



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

## See & Hear Roberta Tickle the Ivories!

November’s meeting will be held in St. Mary’s Church, the fourth oldest Catholic Church in Davenport. This church has the distinction of being situated in Davenport’s oldest Catholic cemetery. The cornerstone was laid in 1867; construction on the church proper was completed in 1869. Over the years, additional features have been added, including a spire and bell in 1880, and an organ in 1883. There originally were plans to add a clock to the tower in 1880, but for reasons unknown, this installation never occurred.



The organ in St. Mary’s was built by the local Moline Pipe Organ Company. At the time of its installation, it was ranked as the second best in Iowa. Standing 26 feet high at the center and utilizing 994 pipes in all, the organ was originally hand pumped. This organ is to be the focus of our meeting; Mr. Rodney Levsen, of the Levsen Organ Company, will be elaborating on the organ’s features and history, and our own SCHPS member Roberta Shadensack will be playing upon it for us.

## Nov. 2003 Newsletter

Next SCHPS meeting  
Nov. 13, 2003 • 7pm  
700 Waverly Rd, Davenport

*President*

Ella Hartmann, 441-0698

*Vice President*

Janet Corcoran, 386-3428

*Secretary*

Rex Grove, 355-8727

*Treasurer*

Ferenc Beiwel, 386-1969

*Executive Director*

Karen Anderson, 324-0257

*Newsletter Editor*

Sarah Graham, 326-3411

*Board Members*

Fred Vogt, 326-4180  
Laura Kauth, 322-7333  
Suzi Rynn, 359-3704



The club house at Schuetzen Park, c. 1900. Photo courtesy of <http://www.rbls.lib.il.us/qcmemory/QCHistory/Places/Schuetzen>

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## Bill Wehner & Mary McClain, Preservationists Extraordinaire!

No doubt may you read Alma Gaul's fine article about Bill and Mary and their accomplishments. We in SCHPS can add a few fond stories of our own. Bill's restoration efforts started with Colthart Cottage. Bill first saw the cottage on a tour of the East Village led by Karen Anderson. He saw the potential of the rundown building, bought it and went to work. When asked what one should do when struck by the preservation bug, Bill said "Leave town immediately!"

Then, getting more serious, he said, "Find a mentor to guide you." One of Bill's was Fritz Miller, an acknowledged expert now working for Renaissance Restoration's Davenport office and along with Bill, a member of the Davenport Historic Preservation Commission. Bill and Mary were enjoying life at Colthart Cottage when lo and behold! A drunken tenant at the next door 4 plex fell down the stairs right into their front yard. This prompted the purchase of the 4 plex (called Miss Ella's), its renovation and rental so that Bill and Mary had control of their next door neighbors. They bought nearby properties and at one time owned eleven!! Their efforts have greatly improved the Village of East Davenport. Bill jokingly says that he's only three years behind on his many and various projects.

Bill is a real innovator and a fine landscape architect. Aunt Rhodies's, the firm he founded, is at the rear at 2101 E. 11th St. in back of the cottage. During the restoration period, Bill discovered that problem water in the cottage's basement was coming from one of the many springs in the area. A pump was installed, the water pumped to a holding tank for watering plants in the nursery in back of the cottage and two problems were solved at once!! Bill and Mary have many personal ties to this area and Bill's plane will be touching down here in the future. So hopefully we'll be able to stay in touch.

## Joint October 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Schuetzenparke Gilde Great Fun!

A pleasant evening, good food, a chance to see what's been accomplished to restore the trails at the park, an opportunity to visit with friends and a fine German band playing!!! Who could ask for anything more!

### LeClaire House Update.

After a very thorough search, Karen Anderson discovered suitable mantels at a good price for the nine fireplaces in the LeClaire House. Reed Swensen will be installing them and Cynthia Wilkerson, an award winning painter, will be doing the faux marbelling. All the more reason for visiting the LeClaire House. Work is also proceeding on the side porches. SCHPS member John Hinkle has donated a parlor set for the house. It has a settee and two side chairs.

### Antoine LeClaire Coloring Books to be Used by Grand Excursion Planning Committee.

125 historic coloring books for the Grand Excursion Trunks have been printed for SCHPS by Village Type and Print. It's good to have these books back in circulation and any SCHPS member who wants one for themselves or for children or grandchildren can have one for only \$6. We'll have some at our next meetings for your inspection.

### Saving Iowa's Barns: A "Living in Iowa" Special.

Check Channel 12 at 8:30 Nov. 27 to visit some restored barns that were featured on the Iowa Barn Tour, and find out why people are dedicating themselves to saving Iowa's barns.

### We Want to Meet Your Friends!!

Bring a prospective member to our meetings so we can know them. Think now. Why did you join SCHPS? If you're like your president, a friend brought you to a meeting or two and you were hooked! The monthly meetings, the newsletter and the activities have become part of your life. Let us have names of prospects for our newsletter list.

### Great Holiday Gift Idea!

SCHPS's lovely notecards 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 Ella at 441-0698.

