

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



February 2017

Board Members and Contacts

President
Judy Belfer
324-7779

Vice President
Christine Iossi
355-6298

Secretary
Rex Grove
355-8727

Corresponding Secretary
Jean Froehlich
324-7643

Treasurer
Ferenc Beiweil
386-1969

Historical Researcher
Coky Powers
355-8577

Board Members
Mary Costello
326-2158
Connie Carlson
359-8381

Newsletter Editor
John Brassard Jr.
271-2476

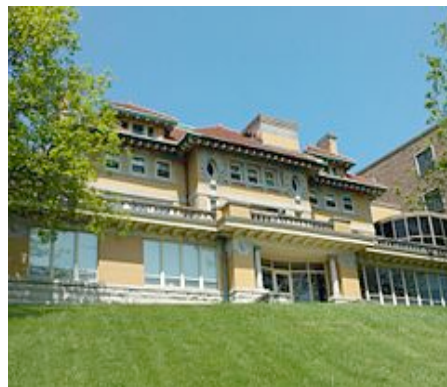
SCHPS Address
1820 Grant Street
PM Box 5017
Bettendorf, IA 52722

New Fun for a Fresh Year

Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen! We've had a good (and cold) month off, but we're well rested and ready to explore some more of our rich local history.

For this month, we're ready to visit the historic Kahl Home at 1101 West 9th Street in Davenport. We will meet at the main entrance of the building at **6:30 pm on Thursday, February 9, 2017.**

The Henry Kahl Home



Henry Kahl was part of the Walsh-Kahl Construction Company, a Davenport contracting firm that managed construction projects on a national scale.

Between 1912 and 1914, Kahl built his home, a 18,000 foot, 3.5 story Spanish Colonial Revival-Style mansion on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, providing a spectacular view of downtown Davenport.

The mansion was designed by local architect Arthur Ebeling. It features hipped roofs and dormers covered with red-clay tiles. Stained glass windows, leaded glass windows, columns, and a piazza also add character and decoration to the exterior.

Through the front door, a wood-paneled grand foyer awaits guests. Directly ahead, a grand staircase rises elegantly to a landing, then splits off to the left and the right.



Also on the main floor is a formal parlor with plaster ornamentation on the ceiling, and an elaborately wood paneled dining room with a fireplace.

On the second floor were the family bedrooms, while the third floor had a ballroom. A bowling alley was located in the basement.



Henry Kahl passed away in 1931. His daughter, Elizabeth, took over the home. Her husband was V.O. Figge, the legendary bank president who helped to make the Davenport Bank and Trust Company into the largest bank in the state of Iowa.

In 1954, the Figge's donated the mansion to the Catholic Diocese of Davenport. Soon after, the Congregation of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm were invited by the bishop of that diocese to open a nursing home there.

The nuns gladly accepted and for the next fifty-eight years did just that, building additions in 1963 and 1987 in order to accommodate more residents.

In 2012, the Carmelite Sisters moved the nursing home to a new facility on Jersey Ridge Road in Davenport. For the next three years, the grand old home would sit vacant on the bluff.

In 2015, local businessmen Dave and D.J. Necker made an investment and began to undertake the work of renovating the home.

Preservation was always in their minds. All of the main level rooms of the mansion were restored. All of the original fireplaces, elaborate plasterworks, hardwood floors, decorative windows, and coffered ceilings were kept.

In the end, the mansion was converted into fifty-seven apartments for senior living, modernizing the building, and yet preserving its character.



A Night in Old Germany

Last month, we had our Society Christmas Party at the German American Heritage Center in downtown Davenport. Delicious dishes were served and wonderful desserts were had by all. A special thanks to Kelly Lao, the executive director of the GAHC, who was both a gracious host and gave an informative presentation on the history of German-Americans in Davenport.

The night concluded with a tour of the building and the German-American history exhibit.

Thank you to all of those who helped make the SCHPS Christmas Party a resounding success!

Ongoing Projects for the SCHPS

The SCHPS is assisting member and active preservationist Kory Darnall with an on-going project at City Cemetery in Davenport. Mr. Darnall and SCHPS Historical Researcher Coky Powers have identified and placed official markers on the graves of nearly 60 veterans interred on the grounds, including one veteran of the War of 1812.

The Scott County Historic Preservation Society, in conjunction with Victory Enterprises, has submitted a grant to develop a virtual reality program that teaches basic home restoration techniques for owners of old and historic homes.

The Campbell's Island State Memorial Preservation Project is seeking to restore a war monument dedicated to the Battle of Campbell's Island, a battle that took place on Campbell's Island, Illinois, during the War of 1812.

Coming Next Month....

We have a great tour planned for you next month, folks. On **March 9**, we will meet at Rivermont Collegiate to tour the former Joseph Bettendorf mansion. Joseph Bettendorf was the brother of inventor William Bettendorf and co-founder of the Bettendorf Company, an economic powerhouse in the region for decades. Join us for a fascinating tour of a beautiful and historic home at 1821 Sunset Drive, in Bettendorf. As always, we look forward to seeing you there!