

David Salvinis Fuller

(1854 – 1940) Lowell, Indiana

David Salvinis Fuller, son of John O. Fuller and Esther (Smith) Fuller was born at Silver Creek, N.Y. on October 1, 1854. His younger years he herded cattle for Messrs. Singleton and Classin the summer months and in the winter trapped for furs with his father on the Kankakee marsh. He also worked some on the Monon railroad while it was being built through Lake County. On November 19, 1875, he was married to Viola Sanders, and had 4 children.

He later moved to Chicago where he worked for E. W. Blatchford and company for over 25 years. About this time, he and his family moved to Chicago, he started working on a wild goose call; later he had it patented and it is now all over the USA, and Canada as the Fuller Goose Call. Some years later he also patented a call known as the Fuller Combination Duck and Goose Call. Arical in part, dated April 25, 1940, comes from the local history of files at Lowell Library (LH—Vital Statistics, vol.3, page 92)



Photo by
Gary
Chambers

There are mystery men among call makers, and David Fuller, a native New Yorker, may qualify for that group. A salesman by trade, Fuller secured his place in waterfowling history when, in 1885, he was granted the first patent on a goose call. He said the call could also be used to lure cranes to within shooting range. These hunting tools were marketed for more than 40 years.

Fuller's goose calls were made of brass and were nickel plated. The mouthpiece was made of boxwood. One of his most interesting products was a combination duck and goose call, which was patented in 1903. The critical component was a screw, which retracted from inside of the barrel and changed the way sounds were produced.



Photos by Gary Chambers

What call historians have never figured out about Fuller is his relationship with Watts DeGoyler, another Chicagoan, with whom he shared his patents. A silent partner, perhaps. Many of Fuller's calls were sold through mail-order catalogs, including, for a brief time, Montgomery Ward. (*Gary Koehler*)