

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



Next SCHPS Meeting

Thursday November 11th 6:30pm

Alexander G. Clark

2010

Meet at the Bettendorf Library in the Gilbert Room

*Scott County Historic Preservation Society in partnership with
Bettendorf Library's Civil Rights Project*

present

Dan Clark & Kent Sissel.

A discussion on Alexander G. Clark.

Alexander Clark was one of the most influential men of his time, who arguably did more for civil rights than anyone else in 19th century Iowa. Clark was an African-American diplomat who served as United States Ambassador to Liberia. He was born in 1826 in Pennsylvania to parents who had been freed from slavery. Clark is most famous for suing to allow his Afro-American daughter to attend public school in Iowa. When Clark was around 13, his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio for his education and to learn the barbering trade. In 1842 Clark arrived in Muscatine, Iowa where he spent most of the rest of his life. He worked as a barber, orator, entrepreneur, newspaper editor for the Muscatine Journal and as a lawyer. He was very involved in civil rights for the state of Iowa and was involved on a national level. In 1867 Clark sent his daughter Susan to a local school in Muscatine,



Alexander G. Clark House

where she was refused admittance due to her race. Muscatine had separate schools for blacks, however these schools were not located near where the black children lived, making it difficult to attend and the quality of the instructors was lacking as well. Clark took his fight all the way to the Iowa Supreme Court where he won a ruling based on the



*Alexander G. Clark
1826-1891*

Iowa Constitution of 1857 which states that the board of education is required to "provide for the education of all the youths of the State, through a system of common schools. Requiring black students to attend a separate school violated the law which "expressly gives the same rights to all the youths."

Clark's son Alexander Jr. became the first black to graduate from the University of Iowa Law School. Clark himself became the second. Clark died in Liberia in 1891 where he was serving as the appointed U.S. Minister to Liberia. The appointment by President Benjamin Harrison was believed to have been the highest appointment of a black by a U.S. President up to that point.

"Alexander Clark was a loving father who thought his twelve-year-old daughter should attend the neighborhood school in Muscatine. The school board didn't think so. It said it had a special school for children like her - a separate school for "colored" children. This was in 1868, and Mr. Clark sued on behalf of his daughter. The Supreme Court said of course Susan Clark could go to the neighborhood school, whether we are African, German, Irish, French, or English, it said, we are "one harmonious people" and we all should be treated alike. He took risks. He wrought change. We were then, and we are today "one harmonious people."

Iowa Gov. Thomas J. Vilsack

2003 Inaugural Address

Welcome New Members~

Barbara J. Phillips, Tucson, AZ

Marian Postel Scott, San Antonio, TX

Ryan Carthey, Davenport IA.

SCHPS Christmas Dinner Party~ (Members Only Please)

Thursday, December 9, 2010

DaNell Jukulin & Marshall Collins House

1310 E. 11th Street (Between College & Mississippi)

6 P.M.-Social Hour & House Tour

7 P.M.-Dinner (Free to members)

Our hosts will provide the meat, tableware, bread, butter, iced tea and homemade ice cream for dessert.

Guests may bring additional side dishes, beverages and desserts.

Good News For Quarters One~

The Gen. Thomas Rodman Mansion, Quarters One, has been returned to the hands of the U.S. Army for extensive renovation. The 51 room mansion, second in size only to the White House,



will be renovated into a community activity events center for soldiers and their families. Its 22 bedrooms will be rented to visitors, as well as visiting military dignitaries.

George Einfeldt House~

This beautiful home was built in 1912 by metal-worker George Einfeldt. It is located at 1922 East 12th Street, in the historic Village Of East Davenport, Iowa. This home features Three bedrooms, one full bathroom, two half bathrooms, Living room, formal dining room, kitchen, enclosed sun porch and garage. The house is situated on a double lot with breath-taking river views. There have only been two owner since its construction in 1912.



This treasure has recently become available for the price of \$102,000. For more information on the upcoming open house, please contact Rosie Sly. 563.726.2391

Calendar Of Events~

November:

- 5th Due date: nominations for Most Endangered Properties Program. Nomination/guidelines from www.preservationiowa.org.
- 11th 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Scott County Historic Preservation Society in partnership with Bettendorf Library's Civil Rights Project present Dan Clark & D. Kent Sissel. Alexander G. Clark program. A man who arguably did more for civil rights than anyone else in 19th century Iowa. Bettendorf Library/Gilbert Room www.alexanderclark.org

December:

- 3rd & 4th 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Christmas in the Village. Fireworks on Saturday at 9.00 p.m.
- 5th 12.00 to 5.00 p.m. Deere-Wiman and Butterworth 19th Century Christmas. The historic Deere homes will be decorated for Christmas.
- 5th 2:00 p.m. GAHC Davenport Zither Ensemble joined by Augustana College Handbell Choir for a Christmas concert at the Scott County Family Y at Gaines & W Second Streets in Davenport. Non-members \$5, members Free.
- 6th 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Motor coach trip to Chicago's Christkindlmarket Shopping Adventure (three hours). Non-members \$35, members \$25. Registration and payment no later than November 25th. Contact GAHC Staff at 322-8844.
- 14th 8:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Holiday Mansion Tour, \$24.00. Scott Community College, registration (563) 441-4053.

For Rent \$600

1 Bedroom Furnished Apartment

Located in one of East Davenport's most spectacular riverfront mansions

Call: 563-324-7779

2011

Main Street Iowa 25th Anniversary

Activities to include Main Street Awards gathering on 1 April (almost 500 representatives from 46 participating communities) and the 2011 National Main Street Conference in May.

Join SCHPS Today~

10 monthly tours, informative programs, newsletters, City Hall updates and monthly calendar of events. Only \$15.00 per year, for everyone in household, for e-mail/or \$20.00 for U.S. Mailed newsletter Mail checks to Treasurer-Ferenc Beiwel, P.O. 5017, Bettendorf, Ia. 52722

President

Judy Belfer, 324.7779

Vice President

Duane Timm, 323.4077

Secretary

Rex Grove, 355.8727

Treasurer

Frenc Beiwel, 386.1969

Executive Director

Karen Anderson, 324.0257

Newsletter Editor

David Pai, 579.1996

Board Members

Mary Costello

Fred Vogt, 570.0886

David Cordes, 786.9906

David Pai, 579.1996