THE SOCIAL DANCES AT THE INAUGURAL BALLS OF THE EIGHT OHIO UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS

A Thesis
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by

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ABSTRACT

The presidential inaugural ball from the time of George Washington to the present, has been a very important part of the inaugural celebrations. Attended by politicians, foreign diplomats, military and civilian members of society, these quadrennial events can be compared to the political festivities in the courts of Europe. Dancing is a central focus point as the entertainment at these balls. This investigation centered on the social dances performed at the inaugural balls of the eight Ohio United States presidents, with the intention of revealing the dances on the dance program and the music that was played for them. The presidents included in this study are William Henry Harrison, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William Howard Taft, and Warren G. Harding.

This research was conducted using historical methodology, compiling information from newspaper articles and presidential memorabilia from the time of each president's inauguration. In addition, a personal interview with an authority on 19th century dance, was a valuable resource.

The investigation reveals most of the dances and the accompanying music performed by the participants at these inaugural balls. It also provides historical background information, insights into the inaugural events, and special features of the inaugural balls.
DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my family members who surround me with their love everyday.

I first want to thank my daughter, Alexondra for helping me in the first stages of compiling information for this thesis, and for her knowledge of editing skills. Her love for reading has already benefited others. I want to thank my son, Jarrod, for his words of encouragement and support during my many sleepless hours of the night. I next want to thank my son, Britton and his wife Amanda, for their support and love while writing this thesis.

My mother and father, Clayton and Georgia Kuhnell have played a large part in the path that led to the completion of this thesis. I want to thank them for their endless love, guidance, respect, faith and support of me through the years. Their modeling of extreme hard work and integrity along with their love, are the best lessons I have ever been taught.

My deepest thanks goes to my loving husband Steven, whose unselfish love, respect, support and care of me, is always there. My achievement in writing this thesis is largely due to him, his sacrifices and help.

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of the United States' presidential inaugurations, the inaugural ball has been compared to and rivaled the coronation celebrations of the crowned heads of Europe. Since the inauguration of George Washington in New York in 1789, the inaugural ball has been a welcomed and anticipated conclusion to the inaugural day ceremonies and events. Even today, this popular tradition is an important focus point of the inauguration festivities. This research investigates the social dances performed at the eight Ohio president's inaugural balls with the purpose of identifying the dances and the music that was played on these occasions. This subject had not been undertaken prior to this study. The Ohio presidents included in this investigation are William Henry Harrison, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William Howard Taft, and Warren G. Harding. It is anticipated that this research will benefit the dance community by providing access to information for the purpose of re-construction and presentation of these dances for the public through many entertainment and educational venues.

For the most part historical methodology was used to compile the information in this investigation. Primary sources included articles from prominent newspapers of the period, such as the Washington Post, the Evening Star and the New York Times which covered the events of the inaugurations of each of these presidents. Music periodicals from the archives of the U.S. Marine Band, which covered the music at the balls, were also used. Memoirs written by some of the president's wives providing their accounts of the inaugural ball are
included. Memorabilia such as inaugural ball and concert programs and
inauguration tickets from archives of historical societies, the Library of Congress,
the National Museum of American History and presidential home sites were used.
An interview with world renowned dance historian, Elizabeth Aldrich, provided
insight into the dances and etiquette at the inaugural balls. Secondary sources
included numerous books on the subject of the eight Ohio presidents and their
inaugurations. Books on etiquette and social manners, as well as popular dance
and etiquette manuals written about the time of each president's inauguration were
consulted.

In addition to the findings concerning the social dances, other aspects
surrounding the inauguration of each of these presidents and accounts of the balls
are included. Its purpose is to give the reader insight into the historical
background as well as a sense of the atmosphere at each of the balls. This
background includes information leading up to each president's inauguration;
descriptions of the events on their inauguration day and descriptions of the
inaugural ball.

The format of this thesis has been laid out in twelve chapters. The first two
chapters addressing social etiquette and manners, and the social dances during
these time periods were placed at the beginning to give the reader a feeling for the
environment and social context of the balls. Since the dances and their
presentation described in chapter three include many of the elements contained in
chapter two, the social etiquette and manners of these time periods are placed as
the beginning chapter. Because of the inner-relationship of this material at the
time they were written, some repetition has been inevitable. The chapters
following these are devoted to each of the inaugural balls of the eight Ohio
presidents in chronological order of their presidencies. Two of these presidents,
Grant and McKinley, had two inaugurations, so a chapter is devoted to each of these balls.

This research constitutes a preliminary investigation on this subject. Additional time and research would be required to locate some of the missing dance programs and their music. In order to do this, further search into private collections pertaining to these particular presidents would be necessary. In the meantime, my investigation serves as an opening chapter on this subject.
CHAPTER 2

ETIQUETTE AND MANNERS OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY BALLROOM

"Dancing being an amusement practiced in good company, it should, of course, be attended with civility and manners."

Saltator,
A Treatise on Dancing Boston,¹
1802

2.1 Background to the Development of Etiquette and Manners in 19th Century America

It is hard for us today to determine the differences in definition between the two words "etiquette" and "manners. Even in the dictionary one is used in reference to the other. During the nineteenth century however, "etiquette" was defined as correct behavior in the company of polite society, while "manners" was correct behavior in the company of any member of society. The end of the revolutionary era brought a new American democratic code of conduct which the colonists had not anticipated in their fight for independence, equality and religious freedom. Many of the immigrants who subsequently came to America were of the lower or middle classes and needed to assimilate themselves into society as quickly as possible in order to make a living. Some of these people made fast
fortunes in America, which rapidly lead to an economic revolution in America.

In the race to become established, a man's respectability played a large role and became contingent on the manner in which he presented himself in society. America developed a new code of conduct in etiquette and manners, which quickly became expected behavior by the members of the middle and upper classes. This code was made up of old pre-Revolutionary rules, but expanded on them. Correct behavior in society meant success or failure in one's livelihood. A man's respectability was measured by his gentlemanly manner.

For the middle class, a great desire for self-improvement and respectability grew. Both men and women were required to have dignity and wanted others to have a higher respect for them. In the 1840's alone, thirty-six manuals were written for the new class describing the etiquette on how to become a refined gentleman. These were addressed to both adults and youth. Americans wrote many of these manuals. According to these, the man's role as a gentleman was to govern his business and to be refined. Knowing how to make proper salutations, and introductions were sometimes gate keeping devices that could result in exclusiveness to socialize or deal with some members of society. Manners within these social circles were rules that were followed even if they were artificial. The changes in the new American codes of conduct elevated the middle class's status, creating a higher standard of living and respectability. However, no matter how hard the lower class man worked on being a gentleman, he was never accepted by the other classes. Thus, the economic revolution had an unequal effect on society as a social barrier grew between the lower class and the middle and upper classes.
C. Dallet Hemphill refers to this development in his book, *Bowing to Necessities*:

Manners can serve to erect or maintain as well as to destroy class barriers. They perform the first function in antebellum America: only now, the pressure on this physical sign system was greater than ever before.

Social gatherings were often the places where many of these new manners were not only displayed, but were expected. The ballroom was a typical place in which one had to be on guard and constantly prove worthiness. Most of the etiquette manuals written between 1820 and 1870 addressed how to behave at a ball, including how to conduct oneself while dancing. Some of the key elements of correct etiquette were self-control, politeness, proper demeanor and body carriage.

The members of the middle class were never to show awkwardness, but instead be shining examples of grace and assurance. The antebellum authors of etiquette manuals recommended dancing as a way to develop good posture and carriage. Dancing became very popular during this time period and all members of polite society were expected to know how to dance. Authors such as Wilson, recommended that people hire a dancing master for dance instruction. The dancing master not only taught the steps to the popular dances but also taught their pupils how to walk, sit, converse, stand, bow and curtsy in the ballroom.

Although many of these codes of conduct did not change until after the turn of the twentieth century, some differences were obvious during the nineteenth century.
2.2 Etiquette and Dance Manuals from 1820-1860

Many of the etiquette manuals written at this time were addressed to women. The post-revolutionary middle class woman had gained more respect than her predecessors had enjoyed. She now was not expected to work outside the home.5 Her new role was to attend to the domestic life and charm and influence other members of society. In the early decades of the nineteenth century, women began to have the right to preside over social gatherings. Now as the hostess of middle class gentility, she gained control and became man's social superior. These changes brought on the 'ladies first' phenomenon which served to protect and esteem her.6 Much of her new role, however, was designed by the man so that he could perform his role as the proper gentleman and have free reign in manners outside the domestic realm.

The gentleman's role was to treat women with utmost respect. Young sons learned the correct use of manners from their mothers and fathers and these were practiced at home, at church, and in public. On going to a ball, the young lady would be escorted by a young gentleman who could be a brother, relative, or close acquaintance. The young lady's chaperon, usually her mother, also attended the ball.7 At the ball the escort always made sure the ladies were well cared for. On entering the building he would immediately escort them to the lady's dressing room for them to shed their capes and hats.8 He then would find them a seat in the ballroom or sitting room. At the ball, the escort was expected to dance the first dance with his date.9 Afterwards, it was his job (which was not always easy) to make sure the lady had a dance partner for the other dances. Introductions to other gentlemen for the purpose of dancing had first to be approved by the lady before the new partner could begin to ask her for a dance. Once the lady agreed to the
introduction, the new gentleman was allowed to present his invitation. If the lady already had the acquaintance of the gentleman, the escort had not need to introduce them, but the gentleman always asked the lady for permission to dance. At a public ball a gentleman desiring a dance with a certain young lady whom he did not know, would ask to be introduced to her by the Master of Ceremonies. If the lady agreed to the introduction, the suitor would proceed in asking her to dance. It was considered the man's privilege to ask a lady to dance, but the lady had the right to refuse a gentleman, if she wished. Once a dance was agreed on and danced, the gentleman had no more rights to the lady's time for the rest of the evening unless she chose to spend more time with him. He was to ask permission to sit with her if he desired to stay for conversation, and once seated, he was to make her comfortable. The same lady and gentlemen were not to dance more than three dances together in one evening because it would be considered bad taste to spend so much time together.

On asking the lady for a dance, the man would first bow to her. Upon receiving and accepting the invitation, she would write his name in her dance program next to the dance, which they agreed upon. He would make a similar notation in his program. He then would leave her company. When it came time for the agreed upon dance, he would find the lady and again bow to her, presenting his right hand to her left and thus escort her to the dance floor. They would begin and end the dance with a bow or curtsy. On the dance floor, it was the man's responsibility not to run into any other couple while dancing or step on the lady's feet or train. If he could not avoid this kind of mishap, he was expected to apologize. He was to give her all of his attention while in her company. At the conclusion of the dance, he would ask her if she wanted any refreshment. If she so desired he would escort her to the refreshment room and attend to her needs.
Otherwise, he would escort her back to her seat and chaperon, then wait with her until another gentleman asked her to dance or until his next promised dance with another lady. The man always thanked the lady for the honor of her dance. The proper gentleman was also expected to dance with any wallflowers who were not dancing. Any man who came unattended to a ball could ask permission to attend to a lady who did not have an escort. This woman might be a widow or an older unmarried lady.

Because it was the man's obligation at the ball to serve the lady, he had to know how to dance. Proper knowledge of the steps and figures of the current dances was essential. He would never want to make his partner or himself look foolish by seeming ignorant of this essential social grace. This would be a great offense. But just knowing the steps was not enough. Correct knowledge of how to hold the lady while dancing was also essential, and when leading he must do it gently, simply by touching her fingers. Dance manuals warned about keeping the correct distance between the man and the woman when dancing. When taking a lady for a promenade the man always offered his right arm to the lady. He was never to push his way through a crowded hallway or dance floor. On leaving the company of the lady, before he bowed, he could gently kiss her hand, cheek or forehead depending on the intimacy with the lady.

The conversations between the gentleman and lady were similar to those of earlier times. Conversations were always to be pleasant and courteous with attention to proper word choices. Topics were chosen carefully and depended on the age of the people and their marital status. If the conversation were with a young unmarried lady, the gentleman would talk about the weather, fashions, or the theater. If the woman were married, the subject would be in regard to her
family or of the lady's grace and beauty. It was during these conversations that a woman could demonstrate her education, her knowledge of music and dance or her taste in fashion. The elder always led conversations between the young and elderly. Controversial subjects about religion or politics were always avoided by both genders and age groups. 22 Showing off or joking, gossiping, venting anger or contradicting others was never allowed.

The lady had her own responsibilities when attending a ball. Invitations to a ball in the early decades of the nineteenth century were sent out usually ten days before the event. 23 The lady needed to reply immediately and begin planning who she would ask to escort her and what she would wear. She was expected to behave in a gracious manner, always cautious to protect her respectability in polite company. She was expected to act modestly but not bashfully. It was the lady's job to make the introductions of her acquaintances to other people at the ball. Married women introduced their husbands as Mr. so and so, never using their first name. 24 When introduced to a gentleman, the woman did not need to rise from her seat, but she could offer her hand for a handshake if she wished. While seated, she was to remain very erect in posture in the chair with both knees together and feet flat on the floor. If an elderly or higher ranked lady came up to her, the seated woman was expected to stand up out of respect and offer her seat. 25 If she did not accept the offer, the woman could sit down again.

The Gentleman's Rules at the Ball

The gentleman had a number of rules of conduct in the ballroom, some which would be unthinkable to us today. Etiquette books and dance manuals warned the "want-to-be" gentleman to guard his behavior. Some of these
warnings were in regard to personal grooming habits such as, no head scratching, no picking of the nose or teeth, or cleaning of the fingernails in public. Other warnings regarded conversation in the ballroom such as, no talking in a foreign language, no loud talking or cussing and never to withdraw abruptly from a conversation.

Gentleman's Rules on the Dining Room at the Ball

The gentleman had other responsibilities regarding his correct behavior in the dining room. Firstly, he was to always make sure that the lady's needs were taken care of before his own.27 After obtaining a seat at the dinner table for her, he was to give her all the food and drink she wanted.28 Other mandatory rules at the dinner table for the gentleman were, never talking with food in his mouth, never gargling his drink at the table, never making unnecessary noise with his teeth when eating and never eating from his knife.29

Gentleman's Rules on Dancing in the Ballroom

Writers of etiquette and dance manuals in the first half of the nineteenth century such as Lord Philip Chesterfield, warned the gentleman about his conduct while on the dance floor.29 On beginning a dance the gentleman should not take too long getting to the dance floor with his partner.30 This could cause the couple to rush or miss the beginning of the dance. He also should never leave the dance floor during the middle of a dance to sit down.31 Finally, the gentleman was warned not to attend a ball if he did not know how to dance or had no ear for music.32
Ladies Rules on Dancing in the Ballroom

The lady also had to be on guard of her behavior in the ballroom. The following rules pertained to her conduct in the presence of gentlemen. She was to refuse the invitation of a dance with a gentleman she had not been properly introduced to, telling him she had not had the honor of his acquaintance. If she knew the gentleman but just did not want to dance with him, she was not to dance the next two dances unless they were promised to someone else.\textsuperscript{34} If while dancing, the gentleman did not know the steps of the dance, the lady could tell him of his ignorance, but should not give him a dance lesson.\textsuperscript{35}

Other rules addressed her presentation, such as dancing with modesty and grace.\textsuperscript{36} She was never to leap or jump while executing her dance steps.\textsuperscript{37} The importance of correct body carriage and deportment while dancing were highly stressed by writers of dance manuals at this time. When curtsying, the lady was to hold her skirt with her forefingers.\textsuperscript{38} The lady was also warned not to dance too many dances to avoid getting tired, and to never walk around the dance floor without an escort.\textsuperscript{39}

2.3 Etiquette and Dance Manuals from 1860-1890

Although many of the codes of etiquette did not change significantly throughout the nineteenth century, some rules were elaborated on during the mid to later part of the century. Writers of dance manuals reinforced the use of proper behavior in the ballroom. \textit{Beadle's Dime Ball-Room Companion}, of 1868 speaks
of this and its importance:

It is in the ball-room that society is on its best behavior. Everything there is regulated to the strictest code of good-breeding, and as any departure from this code becomes a great offense, it is indispensable that the etiquette of the ball-room should be thoroughly mastered.\(^{40}\)

The formal introduction to the lady for the purpose of dancing was still adhered to at this time. If a man had charge of two ladies, it was now permissible for him to ask a stranger to dance with one of the ladies if he had obtained her permission to do so.\(^ {41}\) A married lady's husband needed to be asked if she was to dance with another man.\(^ {42}\) The ladies role as ball room sovereigns became even more secure. In 1855, the *Ladies Book of Etiquette* reminded its readers of the gentleman's duty to the lady in the ballroom. Linda Lichter refers to this source in *Simple Social Graces*:

Recollect that your partner is for the time being your very humble servant and that he will be honored by acquiescing in any of your wishes: for instance, you may wish to promenade, to walk from one room to another, to join your friends: you may require a jelly, ice, wine, or any other refreshment…in short he will feel honored by receiving your commands, and he ought to anticipate your wishes on most of the above.\(^ {43}\)

The manuals of the second half of the nineteenth century began to expand and offer more specific suggestions to both the lady and the gentleman regarding their conduct at the ballroom and while dancing. The lady was told not to dance every dance because it prohibited other ladies from dancing.\(^ {44}\) Rules also
Also, beginning around 1880, less information was provided in the dance manuals about proper etiquette and manners. Some dance manuals adapted to the revised views of the gentleman by stating that a man should not dance too well, for fear he would look like a dance master.\textsuperscript{54} These authors fostered self-taught dance instruction for gentlemen from their manuals. Others lightened his chivalrous duties by relieving him of the practice of escorting his partner back to her seat after a dance. Men began to make their introductions to women without the formal permission from her escort, and the job of the Masters of Ceremonies at the ball was generally eliminated.\textsuperscript{55} Young men that did dance were not interested in learning new dance steps and technique, they engaged in couple dances that did not require practice or much memory. Dances from earlier in the century such as the German cotillion involved instructions called out from the orchestra or game playing, continued to be popular because they required little dancing ability.

Despite a general relaxation of the code of behavior, however, the etiquette manuals of this period still impressed upon its readers the importance of good manners for both the man and woman. Elizabeth Aldrich's, \textit{From the Ballroom to Hell}, refers to many manuals and articles on etiquette in the late nineteenth century. One of these from 1879, the \textit{Social Etiquette of New York}, confirms the lingering importance of correct behavior:

\begin{quote}
Elegant manners should not be considered beneath the attention of the man or any woman. They will carry a stranger farther up the heights of social ambition than money or mental culture.\textsuperscript{56}
\end{quote}

Etiquette manuals still addressed the power a woman held in society when using refinement, gentleness, and elegance in her actions.\textsuperscript{57} They warned her
against improper politeness in receiving the gentleman. She also was told to continue to graciously receive the attentions of men. Like the man, however, she was given more flexibility in the ballroom. By the end of the century she was allowed to walk around the ballroom with the gentleman before returning to her chaperon. Her chaperon may also no longer be her mother, but might be her maid or a young married woman.

By the early decades of the twentieth century it was becoming for a lady to ask a gentleman to dance. The previous obligations for dance programs were eliminated because of the spontaneity of the invitation to dance between the couples. Further, the custom of a new gentleman "cutting in" while a couple was dancing began. This allowed a partnerless young man to dance at any time. Consequently, interest in dancing peaked again for the gentleman, and the desire for new dances, which fit with the new etiquette, soared.

New Rules of Etiquette in the Ball Room

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries etiquette manuals featured new innovative codes of conduct in the ballroom while still fostering some of those from earlier times. The lady who was hostess of a ball was now required to send out the invitations three weeks in advance in order to allow those attending, proper time to clear their busy schedules. Some codes of conduct changed due to new trends in gender goals in society. The young lady who was engaged in educational pursuits was told not to attend a ball because of conflict of interests.
The behavior of the gentleman asking permission to have a dance took on a drastic change. In the new custom of "cutting in", the lady was never to refuse to dance with a new gentleman, but the gentleman was told never to dance with a lady too long. The man was not to ask a woman who was sitting alone with another man to dance. The gentleman's responsibilities to the lady increased in preparing to go to the ball. He was now expected to send the lady flowers that complimented her dress to wear to the ball. Furthermore, he was still expected to provide transportation to and from the ball for the lady and her chaperon, but he could return to the ball if he wished once they were safely home.

2.5 Conclusion

The economy in the early years after the Revolutionary War played a large part in the way society formed its views on acceptance and rejection of people. Middle class Americans that wanted to be successful needed to assimilate themselves into society by conforming to the new democratic codes of conduct. Proper etiquette and manners were part of these codes during the nineteenth century. Guidelines on correct usage were addressed in hundreds of etiquette and dance manuals written at this time. Americans were anxious to learn how to become proper and eagerly followed their directions. Although etiquette and manners at first glance seem to be one in the same, there was a distinction. Proper etiquette was a required behavior specifically within polite society, while manners were expected everywhere else. Allen Dodworth, in his dance manual of 1885, distinguished between etiquette and manners by stating:

Manners is an individual virtue, the same in all nations, communities, and societies, while etiquette may vary at different periods of time and take a different form in each social circle.
NOTES TO CHAPTER 2


3 Ibid. 131.

4 Ibid.

5 Aldrich 6.

6 Hemphill 198.


9 Ibid. 21.

10 Hemphill 198.

11 Ibid.

12 Hillgrove 25.
Dance program. A small card furnished by the sponsor of the ball which listed the order of dances to be danced that evening. The lady and gentleman would enter the name of the person with whom they were going to dance each dance.


