

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



Cassius Hayward Residence

Hayward, Wisconsin Log Mill

May 13, 2010 SCHPS Meeting 6:30 P.M.

Cassius Hayward House Tour

812 Bridge Avenue, Davenport, Iowa
(Members only, Please)

If a little bit of San Francisco could be found in Davenport, Iowa, it would most likely be found on the steep hills of East Davenport's Bridge Avenue National Register Historic District. Every time my car turns off River Drive and lurches down into low gear to ratchet up that steep incline, I can almost hear the trolley bell clanging behind me. Four blocks of stair-stepped Victorian houses, one stacked above the other, are as lovely a site as anything seen overlooking Golden Gate Park. Only here, they overlook America's interior coastline, where their big veranda porches, full of gingerbread gee-gaws and porch swings rocking in the breeze, are set so close to the bank that you can hear the paddle wheel of a passing steamboat hit the water.

In 1856, Bridge Avenue made history by becoming the city's main thoroughfare leading directly onto the first railroad bridge to cross the Mississippi River, historically linking the Atlantic and the Pacific. As historic streets go, Bridge Avenue has always been a magnet for SCHPS old house history lovers, like no other. John Hinkle was one of Bridge Avenue's most ardent early supporters. He moved his substantial California real estate investments out of the sagging Los Angeles real estate market in the early 1990s and returned home to his family's ancestral home on the northwest corner of Bridge Avenue and 10th Street. In a giant leap of faith, John, and his business partner Steve Day, purchased two four-story Art Deco cube apartment buildings directly across the street from John's home--despite the disparaging sight of giant trees growing *inside* the building and arching out through missing windows toward sunshine. Soon after, John added a behemoth seven-plex, a three-plex and a duplex to what today has become his well-manicured Hinkle bluff top Bridge Crest empire.

At the bottom of Bridge Avenue, long time SCHPS members Chris and Veronica Ericksen were busy working their magic at the same time. They rescued and renovated no less than *three* large Victoria homes on the southeast corner of Bridge Avenue and 9th Street. With all that activity, how could SCHPS Treasurer, Ferenc Beiwel, resist purchasing his own Victorian house to renovate midway up the bluff? The house features a wonderful curved wrap around porch which looks more like a gazebo than porch. (The house recently became the property of Ferenc's daughter.) The entire Bridge Avenue Historic District took a giant leap forward the day Bill and Pat Schmidt joined the growing enclave of Bridge Avenue renovators. They painstakingly resurrected the 1850s stone mansion which dominated the base of the bluff on the northeast corner of Bridge Avenue and River Drive, today known as Fulton's Landing Bed and Breakfast. The bottom-of-the-hill-to-top renaissance of Bridge Avenue made yet another giant leap forward recently when Bruce and Suzanne Brocka rescued the very needy and forlorn iron crested mansion on the southeast corner of Bridge Avenue and 12th Street, which has set empty and forlorn for so long. (Their 20th Village rescue!!!)

Realtor Buster Miller, who already had a love affair with six Village houses of his own on nearby 12th Street, has lived all over the world...Hawaii...California...even a fox hole in Vietnam. One day, while looking up at the expansive bluffs above the Village of East Davenport, he exclaimed that it was "*Carmel on the Mississippi*,

May 2010 Newsletter

Next SCHPS Meeting,
Thursday May 13th
6:30pm

812 Bridge Avenue
Davenport, Iowa
Tour of
Cassius Hayward House

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but at a fraction of the price." Small wonder that the charms of our own little Bridge Avenue District are attracting out-of-state buyers who are duly impressed with Iowa's lush verdant green bluff side bargain priced Victorians! Buster's brother Mike Miller, and sister-in-law Sherry, were among the first out-of-state buyers to relocate there. They moved back to Iowa from far off California in 1990, staking a claim to their own grand mansion at 814 Bridge Avenue. Tom's new three-story carriage barn (the envy of all East Davenport) holds his growing collection of antique cars.

Bridge Avenue's most recent back-to-Iowa old house converts are Carol and Marshall Daut. (Carol is SCHPS' newest Board Member.) In 2006, they moved from Arizona to Iowa, and into their grand mansion overlooking the Mississippi River. Their Iowa dream house was built by Cassius Hayward in 1902. The Haywards were legends in Wisconsin log rafting and lumbering. Hayward descendants built the Daut's Davenport turn-of-the-century Georgian Colonial Revival mansion to show off all of the wealth and style lumber barons had become accustomed to. This gracious house features ornate carved wooden fireplace mantels, an elaborate entry hall staircase, built-in china cabinets lining the walls of the formal dining room, a to-die-for butler's pantry, a three-story elevator (!), Tom's spectacular new carriage barn (filled with the antique cars that he so expertly restores) ---and that obligatory grand Bridge Avenue wrap around porch, overlooking the mighty Mississippi River twenty-four hours a day.

