

# September 2013 Newsletter

Home and Barn tour of Smiley Home

## Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



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Tour the home and  
barn  
listed on the U.S.  
National Register of  
Historic Places  
of Barry and Beth Anne  
Smiley  
2200 Telegraph Rd.  
Davenport  
Thursday, 12 Sept. 2013  
6:30 p.m.

**For members and  
guests only**

Please join the Smileys for a tour of a truly special home that has been lovingly preserved. You will not be disappointed! Please park on the west side of Pine Street. The home sits on the NW corner of Telegraph and Pine and is fairly hidden by trees. The barn is visible from the Pine street side where the driveway is. There is no entrance from Telegraph.

There is room for only a few cars in the drive. Please reserve for those who may have difficulty navigating the slight hill on the driveway.



The Smiley's home was built in the 1860's by Henry Glaspell for Severin Miller, a machinist who immigrated from Germany in 1846, when it is said he refused to build guns for the Kaiser and consequently chose to come to America. Severin Miller's shop was located near where today the Centennial Bridge and 2nd Street intersect. His work was primarily farm equipment and threshing machine repair.

The Miller home was built in what was then a rural area outside of the city of Davenport. It is in the Second Empire style and took 3 years to build. The stone used in the construction of the house was hauled by wagon from the Buffalo, Iowa quarry and had to be transported in the winter when the ground was frozen to support the weight of the stone. Severin Miller lived in the home for forty years.

Beth Anne and Barry Smiley purchased the house in 1983 and began to restore it to its present state. The house sits on a hill in West Davenport, truly a hidden treasure. It has been showcased in many books and magazines throughout the U.S.

Both Barry and Beth Anne are artists and craftspeople in their own right. The barn has been transformed into a charming studio for Beth Anne's business "Wheaten Woolens," where she dyes her own wool and crafts beautiful hooked rugs in the primitive early American style. The house showcases many of her rugs that fit perfectly in the period of the home along with an amazing collection of early country antiques.



## ***SCHPS Upcoming Events***

**Oct. 10** tour **Judy Westrom** home on Clay St.

**Nov. 14** Black Hawk State Park

**Dec. 12** to be announced

### ***Other Events***

**Sept 14.** Oakdale Memorial Gardens Forget-Me-Not Victorian Day 2013 commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Activities are highlighted by Mr. Dan Haughey's portrayal of US Grant and includes guided tours.

**Sept. 26, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** "From Iowa to Titanic". A talk about Walter D.

Douglas, a "titan of industry" (and a builder of Brucemore, the historic mansion in Cedar Rapids that is on the National Register) presented at the Outing Club, Scott Community College #128733. Cost: \$21. (Lunch is included.)

**Oct. 13 2-4:00** German American Genealogy Workshop \$25/35 Call 322-8844.

**Oct 27. 2:00** German American Heritage Center "German Prisoners of War & the Mississippi Basin Model" Call 322-8844

### **Reminders**

Every member should be up to date on their 2013-2014 season dues. Only paid members are allowed on the private house tours.

Remember if you have some place you want us to go or someone to listen to, please contact a board member.