Hillgrove 25.

Aldrich 114.

Beeble 14.

Wallflower, a woman who stands along the walls of the ballroom waiting for a partner to ask her to dance.


Hillgrove 20.

Aldrich 102.


Aldrich 110.

Hemphill 208.

Hemphill 186.

Chesterfield 56.

Hemphill 199.

29 Ibid. 33.

30 Chesterfield 58.


32 Beadle 14; Chesterfield 60.

33 Beadle 13; Hillgrove 25.

34 Aldrich 118.

35 Aldrich 110, Chesterfield 61.

36 Hillgrove 33.

37 Aldrich 110.

38 Ibid. 93.

39 Beadle 14; Hillgrove 14

40 Beadle 5.

41 Hillgrove 27.

42 Ferrero 99.


44 Ferrero 113.

45 Hillgrove 23.

46 Ibid. 34.

47 Ferrero 107.
48 Ibid. 96.

49 Hillgrove 24.

50 Ibid.

51 Hillgrove 29.

52 Beadle 14.

53 Aldrich 8.

54 Ibid. 115.

55 Beadle 13.

56 Aldrich 55.

57 Ibid. 59.

58 Ibid.


61 Hall 247; Holt 149.

62 Cutting in, was a practice the gentleman could use on the dance floor when wanting to dance with a lady who was already dancing with another man.


64 Aldrich 59.
65 Post 447.

66 Ibid.

66 Dana 15.

68 Holt 171-175.

CHAPTER 3

THE SOCIAL DANCES PRESENT AT THE OHIO UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS' INAUGURAL BALLS

"The art of Dancing is not only necessary, but indispensable to those that are fond of society. The manner of presenting oneself, and of receiving others in company with a graceful propriety, and the easy and polite demeanor which is so becoming everywhere, are acquired most effectual by those who have studied the art of dancing."

M.B. Gilbert, 1890

Round Dancing

3.1 Introduction

The social dances performed at the inaugural parties of the Ohio United States presidents during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries changed immensely during the eighty year time period between William Henry Harrison and Warren G. Harding. Changes were due to influences of new dances from Europe, and were later influenced from North American and South American cultures. Many of the dances done in America up to the twentieth century were imported from Europe. New dance crazes there, like the polka and the tango, were quick to find their
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way to the American dance floors.\textsuperscript{2} It was not until the last decade of the
nineteenth century that Americans began to create their own styles of dances that
 corresponded with the new American ragtime music. It was then Europe's turn to
import these dances, making them fashionable in their ballrooms. It is difficult to
determine the exact origin and dates of the dances evolved in Europe. Through
newspaper accounts, magazine articles and dance journals, we do know what
influenced many of these dances and where they became popular. Early dance
manuals of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries show us how the steps were
executed by the lady and gentleman as well as the general style and proper
 technique. Dances such as the waltz and polka influenced each other and stayed
popular at balls and parties in America throughout most of the nineteenth century.
These dances were enjoyed by all classes and were very influential in society.

3.2 The History of Social Dances in Early 19th Century America

The social dances performed at balls both in Europe and America in the
early part of the nineteenth century were continuances of dances popular during
the seventeenth and eighteenth century in England, Germany and France.
Communal dances such as the English country dances, reels, cotillion or contra
dances, and quadrilles began to be popular in the courts of Europe as early as the
reign of Charles II. of England in 1660.\textsuperscript{3} These dances were very popular in the
courts of Europe for many years and traveled back and forth in the courts from
England to France and vice versa, returning with different names and forms.\textsuperscript{4} For
example, the English country dances in the eighteenth century became the French
contra-dance or cotillion.\textsuperscript{5} (This should not be confused with a later dance called
the cotillion which was popular in the mid-nineteenth century). It then returned to
England as a dance known as the quadrille.\textsuperscript{6} Toward the end of the eighteenth century, round dances such as the German waltz and the galop offered diversity and intimacy to the single couple.\textsuperscript{7} Although they were met with moral controversy for many decades to come, they were very popular with members of the middle and upper class society.\textsuperscript{8}

The first quadrilles of the late eighteenth century consisted of three figures composed to two different musical selections, an entree and a refrain.\textsuperscript{9} These dances were popular with the dancers because they could converse during the dance and could begin dancing at the same time.\textsuperscript{10} They also could be broken off when desired.\textsuperscript{11} These quadrilles developed into a new kind of quadrille that contained more figures, usually six, but sometimes more. Music for these dances were especially composed with exact measures to fit the meter of the steps.\textsuperscript{12} The quadrilles were often named for prominent persons in society, but each figure was always composed of the same steps. The figures were the "Pantalon", "l ete", the "Poule", the "Trenis", the "Pastourelle", and the finale.\textsuperscript{13} The "Caledonians", a lively quadrille with five figures, developed in the early nineteenth century.\textsuperscript{14} Its steps were more complicated and was danced by the more accomplished dancer. The Scottish reels were also popular on the dance floor in Europe and America in the early nineteenth century.\textsuperscript{15}

People, however, wanted some variety in their dances, and found pleasure in the turning, round dances. The waltz, a dance in three-quarter time, required the couple to turn in a closed embrace. Its roots are believed to be from the German dance, the Allemande.\textsuperscript{16} The waltz found its way to the ballrooms of America around 1812 and was met with controversy.\textsuperscript{17} Moralist, Ernst Moritz in 1801, warned society about the evils of the waltz. His account as provided in Curt
Sachs' the *World History of Dance*, states that:

The dancers held up the dresses of their partners very high so that they should not trail and be stepped on, wrapped them tightly in this shroud, bringing both bodies under one covering, as close together as possible, and thus the turning went on in the most indecent positions; the hand holding the dress lay hard against the breasts pressing lasciviously at every moment; the girls, meanwhile, looked half mad and ready to swoon.\textsuperscript{18}

Even though some dance masters at this time also warned against the vulgarity of the waltz, others praised the feeling of freedom that the movement gave to its dancers. By the first half of the nineteenth century the waltz was danced at most social occasions in Europe and America.\textsuperscript{19} Its characteristics of rising and falling while turning, were very exhilarating to those who danced it. Its steps were also incorporated into the figures of the quadrille. Further, the developing waltz inspired another round dance toward the end of the eighteenth century, the galop. Also known as the galopade, this was a simple dance to learn and did not require immense study and technique.\textsuperscript{20} It also came to be placed in the quadrille in the final figure.\textsuperscript{21}

These dances were popular in America in 1841, the time of Ohio's first U.S. president, William Henry Harrison.
3.3 Social Dances in America 1845-1880
Ulysses S. Grant 1869 & 1873, Rutherford B. Hayes 1877

A renewed interest in dancing took place about the time of William Henry Harrison's first years in office. Paris, at the beginning of the mid-nineteenth century, led the Western World in fashion and taste. New Parisian dances hit the American ballroom floors and were greeted with great enthusiasm. Many of these dances were influenced by the folk dances of Western Europe. At this time people living in Paris who were of Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovakian descent whose countries were dominated by foreign governments, experienced a revitalization of their national dances, music and songs. Some of these people gathered in the dance salons and dance studios in Paris, demonstrating their national dances. French dancing masters eagerly learned these dances from their foreign students, realizing the excitement provided by these dances. Masters such as Cellarius, Lobarde, Perrot, and Coralli were quick to notate and embellish the steps of these dances. Dance manuals describing the new dances were immediately written and went on sale in both Europe and the United States.

The polka was the first of these dances to reach the salons of Paris and in a matter of a few months was an international craze. Although it is believed to have been invented by a Bohemian peasant girl, its birthplace is considered Paris in 1843. By 1844, it was performed on the theater stages in Paris and London, by famous ballet dancers such as Perrot, Cerrito, Grisi and Coralli. By May of that year, it was performed in New York City by Mary Ann Gammon. Then the polka phenomenon struck the Western World. It brought polka fashions, hair styles, hats, cakes and puddings, as well as a renewed interest in dancing. The dance remained popular into the 1890's and its steps gave diversity when combined with
other dances at this time. Parisian dance master, Cellarius in his 1858 publication *Drawing Room Dances*, warned dancers of the pitfalls in executing this dance.

> Whoever pretends to execute the polka in the ball-room, without being sufficiently prepared, will almost to a certainty appear ridiculous, or a least awkward, constrained, and, in any case, will be quite incongruous with more accomplished dancers.²⁸

Another dance that was part of the French dance craze in 1845 was the mazurka.²⁹ This dance came from Poland and like the waltz was in a three-four meter. Its characteristics were heel clicking, foot stamping and inventiveness from the couple. The dance required practice, patience and artistic ability.³⁰ The steps of the mazurka were also combined with the waltz and polka, and mazurka quadrilles were composed.³¹ German dancing master, Friedrich Albert Zorn describes the effect of the mazurka upon the dancer in the *Grammar of the Art of Dancing*, by stating that:

> Nearly every good Mazurka dancer feels an indescribable sensation entering his very soul and driving away all fatigue, immediately the first strains of a properly composed and correctly rendered Mazurka fall upon his ear.³²

The polonaise was another dance that became popular in America via Paris in the mid-nineteenth century. A Polish ceremonial walking dance similar to a march or promenade that was usually performed at the opening of a ball.³³ Couples would line up and walk in a series of formations, advancing forward and switching partners. Another popular dance in the ballroom, the German
schottische, was first danced around 1848. It was a round dance, similar in music to the polka in two-four meter but danced to a slower tempo.34

In the 1850's the Lancers quadrille that had its origins at the beginning of the century became very popular in America, especially at public balls.34 Those attending one of these events, which may have many thousands of people present, were more comfortable dancing dances that required less intimacy with strangers than the round dances. Dance historian, Elizabeth Aldrich explained in an interview that:

One of the reasons so many quadrilles were on the dance programs at the inaugural balls of the nineteenth century was because they required less intimacy with the dancers. The gentleman sought out another gentleman of his acquaintance before the dance commenced so that he knew exactly who his vis-a-vis was for the dance. This was favored over dancing with total strangers.36

The German cotillion, not to be confused with the earlier cotillion of the eighteenth century, was also popular in America beginning about 1847.37 They consisted of a series of waltzes, mazurkas or polkas combined with party games.38 They allowed for social mixing among the couples, usually done at the end of a private ball.39 However, these dances would never have been done at an inaugural ball because they were designed for a small party of approximately twelve couples. They are worth mentioning because they kept their popularity for the rest of the century, especially into the 1880's and 1890's.
Dance manuals from the 1850's to the 1890's show that all these dances remained popular in the larger society. Many variations and new dance steps were developed from these dances. The needs of society changed however, by the 1890's and so did the desire for dancing these dances. Generally people were not as excited about dancing as they had been earlier. It was not until about 1910 that there was a resurgence in the desire to dance socially.

3.4 Social Dances in America from 1880 to 1900, James A. Garfield, 1881, Benjamin Harrison, 1889, and William McKinley, 1897 & 1901

With the man's lessening desire to learn how to dance and go to balls in the 1880's, dance steps began to be simplified for those gentlemen that did venture into the ballrooms. Hoping to entice younger people to dance, composers such as Sousa, Berlin, Sullivan and Herbert wrote popular dance music. A new dance called the two-step, developed from the galop that was danced to many of these tunes. It offered a variety of steps from a closed or open dance position, done traveling forward or turning. It contained three steps in two beats of music. Variations of this dance such as the Washington Post and the Military Two-Step became popular among those who did go to the ballroom. ⁴⁰

The waltz, executed at a slower a slower tempo than earlier in the century, developed new steps such as the Boston and the Glide Waltz. The schottische was still danced, but elaborated on with many variations. ⁴¹ These dances, however, were short lived because of lack of interest by many dancers, but their characteristics did inspire the dances of the next century.
3.5 Social Dances in America 1900-1920 William Howard Taft, 1909 
and Warren C. Harding 1921

The social dances favored in America from 1900 to 1920 for the most part originated in America. They were influenced by the American ragtime music which had its roots in the African and Creole rhythms. Most of this music was written in syncopated meters, easy to walk to, but unlike the even beat of the march. This new rhythm was very catchy and made people want to dance. The one-step dance was the product of this music. It had a single step for each beat of music, and was therefore extremely easy to dance. One did not have to take lessons from a dance master to do these dances. Since it was a simple dance, personal style was incorporated into the dance, a practice which before had not been acceptable.

Polite society, however, thought these dances very vulgar because of the manner in which they were displayed. Those who danced the one-step moved their bodies from side to side and their arms up and down, sometimes imitating the animal after which the step was named. They began to take no notice where the steps went on the dance floor. Proper distance between the couple was ignored. Some dances even had the couple hug each other while dancing. The one-step variations known as the Animal Dances, were looked down upon by upper society,
but rekindled an interest in dancing among many of the rest of society. The tango, a one-step variation appearing around 1910, and the Argentine tango seen a few years later on the dance floor, became the biggest dance craze in America and Europe since the appearance of the polka over sixty years before.44

Because so many people were dancing again, members of the polite society got on board. Their approval of the newest dances came with the discovery of a young married, American dance couple, Irene and Vernon Castle who performed these dances with grace and respectability.45 The Castles created their own variation of the one-step called the Castle Walk, which became an accepted dance to do.46 Its acceptance was signaled by the fact that high society fashions copied the dresses Irene Castle wore when she danced.47 Writers of dance manuals of the early twentieth century applauded the Castles and looked to their execution of the dances as the model to be emulated. The Castles wrote in their 1912 dance manual, Modern Dancing, about the controversy of the dances of this time, stating:

A vulgar man or woman betrays lack of breeding even in walking across the room; sitting down may be performed in a vulgar manner, or any other small act. The modern dances properly danced are not vulgar; on the contrary, they embody grace and refinement.48

The waltz still continued to be danced during the ragtime period at a slower tempo.49 The one-step was incorporated into the waltz, yielding the Hesitation Waltz, the Half and Half, the Dream Waltz and the Innovation Waltz. The reaction to popular new dances in the 1920's, the Fox Trot and the Charleston made the Animal Dances look tame.
3.6 Changes in Dance Styles, Technique and Bows from 1840-1920

Although many of the dances from 1840 until 1920 were popular a large part of the time, when new dances appeared, so did changes in the dance style, technique and the bows. One of these changes concerned the dance position. When engaging in a round dance partners would face each other slightly right of each other. This allowed the gentleman and lady's feet not to come in contact. It also allowed the feet to be slightly turned out, which helped the dancer gain greater control of technique. The use of turn out was handed down from the ballet technique developed in the seventeenth century. Turn out did not disappear from social dancing until the end of the 1920's. The offset dance position also allowed greater ease to the couple when turning quickly.

In the early years of the nineteenth century correct dance position called for the gentleman's right hand to rest lightly above the lady's waist with her left hand below his shoulder at the top of his arm. Their arms were held in a rounded position, slightly lower than their shoulders. Her right hand was placed in his left hand. At the end of the century he brought his right arm up above her waist and placed it under her left shoulder blade. Her left hand was now placed on his right shoulder.

In the ragtime dances of the twentieth century, many new dance positions were developed. Sometimes when the couple faced each other in closed position, their shoulders and hips completely faced each other. Other times they went into the Yale position where their right shoulders and hips lined up or vice versa. The ladies in many of the one-step variations walked backward for much of the time, and the tango and maxixe could even be done without touching the partner.
The arms were held higher in this period and the elbows were bent much more than they were earlier. The lady's hand now clasped around the gentleman's hand.

Changes in the bow and curtsy also occurred in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In the early part of the nineteenth century the bow and curtsy were very simple. The gentleman with his feet together, merely inclined his body forward and straightened up again. The lady with both feet together merely bent her knees and straightened them again. Toward the middle of the century the bow and curtsy got more complicated. The gentleman stepped side then closed the other leg in back and bowed the body. The lady stepped side with the first foot and closed the other leg behind. She then pointed the first foot to the front and bent her knees to bow. She finished the curtsy by closing the back leg to the front leg. Up until the 1880's, when dancing a quadrille the couple always bowed to each other first and then to their opposite couple. After the 1880's the bows in the quadrille were sometimes not done. During the ragtime period the bows were usually eliminated.

Dance technique also changed within the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Good technique was highly stressed until the 1880's. Dancers were expected to stretch their legs and point their feet. Their bodies were held erect and lifted demonstrating proper body carriage. Dance technique at the end of the nineteenth century got more relaxed. Stretched legs and pointed feet were not expected. The ragtime dancers up until around 1914, had a carefree feeling in their movements. Their bodies bent side to side and forward and back. However, after 1914, until the 1920's, body movement was considered wrong while dancing largely due to Irene and Vernon Castle's influence.
3.7 Conclusion

Social dance during the eighty-year period between William Henry Harrison and Warren G. Harding underwent many changes. Many of the well established dances were popular for the majority of the time, but finally succumbed due to social changes. (See table one). These changes such as the man's lack of desire to be an accomplished dancer, brought different needs and wants in the ballroom. Changes came in the form of new dances, their styles, technique and behaviors. Society for the most part really enjoyed dancing. The dance crazes of this period often were more important to society than other more serious events in the world.

Society has always included dance in their important social events. The people, who witnessed the Ohio President's inaugural evenings, also witnessed an enormous amount of social dancing.
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<tr>
<th>Dances</th>
<th>1800-1845</th>
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<td>Quadrille</td>
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<td>Two-Step</td>
<td>Castle Walk</td>
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<td>Yorke</td>
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<td>Cakewalk</td>
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Table 1: Social Dances of the 19th through the Early 20th Centuries

*Promenade was performed much less beginning at the turn of the 20th century
NOTES TO CHAPTER 3

1 M.B Gilbert, Round Dancing, (New York: Gilbert, 1890) 12.
2 Ibid. 44.
6 Ibid. 424.
7 Round Dance, a turning social dance, done in the ballroom with the couple in closed position.
8 Richardson 65.
10 Sachs 422.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 Richardson 73.
15 Ibid. 35.
62, Sachs 431.
18 Sachs 430.
19 Vuillier 289.
20 Richardson 69; Zorn 224.
21 Richardson 70.
22 Ibid. 80.
23 Ibid. 86.
24 Cellarius's, *Drawing Room Dances*, (New York, Dinsmore Co; 1858) 24.

Gilbert's,
25 Gilbert 43, Richardson 81.
26 Richardson 85.
27 Gilbert 44.
28 Cellarius 22.
29 Richardson 29.
30 Zorn 253.
31 Ibid. 237.
32 Ibid. 253.
33 Ibid. 203
34 Richardson 102; Zorn 247.
35 Richardson 91.
37 Cottilion, (German), a dance popular from the mid to late 19th century that combined social dance with party games.
38 Richardson 100.
39 Cellarius 39.
40 Richardson 119.
41 Gilbert 119.
Sachs 444.

Ibid.

Sachs 444.


Vernon Castle, 32

Sachs 445.


Wilson 22.

Zorn 225.

Yale position, a closed dance position in which the couple stand off-set to each other, right shoulder to right shoulder or vice versa.


Ferrero 116.

Beedle 14.

Wilson 29.
CHAPTER 4

"Got Up In Superb Style"¹

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, the Ninth President of the U.S.

March 4th, 1841

4.1 Facts Leading up to the Ball

General William Henry Harrison was the first U.S. President to travel to his inauguration by train.² Coming from North Bend, Ohio, at age sixty eight he was the oldest man to ever become president.³ Known as "Old Tippecanoe", for his defeat of Tecumseh at the Battle of Thames in 1814, he had an exemplary career as a general in the army and after retirement began a new career in politics.⁴ In 1840, he represented the Whig party and won the Presidency against Martin Van Buren with 1,275,000 of the popular votes out of 2,411,000 and 234 of the electoral votes out of 294. His Vice President was John Tyler of Virginia.

William Henry Harrison's Inaugural Day on Thursday, March 4th, 1841, began with a twenty-six gun salute fired from the Mall.⁵ Each shot represented one State in the Union.⁶ The morning was cloudy and threatening rain or snow.⁷ Refusing to wear a hat, gloves or overcoat, Harrison rode to his inauguration on a white charger accompanied by many of his personal friends.⁸ His wife, Anna Symmes Harrison did not attend the ceremony because of illness.⁹ Her daughter
in-law, Mrs. Jane Irwin Harrison had accompanied the President to Washington and acted temporarily as Mistress of the White House.\textsuperscript{10}

An immense multitude of fifty to sixty thousand people filled the streets around the Capitol to watch the inauguration.\textsuperscript{11} Many traveled from all parts of the Union by carriage, foot or boat.\textsuperscript{12} Banners decorated the buildings and the streets representing the different delegations that were in attendance.\textsuperscript{13} Harrison anxiously stood on a platform at the east portico of the Capitol where he was sworn into office. Facing a bitter north wind, he delivered his 8,578 word inaugural address, the longest on record, which took one hour and forty five minutes.\textsuperscript{14} After this he led the inaugural parade along Pennsylvania Avenue, to the White House. Women waved handkerchiefs from windows on both sides of the street. Harrison greeted them with smiles and bows. The crowd followed Harrison to the White House where he retired for the afternoon and rested up for the evening celebrations.

