

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



October 2017

Board Members And Special Officers

President
Judy Belfer
324-7779

Vice President
Christine Iossi
355-6298

Secretary
Rex Grove
355-8727

Corresponding Secretary
Jean Froehlich
324-7643

Treasurer
Ferenc Beiwel
386-1969

Newsletter Editor
John Brassard Jr.
271-2476

Board Member
Connie Carlson
359-8381

Historical Researcher
Coky Powers
355-8577

Resident Artist
Mary Costello
326-2158

A Great Visit with Great Hosts

Hello again, friends!

Last month, we toured the beautiful William Bettendorf Mansion, which is now the Iowa Masonic Home in Bettendorf, Iowa. We were hosted by some of the gracious staff of the home - Dave and Misty Overfield and Mandi Martin. They were truly wonderful, and we are very grateful to them for allowing us to tour their facility.

There are exciting things happening out and about this October, not the least of which is our tour of the former Theodore Eldridge home in Davenport!

October Tour: The Theodore Eldridge Home



Theodore Eldridge was born in a small home along Brady Street in 1841. His parents had moved to Davenport a few years before, and were some of the first to settle in Scott County.

His much older relative, Duncan, was one of the pioneers of Scott County and one of its first businessmen. Duncan's son, Jacob, would eventually found the city of Eldridge, a town that is thriving and successful today.

These were the pioneer days of Davenport, when the likes of J.M.D. Burrows worked to build the frontier town into a thriving city. Theodore grew up alongside Davenport in many ways, and remembered firsthand some of the key events in the history of the city, such as the murder of Colonel George Davenport.

In 1863, Theodore married another early Scott county native, Anna Parkhurst. They ran a successful restaurant located at Third Avenue and Perry Street for several years, and then Theodore began a real estate business, which was also extremely successful.

Theodore and Anna built the house at 1404 East 10th Street in 1874, and lived in it for the rest of their lives. Theodore retired just after the turn of the 20th Century, and passed away in 1908. Anna would go on to be the oldest living pioneer of Scott County for her time, passing quietly at the age of 94 in 1937.

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



The house passed through many hands over the next several decades, until it finally ended up in the hands of SCHPS members Adam Myles and Evan Hoke. They have been kind enough to invite us to their home this month and talk about the extensive remodeling work they have done.

Book Club Corner With Nancy Neuhaus

The Local History Book Club met on August 22 at the Hauberg House in Rock Island to discuss 'When the Mississippi Ran Backwards,' by Jay Feldman. Eleven people were in attendance, owing to a competing event that night.

The book is about the New Madrid, MO earthquakes that took place in December of 1811, the result of shifting tectonic plates that indeed caused the Mississippi to temporarily run backwards. In writing this book, the author tied in local disparate groups including Indians, settlers, presidents, and even the nation of Spain.

His book has all the elements of a thriller with Indian uprisings, murder, a disposed rich white family to cause trouble, and a catastrophic natural event.

We discussed at length the physicality of the earthquakes along the Mississippi Valley and how the tremors reverberated for months. Our question remains: how is fracking going to affect this little known fault line in the future? Will it come to Scott County next time?

The Local History Book Club is sponsored by the Colonel Davenport Foundation and led by Judy Tumbleson, who can be contacted at judyt100741@gmail.com.

Our next meeting will be October 24 for 'A Brief History of Bucktown,' by Jonathan Turner, at Bucktown in Davenport, Scott County, Iowa. Bucktown has long been a center of high and low culture, while Downtown Davenport is known for its historical buildings, especially the Hotel Blackhawk and the Redstone Building.

Upcoming Events

The Mary Little Deere-Ft. Armstrong Chapter of the DAR are planning a clean-up day for the war memorial on Campbell's Island, Illinois, on October 11th, at 10 a.m. Food and water at lunch will be provided. There is no rain date. We appreciate your support and hope to start on repairing the low perimeter wall surrounding the monument and the tuck point and mortaring as funds allow.

The German American Heritage Center will be hosting its first annual 'Darker Side of Davenport' Ghost Walk Tour. For only \$5, come and join the GAHC every Saturday morning from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm to explore scenic Downtown Davenport and learn more about some of the haunts, murders, and mysteries there! Walking Shoes and a Water Bottle recommended.

The Scott County Historical Society will be having its first annual Ghost Story night at the historic Summit Church at 21980 210th Ave. on Friday, October 6th. Come and join them for an evening full of real ghost stories from not only Scott County, but also from other parts of Iowa, as well! The night starts at 5:30 pm with treats and socializing, and the stories begin at 6:30 pm. The event will be outdoors around a campfire, so dress appropriately for the weather and bring your own chair.

Fall Cleanup for Oakdale Memorial Gardens is from October 15 - November 1.

The Theodore Eldridge home is located at 1404 East 10th Street in Davenport, Iowa. Our meeting and tour will start at 6:30 pm, on October 12, 2017. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the newsletter editor, John Brassard Jr. Look forward to seeing you all there!