

Listing of counties already furnished with the 1934 Leoni Illuminated Constitution Lithographs:

The following counties were found to have been finished, and had a Constitution print donated to the county for their court house, by the late Daniel B. Stephenson:

(listed in alphabetical order)

Audubon County	Audubon	1990
Benton County	Vinton	1994
Buena Vista County	Storm Lake	1991
Calhoun County	Rockwell City	1990
Carroll County	Carroll	1990
Dallas County	Adel	2001
Delaware County	Manchester	1993
Fayette County	West Union	1994
Franklin County	Hampton	1992
Greene County	Jefferson	1990
Guthrie County	Guthrie Center	2000
Hamilton County	Webster City	1992
Hancock County	Garner	1991
Humboldt County	Humboldt	1990
Kossuth County	Algona	1991
Madison County	Winterset	2001
Palo Alto County	Emmetsburg	1995
Pocahontas County	Pocahontas	1990
Sac County	Sac City	1990
Tama County	Toledo	1993
Warren County	Indianola	2001
Webster County	Fort Dodge	1995
Winnebago County	Forest City	1992
Worth County	Northwood	1992
Wright County	Clarion	1990



Additionally,

The following counties were found to have the *exact same lithograph of the Constitution* in their court houses. These were done by one of the original owners prior to 1990, when he started to sell them to my father who finished the above counties. There may be others out there, but haven't seen them yet. (Talked to a lawyer in Story County who paid for one, but didn't receive it. It was also before my father getting involved.)

Allamakee County	Waukon (In Supervisor's Meeting Room)
Boone County	Boone
Story County	Nevada (Plaque under framed print – 1987 Story Co. Bar Association)

These counties were completed by myself on behalf of *The Stephenson Brothers*. This also includes the date when presented to the Board of Supervisors, and how the print was financed. (Listed in order of completion.)

County	City	Date	Constitution Sponsorship
Marshall County	Marshalltown	March 2009	On Behalf of Father
Emmet County	Estherville	April 2009	8 Sponsors
Clay County	Spencer	May 2009	8 Sponsors
Butler County	Allison	June 2009	6 Sponsors
Hardin County	Eldora	July 2009	6 Sponsors (1 – Half)
Bremer County	Waverly	August 2009	6 Sponsors (1 – Half)
Mitchell County	Osage	September 2009	10 Sponsors
Floyd County	Charles City	September 2009	10 Sponsors
Cerro Gordo County	Mason City	October 2009	8 Sponsors (2 – For 2)
Winneshiek County	Decorah	November 2009	County Funds
Chickasaw County	New Hampton	December 2009	10 Sponsors
Howard County	Cresco	December 2009	10 Sponsors
Grundy County	Grundy Center	February 2010	Board Members (5)
Buchanan County	Independence	March 2010	County Officials (8)
Black Hawk County	Waterloo	April 2010	11 Veterans Groups (4 Paid)
Poweshiek County	Montezuma	April 2010	Chairman, County Board
Iowa County	Marengo	July 2010	8 Sponsors
Mahaska County	Oskaloosa	August 2010	6 Sponsors (1 – Half)
Keokuk County	Sigourney	September 2010	County Officials (18)
Osceola County	Sibley	September 2010	10 Sponsors
Lyon County	Rock Rapids	November 2010	10 Sponsors (8 Veterans Units)
Dickinson County	Spirit Lake	December 2010	Bought Lithograph Print
Cherokee County	Cherokee	February 2011	County Funds
Ida County	Ida Grove	March 2011	10 Sponsors
Plymouth County	Le Mars	April 2011	10 County Veterans Groups
Harrison County	Logan	April 2011	10 Sponsors
O'Brien County	Primghar	May 2011	6 Veterans Units and Board (5)
Crawford County	Denison	June 2011	County Officials (11)
Shelby County	Harlan	June 2011	Bought Lithograph Print
Monona County	Onawa	July 2011	10 Sponsors (3 Veterans)
Adams County	Corning	August 2011	10 Sponsors (2 Veterans)
Adair County	Greenfield	September 2011	County Funds
Union County	Creston	September 2011	10 Sponsors (2 Veterans)
Cass County	Atlantic	October 2011	10 Sponsors
Taylor County	Bedford	October 2011	10 Sponsors (1 Veterans)
Ringgold County	Mount Ayr	November 2011	10 Sponsors (1 Veterans)
Mills County	Glenwood	December 2011	10 Sponsors (1 Veterans)
Montgomery County	Red Oak	January 2012	10 Sponsors
Page County	Clarinda	February 2012	10 Sponsors (1 – 2 Veterans)
Fremont County	Sidney	March 2012	8 Sponsors (3 Veterans)
Clarke County	Osceola	April 2012	12 Sponsors (5 Veterans)
Lucas County	Chariton	May 2012	10 Sponsors (1 Veterans)
Decatur County	Leon	June 2012	County Funds (With Veterans)
Monroe County	Albia	June 2012	10 Sponsors
Pottawattamie County	Council Bluffs	June 2012	Co. Employees and Co. Bar Assoc.
Wayne County	Corydon	July 2012	10 Sponsors (1 Veterans)

