

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

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The Life and Writings of Local Davenport Author Susan Glaspell~

Susan was born July 1, 1876 in Davenport, Iowa, and she described her parents as “middle class, not very well to do.” She attended public schools in Davenport, a graduate of Central, and earned a bachelor’s degree from Drake University. She later did her graduate studies in English at the University of Chicago. The day after graduating, Susan joined the staff of the Des Moines Daily News as a political reporter and soon had her own column, “The News Girl.”

Two years later, she moved back to Davenport to pursue her childhood ambition to be a fiction writer. Between, 1909 and 1912, she published three novels, including Fidelity, her most acclaimed novel.

In 1913 Susan married George “Jig” Cram Cook, moved with him to Greenwich Village and they had a summer residence in Provincetown, at the tip of Cape Cod. There in a small wooden building on the end of a pier, they established the Provincetown Players. Under pressure from her domineering husband - Cook, Susan wrote several plays and came into contact with struggling artists like Eugene O’Neill, who later became critically acclaimed. Susan left Davenport with Cook for the artistic and social freedom heralded in New York’s Greenwich Village. Yet Glaspell’s Midwestern roots shone through in much of her writing.

Susan died in 1948. On her deathbed she sought anonymity and destroyed notes, letters, and diaries, which were documentation to her talents and incredible career. Over the last half-century, graduate students have pieced her life together in their scholarly dissertations. Although she is little known, she is perhaps, although unheralded, one of America’s greatest playwrights and novelists! Don’t miss this chance to learn about one of our own: born and raised in Davenport, Iowa - Susan Glaspell-novelist, playwright, Pulitzer Prize Winner! – Little- known, un-acclaimed but yet GREAT-writer!

Summary of February Meeting~

Thank you Jack Tumbleson, of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, for a most informative presentation on the History of the Upper Mississippi River valley including the Quad Cities. After skipping the first three million years of history, Tumbleson brought back to life the history of occupation and colonization by the French and Spanish and the resulting battles with the Indians who were already settled in the area. First came Marquette and Joliet in 1673 followed by Cavalier in 1679. By 1762 the territory east of the Mississippi was considered French, while the area west of the Mississippi belonged to Spain. Add in Revolutionary War history and the emergence of American troops, and Jack’s talk was fascinating right down to the Battle of Credit Island in 1814 when Brevet General Zachary Taylor, who later became the 12th President of the United States, lined up keelboats in order to fire on the Sauk Indians. Taylor reported being met with a British Artillery Battalion well entrenched behind earthen redoubts. After reviewing records from the British Embassy in Chicago, Tumbleson learned that what Taylor was up against was Sgt. James Keating, with only one three-pound cannon located on a slight elevation without cover!

March 2009 Newsletter

March 12, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.
Bettendorf Library
The life and writings of
Susan Glaspell, local author
& Pulitzer Prize winner,
presented by Dr. Ellen Tsagaris
from Black Hawk College

April 9, 2009, 7:00 P.M.
Tour LeClaire (IA) Museum
and Lone Star
(\$4 museum admission)
Dinner at 5:00 at Sneaky Pete’s

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Vice President
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Newsletter setup courtesy of 
Davenport Printing Company

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

Welcome New Members:

Sonja Rekers of Pleasant Valley
Janet and Peter Peterson of Davenport

New website for old pics~

Check out the Sloan-Richardson collection of 10,000 pictures of early times on the Upper Mississippi.
<http://umvphotoarchive.org>

Great Depression Era~ If you have memories of the Great Depression Era please contact John O'Shea: at pelagus@qconline.com

Shopping and Gift Giving for Someone Special Made Easy!!!! SCHPS Note Cards (\$10 per box)~ **Call Karen Anderson (324-0257)**

SCHPS has local historic landmark-building note cards for sale that are original artwork by noted local artist Ward Olson. These cards are suitable for framing). The note cards are packaged 10 to a box (8 different buildings). Please consider using these to show your pride in Quad City History and buy extra boxes for special gifts.

Other Gift Ideas~

Give someone your care about a gift that keeps on giving- a yearly membership to SCHPS for only \$15. (See membership application at bottom of page)

Make a donation to restore the Antoine LeClaire House in memory or honor of someone dear to you!

Purchase the book **History of Lagomarcino's Confectionery-** (a 100-year QC tradition) for \$19.95 available in either of their stores, (in the Village of E. Davenport or in downtown Moline). The book can also be ordered on line at their website.

Purchase the book **Rock Island County**, by David Coopman, lifelong Moline resident. This 128-page book features early photos of rural and urban Rock Island County , including historical people, places, businesses, organizations, and events. Look for this book in local bookstores or through on-line booksellers.

Purchase the book **Barns Around Iowa: A Sampling of Iowa's Round Barns.** Photos by L. Hazeltine, edited by Deb Schense. The book is available in local bookstores for \$14.95.

Upcoming Events~

Scott Community College seminar ~ on April 2, 2009, "Davenport's Historic Districts" at the Outing Club, Davenport, with a choice of one of two sessions: 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost of \$19 includes lunch and bus tour.

Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society~ Thurs., March 5, 2009 at the R.I. Arsenal Club-Cathie Rochau presents a program on the Honor Flights taking WWII Vets to Wash. DC to view monuments. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (\$11.50), meeting at 7:00 p.m. – free (for Dinner Reservations call Deloris Bates at 309 796-0616)

Rock Island County Historical Society ~March 16, 2009 – Alexandria Benedict. Lincoln Papers Researcher, "Lost Lincoln Case" a detective story, First Congregational Church, 2201 7th Ave., Moline~ Luncheon 11:30, Program 12:15, \$6.50 (309 764-8590)

Moline Preservation Society~

Check www.molinepreservation.org for time and details for all MPS events~

German American Heritage Center~ On March 10, 2009 - GAHC book discussion group gathers at the Bettendorf Public Library at 7:00 p.m. to discuss Humboldt's Cosmos by Gerard Helferich. Nancy Hayes will lead the discussion. Free and open to the public.

On Sat., June 20 GAHC is sponsoring a bus trip to LaSalle, IL (depart at 8:30 a.m. and return about 5:30 p.m.) Tour will include an hour trip on the I & M canal aboard a replica 19th century canal boat pulled by mules as it was 150 years ago. After that, the group will enjoy a buffet lunch at the Lock 16 visitor center café and have time to view canal exhibits and browse in the gift shop. Finally, they will tour the stately Hegeler Carus Mansion, a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn all about the Carus family, a German=American family whose international history is tightly woven with that of the Illinois Valley. (\$50 for GAHC Members, \$60 for Non-members) To register for more information contact: 563 322-8844, Fax 563 322-2687, or email director@gahc.org Registration deadline is May 15, 2009

Annual Dues~

Thanks to all of you who have already renewed your annual SCHPS membership or have recently joined our group. Dues are \$15 annually per household and our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. IF you are a past member, you are in good standing if you did not receive a dues envelope in this newsletter. A membership form is attached at the bottom of this newsletter if you would like to join our organization.

Mayor Bill Gluba appointed Polly Taylor to the Davenport Historic Preservation Commission in Dec. 2008.

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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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: _____