



## James T. Holly

*(1855 - 1935) Havre de Grace, MD*

James "Jim", the youngest of John 'Daddy' Holly's three sons, was born and raised in in Havre de Grace, Harford County, Maryland. Although he made decoys, he is best known as a builder of bushwack or sneak boats, a distinct style of boat used on the Susquehanna Flats and adjacent rivers. His boats were said to be unequaled in the water. But he is known today for his classy, sleek black duck decoys. The boat was designed and built primarily for gunning. They varied in length from 16 to 20 feet and were 20 inches deep. The length and depth were a requirement of the state of Maryland for use in gunning.

Body length: 12 1/4 to 12 1/2 inches

Body width: 5 3/4 to 6 inches

Body thickness: 3 3/4 inches

Head height: 3 1/2 inches

Head thickness: 1 1/2 to 1 5/8 inches<sup>1</sup>

Jim Holly's decoys did not follow the lines of his father's; Jim's decoys had a longer body, more upsweep in the tails, rounder in the back and thinner heads.

The birds are sleek and stylish, extremely well-made, and close in some ways to those of Sam Barnes (with whom he worked in his later years), but with a rounder breast, and a much finer tail.