County	City	Date	Constitution Sponsorship
Henry County	Mount Pleasant	August 2012	Courthouse Centennial Funds
Davis County	Bloomfield	August 2012	11 Sponsors (1 Veterans)
Van Buren County	Keosauqua	August 2012	Individuals (Honoring Veterans)
Lee South Courthouse	Keokuk	September 2012	10 Sponsors (4 Veterans)
Wapello County	Ottumwa	September 2012	County Political Party
Jefferson County	Fairfield	October 2012	10 Sponsors (2 Veterans Split One)
Appanoose County	Centerfield	October 2012	County Grant (Dedicated to Vets)
Lee North Courthouse	Fort Madison	October 2012	10 Sponsors
Cedar County	Tipton	January 2013	10 Sponsors (2 Veterans)
Washington County	Washington	January 2013	County Veterans (6 Town's Vets)
Louisa County	Wapello	February 2013	11 County Organizations (6 Vets)
Jackson County	Maquoketa	March 2013	10 Sponsors (2 Vets as honorary)
Jones County	Anamosa	April 2013	10 Sponsors
Muscatine County	Muscatine	June 2013	10 Sponsors (3 Veterans)
Clayton County	Elkader	August 2013	10 Sponsors (15 Honorary Veterans)
Jasper County	Newton	September 2013	6 Sponsors (1 Paid for 6 w/ 2 Vets)
Des Moines County	Burlington	August 2014	12 Sponsors (with Veteran's Plaque)
Dubuque County	Dubuque	December 2014	County Veterans Department
Marion County	Knoxville	January 2015	Non-profit organization
Linn County (2)*	Cedar Rapids	March 2015	County Veterans
Clinton County	Clinton	Pending	10 Sponsors (with Veteran's Plaque)

Iowa totals to date: 95

Dan Stephenson	25
Others	3
Stephenson Brothers	67

Please note: Clinton County is finished but not yet delivered.

***Linn County Courthouse and the Linn County Community Service Building
Here is a recent photograph of one of the finished 1934 Constitution lithographs.**



