

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.
PO Box 5017
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



May 8th Meeting~ 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. ~ Palmer Mansion – a-top Brady Street Hill-

(Built in 1874, bought by the Palmer's in 1912, vacated by Palmers in 1961, donated to Palmer College of Chiropractic by Dr. David Palmer in the 1970's as monument to his father, BJ Palmer)

Thousands of cars a day power up Brady Street hill, never noticing the buried treasure hidden just behind the arching brick gateway facade in front of Palmer College of Chiropractic. The Second Empire towers of B.J. Palmer's old mansion jut skyward, proclaiming the rags-to-riches story that began when B. J's father, Daniel Palmer, was born in a humble log cabin in Canada in 1845.

Daniel, the eldest of 6 children, had no choice but to quit school at age 11 to help his father reverse severe business failures. His father, however, allowed Daniel to keep his "after work hours" wages to buy clothes, books and pay library fees. By age 21, through sheer dogged determination, Daniel was able to acquire a practical education on his own.

During the Civil War years, wages were severely depressed in Canada, due to the large number of Americans crossing the boarder to avoid military service. With no prospects, Daniel, and brother Thomas, borrowed \$2.00 from a friend and walked--for four weeks--from Toronto to Boston, Massachusetts. They spent their last penny on passage to Detroit, and then begged a ride on a military troop train to Davenport, Iowa.

Daniel spent the next 20 years teaching, raising fruit, and operating grocery businesses in the region, between Burlington and Davenport. In 1885, at age 40, he commenced the art of "Magnetic Healing", and then moved into the old Ryan building, at the corner of Second and Brady Street in 1888 (Later Scharff's). There, D.D. Palmer performed the first chiropractic manipulation in the world in 1895.

By the time son, B.J. Palmer, took the business over in 1905, the yearly cash flow had skyrocketed from \$700 to \$9,267 a year. In 1912, B.J. Palmer was wealthy enough to purchase a grand 22-room brick mansion, at 808 Brady Street, from Willy Petersen for \$25,000. The fact that the mansion still survives today, surrounded by the ever-expanding college campus, is a tribute to Daniel's 123 year-old success story. Won't you join our SCHPS May 8th walking tour through that arching gateway and into the Palmer mansion, where we will revisit that incredible Palmer frontier history and museum of memorabilia?

We will tour this home in small groups so that we can study the architectural features and learn about the rare artifacts the Palmer's collected. Our Docents for the evening will be Alana Callender, Julie Arnold, and possibly Roger Hynes. *Palmer Masnion Gift Shop* will be open that night offering memorabilia and gift items for sale.



Now - Stone facade added in 1930's



Then - 1880's

May 2008 Newsletter

SCHPS meeting-
May 8, 2008, 7:00 P.M.

Palmer Mansion
808 Brady Street.

Next SCHP Meeting -
June 5, 2008
Schuetzen Park 6:00 P.M.

President
Judy Belfer, 324-7779

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Summary of April Meeting~

St. Anthony's and Glass Heritage~

SCHPS members greatly enjoyed a very educational and informative meeting on Thursday evening April 10th. Members gathered in the sanctuary of St. Anthony's Catholic Church at 4th and Main in Davenport, where they enjoyed Joe Scott's very informative lecture on the symbolism of the windows, statuary, and murals. Thank you to St. Anthony's for preserving so much history and for graciously sharing it with SCHPS!

We then walked to Heritage Glass Company where John Watts presented a brief history of the company including some pictures from local stained glass projects (new and restorative) they have done. Members divided into three groups for fascinating demonstrations of glass painting, broken glass repair, and glass sealing, cleaning and preservation. During numerous questions afterwards, the evening was capped off celebrating Glass Heritage Company's recently acquired "Full Accreditation" status from the Stained Glass Association of America. This award followed a rigorous two-year review period. Thank you to Glass Heritage for a most memorable and informative evening!

