
BEACH, N.Y.

## 1963 National Decoy Contest Syracuse, NY

# Harvey's First Workshop



# Harvey's First Workshop



# Harvey's First Workshop



# Harvey's First Workshop



# **The Stevens Decoy “Factory”**

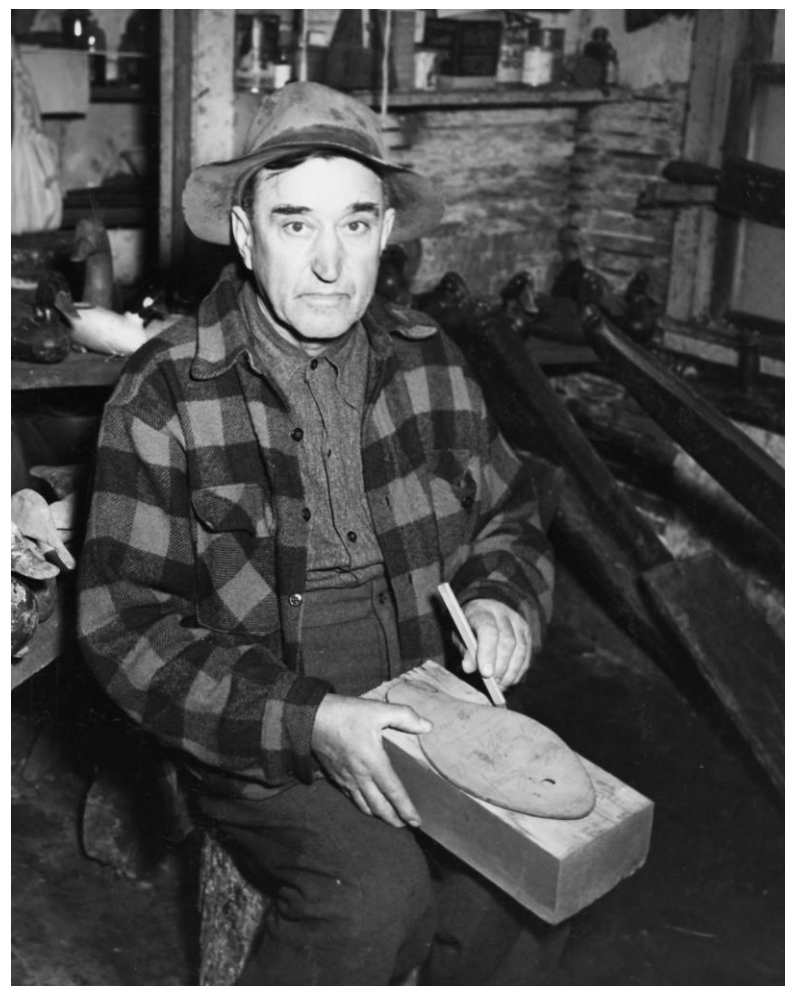
## **A Misnomer**

- **Classified as a “Factory” by Joel Barber and William Mackey, because they were nationally advertised and provided full-time employment**
- **Harvey also promoted himself as a “Manufacturer of Duck Decoys” which helped fuel the “Factory Label”**
- **But no machines or lathes were used in their production, and each decoy was individually and completely hand carved**

# The Stevens Decoy “Factory”

## A Misnomer

- **Harvey adopted the use of templates or patterns. The decoys were roughed out by hatchet, and finished by a draw shave, rasp, and chisel. The decoys bodies were held in a horse vise.**
- **Hundreds of decoys were carved as compared to the thousands manufactured by true factories.**

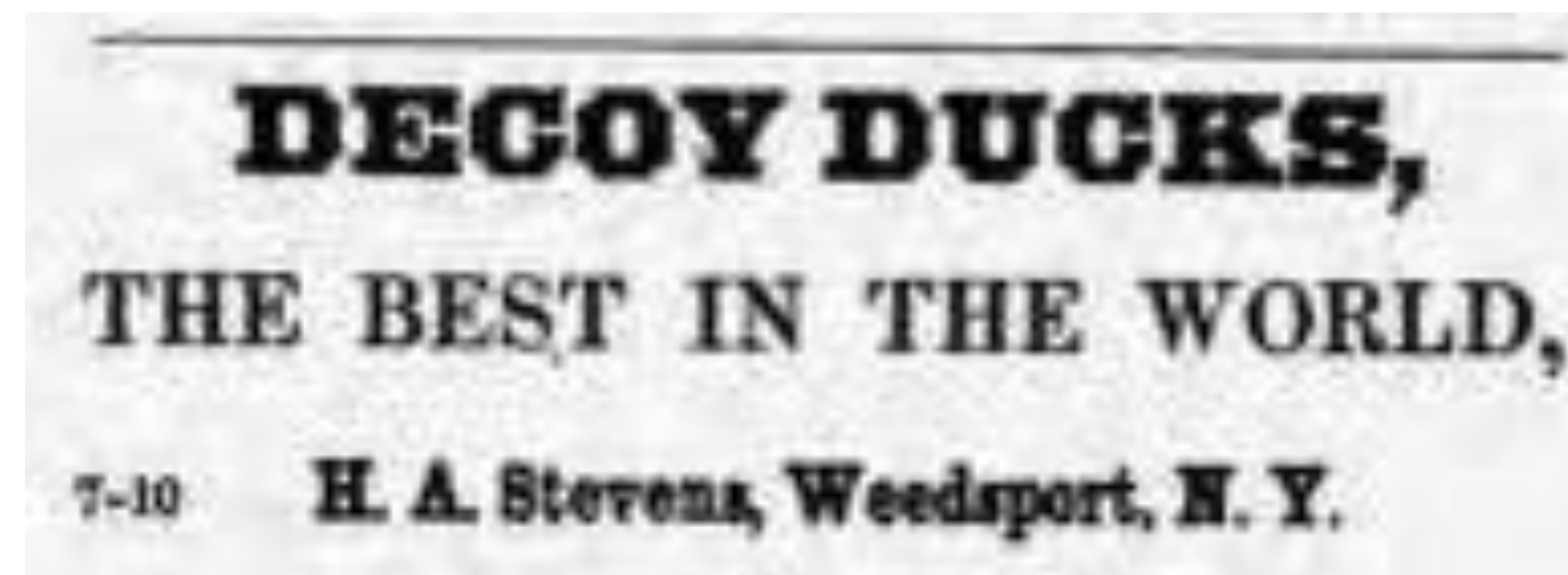


# Stevens Decoys

- **Stevens used the best available white and yellow cedar because of its lightness and durability**
- **Knot holes and checks were filled with white putty prior to painting**
- **Stevens mixed their own paints**
  - **Only the best paints were used**
- **Many birds were painted without priming of the decoy**
- **A Testament to the quality of the paint, as to it's excellent adherence after over 160 years!**
- **Harvey was a True Perfectionist!**

# Harvey's Marketing Strategy

- **Advertised his Decoy Ducks as “The Best in the World”**
- **“You should have good Decoys, they are invaluable and require no more room than poor ones” Harvey Stevens**



# Harvey's Marketing Strategy

- **Marketed his decoys to wealthy sportsmen, to complement their fancy clothing and expensive guns**
- **Sold his decoys to high end Sporting Goods Stores in major cities:**
  - **Schoverling, Daly, and Gates in NYC**
  - **Henry C. Squires and Sons in NYC**
  - **Von Lengerbe and Antoine (VL&A) in Chicago**

# Harvey's Marketing Strategy

- **Each decoy was shipped in a cloth canvas bag with a draw string to prevent marring during shipping. Instead of using newspaper like commercial makers shipped their decoys at the time.**
- **Also offered anchors, decoy cords (lines) and duck calls for sale**
- **Sold his decoys for \$10 per dozen, in 1891**
  - **83 cents/decoy**
- **At one time offered a free duck call with each dozen purchased**

# Original Stevens Cloth Decoy Shipping Bag



# PRICE LIST OF IMPROVED DECOY DUCKS

FOR 1891

Which are Boxed and Shipped to any part of the United States and Canada. The following prices include boxing and delivering at the freight office in Weedsport, N. Y.:

Canvass Backs,

Mallard,

Black Ducks.

