



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution January 13, 2025

We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifice established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and solemnly pledge to defend them against every foe.

36 New Members Join the Iowa SAR in 2024

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Registrar Randy Breese and the recruitment efforts of our members, the Iowa SAR was privileged to add 36 new members to our ranks! Welcome!

Anthony Townsend
Rocky Vitiritto
Justin Vitiritto
Jason Vitiritto
Craig Harwood
Russell Roby
Steven Reid
Kenneth Smith
Glenn Schlessler

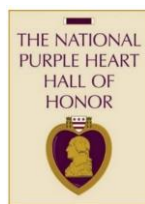
James Kullbom
Nicholas Martin
Fletcher Newcomb
Michael Gorball
Luke Gorball
Jeffrey Gorball
Jacob Gorball
Isaac Gorball
Trevor Points

Silas Stauffer
Nathan Stauffer
Billy Biggs
John Smith
Lawrence Rhinehart
Gary Rhinehart
Lance Shelton
Jeremy Trask
Creighton Stricklett

Richard Spring
James McClatchey
Mark Beatty
Garth Beatty
Erik Swierk
Arthur Sunleaf
Charles Boeck
Brenton Black
Craig Long

Duane Alan Clefisch Enrolled in the Purple Heart Hall of Honor

By Gary Everding



On December 22nd, Duane Alan Clefisch, a fellow Vietnam veteran, was successfully enrolled into the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. He was the cousin of one of my groomsmen. A side light is that he was on the Vietnam Wall in D.C, but only his name. I was proud to say that I entered his personal information to memorialize him personally for his supreme sacrifice for our country.

Frederick Barrows Gravestone Installation Near Osceola

On December 23rd, Mike Rowley installed the gravestone of Frederick Barrows in Cox Cemetery near Osceola, Iowa.

Frederick Barrows served in the 2nd Regiment (Fifield's) of the Vermont Militia during the War of 1812. He is buried next to his wife and son.



Isaac Johnson Gravestone Installation Near Woodburn



On December 26th, Mike Rowley installed a gravestone for Isaac Johnson in Ottawa Cemetery near Woodburn, Iowa.

Isaac Johnson died while serving in Company I, 15th Iowa Infantry during the Civil War.

Mentoring New Members

By Mike Rowley

If you are interested in mentoring new members, the following suggestions are some things that you could do that are found in the SAR "Mentoring Program Checklist:"

- Call the new member to welcome him
- Invite him for coffee or other appropriate informal setting to discuss SAR activities
- Invite him to a meeting
- Greet him at a meeting
- Explain the various programs that the SAR supports
- Offer him a ride to an SAR event
- Introduce him to the president and other officers
- Explain the basic duties of the officers just met
- Connect him with multiple members
- Contact him between meetings (phone, breakfast, coffee, etc.)
- Show him the SAR website and how to navigate it
- Show him the SAR Handbook and discuss
- Review basic SAR protocol
- Describe the SAR medals and how and when they are worn
- Learn his interests and skills then help him find a way to apply them in the SAR
- Invite him to participate in a Color Guard event
- Invite him to present awards (citizenship, youth related, flag certificate, etc.)
- Invite him to a DAR or C.A.R. event

George W. House Gravestone Installation in Kirkville



On December 28th, Mike Rowley installed a gravestone for George W. House at Westview Cemetery in Kirkville, Iowa.

George W. House served in Ellis' Company of the Kentucky Militia during the War of 1812.

