

THE FULLER BRUSH MAN

by Eydie McDaniel

What a marvelous film I found upon my first You Tube inquiry. Visions of visits by a tidy and polite gentleman with marvelous brushed features came to mind. But my research for this topic took me at once to a film that filled me with nostalgia for the way things used to be. *Fuller Brushes*, the film available to you at www.PeriscopeFilms.com or by email, contact@www.PeriscopeFilms.com, showed me not only factories of yesteryear, it heralded the pride we owned in our country's hands making product of high long lasting quality.

Our homes ran better because Mr. Fuller applied his vision to improve and his integrity to see it through. The film gave me a good feeling of enthusiasm to gaze again at any of the Fuller Brushes made in the day. Maybe you still have one in your home?

Next, I watched the life story of the Nova Scotian born, Alfred Carl Fuller. Soon after his birth on January 13, 1885 in Wellsford Valley, his mother taught him a sense of fairness by faithfully reading the Bible to him in their farm home. He grew up believing her. Through his life he believed the answers to any challenge would be found in the book she handed him when he started out. His father pressed his children to work hard and realized that this one lacked real enthusiasm for farming. So the whole family accompanied the boat that took him to live with a sister in Boston. There his fears vanished in a wonderful welcoming party so typical of Fuller loyalty.

Ironically the young hard-working Alfred got fired from several jobs. He soon decided he should work for himself. After a while in his first brush selling adventure working for the partner of an older brother, who had passed away, he took a leave of absence to create his own better brushes. The boss disapproved of his improvements and of his selling of them in Boston. So as usual looking to the Bible to solve any problem our natural entrepreneur relocated in Hartford because Bibles were then made in Hartford. Because he applied his buoyant spirit in faithful pursuit of his vision his business thrived.

The confidence of Alfred Fuller in honesty, fair play and hard work served his company well. In 1908 he had a work crew of 10 salesmen and he visited Boston where he proposed to the beautiful Evelyn by telling her he could afford to marry now, and asked her to join him. She did. He allowed no distraction for a honeymoon and they both went right back to Hartford.

The beautiful Mrs. Fuller outlived her husband and managed the books to be with him. One day with a bad cold in pouring rain he called on two elderly women who gave him *Science and Health with key to the Scripture* by Mary Baker Eddy. He and Evelyn became Christian Scientists because the next morning his terrible cold was gone.

Of course, his story contains some pain. His son who had taken over the business after brushing his father aside, was killed on vacation with his wife. While driving his flashy Mercedes at an ambitious speed, a tire blew out.

Alfred divorced and remarried. As Evelyn neared her death he visited her daily and she never took her eyes off him.

Now when our country has lost a lot of morality, I hope actually listening to the kind of wisdom in the Bible will restore us to pride in quality and a reality of honor.