Red Head,

Scaup Duck, (better known as Blue Bill,)

Golden Eye, (better known as Whistler,)

Buffle Head, (commonly called Butter Ball,)

Teal—Blue Wing,

Widgeon, (or Bald-pate,)


Price per dozen, . . . . .	\$10 00
Anchors and Colored Cord for one doz. Decoys, . . . . .	1.00
Duck Call, (sent by mail on receipt of price,) . . . . .	.75

My Decoys are good size and are weighted. The weight and staple to fasten cord and anchor to are set in the bottom, so that they are all smooth and not nailed on as other Decoys are, and they have natural glass eyes. When sitting on the water they are as natural as life.

Every Decoy bears the name H. A. Stevens, on the bottom; none others are genuine.

## TERMS.

Goods sent *C. O. D.* by Express upon receipt of 25 per cent. of order; collect balance on delivery. When sent by railroad as freight, cash down. ALL GOODS WARRANTED.

 Orders by mail promptly attended to.

# Stevens Decoys Timeline

- **1860's** Harvey begins carving decoys for his own use
- **1865** Harvey begins carving decoys for commercial sale
- **1874** Harvey's first national advertisement in Field & Stream
- **1876** George begins working with Harvey
- **1891** George begins carving independently, as a separate entity
- **1894** Harvey dies
- **1905** George dies

# Carving Periods and Styles

- **1865-1870 Early Tackeye Period Harvey**
- **1870-1884 Tackeye Period Harvey**
  - **George begins helping in 1876**
- **1885-1890 Glasseye Period Harvey and George**
- **1891-1894 Glasseye Period Harvey**
- **1891-1905 Glasseye Period George**

# Carving Period 1865-1870

## Harvey “Early” Tackeyes

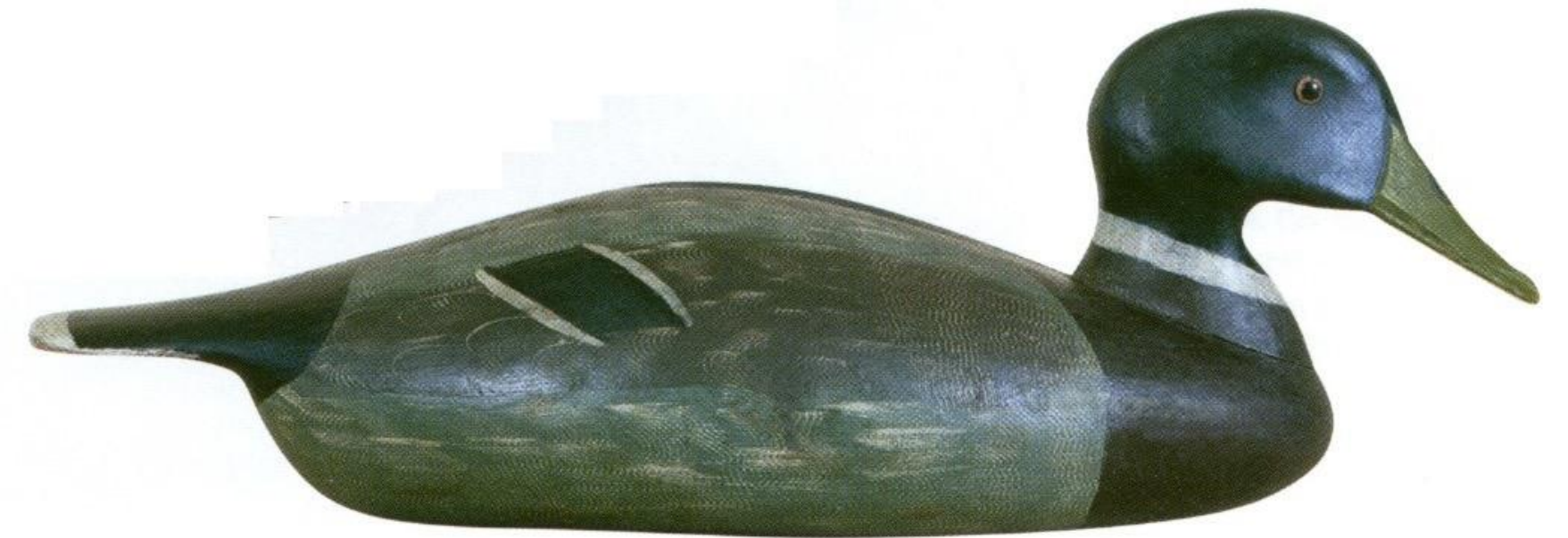
- **Tackeyes**
- **Concave head/face area**
- **Flat bottom bills**
- **Thick neck forward on the body**
- **Pronounced mid back hump**
- **Some with concave longitudinal depression on back**



# Carving Period 1865-1870

## Harvey "Early" Tackeyes

- **Tails extends high off the back**
- **Flat bottoms**
- **Detailed paint patterns**
- **Many decoys with an oval painted area on the bottom**



# **Carving Period 1865-1870**

## **Harvey “Early” Tackeyes**

- **No stencils or brands**
- **One example of a paper label on bottom**
- **Harvey’s handwriting in graphite pencil on some**
- **Only Drakes**
- **Very few examples known**













# **Carving Period 1870-1884**

**Harvey “Tackeyes” with George helping**

- **Tackeyes**
- **Rounded bill edges and rounded bill tips**
- **Slightly concave head/face carving, with dime sized flat area around the tackeye**
- **Thick neck forward on the body, with pronounced goiter necks on some decoys**
- **Head moved slightly back on body**
- **Larger bodies**
- **Less pronounced mid-body back hump**

# **Carving Period 1870-1884**

**Harvey “Tackeyes” with George helping**

- **Tail extends off the top of body**
- **Detailed paint patterns**
- **Only drakes**
  
- **Also a few Tackeye sleepers or humpbacks are known to exist**
  - **Flat bottom decoys with low heads**

# **Carving Period 1870-1884**

**Harvey “Tackeyes” with George helping**

- **Most decoys are unmarked**
- **Handwriting in graphite pencil on some examples**
- **Paper label “H. A. Stevens” under bill or on the bottom, very rarely found**

















# **Carving Period 1885-1890**

**Harvey and George “Glasseyes”**

- **Glasseye Decoys**
- **Slightly bell shaped bills with flat bottoms**
- **Fuller, rounded head**
- **Thinner neck**
- **Head moved further back on body**
- **More rounded body, Centrally balanced mid-point**

# **Carving Period 1885-1890**

**Harvey and George “Glasseyes”**

- **Introduction of the Paddle Tail**
- **Paddle Tail**
  - **Longer and wider tail**
  - **More rounded and thicker at the tip**
  - **Pumpkin Seed shaped**
    - **Thicker down the center and thinner at the sides**