Dance Cards—Socializing in the 18th Century

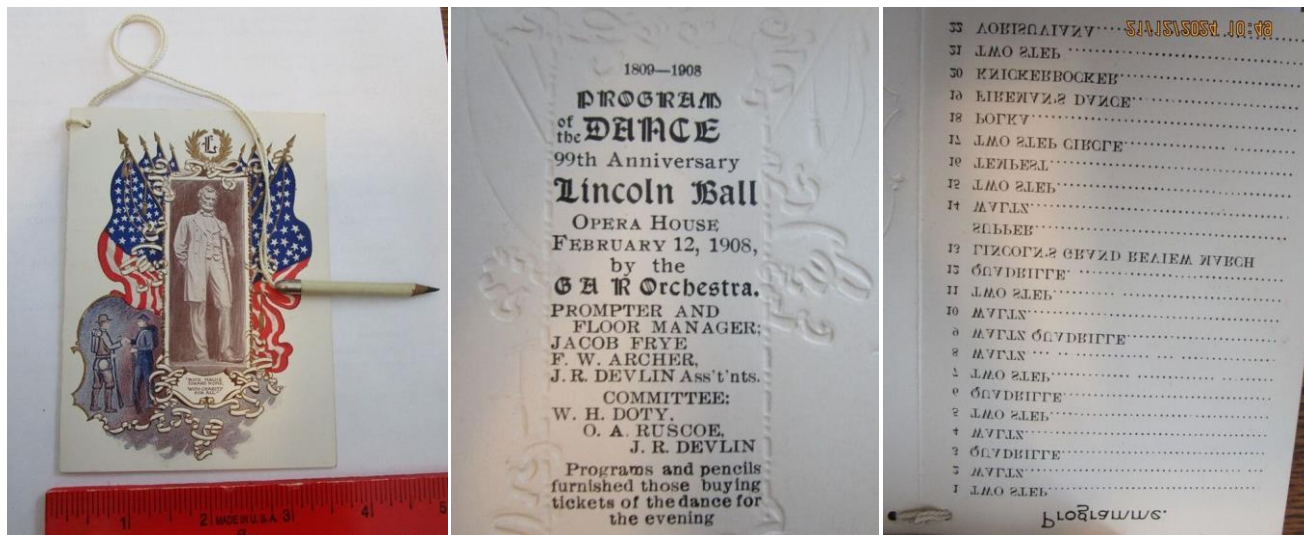
By Randy Lyon

Dance cards originated in the 18th century. The card featured a decorative cover, a listing of the sponsoring organization of the ball, a listing of the types of dances offered that evening, and a place for a man to sign with whom the woman intended to share a particular dance. A cord affixed to the card enabled it to be attached to the lady's wrist or ball gown. After the dance, the card was probably saved as a wonderful souvenir of the evening.

The expression "dance card" is now used metaphorically. The term "pencil me into your dance card" means "find some time to spend with me." Claiming one's "dance card is full" suggests that even though they may be interested, they have no time for another person.

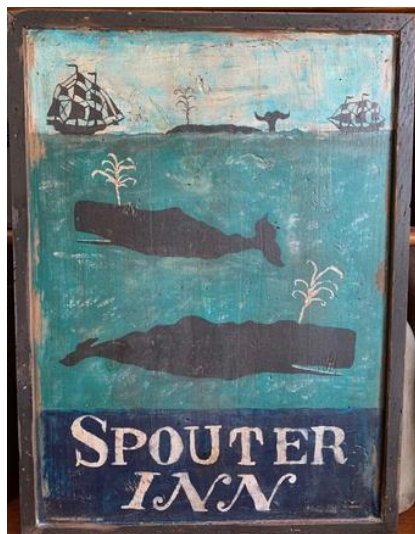
Pilots of the U. S. Air Force have developed a third meaning for the term. Generally speaking, the term describes the first card in a "deck" of flight or test maneuver cards. The "dance card" contains administrative data about the mission, aircraft, and aircrew as well as a list of the maneuvers to be flown. The card serves as a table of contents for the mission and a quick reference for the aircrew's use during the flight.

The following dance card came from an evening in Dubuque and an event sponsored by the local GAR.



Part II: The "Ordinary"—Their Licensing and Those Crazy Names

By Randy Lyon



The tavern was simply designed. The earliest were generally independent structures, or they might be attached to residential houses. Taverns were designed with several rooms. The taproom was the largest and furnished with chairs, desks, bar, and a fireplace. Upper-class taverns had parlors attached to the taproom. Taverns located in towns usually had special rooms reserved for meetings of groups or assemblies and court proceedings. Due to their frequent use for assemblies, "the ordinary" was required to provide lodging, food, and drink. Laws regulated the prices that a tavern keeper could charge for these services.

