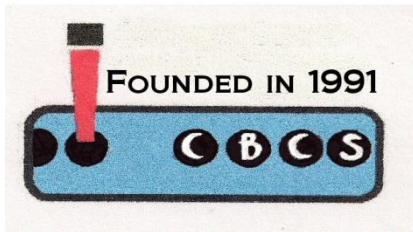




MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



NEWSLETTER OF THE CRIBBAGE
BOARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



Volume 35 Number 1 Founded in 1991 Our Thirty Fifth Year February 2026

In This Issue:

President’s corner – Larry Snow

2026 Convention – Larry Snow

CBCS Strategic Planning– Cec Bradshaw

John Gill Hedgehog – Cec Bradshaw

Gift from a friend – Cec Bradshaw

Membership Renewal form – *(Please note the CBCS BOD approved an increase in the membership fees beginning in May 2026). This form is to be used if you are not going to attend the convention.*

2026 Convention Registration / Membership Renewal – *(Please note the CBCS BOD approved an increase in the primary member 2026 convention fee)*

XX

President’s Corner - Larry Snow, your ever-lovin,’ game playin,’ prez. #292

Greetings, CBCS members. Happy Valentine’s Day you sweethearts young and forever young. Yep, never too old for a little romance. Have you ever played cribbage by candlelight? Mellow music, piano is my favorite. Wine is good. Scotch on the rocks, maybe? Grand Marnier, oh so nice. Logs crackling in the fireplace, ours is gas log so imagination needed. Shuffle softly but peg steadily. 15-Two, 15-Four, and double-run

makes a Dozen. A 29-point hand would be nice, but that might leave the victor in the doghouse — not where I want to bed down on Lovers' Eve.

All right, enough of the mushy stuff. Moving forward. Wayne Morris, CBCS member number 343, was nominated and has accepted an At Large position on our Board of Directors. I first met Wayne at our 2024 convention in Amana Colonies, IA and reconnected with him at our 2025 convention in Portland. Wayne is an avid collector and has branched from Crisloid cribbage boards to all American Manufacturers. Wayne is also a member of American Cribbage Congress (ACC) and knows his way around a cribbage board. He handed me one of my three skunks in Portland where I was presented with a "Most Skunked" award, *a.k.a.*: Biggest Loser.

In my November P.C. letter, I mentioned that a strategic planning committee consisting of six Board members, three regular members and one Facebook follower had been formed with the objective of maintaining and building regular membership. The no-holds-barred brainstorming engaged in by these volunteers resulted in no less than 32 potential initiatives. These were ranked and weighted by each member of the committee to determine which three of those thirty-two might be most viable. Great ideas, all around. The next step is, of course, putting those Ideas into Action. More on strategic planning in a following article by Cec Bradshaw.

And in that light, if you've never been but always wanted to attend or if you've been before but it was a long time ago, please plan to join your fellow CBCS members for the 26th annual convention on September 11th and 12th, 2026 in Arvada, Colorado, (just west of Denver) hosted by, *yours truly*. See details in this newsletter and next.

Keep on peggin'

2026 CBCS CONVENTION

All a—board! Set your sites on Arvada, Colorado



Mark your calendars and make your reservations for CBCS’s 2026 convention. On **September 11th and 12th**, we will gather at the recently renovated Hilton Garden Inn in Arvada, CO (a stone’s throw from Denver) to greet old friends, meet new ones and play oodles of Crib. And, of course, to show off our new and not-so-new, *a.k.a.*: antique acquisitions.

Host, Larry Snow (292), has secured a special block rate of \$149 per night for King or Double Queen rooms including a scrumptious breakfast buffet (two per room). Transportation options include A-Line commuter rail from DEN International Airport to Union Station then transfer to the A-Line Light Rail to Olde Town Arvada Station (\$13.50 or \$6.75 for seniors).

Consider sightseeing while here, as the negotiated Arvada Hilton Inn’s block rates are good September 8th through the 15th. But **make those reservations early** as

Arvada's Olde Town District has visitors aplenty strolling its picturesque streets and storefronts dating back to its pioneer days when Lewis Ralston made the first recorded discovery of gold in the Rocky Mountain region.

