

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



April 2018

Merle Vastine's Collection Tour

Last month, we were privileged to enjoy a special tour of the private collection of one of our members, Mr. Merle Vastine.

Mr. Vastine has an extensive collection of Quad Cities artifacts and memorabilia and was more than happy to tell us their stories. Thank you to both him and to our own Coky Powers, who also shared historic photos during the evening.

April Tour: The LeClaire House



Our April home tour will be at the second residence of one of the founding fathers of Davenport- Antoine LeClaire. LeClaire, the interpreter for the Treaty after the Blackhawk War in 1832, was very influential in the history and development of Davenport.

His first residence, called the Treaty House - built in 1833 near 5th and Farnam Streets, was called that because it was built on the site of the treaty signing. When the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River was built, the Treaty House became its railroad station. LeClaire later built the two-story brick Italianate mansion on the river bluff shown in the photo above.

LeClaire lived in the house until his death 1861. His wife, Marguerite, then lived there until her death six years later. The LeClaire House later became home to two Catholic bishops, and then an apartment building after that.

In 1976, the City of Davenport purchased the home and renovation began. The Scott County Historic Preservation Society was very instrumental in restoring the LeClaire House to its former glory.

Karen Anderson, a noted Davenport and LeClaire historian and a gifted storyteller, will be our tour guide. Please join us on Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 pm. Parking is available on the grounds.

Next Meeting: The April meeting will be at 6:30 pm on April 12, 2018, at the LeClaire House at 630 E. 7th Street, Davenport, Iowa. Parking is available on the grounds.

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News from the Col. Davenport History Book Club with Nancy Neuhaus

The Book Club met at Summit Church on March 20th to discuss 'Murder and Mayhem in Scott County, Iowa,' with author John Brassard Jr. Those in attendance received a tour of the building from the president of the Scott County Historical Society, Tom Knapper. Mr. Knapper pointed out the original aisle carpet and church piano, then went on to explain the church is home to what is reportedly one of the oldest continuous Memorial Day celebrations in the state of Iowa.

Okay, folks – Ms. Neuhaus spoke very highly of my book, for which I am extremely grateful. However, it just seems to be in poor taste for me to talk about how cool and keen my book is in this newsletter. So, suffice it to say, Nancy and the rest of the book club liked it, which I think is very cool. 'Nuff said there. – John Brassard Jr.

The next Book Club meeting will be at the Davenport House on the Rock Island Arsenal on May 15, at 7:00 pm. We are reviewing the book, 'Hell Gate to the Mississippi,' by Larry Riney, about the Effie Afton steamboat crash.

SCHPS Elections

SCHPS will be having elections for board members and official positions at our June meeting this year. Currently open positions are: President, Vice President, and Secretary. If you're interested in becoming a board member or elected official, please contact our Interim President, Christine Iossi, at 355-6298.

Need a Hand? Maybe Something in These Ads Might Help!

Mascho Insulation – Many members have saved a lot on heating and air conditioning both their historic and modern homes with this Davenport-based shop. Call the owner, Gary Mascho, at 322-4679 and see what he can do for you!

Need some great antiques to decorate your home? Then DARJAC Antiques is the place for you! Located at the corner of 14th Avenue and 31st Street in Rock Island, DARJAC has helped many SCHPS members find just the right antique for their home, or even the right piece of antique jewelry to make themselves stand out from the crowd!

Upcoming Events at the German American Heritage Center

Please remember that the GAHC will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 1, in observance of the holiday.

Eiermarkt Spring Craft Fair – Saturday, April 7 10-2 pm, Free Admission Our annual Eiermarkt Spring Craft Fair is back! Come visit us and all of our local vendors to find some treats, goodies, and local crafts this spring season! Admission is free for the craft fair!

Bringing Down the Butcher of Prague: The Assassination of Reinhard Heydrich – Sunday, April 8 2pm Dr. Robinson Yost and Dr. Laura Yost, professors of history at Kirkwood Community College, present this program as it nears the 76th anniversary of one of the most daring (and controversial) episode of WWII espionage – the killing of top Nazi official Reinhard Heydrich.

Examining the political and military context of this act of Czech resistance, codenamed Operation Anthropoid, this presentation discusses the details of who planned it, approved it, who carried it out, and its consequences. The talk also highlights locations in Prague memorializing the men who sacrificed their lives, as well as how this dramatic story has been retold on film.