Thank You Donations for Ella's Iron Bench~

SCHPS would like to extend sincere thanks to Michael and Hedy Hustedde and to Carol and Mike Feeney for their generous donations in memory of Ella Hartmann. The money will be put toward the purchase of an iron park bench to be placed in front of the LeClaire House. Any other donations will be greatly appreciated and will also be applied toward the purchase and installation of Ella's bench.

SCHPS Annual Meeting at Schuetzen Park on June 5 at 6:00 P.M.~

Come to Schuetzen Park, bring a food item to share, also a lawn chair, and enjoy an evening with other preservationists at our potluck, picnic supper. This is our annual meeting where officers are elected for the coming year. **If you are interested in becoming an officer, being a board member, or editing the newsletter, please let us know. We welcome your participation!** June is also the start of our new year, so please bring your completed membership form (bottom of this newsletter). Dues are \$15 per household and checks should be made payable to SCHPS. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you for a picnic in the Park.

For Sale~

One-story, **Iron Fire Escape** (self-or free-standing) - from the historic Black Hawk Hotel - please call Judy Belfer 324-7779.

For Rent~

Totally furnished 3rd floor apartment-spectacular view of the Mississippi River \$500/month - please call Judy Belfer 324-7779

SCHPS Note Cards (\$10 per box)~

To order, call Karen Anderson (324-0257)

SCHPS has local historic landmark note cards for sale. They are packaged 10 to a box (8 different buildings) and are for sale from SCHPS. Please consider using these to show your pride in Quad City History and buy extra boxes for special gifts.

"Year Round" gifts~

Call Karen Anderson (324-0257)

- 3 1/2-inch commemorative crystal "City Hall" paper weights - **(\$8.00)**
- Ward Olson: "J.S. Steamboat" tote bags - **(\$12.00)**
- "Delta Queen"/"Mississippi Queen"/"LeClaire House" watercolor prints - **(\$20.00)**
- LeClaire's Town children's coloring/history book - **(\$6.00)**

New Book of Local Historical Interest (\$19.99)~

Check out Davenport Postcard History Series - a new book by Doug Smith - published by Arcadia Publishing - copyright 2007. This book offers many postcard shots of the early Quad Cities. For more information contact (toll free) 1-888-313-2665, 1-843-853-2070, sales@arcadia publishing.com. or check your local bookstores.

Arsenal Quarters 1 open to public on May 17-18~

To make reservations, call the Arsenal Museum at 782-3488. Along with a tour of Arsenal Quarters 1, the Colonel Davenport House will also be open.

Broadway District Annual Tour of Homes~

Saturday and Sunday May 17th and 18th 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults; children under 12 (accompanied by an adult) are free. Tickets can be purchased early at any QC Hy-Vee store for \$13. For more information go to <http://www.broadwaydistrict.org> (tour of homes tab).

Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society~

Contact Judy Belfer for more details - 324-7779.

JOIN US!

Membership fee: \$15 per household per year (July 1-June 30)

Members receive:

- ~ 10 newsletters per year
- ~ Opportunities to participate in meetings, special events, and guided tours
- ~ A chance to meet and share with other people interested in historic preservation

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Postage is going up, but we want everyone to be informed of our meetings and activities.

Please check how you wish to receive your newsletter~

Email copy is sufficient: _____

Hard Copy through US Mail is sufficient: _____

Both Email and Hard Copy: _____

Please pay annual dues when you come to our monthly meeting or Mail to:

Scott County Historic Preservation Society Inc.
P. O. Box 5017
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Areas of Interest (please check all that apply):

- Serving on Board
- Editing Newsletter
- Presenting a program of Historical Interest
- Tour Guide for LeClaire House
- Researching a Project
- Fundraising
- Being a host at meetings
- Having SCHPS tour your house/business
- Hands-on Labor
- Staffing a merchandise table
- Advocate at City Council meetings
- Ideas for Programs
- Other: _____