**Van Buren County Courthouse, Keosauqua, Iowa
Photo by John Finney, County Auditor**

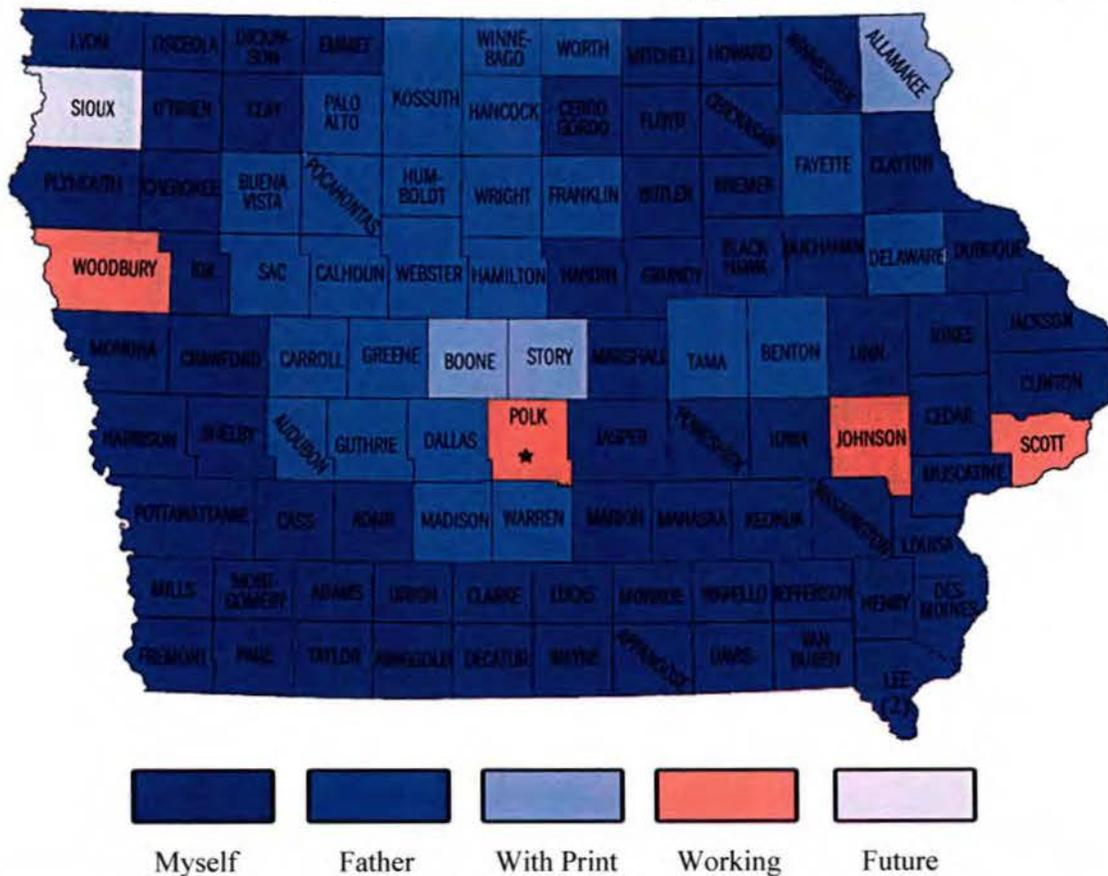
Special thanks to Dale & Tami Hollman of Nature's Wood Shop for the excellent matting and framing of these magnificent prints which enhances the presentation of the art.

1934 Leoni Illuminated Constitution Lithograph

My name is Gary Stephenson, the youngest son of the late Daniel B. Stephenson of Fort Dodge. He had been getting finished, matted and framed Constitution prints donated for a town's high schools, middle schools, libraries, and if a county seat, the court house. Since his passing in September of 2008, I have taken it upon myself an attempt to finish in regards to court houses. He had done 25 court houses, and I have found 3 others with exactly the same Constitution lithographs. These were done by a gentleman after the prints were found sitting in a Chicago warehouse back in 1987. My father began selling them in 1990. They were framed nothing like now.