Internationally famous concert venue, Red Rocks Natural Amphitheater, is a short eighteen miles southwest of Arvada. For those who enjoy alternate games of chance, the historic mining towns of Black Hawk and Central City are less than an hour away. Gambling is legal; slot machines, Blackjack and Poker tables abound. But gaming is not the only gold glittering in those fourteeners (mountains we climbers call peaks greater than 14,000 feet in elevation), come mid-to-late September, Mother Nature gilds her aspen stippled hillsides in dazzling hues.

So, whether to gather with fellow cribbage board enthusiasts or to vacation in the fabulous Rocky Mountains, or both, I encourage you to sign up for our 2026 convention. (Spoiler Alert) This year's commemorative cribbage board (historic in design and astonishingly creative) promises to be a keepsake that you, and eventually your kids and grandkids, will treasure. And, as always, our gathering will be that much more memorable with *you* there!

Looking forward to hosting you in my hometown Arvada, CO.

Larry Snow

You can book your room(s) by electronic link or phone:

1. Use the booking link below.

[Book Your Hotel Room at the Hilton Garden Inn Arvada by Clicking Here](#)

2. Call the Hilton Garden Inn – Arvada at (303) 420-9799.

When making your reservation be sure to let the agent know that you are booking with the **Cribbage Board Collectors Society** and refer to **group code CBCS26**.

Reservations must be made by **Friday, August 14, 2026**, to receive the group rate.



Hilton DoubleTree Lobby

XX

Strategic Planning – Cec Bradshaw #238

I announced in the November 2025 newsletter the formation of a strategic planning team to determine how our society would be positioned to accomplish the following four objectives.

- Increase the number of CBCS members.
- Increase the number of convention attendees.
- Increase the number of younger members.
- Increase the number of active members.

Four non board members that joined your BOD to participate in the process are Becky Fredricksen, Wayne Morris, Margaret Downing – active CBCS members, and Jeremy Patchin – active CBCS Facebook member.

The data in the planning worksheets reflected the largest impact for growing membership and convention attendance was to increase the awareness of the

Cribbage Board Collectors Society in other Facebook groups that had their focus on cribbage, and we should pursue that initiative first. The data in the worksheets also identified that engaging in social media platforms is the highest-ranking initiative to increase the number of younger members becoming members of our society.

From that data the strategic planning team recommended the board create a new board position, social media director. At the January 10, 2026, board meeting, the CBCS board of directors reviewed the recommendation and after discussion approved a position for a creative, forward-thinking, and organized social media specialist to join the Cribbage Board Collectors Society Board of Directors. In this position, that person will interact with targeted virtual communities and network users to promote the CBCS to new audiences. In the coming months, the Board will be asking for volunteers to help organize and implement these initiatives. You may get an email, a text, or a phone call requesting your help. This new board position will replace our current convention advisor position.

Social Media Director Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop awareness of the Cribbage Board Collectors Society within other Cribbage oriented Facebook groups.
- Write and post online content.
- Collaborate with other BOD and CBCS members in creating marketing plans.
- Recruit CBCS members to join with the director to target other social media outlets.
- Track and analyze analytics reports where possible, to gain insight into traffic, demographics, and the effectiveness of marketing initiatives.

Social Media Director Qualifications

- Experience in selected digital marketing and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, etc. is preferred.
- Possess some degree of understanding social media metrics; able to interpret the results and implement actions to increase effectiveness of targeted media campaigns.

If you, or if someone you know, are interested in this position, please let Larry Snow or Cec Bradshaw know.

XX

John Gill Hedgehog – Hmmm!!

I started thinking about my John Gill hedgehog boards and realized that I knew so little about the ‘crème de la crème’ of American made cribbage boards. So, I went on the internet – and found some interesting information. I hope you enjoy reading about what I found out, so here it is.

John Gill was an English craftsman who came to New York City in the late 19th century to establish a business manufacturing [piano-forte hardware](#). He is noted as a figure in the history of New York's piano industry.

"Piano-forte hardware" is not a single, standardized technical term across different fields, but the phrase appears in two main contexts, but this is the one that means something to us:

- **Musical Instruments:** It refers to the internal mechanical parts of a piano or fortepiano, the instrument that was an abbreviation of its original Italian name, *gravicembalo col piano e forte* ("harpsichord with soft and loud").

