

Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444 • Founded 1920

Newsletter No. 65 – November 2005

DUBLIN'S GRENADIERS (1808-1850)

By a state statute of December 22, 1808 the Dublin Grenadiers were formed as the First Company of the Twelfth Regiment, not to exceed forty-eight rank and file plus officers and musicians.

The Dublin Historical Society's museum collection includes the sword of Grenadier Captain Almerin Gowing (mercifully never sharpened), a Dublin Grenadiers haversack, the militia drum (but not the fife) approved for purchase at the 1786 Dublin town meeting, and the flag of the Grenadier Company approved for purchase by the 1808 Dublin Town Meeting. In addition, the Historical Society's archives contain nearly complete records of the Dublin Grenadiers, as well as numerous records of Dublin's other militia organization, the Fourth Company of Infantry.

On April 21, 1834, Captain Almerin Gowing of the Dublin Grenadier Company issued the following order:

"New-Hampshire Militia

"Company Order

To John W. Learned Jr Sergt

"You are hereby ordered and directed to notify and warn, as the law requires, the non-commis-



*Haversack marked "D G" for Dublin Grenadiers.
Dublin Historical Society Museum collection.*

Winter Potluck Meeting

Friday, February 17, 2005 – 6:30 p.m • Vestry of the Community Church
(Snow date: Friday, February 24)

Our fellow member, **Michael King**, will speak on what New Hampshire movie audiences saw between 1910 and 1935. His talk will be illustrated with glass slides, and there will be an exhibit drawn from his collection of posters, window cards and other memorabilia of the period.

A reminder will be mailed in January.



New-Hampshire Militia.

COMPANY ORDER.

To John W. Larned, Jr. Sergt.

You are hereby ordered and directed to notify and warn, as the law requires, all the non-commissioned officers and privates whose names are hereto annexed, in the company under my command, to appear on Parade near the Townhouse in Dublin, on Tuesday the Sixth, day of May next at one o'clock in the afternoon, with arms and equipments required by law for military duty.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of your doings herein, on or before the day of appearance.

Dated at Dublin this twenty-seventh day of April Anno Domini, 1834.

Almerin Gowing, Captain or commanding officer of said Company.

The Grenadier Company

Captain Almerin Gowing's order for the Dublin Grenadiers to muster "on Parade near the Town House in Dublin". In 1834 the Town House was a brick building facing the Old Common, where the Frothingham house (now the Wolpe's) was later built.

Dublin Historical Archives, records of the Dublin Militia

sioned officers and privates whose names are hereto annexed, in the company under my command, to appear on Parade near the Town House In Dublin on Tuesday the sixth of May next at one o'clock in the afternoon, with arms and equipment required by law for military duty."

The order listed the names of twenty-five men. One member of the Grenadiers, Daniel Fisk, presented the Dublin selectmen with a medical certificate from the Regimental Surgeon exempting Fisk from military duty for a year. Fisk was also forgiven the fine of two dollars, levied by state law, for unexcused absence from drill.

The May 6, 1834 call-up was the first company drill of the year. It served as a reminder that Muster Day, scheduled for September 10, 1834, lay ahead of the company. Spring plowing had not yet begun – snow probably remained in the corners of farmers' fields – and it was a good time to reacquaint Dublin militia men with their arms and equipment.

Some weeks later Isaac J. Fox, captain of the Jaffrey Rifle Company (a.k.a the "Slam Bangs") and now colonel of the entire Twelfth Regiment, sent out his first communication of the year concerning Muster Day, 1834. Militia companies in Fitzwilliam, Jaffrey and Rindge comprised the First Battalion, and companies in Dublin, Marlborough and Nelson the Second Battalion of the Twelfth Regiment. Fox's letter to Captain Almerin Gowing of the Dublin Grenadier Company read:

"Sir

"You are hereby ordered to parade your

Company on the parade ground in front of Isaac J. Fox's Tavern in Jaffrey on Wednesday the tenth day of Sept. next, at six o'clock in the morning, armed and equip[p]led for Military Inspection and Review and there wait the orders of the Col[onel]. Request each soldier to furnish himself with twenty four sporting Cartridges for the sporting exercises of the day.

"You are also ordered to appear with your subalterns at Isaac J. Fox Tavern in Jaffrey on Wednesday the twenty seventh day of Aug. Inst. [1834] At nine o'clock A.M. armed with swords and muskets for the purpose of drill –

By order of Isaac J. Fox Col.
Calvin J. Parker} Adj. 12th Regt.
NH Militia"

It was evidently the Colonel's perquisite to order a regimental muster at his own tavern, a location that may suggest what some of the "sporting exercises" were expected to be.

