



Blue Spirit Region Newsletter

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Square Dance History According to George



Margaret & I have only been dancing since 2006 and there is still a lot about this activity that thoroughly fascinates us. Last summer Constitution Squares was invited to present an hour long presentation about square dancing to Danville’s Community Arts Center’s Lunch with the Arts. I came up with the idea that between the dance TIPS I would talk about square dancing’s history. The great thing about the Internet is that there is a huge amount of information out there. The bad thing about the Internet is that no one knows how much

of that huge amount of information is actually true or is just someone’s biased point of view. The following is my best attempt to sort through everything I found and come up with George’s version.

During the formation of our nation during the 1800s, dancing was due in part to the origin of the immigrants that settled in America. There were waltzes, polkas, quadrilles and contre dances to name a few. Dancing formations were varied. Some dances were performed with two lines of dancers that faced each other. Other dances were performed by a variable number of couples that were arranged in large circles. Still other dances were performed using four couples arranged in a square formation. Populated areas might have all of these forms of dance however the rural areas and new frontiers did not have the facilities that a populated area would have. Space to dance was one factor that the settlers on the frontiers of America had to cope with. Partly because of this space issue, the settlers developed dances that had four couples arranged in a square. This was only one of the forms of dance that was performed back then but it is what I think is most related to square dancing as we now know it.

One requirement associated with dancing anywhere is music. On the frontier and in rural areas a fiddle player was the primary music source. Dances were associated with specific songs. Each song had its own set of unique dance steps and not everyone would know the steps. The settlers would dance in a square formation with four couples. Frequently all dancers would not know all aspects of the dance, the couple next to the fiddler started out dancing the first figures with the couple on their immediate right, then dance the same sequence with the opposite couple and finally with the couple on the left. Then the couple to the right of the fiddler danced in the same counterclockwise direction around the square. It had the advantage that an inexperienced couple would be placed in the third or fourth position. By the time it was their turn to lead around the square, they would have had time to learn the figure. The dance sequence was repeated 12 times. This manner of dancing is known as the “Single Visiting Couple Square”. It is why square dancing numbers it’s couples in the counterclockwise direction. Couple #1 is the couple nearest the fiddler, #2 is to the right, opposite is #3 and to the left is couple #4. While in the quadrille, the head couples are #1 & #2 and the right and left couples are #3 & #4.

In the 1800s this dance form continued moving west with the cowboys & farmers to the west coast while the waltzes, contras and quadrilles were more prevalent in New England and in the Northern states. In the early 1900s, in Europe and America the lifestyles evolved away from group dancing and such dancing was only done in rural areas.

Message from the KFSD Blue Spirit Region Vice-President

Hello my Fellow Square Dancers,
WOW, talk about an exciting week-end.... It is the time of year for our students to get a true taste of what we all enjoy so much.

Yes, I'm talking about the Half-way dances. The Wheeler Dealers as well as the Constitutions Squares Dance Clubs celebrated the half way mark for their students December 16 & 17. If you were unable to attend all I can say is, Sorry. You missed a great opportunity to dance with some of our newest dancers and let me tell you, it was a real treat. Those of

you that made it to one or both (and there were a lot of you) know what I am talking about.

Mark Patterson was the caller for both events and also has the privilege of being the instructor for both clubs and did a wonderful job (as usual).

I want to mention that the Constitution Squares also took up a collection of jackets, scarves, and gloves at their dance in support of the Salvation Army's winter drive. A big Thank You goes out to all that contributed to this effort.

In case you are wondering, my name is

Velvet Chapin and I am your newest VP for the KFSD and look forward to not only doing my small part in the on-going efforts of OUR KFSD but to "seeing you across the square"

I hope you have had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as well.

Velvet Chapin

Vice President of the Blue Spirit Region



HELP WANTED

President of Blue Spirit Region—Person(s) needed who love to square dance and promote it throughout the state. See Virginia Marshall for more details on what is involved.

Editor of the Quarterly Newsletter—Person(s) needed to issue the newsletter once a quarter. No prior knowledge of publishing required. See George or Margaret Scott with additional questions. It is fun and only takes a day or so each quarter to put together and email out.



History According to George (Cont.)

Henry Ford (1863-1947) the auto manufacture millionaire loved to dance. He met his wife ballroom dancing and their passion for dancing was present throughout their life. Ford and wife used to spend part of their vacations at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts. There he became interested in the dance program conducted by Benjamin Lovett (1876 – 1952) and his wife Charlotte. Lovett and his wife had been teaching traditional New England social dancing in Worchester, Ma. for some twenty years. The program included the schottische, the minuet, the Virginia reel and others. The story goes that Ford offered Lovett a princely salary and a new car each year, if Lovett would come back to Dearborn with him and introduce this form of dancing to the Ford Motor Company employees. Lovett was said to have declined, pointing out the he had a contract with the Inn and that it wouldn't be morally right to break the contract. The story is that multimillionaire Ford then bought the Inn and Lovett's contract, and took Lovett back to Dearborn with him. History does show that Ford did purchase the Inn in 1923 and Lovett did move to Dearborn and was associated with Ford for the remainder of their lives.

