

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."

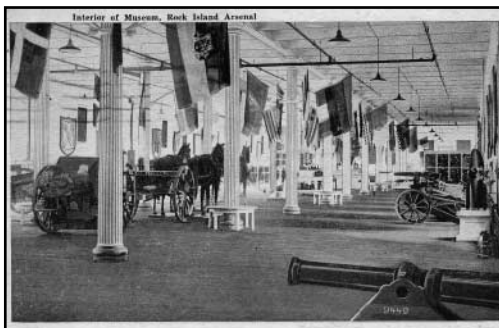
— Christian Metz, 1846

You'll Be 'Up In Arms' Over This Tour!

SCHPS invites you to join us on a private tour of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The tour will be given after hours by the museum curator, Kris Leinicke. The Rock Island Arsenal Museum was established in 1905, making it the second oldest U.S. Army museum after West Point. The museum has been closed down twice, during W.W. I and W.W. II, in order to create more space for manufacturing. It has been in its present location since 1948. It houses one of the largest small arms collections in the world, both foreign and domestic. Over 1100 weapons are currently on display.

In 1959, the museum's name was changed to the John M. Browning Memorial Museum. In 1986, the museum's name was changed back to the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. This was done in order to better represent the museum's primary purpose, which is to collect, preserve, and display the history of Rock Island Arsenal and Arsenal Island.

You can access the Rock Island Arsenal via the Davenport or Moline entrance. Remember to bring a picture ID in order to get on the base. Ask the guard for directions to Building #60, The Rock Island Arsenal Museum.



Left & Right: Antique Postcards from Karen Anderson's collection showing the interior of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

April 2005 Newsletter

Next SCHPS meeting
April 14, 2005 • 7pm
Bldg 60, Rock Island Arsenal

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NEED MORE INFO?

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Endangered Cemetery

The Davenport City Cemetery at Rockingham Road and Division Street was #5 on the Davenport Historic Preservation Committee's 2002 list of most endangered properties. The cemetery is the earliest remaining one in the city, with its first burial in 1836. Many of Davenport's pioneers and founders are buried there. Victims of the cholera epidemic of 1873 are buried in a mass grave, as are veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the World Wars.

The cemetery had been privately owned and was suffering from neglect. The City of Davenport now owns the property and the Park and Recreation Department oversees the site. Recently students from Central High School have aided in clean-up efforts and ongoing work is being done through the work release program.

A Great Irish Fest!

The March Meeting was a ton of fun! The presentation regarding Irish history's relationship to local emigrants was illuminating. Establishing a local Irish-American heritage trail and center would be most appropriate.

Fun followed facts with a demonstration of solo Irish dancing and then a lesson that showed us how to do group dancing! Cheers to those bold individuals who participated. Thanks to Ragene Gwin, the musicians and the dancers!

Need Help Getting A Historical Plaque?

Want to learn more about our plaque project? We'll see if your home is on the National Register of Historic Places and help you to get necessary info.

What a wonderful way to show pride in our heritage! Call Ella at 441-0698 for information.

Schuetzenpark Update!

Ground was broken last November for a new picnic shelter at the Schuetzenpark Historic site. The building, which will include an enclosed serving area, storage and space for picnic tables and benches will be finished May 9-13. Donations are needed for equipment for the shelter, for preservation of the Park's archival materials, maintenance of the nature trails and presentation of cultural events. Contact Kory Darnall, 701 Pine Street, Davenport, 52804, (563) 323-4225, e-mail SchuetzenPark@aol.com. To learn more or go to www.schuetzenpark.info.

Volunteers are needed April 18-24 to help with tree plantings and other projects. The City of Davenport donated several tons of black cinders for trail restoration and the Scott County Sheriff's community restoration team has rehabbed the trails.

Remembering Clem Werner

Our executive director, Karen Anderson, has been working on LeClaire House restoration projects since 1976 when the City of Davenport purchased the home and saved it from the wrecking ball.

Karen was remembering the late Clem Werner, a Davenport citizen who gave so much to our community. He was very enthusiastic about the LeClaire House project and helped in many, many ways. Karen especially remembers the following:

1. In the early days of the restoration effort a ramschackle house sat on the front terrace. Clem bought the house and had it razed.
2. For many years Clem had a large Davenport landscape painting in his office. The painting had hung in the LeClaire House. The painting is now in safe keeping awaiting the day it will return to its rightful place.
3. Clem was active in the Davenport Foundation which donated the iron post lights at the LeClaire House and has been a major donor. The Foundation has also helped the German-American Center and the Annie Wittenmeyer home.

!! HELP WANTED !!

Charlie Heston has procured a period sofa for the LeClaire House. Can someone help repair out of place springs? If so, call Karen, 3e24-0257.

Rock Island Arsenal Home Tour

The Rock Island Arsenal Women's Club is sponsoring a tour of nine historic residences that were built between 1872 and 1910 to serve as homes for the Arsenal's top Army personnel. The tour is Saturday, April 30 from 1-5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased either at the Arsenal Attic thrift shop in Building 60 or by mail at RIAWC House Tour, c/o 34 East Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois, 61201. Ticket requests should be received by April 10. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment. You can also reserve tickets by e-mail at RIAHomeTours@yahoo.com.

You'll see walnut staircases, stained and beveled glass windows, hardwood and black and white checked marble floors and tall ceilings. Many items such as built-ins were made on the Arsenal.

Proceeds from the tour will benefit the club's scholarship and welfare funds. Since the Arsenal is a military installation, photo IDs must be shown at the gate.

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