4.2 The Balls

Harrison seemed determined to enjoy his inaugural day festivities and the cold and wet weather did not dampen his inaugural evening that night either. That evening he attended three balls held in his honor, and was received by the public with warmest admiration and respect.\textsuperscript{15} One of the balls he attended was held at the New Washington Assembly Rooms on Louisiana Avenue,\textsuperscript{16} the site of the old American Theatre, which had been converted into elegant spacious rooms containing two ballrooms and dinner rooms for this occasion.\textsuperscript{17} Each of the dancing rooms was eighty-five by forty-five feet in size\textsuperscript{18} and had a band to provide dance music.\textsuperscript{19} There was a supper room located off each of these rooms, one for the gentlemen who attended the ball by themselves and the other for the
gentlemen who were accompanied by a lady.\textsuperscript{20} There also were dressing rooms provided for each gender. Tickets for this ball cost ten dollars and it was attended by 2,500 prominent members of society.\textsuperscript{21} This ball must have been a highly organized affair because seventy-six ball managers named on the invitation.\textsuperscript{22} These men all held prominent positions such as judges, colonels, lieutenants, doctors and businessmen in Washington.\textsuperscript{23}

Another ball held on the inaugural night was the Native American Inaugural Ball.\textsuperscript{24} Tickets for this ball were three dollars each.\textsuperscript{25}

The third ball held on Harrison's inauguration night was the People's Tippecanoe Inaugural Ball at Carusi's Saloon on C Street.\textsuperscript{26} This ball was said to have been "got up in style", a slang phrase meaning it was the favorite ball of the President and his Cabinet that evening, for they all arrived there early and stayed very late.\textsuperscript{27} Tickets for this ball cost five dollars each and were sold at fine hotels in the Washington area.\textsuperscript{28} All of these balls were open to the public and began around 8:00 p.m. A fourth ball that night was held in Boston. It was called the Grand Inaugural Whig Ball which was presented by the Whig Party to honor Harrison.\textsuperscript{29}

Unfortunately, newspaper coverage about the inaugural balls was not as prevalent at the time of William Henry Harrison as it was for later Presidents such as Lincoln and Grant. Because what has been left to us on this subject must be pieced together, it is very hard to get a feel for the atmosphere of these events. Details such as, who attended and what they wore and ate at the balls are not mentioned. Maybe because Harrison had three unofficial balls on the same night instead of one main public ball, the interest was divided and it was less exciting to
to the press. We know from sketches of the balls that the ladies dressed in fine ball gowns that were gathered at the waist and had a small bell-shaped skirt. The gentlemen wore tailcoats and close fitting trousers. Those in the military wore their full dress uniforms. These balls had to be very exciting to those that attended, and must have been great fun and entertaining since President Harrison visited all of them and stayed till the end of the evening after his long day in the cold.\(^{30}\)

4.3 Dances at the Ball

The most popular ballroom dance in America at this time was the quadrille. Many of these quadrilles came to America from France. One of the quadrilles done at Harrison's inaugural ball was named *Harrison's Quadrille*, with music published in New York in 1840. This consisted of five sections: the Log Cabin, Tippecanoe, Fort Meigs, the Thames, and the White House. The Lancers Quadrille, which was favored at these balls, originated in the first decade of nineteenth century.\(^{31}\) Its variety of figures managed to keep the interest of ball guests through the end of the century. The Caledonians, a lively set of quadrilles with unknown origins, also was performed at Harrison's balls.\(^{32}\) Cotillions such as the March Cotillion, which were similar in form to the quadrille, were enjoyed at the balls also.\(^{33}\) The Galop, an easy dance that did not require skilled dance technique from the dancer, was enjoyed that night on the ballroom floor.\(^{34}\) Another dance, the waltz which had been highly criticized in Europe earlier in the century because of the intimate dance position of the couples, was seen on the ball room floors this evening.\(^{35}\)
4.4 Conclusion

Sadly, President Harrison did catch a chill during his Inauguration Day and was tragically stricken with pneumonia. On April third, 1841 Harrison conceded, "I am ill, much more so than they think." He died on April 4th, 1841, exactly one month after taking his oath for office. His wife, Anna never made it to Washington until after his death. Harrison was the first President of the United States to lie in state in the White House.
NOTES FOR CHAPTER 4

3 Kane 60.
4 Durban 46.
6 Durban 47.
7 Wrights 1; Durban 49.
8 Durban 67.
9 Wrights 1.
10 Kane 67.
11 Durban 49.
12 Kane 67.
13 Wrights 1.
15 Kane 67.
16 Wrights 3; *National Intelligencer* 1.
18 Ibid.
19 Ibid.
20 Ibid.
21 Ibid.
22 Durban 48.

Native American Inaugural Ball, according to an anonymous historian at the Cincinnati Historical Society, this ball was probably attended by members of society that were born in America, rather than to Native American Indians.

Durban 51; "New Assembly Rooms." 1.

Ibid.

Kane 67.

"The Inauguration Ball." 3.

Durban 50.

"The Ball." 1.


Caladonians a quadrille consisting of 5 figures, Ferrero, 132.

Ferrero 154.

Galop; a dance, also known as the gallopade, is danced in a fast tempo. It moves quickly around the dance floor with chasing steps resembling a horse's galop.


Kane 67.


Kane 67; Durban 38.

DeGregorio 145; Kane 67.
CHAPTER 5

"Let Us Have Peace"1

ULYSSES S. GRANT, the Eighteenth President of the U.S.

March 4th, 1869

5.1 Facts Leading Up to the Ball

March 4th, 1869 began as a cold and windy morning, drizzling with rain.2 The weather, however did not deter the record breaking crowds from attending President Ulysses S. Grant's first Inauguration Day.3 The number of people equaled the great military review of all the armies in 1865.4 Grant, a Civil War hero was the eighteenth president of the United States. He was born in Mt. Pleasant, Ohio about 20 miles east of Cincinnati.5 Grant represented the Republican party and won the election against Horatio Seymour, a Democrat, with 3,012,000 of the popular votes out of 5,716,000 and 214 of the electoral votes out of 294.6 The Vice Presidency was attained by Schuyler Colfax.7 Grant's wife Julia Dent Grant, was very excited to become First Lady of the White House, and wanted the presidency for her husband more than he did.8 As the day progressed so did the sunshine and by the time the 46 year old Grant uttered his oath of office, the sun began to shine.9
In Washington D.C., the weeks leading up to the inauguration had been very busy. The questions most asked by those of society were, "Who would compose the incoming Cabinet?" and more importantly, "Are we to have a ball?". To the true Washingtonians, the ball was high on the agenda. Workers of Federal offices sought nominations to the highly prestigious positions that managed the events of the ball just so they could have their names mentioned in the newspaper and ball program. These ball committees were formed by members of the upper class and membership was even desired by the clergy. Those men who didn't hold an important office, hoped that they might be chosen to be part of the balls contracting committee, so they could be bestowed the honor of having their name listed on the ball program. The role of the Assistant Marshal whose job it was to manage all the details of the inaugural ball was greatly sought after.

5.2 Problems Before the Ball

Several problems arose in trying to arrange the inauguration ball. Firstly, in Washington no government building was large enough to house it. In previous inaugurations, temporary buildings had been erected for the ball. This was the case for Abraham Lincoln's first inauguration. However, this practice was very costly and many Americans questioned the cost and its necessity. The ball committee asked Congress's permission to have the ball in the rotunda of the Capitol Building. The petition was denied because it was thought to be too beautiful to hold a ball. Consequently it was decided that the unfinished north wing of the Treasury Building would be used for the occasion.

Another problem facing the ball organizers was whether to invite retiring President, Andrew Johnson. Resentment between Grant and Johnson due to the
campaign and neither one of the candidates wanted to be in each others company. Technically, because an inaugural ball was a public function, Johnson should have been invited. As a compromise it was decided by a committee consisting of mostly non-Republicans that the customary honors of having a ball should be observed, but that it should be called a "reception" for Grant instead. So it was. The whole affair was christened a reception to honor President Grant. The announcements read, "Inauguration Reception", and in parenthesis, dancing! Andrew Johnson was not invited and the only problem left was whether or not to invite the African-American community. It was decided that they should be invited but none chose to attend. In fact, during Grants entire stay at the White House, African Americans did not visit except those who were employed there.

5.3 Grant's Ball at the Treasury Building

With all the problems solved, quick plans for the "reception" began. Tickets went on sale for ten dollars each which gave admittance to one man and two women for dancing and dinner. The ticket was intended for one gentleman, his date and her chaperon. Huge columns were erected on the outside entrance of the building. Across the front side of the portico, gas jets produced the word "peace". The inside north wing of the Treasury Building was hastily finished by the second of March. Walls, paint, furnishings and carpet were practically put in with the decorations. Dust from the drywall was still settling as the guests arrived. The rooms of the north wing were beautifully furnished. Wreaths of flowers and evergreens draped the natural curves of the building. The dancing rooms all had hangings of red, white, and blue. The Italian Room or Cashier Room, the main room on the first floor, was two stories high and was used as the
main reception room and ballroom. Its decorative ceiling was level with that of the second floor. It contained large marble columns of Carrara, Sienna, and Tennessee marble and a balcony which encircled the entire room. There were three chandeliers with ninety gas burners. The whole room was said to be magnificent. The reception filled the four floors and the basement of the north wing with a total of five dancing rooms, two on the first floor, one on the second and third floor and one in the basement. All of these five dancing rooms which totaled 6,400 feet were 90 feet long by twenty feet wide. Each of these rooms contained a string orchestra that played the same dance music simultaneously with orchestras in the other rooms. Two private reception rooms were present for President Grant and Vice President Colfax on the second floor and two reception rooms for Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Colfax. The second and third floor had large dressing rooms for men and women. The third floor contained a large ladies cloakroom and two small rooms occupied by seamstresses ready to fix any damages to garments. There also were coiffeurs available in these rooms to attend to the needs of the lady's hair during the ball. The men's cloak and hat room was located on the fourth floor which contained a boot black and a tailor. The dining room was located in the basement. Every floor also had a conversation room were people could retire to talk and relax.

At 8:00 p.m. of the inauguration day, the doors of the fifteenth street side of the Treasury Building were opened to the public. Carriages using the north and south streets dropped the guests off at the door. By 9:00 p.m. the rooms were crowded and by 11:00 p.m. no walking room was left. Two thousand tickets had been sold which meant somewhere around six thousand people were in attendance that night. People entering the building would immediately ascend the large staircase to the dressing and cloak rooms on the above floors. A different staircase was used to descend when one was settled in and ready to partake of the ball's functions. The guests could wander from room to room and floor to floor.
for the promenading. At 10:15 p.m. President Grant and his family arrived through a private entrance in the north wing. A call for "no hand shaking" was issued because of the tremendous amount of people in attendance. After spending a few minutes in his private reception room, Grant proceeded to walk through the police lined corridors of the Treasury Building. The Marine Band, which was located on the second floor, struck up their music as the President walked and received the public's well wishes for his new presidency. Once Grant's tour was complete Frances Marie Scala, the Marine Band leader, began conducting the presidential march he had composed for this occasion. This commenced the Grand March, the first dance on the evening's dance program. Scala considered this piece the best he'd ever written.

Enough people were in attendance for fifty ordinary balls. Most people preferred to promenade, going up one staircase and down another, instead of going to the dance floors and performing the set dances. Often a lady's train was trod on or one would trip or step on another, and someone else would cry, "let us have peace" and the matter would end in laughter. The crowd was pleasant and enjoyed dancing into the early morning hours.

Each ballroom had a Master of Ceremonies whose job it was to keep the dancing program running smoothly. His responsibilities were announcing the next dance, calling the steps of the figures in the quadrilles and making sure the dances in his ballroom started at the same time as in the others. A telegraph system was set up between the dance rooms that allowed him to communicate the commencing of the next dance to each room. Several assistant floor managers were in each ballroom who arranged the sets of the quadrilles, and saw that the dancers entered and exited the floor in an orderly fashion.
5.4 The Dances and Music

According to newspapers from this time, the dancing at the reception would have been much better had there been fewer people. An article in the Daily Morning Chronicle, refers to this saying, "The dancing, though not quite as pleasant as it would have been under less pressure of numbers was, however, kept up". They did, however, manage to get through what was considered a modest dance program of thirty one dances, which was executed in the following order. (See table two.)

Nearly every third dance was a promenade which was a walk done to music by a couple for amusement. At these times some of the people who were promenading in the corridors could go to a dance floor to continue their walk and conversation. Those people who enjoyed the more intricate steps of terpsichore (which included many of the younger crowd), would stay in the dance rooms and enjoy each dance as it was presented by the Master of Ceremonies. Many of the dances were the Lancers quadrille, which consisted of a series of four or five short pieces of music, usually sixty-for bars each. Four couples known as a set, would perform the steps of a choreography which had been called out before the dance started. Many sets of people occupied the dance floor at the same time. The waltz and galop, which had been popular in European ballrooms in the 1830's and 1840's seemed to be very popular here thirty to forty years later. The schottische and polka which also were popular in Europe after the 1840's were not as popular in this dance program. One of the reasons for this was because it was a public affair and people were hesitant to dance the dances that required close contact with a stranger because of the intimacy in the closed body positions. The promenades and quadrilles required less intimacy when dancing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Name of Dances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Grand March</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
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<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>Galop</td>
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<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Quadrille</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Schottische</td>
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<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Galop</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Polka</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>Galop</td>
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<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>Waltz</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Galop</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>Galop</td>
</tr>
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<td>31.</td>
<td>Adieu</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Grant's First Inaugural Ball, 1869*

* The name of the music and their composer are unknown
The music played for these dances as of now is not available. One would assume however, that it would be similar to that played at President Lincoln's second inaugural ball four years before, or Grant's second inaugural ball four years later. Much of the music for these balls was composed by Johann Strauss Jr. and Jacques Offenbach.65 Usually the Marine Band's leader composed other dance music besides the presidential march so it is very likely that some of the music for Grant's dance program was Maestro Scala's.

5.5 The Attendants and Their Apparel

Those that attended the inauguration reception represented both government and private citizens. Every military, naval and political person in Washington was there.66 Representatives from all thirty-seven states in the Union, and people of all social classes were in attendance. It was said that there were people from many countries and that "every race on the face of the globe was there".67 Ladies were dressed in their finest, paying no regard to earlier heeds by the press stating, "This was a public ball, as so ladies should not feel they need to wear their very busy gowns".68

The ladies wore colorful hoop skirt gowns mostly made of silk, but some of satin and velvet.69 The well-to-do women's gowns were ornamented with lace from Belgium and Malta.70 Most the ladies wore pearl necklaces and some wore costly jewels.71 Kid leather gloves in delicate colors of rose, violet and flesh were worn by the ladies. White gloves were avoided for fear of making the hands appear too large.72 Some of the ladies took the liberty of dressing in fashions of past eras. Two or three women dressed as Marie Antoinette, with powdered hair
of gold and silver. One dressed as Shakespeare's Juliet and others dressed in French Regency style dresses. Mrs. Grant wore a white satin gown with a double overskirt that was edged with point lace. She wore a pearl necklace and pink roses in her hair. Mrs. Colfax wore a pink satin dress with a tulle overskirt. She also had pink flowers in her hair. Grant's youngest daughter, Nellie, wore a white tulle dress while his son, Master Fred Grant, wore his West Point uniform. The President and Vice President wore black suits with white gloves. Many of the Foreign Diplomat's wives wore native costumes of their countries. The Diplomatic Corps wore their full uniforms.

5.6 Occurrences at the Ball

Many journalists that attended the reception closely followed the happenings at the event. All of America and Europe had information about the presidential reception only a telegram away. At every staircase a telegraph operator was ready to send a wire through Western Union in America and to Atlantic Cable to inform France and England. Many private telegrams were sent to various cities from the reception, particularly to New York.

Because of the immense crowd it was very hard for those in attendance to get to the food in the dining room. Once in the room, those that were lucky enough to make it to the horse-shoe shaped food counter and eat were not able to exit due to those people who were trying to get in the room. Only a small fraction of the people actually ate that night, but the food was said to be good by those who were lucky enough to eat. It consisted of many seafoods and meats including oysters, salmon, lobster, venison, beef, turkey, partridge, quail, ham
and tongue. There were many salads, and sweets for desserts, but no alcoholic beverages were served.\textsuperscript{86}

Unfortunately, some mishaps occurred during the reception, due to the large number of people. One lady's gown was trod on and completely ripped off at the waist.\textsuperscript{87} Another young lady dressed in white silk had hot chocolate spilt all over her by a gentlemen who tripped over her train.\textsuperscript{88} It was said in the supper room that the food disappeared so quickly off the tables that some hungry guests went into the kitchen looking for more food. Louise Durban describes this scene saying:

"The hoi-poloi dashed to the supper room and swept tables clean as quickly as the astonished waiters could place food upon them. A stampede took place and the crowd burst into the kitchen where one stout female cook succeeded turning the tide by flipping dirty dishcloths on the ball gowns of the invaders.\textsuperscript{89}"

It was also reported that costly jewels were stolen at the reception.\textsuperscript{90}

Starting about 12:00 a.m. those who wished to leave could not obtain their coats and hats from the clerks.\textsuperscript{91} Some waited over an hour for their belongings.\textsuperscript{93} Chaos began outside with the numerous carriages waiting on the street for their occupants to emerge from the building.\textsuperscript{94} The huge traffic jam lasted hours.

5.7 Conclusion

In reviewing the various accounts of the evening, one can not help but think how uncomfortable the people had to be due to the immense crowd and lack of space. On the other hand, what an incredible sight and experience it must have
for those attending the ball! Seeing the thousands of people wearing their finest clothes and uniforms, walking and dancing in this beautiful building, feeling the excitement of this festive occasion, and hearing the music playing from the rooms and corridors. With this last panorama, the importance of an inaugural ball for those who had the privilege to attend can be seen.
NOTES FOR CHAPTER 5

2 Ibid. 3.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
9 "The Inauguration." 3.
10 Ibid. 1.
11 Ibid. 3.
12 Ibid. 1.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
20 "The Inauguration." 1-3
21 Ibid. 3.
22 Ibid. 1.
23 Ibid. 3.
24 Ibid. 1.
25 Simon 175.
26 "The Ball." 1; "The Inauguration.", 8.
29 "The Inauguration." 3.
30 Ibid. Ishbel Ross, "The General's Wife", (New York: Dodd-Mead Co,
1959) 204.
31 Ibid. 1.
32 "The Ball." 1.
33 The Cashier's Room was also known as the Treasure's Room., "The Ball.", 1.
34 "The Ball." 1; "The Inauguration." 3.
35 "The Inaugural Reception.", Evening Star 5 Mar. 1869: 1
36 "The Ball." 1.
37 "The Inaugural Reception." 1.
38 "The Inauguration." 8.
39 "The Ball." 1.
40 Ibid.
41 Ibid.
42 Ibid.
43 "The Inauguration Reception." 1.
44 "The Ball." 1.
45 "The Ball." 3; "The Inauguration.", 10.
46 "The Ball." 1; "The Inauguration." 10.
47 "The Inaugural Reception." 1.
48 "The Ball." 1.
Master of Ceremonies was the gentlemen in charge of the dance floor during a ball.
76 Ibid.
77 "The Inaugural Reception." 1.
78 "The Ball." 3.
79 "The Inaugural Reception." 1.
80 "The Reception." 1.
81 "The Ball." 1.
82 Ibid. 1.
83 Ibid.
84 Ibid. 1.
85 "The Inauguration." 10.
86 "The Reception." 1; "The Inauguration." 10.
87 "The Reception." 1.
88 Ibid.
89 Louise Durban, Inaugural Cavalcade, (New York: Dodd-Mead Inc., 1997)
90 Kane 130.
91 "The Inauguration." 10.
92 "The Inaugural Reception." 1.
94 "The Inauguration." 10.
CHAPTER 6

"As Cold As the Fourth of March"¹

ULYSSES S. GRANT'S Second Inauguration, March 4th, 1873

6.1 The Re-Nomination

Grant's first term as President was riddled with many scandals. He miraculously survived being accused of participating in any of these, and was unanimously re-nominated for the presidency by the Republican Party in 1872. Grant's prestige as a war hero, and the public's belief that he had not been involved in any of the scandals, helped win him the election.² Vice President Colfax was denied re-nomination, due to his part in the Credit Mobelier scandal in 1872.³ Henry Wilson, of Massachusetts, was nominated instead. Grant's campaign issues for this election supported women's rights, and denounced racial and religious discrimination. Horace Greeley of New York, a liberal Republican, was Grant's opponent, but represented the Democratic Party. Greeley, a newspaper entrepreneur, was the founder of the New Yorker and the New York Times.⁴ Grant received fifty-six percent of the popular vote and 286 electoral votes more than he attained in his previous election.
6.2 The Inauguration

President Grant's second inauguration was held on Tuesday, March 4th, 1873. By the Sunday before, all the hotel rooms in Washington were filled, and additional trains from New York and Philadelphia were placed in service the days before and after the inauguration.\textsuperscript{5} The morning of Inauguration Day the temperature in Washington was four degrees above zero.\textsuperscript{6} A piercing forty miles an hour wind swept through the crowded streets offering a mixture of sleet and snow to the pedestrians.\textsuperscript{7} Tree branches were covered with ice, and icicles clung on roofs of the buildings.\textsuperscript{8} The flags, banners and streamers, which decorated the streets and buildings, were uprooted. Nevertheless, even with the severe weather conditions, by 10:00 a.m., a number of people lined up and down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Executive Mansion to the Capitol Building to watch the President's inaugural address and parade. Military units had come from all over the country to be part of the celebration. Wearing a dark blue beaver overcoat and high silk hat,\textsuperscript{9} Grant rode to the Capitol in his own open carriage pulled by four horses.\textsuperscript{10} His wife, Julia, arrived with Vice President Wilson. Two thousand people sat in the inaugural stands, which had been erected opposite the inaugural platform. As Grant delivered his inaugural address, his manuscript nearly was blown from his hands. When he finished, guns and cannon fire burst through the air and the crowd's loud cheers sounded out. The Presidential Party then went to the White House to view the inaugural parade from a special stand on Lafayette Avenue. The high point of the parade was the appearance of the West Point Cadets and the Annapolis Mid-shipmen. These men braved the cold wearing only their dress uniforms, consequently many of these men fainted from the cold. Members of the band had a hard time playing their instruments because the valves froze. It was said that bottles of liquor were distributed to the musicians during the parade to help battle the cold.\textsuperscript{11}
6.3 The Inaugural Ballroom

The Inaugural Ball Committee had worked many weeks to prepare for Grant's second ball with the intention of making it a glorious affair. Grant's inaugural ball (like those of Presidents Taylor, Pierce, Buchanan and Lincoln), was held in a temporary wooden structure on Judiciary Square.\(^{12}\) Located on 4th and E Street, the main building was 350 feet long by 150 feet wide with the ballroom resting on its own foundation that was 300 feet long by 150 feet wide.\(^{13}\) The entire building cost $40,000 and was paid for by the Inaugural Ball Committee.