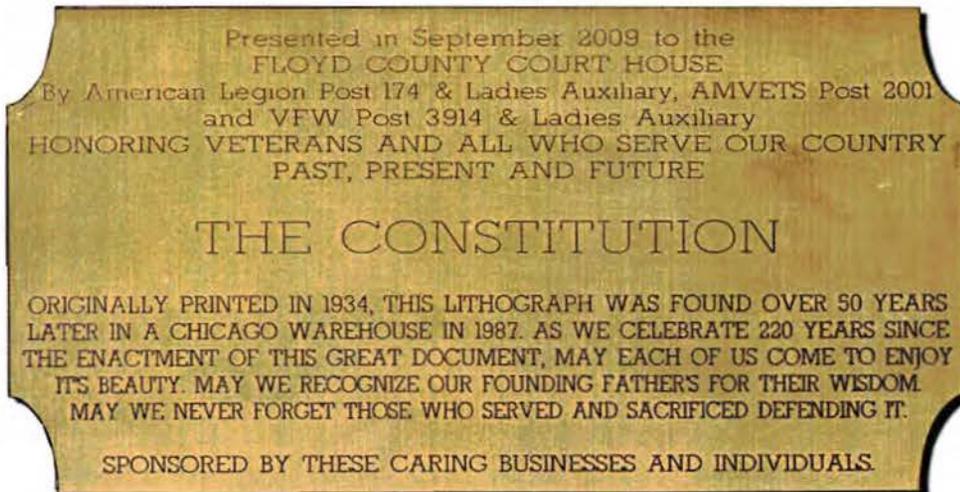
Since beginning this endeavor to have one of these 1934 Constitution lithographs donated to every court house in Iowa, I have finished 67 so far. First thing I do is get the approval of the county's Board of Supervisors. Hence, this little introduction. I am not seeking anything but the okay to proceed, and if the county would accept a Constitution print at no cost to taxpayers. I would be more than glad to meet with you with two "samples" and let you see for yourself how impressive these are up close. (Have 2 styles of frames available.)

Here is graphically how far along, and future goals. This endeavor will take several years, but I am in a situation to do this. (If desired, I can go into detail, but for now – my goal is an attempt for all 99 counties.)



What I am trying to do is have the finished Constitution donated to the county by sponsorships in the form of recognition on a small plaque, but have the actual framed print presented to the county's board by the local veterans groups. This is to honor all veterans. The total cost for this is \$750. I ask for an \$75 sponsorship from a local business or individual and try to get 10 sponsors per county, although each county is different.

Here is an example of the larger plaque which would include the month, county and veteran's units. If no active post – we can certainly do something. The wording is mine, but certainly flexible.



The sponsors are recognized by smaller plaques such as the following:



I do all the work. Make phone calls, meet with potential sponsors. Even go to the local newspaper and try have a photograph and article in the local paper. In other words, all I ask from the Board is your permission, and that you will accept this from the veterans. I'm not doing this for the publicity, and certainly not doing this for the money. I am doing this more for Donald Eugene Scott, and the thousands of other Iowans who sacrificed fighting for this document and our freedoms. (Donald E. Scott was from Spencer. He was a PFC in the US Army, and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal after being killed in action in Vietnam. His sister honored him by being a sponsor.)

Here is an example of what may be possible from your local newspaper, although of course I have no real say in what is printed. It is a feel good story, and in these tough times – much needed.

Constitution finds a home in courthouse

By MICHAEL TIDEMANN
STAFF WRITER

There should no longer be any question about what the Constitution says when attorneys argue cases at the Emmet County Courthouse.

The Emmet County Board of Supervisors Tuesday accepted an illuminated copy of the U.S. Constitution. Estherville VFW Post 3388 Post Commander Robert Fine and VFW Auxiliary President Judy Johnson presented the framed document to Emmet County Board of Supervisors Chair Randy Beaver.

The story behind the illuminated Constitution is probably at least as fascinat-

ing as the document itself. A number of copies of the 30-by-40-inch document were originally printed in 1934. They sat in a Chicago warehouse until 1987 when they were "rediscovered."

The framed copy will hang in the Emmet County Courthouse.

Sponsors include Dakota Pack, Doug Skinner; Estherville Printing, Ron Leffel; Estherville Ready Mix, Tom Eaton; Farm Bureau Financial Services, Ken Jensen; Henry-Olson Funeral Home; Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Inc.; Edward Jones, Doug Wagner; and Valley Contracting, Inc., Eric Anderson.



Estherville VFW Post 3388 Post Commander Robert Fine and VFW Auxiliary President Judy Johnson presented a framed copy of the U.S. Constitution to Emmet County Board of Supervisors Chair Randy Beaver Tuesday.