# Paddle Tail



# **Carving Period 1885-1890**

## **Harvey and George “Glasseyes”**

- **Paddle Tail, extends lower off the body**
  - **George’s more mid point**
  - **Harvey’s slightly higher**

**George Bluebill**



**Harvey Bluebill**



# **Carving Period 1885-1890**

**Harvey and George “Glasseyes”**

- **Most decoys unmarked**
- **Glasseye Sleeper model was introduced**

# **Carving Period 1885-1894**

## **Glasseye Sleeper Decoys**

- **Sleeper Model**
- **Often referred to as “Humpbacks” by collectors**
- **Initially collectors thought these were earlier models**
- **Vast majority of Sleeper decoys have glass eyes**
- **Paint patterns and brush strokes match the glasseye paddle tail style period decoys**
- **Flat bottom decoys with low heads**

# **Carving Period 1885-1894**

## **Glasseye Sleeper Decoys**

- **Most were carved by Harvey, and very few carved by George**
- **Only Bluebills, Redheads, and Goldeneyes. Mostly drakes, with some hen Bluebills.**
- **Not as popular with collectors**

# Stevens Bluebill Sleeper



# Stevens Redhead Sleeper



# **Carving Period 1891-1894**

## **Harvey**

- **In 1891 Harvey and George stop working together, George begins carving independently**
- **Harvey starts adding a stencil to his decoys**
- **Harvey continues improving his carving and painting skills**
- **Some of his best decoys are produced**









# Carving Period 1891-1905

## George

- **George working independently**
- **Begins advertising G.W. Stevens Decoys**
- **No longer under the direct supervision and control of Harvey**
- **Fred assisting to some degree?**
- **Glasseye Paddle Tail Decoys**



# **Carving Period 1891-1905**

## **George**

- **George refines and hones his carving and painting skills, and becomes as accomplished as Harvey**
- **Begins to experiment with various carving and painting styles**
- **Introduces the “Nautical” Style decoy**
  - **On some Canvasbacks and Widgeon**
- **Introduces Arrowhead or Flange style Tail**
  - **On some Widgeon**

# George Nautical Style Canvasback



# George Widgeon with Arrowhead Tail



# George Bluebill Pair



Routes for Sportsmen.



When planning your annual tour remember that this company controls over 4,100 miles of railway equipped in the most approved modern style, passing through a magnificent country, noted for its unsurpassed facilities for sport.

A FEW OF THE PRINCIPAL RESORTS.

ANDRONCOGIN LAKES (via Bryant's Pond or Bethel).—Excellent trout fishing and game, large and small, of every description.
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS (via Gorham, N. H.)—For trout and varieties of game.
THE SALMON RESORTS of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (reached via Quebec).

Property For Sale.

FOR SALE. Camp Ground, SARANAC LAKE, Adirondack Mountains. Point of land just north of Sweeney Carry and Hotel Wawbeek, well wooded, high elevation, large water front, with a superb view of the country to the north, east and south, easy of access, and one of the finest camping spots in this whole country, containing about 45 acres. Address P. O. Box 1,980, Boston, Mass., for further particulars.

TROUT LAKES FOR SALE.

I offer for sale a portion of my Adirondack preserve, from 1,000 to 2,000 acres of land, with four lakes. Three log cabins on the property, good road to two of the lakes, easy trail to the other two. This property is suitable for a club or for private resorts. One lake is stocked with salmon trout, the others with speckled trout, 20,000 planted last May and shall plant as many more this year. Will sell any one lake with a portion of the land. Address DR. J. DE V. MOORE, 157 Park avenue, Utica, N. Y.

WANTS AND EXCHANGES.

Advertisements under this head, strictly limited to Wants and Exchanges, will be inserted at the special rate of three cents a word each insertion. The money must accompany the order.

FOR SALE.

1 Greener hammer gun with two sets of barrels 28 and 30m. long. Stock, 14 1/2; drop, 2m. 1/2; weight, 7 3/4 pounds. With short barrels a splendid field gun, with long barrels one of the best and hardest shooting guns made. Cost to order \$400. Price \$200.
1 Greener 12ga. hammerless gun, 7 1/2 pounds; 14 1/2; 2x13 1/2. Cost \$200. With this gun I broke the world's record, beating Capt. Brewer in series of matches at Marlton, N. J., November 12 and 13, 1891, making a run of 104 officially straight, making a record total of 421 without a skip, officially and in prize. Price \$150.
1 Greener, with two sets of barrels, 28 and 32, with short barrels; no better field gun made; with long barrels a splendid trap gun. Length stock, 14 1/2; drop, 2 1/2. Cost to order \$185; price \$150.
All the above guns are in good condition and will sell them every way. Will sell for cash only. Address E. D. FULFORD, 59 Steuben st., Utica, N. Y.

For Sale.

TROUT FOR SALE. YEARLINGS of the Brook Trout, Lake Trout, Brown Trout, California Trout & Landlocked Salmon. EGGS AND FRY of the same in season. For information inquire of P. ANNIN, JR., Caledonia, Livingston Co., N. Y.

Berkshire Trout Hatchery

have for sale healthy BROOK TROUT ranging in size from young fry to four pounds weight, suitable for stocking public and private waters. For information and price address C. H. SAGE, Sec'y, Great Barrington, Mass.



WANTED ALIVE. All kinds of American Animals, Birds & REPTILES. For Sale—All kinds of Foreign Animals, Birds and Reptiles. DONALD BURNS, 115 Roosevelt st., N. Y. City.

WILD RICE SEED FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—FRESH RICE SEED. CHAS. GILCHRIST, Port Hope, Ont., Canada.

FOR SALE—TWO SEVEN MONTHS OLD BUCK MOOSE.

Just ready to train to harness. Price for the pair, \$500. Thos. Johnson, Wimpole, Man. 9

TRAINED FERRETS CHEAP.

FERRET BOOK, ten cents; ferret muzzles, 25c.; catalogue free. WALLACE & SON, Lucas, Ohio.

LIVE WHITE HARES.

Lepus americanus captured and properly boxed and delivered to express in Bethel, Me., in good condition on receipt of orders and remittances at \$2 per pair. Refer to Hon. H. O. Stanley, Dixfield, Me., Fish and Game Commissioner, I. G. RICH, Bethel, Me.

LIVE QUAIL FOR SALE—W. VA. BIRDS—GAME.

A specialty. E. B. WOODWARD, Commission Merchant, 174 Chambers st., New York.

Sportsmen's Goods.

CAMMEYER

Stamped on a Shoe Means Standard of Merit. EQUESTRIAN FOOTWEAR.



AGENTS FOR POSTS Waterproof Oil and Leather Preservative. MEN'S GRAIN LEATHER NAPOLEON RIDING BOOTS 7.00
MEN'S GRAIN LEG CALF FOX NAPOLEON RIDING BOOTS 7.00
MEN'S CALF STIFF LEG RIDING BOOTS 9.00
MEN'S BRAMEL LEATHER STIFF LEG RIDING BOOTS 10.00
MEN'S RUSSIA CALF STIFF LEG RIDING BOOTS 10.00
MEN'S CANVAS RIDING LEGGINGS 1.50
MEN'S GRAIN WELLINGTON RIDING LEGGINGS 3.50
MEN'S GRAIN WINDSOR RIDING LEGGINGS 4.00
MEN'S KISSET CALF WELLINGTON RIDING LEGGINGS 5.00
ATHLETIC FOOTWEAR OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

Send for Catalogue, Mailed Free. A. J. CAMMEYER, Sixth Ave., cor. 12th St., N. Y.

