

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."

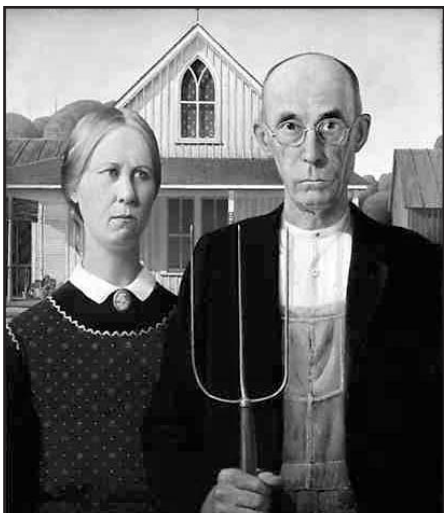
— Christian Metz, 1846

Little Houses on the Prairie!

March's meeting is a joint presentation with the Davenport Museum Of Art. *Grant Wood and Frank Lloyd Wright: Little Houses On The Prairie* is a lecture presented by Roy R. Behrens, Professor of Art, University Of Northern Iowa

Grant Wood and Frank Lloyd Wright had similar influences, Japanese-inspired esthetic principles, the Arts and Crafts Movement and Gothic Revival architecture. During this slide-illustrated lecture, participants are invited to explore the parallels between the works of Wood and Wright, and how artists express human values, whatever the medium.

We all feel close to Grant Wood, with his portraits of Eastern Iowa fields and people, including the painting *American Gothic* shown below. Wright designed over 520 houses before his death at age 91. Many are within driving distance of the Quad Cities. This program promises to be very enlightening.



LEFT: *American Gothic* depicts a farmer and his spinster daughter posing before their house, whose gabled window and tracery, in the American Gothic style, inspired the painting's title. RIGHT: The Ward H. Willits Residence in Highland Park, IL was constructed in 1901 and is the first house in true Prairie style.

March 2004 Newsletter

Next SCHPS meeting
March 11, 2004 • 7pm
Davenport Museum of Art
1737 W. 12th Street

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NEED MORE INFO?
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Joint Meeting at The German-American Heritage Center a Great Success!

Michael Harker of Iowa City showed his very artistic black and white slides of our vanishing barns and autographed his book, Harker's Barns.

The Center was packed with SCHPS and German American Heritage members who were very appreciative. Mr. Harker not only showed us his photographic equipment and slides, but also regaled us with stories about the barns and humorous incidents while on his seven year quest to record these vanishing icons.

In an email after the event, Mr. Harker said that we were the best audience he has ever had! He now will be photographing Iowa courthouses and one room schools. Hopefully, we can see another Harker program in the future.

LeClaire, Iowa, A Mississippi River Town, By Dorothy Lage Published In 1976

After a recent trip to LeClaire, I became interested in the town's history and checked out Dorothy's book from the library. Dorothy was a member of SCHPS during the 1970's and contributed much to our group and to historic preservation in Scott County. She was the co-author of a book about Bettendorf's history that was on sale last year during the Bettendorf Centennial. Dorothy and I became friends while she was in Riverview Manor Nursing Home in Pleasant Valley. I was greatly saddened when she passed away at age 96 this past summer.

The book is dedicated to the memory of old-time river pilots of LeClaire, who safely navigated the "agitated waters" of the Upper or Rock Island Rapids on the Mississippi River. The book covers the history of the settling of the town, its growth period when pine logs were shipped down river, the Civil War, a view of river improvements, a farewell look at the steamboat, and a present view. The book is well worth reading.

It's fun to visit this historic town, not only when the tug of war between LeClaire and Port Byron and the fireworks are held, but in other quieter times. There are great places to eat, antique shops, a chocolate shop and always the river.

We plan on having articles about other Scott County small towns in future newsletters. Any ideas?

SCHPS Awards are May 13th

The committee has met twice to review possible awardees and to discuss how best to arrange our event. We have a varied selection of awardees and know that our program will be well researched and well presented.

The location will be the chapel at St. Katherine's, St. Mark's school, a historic property that had been given new life by Chris Ales' Signature Holding Company. Plan on attending and helping. See you there!

We Need Your Email Address!

Would you like to receive the newsletter and/or special SCHPS news via email? If so, email your address to Ella Hartmann, gramhart@qconline.com. We promise, no spam and your address will not be shared.

Grand Excursion on June 25th

Our executive director, Karen Anderson, is on the committee planning this exciting event. The LeClaire House will be an important site during the event. The board is working on plans for SCHPS participation. We'll need help from you.

We hope that you can come in costume. If you would like to know what people were wearing in the 1850's, consult SCHPS member Janet Burgess at Amazon Dry Goods, 411 Brady Street, Davenport, 322-6800. She has period patterns if you want to make your own outfit. Or do your own shopping at thrift stores, etc. This is a great opportunity to show off the LeClaire House.

Tour Iowa's Historic Sites without traveling!

Are you computer savvy? Well can you at least log onto the internet? If so, here are a few sites which you may find interesting. Have fun!

www.keokuk-ia.com/tourism/TopAttractions.htm

www.trilliumdell.com/restoration.htm

www.gazetteonline.com/special/neighbor/north/north2.htm

www.placesonline.org/sitelists/nam/usa/iowa.asp

www.mississippirivermuseum.com/ryanhouse.htm

Come
to the Bettendorf Library
for the Senior Day program March
18, at 1:30pm. The program will be
about the Colonel George
Davenport house.