

# Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



Thursday, July 10, 2014 6:30 p.m.  
A SCHPS Picnic at Schuetzen Park

Schuetzen Park was a 23 acre amusement-style park created by German-Americans, primarily as a site to practice a form of target shooting that they brought with them from Germany. Several dozen "Schuetzen Parks" once existed across the U.S. for this purpose. From 1870-1923 the Davenport Schuetzen Park flourished and even survived the events of WWI and prohibition. However, as Davenport grew around the park, which was once considered "in the country," the Davenport Shooting Association sold the site to the Psychopathic-Chiropractic Sanitarium. The Sanitarium's interests eventually transferred to the Davenport Good Samaritan Center, which still occupies a small portion of the park's original grounds. The Schuetzen Park Gilde launched a community effort to re-consolidate and purchase the various parcels of park property that had been sold-off over the years since 1923, and in 2003 the park officially reopened to the public as a "Nature Park" deep in the heart of West Davenport. Gone are the shooting ranges, bowling alleys, roller coaster, beer hall, music pavilion and street car line, but the site which was loved by its creators for its natural beauty has been saved for future generations to enjoy. The last structure built on the site in 1911, the streetcar pavilion, still stands and is undergoing a multi-year restoration process. The park also maintains significant archives of items closely related to the Park and the organizations associated with it. Future plans for the Park could include a small multi-use lodge structure.

More info about the Park can be viewed at: [www.schuetzenpark.info](http://www.schuetzenpark.info).

**For the picnic at Schuetzen Park pavilion, you MUST call in a reservation so we will know how much food to order.**

We will be furnishing the chicken, iced tea and lemonade – free to members and spouses/partners.

It will be \$5.00 for guests.

Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish and your own plates and utensils.

We traditionally do not meet in August, so the next meeting will be September 11.

Thank you to Coky Powers for arranging the Dav Bank/Wells Fargo tour for our June 12 meeting. Mr. Tony Knobee, president of the bank, showed us the bank in detail: the subterranean vaults, the main lobby areas (w/historic paintings for the State of Iowa), the board room, and finally the 2-story apartment (3 bedrooms) occupying part of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> floors – what a view!

## July 2014 Newsletter

### *President*

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### *Researcher*

Coky Powers, 355-8577

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



## About a SCHPS member

### Rex Grove

I was born in a back bedroom of a farm house in central Iowa, the sixth of seven children. Since I didn't like the farm work or the isolation of being seven miles from the nearest town, I made my escape by enrolling at Wartburg College as an English major. I graduated from college in 1960 and found a job in a small, mostly Norwegian town called Story City, IA. I stayed there for two years and then moved on to teach in Marshalltown, IA, for a year. In the fall of '63 I migrated to Iowa's eastern border to teach at Pleasant Valley for thirty-two years. In the meantime I completed a Master's degree at Central Michigan University.

My wife Susan and I have two children: Ben, married with two children, living in St. Paul, MN; and a daughter, Jenny, who lives in Bolivia. She was in the Peace Corps and met her future husband there. They have three daughters, making a total of five grandchildren for us.

The first home we bought was an 1865 Victorian house, complete with tower, on East Tenth Street in Davenport. After ten years there, working on a forty-foot ladder to scrape and paint, I had had enough of that. We moved to a cozy 1927 cottage-like house in McClellan Heights, where we lived and raised our children for twenty-seven years. Eight years ago Sue and I moved to Lincoln Pines, a new development in Bettendorf. This new place has amenities that make life easier (attached garage, insulation in the walls, windows that stay up without a stick (what a concept!), closets, working electrical outlets, etc.) I have been secretary for SCHPS for thirteen years.

## Reminders

Meetings are second Thursday of each month.

City of Davenport is putting on a big event August 30, 2014 to celebrate the Battle of Credit Island at Credit Island. It was 200 years ago and part of the War of 1812. Much exploration of the site has occurred recently.

Following is the Schedule of Events:

**8:30 – 10:00 am** Nature walk

**9:00 – Noon** Exhibitor Booths Open (and we will be offering our applications for membership)

**10:00 – 11:00** Presentation.

Membership dues were due June 1, 2014 for the 2014-2015 seasons – Please mail or see Ferenc at the 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

Please continue to attend events at the German American Heritage Center as well as the Figge Art Museum over the summer.

Right:  
"House on the Hill" for  
September 11  
tour



*Programs at the German American HC, 322-8844:*

**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2pm:** The Symphony Immigrates to America: From Wiener Schnitzel to Melting Pot

**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> 2pm** Larry Minard: Six Flags Over Scott County ... That's Missing Two Townships

*Exhibits at the German American HC:*

**Through July 20<sup>th</sup>:** 100 years 100 Stories: The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra

**Through July 28<sup>th</sup>:** The World of Berta Hummel

**From August 3<sup>rd</sup>:** New Exhibit on the Berlin Wall

**From August 3<sup>rd</sup>:** New Exhibit on Berlins across the US

## SCHPS Upcoming Events

**September 11** will be a tour of "House on the Hill" at Augustana by Kye Swanson 6:30-8pm. This had been the Weyerhaeuser estate in days gone by – the home is fantastic.

Gold coast tour **Aug 13 and 16** call Marian McGinnis for details 563-326-3290

## Other announcements

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

Kathy Wine has some great Channel Cat Programs:

**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

We are still looking for a board member to join THE TEAM and someone to be the news gatherer for the society.

Is there a place of interest you would like to visit? Please tell a board member – we are always on the lookout for interesting places to visit.