

# Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



Thursday, June 12, 2014  
6:30 p.m.

The American Commercial and Savings Bank building, the tallest building in the Quad City area, is located at 201 West 3rd Street. It is a twelve-story structure with a three-story clock tower built of limestone over a steel frame. The lower story facade possesses beautiful and expressive detail, seen in the ornate, metal entrance, the full-size columns with stylized capitals, and the deeply recessed, Roman arched windows. The building was designed by the Chicago architectural firm of Weary and Alford. The Walsh-Kahl Construction Company constructed the American Commercial and Savings Bank from 1926-1927. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.



The main lobby area is a large, two-story room lit by the oversized, Roman arched windows of the east elevation. The entire lobby ceiling is painted in a multi-colored Italian Renaissance design created by Chicago artist Alexander Rinoskopf and executed by the Davenport decorating firm of Hartman and Sedding. In addition there are ten large murals which provide a history of Davenport from 1816 through 1861. The largest mural is a fifteen by nine foot painting by Davenport artist Hiram Thompsen depicting the 1832 signing of the treaty after the Black Hawk War which hangs prominently on the south wall. It was installed in 1928.

The site has long been associated with banking in Davenport being the location of the German Savings Bank, founded in 1869. By 1916 it was the largest bank in Iowa. Anti-German sentiment during World War I resulted in the name change to American Commercial and Savings Bank. When V.O. Figue became associated with the bank in 1931 it was named Davenport Bank and Trust. The bank was sold to Norwest Bank in 1992 and became Wells Fargo Bank in 1998 when Norwest merged with Wells Fargo. In 2005 the building was purchased by Financial District Properties. A \$7.5 million renovation project in 2013 converted the building's fifth, ninth, tenth and eleventh floors into 29 market rate apartments. Wells Fargo Bank remains, alongside other commercial and residential tenants.

## June 2014 Newsletter

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*Researcher*  
Coky Powers, 940-3802

SCHPS Address  
1820 Grant Street  
PM Box 5017  
Bettendorf, IA  
52722



## About a SCHPS member

### Alex Connor

As the newsletter editor, I thought that I could let you know a little about me. I was born in Fort Knox, Kentucky and from there moved to Virginia, Missouri, Texas, and now here, Bettendorf, Iowa. I have been attending Bettendorf Schools since the middle of my seventh grade year and am involved in my high school's yearbook and newspaper. I am sixteen and turning seventeen in late August.

My interests within high school involve anything that has to do with English and sometimes math. I strive to make the honor roll along with taking AP and honors classes. This upcoming school year I will be a senior, and I plan on graduating early in December and then starting school at either Iowa State or University of Iowa to pursue Journalism.

Besides school, I work at Whitey's Ice Cream and Hy-Vee. I have been working at Whitey's since early August of last year and Hy-Vee since mid-February of this year. I was recently able to save up enough money to buy a 2005 Buick Lacrosse in April, and she is my pride and joy.

Besides school and work I like to read, write, and spend time with my family and friends when I can find the time. I have also been doing this newsletter for about a year now.

I have a Pomeranian named Rocky and a Holland Lop named Gizmo who I love very, very much.

Thanks for reading and getting to know a little bit more about me, your newsletter editor.

## 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.

**Remember Dues were due June 1, 2014 for the 2014-2015 seasons – Please mail in or see Ferenc at next meeting.**

**\$15.00 for email only -- \$20.00 for postal mail. Our address is: SCHPS, PM Box 5017, 1820 Grant St, Bettendorf, IA 52722**

*Right: The bank can easily be seen in the Quad Cities skyline.*



Thank you to Mike Poster, SAU, for the tour of Ambrose Hall at Saint Ambrose University and the treats at the end. Great job at arranging, Mike Hustedde.

Clinton's Curtis Mansion Tours on Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 until Labor Day.

I hope everyone got to see the article for our Historical Preservation awards in the Sunday May 25 QC Times.

## SCHPS Upcoming Events

**July 10** "pot luck" at Schuetzen Park Davenport. SCHPS will be supplying the fried chicken and ice tea/lemon aid, so please let us know if you are planning to attend so we will know how much to order. Come and see their new pergola in front the Lorenzon Pavilion. It was meant to support the hops bushes planted there this May ... Above the pergola is the colorful and symbolic mural completed last year ... The Park celebrated its 144 year Jubilee (1870-2014) this June 12<sup>th</sup> – just before our meeting at Dav Bk.

### Other announcements

The Figge has some great events for the summer call 563-345-6647

Kathy Wine has some great Channel Cat Programs:

**Jun 17 and 19:** Native Americans and the Mississippi River

**July 8 and 10:** Arsenal Island History

**July 15 and 17:** Rafting Logs to Q-C Lumber Mills

**July 22 and 25:** Historic Bridges of the Quad-Cities Riverine Talks

**June 25 and 28:** Decoding the Past: Seeking Saukenuk and Black Hawk's Home Sites

**July 16 and 19:** Mississippi River Barge Fleeting

**July 30 and August 2:** Credit Island: Plans for the Future

**August 13 and 15:** Gold Coast Historic Walking Tour

**August 27:** State of the River

\*Please also remember that we are looking for a news gatherer for the newsletter for next 6 months.