BICYCLE GOODS AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.

Bicycle Suits.

Stylish, well made, well fitting, handsomely trimmed with braid, in all colors. Jersey and chevrot from \$8.50 to \$14.00 per suit.

Men's Sweaters.

In all colors at \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.50.

Boys' Sweaters.

At \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00.

E. OCUMPAUGH & SONS.

85 & 87 Main St., Rochester, N. Y.

DUCK CALLS.

Grubb's Improved Illinois River Duck Call. The most natural-toned call made; easy to blow; not easy to get out of repair, having a fine tempered reed; makes it so you can call teal, woodcock and bluebill, as well as mallard. This is the only call you can do this with. Price 55 cents. Same as above, made of red cedar, silver mounted, with silver reed which gives it perfect tone, \$1.00. Every one warranted. Address: CHAS. W. GRUBBS, 1537 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill.

CORK WADS.

Reduced Price List.

12, 16 and 20 gauges, \$2.00 per 1000
10 gauges, 2.40 per 1000
DISCOUNTS TO DEALERS AND CLUBS.

If your dealer does not keep these wads, remit us \$2.25 and we will send you 1,000 wads, in boxes, by mail, postpaid. Full box of 125 wads by mail, postpaid, for 30 cents.

LANCASTER CORK GUN WAD CO., Lancaster, Pa.

With Fly-Rod and Camera. \$5.00.

Harvey and George running Competing Ads in Forest and Stream September 2, 1893

Adirondack Mountains, Lakes George & Champlain, Saratoga, Etc.

Illustrated guide to the Northern resorts and by the Delaware and Hudson Railroad will be sent on receipt of 5 cents postage. Address

J. W. BURDICK, General Passenger Agent, ALBANY, N. Y.

Sportsmen's Goods.

FERGUSON'S PATENT REFLECTING LAMPS.

THOMAS J. CONROY, Sole Agent, 310 Broadway, New York. With Silver Plated Locomotive Reflectors and Adjustable Attachments.



UNIVERSAL LAMP.

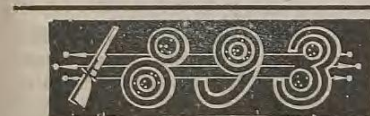
For Sportsmen's use. Combines Head Jack (Front and Top), Boat Jack, Fishing, Camp, Bell and Dash Lamp, Hand Lantern, etc.

EXCELSIOR LAMP.

For Night Driving, Hunting, Fishing, etc. It is adjustable to any tilt of lamp or vehicle. Catalogue and address all orders Lamo West

J. P. DANNEFELSER, PRACTICAL GUNSMITH.

No. 9 Chambers St., New York. Guns, Rifles, etc., at lowest prices. Second-hand guns bought, sold and exchanged. With my new adjustable TRIGGER I can take your coat fit for either new stock or altering old stock to desired drop, cast-off or length. Barrels bored to shoot close and hard, and all other kinds of repairing executed with dispatch and warranted. Send 25 cents for bottle of best barrel browning in America with directions.



LYMAN'S RIFLE SIGHTS.

Send for 96 page Catalogue of Sights and Rifles. Address, W. M. LYMAN, MIDDLEFIELD, CONN.



I KEEP COOL inside, outside, and all the way through, by drinking HIRE'S Root Beer. This great Temperance drink is as healthful as it is pleasant. Try it!

DECOY DUCKS.

Send stamp for price list of the best and latest improved decoys made in the world. Address GEO. W. STEVENS, Woodport, N. Y. P. O. Box 114.

THE PREMIER CAMERA IS THE PREMIER CAMERA FOR THE SPORTSMAN.

NEW STYLES NOW READY.

PREMIER CAMERAS for 1893 possess many important improvements, including SWING-BACK AND ADJUSTABLE FRONT, and will be found especially adapted for all devotees of the FOREST AND STREAM.

See our new Catalogue for particulars, mailed free.

ROCHESTER OPTICAL CO., 22 S. Water St., Rochester, N. Y.

inserted at the special rate of three cents a word each insertion. The money must accompany the order.

**SALE OR EXCHANGE. — TWO HANDSOME pointer pups.** D. W. COOK, Fulton, Mich. 9

**WANTED — SITUATION BY FIRST-CLASS launch and boat builder, oar and scull maker.** Can design and build to lines. Address CLINCHER, care of FOREST AND STREAM Office. 9

**WANTED. — BULLARD REPEATING RIFE, 50-115 Express.** Address J. R. DEANE, care No. 27 Calhoun street, Fort Wayne, Ind. 9

**DECOYS. — SEND FOR PRICE LIST OF THE Standard Decoy Ducks, the finest in the world.** H. A. STEVENS, Manufacturer, Box 154, Weedsport, N. Y. 9

**WANTED. — COPIES OF FOREST AND STREAM** of May 6, Sept. 23, 1886, and Sept. 25, 1887. Address FOREST AND STREAM Office.



**I KEEP COOL**  
inside, outside, and all the way through,  
by drinking  
**HIRES' Root Beer**  
This great Temperance drink;  
is as healthful, as it is pleasant. Try it.

Specialty. E. B. WOODWARD, Commission Merchant, 174 Chambers st., New York.

**FOR SALE.**

1 Greener hammer gun with two sets of barrels 28 and 30in. long, 12ga.; stock, 14¼; drop, 2in. x 1½; weight, 7¾ pounds. With short barrels a splendid field gun; with long barrels one of the best and hardest shooting guns made. Cost to order \$400. Price \$200.

1 Greener 12ga. hammerless gun, 7½ pounds; 14¼, 2x1½. Cost \$250. With this gun I broke the world's record, beating Capt. Brewer in series of matches at Marion, N. J., November 12 and 13, 1891, making a run of 194 officially straight, making a grand total of 421 without a skip, officially and in practice. Price \$150.

1 Parker, with two sets of barrels, 28 and 32, with short barrels; no better field gun made; with long barrels a splendid trap gun. Length stock, 14¼; drop 2x1½. Cost to order \$185; price \$50.

All of the above guns are in good condition and will warrant them every way. Will sell for cash only. E. D. FULFORD, 59 Steuben st., Utica, N. Y. 11

**FOR SALE. — RAGGED ISLAND GUNNING AS-** sociation—one share. Situated on Back Bay, Princess Anne county, Virginia. About fifteen miles south of Virginia Beach. One of the best clubs on the Atlantic coast for canvasbacks, red-heads and other ducks; also swan and geese. Martin's Point Gun Club—One share. Situated on Currituck Sound, North Carolina, about twenty-five miles south of Virginia Beach. Very fine shooting at yellow legs, grass birds, plover, willet, curlew and English snipe; also ducks, swan and geese. JOHN S. LURMAN, Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland. 9