Nearly any colonist could keep a tavern, however they were required to possess a license. Because the tavern was often used for the benefit of the community, those who agreed and paid the license were awarded land grants, pastures for cattle, and/or exemption from school and church taxes.

Colonial taverns were businesses with long hours. A typical day might have laborers, seamen, and artisans gathering at a tavern in the morning to begin their day. Most taverns provided a formal breakfast at nine o'clock. After noon, games of ninepins would begin with a two o'clock "dinner" and drinks. Supper was usually served at seven o'clock. This meal might be followed by more drinks and a combination of shooting contests, card games, a round of dancing, a fight or two between those drinking too much, and perhaps a political or philosophical discussion. Merchants and mariners used the tavern to bargain over cargoes. Churchgoers warmed themselves after two or three hours in an unheated meetinghouse with a warm beverage or a meal.

In Salem, Massachusetts, tavern licenses were granted with the understanding that "there be sett up in some inoffensive sign obvious [means] for direction to strangers." In addition to a tavern's sign being easy for a foreign traveler to identify, the symbols and icons on these signs were necessary because of a low literacy rate. As

literacy grew in the colonies, signs became nearly obsolete, however many taverns chose to keep their sign for tradition, nostalgia, or humor.

As part of these signs, along with symbols, were often distinct tavern names with intriguing origins. The names of taverns were often modified over time to familiar English sayings or concepts. For instance, the tavern "The Bag o' Nails" was originally "The Bacchanalians." The "Cat and Wheel" came from "Catherine Wheel," and even earlier from "St. Catherine's Wheel," an allusion to the saint and her martyrdom. The tavern "The Goat and Compass" stood for the motto "God encompasseth us." "The Pig and Carrot" was originally the "Pique et Carreau" (the spade and diamond in playing cards).



The Midwest Connection to Gunpowder and Lead Shot

By Randy Lyon



Matthew Laflin manufactured potassium nitrate for the Massachusetts militia during the American Revolution and built a gunpowder mill in Southwick, Massachusetts, after the war. After Laflin's death in 1810, his grandchildren expanded the family business with two mills in New York and one in Wisconsin. These mills produced gunpowder for Union forces through the Civil War.

Laflin Powder Company was incorporated in 1866 to consolidate operations to compete successfully for the reduced gunpowder demand after the war. Laflin Powder Company further

consolidated gunpowder production around the Orange Mill Historic District near Newburgh, New York, by merger with the competing Smith & Rand Powder Company on August 24th, 1869, to form the Laflin & Rand Powder Company of New York City, with Albert Rand as president.



As early as September 1861, Laflin, Smith and Company was a local agent in Dubuque for Chadbourne and Forster, the chief rival of Dubuque's Shot Tower (see **Appendix**). The image of the Shot Tower, which Chadbourne and Foster purchased, was used on order forms of the company until 1871 when the tower was lost to the company because of failure to pay back taxes.

Appendix: The famed shot tower (one of two, I believe, to be in existence) made lead shot by dropping hot lead through screens at the top of the tower. As the tiny droplets of hot lead fell, they formed balls. These cooled when they hit a tub of water at the base of the tower. The balls were collected after they were cold and bagged by size for sale. More information about the shot tower can be found at:

https://www.encyclopediaDubuque.org/index.php/SHOT_TOWER.

LAFLIN & RAND POWDER CO.,
Gun Powder Manufacturers, and Dealers in Shot and Gun Caps,
NO. 56 MAIN STREET, DUBUQUE, IOWA.



Dubuque, _____ 187.

*Shipped, In good order and condition, by LAFLIN & RAND POWDER CO.. on board
the good Steamboat _____ the following articles, marked or
numbered as below, which I promise to deliver without delay, in like good order and condition,
unavoidable dangers of navigation and fire only excepted, to _____*

at _____ paying freight for the same

at the rate of _____

Powder, _____ per Keg.

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*Let us remember our obligation to our
The Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme*



*forefathers, who gave us our Constitution,
Court, and a nation of free men.*