John Gill’s business was active in the late 19th century, with mention of him in a 1900 newspaper obituary.

The John Gill Hedgehog Style Patented 1863 Cast Iron Cribbage Board is a superb piece of 19th Century Patented Cast Iron. Designed in 1863 By Designer John Gill Hedghog as a Cribbage Board Cast Iron Sculpture. Most highly prized by cribbage board collectors is the John Gill metal board known as the Hedgehog. The John Gill Manufacturing Co. sold a metal hedgehog board under U.S. Patent #40999 issued on 12/22/1863. The board is made of cast iron, with 120 metal pegs, 60 on each side, which pull up for keeping score. There are 18 regular pegs plus 3 large pegs down the center of the board for keeping track of games won. There are 10 gold and red floral looking designs on the top and a gold design around the edges. There is a gold

design around the sides and red paint on the base section. The pegs raise and lower into the board with no danger of being lost. There are 4 brass bun feet.

Measurements are approximately L -10 5/8" by W- 3 3/4" H - 1 1/4" and weight is 4 lbs. 12.5 oz. The 1863 John Gill Hedgehog Cribbage Board made of cast iron and original Victorian paint *was produced by C. W. LeCount in Norwalk Conn.* These boards are hard to find.

The bulk of my research only referenced the cast iron Hedgehog. But there is also a wooden version. I bought a wooden version of the John Gill hedgehog 14 years ago for \$125. It is very similar to the cast iron model we are all aware of, but there are some differing features. I have only seen two of the wooden versions for sale since I purchased mine in 2011.

- It is ¼ inch longer than the cast iron model but is the same width.
- It does not have the eighteen pegs down the center nor the 3 large pegs for keeping track of games won although there are 2 small pegs on the end of the playing surface between the playing fields.
- The side/base profile is different from the cast iron model.
- It has a painted blue stripe on the base section on a reveal that the cast iron model does not have.
- It does not have the 4 brass bun feet.
- The cast iron model weighs 4 pounds and the wood model weighs 1 ½ pounds.

Up until this research, I had thought that the John Gill Company built pianos, not just piano parts. I also had no idea the C.W. LeCount company produced the board and that John Gill was just the designer, patent holder, and seller.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN GILL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN CRIBBAGE-BOARDS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 40,999, dated December 2, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN GILL, of the city and State of New York, have invented, made, and applied to use a certain new and useful Improved Cribbage-Board or Counting-Table; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of my said invention, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan of my said counting-table, and Fig. 2 is a cross-section of the same.

Similar marks of reference denote the same parts.

Cribbage-boards and counting-tables have heretofore been made with rows of holes so spaced off and divided as to be convenient for keeping account or tally in the game of cards known as "cribbage," and pins have been provided so as to be changeable in such holes.

The nature of my said invention does not consist in a counting-table itself, or in movable pins; but it does consist in a peculiar construction of movable or sliding pins with flattened ends introduced from below the board and passing through holes in the same, and so fitted that they may be drawn up, but cannot be drawn out, and thereby can be used as a counting-table in such games as cribbage, in which one hundred and twenty-two pegs are required for the playing of the game. When the pegs are not in use, they are pressed down and rest on a bottom board covered with felt, cloth, or similar material.

In the drawings, *a* is a plate or board perforated, with the holes in the required position

and number of rows, and this board or plate is sustained on a frame, *b*, which may be of wood or metal, and provided with a bottom plate, *c*, and *d d* are screws passing through *c* into *a*, by which the parts are held together.

e is a piece of felt held to the under side of *a* by a board, *f*, screwed on by screws *g*, and both the felt and the board are perforated with holes corresponding to those in *a*.

h h are the pins or pegs, the lower end of each of which is flattened, so as to render the same too wide to draw up through the holes in *f*, *e*, or *a*; hence said flattened ends become stops for the pins. The upper ends of the pins should be turned off somewhat smaller to facilitate taking hold of them; and *i* is a piece of felt or cloth on *e*, against which the ends of the pegs rest when pressed down.

The red lines in Fig. 1 illustrate the position of lines that may be painted on the plate *a* to aid in designating the groups of pegs or pins, ten being provided in each group.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The sliding pegs or pins with flattened ends, in combination with the perforated board or table, constructed as and for the purposes specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my signature this 12th day of October, A. D. 1863.