After Lovett moved to Dearborn, Ford wanted more than just the dance program that Lovett had been teaching in New England. Ford wanted to expand the dance program and that required new material. Agents were dispatched around the country to research the old dance steps and figures and collect the music that traditionally accompanied them. The results were published in 1926 for Ford & Lovett in the book "Good Morning – After a Sleep of Twenty Five Years, Old-Fashioned Dancing is Being Revived by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford".

Once Ford got Lovett settled in Dearborn, Ford transformed space in the new Ford Engineering Laboratory Building into a temporary ballroom. Organizing an "orchestra" consisting of a violinist, a cymbalist and dulcimer and sousaphone players, Ford enrolled 300 friends and Ford executives and their wives into classes taught by his Wayside Inn dancing Master Benjamin B. Lovett. Ford believed dancing taught people much needed social skills that would help them not only in social settings but in the business world as well. Therefore, all his chief staff members had to learn to dance and attend dancing socials regularly.

Henry could hardly have undertaken his crusade to revive old-fashion square dancing at a less auspicious time. In 1923 the Roaring Twenties were heading toward their zenith; it was the age of jazz and flappers, speakeasies and bathtub gin, the Charleston and the Black Bottom. Of the sound of jazz, Henry was known to say "It's like a cat fight in a boiler yard." He took an equally dim view of "modern ballroom" dancing; a booklet that his presses published to provide instruction on the old-fashion dancing implied that the contemporary sort, in which couples embraced, bordered on promiscuity. As part of his crusade Henry sponsored radio programs that broadcast old-fashioned dance music nationwide. Somewhat surprisingly, given the times – but perhaps not so surprisingly, given the publicity attending it – Henry's crusade was successful. The old time values of rural America that he was trying to express and preserve found a warm audience, perhaps not in all those who had to attend his dances, but in the population at large.

The next segment of my history will get to the efforts of Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw.

To Be Continued



We attempt to put together this newsletter as a service to our dance community. We would really appreciate it if each club would make a special effort to let us know 1.) what your dance schedule will be for each quarter and 2.) who is each club's point of contact for further information. We need to have any feedback about this newsletter that you have (positive or negative). Is there anything else you would like to read about? Is there anything that you want us to publicize?

Unless otherwise credited the content and opinions present in this newsletter are ours alone. We attempt to present all of the content in a factual and unbiased manner. If we have made mistakes, please let us know and we will correct them.

George / Margaret Scott: BlueSpirit_Scott@bellsouth.net

Student Half-Way Dances

In December there were three Student Half-Way dances held at Down Unders, Wheeler Dealers & Constitution Squares. Each dance had progressively larger attendance. By the attendance from Somerset I'm guessing that their class size doubles the classes of Constitution Squares & Wheeler Dealers combined. The dance at Constitution Squares had 10 squares on the floor and lots of students. I would like to offer my thanks to every one that worked to make each of these dances a success, especially the angels. Dancing to such a small set of calls is not the most interesting dancing that you can do, but your presence certainly can help the new dancers. Another thanks



Constitution Squares Half Way Dance

During our student class in Maryland in 2005, there were no Student Dances. I don't think that any of the MD & VA clubs were into the concept of a Student Dance. After a certain point in our class we were invited to attend the regular club dances and the caller (not our instructor) would call a TIP that was close to our level. Once we completed our Basic/Mainstream curriculum we were invited (really it was an order) to come to the Sat. afternoon Student dance at a large annual festival. For students it was free and a chance to dance for a couple of hours to two of the eight national callers that staffed this festival. Tom Miller & Tim Mariner were calling for us and to this day I still love dancing to them at any level (MS, Plus or Adv.) There was no dress code for the students but it was an opportunity to stay and watch the regular program that had lots of dancers that were dressed in their finest. It was very impressive to see 20 – 25 squares dancing at insane speed to calls that we hadn't even heard of yet.

must go to Mark. His ability to look over an entire floor and recognize problems almost before they actually occur is phenomenal. Mark's ability to mix up the limited set of calls and keep thing interesting is a talent that is probably the result of his teaching over a 100 different classes.



Constitution Squares Half Way Dance

A Word About the Insurance

Thanks to all the clubs that got the insurance enrollment forms into me by the end of October. I have already received the certificates needed for the 2012 year with the exception of two. Both of those clubs had dancers insured with other clubs whose insurance is handled by other state organizations who have not gotten the enrollment information into USDA (at least as of last week).

