



# 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

## Party Time at the LeClaire House, Come See All the New Fireplaces!



You can't beat the LeClaire House site for a view of the river, the bridges, lights and the Davenport scene. When the board meeting was held there on November 13<sup>th</sup> we had the added bonus of seeing the fireworks starting the annual "Festival of Trees."



There won't be fireworks December 11<sup>th</sup> at our Christmas party, but we'll be having so much fun we won't even notice! We'll have musicians, Christmas decorations, and punch. Please bring a favorite hors' doeuvre to share. Karen will show slides of before and after at the LeClaire House. You'll get to see the new pillars on the porches and the work on the fireplace mantels. Reed Swensen has spent hours getting the mantels ready for installation and Cynthia Wilkenson, a real artist, has been doing the faux marbelling.



We'll celebrate the season and celebrate the continuing progress on the Antoine LeClaire House! Call Ella 441-0698 if you can help decorate on December 10 and take down decorations December 13.



Come see the progress that's been made at the LeClaire House. Several Fireplaces will be done by the holiday party!

## December 2003 Newsletter

Next SCHPS meeting  
Dec. 11, 2003 • 7pm  
The LeClaire House  
7th & Farnam Streets

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## President's Message

You'll soon be hanging a 2004 calendar, so be sure to circle the second Thursday of each month. That's when SCHPS meets. We have some excellent meetings planned for the new year. We skip January, but in February we'll have a joint meeting with the German-American Heritage Society with speaker Michael P. Harker. He's a professional photographer. For the last seven years, he has been photographing Iowa's barns. In March we'll have a meeting at the Davenport Art Gallery on "Grant Wood and Frank Lloyd Wright." April will be a special surprise and May is our bi-annual awards.

## Great November Meeting!

Board member Laura Koth did a great job putting this meeting together. It was held at St. Mary's Church in west Davenport. Mr. Rodney Levsen gave us background about the history of organs in the Quad-Cities and Iowa and about the organ at St. Mary's, which was originally hand pumped!!

Mr. Levsen told us how he became interested in organs and established his business. A question and answer period followed. Then our member Roberta Shadensack played for us, first using electric power and then playing with Fred Vogt hand pumping!! Were the "old days" really so great, Fred?

## May 2004 is Awards Time!

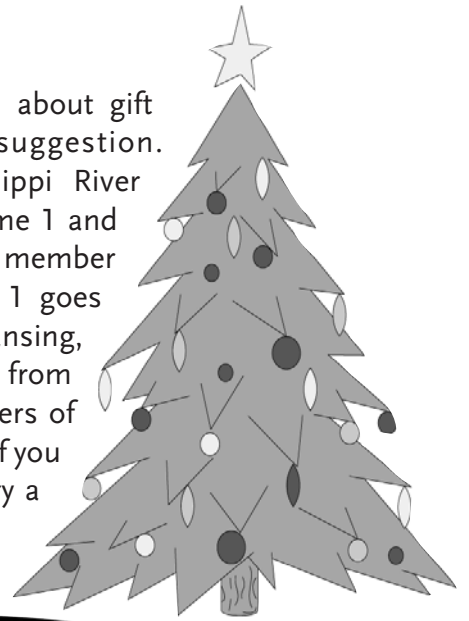
Rex Grove has compiled an extensive preliminary list of possible winners. The categories are the following: Homes, Businesses/Public Buildings, People, Cities and Groups.

We need volunteers to contact potential awardees, to write scripts, to help with publicity, set-up for the event and many other projects.

**How about volunteering?**  
**You'll find it's really exciting.**  
**Call Ella, 441-0698.**

## Bridge the Gift Giving Gap!

If you're really puzzled about gift giving, here's a suggestion. "Climbing the Mississippi River Bridge by Bridge" Volume 1 and Volume 2 by SCHPS member Mary Costello. Volume 1 goes from New Orleans to Lansing, Iowa. Volume 2 goes from Lansing to the headwaters of the river at Lake Itasca. If you are interested, give Mary a ring at 563-326-2158.



## Preservation Grant from National Trust for Historic Preservation

U.S. Senate and House committees are drafting their versions of legislation to revise and extend the federal surface transportation law. section 4(f) provides vital protections for historic places because it requires road builders to avoid destroying historic property unless "there is no prudent and feasible alternative."

However now the Highway Administration and its allies want to change this by replacing 4(f) with ineffective language that asks developers merely to "take into account" the effects a transportation project will have on historic resources. That's a loophole big enough to drive a bulldozer through.

You can help by contacting your two U.S. Senators and your representative. Section 4(f) protected the French Quarter in New Orleans and the historic district in Savannah, Georgia for two examples. Thank you!!!!



## 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! Purchase them at the Party!