During the 1830s complaints began to be heard from the public about the lack of discipline at state militia meetings. Governor Dinsmoor, a longtime leader of the Keene Light Infantry, inspected all the militia troops of Cheshire County at a great 1831 Muster Day, only to speak disparagingly of the militia a few weeks later. When the militia were not called up for service in the war with Mexico (1846-1848), calls to abolish the militia became overwhelming. The last statewide Muster Day was held in September 1850, and on July 12, 1851 the legislature mandated "That the militia of this State shall be subject to no active duty, except in case of war, insurrection, riot, inability of the civil officers to enforce the execution of the laws, or other public danger or emergency." A substantial chapter in New Hampshire military history had come to an end.

– Rusty Bastedo

Note: An annotated version of this article is on file at the Historical Society's Archives.

A HISTORY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF DUBLIN PART II



The 1930s saw the apogee of grand gardens in Dublin. It was also the decade in which Garden Club flower shows were a high point of almost every summer. These were first held in the top floor of the Town Hall and later in the Consolidated School gym.

A notable example was the show of 1937, for which the design and much of the elaborate scenery were executed by club member Joseph Lindon Smith.

FLOWER SHOWS IN THE GRAND MANNER

The publicity chairman (Miss Mary Lincoln Aldrich) had done her work well, as demonstrated by the lengthy article in the *New York Herald Tribune* for August 22, which began:

“DUBLIN, N.H., Aug. 21. After two years of private showings the Garden Club of Dublin will open its annual flower show to the general public at the public school house here next Thursday and Friday... The stage setting and general plan of the show are the work of Mr. Joseph Lindon Smith...”

The following is from the report of the Flower Show Committee:

“Facing the entrance [to the gym] was a symbolic representation of the sun with its life giving rays, (such a symbol as the sculptors of Akhnaton carved on the temple walls of Egypt in the 18th Dynasty)...”

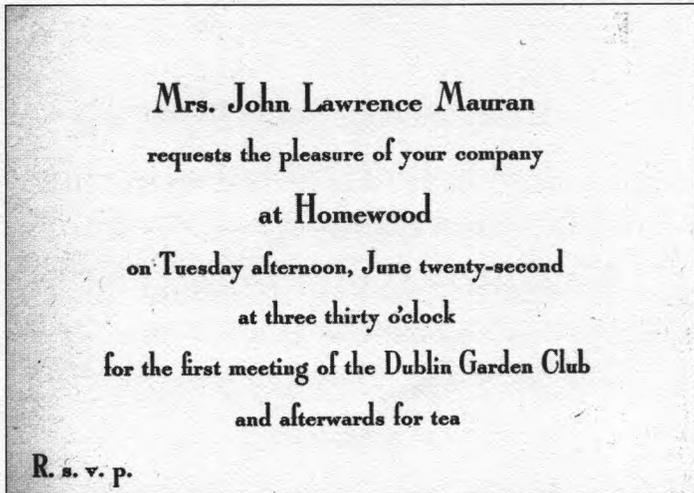
Mr. Smith’s design so impressed the judges that they awarded him the prize for “best exhibit”. Afterwards, an article in *Horticulture* magazine had this to say:

“This year’s exhibition of the Dublin (N. H.) Garden Club opened August 26. The garden club in Dublin is fortunate in

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View of the 1937 Flower show in the Consolidated School gymnasium.
Dublin Historical Society Archives, records of the Garden Club of Dublin.



Invitation to a Garden Club meeting at Mrs. Mauran's house, 1937. This formal type of notice was used throughout the 1930s.

Dublin Historical Society Archives, records of the Garden Club of Dublin.

having the assistance of Mr. Joseph Lindon Smith, a well-known artist, who each year decorates one of the exhibition halls in a unique and attractive way. Striking oriental effects were produced this year and it was the unanimous vote of the judges that the prize for the best exhibit should go to Mr. Smith."

The whole number of classes was thirty-two. The first four were limited to club members and called for variously-specified flower arrangements. The remaining classes were open to "Club Members, residents and those employed in Dublin and surrounding communities..." There was a children's class (ages six to twelve) for arrangements of flowers and vegetables. There were thirteen entries in the vegetable division, second prize being awarded to Lillian Russell (now Lillian Carter), thereby setting off a distinguished career in garden design.