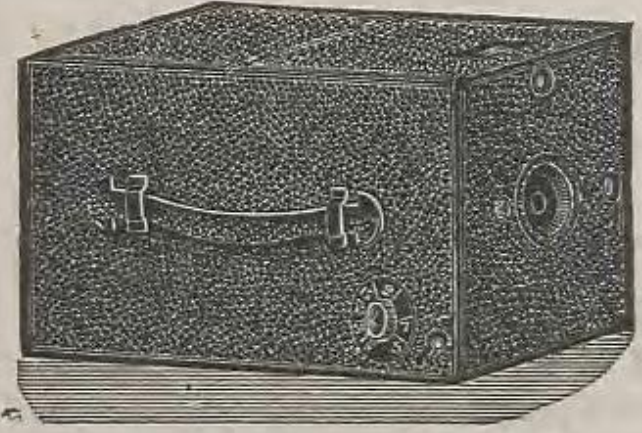
**WINCHESTER** repeating rifle, .45-60; first class condition. Address E. M. THOMAS, Catskill, N. Y. 9

**DECOY DUCKS.**

Send stamp for price list of the best and latest improved decoys made in the world. Address GEO. W. STEVENS, Weedsport, N. Y. P. O. Box 114 11



**\$25 to \$50** per week, to Agents, Ladies or Gentlemen, using or selling "Old Reliable Plater." Only practical way to replate rusty and worn knives, forks, spoons, etc.; quickly done by dipping in melted metal. No experience, polishing, or machinery. Thick plate at one operation; lasts 5 to 10 years; fine finish when taken from the plater. Every family has plating to do. Plater sells readily. Profits large. W. P. Harrison & Co, Columbus, O.



**THE PREMIER CAMERA**

FOR THE SPORTSMAN.

**NEW STYLES NOW READY.**

**PREMIER CAMERAS** for 1893 possess many important improvements, including SWING-BACK AND ADJUSTABLE FRONT, and will be found especially adapted for all devotees of the FOREST AND STREAM.

# Markings, Labels, and Brands

1865-1870 Early Tackeye Period Harvey

- No markings on vast majority of decoys
- Harvey's handwriting in graphite pencil on some decoys
- One known paper label under body "H. A. Stevens"





# **Markings, Labels, and Brands**

**1870-1884 Tackeye Period Harvey**

- **No markings on vast majority of decoys**
- **Harvey's handwriting in graphite pencil**
- **Paper labels under the bill or body "H. A. Stevens"**

# **Markings, Labels, and Brands**

**1885-1890 Glasseye Period Harvey and George**

- **No markings on vast majority of decoys**
- **Harvey's handwriting in graphite pencil**
- **Paper labels under the bill or body "H. A. Stevens"**
- **More handwriting on decoys by Harvey**

# **Markings, Labels, and Brands**

**1891-1894 Glasseye Period Harvey**

- **Stencil**
  - **Paddle Tails**
  - **Sleepers**
- **Handwriting in Graphite Pencil**
- **Stencil and handwriting indicating species**

# Stencil on Harvey's Paddle Tails



# Harvey's Signature in Graphite Pencil



# Stencil and Handwriting Indicating Species



# Stencil on Harvey's Sleepers



# **Markings, Labels, and Brands**

**1891-1905 Glasseye Period George**

- **Paper labels under bills or bottoms of decoys**
  - **“Geo W Stevens”**
- **1894 Shortly after Harvey’s death, George began using Harvey’s stencil with “H. A.” removed or blocked out 1894-1900**
- **Rubber stamp “G. W. Stevens”**
- **1900-1905 Hot iron branding “G. W. Stevens”**



GEO W STEVENS  
WEEDSPORT N Y  
Box 114



WATER  
M. J. HODGSON  
M. J. HODGSON

WATER  
M. J. HODGSON

788

S. W. STEVENS  
MANUFACTURER OF  
STANDARD DECOYS,  
WEEDSPORT, N. Y.





# Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys

- In Harvey's "Circular and Price List of 1891 Harvey states:
  - "Decoy Ducks...to be superior to anything now offered to American sportsmen...combining some valuable improvements not found in any other"

# Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys

## The Form

- **Classic Form**
- **From robust early Tackeyes to sleek Glasseye paddle tails**
- **Later decoys of Harvey's were very symmetrically balanced**
- **Their consistency is attributed to the use of Harvey's templates and his perfectionist philosophy**
- **Harvey's decoys from 1891-1894 were exactly balanced at midpoint in length and height**



# **Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys**

## **The Paint**

- **The majority of Stevens Decoys painted before 1891 were painted by Harvey**
- **Harvey Stevens Circular 1891 states “And in painting, nothing but the best paint is used, and for style and neatness they (the decoys) are unsurpassed”**
- **Paints were custom mixed and blended in their shop to achieve the appropriate color palette**
- **Harvey’s painting was more consistent than George’s**
- **George’s decoys have more variation in color**

# **Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys**

## **The Paint**

- **Both Harvey and George took great pride in their painting and the finished product**
- **George's decoys between 1895-1905 were exceptionally painted, and are equal in quality to Harvey's best work**
- **Fine combing, stippling, and paint bending**
- **Harvey's and George's Drake Mallards have 5 distinct types of paint combing!**