That evening, the streets around the Mall were brightly illuminated with colored lanterns in the frosted trees.\(^{14}\) The dome of the Capitol was lit with electric lights, as were the water fountains between the Executive Mansion, the Treasury Building and the Botanical Gardens.\(^{15}\) Inside the inaugural ball building, the walls were hung with yards of pink muslin cloth striped with white and blue, which were held in place by tri-colored rosettes.\(^{16}\) Massive columns with gothic caps were decorated with red, white and blue ribbons and American flags. Below the base of the caps appeared the patriotic Latin inscriptions, "Vincit Amour Patriae", "Nunquain, Non Paratus," and "Esto Perpetua".\(^{17}\) The interior was lit by forty-six suspended gas coronas, hanging the length of the room. Below the gas jets hung crimson and gold ornaments. Streamers connected to these, and interlaced from chandelier to chandelier formed a network of stars and stripes. At the intersections of the streamers hung cages with canaries and baskets of flowers.\(^{18}\) Suspended below the ceiling a large American eagle hovered.\(^{19}\)

A raised platform, decorated with flags, banners and shields had been built for the Presidential Party to observe the ball's activities and enjoy a full view of
the ballroom floor. A huge gas-lit star hung above the platform, which bore the inscription, "Grant and Wilson". The President's private entrance for the ball, decorated with white muslin and red, white and blue stripes was located on the south side of the building. This entrance was convenient to the many private rooms reserved for the use of the Presidential Party and their guests. These included a reception room, dressing room, a room for the Diplomatic Corps and the President's private supper room. All these rooms were very comfortable and luxuriously decorated taking up the entire south side of the building.

The brilliantly lit public dining room was located on the west side of the building. It extended the entire length and was separated from the ballroom only by columns. The walls were covered with white muslin with alternating stripes of red, white and blue material that draped from the ceiling to the floor. Loops of evergreen laurel extended the length of the wall. Tables were set up in the middle of the floor with a sideboard along the wall that held eating utensils and coffee and tea urns.

The dance floor measuring 300 feet by 150 feet, was divided into three sections, each being one hundred feet long by fifty feet wide. Each section was plainly marked by a numbered flag, designating what ballroom it was so that dancers could easily find their partner for each dance. A telegraph system was set up between each ballroom section and the bandstands to allow the assistant floor manager of each ballroom to communicate with the bandleaders when to commence and finish each dance. There were two balconies for the bands, one by the south side entrance for the U.S. Marine Band and the West Point Academy Band and one on the eastside of the building for the U.S. Annapolis Naval Academy Band.
Located at the main entrance were large public cloakrooms; one for the gentlemen and two for the ladies. Because of the horrible problems with finding clothing articles after Grant's first inaugural ball, thousands of boxes were available for the guest's belongings. The boxes were numbered and corresponding claim tickets were provided. One-cloakroom attendant for every three hundred boxes maintained the order of this realm.26

6.4 The Ball Participants

By 9:00 p.m., only a few people had arrived at the ball even though six thousand people were expected. In the end only three thousand came.27 The poor attendance was blamed on the severity of the weather. Those that attended did not need the services of the cloakroom attendants since they retained their coats and wraps due to the immense cold in the ballroom. Although some people danced to keep warm, many of the guests went instead to the dining room for hot chocolate, tea and coffee. When news came that the President was on his way from the White House, the bailgoers did their best to keep up a festive spirit for the President.28 Many guests moved to the dance floor so he could see them dancing when he came in. When the President arrived around 11:30 p.m., the U.S. Marine Band struck up, *Hail to the Chief*. Loud cheers and applause went out to the President. Then the crowd parted, permitting the Presidential Party to pass through to the center of the ballroom to promenade for the ball participants. They then proceeded to their private dining room for hot beverages.

The ball guests included members of the military as well as civilians. The Diplomatic Corps wore their evening dress and looked very stunning in contrast to the lady guests in their beautiful gowns of various colors in silk, satin and velvet.29 Many of the dresses had trains with ruffles and lace ornaments. Jewels of
diamonds, pearl, and turquoise were abundant. The gentlemen wore black swallowtail coats with black trousers. The West Point Cadets wore their dress uniforms, and were idolized by the ladies. Two ladies from New York even wore Louis the XIV, white powdered wigs. Princesses from Java and China wore their native costumes.

Mrs. Grant wore a white satin dress entirely covered in black Belgian lace with lavender trim. The white satin material was a gift from the Emperor of China. Grant's daughter, Nellie, wore a white silk and tulle dress with flowers in her long flowing dark hair. The President and Vice President wore black evening dress clothes.

6.5 The Dinner

The menu for this grand inaugural ball offered a feast of foods. Literally thousands of pounds of foods were prepared for this event. A large amount of the food was made in New York and shipped by train. The cost for the food is unknown, but the cost for the baking was $10,000 and $5,000 for the rental of the dishes and equipment. The menu included 36,000 oysters, 38 turkeys, 150 capons, 1,600 pounds of spiced beef, 200 dozen roasted quail, 5,000 pounds of pate', 200 hams, 300 tongues with jelly, 400 chickens, 400 partridges, 30 baked salmon, 25 stuffed boar heads, 400 pounds of pates de foie gras, 2,000 head cheese sandwiches, 3,000 ham and beef-tongue sandwiches, 30 barrels of salad, 2 barrels of lettuce, 1 barrel of beets, 2,000 pounds of lobster for salad, 6,000 boiled eggs boiled for salad, 2,500 loaves of bread, 8,000 rolls, 24 cases of crackers, 1,000 pounds of butter, 5,100 pounds of Charlotte Russes, 200 moulds of wine jelly, 200 moulds of blanc mange, 300 gallons of ice cream, 200 gallons of flavored ices, 400 pounds of pastry, 280 decorated cakes, 25 barrels of grapes, 15
cases of oranges, 5 cases of apples, 10 cases of apples, 200 pounds of shelled almonds, 300 gallons of Claret Punch, 300 gallons of coffee, 200 gallons of tea, and 100 gallons of chocolate. The kitchen which coordinated this massive amount of food was located in a separate building behind the ballroom.

6. 6 The Music and Dancing

Three different military bands played the music for the ball. The U.S. Marine Band, under the leadership of Henry Fries performed the promenade music played at the beginning of the ball. The second band was the U.S. Annapolis Naval Band who supplied the music for the dancing. The third band was the West Point Academy Band. The U.S. Marine Band and the West Point Academy band alternated playing the marches for the promenades during the dancing program. When not playing, the musicians had to keep their hands in their pockets to keep warm. Even worse, valves of the wind instruments froze and the violinists in the orchestra could not manipulate their fingers to properly play their music.

Despite all these difficulties, the ball guests and musicians faithfully carried out the dance program. The dance floors had been thoroughly waxed and were very smooth and inviting for dancing. At 10:00 p.m. the dancing program started and consisted of forty-one dances such as the promenade, the Virginia reel, the waltz, the galop, the schottische, the polka and polka redowa and the quadrille. The quadrilles alternated with the promenades, occurring one out of every four. (See table three.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order of Dances</th>
<th>Name of Dance</th>
<th>Name of Piece</th>
<th>Composer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
<td>* Tete-a-Tete</td>
<td>Weingarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* Artist Life</td>
<td>* Strauss</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* Vis-à-vis</td>
<td>* C. Faust</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Quadrille</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* With the Wind</td>
<td>* Zikoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Galop</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* The Fifth Avenue</td>
<td>* Weingarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* One Thousand and One Nights</td>
<td>* Strauss</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* La Belle Helene</td>
<td>* Offenbach</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Quadrille</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* The First Kiss</td>
<td>* Bernstein</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Schottische</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* Our President</td>
<td>* Weingarten</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>*</td>
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<td>* Greetings to Leipzig</td>
<td>* Parlow</td>
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<td>Waltz</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>* Pleasure of Summer</td>
<td>* Schoff</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Quadrille</td>
<td>*</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>* Beautiful Rhine</td>
<td>* Kela Bela</td>
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<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>Quadrille</td>
<td>* Bouquet</td>
<td>* Strauss</td>
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<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Galop</td>
<td>* Through Train</td>
<td>* Schoff</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>* Blue Danube</td>
<td>* Strauss</td>
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<td>Promenade</td>
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<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
<td>* Manhatten</td>
<td>* Weingarten</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Polka</td>
<td>* Amboss</td>
<td>* Parlow</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Virginia Reel</td>
<td>* Moore's Melodies</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Promenade-Adieu</td>
<td>*</td>
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</tbody>
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Table 3: Grant's Second Inaugural Ball, 1873
6.7 The Conclusion

Unfortunately, the Inaugural Ball Committee's best intentions and well made plans for the grand celebration were ruined by the severely cold weather and the lack of heat in the building. The ball guests who braved the cold outside had to continue to try to keep warm once they were at the ball. Louise Durban referred to this ill-fated situation when she wrote:

The most expensive fiasco was the grand ball in the temporary wooden wigwam built on Judiciary Square. High northerly winds whistled through the structure where the President and his party stood, shivering, on a platform at the end of the coldest room... Most of the guests didn't part with their wraps and danced in a vain effort to keep warm... men hacked away at frozen oysters, turkey and other luxuries that were unappealing in the frigid temperature, guests passed up champagne for hot chocolate and coffee. And overhead, canaries, imported to sing gaily for the splendid occasion, tucked their bills under their feathers and froze in their cages.48

Not only did many unlucky canaries, die in their cages, but even more serious complications were attributed to the cold of that evening.49 One woman died on the ballroom floor due to bronchial problems.50 On a more comical note, tar rags that were used to seam together the roof portions of the main building to the ballroom, began to fall on the dancers below, due to the high winds.51

The ball concluded unceremoniously because of the desire of most of the attendants to go home and get warm. Fortunately, newspaper articles the next day were very gracious in their accounts of the ball. The Boston Globe mentions the ball triumphantly saying, "Altogether the ball must be set down as a great success, and the grandest affair of the kind ever given in Washington".52

There were three other balls given in President Grant's honor that evening in Washington. One of the balls was for the Territorial Guard at Union Hall.53
Another was given by an African American military organization that was well attended, beautifully decorated, with an abundance of food.\textsuperscript{54} The third was presented by the Pioneer Corps at the Columbia Law Building, headed by Colonel Perry Carson. It was celebrated with music, singing and dancing.\textsuperscript{55} No doubt these three balls offered more enjoyment to their participants since they all took place in heated buildings.

The days after the Inauguration, a popular saying made its way around Washington when people spoke of the coldness of Grant's second inauguration saying, "as cold as the 4\textsuperscript{th} of March".\textsuperscript{56} This reference was clearly understood for many years to come.
NOTES TO CHAPTER 6


4 Ibid. 267.


6 Kittler 99.


9 Durban 101,

10 Ibid. 99.

11 Kittler 100.


13 Ibid.

14 Ross, 232.

15 Ibid.


17 Ibid.


19 Ross 232.

20 "The Inaugural Ball." 1.

21 Ibid.

"The Inaugural Ball." 1.

Kittler 102.

"The Inauguration Festivities." 1.

Ross 232.

"The Inauguration Festivities." 1.

Ross 232.


Kittler 102.

"The Inauguration Festivities." 1.

"The Ballroom." 1.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.


"The Grand Ball." 1.

Ibid.

"The Inaugural Ball." 1.

Ibid.

Durban 100.

Durban 100; Ross 233.
50 Ross 233.
51 Ross 233.
52 "The Grand Ball." 1.
53 "The Inauguration Festivities." 1.
54 Ibid.
55 Ibid.
56 "The Inaugural Festivities. 1.
CHAPTER 7

"The Stolen Election"¹

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, the 19th President of the U.S.
March 3rd and 5th, 1877

7.1 The Election

The Grant Administration with all its scandals and corruption turned the nation towards the ideals of the Democratic Party. The Republican Party, still wanting to retain the presidency, assumed a position to clean up their messes. With this intent in mind, they directed their energies towards finding a man with an honest reputation to represent them. Grant wanted to run for a third term, but the House of Representatives resoundingly voted down the eligibility for a third term election by a two hundred thirty-three to eighteen margin.² Rutherford B. Hayes, of Ohio became the Republican Party's choice for nomination. Hayes was an honest man of strong character. He was dedicated to restoring the nation's economy and was respected by the Republican Party.³ Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, he served in the Civil War, rising to the rank of major general. He married Lucy Webb-Hayes, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1845. He later served two non-consecutive terms as Governor of Ohio. He was nominated for the presidency in 1876 with William A. Wheeler of New York as the vice presidential candidate. Hayes' campaign issues promised honesty in government, permanent pacification of the South, a continued sound-money policy, civil service reform and eradication of polygamy in Utah. Democrat, Samuel J. Tilden of New York, was Hayes'
opponent. He also had a clean personal and political record, which put him in a strong position to win the presidency. The election ended in chaos. Tilden received fifty-one percent of the popular vote, but fell one vote short of the necessary electoral votes. Both parties accused the other of corruption at the polls. To resolve the issue, Congress appointed a fifteen man electoral commission consisting of seven Democrats, seven Republicans and one judge, David Davis, but he was unexpectedly elected to the Senate by his state legislature and could not fulfill his duty on the electoral commission. 4 Because of impartiality issues, the position could not be filled in time for the advancing inaugural date. Since Tilden was considered the favorite candidate in the final days of the election, both candidates felt that Tilden had won.

Still not knowing the outcome, Hayes traveled from Ohio to Washington D.C. on March the first. 5 Not until twenty-four hours later did Hayes learn of his victory. The Democratic Party thought their candidate was the rightful winner and urged Tilden to go to Washington and to take the presidency 6. After much dispute, the Compromise of 1877 was signed awarding Hayes the presidency as long as he agreed that as President he would withdraw the last Federal Troops out of Louisiana and South Carolina putting an end to the carpetbag government in the south. 7 The people of the United States referred to this as the, "Stolen Election". On March the third, President Grant gave a dinner party at the White House in Hayes' honor. Unknown to the other guests, the oath of office for the presidency was administered to Hayes in a private room. The government was very concerned that since the natural Inauguration Day of March the 4th, fell on the Sabbath, the United States would actually be without a president for twenty-four hours if Hayes's oath was not administered early. With threats of war and rumors of Tilden's takeover, President Grant decided Hayes should take his oath one day early. Hayes was the only President in United States history to do this. The result of this was that the U.S. had two Presidents for one day.

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It was a chilly, overcast day as President Hayes took his second oath of office on Monday, March 5th, 1877. By 8:00 a.m., a small number of parade units had formed on the side streets of Pennsylvania Avenue. Occasional light snow fell on the substantial crowd of 30,000 thousand people. They shouted a mixture of both cheers and boos as the Presidential Party made its way to the Capitol Building. Hayes delivered a short inauguration speech, repeating his campaign promises and when finished returned to the White House for a luncheon held by Mrs. Grant.

7.2 The Evening Celebrations

Due to the extreme lateness in the decision for the presidency, there was no time to plan or prepare a proper inaugural parade or ball. Hasty preparations were made for a torchlight parade and a reception for President Hayes that evening. At 7:00 p.m., a torchlight parade marched along Pennsylvania Avenue. Presented by the Washington Republican Club, it displayed splendid decorations, extending the whole parade route. Calcium lights and Chinese lanterns were placed at intervals along the entire length from the Capitol to the White House. Public and private buildings were illuminated adding even more brilliancy to the event. Thousands of torches sent clouds of red smoke into the sky. 3,000 military and bandsmen wearing bright uniforms looked dazzling as they marched the streets. President Hayes cheerfully came out of the White House and admiringly acknowledged the parade members passing by.

Later that night, the Columbus Cadets gave an inaugural reception in honor of President Hayes at the Willard Hotel. Tickets for this informal event were
five dollars. Because many people did not think the President would come, the attendance was not large. Hayes, did however, make an appearance for a short time and greeted his admirers as they offered their best wishes for his presidency. Not many ladies were in attendance. Of those that were, some were dressed in luxurious dresses of velvet and silk, trimmed in lace and gems. Others chose to wear plainer styles. No mention in made of a dancing program at this reception. With the low number of females present partnering would have been difficult if dancing had been in the plans. However, there was mention of singing by a glee club and a band playing, *Hail to the Chief* as Hayes entered the room was made.
NOTES FOR CHAPTER SEVEN

1 Glenn Kittler, *Hail to the Chief*, (Philadelphia: Chilton Books, 1965) 103
2 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Durban 101; Kittler 104.
8 Kittler 103.
9 Ibid. 105.
10 Kittler 107.
11 Kittler 103.
13 Kittler 103.
16 Ibid. 2.
17 "Society." 1.
20 Ibid.
21 Ibid
24 "Society." 1.
25 Ibid.
CHAPTER 8

"Midst the Goddess of Liberty"

JAMES A. GARFIELD, the Twentieth President of the U.S.

March 4th, 1881

8.1 The Background

President Hayes made good his campaign pledges by ordering the withdrawal of Federal Troops from the south, thereby putting an end to Republican Carpetbag control. This action, opposed by Republicans, opened the south to a Democratic regime that lasted forty years. Hayes also fulfilled his promise of only serving one term in office, which made the next election open to many new candidates, six in all. The Republican Party had a good chance of winning this election due to the nation's security brought on through Hayes' Republican administration. James A. Garfield from Mentor, Ohio, received the Republican nomination for candidacy. A college graduate and self-taught lawyer, Garfield joined the Union Army in 1860, and rose to the rank of major general during the Civil War. In 1862, he was elected to Congress and served eight successive terms. He did not, however, have a perfect record as a politician. Under the Hayes Administration, Garfield was implicated in the illegal Credit Moblier Scandal, having bought ten shares of stock and borrowing three hundred dollars. Before the Congressional investigative committees, Garfield testified that he was indeed offered the right to purchase the stock, but turned it down. He admitted to accepting the loan, but insisted he paid the full amount back and that
the loan in no way influenced his votes.\textsuperscript{1} The connection to the scandal temporarily tarnished his support from the country, but due to a large amount of aid from businessmen, Garfield won the election in 1880 against Democratic opponent, Winfield S. Hancock of Pennsylvania. Both candidates' campaign issues were similar. They swore to continue to elevate African-Americans from conditions left from slavery and give them full rights of citizenship.\textsuperscript{2} Another issue was economic-based. The Republicans supported high tariffs and the Democrats supported revenue only. It was a close race; Garfield won 48\% of the popular vote while Hancock received 48.2\%, but Garfield won the election by receiving 214 of the electoral vote compared to Hancock's 155. Chester A. Arthur of New York won the vice presidency in this election.

