

## Environment Duck Hunting

### Ducking on the Potomac

After the War Between the States, people in Stafford were so poor that they capitalized on any source of income. Those who were fortunate enough to live on the water fished and hunted ducks. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, duck hunting became quite a fashionable pastime for the wealthy. Seeing the economic possibilities, several Stafford farms along the Potomac River opened their homes to well-to-do professionals and politicians from Washington, Baltimore, and even some northern states. These farms included Clifton, the Brooks farm on Brents' Point, Coal Trips, and Crow's Nest. From about 1883 until 1900 the Clifton Ducking Club welcomed doctors, judges, lawyers, politicians, and even presidents Benjamin Harrison and Grover Cleveland. Some of these stayed in rooms in the Clifton house and others sailed down from Washington and anchored their yachts just offshore from the house. Some of the varieties of ducks shot were mallards, ring bills, bay shufflers, black heads, whistlers, and coots.



Duck Hunting in Wide Water (Widewater)