



Scott County Historic Preservation Society

First Meeting: February 11 at Terry Genz and Mike

Tollenzer's house, 321 West 6th St., Davenport, in the Gold Coast

The Julia (Tritchler) & Henry Frahm house was built in 1880. Henry was the son of Matthias Frahm who owned and operated Davenport's first brewery (1858) which stood right next door. (Henry became partners with his father and the brewery became "Matthias Frahm & Son"). The original house had just 6 rooms with a shed style, nearly flat roof with Italianate eave brackets and parapet. In 1885, the Frahms hired Davenport's premiere architect, Frederick G. Clausen, to enlarge the house by 5 rooms. This expansion included a spacious living room, a bedroom above, and added 3 large rooms on 3rd floor by raising the roof to its current second empire style, slate, mansard design. A fourth story tower was also added above the new addition (tower removed in the 1950s). The 3rd floor then contained two spacious bedrooms and a very large "party" or "recreation" room.

Then, around 1891, Julia & Henry enlarged their house again by adding 4 more rooms to the rear which included a large dining room, a sunroom, a spacious kitchen/butler pantry, and a large bedroom above (the kitchen was then moved to the basement, under the very large butler/serving pantry). The exterior design included a 2 1/2 story bay tower, a kitchen porch, and a very large second story veranda overlooking downtown Davenport. Also, after purchasing a house next door and demolishing it, a port-cochere drive-through, a brick, circle drive, a fish pond, and a large water fountain were added to the west side of the house. The Frahms had eventually enlarged their 6 room house into 15 rooms (approximately 5,000sq. ft.)

The interiors were originally decorated with wallpapers everywhere, even on the ceilings, as was customary. But with the addition of the last enlargement of the house in 1891, new, decorative pressed tin ceilings covered the wallpapered ceilings in both parlors, gilded decorative plaster cornices and friezes were added to the upper walls, an embossed, leatherized wall covering was added to the dining room walls, and elaborate stencil designs added to the entrance hall ceilings. The interiors must have been quite grand, especially with the inclusion of 10 stained glass windows. After Henry died in the mid-1890s, his widow Frahm married August Steffen Jr. They lived in Julia's home until they eventually built the very grand "Overview Mansion" across the street on top of the hill. They then sold the Frahm House to August's sister, Meta, and her husband, Dr. Carl Matthey.

Fast forward to 1982: After spending decades as 15 apartments and a boarding house, the Henry Frahm House was eventually abandoned. Two attempts to renovate it in the 1980s were unsuccessful. It sat empty and deteriorating. In 1990, the house was put up for sale one last time although it had a potential buyer who anxiously planned to demolish the shell of a house for a parking lot. (The family who owned it did not want it demolished, so they tried to sell it one last time to anyone wishing to save it) That's where the current owners stepped in. The house had already been stripped of its boiler, radiators, electrical wiring, chandeliers, stained glass windows, water pipes, gas pipes, kitchens and bathrooms. It had many broken windows & the city finally had it boarded up in the summer of 1990. But, the house was structurally sound and hints of glory-days-gone-by could still be seen in the ornate moldings, grand fireplaces, inlaid floors, decorative tin ceilings, etc. It was definitely worth saving.

Since purchasing the house in the fall of 1990, a slate roof has been installed, the exterior brickwork has been tuck pointed, most exterior woodwork and trim has been stripped and repainted, many new glass panes installed, the fishpond and water fountain have been unearthed, dozens of sapling weed trees have been removed, several large trees removed, new wiring, new plumbing, new insulation, new furnaces, new water heaters, refinished floors, etc. **Cont. on Back.**

February, 2016 Newsletter

President

Judy Belfer, 324-7779

Vice President

Chris Iossi, 355-6298

Secretary

Rex Grove, 355-8727

Corresponding Secretary

Jean Froehlich,

324-7643

Treasurer

Ferenc Beiwel,

386-1969

Newsletter Editor

Ginny Aumann

Board Members

Mary Costello,

326-2158

Barb Erickson, 324-7151

Cheri Musick,

(214)405-4600

Historical Researcher

Coky Powers, 355-8577

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

SCHPS Events

Our April meeting on Outdoor Privies will be April 21– which is the third Thursday NOT the second Thursday of April– sorry for the scheduling problem.

The April meeting will be at the Bettendorf Library and please invite your family, neighbors and friends. More events will appear in next month's newsletter.