# Harvey Widgeon



# Harvey Widgeon



# Harvey Mallard



# George Eclipse Goldeneye



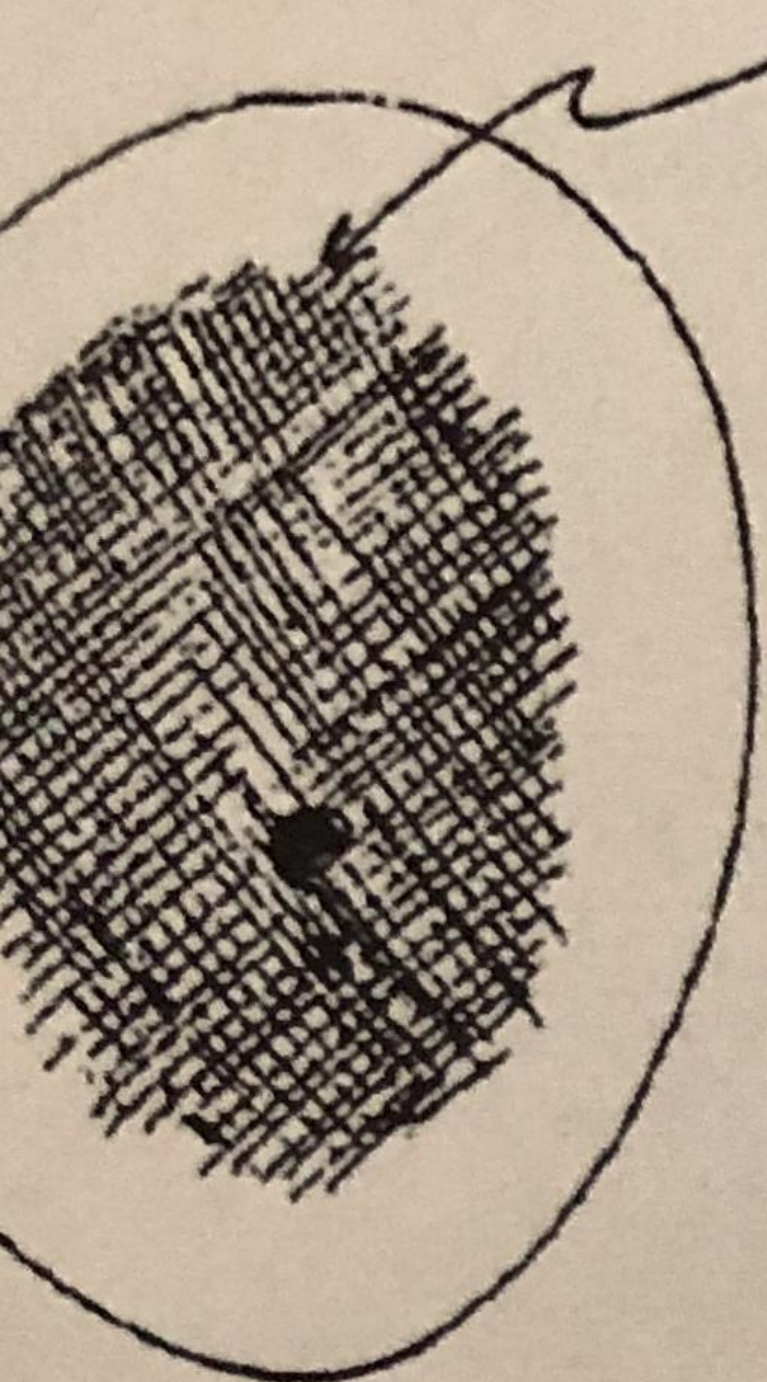
# George Bluebill Pair



# **Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys**

## **Heads**

- **On Paddle Tails**
  - **Heads are adjustable and removable**
  - **2 inch steel wood screw attached from the top**
  - **3/8 inch dowel plugging the hole**
  - **Use of 1 or 2 inch square-cut nails to strengthen the neck**



HOLLOWED OUT AREA. ALSO HOLLOWED OUT ON THE NECK JOINT OF THE HEAD.

HAND MADE 3/8" DOWEL

CUT ALONG HEAD LINE AFTER SEATING DOWEL

3/8" DOWEL HOLE

EYES PRESSED INTO PLACE AFTER FINAL PAINT APPLIED. HELD IN BY EYE HOLE SIDED AND EYE WIRES, NO PUTTY USED.

NOSTRIL MADE BY PRESSING SCREWDRIVER BLADE INTO THE WOOD

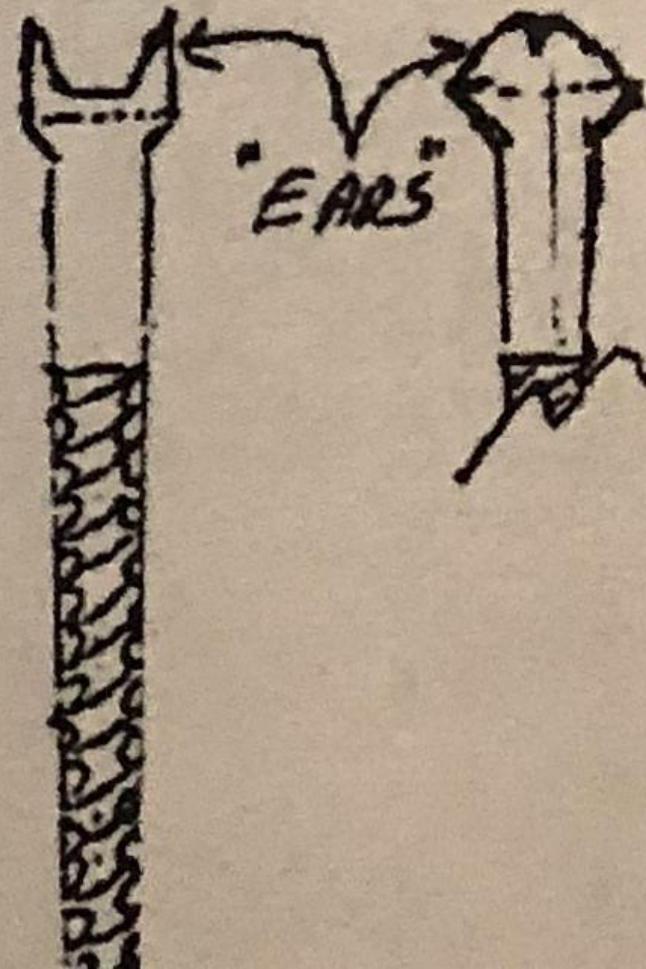
2" NAIL (SOMETIMES 2 WERE USED) TO STRENGTHEN NECK

WINDOW PUTTY OR POT GLUE  
SCREW HEAD FLATTENED TO FORM "EARS". INCREASED HOLDING

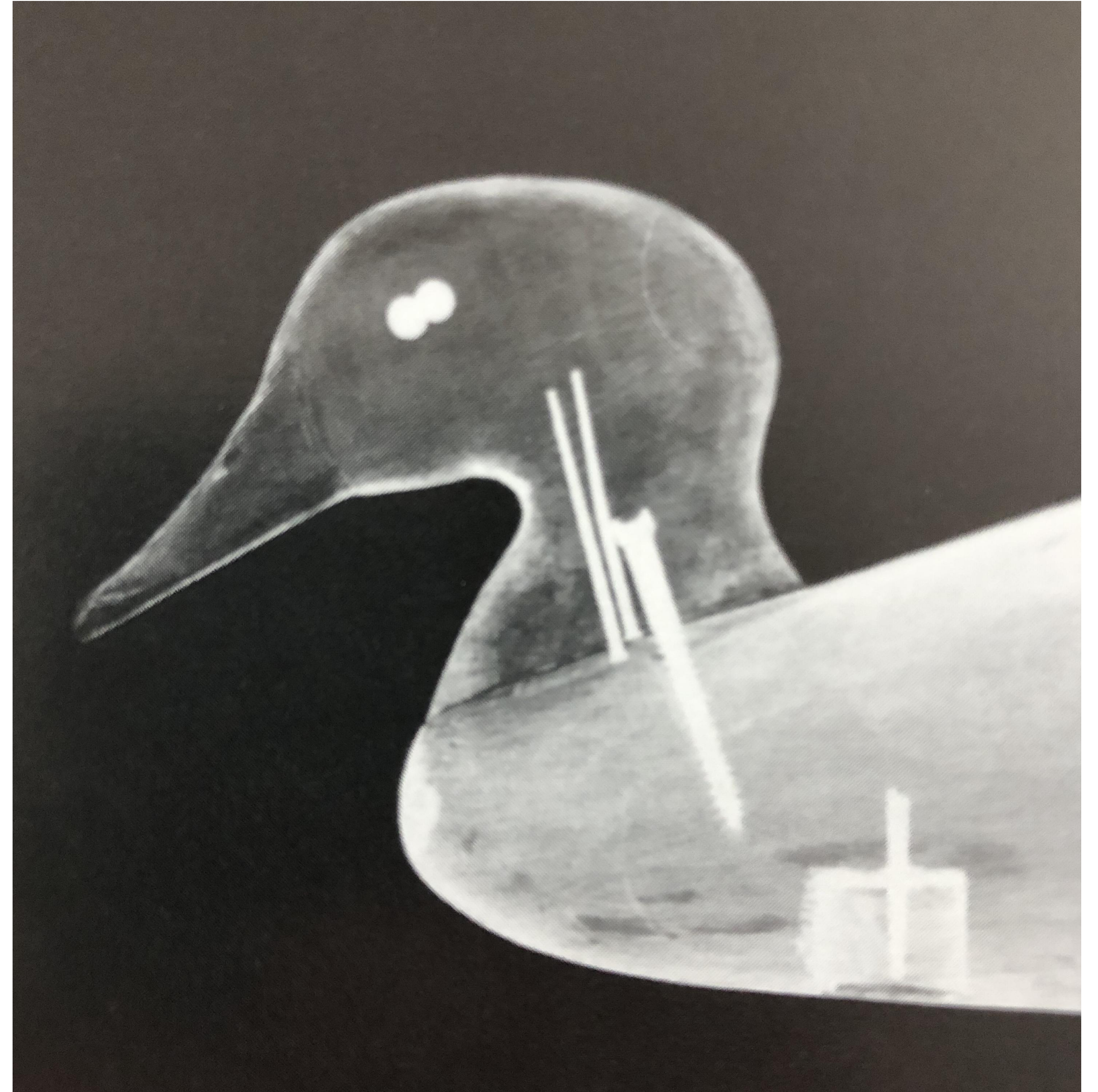
HOLLOWED OUT AREA ON BOTH NECK AND BODY JOINT SURFACES.