On Tuesday, March the first, at 9:00 a.m., a special train arrived at the Washington Depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. On board were President-elect Garfield, his wife Lucretia Garfield, his children, his mother, and friends and family from Ohio.\textsuperscript{3} A welcoming committee quickly took them away from the cheering crowd that came to watch the arrival of the new first family.\textsuperscript{4} In stature, Garfield was a tall man, weighing around 175 pounds. At age forty-nine, his feelings about the upcoming term as president were not as happy as one may think. Margaret Leech stated that:

\begin{quote}
It was with sadness, even foreboding that Garfield looked forward to life on "the bleak mountain" he called the presidency. He dreaded the loss of freedom and the isolation that his new position would entail. He knew too that he would miss his old friends and that some of them would be disappointed in him and some alienated.\textsuperscript{5}
\end{quote}

\begin{quote}
In Washington, the days before the inauguration were bustling. Attendance at the ceremonies promised to be the largest ever known.\textsuperscript{6} It was anticipated that
\end{quote}
tens of thousands of people from all over the country, would be there. Political clubs and Military units from all over the country arrived in the city as early as a week before the inauguration.⁷ Many of these people arrived by train, filling up every hotel and boarding house in Washington. Along Pennsylvania Avenue, enthusiastic businessmen erected bleachers to accommodate 100,000 spectators.⁸ Tickets to occupy one of these seats cost five dollars.⁹ Decoration committees placed bunting, banners and flags along the streets and buildings from the Capitol to the White House in such excess that it was hard to see what lay behind.¹⁰ At each of the street intersections were arches covered with flowers and flags.¹¹ In the evenings before the inauguration, many of the buildings and streets along Pennsylvania Avenue were lit up using electricity, for the first time, newly invented by Thomas Edison.¹² A reviewing stand was built in front of the White House for the Presidential Party to watch the parade after the inauguration ceremony. 15,000 people were expected to march in the parade that afternoon.¹³

Unfortunately, beginning in the afternoon of March third, snow began to fall in the Capital and continued throughout the night.¹⁴ All the street decorations were ruined.¹⁵ By morning, inauguration day, the streets were almost impassible. Snowdrifts in some areas were hip deep.¹⁶ Sleet mixed with snow was still falling in the early morning. President elect Garfield was asked if the parade should be cancelled. Hesitating to do so, he decided since most of the parade participants were staying in the downtown area they could walk to the parade site.¹⁷ Before noon, the dark clouds cleared and the sun began to shine, melting much of the snow from the previous day.¹⁸ However, strong winds and the damp, penetrating cold kept the crowd's attendance at about 30,000.¹⁹ Tickets for the bleacher seats were quickly reduced to fifty cents.²⁰

At 9:45 a.m., President elect Garfield and President Hayes began their trip to the Capitol building in an open carriage pulled by a team of four horses.²¹ A
second carriage carrying Vice President elect Arthur and the Mrs. Garfield and Mrs. Hayes rode behind them. The Cleveland Mounted Troops marched alongside the carriages, escorting them as they made their way down Pennsylvania Avenue. Shouts and cheers bellowed from windows and balconies as they passed by. The police had been instructed to have all the streets in the area cleared of streetcars and carriages by 10:00 a.m. to avoid any interference with the presidential entourage. This however, was not a problem due to the lack of vehicles because of the snow. The inauguration ceremony began in the Senate chambers in the Capitol building at 11:00 a.m. While the Presidential Party was inside, the military band and troops began to take their places in front of the inauguration stand. At 12:00 p.m. the newly sworn in President Garfield wearing a black suit and stove pipe hat, mounted the inauguration stand and delivered his speech in front of a cheering crowd of thousands of people. Cannons fired, and the Marine Band began to play. The presence of the women in the Presidential Party was more prominent in this inauguration because they were now allowed to sit on the inaugural stand in front of the Supreme Court Judges. Garfield's wife, mother and children along with Mrs. Hayes, watched expectantly from the front seats. Among the crowd were men and women of all economic backgrounds and ethnicity. Some African Americans walked all the way from Virginia and Maryland to observe the ceremony. Only twenty years before, as slaves, they would not have been allowed to be in the streets of Washington D.C. by themselves.

After the ceremony, the Presidential Party was escorted back to the White House by five divisions of the military. Before the White House, a stand had been built from which the party watched the two and a half-hour parade. The stand was festively decorated and the large columns on the north portico of the White House were draped in evergreen. Placed above the portico was a red, white, and blue glass star that lit up in a blaze of light at night. That evening the
Garfield's dined with the Hayes' at the White House and from there, watched the fireworks display which was shot off from the grounds of the Treasury Building. The Presidential party then began to get ready for the inaugural ball.

8.2 The Inaugural Ball Building

The grand inaugural ball was held in the newly constructed National Museum Center, which was part of the Smithsonian Institution, on the mall. The outside of the building and the main entrance were lit with very large electric lights. The grounds were lit with calcium lighting that created dramatic shadows on the surrounding buildings. An article in the Evening Star, describes the wonderful atmosphere of the grounds and building as it remarks:

The Smithsonian grounds with the electric lights and decorations presented an enticing scene. The new Museum Building was conspicuous from a long distance; its lights within giving a good view of its outlines and making it resemble a crystal palace.

On the inside, the entire building was lit with yellow gaslight, the cast of glow showing through the windows. The building itself, was shaped in a cross with seventeen rooms. The octagonal center dome contained a beautiful Greek style rotunda. Beneath the dome was placed a fifteen-foot statue of the Goddess of Liberty, an American symbol of freedom. Besides the Presidential Party, she was the main attraction of the ball. In her right hand this statue held the U.S seal and in the other an electric torch. Above her head was a spectacular gas chandelier. Along the base of the statue was vegetation consisting of palms, acacia, tropical maples, laurels and begonias and crocuses. Surrounding her on the balcony rails of each tier were banks of flowers consisting of roses and orchids. This room had eight tiers, each displaying a sign inscribing one of the
trades of industry, science, painting, sculpture, architecture, agriculture, commerce and navigation. These added an impressive effect to the inside décor. The decorating committee wanted to have the decoration harmonize with the modern Romanesque style of the building.

The President’s reception hall was located just west of the rotunda. Large pillars in this area bore the coat of arms of the different states and their flags. A slightly raised platform used for the reception line was located the end of the hall. The back wall was decorated in red, white and blue. Many rooms were connected both to the north and south of this hallway. These included private reception rooms, and dressing and refreshment rooms for the use of the Presidential Party and Diplomatic Corps. A staircase at the end of the hall led up to the gallery above where the Presidential Party watched the activities of the ball below. A gallery opposite the President’s hall was occupied by the sixty-member band. Throughout the building each room was decorated with festoons of flowers from the ceiling to the floor. A delicious scent from these flowers filled the air. Banners and monograms bearing the image of Garfield and Arthur were displayed on the walls.

At 8:00 p.m., the doors to the ball were opened. Tickets for the ball cost five dollars and one dollar for the dinner buffet. 5,500 guests attended the event, entering by the main entrance on the north side. Participants arrived by packed streetcars or by carriages that lined up along the crowded streets. The cloakroom was located opposite the main entrance and provided an extensive area for 10,000 guest items. Soon after arriving, many of the guests commenced promenading around the building to the music provided for this. Others simply chose to watch the ball from one of the balconies, gazing at the luxuriousness of the interior. For many of the guests, it was their first time seeing electric light.
8.3 At the Ball

The Presidential Party including ex-President Hayes and his wife, arrived at their private entrance located at the western side of the building around 9:30 p.m.\(^{49}\) The hour-long reception began immediately, but was discontinued early due to fatigue.\(^{50}\) After the abbreviated reception they went to their gallery and watched the ball from above. It was thought that President and Mrs. Garfield would do the honor of opening the dance program by dancing the first dance.\(^{51}\) However, they were too tired to do this, and, instead, led a promenade through the hall.\(^{52}\) Neither of the Presidents nor their wives danced this evening.\(^{53}\) After the promenade, they retired to their private dinning room and later left the ball before midnight.\(^{54}\)

8.4 The Attire

The ball guests, members of the military and civilians were handsomely attired for the event. The ladies wore rich gowns of silk and satin, trimmed in point lace and wore ornaments of diamond.\(^{55}\) Many displayed different style trains and bustles. Some ladies, afraid of getting it soiled or ripped in a crowded situation, chose to not wear their best gowns that they would wear to a private ball.\(^{56}\) Mrs. Garfield wore a beautiful purple satin gown trimmed in point lace with a bustle in back and pansies at the front of the waist. Absent of jewelry, her hair was worn simply, and she carried a lovely bouquet of pansies in her hands.\(^{57}\) Mrs. Hayes wore an ivory silk and tulle gown trimmed with pearls, and in her hair were striking silver combs. The Chinese senior minister of the Diplomatic Corps wore his Chinese court dress, while other members of the Corps wore black evening dress suits.\(^{58}\) The officers of the army and navy looked stunning in their full dress uniforms.\(^{59}\)
8.5 The Music and Dancing

Two different musical ensembles divided the music performed at the ball that evening. Located at the south end of the building was the one hundred piece German Orchestra from Philadelphia, conducted by William Stoll Jr. Promenade Music was performed from 9:00 until 11:00 p.m. followed by the dancing program that lasted to the early hours of the morning. The orchestra played much of the music for the dance program and some of the promenades. Located on the balcony opposite the President's hall was the U.S. Marine Band, led by the famous composer and bandleader, John Philip Sousa. They played the remaining promenades, and alternated playing the waitzes and marches in the dance program. It was said that the music was good, but when the dance floor was crowded, it was hard to hear the music. The music for the entire night offered both classical and popular selections.

That evening, the dancing was enjoyed by many of the ball guests. The long dance program consisted of popular social dances such as the waltz, the Lancer's quadrille, the mazurka, and the galop, along with the promenades that occurred every third dance. The program was comprised of eighteen dances and the adieu, Home, Sweet, Home at the conclusion of the program. (See table four for the order of the dances, music and composers).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order of Dances</th>
<th>Name of Dance</th>
<th>Name of Piece</th>
<th>Composer</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
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<td>Sullivan</td>
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<td>Levy</td>
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<td><em>Alliance</em></td>
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<td><em>Mentor</em></td>
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<td><em>Always or Never</em></td>
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<td><em>Aug in Aug</em></td>
<td>Heyer</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Gallop</td>
<td><em>Tout a la Joie</em></td>
<td>Fahrbach</td>
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Table 4: Garfield's Inaugural Ball, 1881

8.6 The Dinner

Not wanting to repeat another fiasco like President Grant's second inaugural ball in 1873, all efforts were made to make sure the guests at Garfield's inaugural
ball were very comfortable. A temporary dining room was built as an annex to the main building. Enclosed in this was the separate private dining room for the Presidential Party and guests. The main dining room was not only very spacious but also very warm, accommodating five hundred people at a time. The vast menu offered meats and seafood, salad, breads, desserts and beverages. Enormous amounts of food prepared by caterers included fifty hams, 1,500 turkeys, one hundred gallons of oysters, two hundred gallons of chicken salad, one hundred gallons of ice cream, fifty gallons of water ices, fifty gallons of jelly, three hundred fifty pounds of butter, 15,000 cakes, 2,000 biscuits and two hundred gallons of coffee. No wines or liquors were served out of respect for Mrs. Hayes, who during her husband's administration earned the nickname "Lemonade Lucy". She had requested abstinence from alcoholic beverages at the White House.

8.7 The Conclusion

The ball was a great success. It was said of those who attended, that they enjoyed this ball more than most public balls. All the elements, the lights, the lady's dresses, the music and dancing, the uniforms and the food created a splendid atmosphere and enjoyable event. Those that attended would have never dreamt that such a glorious beginning would have such a tragic ending only six months later. On July 2nd, 1881, Garfield decided to visit his wife who was recuperating from malaria in Elberon, New Jersey. While at the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad station, in Washington D.C., Garfield was assassinated by Charles Guiteau. The thirty nine-year-old, unsuccessful businessman was upset by not receiving an appointment at the U.S Consulate in Paris. He had stalked Garfield for weeks, trying to find the nerve to carry out his plan. At 9:30 a.m., he shot the President, who received two fatal wounds. Gaiteau claimed that God told him to kill the President, and he believed that he was carrying out God's wishes. President Garfield suffered an agonizing death. For two months, he lay on his
deathbed before he finally succumbed to blood poisoning on September 19th. Gaiteau was found guilty and hanged in a Washington jail on June 30th, 1882. Reading the Bible aloud, as he walked up the scaffold, he began to sing a hymn, which he had written for the occasion, "I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad."
NOTES FOR CHAPTER 8

2 Ibid. 303.
4 Ibid. 223.
5 Ibid. 233.
8 Ibid.
10 Ibid.
11 Kittler 108.
12 Ibid. 109.
13 Ibid. 108.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid. 109; "The Republic's Gala Day." 1.
17 Ibid.
18 Leech 225.
19 Kane 127; Kittler 109.
20 Kittler 109.
"The Inaugural Ball." 1.
Kittler 112.
"The Inaugural Ball." 1.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Kittler 113.
Ibid.
"The Inaugural Ball." 1.
Ibid.
Ibid.
"The Beautiful Ball-Room." 1.
"The Inaugural Ball." 1.
"The Beautiful." 1.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Kittler 112.
Ibid. 113.
Ibid.
Durban 110.
"The Beautiful." 1.
Ibid.
Ibid.
Kittler 109.
Durban 110.
49 "The Beautiful." 1.
50 Ibid.
51 Ibid.
52 Durban 109.
53 Kittler 113.
54 "The Beautiful." 1.
55 Ibid.
56 Ibid.
57 Ibid.
58 Ibid.
59 Kane 127; Kittler 113.
60 "The Beautiful." 1
61 "The Inauguration." 1.
62 Garfield's Inauguration Ball Program, (Historical Society of Washington D.C., 4 Mar, 1881) 6.
63 Durban 110.
64 Kittler 108.
65 Durban 113.
66 DeGregorio 297.
67 Kane 128.
68 Kane 127.
69 DeGregorio 302.
70 Ibid. 303
CHAPTER 9

"A Scene of Rare and Perfect Beauty"

BENJAMIN HARRISON, the 23rd President of the U.S.

March 4th, 1889

9.1 Historical Background

Benjamin Harrison was the grandson of "Old Tippecanoe", William Henry Harrison, the ninth President of the United States. Named after his paternal great grandfather, Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, he came from an active political family.¹ Born and raised on a farm in North Bend, Ohio, he attended Farmer's College, a preparatory school in Cincinnati and after completion, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.² In 1833, he married school sweetheart, Caroline Scott Harrison and had two children, one boy and a girl. He was accepted into the bar in 1852 and began practicing law in Indianapolis the next year joining the Republican Party there. In 1862, he began his three-year service in the Civil War, serving in the 70th Indiana Infantry Regiment, rising to the rank of brigadier general.³ After the war he returned to Indiana, taught law and won a seat on the U.S. Senate in 1881, serving six years. After losing the seat in 1887, he felt his career in politics was over and decided to moved back to Indianapolis to practice law.⁴ One year later, unaware of the respect the Republican Party held for him he was nominated as a candidate for the United States' Presidency. Although Harrison was a gifted speaker, his personality was quite stiff, and, therefore, while campaigning, he earned the nickname of the "human iceberg."⁵ He was admired, however, for his intelligence and
responsibility to duty, and he also carried with him the reputation of his grandfather. In November of 1888, Harrison won the Republican nomination for the Presidency. His opponent was incumbent President, Grover Cleveland, a democrat from New York. Campaign issues for both candidates were presented with dignity and decency. Trade was one of the major topics for both candidates, as stated by William DeGregorio:

Tariff issues dominated the campaign. Cleveland pledged a reduction while making it clear that he opposed absolute free trade. Harrison promised a strong safeguard to domestic industry.

During his administration, Cleveland had lost much of the admiration of his friends and supporters largely due to vetoing a bill to grant physical dependency pensions for disabilities incurred outside of military service. The contest was close between Cleveland and Harrison, but due to this veto, Cleveland failed to carry his home state of New York and Harrison won the electoral vote 233 to 168. Cleveland did win 49% of the popular votes over Harrison's achieved 48%. Nevertheless, the Presidency went to Harrison and the Vice Presidency to Parson Morten, of New York, one of the most influential bankers on the East Coast.

9.2 The Inauguration Day

It had rained the entire weekend before the inauguration day. Torrents of rains and winds ripped through the streets of Washington causing people to stay inside the saloons and theatres, rather than returning outside to watch the inauguration celebrations. Many more incidents of arrests occurred due to excessive drinking and more drunkenness that normal. A rumor circulated that due to the rain soaked streets, the inaugural ceremony would be held inside the
Senate building.\textsuperscript{13} Because only 2,000 people would have seats, many people did not attempt to go. However, Harrison decided if people were willing to stand in the rain to watch his inauguration, he would be willing to stand there too.

At 10:00 a.m., on Monday, March 4th, inauguration day, President elect Harrison rode to the Willard Hotel in the pouring rain, to pick up President Cleveland for the ceremony. There had been a mix-up in their communication. Cleveland thought he was to pick Harrison up at the White House. Harrison on his arrival at the hotel, learned of the mistake and went to the White House to collect the President.\textsuperscript{14} A somewhat comical scene occurred on the way to the Capitol, the two presidents realizing they were sitting in each other's seat, clumsily stood up in the moving carriage with umbrellas hovering over them and changed seats.\textsuperscript{15} Harrison's Civil War regiment, many of them older gentlemen now, escorted the carriage as it proceeded down Pennsylvania Avenue.\textsuperscript{16} A good spirited, although thoroughly wet crowd, lined the street, bobbing their umbrellas as they stood.\textsuperscript{17} A small parade passed by consisting of the U.S. Marine Band and the District Militia.\textsuperscript{18}

After the ceremony in the Senate Chamber, the newly elected President and ex-President Cleveland walked outside to the inaugural platform on the east portico of the Capitol. Only two hundred of the 1,500 people who were inside the Senate building followed the president out doors.\textsuperscript{19} Cleveland held his umbrella over Harrison's head as he was administered the oath of office.\textsuperscript{20} The five foot, six inch, stocky, fifty-five year old president did not catch cold as his grandfather did on his inauguration day.\textsuperscript{21} Instead, Benjamin Harrison wore an overcoat and hat that were American made, shielding himself from the elements.\textsuperscript{22}

After the ceremony, the President rode back to the White House to eat lunch and watch the inaugural parade.\textsuperscript{23} The parade had been postponed for two hours in
order to give people a chance to dry out. At 2:30 p.m., President Harrison went out to the reviewing platform in front of the White House to watch the parade that did not finish until after dark. There were considerably fewer participants in the parade than in previous events due to the weather. Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West Troops appeared in the parade attracting abundant cheers from the crowd. An African American band from Boston and a drum and fife band were some of the other participants. The firework display which had been planned for the evening, had been cancelled.

9.3 The Inaugural Ball

Later that evening a spectacular ball took place at the Pension Building located at 5th and F streets. Great care had been displayed in planning this event. The main ballroom was 400 feet long by 200 feet wide and had been divided into three sections by eight immense marble column to allow more organization in the layout. The building had two public entrances, one on the north end at F Street and the other on the south end at G Street. After entering the building, the guests found the lady's and gentlemen's cloakrooms in the western part of the building. An anti-room next to the lady's cloakroom was used as a meeting room for escorts to collect their lady after checking their belongings with a cloakroom attendant. These attendants were postal employees whose expertise in organizational skills offered great efficiency here. The first floor had rooms for the committee members, telegraph and message attendants, and news reporters. The length of the ballroom had artificial pillars that divided the ballroom from the entrances and dining rooms. Three tiers of galleries that were used by the participants to promenade, dance and watch the ballroom floor from above. Streamers and bunting draped the Corinthian capitols of each pillar winding down to the floor. From the center of the ceiling out to each of the second floor balconies hung a
draping of evergreen laurels. At the base of each pillar was an U.S. Shield with American flags. In the center of the floor was an impressive Japanese pagoda which served as the musician's stand. It had two levels; the top housed the orchestra and the lower the Band. The base of the structure was built around a large fountain, which was surrounded by ferns, palms and moss. This was a nice retreat for the dancers and promenaders. The pagoda was beautifully decorated with flags, shields and flowers, to such abundance that they concealed the musicians in the stand. Located by the middle floor marble columns, electric bells hung whose chimes gave notice to the dancers and musicians when to begin a dance. These bells were managed by the chairmen of the ball committee and helped to maintain order in the dancing program. The ballroom floor was divided into sixteen dancing sections, monitored by a ballroom aid and nine assistants. At each section, numbers were placed on place cards so dancers would know where to meet their partner. The upper galleries were also included in these sections with aids on these floors as well.

The Presidential Party's private entrance was at the 5th Street entrance. A staircase that adjoined this entrance offered easy access to the beautifully decorated private rooms on the second floor. Harrison and Vice President Morton had their own private reception room on the second floor, as did the members of the Diplomatic Corps. The public was not allowed on the first floor gallery. This was kept for the privacy of the Presidential Party and guests. A reception line was set up on the second floor to allow the public to greet the Presidential Party and shake their hands.

The doors to the Pension Building opened at 8:00 p.m. People began to arrive early, coming by public or private transportation. The type of transportation taken denoted by which entrance the ball guest would enter. If arriving in a hack, cab or one horse carriage, the guest entered by the F Street entrance. All
guests who arrived in a carriage pulled by two or more horses entered at the G Street entrance. Consequently at the opening of the ball two lines of people were trying to enter the building. One line was eight feet wide and moved very slowly, while the other, not as wide, moved much faster. Ball guests immediately checked their coats, then went into the ballroom to begin their evening activities. Many of the guests began to promenade around the building so that by the end of the first selection of music, thousands of people were already on the ballroom floor. With the combination of luscious scenery and elegantly dressed people, the atmosphere of the ball evolved into a scene of rare and perfect beauty.

By the time the Presidential Party arrived at 10:00 p.m, the ballroom floor was too full. There was no visible space to be seen on the floor from above. On his arrival, the President was led to the first floor gallery which overlooked the ballroom. Along with the Presidential Party, Harrison walked the entire length shaking the hands of dignitaries and guests. This procession could be seen from the main floor of the ballroom. The President was then whisked away to his reception line, which lasted a half-hour. While passing through the line, the guests were given a perfumed rose, a gift from a perfume manufacturer, advertising their product. This was the first presidential advertisement for a product. Only a fraction of the guests made it through the line, and those that did not were not very satisfied. In order to please the guests, the President and his wife along with Mr. and Mrs. Morton went downstairs to the main floor and began to promenade for about thirty minutes so that people could see them close up. After this, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison departed, going home to the White House.
9.4 The Attire

An article in the Washington newspaper, the *Evening Star*, had advised ball guests of what to wear to the inaugural ball. Their instructions clearly specified for the gentleman to wear a black swallow tailcoat with black pants and white vest. He also needed to wear white or pearl colored gloves, preferably with black stitching and a white cambric tie. Watch chains and jewelry were not acceptable and shirt studs were agreeable as long as they were not gaudy. The ladies were expected to wear full dress attire as well, and from the descriptions of the lady's gowns in the same newspaper article, they outdid themselves in this area. The author of the article mentions:

The magnificent costumes worn by the ladies present was not surpassed by the glittering surroundings. It is conceded that no entertainment in Washington ever equaled the beauty of the gowns, which signalized the inaugural ball of last evening.