The Dauts are ardent renovators and expert historians. They have graciously invited SCHPS members, as fellow old house lovers, to tour their house-in-progress renovation. Won't you join SCHPS for a lovely May evening stroll on historic Bridge Avenue---and the enjoy the chance to turn around and look at the opposite porch-siting view down hill from the historic mansions of Bridge Avenue?

Karen R. Anderson

Sincere sympathies are extended to the family of Cathy Berta, who passed away April 28th. Cathy was a devoted SCHPS member for decades. She never failed to charm LeClaire House visitors when she answered the door as the perky little Irish maid, in her crisply ironed white apron and dust cap, spouting that Irish brogue that just came bubbling out of her. She will be sorely missed! (Memorial donations toward the purchase a pair of mantel candelabras for the LeClaire House, in honor of Cathy, can be sent to: SCHPS, Treasurer Ferenc Beiwel, P.O. 5017, Bettendorf, Iowa. 52722)

A big "THANK YOU" to SCHPS LeClaire House Trolley Tour Volunteers: Ferrel Anderson-Who got down on his knees to scrub four flights of stairs, from entry to tower (while his bejeweled and hoop-skirted wife, **Karen**, stepped over him to gave guided tours, avoiding all real work); **Judy Belfer**, who scrubbed ten years dirt off miles of porch floors with a big scrub brush, faster than a sailor swabbing the decks of the U.S.S. Arizona; **Ferenc Beiwel**, who donated fabulous spring bouquets gathered from his historic farm in Bloody Hollow; **David Pai**, who hung off the back of a lurching trolley, giving tours of downtown---and retrieving parts of the trolley as they were knocked off while navigating the step inclines and sharp turns of Cork Hill!; **John Martin**, LeClaire House balcony tour guide extraordinaire, who pointed out historic sites to be seen up and down river; **Rex Grove** and **Carol Moore**, who greeted guests and directed them through the house, making it a genuinely fun day for everyone. You were all terrific!!!

Join SCHPS Today: \$15.00 e-mail newsletter, or \$20.00 mailed hard copy mailed newsletter

Mail dues to: Ferenc Beiwel, Treasurer P.O Box 5017, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 (Payable to SCHPS)

SCHPS Calendar of Events:

June 3--Iowa Conservation And Preservation Consortium sponsors Statewide Preservation Workshop. Go to www.iowahistory.org Enter in search box: "S.O.S. Save Our Stuff!" for info.on grant writing & artifact restoration.

June 15-Arsenal Appreciation Day at Colonel Davenport House, 11 A.M.-4 P.M.

May 16-German American Heritage Center: Engineering Marvels: Explore the Hennepin & Other Canal s, by Dan Reid

May 29-9:30-Founder's Day Celebration at Davenport's City Cemetery. Live music, guest speakers, honor and color guards. Come view restoration efforts.

June 6-German American Heritage Center: Cranberries in the Pickle Barrel, by Bill Wundram

Jun 10-Schuetzen Park Historic Site: 140th Anniversary of Opening. Music by the Quad City Brass Quartet and the Hot Club of Davenport (the sounds of gypsy jazz).

June 15 & 17-Channel Cat: Investigate Arsenal Island History, by Sam Heilig, CoE

June 22 & 24-Channel Cat: Campbell's Island, by Sam Heilig, CoE

June 30 & July 3-Riverine Walk: Hennepin Canal Then and Now, by Roald Tweet

July 7 & 10-Riverine Walk:4 What did the River look like 200 years ago? By Dr. Reuben Heine

July 10 & 4- "Gold Coast Blooms, A Garden Tour"---Gardens, garden workshops, concert in the park, vendors.
(Rain date July 11.) For details, go to www.davenportgoldcoast.com

July 20 & 22- Channel Cat: Moline's Great Wall, by Roald Tweet

July 28 & 31-Riverine Walk: Pre-Civil War Village of East Davenport, by Karen Anderson

August 4 & 7-Riverine Walk: History of Centennial Bridge, by Dr. Curt Roseman

August 10 & 12-Channel Cat: Historic Bridges of the Quad Cities, by Dr. Curt Roseman

August 11 & 14-Riverine Walk: Credit Island & War of 1812, by Karen Anderson

August 24 & 26-Channel Cat: Rafting Logs to QC Mills, by Gayle Rein