

# Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



**December 8, 2016**

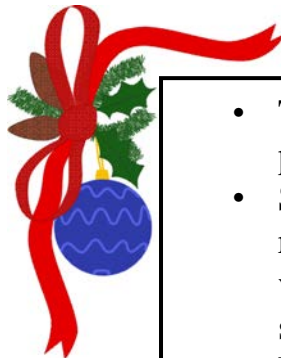
**Holiday Dinner Party**

**6:00 pm**

**German American Heritage Center**

**712 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**Davenport, Iowa**



*President*

Judy Belfer, 324-7779

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Coky Powers, 355-8577

*SCHPS Address*

1820 Grant Street

PM Box 5017

Bettendorf, IA 52722

- This will be a Pot-Luck. Members \$5 per person, guests \$10
- SCHPS will furnish the main dish, a vegetable, rolls, and coffee. Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share and your table settings.
- Let Rex Grove (355-8727) know by Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup> if you are planning on attending.
- Kelley Lao will give the tour and history of our early German society in the QC area.
- Additionally, Diane Franken is helping to sponsor this dinner on behalf of her husband, Joel's significant birthday.
- They are also the originators of the Creative Arts Academy, a school fine arts program in Davenport. Diane is the Co-Director. I am sure they will give us a little talk about this wonderful program for young people of our area.
- Hope to see you there.

A huge thank you to Ernie Brauner, the general manager, for the tour of The Outing Club this November. He truly enjoys the history of the building and club.

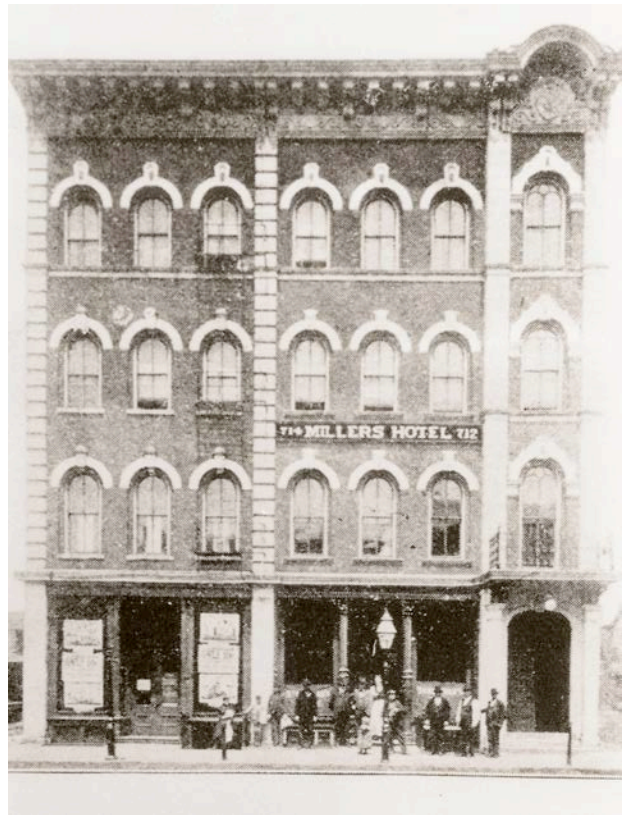
On a sad note, Doug Jones, archaeologist for the State Historical Society of Iowa, passed away on Nov. 10. He was very knowledgeable in the study of the Underground Railroad in Iowa. Doug earned the respect and trust of the Native American community, who knew him as a guardian of their sacred places. Recently he was in Davenport at the Preserve Iowa Summit.



The Miller Hotel, shown here in the 1880s, was purchased by John F. Miller in 1868 as a 3 story brick "Gast Haus." In 1876 Miller erected a 3 story addition on the east side, and in 1877 topped it off with a 4th story over all, creating the Miller Hotel as pictured. It is an excellent example of Davenport's high Victorian commercial architectural period dating from 1861-1890. The 32 room hotel, with restaurant, billiard hall, & saloon was popular with immigrants, visitors & farmers coming to town for business. The hotel was set in a predominantly German neighborhood near the banks of the Mississippi River and Washington Square Park.