The ladies gowns varied in types of materials including satin brocades, silks and velvets. Some had elaborate bustles while others were trimmed in lace, ribbons, diamonds and pearls. Many had trains that skimmed the floor as their inhabitants glided over the dance floor. Wearing long evening gloves, the ladies also carried bouquets of flowers or feather fans. The bodice of the gowns varied in necklines, some V-necked, others scooped necked. Some of the gowns had sleeves while others were sleeveless. Mrs. Harrison wore an American made gown of silver-gray silk, trimmed in gold and silver beads. It displayed a design of Indian bur oaks with an apricot paneled skirt. Mary Harrison McKee, President Harrison's daughter, wore a brocaded dress with a goldenrod design, the President's favorite flower. Several of the ladies wore their hair in attractive
piles on top of the head, with little or no hair ornaments. Some wore rare jewels; pearls and sparkling diamonds on their neck and ears. Many of the civilian gentlemen wore flowers in their lapel, and the gentlemen in the Diplomatic Corps wore their full dress uniforms.

9.5 The Dinner

Two dinning rooms were located on the first floor of the Pension Building, one for the public, the other of the Presidential Party and their guests. President Harrison did not believe in drinking alcoholic beverages, consequently none were served that evening. The menu offered a bounty of delicious foods typical of those offered at previous inaugural balls. The hot foods included, bouillon, steamed oysters, oyster a la poulette, chicken croquettes, sweetbread pate a la reine, and terrapin. Of the cold foods there were assorted roll sandwiches, mayonnaise of chicken, lobster salad, cold tongue en Bellevue, cold ham a la Montgomery, boned turkey a la Americaine, breast of quail a la Cicerone, pate de foie gras a la Harrison, and terrine of game a la Morton. For dessert, ice cream, orange water ice, a pyramid of nougat renaissance, beehive of bon-bons Republic, Pavilion Rustic, and assorted cakes and fruits were served. Coffee and Roman punch were served as the beverages.

9.6 The Music and Dancing

Two music ensembles played the music for Benjamin Harrison's inaugural ball. Beck's Orchestra from Philadelphia, at the time, was one of the oldest and well-known orchestras in the country. Conductor, Simon Hessler and J.G.S. Beck led this. The other ensemble was the U.S. Marine Band, led by John Philip
Sousa. The band and orchestra alternated playing the musical selection in the promenade concert at the beginning of the ball. The first piece, the Presidential Polonaise, was composed and conducted by Sousa in honor of President Harrison's inauguration. This was performed by all the musicians. The music for the dancing program was played by the orchestra and the promenades played by the band. The music represented both American and European composers. It was said that the music was excellently performed, displaying a deep richness and balance. There was no trouble hearing the music from anywhere in the building, but some ball guests tired of hearing the Marine Band playing Hail to the Chief, three times in Harrison's presence.

The dancing program contained twenty-three dances. The promenade predominated the program, but the other dances were the waltz, quadrilles, the Lancers, polkas, the Yorke and the galop. Both the promenade concert and the dancing program did not have a specific starting time due to President Harrison's arrival and departure time. Harrison had strict beliefs. As in his stance regarding the consumption of alcohol, he did not believe in dancing. Out of respect for him, the dancing program did not commence until after he left. (See table five).

9.7 The Conclusion

The inaugural ball given in honor of President Benjamin Harrison was without doubt, the most successful event for this occasion. Twelve thousand guests attended the ball, almost as many as attended the events earlier in the day. Many of the ball participants, both young and old enjoyed the promenades and the dancing especially after the departure of some guests around midnight, leaving more room for the serious dancers on the ballroom floor.
participants enjoyed being at this splendid event, they loved the wonderful music, the scrumptious food and the exhilarating dancing. ¹⁰² During Harrison's administration, his wife Caroline persuaded him to agree to allow dance to be part of receptions held at the White House. ¹⁰³ She loved to dance and probably wanted to share this love with other lovers of terpsichore at political functions. ¹⁰⁴
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Name of Piece</th>
<th>Composer</th>
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<td>Yorke</td>
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<td>Waltz</td>
<td>Reign of Venus</td>
<td>Voelker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Quadrille</td>
<td>Volkegarten</td>
<td>Strauss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>Trip on the Limited</td>
<td>Don</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
<td>Anita</td>
<td>Hoffman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Galop</td>
<td>On the Sands</td>
<td>Puerner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Benjamin Harrison’s Inaugural Ball, 1889
NOTES TO CHAPTER NINE


3 DeGregorio 331.

4 Ibid. 334.

5 Ibid. 331.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid. 336.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid. 337; Kittler 124.

10 Kittler 125.

11 Ibid. 124.

12 Ibid. 125.

13 Ibid. 126.

14 Ibid.


16 Durban 118; Kittler 126.

17 Kittler 126.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid. 124.

20 Ibid. 126.

21 Ibid.

22 Ibid.
23 Kittler 128.
24 Kane 142.
25 Ibid.
26 Ibid.
27 Durban 118.
29 Kane 142.
30 Ibid.
32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
34 Ibid.
35 Kittler 128.
36 "Elegant Costumes." 2.
37 Kittler 128.
38 Kittler 128.
41 Ibid.
42 Ibid.
43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
50 Ibid.
51 Herdic, is a two-wheeled carriage with a low body. "Elegant Costumes.

2 Mar. 1889: 11.

52 Ibid.

53 "The Inaugural Ball," Evening Star. 5 Mar. 1889: 5.

54 Ibid.

55 Ibid.

56 "The Inaugural Ball." 2.

57 Kittler, 128.

58 "The Inaugural Ball." 5.

59 Kittler 128.

60 Ibid.

61 Ibid.

62 Ibid.

63 Ibid.

64 Ibid.

65 Ibid.

66 "Elegant Costumes." 2.

67 Ibid.

68 Ibid.

69 Ibid.

70 Ibid.

71 "The Inaugural Ball." 3.

72 Ibid.

73 Ibid.

74 Ibid.

75 Ibid.

76 Ibid.

77 Ibid.

78 Durban 119.
"The Inaugural Ball." 2.

Ibid.

Ibid.

"The Inaugural Ball." 5.

Ibid.

Kittler 128.

Kane 142.

"At the Inauguration." 71.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Durban 119; "The Great Ball Room." 11.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


"The Dancing Program." 11.

Kittler 128.

Kane 142.

Kittler 128.

"The Inaugural Ball." 2.

Caroli 416.

Ibid.
CHAPTER TEN

"A Brilliant Inaugural Ball"

WILLIAM MCKINLEY, the 25th President of the United States
March 4th, 1897

10.1 A Brief History of the Inaugural Day

William McKinley, the twenty-fifth President of the United States, was the sixth Ohioan to hold this office. Born in Canton, Ohio, in 1843, he was the last of the Civil War heroes to become President. He studied law, and set up practice in Canton, becoming active in the local Republican organization. He was the fifty-four year old governor of Ohio, when he defeated William Jennings Bryan, a Democrat, in 1896. The Vice Presidency went to Garret A. Hobart, from New Jersey. McKinley won with 51% of the popular votes. It had been sixteen years since the Republicans were in the White House. Much of McKinley's campaign was done from the front porch of his house in Canton, where he greeted 750,000 visitors from thirty states. In addition, he was the first President to use the telephone for campaign purposes.

President McKinley and his wife, Ida McKinley, arrived in Washington D.C. at Pennsylvania Station on March 2nd, 1897. Loud cheers welcomed them as they descended from the train. McKinley was very popular with the American public. He was respected for his fairness and courteousness. Even his political opponents admired his fine qualities. Society looked upon McKinley as a man who could
bring the country out of a depression and back into prosperity. Much of society's respect for McKinley came from the esteem and care he gave to his invalid wife, Ida. No matter what the occasion, it was always clear that she was his first concern. His treatment for her showed the American public what kind of man he was.

The inaugural day of March 4th, 1897, was a beautiful, mild, spring like day. McKinley took his oath of office in the east portico of the Capitol at 12:30 p.m. After the ceremony, there was an impressive parade that lasted two hours. For the first time in history, the inaugural festivities were captured in motion pictures. That evening, a brilliant ball was planned which promised grandness and elegance like never given before in Washington.

10.2 The Inaugural Ball

The grand ball was held at the Pension Building, which at the time was the Veteran's Administration Building. This was the fourth time this building was used for an inaugural ball. An article in the Evening Star referred to the ball as:

A fitting conclusion to the memorable events that filled every hour of the first day of President McKinley's Administration. Never during the 122 years of American independence has there been such a social gathering on American soil.

The outside of the Pension Building was lit so that it could be seen from many distant parts of the city. Street vendors selling their goods were located outside the entrances of the building. The inside of the building had been
transformed into a paradise of pleasure. Everything that made suggestion to a business atmosphere was hidden by with breathtaking decorations. The color scheme of white and gold, was in keeping with the Republican campaign slogan, "a promise to keep up the gold standard." Walls were covered with white and gold muslin, to give a white and gold effect. The ballroom was located on the first floor and measured 386 feet long by 116 feet wide. Three grand tiers of galleries surrounded it. Each balcony was draped with evergreens, which contained thousands of frosted incandescent electric lights. This gave a soft "glowing" atmosphere to the ball. There were eight enormous illuminated marble columns in the ballroom that also added luster to the scene. In the center of the ballroom was a fountain, surrounded by huge tropical plants. The corners of the ballroom contained evergreens, ferns and flowers. Over the ceiling of the ballroom hung a thin flimsy material that gave the appearance of a covering of nebulous clouds. The staircase leading from the ballroom to the second floor had been transformed into an arbor with birds singing in cages. The rest of the building overflowed with an abundance of evergreens, ferns, flowers and lights. On the west wall was an image of Old Glory constructed of red, white and blue lights. A mechanism connected to the lights made the flag look like it was waving in the wind. There were two areas in the ballroom designated for the band and orchestra. An archway above the bandstand area was lit with many lights. The first floor also contained the ladies cloakroom and dressing rooms, the gentlemen's cloakroom, a barbershop, supper rooms and a small hospital.

The second floor was devoted to the Presidential Party, their friends and family, and the Diplomatic Corps. These people needed a ticket to ascend the staircase to enter the second floor. The many small apartments on this floor were used as reception rooms for the President and his guests. The rooms contained so many flowers that their scent billowed out into the hallway. A special platform
crowd had drawn back on two sides of the ballroom to allow the party to
promenade. They only made it about half way across the floor before Ida
collapsed and had to be escorted to the President's supper room.\textsuperscript{19} It was not long
after, that McKinley and Ida went home to the White House at about 11:00 p.m.

10.4 Music and Dances at the Ball

The committee in charge of the music was determined to have better
music for this inaugural ball than for any previous one.\textsuperscript{20} Wanting both a band and
an orchestra, they extended an invitation for a proposal to the most prominent
music leaders in the country. Many proposals came back, eager to secure a
contract for the event. It was hoped that one contract would go to the Marine
Band, for they had a tradition of playing the inaugural balls.\textsuperscript{21} Unfortunately, their
bid for the job could not be divided with another band so they lost consideration
for playing the ball. It was decided that bandleader Victor Herbert would lead his
sixty-five member band, and William Haley was chosen to conduct his 125 piece
orchestra. Both leaders were known composers. Herbert was famous for his
comic operas and Haley wrote popular music at the time. The two groups of
musicians alternated playing in the ballroom. At 9:00 p.m., Herbert's band, the
22\textsuperscript{nd} Regiment Band, located on the eastside of the ballroom, played the
promenade music for one hour before the dance program started. Haley's
orchestra on the south side played the selections of music for the dance program
which consisted of works of traditional composers such as Strauss, Bizet and
Waldteufel and was varied with more popular pieces by composers such as Sousa
and Sullivan.

A variety of dances were offered on the dancing program to those who
chose to dance that evening.\textsuperscript{22} The mild temperature that night created the perfect
conditions for dancing although some of the plants and decorations around the
dance floor got in the way of the dancers, marring what might have otherwise been
a flawless event. Usually, it was the custom at a ball to open with a grand march, led by the person of honor. Because Ida McKinley's health would not allow her to do this, the grand march was eliminated from the program. Nevertheless, there were twenty-three dances on the ball program consisting of waltzes, quadrilles, promenades and the newest dance, the two-step. (See table six).

10.5 Dress at the Ball

Statesmen, diplomats, military personnel as well as members of the business and social world attended the ball. The attire for the event was rich and elaborate. The military and Diplomatic Corps wore full dress uniforms. Ladies wore lustrous evening gowns made of silk, satin and velvet, trimmed in lace, pearls and fur. Many of the ladies further adorned themselves with diamond tiaras, earrings and necklaces of pearls and diamonds.

Mrs. McKinley was quite admired at the ball in her gown of heavy brocaded white satin and lace. It had a full train with a circular gore paneled skirt. It was said that the heaviness of the gown was the cause of her collapse in the ballroom that night. She wore diamond earrings and a diamond brooch that was a family heirloom. In her hair were diamond combs and she carried a lace fan that matched the lace in her dress. On entering the ball she wore a long elegant lavender cape that was trimmed in white Alaskan fox. Mrs. Hobart wore a plain white ball gown with a long train. The bodice and puffed sleeves were covered in fine lace and on each shoulder was placed a bunch of violet silk flowers. The President and Vice President wore black tailcoats and trousers, and black silk top hats on entering the ball.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order of Dances</th>
<th>Name of Dance</th>
<th>Name of Piece</th>
<th>Composer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>Return of Spring</td>
<td>Waldteufel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>The Gold Bug</td>
<td>Victor Herbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
<td>A Gaiety Girl</td>
<td>Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>Artist Life</td>
<td>Strauss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>Spanish Dance</td>
<td>Mosakowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Quadrille</td>
<td>Jou Jou</td>
<td>Gungle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Two-Step</td>
<td>El Capitan</td>
<td>Sousa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>Gems from Carmen</td>
<td>Bizet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>La Berceuse</td>
<td>Waldteufel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>Moses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Hungarian Czardas</td>
<td>Grossmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Two-Step</td>
<td>White Flyer</td>
<td>Haley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>Symposia</td>
<td>Bendix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Quadrille</td>
<td>Militaire</td>
<td>Strauss</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>Grand Fantasie, Faust</td>
<td>Gounod</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>Princess Bonnie</td>
<td>Spencer</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Lancers</td>
<td>Robin Hood</td>
<td>DeKoven</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Promenade</td>
<td>The American Girl</td>
<td>Victor Herbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Two-Step</td>
<td>Black America</td>
<td>Zickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>My Dream</td>
<td>Strauss</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>Grand Finale from William Tell</td>
<td>Rossini</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two-Step</td>
<td>Semper Fidelis</td>
<td>Sousa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>Auf Wiederschen[sic]</td>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6: McKinley's First Inaugural Ball, 1897
10.6 Dinner at the Ball

A fine supper was planned for those who attended the ball. There were two supper rooms located on the north end of the first floor, one for the Presidential Party and the other for the ball guests. There was a separate charge of one dollar for those who wanted to eat at the ball. Large tables were set up in the main dining room to accommodate many people at one time. One hundred and twenty-five waiters were on hand and served the crowd in a systematic manner. There was a large menu, fitting the dignity and elegance of the evening. Seafood dishes of oysters, crab and lobster salad were served. Meat dishes consisted of chicken, turkey, ham, pates, sweetbreads, terrapin and sandwiches. For dessert there were cakes, chocolate and vanilla ice cream, lemon ice and fruit. The only alcoholic beverage served was Roman Punch, but specialty waters and coffee were also offered.

10.7 Conclusion

It was said that the crowd at the inaugural ball was well behaved and had a good time. There was no mention of any terrible mishaps, only a few guests complaining of dizziness and one of a bloody nose. Even though the President and his wife retired from the ball early, many in the crowd stayed until very late. Newspaper articles the next day after the ball referred to the ball as, "a wonderful end to a beautiful day."
NOTES TO CHAPTER 10

2 Louise Durban, Inaugural Cavalcade, (New York: Dodd-Mead Inc; 1971) 123.
5 Joseph Kane, Fact About the Presidents, 5 ed. (New York: H. W. Wilson, 1898) 153.
6 DeGregorio 355.
7 Kane 153.
8 Durban 123; Kittler 134.
10 Ibid.
11 Durban 125.
13 Ibid. 18.
15 Ibid. 10.
16 Ibid. 11.
17 Ibid. 10.
18 Ibid.
19 Durban 126.
21 Ibid.
24 Richard, McElroy, William McKinley and Our America, (Canton, Stark County Historical Society, 1996) 32.
25 "The Inaugural Ball." 1.
27 "The Brilliant." 11.
28 Ibid. 18.
CHAPTER 11

"A Scene of Gold and Glory"¹

WILLIAM MCKINLEY'S Second Term of Office
As the 25th President of the United States
March 4th, 1901

11.1 Facts Surrounding the Inauguration

William McKinley began his second term as President of the United States on Monday, March 4th, 1901 the first presidential inauguration of the twentieth century. It had been exactly one hundred years since Thomas Jefferson had taken his oath of office as the third President of the United States.² His had been the first inauguration in Washington D.C., in 1801. McKinley had again succeeded in winning the Presidency against a Democrat, William Jennings Bryan, by obtaining 7,218,000 of the popular votes and 292 electoral votes. Since William Hobart had died in office, leaving a vacancy for the Vice Presidency, New York's Governor, Theodore Roosevelt was the Republican Party's choice for the position. Roosevelt had attained world fame from leading the charge of San Juan Hill in Cuba, during the brief Spanish-American War. This success contributed to the United States winning the war.³
On March 4th, 1901 in the midst of cold, pouring rain, McKinley rode to his inauguration in an open carriage. He repeated his oath of office in the east portico of the Capitol at 1:17 p.m. It was raining so hard that the enormous flags that were draped behind the inaugural platform hung like wet clothes on the line. The decorations displayed on the streets were ruined. Due to the weather conditions, considerably fewer people were in attendance than for McKinley's first inauguration. However, a large parade of eight thousand participants, that occupied three hours from start to finish occurred. Some of those that marched included Puerto Rican soldiers wearing U.S. uniforms. This was the first time in the history of an inaugural parade that an American dependency was represented in the nation's inauguration. Many of the 7,000 spectators however, left the parade early to escape the downpour.

Under McKinley's first administration, the United States had prospered, winning the battle against the depression of 1893. The discovery of gold in Alaska helped strengthen the country's credit. This led to the Gold Standard of 1900, in which the U.S. began to back all of its currency with gold. Happy with McKinley's administration, the Republican campaigned on the slogan, "Four years more of a full dinner pail." The U.S. had acquired Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Cuba as part of the settlement in the Spanish-American War. Democrats however, claimed that the McKinley administration was becoming an imperial power by acquiring these new colonies. They felt the United States was abandoning its traditional role as champion of local autonomy but much of the country had a "let well enough alone attitude." They seemed to be satisfied with McKinley and re-elected him as president.
11.2 The Inaugural Ball at the Pension Building

Approximately 12,000 tickets were sold for the inaugural ball, over twice the amount that were sold for McKinley's first ball.\textsuperscript{13} The five dollar ticket included a national souvenir book of the inauguration.\textsuperscript{14} Tickets could be purchased at local banks and hotels and at the Inauguration Headquarters in Washington D.C.\textsuperscript{15}

Although the anticipation for this inauguration was not as high as for McKinley's first, great care was given to the preparation of the inaugural ball. The location of the ball was again the Pension Building. The dinner, dancing, and music arrangements for the ball were better than ever before. Comfort and enjoyment for the ball participants was a high priority for the ball committee. It was their hope that this ball would be even better than McKinley's first. Many workers employed by the ball contractors worked hard on transforming the building into a scene of gold and glory.\textsuperscript{16} Eighteen thousand dollars were spent on decorations for the ball.\textsuperscript{17} The color scheme was a delicate shade of yellow, known as "old ivory".\textsuperscript{18} The ceiling and walls were draped with pale yellow muslin. Long swinging swags of vine entwined with 16,000 electric lights were strung and looped on the walls and tiers of balconies. Electrical star lights caused a magical effect, making the courtyard glisten in golden glory\textsuperscript{19} Even the immense marble pillars were looped with green vines.\textsuperscript{20}

James Rush, the architect in charge of decorations was one of the best in the country. He designed a platform to be built that was fourteen feet above the first floor for the Presidential Party to observe the events of the ball.\textsuperscript{22} The east end of the building was designated as the dancing floor. Much of the rest of the first floor was used as a path around the main fountain for promenading.\textsuperscript{22} A
temporary dining room was constructed to accommodate one thousand people who could eat at a time. Built for spacious comfort and not architectural beauty, it measured two hundred feet long by thirty-five feet wide. Located at the south side of the building, it had two entrances to provide greater access. It was decorated with red bunting and loops of green vines. The lady's and gentlemen's cloakrooms were located on the first floor near the Fourth Street entrance. In addition, there also was a hospital with suites for operating rooms if needed.

The second floor was strictly for the use of the Presidential Party, Cabinet members, Supreme Court members, and the Diplomatic Corps and their guests. As in McKinley's first ball, reception rooms were set up on this floor for the Presidential Party to receive their guests and to rest. The President's private supper room also was located on this floor, available for the President's relatives and guests.

