

BETTENDORF, IA 52722  
P.O. BOX 5017  
SCHPS

# 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

## A Look at the Cook Legacy!

We will meet our guide Amy Driscoll (City Archivist from the Davenport Main St Library) at the West end so that there is plenty of parking. She will keep to the paths and tell us the history of the cemetery. Then we will go to the Clarissa Cook home for a tour and refreshments. Amy will continue with the question and answers there. Please ask your neighbors and friends so that we can make our first season tour a big success.

In 1836, Davenport hastily established its first burial plot on the shady hillside at 6th and LeClaire Street. After torrential spring rains soaked the steep hillside, coffins went sliding down hill into town. The Cook family soon donated 10 acres of flat land, far west of the city limits, which adjoined an additional 15 acres purchased by the city, to build a proper 25 acre Victorian cemetery at the foot of Division and Rockingham. The new "City Cemetery" would boast 588 grave sites, landscaped gardens, rambling walkways and a proper iron fence encircling its lofty monuments.

Clarissa C. Cook was the wealthy widow of Ebenezer Cook, of Cook & Sergeant's Bank. Upon her husband's death, in 1871, she carried out his wishes that their vast wealth be distributed for the benefit of Davenport residents. During her lifetime, her benevolent donations led to the construction of the first public library in Iowa, at Davenport, Trinity Episcopal



Clarissa C. Cook, Retirement Living

Church and Trinity School, as well as a \$50,000 bequest, in 1882, to construct the Clarissa C. Cook Home For The Friendless. The beautiful stone home, at 100 Pine Street, was opened to help care for the legions of indigent women who, in those days, had no income once their husbands or supporting family members passed away.

ABOVE: Postcard image of the Clarissa Cook Home for the Friendless, thanks to Karen Anderson.

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED COURTESY OF GRAHAM GRAPHICS, GRAPHIC DESIGN, CALL 970-389-8550



## September 2007 Newsletter

Next SCHPS meeting  
Sept. 13, 2007 • 6pm  
Division & Rockingham, Dav

### President

Judy Belfer, 324-7779

### Vice President

Janet Corcoran, 386-3428

### Secretary

Rex Grove, 355-8727

### Treasurer

Ferenc Beiwel, 386-1969

### Executive Director

Karen Anderson, 324-0257

### Newsletter Editors

Paulette A Taylor, 326-2953  
Sarah Graham, 970-389-8550

### Board Members

Phyllis James, 355-5244  
Mary Costello  
Suzi Rynn, 359-3704  
Fred Vogt, 570-0886

NEED MORE INFO?  
P.O. BOX 5017  
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## Watch Hill Tour Invite

The Rock Island Preservation Society (RIPS) will present a walking tour on Rock Island's Watch Hill Road on Tuesday, September 18, beginning at 6:30 pm. The tour is free and open to the public. It will begin at the intersection of Watch Hill and Hawthorne Roads, where there is adequate on-street parking.

RIPS volunteers will lead small groups as they view the exterior of homes along Watch Hill Road and learn about the area's architecture and early residents. The tour will last about an hour, and will require about a mile of slow-paced walking.

The name of Watch Hill comes from the historic Sauk outlook on the Rock River that is now Blackhawk State Historic Site. For over sixty years, it also has meant one of Rock Island's most beautiful and prestigious residential areas. Platted in 1941 and mostly developed between 1945 and 1955, Watch Hill is a treasury of mid-20th Century architectural styles.

## She'll Be Missed.

We are all aware that Vonne (Velma) Flynn passed away August 6th. She was one of our first members and was very active with our society for all these years. We have received some contributions in her name and do appreciate this as a token of how much she enjoyed her membership with us. She was a true LADY in the most complete meaning of that description. Please continue to remember her and her wonderful family in your prayers.

## Make that Item History!

Members only may submit a 18 word ad in the SCHPS newsletter (including member's name & phone number), for spaces to rent or things to sell. Limited to historic items only. Cost is \$5 for one month, \$10 for three months. 2"x2" photos will cost an additional \$15 per month. Contact Judy Belfer at 324-7779.

## HISTORICAL RESIDENCE IN EAST DAVENPORT FOR RENT!

Riverview, 2 bdrm, hardwood flrs, C/A/C, laundry hookup, garage. \$575. Call Chris or Veronica, (563) 940-1970, 940-1971

**SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO  
[sarah@graham-graphics.com](mailto:sarah@graham-graphics.com) if you would  
like to get your SCHPS newsletter early!**

## Fall Ride-Weekend Fun!

Visit an original "Valentine Diner" the next time you take a leisurely ride to Muscatine, Iowa! The tiny, box-like, prefabricated, steel diners (which were mass produced in Wichita, Kansas) were the rage during the Great Depression. The tiny 8-12 seat diners were so small that they could be hauled around the country on a flat bed truck and set up almost anywhere. Seventy-eight years later, there are only two surviving Valentine Diners left in the entire state of Iowa.

Muscatine's riverfront "Clam Shell Diner" was manufactured in 1947. Its discarded rusty hulk was rescued from a junk yard in Morning Sun, Iowa in 2001. After much loving restoration, it has found a whole new life, greeting curious travelers, who turn around to take another look, along Great River Road in downtown Muscatine. (West end of the Muscatine Hotel's parking lot, corner of River Road and Chestnut Street).

Eating at the tiny Clam Shell Diner is a blast from the past, to be sure. Order malts and shakes from a tiny walk up window and eat at the quaint outside tables, or step inside--and into the past. The diner still has its original red Formica counter, with spinning chrome trimmed revolving stools, classic black-and-white checker board floor, as well as its original stainless steel kitchen. (For some real fun, check out the Kansas State Historical Society's Valentine Diner history web site at [www.kshs.org/diners](http://www.kshs.org/diners). The web site has a mid-restoration photo of Muscatine's diner, before it was artfully painted with bright exterior menu advertising and trucked to its new riverfront location.)

The New York style "Nathan hot dogs" (\$3.95) served at the Clam Shell Diner are so good that the Food Network's roving culinary critic, Alton Brown, filmed a segment on them for his Sept. 1st TV program, Feasting On Asphalt 2! His film crew raved that the they were "the best Chicago style hot dogs outside the city of New York." The Clam Shell even features hot, sugar dusted funnel cakes, all within view of the mighty Mississippi rolling by. What more could you ask? The seasonal diner will only be open until the end of the third week of September, so don't wait too long. Hours are: Monday-Thursday, 11-6 P.M., Saturday, 11-8 P.M., Sunday, 12-7 P.M..

While in Muscatine, be sure to view the gigantic new riverfront bronze "Clammer" statue, the new riverfront wading fountain, the Muscatine Art Gallery/Musser Museum (beautifully restored mansion) and, of course, the fabulous Muscatine Pearl Button Museum.

## Stay in the Know!

If you can't make it to the Davenport Historic Preservation Commissions' meeting the second Tuesday of every month at 5pm, you can catch it on TV the following day. SCHPS' members Mary Ann Tyler and Steve Eppel are members.