EDN photo by Michael Tidemann

Source: *The Estherville Daily News* - Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Finally, it would be my pleasure to work with you, and get one of these magnificent works of art (a print alone sells from \$150-\$350) hanging in your court house. I purchase prints from a gentleman who loaned my dad \$15,000 for 200 of them (but only got 160), and I'm trying to help him recoup some of his investment. I also have a very good framer in the small town of Rowan, called Nature's Wood Shop. I personally operate from my hometown of Fort Dodge. It means a lot of travel, and this is not cheap, but necessary. Once again, I am not asking the county or the taxpayers of your county for anything. I am sure they believe they pay enough taxes. I'd just like the chance to add your county to the growing list of Iowa counties with a 1934 Constitution lithograph, now at 94 (of which includes 2 in Lee County for a total of 95 Courthouses finished).

Here is a picture of the print, so as to see what it entails. You can read it, from the Preamble to the 21st Amendment. (Yes, there were only 21 in 1934.)



CONSTITUTION EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION, 18 WEST 40TH STREET, CHICAGO, ILL. 60618
 PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE ABOVE BODIES ON THE CONSTITUTION

Here is some information about this 1934 Constitution lithograph obtained off the internet. Also, is a brief explanation of just what a lithograph entails, and the extraordinary effort to make this one over seventy-six years ago. (**Note: The original sales brochure must have been made back in the 1970's.**)

The Constitution of the United States.

Illuminate by Nestore Leoni, and digitally reproduced again in 1998 by Kenneth Atwood Hibben.

As the great-grandson of Harry Atwood, our family had only a handful of the original 1934 printings of these magnificent works of art, so I took it upon myself to have them "authentically reproduced" in 1998 so we could again make them available to the American people!

Here are some excerpts from the original sales brochure:

- * "The well-know Leoni prints, depicting the meaningful events in American History, as art historians know, have been in the Library of Congress for more than a half century. Many years ago, these renowned masterpieces were reproduced in an elaborate and illuminated border to provide added significance to this most important document ever conceived by free men, the Constitution of the United States."
- * "Following the death of the well-known constitution attorney in the 1930's, M.S. Atwood, his widow, commissioned the reproduction of the Leoni Illuminated Constitution the original of which is exhibited in the main gallery on the second floor of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C."
- * "The printing plates were destroyed after a very limited number of reproductions were struck from the original engravings. Produced from hand engraved stone in ten vivid colors, and two washes of gold, these prints have been acclaimed by eminent art authorities on American historic art as the finest ever developed."
- * "These beautiful reproduced Leoni Constitutions, nearly forty years old and measuring 40 inches by 30 inches wide, were appraised by a well-known art gallery in Chicago at \$150 each. The remaining prints are now being offered at \$125."

Copyright 2008

Source: www.constitution-books.webs.com

Please Note: These being offered are the original 1934 Constitution lithographs – not reproduced ones.

What is a lithograph? (Source: Wisegeek.com)

A lithograph is produced by using the principle that oil and water do not mix. This Constitution is called an offset lithograph, referring to the fact the ink is transferred to a separate surface before being applied to the paper. First step is creating the flat plates (stone or metal) by using a set of greasy crayons or pencils to draw a mirrored image of the original work of art with separate ones for at least up to four colors: black, red, yellow & blue. An oil-based variety of ink is poured on the plates and immediately bonds with the equally greasy crayon lines. Water is then wiped onto the unpainted areas to prevent smearing. A sheet (or roll) of high cotton paper is placed over the plate, and lightly pressed transferring to ink to the paper. The process is repeated depending on the number of colors in the lithograph. This particular one was then sent to a different printer to have the 2 gold washes applied. In 1934, there were only 5 such machines in the country – now there are only 3 with our government being one of these. To show these are the authentic lithographs from 1934, all is needed is to look at the back of the print. The gold washes will show through the back. Digitally reproduced ones would not.