Again, from the Committee report:



Isabel Chapman Mauran, second President of the Garden Club, in proper gardening costume for 1937. Attentive readers may remember her as the recipient of a lot of Tiffany silver on her wedding to John Lawrence Mauran.

Dublin Historical Society Archives, records of the Garden Club of Dublin.

"The Specimen Classes were shown this year in a basement room... It was beautifully laid out and arranged under the direction of Mr. Finnie, Mrs. Brewster's Superintendent, but one whole truck load of Mrs. Brewster's exhibits had to be sent home because of lack of room. Mrs. Mauran's exhibit of tuberous begonias must be mentioned here. It was so very outstanding that she received the Grand Prize for the best Exhibit in the show. Mrs. Brewster, as usual, received the Sweepstakes Prize for the Exhibitor winning the greatest number of points in the Open Specimen Classes."

Over 1100 people attended the show. Admission was 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children. Gross receipts were \$248.50, most of the expenses being covered by members' contributions.

The description of the 1937 show could go on and on, but perhaps enough has been said to indicate that things were done with a lavish hand.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In 1937 the Club had 71 members, including three gentlemen: the Messrs. Brewster, Shallcross and Smith. All but two were summer residents.

From time to time efforts were made to bridge

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the town-gown divide. With the help of the Women's Club, a yard and garden competition was organized in 1933, which ran for several years. There were 31 entries the first year, and the judges, doubtless for reasons of tact, were from out of town. School children were enlisted in optimistic efforts to eradicate tent caterpillars (1936) and ragweed (1938-1940). The 1940 ragweed competition was won by a girl who brought in 144,750 plants for burning. She won first prize: \$10.00. In 1941, and for the duration of the war, the club sponsored children's Victory Gardens, providing seeds and awarding prizes for best crops. These children's garden competitions outlasted the war, being continued into the late 1950s.

In all these efforts to reach out to the Town the liaison with the Women's Club was Mrs. Alexander James ("Freddie"), one of the two members of the Garden Club whose winter address on the membership list was "Dublin".

THE 1940S AND 50S

The war naturally curtailed the Club's activities. There were no flower shows, and because of gas rationing meetings were fewer. Programs tended to be about canning and other war-related subjects. After the war, flower shows resumed on

a small scale (members only) in the barn at "Robinwood", then the home of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Gerry (and now of Dr. & Mrs. Russell Robertson). In 1949 the Club hosted, for the first time, the meeting of the Garden Club of America's Northern New England Zone meeting.

The Club's main *pro bono* project in the 1950s was to help restore the inside and beautify the outside of the former Trinitarian Church building (now the Post Office) as a clubhouse for the Dublin Women's Community Club. A number of benefits were organized for that purpose, including an "Italian Fair" (1951) and a "Toulouse-Lautrec Ball" (1958), both at the James studio, and an exhibition of the work of Dublin artists in the Women's Club building (1952).

These good works, together with the usual garden-focused activities, were duly reported to the Garden Club of America, which, as noted in the previous article, sets great store by such things.

— John Harris

TO BE CONTINUED.



BOOK REVIEW

The Adventures Of M. James

A Sailor's Diary Aboard the U.S.S.

Monterey, CVL-26

by Michael James

143 pp. — Turn of the Screw Press — \$26.00

In September, 1943, Michael James, youngest son of Alexander & Frederika James, reported aboard the newly-commissioned escort carrier *Monterey* at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. His age was twenty and his rank Aerologist's Mate, 2nd Class. (What aerologists did was predict the weather.)

Against all regulations, Michael kept a diary of his two-and-a-half years aboard the *Monterey*, most

of it in the Pacific. This diary has now been published by his nephews, Robert and Henry James, in a very handsome edition with excellent maps and illustrations.

It is the text, however, that makes this book a treat. Michael had a natural talent for recording in very few words what war at sea was like: bad food, discomfort, homesickness and boredom punctuated by occasional excitement as planes — our own and kamikazes — fought above the task force.

The climax, however, was not combat, but a typhoon with waves that swept planes off the flight deck. On the hangar deck planes and bombs broke loose, setting the ship on fire. The *Monterey* was dead in the water, a sitting duck in the middle of a combat theater. All this is described laconically and dryly, but at the same time conveying the desperation of the struggle to keep afloat.

The Adventures of M. James is for sale at the Toadstool. Don't miss it.

—J.W.H.