11.3 Arrival at the Ball

The doors to the inaugural ball opened at 8:00 p.m., although the ball itself was not officially opened until 9:00 p.m. Outside the building, thousands of people stood on the streets near the Pension Building, hoping to see the President and the ball attendants. Many of the people lingered, but were finally driven away by rain. Throughout the night, a steady stream of carriages dropped off occupants.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinley arrived at the ball around 10:15 p.m. They would have been there earlier except that their carriage had collided with a horse on the way to the ball. Although no one was hurt, it took a while to get the horse out from underneath the carriage. After finally arriving, the western doors to the
Pension Building swung open wide and the President and his wife, Ida, entered the ballroom. Mr. McKinley could not hide his pleasure in the breathtaking scene he witnessed. The President and his wife were quickly escorted up the staircase to the second floor. Climbing the stairs, Mrs. McKinley became faint and had to rest in the presidential suite. An opening march was planned to begin the event, which Mr. and Mrs. McKinley were supposed to lead along with Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt. To the President's disappointment, Mrs. McKinley was not feeling well enough to do this and the march was canceled. Not much later the Presidential Party went to the reviewing platform to watch the guests below. At this time the President received a large wave of applause. He bowed graciously acknowledging their honor to him and sat down by Ida's side. This was the cue for the U.S. Marine Band to strike up, Hail to the Chief. The gathered crowd was very respectful while the band played this piece. After the band finished, the dance program began.

The Presidential Party stayed in the reviewing stand for about one hour. From here, the President could enjoy the sights of the young people dancing below and the vast array of colors from the lady's gowns and their partner's military uniforms. After this pleasant diversion, the Presidential Party went to their supper room and enjoyed a fine dinner with light wine. The President and Ida left the ball around 12:15 a.m. retiring to the White House.

11.4 The Attire

An article in the Evening Star referred to the general effect achieved by the dresses worn at the ball stating, "The scene on the dance floor was perhaps the maddest riot of color." Ladies wore beautiful new ball gowns of silk, satin, and velvet, many imported from Europe. Some ladies wore high necked bodices.
others wore gowns that were tailor made. A few ladies wore large hats that upon entering the ball they were asked to remove. Jewels of diamond, ruby, emerald and pearl were prominently displayed on many of the ladies. Others wore lustrous family heirlooms. All of the gentlemen in the military wore their full dress uniforms. Civilian gentlemen wore evening dress with flowers in their lapels. It was mentioned by the press that the most attractive people dancing were the beautiful elaborately gowned ladies and the West Point cadets in their gray jackets with big brass buttons.  

Mrs. McKinley wore a white satin gown with a long train and a high neckline, and long sleeves. Two rows of rose point lace swirled up the bottom of the dress meeting in a cascade. The front of the skirt was embroidered in silver and further ornamented with crystal and rhinestones. The sleeves were covered with seed pearls and crystal. As additional adornment, she wore a diamond necklace and a tiny aigrette feather in her hair. Mrs. Roosevelt also wore a white satin gown with a long train. Over the satin skirt fell a soft drapery of French lace. The bodice was low and accented with rare lace and silver embroidery with pearls. She wore a string of pearls that she had wound around her neck several times. These fell to her waist and were attached to her ostrich feather fan. In her hand she held an ostrich tip feather with a pearl and diamond crescent. The President and Vice President wore black evening dress.

11.5 The Music and Dancing

As in the matter of decorations, great consideration had been given to the entertainment for this ball. The music was alternately played between the U.S., Marine Band and the William Haley Orchestra. The Marine Band, under the direction of William H. Santelmann, were handsomely attired in brilliant red
uniforms. Haley's Orchestra wore black dress attire. The short musical program for the intent of promenading, with selections composed by Herbert, Wagner, and Weber. The dance program began after the band's rendition of, Hail to the Chief. The Evening Star made mention of the excellence of the dance program stating that, "the program of dance was prepared with great care, and was so excellently played that the dancing was a perfect pleasure." It further noted that the music sounded better for this ball than the previous one, due in part to added rehearsals. The dancing program for the ball was enjoyed immensely by the participants. More people danced at this ball than at any inaugural ball before. One reason for this was due to the fact that a large part of the first floor had been designated for dancing only, and a special separate route had been laid out for those who wished to promenade rather than dance.

The dance program consisted of waltzes, two-steps, lancers, and promenades. There were many more two-steps on the program than four years earlier. The music for these dances consisted of a combination of classical compositions and popular music pieces contained in table six. At around 1:30 a.m. the last piece on the dance program, Frances Scott Key's, Star Spangled Banner, was played and the ball concluded with Home Sweet Home, played by the orchestra. (See table seven).

11.6 The Dinner

While the dancing was in progress, dinner was also available. Starting at 9:00 p.m. the dinner for the ball attendants was served. An additional charge of one dollar for the dinner had been paid for in advance. The menu offered a selection of hot and cold foods, and soups prepared from seafoods and meats. More specifically the hot foods consisted of consomme of Chicken de la Reine,
clam broth, lobster dressing sautéed with white wine sauce, and croquettes with French peas. The cold foods on the menu were tongue and ham served in jelly, beef, mayonnaise of chicken, potato salad, sandwiches and small rolls. For dessert there was ice cream, mousses, fancymeringues, cheese straws, cakes, bon-bons, brandied cherries and salted almonds. Coffee was served as the beverage.67

11.7 Conclusion

By 12:15, the crowd on the dance floor had lessened.68 It was evident that most of these guests had come to the ball to see the President.69 However, there were some people who chose to go to the theater before hand, and wanting to enjoy some dancing afterwards, did not arrive until after midnight.70 Those who came for the dancing enjoyed it into the early morning hours.71 Eventually, weariness caught up with these dancers, and as morning approached, their dance steps grew slower and slower.72 When the orchestra played their final notes of, Home Sweet Home, the last guests began to leave the ball. There were many yawns and sighs in the cloakroom as these stragglers began to leave.73 The carriages pulled up to the doors of the building to take many thoroughly tired dancers to their homes and hotels.74

In the early morning hours, only the employees and some of the ball committee were left in the building.75 It was not long before all of the many shining lights were turned off and the ball came to its conclusion.76 Many of those that attended the ball had a feeling of satisfaction that the first inaugural ball of the twentieth century had been appropriately celebrated.77 It was truly a beautiful evening and a well planned event.
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<td>Wedding of the Winds</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Nat'l Anthem</td>
<td>The Star Spangled Banner</td>
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* Composer Unknown

Table 7: McKinley's Second Inaugural Ball, 1901
Unfortunately, McKinley did not get to finish his second term as President. On September 6th, 1901, while attending the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, McKinley was shot by Leon F. Czolgosz, an anarchist from Detroit. Leon fired two rounds of ammunition at McKinley wounding him in the abdomen. Falling backward, McKinley shouted to those around him not to hurt his assassin. Moments later, he turned to his secretary, Mr. Corteyon saying, "my wife, be careful, Corteyon, how you tell her, oh, be careful!" McKinley died of infection from the wounds on September 14th, 1901. His assassin, admitting to the murder, was proven guilty and sentenced to death by electrocution.
NOTES FOR CHAPTER 11


2 Ibid.


4 Ibid.

5 Glenn Kittler, Hail to the Chief, (Philadelphia: Chilton Books, 1965) 139.

6 Ibid. 140.

7 Durban 127.


11 Ibid.

12 Kittler 138


14 Ibid.
Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

"The Inaugural Ball", *Evening Star*, 5 Mar. 1901: 5.

Ibid.

"An Elaborate." 8.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

"The Inaugural." 3.

"An Elaborate." 8.

Ibid.

Ibid.

"The Inaugural." 3.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid. 5.
37 Ibid. 12.
38 Ibid. 3.
39 Ibid.
40 Ibid.
41 Ibid.
42 Ibid.
43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
49 Ibid. 10.
50 Ibid.
51 Ibid. 5.
52 Ibid.

53 McKinley's Inaugural Ball Program, 4 Mar. 1901, U.S. Marine Band
Library: 10, 11.

54 "An Elaborate." 8.
55 "The Inaugural." 12.
56 Ibid.
57 Ibid.
58 Ibid.
Inaugural Ball Program 10, 11.

"An Elaborate." 8, Inaugural Ball Program, 10, 11.


The Elaborate." 8.

Ibid.

Ibid. 8.

"The Inaugural." 5.

Ibid.

Ibid. 12.

Ibid. 5.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid. 5, 12.

DeGregorio 367.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid. 368.
CHAPTER 12

"A Kaleidoscopic Picture of Beauty and Gallantry"

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, the 27th President of the U.S.
March 4th, 1909

12.1 Historical Background

Theodore Roosevelt's charisma and robustness captured the popularity of the American public during his Presidency. Having substituted for almost all of McKinley's second term due to McKinley's assassination and fulfilling a term of his own following that, Roosevelt pledged he would not run for another term of office. Instead, the incumbent President did something that was done only a few times in history, he hand picked William Howard Taft and endorsed him as the Republican candidate for the 1908 election. Taft, a noted jurist from Ohio, who had made known his dreams of obtaining a seat on the Supreme Court, did not desire the presidency of the United States. He did agree, however, to campaign against a Democrat, once nominated. With Roosevelt's support, Taft had the Republican nomination in the bag, and succeeded in winning the election in November.

William Howard Taft was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, to a prominent political family. His father was a lawyer and diplomat who had served as Secretary of War and Attorney General under the Grant administration, and as the Austrian-
Hungarian and Russian minister under the Arthur administration. Taft attended public schools in Cincinnati, was accepted to Yale University and after completion of his undergraduate degree returned to Cincinnati and attended law school at the University of Cincinnati. After passing the bar in 1880, he married school sweetheart, Helen Herron Taft of Cincinnati, with whom he subsequently had two sons and a daughter.

In appearance, Taft was quite a large man weighing over three hundred pounds and standing six feet two inches tall. He was a very cheerful, good-natured man, popular with his many friends. Before the presidency, his career in law included serving as Prosecutor of Hamilton County, as judge for the Cincinnati Supreme Court and as judge for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Under the McKinley administration, he entered the political arena when he was appointed President of the Philippine Commission, devoting his energy to the Spanish-American War.

After winning the Republican nomination for the presidency, he campaigned against Democratic contender, William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska. Although there were diverse campaign issues, such as the source of the funds for the 1904 election, the country was more interested in electing the man who could most carry out Roosevelt's policies. Although Taft's Unitarian beliefs did not make him popular with all the Christian population, he won the majority of the electoral vote and 52% of the popular votes in the election. It was said that Taft's success in winning by more than a million votes was more of a win for Roosevelt than it was for Taft. James S. Sheridan, a lawyer and member of the U.S. House of Representatives, was elected the country's Vice President.

The city of Washington D.C. began to plan its finest inaugural celebration for the newly elected President. The inaugural decorating committee built a Court
of Honor in the downtown area between Madison and Jackson Place to serve as an entrance and exit to the inaugural celebration. Eight large columns had been placed at these street intersections decorated with flags and hanging baskets of flowers. Venetian masts were placed every thirty feet extending the mile and a half stretch between the White House and the Capitol building. These were joined together with loops of laurel evergreens, colorful streamers and flowers that also stretched across the street to a mast on the other side. Electric lights were entwined throughout, causing a spectacular scene at night. Two inaugural stands were built for the occasion. The first was the President's reviewing stand, which held up to 3,000, consisting of the Presidential Party, members of the Senate and Supreme Court, and various politicians. The other stand located opposite to the first one in Lafayette Square, was for the public, and held 7,000 to 8,000 people.

Although the Inaugural committee for weeks had planned the most spectacular event ever, the weather unfortunately had its own plans. On Thursday, March 3rd, a fierce snowstorm struck the city, isolating it from the rest of the world and bringing it to a standstill. Telephone, telegraph and power lines were knocked out. The railways were paralyzed due to failing signals, snow and ice, and tracks blocked by icy fallen trees and wires. Fortunately, a wireless telegraph system had been installed between Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington that allowed for communication these cities. Thousands of people coming into the city by rail did not make it until the inauguration ceremonies were over. The ones that were lucky enough to make it in were stranded at the depot with no way to get to their lodgings. Members of the military who came into the city to march in the parade had to sleep in unheated train cars that evening, some suffering from frostbite. City and government workers labored hard through the night to clear the streets of snow and ice, to no avail, for there was no let up in the raging storm. At 10:00 a.m., on March 4th, 1909, inauguration day, for the first
time in seventy-six years, the presidential inauguration would be held inside in the Senate chamber.\textsuperscript{28}

Escorted by Troop A, of the Ohio National Guard, President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft, rode together in a closed, four horse carriage to the Capitol building. A second carriage followed carrying Vice President Fairbanks and Vice President-elect Sherman.\textsuperscript{29} As the carriages passed through snow bound streets, the cheerful shouts and applause of approximately 4,000 wind-chilled people, greeted them.\textsuperscript{30} Mrs. Taft and her three children proudly arrived at the Capitol building in a limousine.\textsuperscript{31} At age fifty-one, President Taft swore his oath of office in the tightly packed Senate chamber before an anxious crowd of people. Ladies dressed in beautiful formal gowns that suggested a more social occasion than an official one, chattered energetically, waving their fans, causing an unusual scene.\textsuperscript{32} After the ceremony, history was made when Mrs. Taft took her place beside her husband joining him in the open carriage ride back to the White House, the first time a first lady had done this.\textsuperscript{33} By 3:00 p.m., the wind and snow began to ease and the new President stood in his reviewing stand in front of the White House watching the three-hour inaugural parade consisting of 20,000 participants drawn primarily from the military.\textsuperscript{34} A second parade was scheduled for the next day to allow those parade attendants who were stranded outside the city a chance to march as well.\textsuperscript{35} Taft also decided to open the White House to the public on this day to make up for the inconvenience the weather had caused the public the day before.\textsuperscript{36}

12.2 The Inaugural Ball Building

The weather was no deterrent to the wonderful social celebration of the inaugural ball held at the Pension Office that evening. Once again the public was invited to attend this national event for the price of five dollars per ticket.\textsuperscript{37} The
highly sought after tickets were available for purchase through the mail, by
telegraph, and at participating Washington hotels. The ball promised to equal
the splendor of European coronation fetes and had been joyfully anticipated for
months.

Wanting to outdo the decorating scheme of past inaugural balls, the ball
committee hired professional decorators and artists to design the decorating. The
great court of the Pension Office was turned into a beautiful ballroom. Colors of
cream and green were chosen. Forty thousand yards of fireproof, cream colored
material were purchased to cover the ceiling and interior walls of the entire
building. A barrel type ceiling was formed by stretching the material from the
center of the ballroom out to the upper galleries. Evergreen laurels and vines
draped and looped from each one of the balconies. Eighteen chandeliers, each
having one hundred and fifty electric bulbs, were strung in rows across the length
of the ballroom, casting a soft light. The eight huge marble columns that
naturally divided the ballroom were not decorated for this ball, except for having a
false wood cap placed at the top to give the appearance of ending where the
ceiling material hung down. The President's reception room, galleries and other
private rooms were decorated with flags, beautiful palms and flower baskets
containing American beauty roses, orchids and spring flowers. The entrances,
supper rooms and staircases continued the same decorating theme as the rest of the
building. For this ball, to house the Presidential Party, a special presidential box
was built in the western part of the first floor. This was decorated in colors of
gold and cream and on the front hung Roman wreaths with a festoon of flowers.
On top of the numerous side columns, that stretched along the length of both sides
of the ballroom, hung clusters of crimson rambler, forsythia and smilax that trailed
down each one. At each column's base hung evergreen wreathes. Opposite the
presidential box was located the music stand that held the band and orchestra.
Red, white and blue streamers draped across the stand, covered with so many
plants, flowers and ferns they concealed the musicians. In the center of the ballroom floor was a beautiful fountain lit with a rainbow of changing colored lights. Palms and flowery plants banked up five feet high around it, while on the surface of the water floated aquatic plants. A path using the fountain as a turn around was used for the promenading and grand march.

The first floor of the building had three entrances, the main public entrance being on the F Street side. Near the doorway on this floor were the lady and gentlemen's cloakrooms, the supper room, the hospital and many other rooms. The second floor held the President's reception room and private supper room, and private rooms for the Diplomatic Corps, the Senate, and Supreme Court judges. Other rooms on this floor not used by the Presidential Party and guests were opened to the public.

3 The Ball

The doors to the inaugural ball opened at 8:00 p.m. People immediately began to enter the building from the sloppy snow covered streets. By 9:00 p.m., the people coming in began to gather in the galleries as well as the main ballroom floor. People attended from all over the country and the world, representing not only those of wealth, and fame, but also those of more modest means. At this time, the floor committee began to form lanes across the ballroom floor for the grand march. Members of the ball committee held red, white and blue silk ropes to mark the path of direction. The Presidential Party arrived at the western entrance by automobile around 9:30 p.m. Within minutes after entering the building and depositing their coats they ascended the stairs to the first floor. Walking arm in arm, President Taft and Mrs. Taft, along with Vice President and Mrs. Sherman began the first steps of the grand march, promenading down the
ballroom floor and back again. Great cheers and applause sounded throughout the ballroom honoring the President as he finished his walk. The onlookers' faces were full of enthusiasm as they watched the honored ensemble. After the march, the Presidential Party moved upstairs to the presidential reception room where a reception was given in their honor by dignitaries, Supreme Court judges, senators, members of the Diplomatic Corps and the ball committee and representatives from the Army and Navy. About 10:30 p.m., the Presidential Party moved to their box, the President gave his acknowledgement to the band to begin the dancing program, and the first waltz began. From the edge of the balcony they watched the ball guests below. From here, they could see the great aesthetic beauty of the ballroom. Mrs. Taft mentions this in her memoirs as one of the highlights of the ball, stating:

A brilliant, an almost kaleidoscopic scene spread before us. The hall is of tremendous proportions, pillared with red marble and with wall tinted the same color. Every inch of the floor space seemed to be occupied. The bright colors of and the gleam of the women's gowns met and clashed, or harmonized with the brighter colours of the diplomatic uniforms. Officers of the Army and Navy, in full regalia, mingled with the hundreds of men in the plain black of formal evening dress. It was a wonderful glittering throng.

After watching the activities in the ballroom for a while, the Presidential Party went to supper and later came back to the box before leaving the ball around 1:00 a.m. Upon leaving, the President bent over the railing and shouted, "good night" to the Ball guests. They in turn replied, "good night", back to him.
12.4 The Attire

The reasons people came to the ball denoted what they wore. Some people only came so they could say they had been there and have the memory of attending it. These people dressed more modestly, some never taking off their coats. Other people dressed in their finest evening dress. Of these the ladies wore beautiful gowns of imported silks, brocades and satins. The favorite style was the princess cut, in which the waistline was very high and the skirt draped close to the body. The bodice of the gown was V-necked or square necked and had different style sleeves. The gowns were trimmed with ribbons, laces, seed pearls and sometime semi-precious stones. In the style of the day, the hair was drawn up on top of the head and could display feathers or decorative combs. Many of the ladies wore costly jewels of diamonds, emeralds and pearls. The officers in the military and the Diplomatic Corps wore their full dress uniforms while the civilian gentlemen wore formal eveningwear. Mrs. Helen Taft wore a heavy, white satin brocade gown featuring a Greek style silver and white tunic that fell over the close fitting skirt and had an attached train in the back. The bodice was low cut, and the fabric, imported from Tokyo, was covered in silver and crystal beads. Her hair was piled up on top of her head in a pompadour style, and attached by diamond barrettes was a curly aigrette feather. On her neck she wore a diamond choker with pearls. Mrs. Sherman wore a heavy white satin dress with a tunic of white lace. Silver and crystal embroidery embellished the fabric along with a single diamond brooch. Miss Helen Taft, the President's daughter, wore a girlish white gown with blue satin trim and carried a bouquet of sweet peas.
12.5 The Music and Dancing

The United States Marine Band and the Sol Minister Orchestra performed the music for the ball.\textsuperscript{91} Both ensembles alternated playing the music for the promenade concert from 8:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and the dancing program from 10:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.\textsuperscript{92} The bandstand displayed a wonderful sight created by the colorful scarlet uniforms of the Marine Band in contrast to the black evening dress of the 125-piece orchestra.\textsuperscript{93} Before the President arrived people enjoyed the well-executed promenade concert consisting of five selections of classical music.\textsuperscript{94} Many people who did not dance took places on the balcony and watched the bands play all night.\textsuperscript{95} When the President arrived at the ball, the band played the \textit{Star Spangled Banner} as the Presidential Party promenaded across the ballroom floor.\textsuperscript{96} This was again played at the end of the evening to formally end the inaugural ball.\textsuperscript{97}

The dancing at the ball turned out to be more enjoyed by the guests than anticipated. Thinking that most people at the ball would not dance, only a small area in front of the bandstand was designated as the dance floor with the rest to be given to promenading.\textsuperscript{98} At the beginning of the dance program, those who wished to take the promenade route often collided with the ambitious dancers.\textsuperscript{99} As the evening progressed and people began to leave the ball, the dancers had more room and soon took over the entire floor.\textsuperscript{100} They glided around the great pillars, moving from one end of the ballroom to the other, some staying until the closing of the ball at 1:00 a.m.\textsuperscript{101} The dancing program contained twenty-four dance selections consisting of waltzes, two-steps and promenades.\textsuperscript{102} (See table eight).
12.6 The Dinner

The dinner served at this ball offered a lighter fare than at previous inaugural balls. An additional dinner ticket costing one dollar and fifty cents was charged for the buffet.\textsuperscript{103} The menu consisted of all cold foods including chicken croquettes, Salmon Kennebec in Remoulade sauce, Waldorf salad, chicken salad, assorted sandwiches and rolls. For dessert was Neapolitan ice cream, tutti frutti, biscuit glace, fancy cakes, macaroons, and wafers, cheese straws, charlotte chantilly, presidential cakes, sponge cake, croquenbouche, Parisian meringue and coffee.\textsuperscript{104}

12.7 Conclusion

Ten Thousand guests attended the inaugural ball that evening.\textsuperscript{105} Accounts in newspapers after the ball mention the appreciation of the guests and the enjoyment they received from attending.\textsuperscript{106} One newspaper mentioned what a spectacular sight the ballroom, displayed saying it was "a kaleidoscopic picture of Beauty and Gallantry."\textsuperscript{107} Even though the weather ruined many of the inaugural celebration plans earlier that day, at least the grand inaugural ball was fully enjoyed and admired.
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<td>Fairest of the Fair</td>
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<td>Nat'l Anthem</td>
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*Not danced, concluded the ball

Table 8: Taft's Inaugural Ball, 1909
NOTES FOR CHAPTER 12


4 Ibid.

5 Ibid. 394.

6 Ibid. 397.

7 Armbruster 254; DeGregorio, 395.

8 DeGregorio 397.


10 DeGregorio 399.

11 Ibid.

12 Kittler 150.

13 "Ball to Be As Planned." 14.