The earliest city directory references to this property indicate that Charles Hermann was running a beer saloon & boarding house, probably in a wooden structure, in 1858. Based on many mortgages changing hands in 1861-2, it is surmised that Hermann replaced the wooden structure with a new brick building at this time. The hotel was called the William Tell House, William Tell being a legendary Swiss patriot. John F. Miller was business neighbor to Hermann, operating a soda manufacturing business to the west of the hotel by 1858.

Through the years it has been named Germania, Miller, & Arcade Hotel, the Henry Blessing Boarding House, and the Standard Hotel. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. In 1995 the German American Heritage Center Board of Directors purchased the old hotel & restored & renovated it. Today it stands to preserve & celebrate the German-American heritage of Davenport and the Midwest.



“O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,  
wie treu sind deine Blätter!  
Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit,  
nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit.”

It was commoners—emigrants from Germany—who brought the *Weihnachtsbaum* to America.



Advent calendars are a long tradition in Germany. Children love opening the doors of the calendars as on each day passes during the Advent season. This idea was inspired by a small town in Germany that transforms its city hall each year. The German American Heritage Center will likewise be transformed into a giant calendar with the work of the 7th grade class at the Davenport Creative Arts Academy. Drive by each night in December to see a new window illuminated.

Students from the Creative Arts Academy also designed, created, and installed the Christmas exhibit on the first floor.

## December Events in the QCA

19th Century Christmas at Butterworth Center & Deere- Wiman House on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> noon to 5 - free

RI Arsenal Museum Gift Shop  
Closing sale – open during museum hours

Christkindlmarkt Sale  
German American Heritage Center  
Dec1-23

Christmas in the Village  
Village of East Davenport  
Dec 2&3

Remember the big fund raiser for the Col Davenport Historical Foundation is the Christmas Tea at Quarters One on Rock Island Arsenal is Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please call Judy Tumbleson for details 309-786- 5980 or email her at: [jackt2906@gmail.com](mailto:jackt2906@gmail.com). The tea has been a sell out for the past two years.

Concerning City Cemetery at 1625 Rockingham Rd: A slate plaque to honor members of the Schleswig Holstein Kampfgenossen of Davenport was installed 10/26/16 in the Sexton's Cottage. Forty-three members of that organization are laid to rest in the cemetery, which may be the largest concentration of veterans from that war found outside of Germany.

The plaque was paid for by the ASHHS Endowment Fund, with research for the project having been done by Kory Darnall and Scott Christiansen. A patriotic drapery will eventually be installed to frame the plaque. The plaque can be seen Memorial Day and Veterans Day weekends, or with special arrangements made by calling 563-449-2358



## Ongoing Projects:

The Civil War Soldiers' Monument, which is situated on the northeast corner of the Rock Island County Courthouse lawn, is in dire need of repair. The Rock Island County Sheriff's Department, in conjunction with the Rock Island County Historical Society and the Civil War Roundtable of the Quad Cities, are in the process of raising funds.

SCHPS has joined with Victory Enterprises to submit for a grant to make a virtual reality program of basic old house repairs for new old house owners.

Campbell's Island State Memorial Preservation Project to restore the monument for the 1812 Civil War battle.

**About a member:**

John Brassard Jr. is an author and historian. He has a degree in History from Iowa State University, and is the co-author of "Scott County Cemeteries," a book about some of the former residents of our county. Mr. Brassard writes a regular column about Clinton County history called "Brassard's Attic" for the DeWitt Observer. His work has also been featured in the Quad City Times, the North Scott Press, and the Catholic Messenger. He does volunteer work for Walnut Grove Pioneer Village, and has also worked with the Central Community Historical Museum, Catholic Historical Center, and the Clinton County Pioneer Cemetery Association in Clinton County.

John will be taking over the newsletter starting next year. So please if there is anything you want to share with the membership, please send it along to him at: [jbrassardjr@yahoo.com](mailto:jbrassardjr@yahoo.com) and if there is any place or person you think the membership would enjoy, please advise a board member.

Please remember our members who have businesses:

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.



**A note from Judy:**

I will have some January information concerning other historical societies for you all at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, since we do not meet in January. I look forward to another interesting year with places to go and people to meet. Health and happiness to you all.

From all the members of the SCHPS board, we wish you a safe and fun filled holiday season.