Keep in mind that as long as a club is dancing at their regular place and at their regular time, the insurance coverage is in effect. However, if you change, for example, from the 4th Saturday of the month to the 5th Saturday, the USDA must be notified at least 4 weeks in advance. Otherwise, there is no coverage. Same is true for a change of location or a change in the time of the dance. Call Margaret Scott at 859-236-4050 with any questions.

Club Dance Schedule and Information - 1st Quarter 2012

Bachelor & Bachelorettes (B&Bs) St. Michael's Episcopal Church 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, KY		1st Saturday 8:00-10:30 pm	President: Henry Sowers (502) 863-4344
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 7, 20112 Feb. 4, 2012 Mar. 2 & 3, 2012	Mark Patterson Tim Carman Mark & Wes @ Lure Lodge	Glenn Kelley	Lure Lodge Weekend at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park
Blue Grass Motivators Down Under Hall 120 Wilson Court, Nicholasville, KY		Sunday 3:00-5:00 pm	A-2 Club
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 8, 2012 Jan. 15, 2012 Jan. 22, 2012 Jan. 29, 2012 Feb. 5, 2012 Feb. 12, 2012 Feb. 19, 2012 Feb 26, 2012 Mar. 4, 2012 Mar. 11, 2012 Mar. 18, 2012 Mar. 25, 2012	Mark Patterson Cancelled Mark Patterson Mark Patterson Mark Patterson Mark Patterson Mark Patterson Cancelled Mark Patterson Mark Patterson Mark Patterson		Cancelled for Winter Frolic Cancelled for Lure Lodge
Constitution Squares Harrodsburg Christian Activities Center 350 Chiles St. Harrodsburg, KY		3rd Saturday 7:30-10:00 pm	President: Jim & Geneva Wash (859) 236-1996 jhwash74@gmail.com
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 21, 2012 Feb. 18, 2012 Mar. 17, 2012	Charlie Wheatley Les Centers Mark Patterson		
Do Si Dos Beaumont Presbyterian Church 1070 Lane Allen Road, Lexington, KY		2nd & 4th Friday 8:00-10:30 pm	President: Terry Bay (859) 268-5264 terrybay@insightbb.com
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 13, 2012 Jan. 27, 2012 Feb. 10, 2012 Feb. 24, 2012 Mar. 9, 2012 Mar. 23, 2012 Mar. 30, 2012	Cancelled Cancelled Mark Patterson & Rein Nabar Tony Kincade Ricky Frazier TBA Mark Patterson & Rein Nabar	Glenn Kelley	Cancelled for Winter Frolic Cancelled for Snowball Jamboree

Club Dance Schedule and Information - 1st Quarter 2012

Down Under Squares Down Under Hall 120 Wilson Ct., Nicholasville, KY		2nd & 4th Saturday 8:00-10:30 pm 7:00-Advanced Tip	President: Denis & Rose McGinity (859) 858-4424 charles77511@hotmail.com
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 28, 2012	Mark Patterson		
Feb. 11, 2012	Tony Kincade		Valentine Dance
Feb. 25, 2012	Mark Patterson		
Mar. 10, 2012	Mark Patterson		Wearing of the Green
Mar. 24, 2012	Kristy Williams		
Dudes & Dolls The Old Depot Depot Street, Corbin, KY		3rd Saturday 8:00-10:30 pm	President: Howard & June Daniels (606) 528-6543 htdan@newwavecomm.net
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 21, 2012	Tim McFadden		Food 7:30-8:00; Mainstream/Plus 8:00-10:30
Feb. 18, 2012	Mark Patterson		Advanced 6:00-7:30; Food 7:30-8:00; Mainstream/Plus 8:00-10:30
Mar. 17, 2012	Mike Hoose		Food 7:30-8:00; Mainstream/Plus 8:00-10:30
Fort Logan Pioneers First Southern Community Arts Center 105 North Depot St, Stanford, KY		4th Saturday 7:00-10:00 pm	President: Jerry Bailey (606) 669-7327 jerrywbailey8@aol.com
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<i>Dance Schedule</i>	<i>Not Provided</i>		
Hill Country Dancers Hambley Athletic Center 120 Championship Drive, Pikeville, KY		1st Saturday 8:00-11:00 pm	President: Kathy Branham (606) 432-1875 Kathy Kiscaden (606) 899-1434
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 7, 2012	Ricky Taggett		
Feb. 4, 2012	Ricky Frasure		
Mar. 3, 2012	Kevin Lowe		
Lake Cumberland Squares Rocky Hollow Park 142 South Central Avenue, Somerset, KY		1st Saturday 8:00-10:30 pm	President: Jill Blair (606) 219-1539 sjb0405@newwavecomm.net
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 7, 2012	Charley Wheatley		
Feb. 4, 2012	Tim McFadden		Different Location "TBD"
Mar. 3, 2012	Mike Hardin		