Other historical contacts we recommend you call for tours/lectures:

Butterworth Center/Deere Wiman House: [309-743-2700](tel:309-743-2700)

Figge Art Museum: [563-326-7804](tel:563-326-7804)

German American Heritage Center: [563-322-8844](tel:563-322-8844)

Karpeles Manuscript Museum: [309-788-0806](tel:309-788-0806)

Moline Preservation Society: [309-762-3058](tel:309-762-3058)

Putnam Museum : [563-324-1933](tel:563-324-1933)

RI Arsenal Historical Society: [563-355-2823](tel:563-355-2823)

RI County Historical Society: [309-764-8590](tel:309-764-8590)

Schuetzen Park (700 Waverly Road) in West Davenport: [563-322-5489](tel:563-322-5489)

Cont. from Front: After many years of tireless hours, triumphs, setbacks & drained bank accounts, the progress continues. Mike Tollenaer and Terry Genz have most recently made several costly improvements. The iron roof cresting was removed, cleaned, repainted, then reinstalled after a new flat roof was installed on top of the house. The large second story rear veranda was jacked up and fortified, the floor received rigid insulation panels, new overlayment, then new all-weather rubber flooring to cover the entire veranda. Two new basement window wells were installed in the front yard. Also, two new water heaters & 2 new high efficiency furnaces were installed to replace the units Terry had installed 23 years ago. The most exciting expense was the recent acquisition of 8 original stained glass windows. There are many more upgrades and improvements planned, but they will be executed eventually, as Terry and Mike plan to stay in the house as long as life allows.

About a member

Michael Tollenaer: Mike grew up in Milan, Illinois, graduating from Rock Island High School. He attended Western Illinois University, majoring in Music Education. He conducted his student teaching at Davenport's Central High School and is currently Assistant Director of Bands in the Rock Island School District where he has taught for 24 years. He plays multiple instruments, especially the trumpet and flute. Teaching and music are his passion.

Terry Genz: Terry grew up in Rock Island, Illinois and graduated from Rock Island High School. He attended Olivet Nazarene University where he studied art and music. He worked for an international division of Verizon (formerly MCI, then Worldcom) for 20 years. He is currently temporarily retired. He has lived in 3 important, historic houses in the Quad Cities, which includes the current Henry Frahm House. He lived in the Potter House, in Rock Island. (Minnie Potter took over ownership and management of the Rock Island Argus newspaper at the death of her husband in 1898 until her death in 1936). Then, Terry briefly owned the Ebeling House in Davenport. (Arthur Ebeling was a prominent local architect in the early 1900's with many notable designs, including the Kahl mansion, the Kahl Building, the Blackhawk Hotel, the Joseph Bettendorf mansion, the Scott County Courthouse, etc., as well as the home he built for himself & his family). Terry is passionate about old houses, old buildings, local history, antiques, and gardening.

Other happenings

The 13th Annual Farnam Dinner will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Fort Armstrong. Date: Friday evening, March 18, 2016; Place: St Ambrose University Rogalski Center

George Eaton, Command Historian, with the Rock Island Arsenal Museum, will talk about the Centennial Celebration of the fort held in 1916.

The main speaker for the evening will be Dr. Samuel Watson, professor of history at the United States Military Academy, West Point. He is the author of two books on the Army on the Frontier, "Jackson's Sword: The Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1810-1821" and "Peacekeepers and Conquerors: The Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1821-1846." Dr. Watson will speak about the Army presence at Fort Armstrong, its local, regional and national impact not only in warfare, but also in creating stability for the expansion of trade.

Schedule: 5:00 p.m. Viewing Displays, Cash Bar, Raffle Ticket Sales; 6:15 Dinner; 7:30 Program; Cost: \$40 per person. Check should be made out to SCHPS (Scott County Historic Preservation Society)

If you are interested please make out your check to SCHPS and call Rex Grove at 355-8727; he will give you info on mailing in your check.

Thank You...

Stacy Klingler for the wonderful talk she gave for our Christmas dinner at the Deere Wiman house and the carriage house and to Roberta Shadensack for her piano playing for our singalong of the Christmas carols.

Please remember our members who have businesses:

(If we have other business owners, please advise Judy Belfer):

Duane Timm who makes hand screened antique wall papers, longtime resident of the Gold Coast.

Jackie Niles who has an antique jewelry store, DARJAC Rock Island on 14 Ave & 31 St.

Dr. Anne Taylor, Veterinary Clinic at 2167-53 St Davenport. She is making her home in the Gold Coast area.