

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



June 2017

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A Special Thank You to Chief Washburn

Hello all! As usual, we kick off this month with a special thank you to the host of our last tour, Davenport Fire Chief Washburn. She was gracious enough to give us a wonderful tour of the newly-renovated Central Fire Station in Davenport.

Chief Washburn personally fought to retain many of the original architectural details of the building, while others simply wanted to take the path of least resistance and get rid of them. Thanks to her, the fire station both honors our past and remains functional for the brave fire people working in the modern world.

Picnic at Schuetzen Park



In 1870, the Davenport Schuetzengesellschaft (later called the Schuetzen Verein) created this "Schuetzenpark," or shooting park, as a target range for rifle marksmanship. In addition to the shooting and target houses, the park included an inn, dance hall, music pavilion, zoo, bowling alleys, roller coaster, refreshment stands, athletic field, picnic grounds, and other amusements. As many as 12,000 people visited the park in a single day for major events.

The popularity of Schuetzen Park began to decline around 1917, when the anti-German sentiment from World War I restricted the activities of German-Americans and led to the prohibition of the use of the German language in public. The park was dealt another serious blow in 1919 when the "Prohibition Act" outlawed the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, which had been a major source of revenue for the park.

It was sold in 1923, and it became the site of the Chiropractic Psychopathic Sanitarium. In 1960, much of the property again changed hands to the Davenport Good Samaritan Center. Today, what remains of this special site is being preserved as a "Wildpark" through the efforts of the Schuetzenpark Gilde.



The only original remaining park building is the 1911 street car waiting station, which was named a local historic landmark in 1998 by the City of Davenport.

The Channel Cat is Back!

Summer is here again, and with it some wonderful historical summertime tours on the iconic QC Channel Cat!

Channel Cat Talks: All Channel Cat Talks meet at the Riverbend Commons, 2951 E. River Drive, Moline, Illinois from 9 - 10:45 am.

6/6/17, 6/8/17: The Mississippi River Ecosystem Across Two Centuries - Jeremiah Haas, Exelon Generation

Listen to a review of the river from the late 1700's to the present. Learn about the physical and regulation changes, and some of the historical events that shaped the Mississippi River, both biological and regulatory.

6/13/17, 6/15/17: The Lock and Dam System - History and Operations - Anthony Heddelsten, Civil Environmental Engineer

Learn about the history of the local USACE office, regional locks and dams, and their operation and engineering. Weather and time permitting, lock through Lock and Dam 15.

6/20/17, 6/22/17: Rafting Logs to the QC Mills - Gayle Rein, Historian

Explore the history of the QC lumber industry while listening to stories about mill owners, lumber camps, and crews.

Riverine Walks

Riverine Walks are on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:00 - 10:30 am. If you are curious about the terrain or difficulty of a walk, please call River Action for more information at 563-322-2969.

6/14/17, 6/17/17: Archeological Sites Near the Mouth of the Rock River - Ferrel Anderson, QC Archeological Society

Visit the site of Saukenuk, the Sauk town at the time of the Blackhawk War; Black Hawk's home site; prehistoric burial mounds; the ruins of the Hennepin Canal, and more! Participants will car caravan. Meet at: West Parking Lot, Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island, Illinois.

6/21/17, 6/24/17: First Residents: Native Americans and the River - Christina Kastell, Putnam Museum

Learn about the first residents of the QC. Hear how they survived the end of the ice age, and prospered on the land. Hear the story of Black Hawk. Meet at: Dillon Memorial Fountain, Intersection of River Drive & Main Street, Davenport, Iowa.

Upcoming Events

The Rock Island County Historical Society will have an open house on Sunday, June 25th, from Noon to 5:00 pm, at 622 11th Avenue, Moline, Illinois. Come and tour the newly renovated bedroom of the house, as well as see the display of WWI posters and flags.

Take a step back in time at Blossoms at Butterworth on June 25th, from Noon to 5:00 pm. Come and join a unique garden party featuring antique cars, 1800's lawn games, live music, tour of the Overlook Historic Neighborhood, and tours of the Butterworth and Deere-Wiman homes.

A Call for Preservation at Oakdale Memorial Gardens

A conservator of one of the private mausoleums at Oakdale has challenged the twelve other private mausoleum owners there to contribute to the restoration of the Nott Mausoleum, which has fallen into disrepair. It needs extensive renovation that requires the building to be completely torn down and rebuilt. The conservatorship will match up to \$10,000 to help restore it.

The building is in desperate need of help, and there are no family members left alive to manage the mausoleum's upkeep. Please consider contributing to this need. For more information, please contact Oakdale Memorial Gardens at 563-324-5121, or at oakdaleomg@aol.com.

The picnic at Scheutzen Park will take place on June 8, at 6:30 p.m. \$5 will be charged for admission to the event. Chicken will be provided, but please bring a dish to share, your own beverage, and your own table setting. Please RSVP with Rex Grove at 563-355-5727 by June 5.