Club Dance Schedule and Information - 1st Quarter 2012

Rhythm Rounds Tates Creek Recreation Center 1400 Gainesway Drive, Lexington, Kentucky		Every Wednesday 8:00-10:00 pm	President: Terry & Diane Chism (502) 695-4026 terryulfan@fewpb.net
<u>Date</u>	<u>Cuers</u>		<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 25, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm, 7:00 classes continue
Feb. 1, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm Tuesday classes
Feb. 8, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm start Feb. 14
Feb. 15, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm
Feb. 22, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm
Feb. 29, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm
Mar. 7, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm
Mar. 14, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm
Mar. 21, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm
Mar. 28, 2012	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley		Dance 8:00-10:00 pm
Russell County Ramblers Russell County Sportsman Club		4th Friday 8:00-10:30 pm EST	President: Jim Beckner (270) 585-2509 jimbl@duo-county.com
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Feb. 24, 2012	Mark Patterson		
Apr. 27, 2012	Ricky Frasure		
June 22, 2012	Terry McGill		
Somer-Sets Rocky Hollow Park 142 South Central Avenue, Somerset, KY		2nd Saturday 8:00-10:30 pm	President: Elmer Garland (606) 423-3150 elmergarland@windstream.net
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 14, 2012	Terry McGill		
Feb. 11, 2012	Mark Patterson		Advance at 6:00 PM.
March 10, 2012	Kevin Robinson		Advance at 6:00 PM.
Vagabonds Laurel County Court House Community Room 101 South Main Street, London, KY		4th Saturday 7:00-9:30 pm	President: Don & Edeline Harper (606) 864-6309
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<i>Dance Schedule</i>	<i>Not Provided</i>		
Wheeler Dealers Hunter Presbyterian Church		1st, 3rd, 5th Friday 8:00-10:30 pm	President: Bob & Wanda Wagner (859) 272-4769
<u>Date</u>	<u>Caller</u>	<u>Cuer / LD Leader</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Jan. 6, 2012	Les Centers		
Jan. 20, 2012	Mark Patterson		Chili / Beans / Cornbread
Feb. 3, 2012	Kevin Robinson		
Feb. 17, 2012	Mark Patterson		
Mar. 2 & 3, 2012	Mark & Wes @ Lure Lodge		Lure Lodge - Lake Cumberland State Park
Mar. 16, 2012	Mark & Travis Cook		All-Nighter

Future Special Dances & Weekend Dance Opportunities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Callers / Cuers</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Information</u>
Every Tuesday	Plus Dance 7:00 to 9:00	Mark Patterson	Down Under Hall, 120 Wilson Ct., Nicholasville, KY	Mark Patterson
Jan. 13 & 14	Winter Frolic.	Mark Patterson, Wes Dyer, Ricky Frasure / Pauline Angress	Center for Rural Dev., Somerset, Ky	Sharon Morgan 859-967-9392
Jan. 27 & 28	Snowball Jamboree	Kenny Jarvis, Nick Hartley Tom Davis, Darrin Henry / Glenn & Rosalee Kelley	Best Western, Exit 104, I-75 S. Lexington, KY	Trish Jarvis 502-955-8341
Feb. 24 & 25	Spring Magic Round Dance Weekend	Glenn & Rosalee Kelley	Natural Bridge State Park	Glenn Kelley 859-233-9947
Mar. 2 & 3	Lure Lodge Weekend	Mark Patterson & Wes Dyer	Lake Cumberland State Park, Jamestown, KY	Wanda Wagner 859-272-4769
Mar, 2 & 3	Spring Extravaganza	Tony Oxendine, Dee Dee Dougherty-Lottie, Jerry Story, Tom Miller / Jan & Cal Smith	Noblesville, IN	Jim & Lue Lewis 317-896-3138



KFSD Questionnaire



There seems to be a lack of interest in the quarterly newsletter. That being the case it may be time to discontinue it. In order to make an informed decision on its fate we ask that you answer the following questions in an email to Bluespirit_scott@bellsouth.net. Simply list the question number and your comments.

1. Do you like the way the newsletter is distributed each quarter? If not, how would you like to see it done?
2. When you receive the email that it has been issued do you go to the KFSD website and read it?
3. What part of the newsletter do you like the best?
4. What do you like least about the newsletter?
5. What type of articles and subjects would you like to see covered in future issues?
6. How important is the Club Dance Schedule to you and do you refer to it periodically during the quarter?