2" WOOD (STEEL) SCREW

TWO VIEWS OF 2" WOOD SCREW ALTERED FOR USE



# Paddle Tail Head Attachment



# Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys

## Heads

- **On Sleepers**
  - **2 inch steel wood screw attached from the bottom**
  - **3/8 inch dowel plugging the hole**
  - **Heads are not not removable**
  - **1 or 2 inch square-cut nails driven from the top, to tightly secure the head to the body**

# Sleeper Head Attachment



# **Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys**

## **Anchor Line Attachment**

- **7/8 inch drilled circular hole**
- **Fence staple or 12-13 gauge wire bent into a “U” shape**
- **The fence staple was recessed, to prevent rubbing on other decoys**
- **Hole has a smaller central hole from the bit starter on the drill bit**



# **Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys**

## **Ballast Weights**

- **Most decoys have a single circular 7/8 inch ballast weight**
- **Made of either soft lead or a pewter like hard lead alloy**
- **Surface is either smooth or has an uniform pattern in appearance**
- **Weights were recessed or flush with the bottom surface**
- **Some decoys have 3 ballast weights, possibly for special orders or an attempt for self-righting? Found only on divers.**



THE WORLD'S LEADING  
**GUYETTE AND SCHMIDT**  
INC.  
DECOY AUCTION FIRM

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LOT#

BU

# **Unique Characteristics of Stevens Decoys**

## **Bill Construction**

- **Distinct carved lines separating the bill from the head**
- **Distinct “V” notch at bill / head junction**
- **Carved mandible line, nail, and upper tip**
- **Nostrils pressed in with a screwdriver**

# Bill Details



# Species Carved

- **Most Common**
  - **Bluebills, Redheads, Goldeneyes and Black Ducks**
  - **Almost 2/3 of all species**
- **Somewhat Rare**
  - **Canvasbacks, Buffleheads**
- **Rare**
  - **Widgeon, Mallards, and Bluewing Teal**
- **Rarest**
  - **Pintails and Mergansers**

# **Differences Between Harvey's and George's Decoys**

- **Height of Tail**
  - **Harvey closer to the top of body**
  - **George more mid body**
- **High Point of Body**
  - **Harvey more centered and balanced**
  - **George more towards the rear**

**Harvey Bluebill**



**George Bluebill**



# **Differences Between Harvey's and George's Decoys**

- **Height and Length where top of mandible meets the face**
  - **Harvey equal or lower on right side**
  - **George higher and longer on left side**

