

SCHPS  
P.O. BOX 5017  
BETTENDORF, IA 52722

# Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



“Let your heritage not be lost, but bequeath it as a memory,  
treasure, and blessing, and preserve it for your children.”

— Christian Metz, 1846

## Experience Palmer's Historic Mansion!

BJ and Mabel Palmer lived in the house from 1912-1961. BJ was the President of Palmer School of Chiropractic at that time, as well as Palmer communications. He and Mabel were world travelers and lecturers. The house contains many mementos of their travels. The Palmer Mansion (which technically is not a mansion just a large home) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is maintained by the Palmer Foundation for Chiropractic History. Student Tuition plays no role in the care of the mansion, purely donation, grants, the mansion store, etc. The goal of the foundation is to restore the residence to what it looked like during BJ and Mabel's time.

One of the most recent restorations was the kitchen. Behind some paneling it was discovered the kitchen had been painted once upon a time in vibrant colors—red, blue, yellow and green. After the B.J.-era paint job was discovered, a number of students and alumni came in and helped over a year's time to restore the kitchen walls. They have found the floor of many colors below what is currently there, that will be the next unveiling!



Photo of B.J. Palmer's Office inside the Mansion. Photo and copy courtesy of Palmer.

## April 2003 Newsletter

Next SCHPS meeting  
April 10, 2003 • 6:30pm

The Palmer Mansion  
On Brady St. North of 9th

### *President*

Ella Hartmann, 441-0698

### *Vice President*

Janet Corcoran, 386-3428

### *Secretary*

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### *Newsletter Editor*

Sarah Graham, 326-3411

### *Board Members*

Fred Vogt, 326-4180

Laura Kauth, 322-7333

Suzi Rynn, 359-3704



## Talent Among Us!

SCHPS is very fortunate indeed to have talented members who are willing to share their expertise with us. Our last two meetings benefited from the talents of Anne Hailey and Mary Costello.

Anne has become an expert on the history of VanderVeer Park. At our February meeting, she showed slides and picture postcards about the history of our own "Central Park". The meeting was held in the conservatory so we were able to appreciate its present day beauty. Thanks You Anne!

Mary Costello has published two books about the Mississippi River bridges. The first book covers bridges from New Orleans to Lansing, Iowa. The second goes from Lansing to the headwaters of our great river. Mary taught art at McKinley school until her retirement when she started on her dream project of sketching all the bridges along with a description and history of each. She has succeeded admirably on this immense project. She shared her expertise about the Quad City bridges, past and present, with the SCHPS members. Thank You Mary for a delightful evening!

## The Perfect Mother's Day Gift!

Our notecards have lovely new packaging and come in sets of 12 for \$8.50. There are 2 cards each of 6 notable historic buildings in the Davenport area. They include The Ficke Mansion, LeClaire House, St. Anthony Church, Abner Davison House, Bishop's House and Fulton's Landing. All cards are beautifully illustrated by our very own Ward Olsen. What a lovely gift to give when visiting a friend's home over the holiday season! Call Sarah now at 326-3411, there is a very limited quantity.



## Come See for Yourself...

...what's happening at the Redstone Building, then lunch at the recently-redecorated Scott Community College Urban Center (The Phone will include some of Peterson's tearoom favorites) Cost is \$9. Call 326-5319, ask for class 12515NP for the 11:30-2:00pm seminar on Wednesday, May 14.

## Be Proud of Your Historic Home!

After a hiatus of 5 years, plaques will be available again for ordering. Included on the plaque will be the name of the first owner (or architect), their occupation and the year of construction. Following that will say: "THIS PROPERTY IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES" below this will read: "THE SCOTT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY." They are available in Aluminum (\$70) and bronze (\$85), To order call Ella or Frank (441-0698/386-1969).



## Hello Melita Tunnickliff!

Melita's interests in preservation began with the time she spent in her grandparents Queen Anne-style house in Viola, IL. It was built in 1900, it had loads of gingerbread and stained glass windows. She witnessed the destruction of the wetlands and forests near her childhood home for the construction of SouthPark mall. This firsthand experience with the downside of urban sprawl has led her to favor preservation and the reuse of buildings and land that has already been developed.

Over the past 14 years Melita and her family have moved several times. Their first home was a 1939 cottage north of the village of East Davenport. Their second was a 1915 Arts and Crafts style Stucco house on 14th Ave in Rock Island. Next was a beautiful 1935 Tudor-style house in Ottumwa, IA. They now live in Bettendorf in their lovely 1940 Gordon VanTine house. They worked on restoration at all their previous historic residences. Some projects included repairing more than 50 casement windows and restoring the back porch at their Rock Island Home.

At their current home they recently removed all the aluminum siding and have restored it to the original cedar shake siding. Currently they are working on a bathroom. If you were at the September meeting you would see the Tunnickliff home, The Tunnickliffs and neighbor Ken Van Sickle were so gracious as to host a SCHPS meeting and provide a neighborhood walking tour.

