

# Scott County Historic Preservation Society

**Dec. 11 at 5:30**

**Celebrate *100th birthday* at 'Col'  
Ballroom**

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*Please call Barb or Chris no later than  
Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for clarifications,  
reservations, or cancellations. Thank you.*

The meeting/meal is free to members and \$5.00  
for each guest.

We will have a holiday dinner. *Please note earlier time.* The main course and a vegetable will be catered – so we need your commitment ASAP. The other vegetables, salads, and desserts will be “pot luck” from the membership. Coffee will be furnished and you may bring wine.

We will have a historical presentation and tour by Ms. Leight Reitz, Events Coordinator. The 'Col' Ballroom was originally a wooden structure in 1896 as the “Sanger-fest Halle” and over 100,000 guests flooded into Davenport for the 4-day event. All hotels and guest rooms were filled to capacity. After this event it was renamed the Coliseum for dancing and social events. It burned down a few years later. The current Coliseum was rebuilt across the street in 1941 of brick to be more fireproof and opened on Labor Day. It had “10,000 feet of glistening dance floor, a balcony café, and booths for 800 persons.”



Linda Roy has a restored Bush & Gerts antique piano in very good condition available free to anyone who wants it. Manufactured in Chicago, circa 1896. Serial # 16740. Mahogany. Upright. Baby Grand. Requires annual tuning. Beautiful detail. With handmade matching bench. 28 inches deep 63 inches long. I would like it in a historic home. It needs a loving home. Thanks very much.

[linda.roy@gmail.com](mailto:linda.roy@gmail.com)  
563-340-8200



**SCHPS Address**  
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**December 2014  
Newsletter**

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## SCHPS Upcoming Events:

**Dec. 11** our December 11<sup>th</sup> holiday meeting will be at the Col Ball room as a catered/pot-luck. We will be helping celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Col with a program by Leight Reitz, Events Coordinator.

This year's Farnam Dinner will celebrate Ralph Modjesky's life and achievements."

Remember he designed the RI Arsenal Bridge as his first and the Moline Suspension (I74) as his last.

## Other Upcoming Events:

There are so many activities scheduled for this time of year, so I have decided to just list phone numbers. You may be interested in other historical groups and we are always welcomed.

German American Heritage 563-322-8844

Moline Preservation Society 309-762-3058

RI County Historical Society 309-764-8590

RI Arsenal Historical Society 563-355-2823

Figge Art Museum 563-326-7804

Putnam Museum 563-324-1933

Comm University has the February courses on line at: [www.communiversty.org](http://www.communiversty.org) again some good local historical interesting ones.

*Remember if you have any places you would like to visit, tell a board member so we can try to set it up for all of us.*

## About an SCHPS member

*Roberta Shadensack*

I was born in Spring Valley, IL on the Illinois River, 100 miles west of Chicago on Interstate 80. At 18 years I entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of St. Francis, Peoria, IL where I studied the rule of St. Francis, Gregorian Chant, piano and courses that prepared me to be a teacher. For three years I led a cloistered, monastic life. As Sister Mary Giles I taught children in grades 4 through 8 in parochial schools, classroom music, piano studio and was a church organist and choir director. After a score of years I departed from religious community and worked in campus ministry in Mankato, MN, then Marycrest and Augustana Colleges.

In time I served in three Iowa parishes as Director of Religious Education: Granger, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport and Cedar Rapids. I chose to return to the Quad Cities where I substitute taught in Davenport Community Schools for 16 years.

I've had the good fortune to travel to countries in Europe five times as well as eastern Canada, Mexico and South America. Each trip was enriching in learning about geography, arts and culture of the people. My interest in historic preservation began 25 years ago when I had the opportunity to join SCHPS. I served on its board and as vice president. In that position I planned programs for the group. The home I chose to buy on Farnam Street, Davenport, was built in 1889. Its abstract informs me that the home rests on land granted to Margaret Alexis LeClaire on May 5, 1840. It was a gift to her from the Natives who first inhabited this land.

I have spent years in the study of piano and have been a church organist for 45 years. I continue with this work in semi-retirement. I enjoy gardening, biking, attending lectures, and programs in the arts.

Along the way I completed a BA degree in music education at St. Ambrose College, Master's degree in Music Education at the University of Illinois and a Master's in College Student Development at Mankato State University.

### THANK YOU TO...

A special thank you to **Coky Powers, for arranging our November meeting as a tour of the Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center at the Davenport Public Library.** Amy Groskopt, Assistant Director of the Davenport Public Library, and Jessica Mirasol, Special Collections Supervisor, they shared the resources with all of us last month. **Another thank you to Alex Wolking for the BONUS house tour of Overview Mansion on November 20.**