**Harvey carved Decoy**



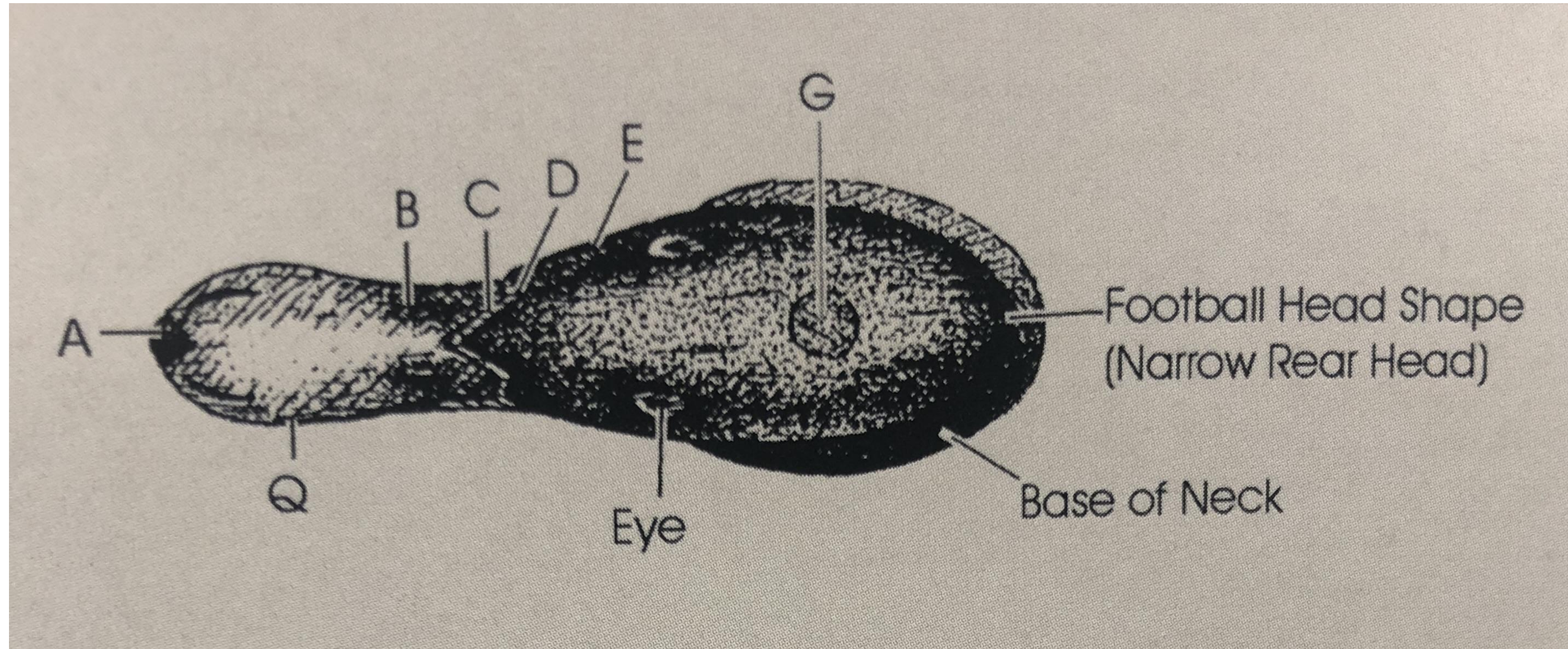
**George carved Decoy**



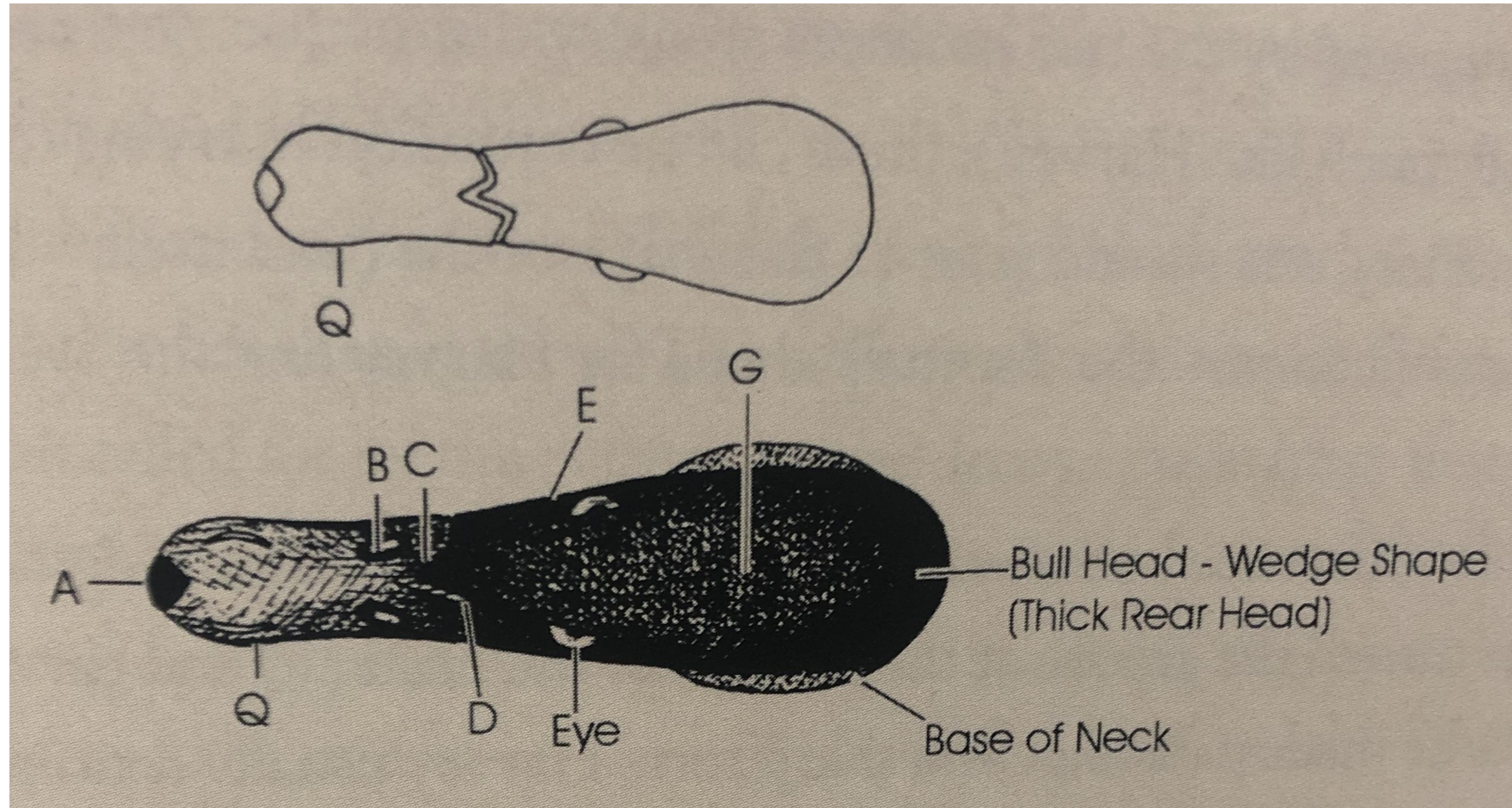
# Differences Between Harvey's and George's Decoys

- **Shape of head from above**
  - **Harvey football shaped**
  - **George bull head, wider in the rear**

# Harvey's Football Shaped Head

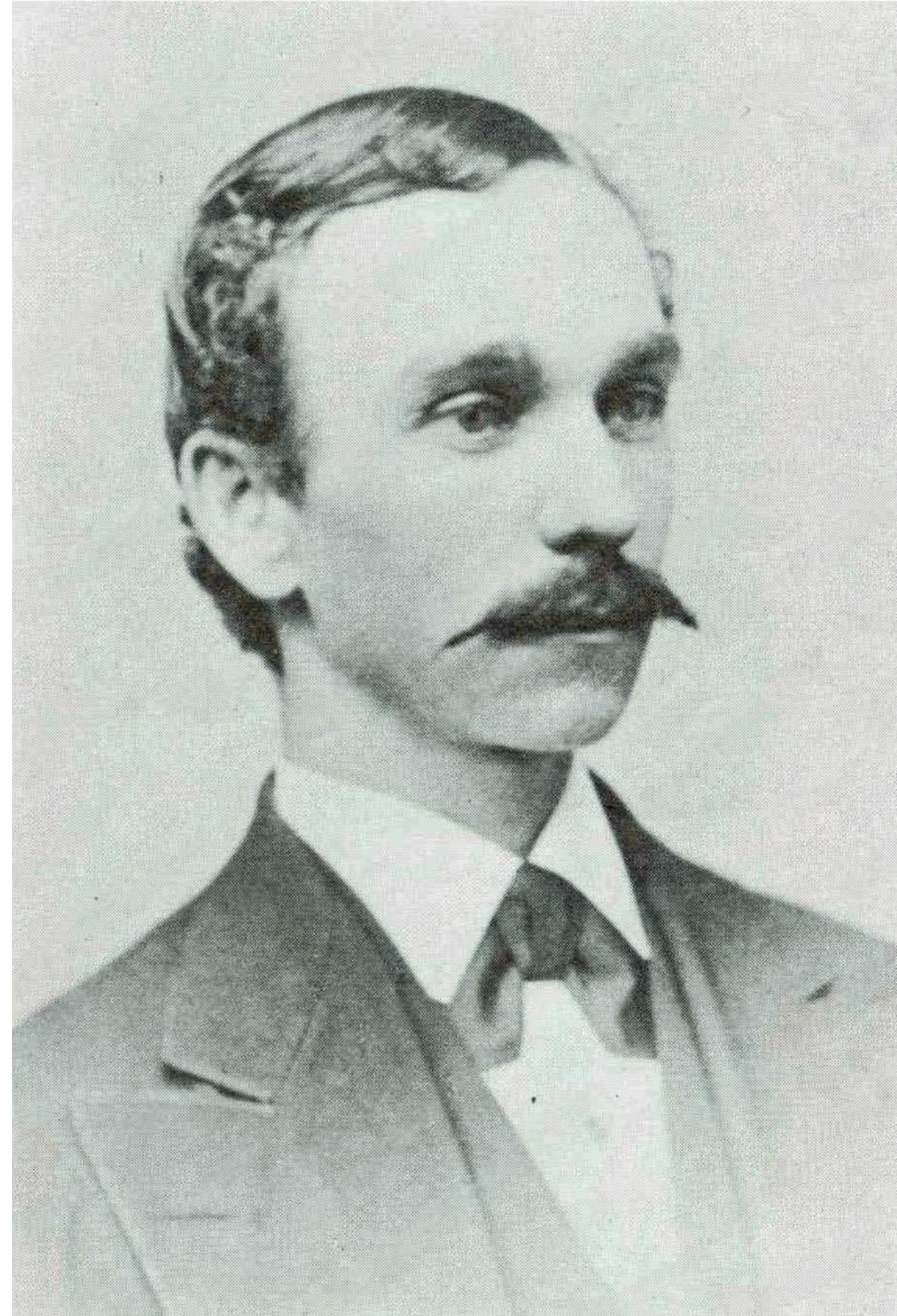


# Georges's Bull / Wedge Shaped Head



# Harvey Stevens

1847-1894



# Harvey Stevens

1847-1894



# George Stevens

1856-1905



# George Stevens

1856-1905



**Thank You!!**



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# Questions?