JOHN GILL.

Witnesses:

LEMUEL W. SERRELL,
CHAS. H. SMITH.

J. Gill,

Game Board,

No. 10,999,

Patented Dec. 22, 1863.

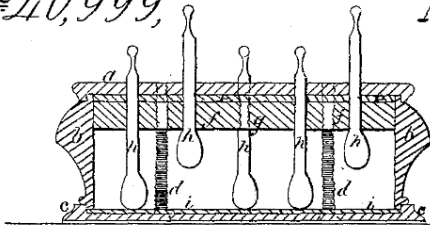


Fig. 2.

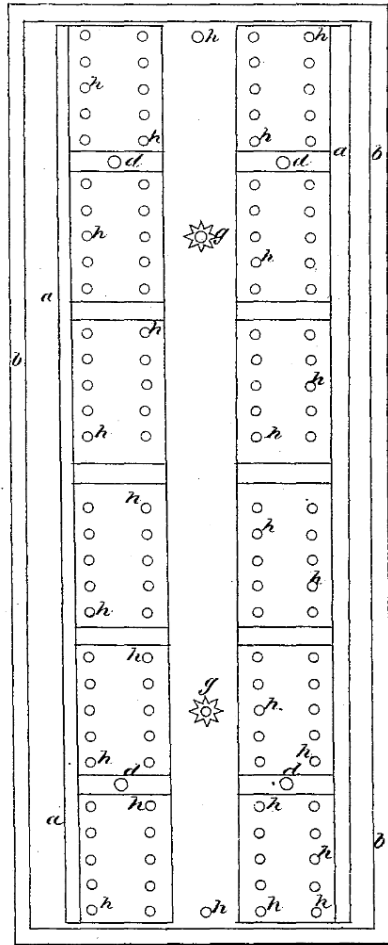


Fig. 1.

