

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

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Tour of Quarters One on July 10th~

Did you miss your chance to book a tour of Quarters One during its final farewell viewing? Well then, you won't want to miss SCHPS July 2008 meeting, where our members will be granted a private tour of General Thomas J. Rodman's magnificent Greek Revival Italianate stone mansion!

The 51-room mansion was the largest private residence owned by the federal government, outside the White House, before being decommissioned. (It was, in fact, the largest, if you factored in the amount of non-residential office space contained in the White House.) Rodman's 51-room, 22,000 sq. ft. mansion, was built along 11 acres of Mississippi River bank from 1870-1872. The mansion has 6 bedrooms and 5 baths on the second floor; a bedroom in a portion of the tower; 7 bedrooms and 2 baths on the third floor; 16 rooms in the basement and a 4 story tower, jutting above the tree tops, where it is visible from far up and down the river.

The home's palatial interior has been home to 38 Rock Island Arsenal commanders, as well as such nationally famous visitors as Charles Lindbergh, in 1927. The main floor parlors feature 16 foot ceilings, towering arches, massive staircases, 10 polished gray marble fireplaces, original walnut interior shutters, built-in walnut hall trees, wall clocks, china cabinets, benches and ornate striped floors of maple, oak and walnut. Exterior doorknobs were cast to feature dog faces. Interior knobs were cast with the faces of Renaissance soldiers.

Join us for a beautiful summer evening touring "the gem" of Arsenal Island while rediscovering the incredible natural beauty and unsurpassed history of the Island's 946 acres. The tour will begin promptly at 6:00 P.M. A federal or state photo I.D. (driver's license will suffice) will be required at the entry gate to the Arsenal. Take Rodman Avenue and turn north (toward the river) onto Gillespie Ave. Go 2 blocks and find a place to park on Gillespie. You cannot park in either the entrance drive or circle drive to Quarters One for security reasons. Handicapped people may be dropped off in the circle drive before parking.



Quarters One

July 2008 Newsletter

Upcoming SCHPS meeting
July 10, 2008, 6:00 P.M.
Tour of Quarters One on
Arsenal Island

Next SCHP Meeting
September 11, 2008;
no meeting in August

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 Editor
Polly Taylor, 326-2953

Board Members
Phyllis James, 355-5244

Mary Costello, 326-2158

Duane Timm, 323-4077

Fred Vogt, 570-0886

Newsletter setup courtesy of 

Davenport Printing Company

(563) 322-4634 or visit their website at www.davenportprinting.com

Schuetzen Park Picnic and Annual Meeting~

June 12th's picnic/annual meeting at Schuetzen Park turned out to be an evening filled with thunderstorms, so the full beauty of the park could not be explored and the raging question of what happened to all the old buildings in the park did not get answered. However, a group of brave members turned out and enjoyed fried chicken with the trimmings, and conducted a very short business meeting between storms. The meeting disbanded quickly with everyone dashing toward vehicles as yet one more thunderstorm was about to strike.

Annual Dues~

Thanks to all of you who have already renewed your annual SCHPS membership. Since very few of us made it to our June meeting due to the weather, we continue to urge you to join SCHPS now by completing the membership form attached to the bottom of this newsletter. You can mail it to our post office box or bring it to the July meeting. Annual dues are \$15 per household and checks should be made payable to SCHPS. Please indicate whether you wish to receive a hard copy of each monthly newsletter or whether just an email copy is sufficient. Regardless of how you wish to receive your newsletter, we would appreciate it if you would give us your email address so we can contact you quickly- (to lobby for an historical preservation issue, to notify your of a change in meeting date or location, etc). Thank you for your support of SCHPS!

Annual Meeting Election Results~

SCHPS extends special thanks to Suzi Ryan for many years of dedicated service on the SCHPS board. We are proud to announce that Duane Timm will be replacing Suzi. Duane, resident of the Gold Coast, was born and raised on a farm near Elwood, IA. A career in the metal industry with jobs at various foundries, he now works at SSAB (formerly Ipsco) steelmill. Duane, a graduate of Iowa State University, spent time in the Graphic Arts industry and that prompted his purchase of the second oldest handprint wallpaper business in the United States, Bassett & Vollum. His company has created wallpaper for the Henry Ford and Vesterheim Museums, Presidents U.S. Grant and Harrison homes, Warner Brothers movies, and the Iowa Governors' Mansion, Terrace Hill. Throughout the years, many private residences have used Bassett & Vollum wallpapers. With a concern for historic preservation, Duane has served on the Historic Preservation Commissions of Maquoketa, Jackson County, and Davenport. He and his partner, Jeff Gomez, have worked on several homes in the Gold Coast. Arts, music, antiques, baseball, running, biking and raising his daughter, Laura, are some of the interests that keep him busy. Welcome, Duane, we look forward to working with you and know you will lend great expertise to the SCHPS Board! (All other elected positions remain unchanged.)

Thank You~

Donations as well as positive comments continue to arrive in memory of Ella Hartmann. Special thanks for donations received this month are extended to Mary Costello, Phyllis and Gene James, and Heather Holding. A very special thank you is extended to Karen Anderson who generously donated the money she received for presentations at the

Illinois Iowa Treasurer Hunter's Club and at the Gold Coast and Hamburg Historic District Association's High Teas. Again, thanks to all previous contributors for their support in making the park bench on the lawn of the Antoine LeClaire House in memory of Ella Hartmann become a reality: Mike and Hedy Hustedde, Carol and Mike Feeney, Chris and Veronica Ericksen, Bev Buerkens, Judy Belfer, Rex and Sue Grove, Ferenc Beiwel, and Polly Taylor. SCHPS now has about half the money needed to pay for the \$800 bench. Thank you for your support!

Thank You Alma Gaul~

Special thanks for all your numerous articles in the QC Times dealing with local historical preservation events and issues. We always look forward to reading your column!

Channel Cat Educational Cruises: (Tuesdays- \$12)~

Make reservations TODAY for tours through River Action at 563 322-2969 as tickets are going fast. All cruises have limited seating on the Channel Cat and will depart at 9:00 a.m. (rain or shine) from the Celebration Belle Landing behind TGI Fridays in Moline.

- ~July 15th- QC Bridges conducted by Dr. Curtis Roseman
- ~July 22nd - Folktales and Mississippi River Songs by Dale Whiteside
- ~July 29th- History of Locks and Dams by Bill Greten
- ~July 8th and Aug 19th- Arsenal Island History by Samantha Heilig

River Walks: (Saturdays- \$5)~(also through River Action at phone number above)

- ~July 12th- Sylvan Island: Industrial Site become Recreational Gem by Dr. Norman Moline
- ~August 9th- a Geographical and Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Moline by Dr. Curtis Roseman

Riverway Audio Walking Tours~

A team of River Action supporters has come up with an inventive way to introduce us to local history via a walking tour of Davenport and Rock Island's "Bridge to Bridge" trail loop. Plans are to establish the QC's first cell phone based audio tour featuring the trails, Arsenal Bridge and Centennial Bridge. Signs for each tour stop will prompt walkers to call a local phone number to listen to a message similar to a museum audio tour. Recordings will cover historic significance of the Mississippi River, "Retain the Rain" projects, bridge history, and downtown development. Ten to fifteen stops are planned initially. A map will be available on River Action's website www.riveraction.org or at local visitor centers. Visit the web for more information.

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.

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: _____

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:

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P. O. Box 5017
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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: _____