

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



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SCHPS February 13th meeting will be at 6:30 at the Figge Art Museum in downtown Davenport at 225 West Second Street. The museum is open to the public on Thursday evenings: admission is free. You're invited to come early, have a drink in the bar, or just visit a favorite gallery. You may park in the small lot just north of the museum, on the surrounding streets, or in the parking ramp across the street to the east. Enter on the north side of the building. At 6:30 we'll meet in the board room on the second floor (you may take the elevator- -or the stairs for a little exercise).

Tim Schiffer, executive director of the museum, will share information about the colorful history of the Figge whose roots, according to Wikipedia, date back to 1878. This museum has had various names and locations through the years. After this presentation, Mr. Schiffer will conduct a brief tour of some of the Ficke collection, which was a generous gift of significant paintings to the museum in 1925. At that time Charles Ficke, local lawyer, politician, and art collector, donated 343 paintings from his private collection and promised the balance of his collection to the museum when he and his wife died.

A former director of the Art Institute of Chicago stated, "No other public gallery in America . . . had started out with such a large number of important paintings as a nucleus." This museum was the first municipal gallery in Iowa. The museum closes at 9 PM.

Next Beaux Arts at the Figge is May 10-11.

2014
February 2013
Newsletter

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About a SCHPS member

Mary C. Costello

Costello is a lifelong resident of the Quad-Cities having been born and raised in Moline. She graduated from St. Mary's in Moline and Marycrest College in Davenport. She has a Masters Degree from the University of Iowa in Art Education.

Mary married Kenneth M. Costello in 1951 (he passed in 1992) their six children now live in KY, NM, NC, CA, NH and LeClaire. She has 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Her father, uncles and grandfather were all railroad men so she came by an interest of trains naturally and has used them in some of her art. She taught art at McKinley School in Davenport for 19 years before retiring. Since then she has written three books...two on all the bridges on the Mississippi River entitled *Climbing the Mississippi River Bridge by Bridge, Vol. I and II*—the only such books ever written. The other is a novel set in the 1850's in the Quad-City area entitled, *Mississippi River Dreams*. The events in the novel are historically accurate and all three books are in the Library of Congress. She is currently working on a sequel to the novel which will be set in the 1860's in our area. She is looking for stories of local soldiers in the Civil War. Get in touch with her if you have any questions.



Reminders

Meetings are second Thursday of each month.

Remember if you have some place you want us to go or someone to listen to, please contact a board member. We want to bring as many interesting topics and places to our membership.

More announcements

Farnam Dinner Friday, March 21, at 5 pm St. Ambrose Rogaliski Center \$40.00. We are trying to put together a table for 10 and have 6 so far.

Anyone interest, please contact either Ferenc Beiwel (386-1969) or Judy Belfer (324-7779).

The speaker will be Dr. Douglas Brinkley, professor of history at Rice Univ., topic "Presidents and the Mississippi River."

Advertisement: Licensed and insured Historical Mason Randy Williams (563-585-1856.) **R W Restoration**, free estimates.

SCHPS Upcoming Events

March 13 Join us at the Bettendorf Library to hear Bill Ashton speak about his bridge designs. Arranged by Mary Costello and Hedy Hustedde.

April 10 Looking for ideas
May 8 A surprise for us at St Ambrose arranged by Mike Hustedde, professor of English at St. Ambrose.

Seniors Program: Illinois 796-8223

Feb 19 Underground Railroad by Arthur Pitz

Mar 12 Captains of the Mississippi

Apr 17 CCC: Building Black Hawk St Park

Seniors Program: Iowa 441-4100

Feb 25 "Adventures with John James Audubon"

Apr 22 History of "The Outing Club"

Other announcements

German American Heritage Center: 322-8844

Feb 23 "Paul Cutting and Immigrant Cabins" see how our ancestors built houses using raw materials in Iowa.

Apr 12 Vendor/Crafts Fair. Currently at the Center: World of Antique Metal & Mechanical Dolls, also Kautz Farm (working Century Farm in Buffalo, IA.)

Please enjoy our new column about a SCHPS member.