Witnesses,
Lemuel W. Cornell
Charles K. Smith

Inventor:
J. Gill



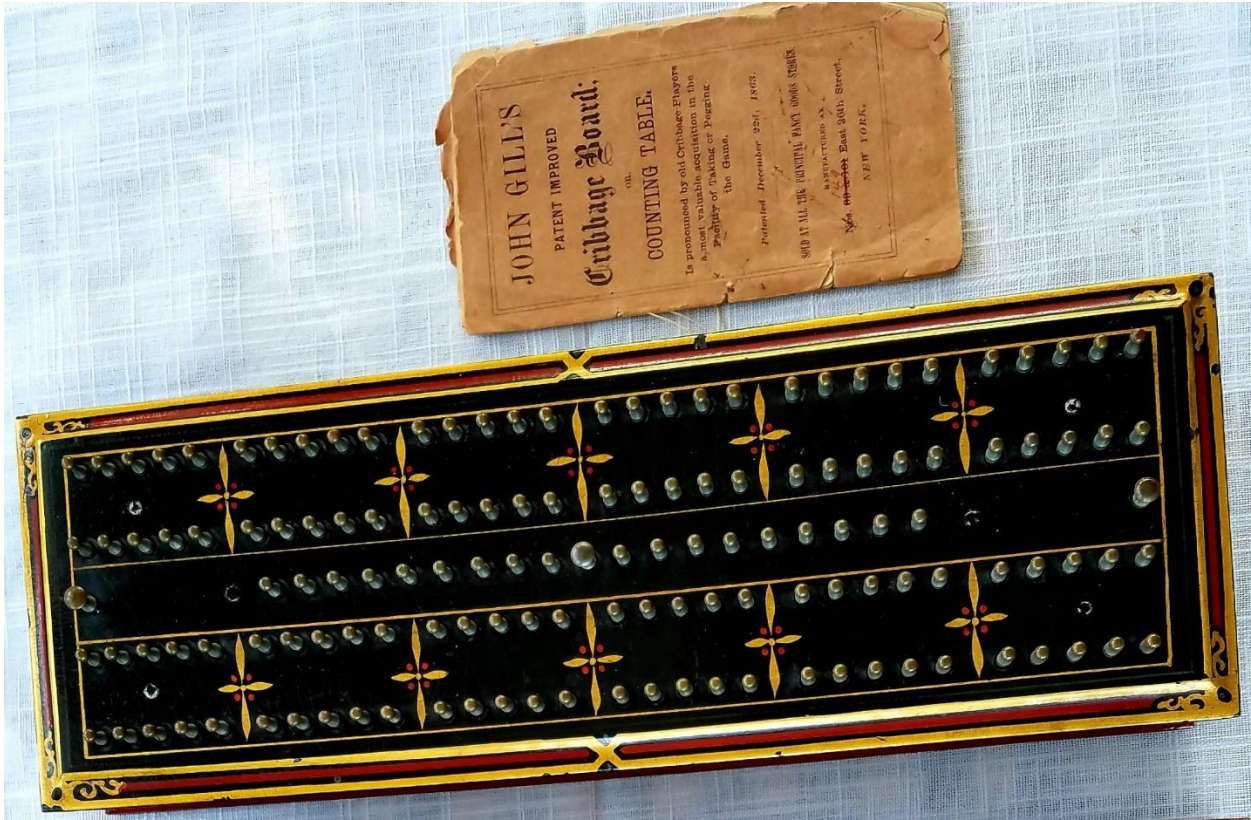
The Cast Iron John Gill Hedgehog



The Wood John Gill Hedgehog



The John Gill Hedgehog Label on the wood model



Research sources

“BusaccaGallery.com is a premier resource showcasing over four thousand curated rare and eclectic art collectibles. They meticulously select, authenticate, and transform unique items into historical assets with expert validation. Their global network of specialists helps identify potential treasures. Supported by a consortium of thousands of registered curators, archivists, advisors, and aficionados, BusaccaGallery.com is your trusted source for art collectibles.”

AI Overview

C. W. LeCount of Norwalk, CT manufactured the John Gill patented "Hedgehog" style cast iron cribbage boards, which featured pegs that pulled up into the board to prevent loss—making them highly collectible and sought-after antiques from the Civil War era (mid-1800s).

Wooden Versions: While less common than metal, wooden versions of the Hedgehog design also exist, with some associated with the Specialty Co. of New York.

Distributor: Some late 19th-century wooden versions were retailed or manufactured by H. Brooks and wholesaled by R.S. Tucker of London.

Key Details:

- **Inventor:** John Gill patented the design in 1863.
- **Manufacturers:**
 - C.W. LeCount produced cast iron boards in Norwalk, Connecticut.
 - One of our board members, Keith Dwire has a wooden version. He, along with AI, says are made by the Specialty Company from New York.
 - The Specialty Co. (Cortland, NY): Produced specialized boards in the 19th century, including mahogany "hedgehog" boards with Sterling corner mounts.

A gift from a friend – Cec Bradshaw #238

At the time I published my Drueke Cribbage book last year, the picture of this model was identified as “the courtesy of Larry Snow” and was also identified as one that I had not found yet. Well, today, that board is now in my collection! Thank you, Larry Snow, for your friendship and generosity for removing it from your collection and inserting it into my collection! Larry is also responsible for me having the 1914 Ruhm box and a gorgeous model 51 in my collection. I think the model 51 is the most stunning board the company has made.



This is a picture of the Wm. F. Drueke Company model 43. It can be found in the 1932 price list and is described as solid mahogany with walnut burl top. It is the same size as the model 42 which is solid mahogany. It is one of the models that holds cards and brass pegs on the side. The metal slider that covers the cards and pegs is brass also. It is a very pretty and rich looking board.

2026 Membership Renewal Due May 1, 2026

Complete and send your 2026 Membership Renewal and check to:

Keith Dwire, 809 Sunshine Run, Arnolds Park, IA, 51331, (515) 295-9216

Name(s):

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Dues _____ \$20.00/year _____

Associate member Dues _____ \$10.00/year _____

Total \$ Enclosed \$ _____

2026 Convention Registration / Membership Renewal

Complete and send your 2026 Convention Registration / Membership form and check to:

Keith Dwire, 809 Sunshine Run, Arnolds Park, IA, 51331, (515) 320-2302

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Convention Member Fee \$150.00 _____

Convention Associate Fee \$75.00 _____

(Spouse or regular member living at same address)

2024 Convention Board Only \$125.00 _____

Membership Dues \$20.00/year _____

Associate member Dues \$10.00/year _____

Total \$ Enclosed \$ _____