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid.

19 Ibid.

20 Kittler 150.

21 Ibid.
22 Ibid.
23 Ibid.
15.
25 Ibid.
26 Kittler 150.
27 Ibid.
28 Kittler 150.
29 Durban 136.
30 Ibid.; Kittler, 151.
31 Durban 136.
32 "Ball to Be As Planned." 14.
33 Kittler 152.
34 Ibid.
35 Ibid.
36 Ibid.
37 Ibid.
38 Ibid.
40 Ibid.
41 Ibid.
42 Ibid. 11.
43 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid. 1.
48 Ibid. 11.
49 Ibid.

"Balls will Eclipse." 11.


"Gorgeous Robes." 10.

Mrs. William Howard Taft, *Recollections of Full Years* (New York: Dodd, Mead Co., 1915) 344.

"Balls Will Eclipse." 10.

"Gorgeous Robes." 10.

Durban 138.

"Gorgeous Robes." 10.

Taft 344.

"Gorgeous Robes." 10.
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Benton 1.

Ibid.

"Gorgeous Robes." 10.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

"Ball Will Eclipse." 2.

Taft's Inaugural Ball Program, Taft House, Cincinnati, 4 Mar. 1901: 2.

"Balls Will Eclipse." 1.

Inaugural Ball Program. 2.

"Gorgeous Robes." 10.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Inaugural Ball Program, 2.

"Ball Will Eclipse," 1.

Inaugural Ball Program, 4.
"Ball Will Eclipse, 1.


CHAPTER 13

"A Wholesome Example of Economy and Thrift"¹
WARREN G. HARDING, the 29th President of the U.S.
March 4th, 1921

13.1 History Leading Up to the Inauguration

After the close of World War I, many Americans wanted much less to do with international affairs, wanting to concentrate on returning to their ordinary pre-war way of life. President Wilson however, was still very concerned with having the U.S. continue international involvement with other countries and pushed for world peace. To promote his philosophy and determined to prove its importance for the country, Wilson embarked on a national speaking tour in September of 1919. After three weeks on the tour, Wilson suffered a stroke and was unable to complete his endeavor. Paralyzed on the left side of his body, he returned to Washington to complete his second term of office from a sick bed.

The Republican and Democratic Parties went to the summer convention in 1920 without strong candidates for the next presidency. Both parties picked men with similar backgrounds, men that were little known nationally, who were publishers of major U.S. newspapers and were both from Ohio.² James M. Cox, the Democratic nominee, was three time Governor of Ohio and owner and
publisher of the *Dayton Daily News*. Warren G. Harding, a senator from Ohio and publisher of the *Marion Star* was nominated as the Republican candidate. The Republican Party chose Harding knowing he supported one of the country's main concerns of not becoming involved in another World War. Harding, a conservative Republican, also supported business and high tariffs, vowing to protect the American industry. His campaign slogan was "back to normalcy", and campaign songs like, *Mist-ter Harding, You're the man for us!*, were written and sung by Al Jolson.\(^3\) Keeping American matters first, Harding campaigned against Wilson's more expansionist philosophies, and he also supported the regulation or break-up of large U.S. financial empires that established business monopolies.

James Cox, on the other hand, supported Wilson's policies and challenged war-weary Americans to remain active in world affairs as well as their country's own problems. He also campaigned against prohibition. Cox traveled 22,000 miles on his campaign trail, promoting his issues while Harding conducted a front-porch campaign from his home in Marion, Ohio. Harding never expected to win the election and told friends he only wanted to return to his job as senator.\(^4\) The country however, voted conservative, and Harding won the election by a land slide with 61% of the popular votes and 404 of the electoral votes. Harding's enemies blamed women, who voted in a national election for the first time, for choosing him because of his handsome looks and gentle voice.\(^5\) He was the first current senator to be elected President and resigned his seat on January 13\(^{th}\), 1921.\(^6\) Calvin Coolidge, Harding's running mate from Massachusetts became Vice President of the United States.

Even though spectacular plans for Harding's inauguration were entertained, Harding's attitude toward the celebrations and the Nation's concern for economy in 1920 changed the outcome. Four years before, Wilson had done away with his inaugural festivities due to the nation's economy and the threats of war. Harding,
feeling it would be unbecoming to spend money on the inauguration since his campaign issues supported the nation's economy, continued Wilson's attitude, and decided on a simple inauguration service. Plans for the inaugural parade, grand inaugural ball and fireworks display were canceled. In a letter to Edward McLean, the Chairman of the Inaugural Committee, Harding apologized for his decision to cancel all of the inaugural plans and presented his views stating:

I have been very reluctant to express my personal views to your committee because I knew of the cherished regard in our national capital for this quadrennial event, and the generosity of the citizens of the District in making provision for it. ... I wish you and your committee to know that the impression of extravagant expenditure and excessive cost would make me a very unhappy participant... It is timely and wholesome to practice the utter denial of public expenditure where there is no necessity and it will be a wholesome example of economy and thrift.

Harding's request for a simple "no-fuss" inauguration was honored. Federal employees were given the inauguration day off, but for the rest of Washington it was business as usual.

On Thursday, March 3rd, 1921, President-elect Harding and his wife, Florence arrived in Washington D.C. on a special train from Ohio. The Hardings had no children but were accompanied on the train by 200 friends and relatives from Marion, Ohio. Harding was known as a humble and kindly man, having never fired an employee, and was well liked by both major political parties. The following morning, Friday, March 4th, 1921, inauguration day, was a cold but beautiful day. President-elect Harding and President Wilson rode together from the White House to the Capitol in an automobile, the first Presidents to do this. Vice Presidents Marshall and Coolidge followed them in a second
car. Both cars were escorted by a mounted Cavalry unit that had to maintain a fast gallop to keep ahead of the vehicles. Wire had been strung along Pennsylvania Avenue to hold back the crowds from the approaching cars. This however proved to be unnecessary for the streets were virtually empty. Only a few people were present to watch the Presidential Party pass along the colorfully decorated street. The crowds that usually flocked to Washington did not appear due to the cancellation of inaugural celebrations, thus creating a loss of revenue for Washington hotels, restaurants and railway lines. Even the small businessman, a young boy selling American flags on the street, could not find buyers for his wares.

On arrival at the Capitol, President Wilson was aided by his secret service agent to an elevator which took him up to the Senate Chamber. Photographers had been warned not to photograph the limping, struggling President who was determined to make it through the simple inauguration ceremony. Harding, however, walked energetically up the Capitol steps showing no apprehensions or misgivings in embarking on his new undertaking of the presidency. A small kiosk had been erected outside the grounds by the east side portico, to accommodate thirty members of the Presidential Party. About 10,000 people did come up to this Capitol Park area to watch Harding take his oath of office and hear the first amplified Presidential inaugural speech. Before Harding began his speech, the Marine Band in their scarlet coats and bright blue trousers, played the Star Spangled Banner before the cheering crowd of people. Harding's thirty-seven minute inaugural speech was interrupted by intermittent shouts and cheers from the audience. The Marine Band concluded the ceremony by playing America. After the ceremony, President Harding attended a session of the Senate, the first President to do this on his inauguration day. At this time, he presented the members of his newly formed cabinet to the Senate. The President and his wife then returned to the White House for a small luncheon held for
seventeen members of their immediate family.\textsuperscript{31} Later that afternoon, the President entertained the 200 friends and family that had accompanied him to Washington.\textsuperscript{32} He also officially re-opened the White House gates to the public giving access to the grounds which had been closed during World War I.\textsuperscript{33} Among those strolling across the grounds that evening was a young actress named Mae West, who was performing at a Washington theater at the time of the inauguration.\textsuperscript{34}

13.2 The Unofficial Inaugural Balls

Although the official inaugural ball had been cancelled for that evening, Washington society had their own plans for celebrating Harding's inauguration. Three private inaugural balls were held that evening in Washington.\textsuperscript{35} One ball was held for all Ohioans at Rauscher's with the theme of "Go as you please." People were advised to wear their afternoon or evening dress, some just wore ordinary street clothes.\textsuperscript{36}

Another quite brilliant ball was a charity ball held for the Child Welfare League at the Willard Hotel.\textsuperscript{37} This ball received tremendous attention from the press both before and after the event. Hosted by Mrs. Marshal the ex-Vice President's wife, it was sponsored by many elite Washington socialites.\textsuperscript{38} Single and double tickets for this ball were on sale at the larger downtown hotels.\textsuperscript{39} Seating boxes went for $200 to $500 dollars, with some patrons purchasing a box with the intent of having others match their extravagant price.\textsuperscript{40} The main guests at the events were Vice President and Mrs. Coolidge.\textsuperscript{41} Other guests included government officials, senators, ambassadors, judges, and officers of the army and
Guests for this ball arrived at the F Street entrance of the hotel where they deposited their cloaks and coats. They then ascended to the ninth floor by elevator and walked up to the tenth floor ballroom. Two hundred members of the ball's floor committee were available to assist the guests. Many of the guests strolled up and down the hallway called "Peacock Alley", showing off their breathtaking gowns and evening attire as they entered and exited the ballroom. The following day the Evening Star referred to the ball as a "brilliant affair for charity, rivaling past inaugural balls." 

There were three ballrooms located on the tenth floor, one large and two smaller ones. One of the small ones, named the Pink Room, was used as a reception room for the Coolidges. The Marine Band played the music for the dancing. It was divided into three sections, one that played in the small ballroom and the other two that alternated playing in the large one. Dancing began at 10:00 p.m. and went until 1:00 p.m. It was said that the participants never tired of dancing to the continuous music. Several thousand people attended this ball appearing in their finest evening attire. The ladies wore colorful dresses of velvet, silk and satin in the style of the day which draped closely to the lines of their bodies. Many ladies wore scarves of tulle or silk around their shoulders and displayed beautiful jewels and pearls around their necks. Many of the gowns were embroidered in gold or silver, others were garnished with fine lace. The gentlemen wore black evening wear while the members of the military wore their stunning dress uniforms. The lady of honor, Mrs. Coolidge, wore a chrome orange gown with a low cut V-neck front and back trimmed with gold brocade.

Other entertainment besides the dancing was provided at the ball. Famous stage stars such as Miss Lillian Russell, Ann Bennington, Hazel Cox, Kitty Donner and Al Jolson sang for the guests. The proceeds from the ball went to pay off the $10,000 mortgage of the Child Welfare League's building.
amount was exceeded from the sale of tickets for this charity ball.\textsuperscript{61} This entire affair was considered to be very successful from both a social standpoint and a financial one. It was a welcome substitute for the cancelled official inaugural ball.\textsuperscript{62}

Earlier that evening another private dinner and ball was given in celebration of the inauguration by Edward McLean and his wife Evalyn Walsh McLean at their home near Layette Square in downtown Washington D.C.\textsuperscript{63} The McLarens were both personal friends of the Hardings and Washington socialites. Edward was heir to the multi-millionaire newspaper publisher of the Cincinnati Enquirer.\textsuperscript{64} Evalyn was the daughter of a gold-mining entrepreneur and also the owner of the ill-fated Hope diamond,\textsuperscript{65} once believed to have been part of a larger necklace belonging to Marie Antoinette and broken when the guillotine robbed her of her life.\textsuperscript{66} Five hundred guests were invited to the private celebration for dinner and dancing.\textsuperscript{67} The dining room, ballroom, stairway, and hallways were decorated with hanging baskets, spring flowers, creeping vines and potted palms trees.\textsuperscript{68} The dinner tables were adorned with gold tableware and gold candelabras that were several feet high.\textsuperscript{69} Several dinner bands performed, playing the new sounds of the early jazz music.\textsuperscript{69} Evalyn wore a silver gown cut in slender lines, adorned with her beautiful blue diamond.\textsuperscript{70} After dinner, 200 guests stayed for dancing in the ballroom.\textsuperscript{71} Dance cards had been sent out in advance to the homes of younger participants so they could arrange partners for each dance ahead of time.\textsuperscript{72}

13.3 Concluding Accounts

President and Mrs. Harding declined all the invitations to the balls this evening. Newspaper accounts say they retired to bed at 10:00 p.m. in the White House.\textsuperscript{73} Neither of the Hardings were in good health, Florence suffered from kidney disease and Warren had high blood pressure and an enlarged heart.\textsuperscript{74}
While on vacation in San Francisco, Warren Harding suffered a heart attack and died on August 2nd, 1923. Vice President, Calvin Coolidge took over Harding's last two years of office and was elected for an additional term. Florence Harding died of kidney failure, sixteen months after her husband, at her home in Marion, Ohio.75
NOTES FOR CHAPTER 13


2 Ibid.


10 Kitler 163.

11 Ibid.

12 DeGregorio 431.

13 Durban 145.

14 Ibid.

15 Ibid.

16 Kitler 163.

Durban 145.

"Charity Ball" 36.


Kitler 163.

Ibid.

Adams 209.

Durban 145.

Kitler 163.

Ibid. 164.

DeGregorio 431.

Durban 145.

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Kitler 164.

Ibid.

Ibid.

"Charity Ball." 3.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.

42 Ibid.
44 Ibid.
45 Ibid.
46 "Brilliant Affair." 1.
47 Ibid.
48 Ibid.
49 Ibid.
50 "Society." 11.
51 Ibid.
52 Ibid.

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54 Ibid.
55 Ibid.
56 "Society at Dance." 2.
57 "Society." 11.
58 "Tomorrow's Ball." 1.
59 "Ibid.
60 Ibid.
61 Ibid.
62 "Brilliant Affair." 1.
63 Adams 131.
64 Adams 99.
65 Adams 99.
66 Adams 134.
67 "Charity Ball." 36.
49 Ibid.
50 Ibid.
51 Ibid.
52 "Harding." 3.
53 "Brilliant Affair." 1.
54 DeGregorio 442.
55 Ibid. 434.
CHAPTER 14

CONCLUSION

Since the election of George Washington, the display of splendid inauguration celebrations has been very important to the people of the United States. Those involved in the planning, spend weeks before the inauguration deciding ways to make this inauguration better than the one before. The inaugural ball traditionally is one of the most striking celebrations of this great quadrennial event, honoring the newly elected president and his presidential party. It is also a fitting conclusion to earlier ceremonies that day. Development of the inaugural ball has grown from a small celebration including only political members and their guests in Washington at prominent Washington hotels, to the inaugural balls of today, celebrated by thousands of people in many different cities and at different locations in Washington D.C. Although differences in conditions due to the Nation's economy, social trends or unforeseen circumstances varied for each president on his inauguration day, society's desire to celebrate was always evident.

Whether the inaugural ball was a private function or public one, dancing has always been an important part of the celebration because it provided socializing and entertainment for the ball guests. The ball was usually officially opened with the guest of honor leading the first dance on the ballroom floor, commencing the lengthy dance program for the evening.
This investigation of the social dances done at the eight Ohio presidents' inaugural balls revealed most of the dances and their music performed at the balls for each of these presidents. Rutherford B. Hayes' presidency was determined too late to prepare any inaugural celebrations including an inaugural ball, so no dances were found. For William Henry Harrison and Warren G. Harding, the two Ohio presidents that had unofficial inaugural balls, have written accounts of dancing at their balls exist, but because they were private affairs, exact documentation for the dances and music were not found in newspaper articles or presidential memorabilia.

This investigation finds that social trends and expectations in manners and etiquette in the first half of the 19th century played a large part in the types and the numbers of the dances that were done at the ball. The desire for acceptability and assimilation into society by the middle and upper classes was of great importance at this time. Polite society had many requirements for the lady and gentleman, stressing proper behavior in society, displaying respectability to others, presenting oneself properly in public which included not being too casual or over affectionate with the opposite sex, and requiring knowledge of social dancing. William Henry Harrison's Inaugural ball fostered dances that brought many people together at a time, such as the quadrilles and cotillions and whose formations tended to mix the couple with other couples, making it a less intimate occasion. The dances done at both of President Grant's inaugural balls continued to foster the increasing desire for correct social behavior and also the desire to be noticed in society. The dance program was increased and the introduction of a large number of promenades to the dance program allowed the lady and gentleman to mix socially and be seen by many people on the ballroom floor. These balls also saw an addition of popular new dances such as the polka, the galop, and the schottische, which had more intricate steps and executing these dances was a good way of showing off one's dancing skills; a requirement for a fine lady or gentleman. The amount of dances
in the dance program began to lessen with James Garfield's and Benjamin Harrison's inaugural balls, as society's social requirements for proper etiquette began to relax around the 1880's. About this time, gentlemen's desires to dance and become a proficient dancer dwindled, accounting for the decrease in dances. William McKinley's inaugural balls display a smaller variation of types of dances but more couple dances than before, including the new two-step. By the first decade of the early 20th century at Taft's inaugural ball of 1909, shows only a few promenades are left on the dance program, but the number of waltzes and two-steps increased.

There are many commonalties in the inaugural balls of the eight Ohio Presidents, one being the format of these balls. The balls always started at 8:00 p.m., whether they were public or private affairs, and always began with concert or promenade music before the presidential party arrived. Once the president arrived there was always a reception for him before he took to the ballroom floor to begin the dance program for the evening. After this, he and the presidential party would return to their seating area and would watch the dance activity. Soon after, they would go the supper and not long after this leave the ball for the evening. The ball guests usually stayed hours after the president's departure.

The buildings that housed the inaugural balls were large and close by the Capitol. They were easily accessible to the public for use of public or private transportation and had several entrances for the public and a separate one for the president. All the buildings for the public inaugural balls belonged to the government, some of which were built as temporary buildings especially for the ball, and others that were official workplaces. They had many rooms, including cloak rooms, reception rooms, and two dining rooms, one for the presidential party and their guests and the other for the public. Private inaugural balls where held in large Washington D.C. hotels that could accommodate large numbers of
people, with the exception of the ball held by the McLean family for President Harding. It was held at their home in Washington and held 400 guests.

Another commonality were the decorations for these balls. Great time and expense was put into the transformation of the building to create a lavish scene and atmosphere. Bunting, evergreen swags, flowers, tropical plants, flags and thousands of lights were part of the designs of architects and decorators from all over the U.S. Each of these balls had a number of large committees that planned the decorations, the dancing, the dinner menu, and managed the flow of people for these events.

The types of people that attended the inaugural balls of the Ohio presidents were very similar. All had participants from both military and civilian life arriving from all over the country. The presidential party consisted of friends and relatives of the president and foreign dignitaries. Members of political parties were also present, along with the members of the Senate, Supreme Court, Cabinet, and the Diplomatic Corps and their guests. Civilian guests came to the balls for diverse reasons, some just wanting to be seen, other just to say they had gone. Some came to see the president and others came to enjoy the music and dancing. Ladies wore their finest ball gowns and jewels while the gentlemen wore black evening dress. Members of the military and Diplomatic Corp wore their full dress uniforms.

The music for these balls was always a strong feature in the celebration. Musical selections were the compositions of both American and European composers, conducted by famous American conductors of the time. The music was delivered by two or three bands and orchestras to offer a different sound for the entertainment of the guests on the ballroom floor. The Marine Band was the
most popular ensemble, playing at almost every one of these balls except William McKinley’s first inaugural ball in 1897.

Unfortunately, bad weather on the inauguration day was another commonality for these balls. In several instances, it caused a large decrease in ticket sales and attendance. As in President’s Grant’s first ball, it was the cause of major problems and the waste of thousands of pounds of food.

The dances and the music for the eight Ohio presidential inaugural balls have mostly been revealed in this investigation. Many benefits may be attained from its findings. Firstly, the information is now readily accessible as a historic reference. Secondly, it will provide the dance community with knowledge of these particular dances and their music for future dance reconstructions. With the aid of dance and etiquette manuals from each of these time periods, the dance reconstructor can easily recreate these dances for historical plays, movies, television, community events or educational purposes, allowing the public to experience them as they were danced years ago. The additional information supplied on the background of each presidential election and inauguration, as well as where the balls were held, their atmosphere, who attended, and what they wore and ate will give fuller context and understanding to those who desire to make use of or learn from this information.
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