

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



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**Thursday,
April 9, 2026
6:30 PM
Nahant Marsh
4220 Wapello Ave.
Davenport, Iowa**

Nahant Marsh is one of the largest wetlands in the Upper Mississippi River area. The 382 acres are owned by the City of Davenport. It encompasses marshy areas, mesic, wet and sandy prairie, and bottomland forest.

The area has connections to the War of 1812 and the first white settlers in 1833. At one time, there was the village of Rockingham between the Mississippi River and Nahant. The town had 500 residents with hotels, a mill, a ferry, saloons, grocery stores, churches, a post office, and school. Over the decades there was a rail yard with train depot, a steamboat harbor, and night clubs with brothels. Between 1969 and 1994, the Scott County Sportsman Association had a shooting range there. Lead contamination was found which led to rehabilitation of the area.

Over time, most marsh areas along the Mississippi were filled in to be used for farmland. Now Nahant Marsh is a protected natural area.

Directions to take to avoid a train: if using GPS to get here, do not access Nahant via South Concord. Keep going past the Concord traffic light until it reroutes to take you to Wapello Avenue. If you take South Concord, you'll have a high probability of getting stuck by a train and these trains don't move very fast. Upon arrival, drive down our driveway to the Nahant buildings and park in the lot outside of building A. As of right now, we will plan to gather inside of building A.

Thank you to Devon and Brian Irby for allowing SCHPS to tour their unique home at 111 Custer Terrace in Bettendorf last month. They are doing a terrific job of maintaining this architectural treasure.

Save the Date for our upcoming tours!

May 16 Motor Alley, Downtown Davenport, Nehlsen Office

June 11 Annual Meeting, Lost Valley Farm hosted by the Kreiter's, 12010 70th Ave in Blue Grass

We are excited and delighted to **welcome the following new/returning members** and look forward to getting to know you!

Duane Bertels and S. Beaumont, Jeanine Buttermer, Bethany Dietrich, Maria and Keith Ehlis, Kate and Bill Goodworth, Sue and Rex Grove, Seta Hernandez, Jennifer Kowing, Joanna and Geoff Mouming, Cynthia and Tom Nelson, Linda Tank, Jane Burris, Victoria Navarro and Bob Heimer, Tim Huey and Sandy Doran, Michael Foster, Tellina Good, Duane and Maury Gomez, Jennifer Kowing, Kelly Lao, Ann Marshal, Victoria Evans

- Are you interested in learning more about preservation topics and what is happening in the state? Plan to attend the **Preserve Iowa Summit**. This year, it is Tuesday and Wednesday, **June 2-3**, in Ankeny, Iowa . Registration is open. The cost is \$200. Use this link to get more information and register. <https://web.event.com/event/15fb3f27-c3e4-4975-9570-c3263f2ee0cd/summary>
- The City of Moline, along with the Butterworth Center and Deere-Wiman House are hosting a four-part training series. The first session, **Understanding Historic Preservation: Architecture, Material Selection, and Community**, is **Thursday, April 16 from 4-6 pm** at the Butterworth Center. It is free and open to the public. There will be a one hour video presentation followed by breakout groups. Registration is encouraged. www.butterworthcenter.com
- Save the Date! We are bringing back the **Awards Presentation** at our June Annual Meeting. We are extending the submission date to Wednesday, April 8. Please contact a board member. The categories this year are 1-Preserving Local History, 2-Preservation (Individual), and 3-Preservation (Commercial). Please submit recommendations of individuals or businesses you believe merit recognition to board members by April 8th. Submission Guidelines: Must be in Scott County and the building or site must be at least 50 years old (1976 or earlier). For the Preserving Local History award, if it is a book, podcast, Facebook page, etc, the content must refer to sites and events at least 50 years old. Include their name, what they did, and both their and your contact information.
- We are excited to announce a **new partnership with QC PastPort!** From their website: "QC PastPort provides destinations where curious minds meet narratives from the past. We do this by offering self-guided, interactive, physical and digital tours throughout the Quad Cities." Two of the sites with interactive signs are the LeClaire house and Lindsey Park in the Village of East Davenport. To learn more about them, visit their website at <https://qcpastport.com/> As part of our partnership, SCHPS will assist with researching historic sites. If you are interested in helping with research projects, please contact Miriam Whitaker. Location: Deere-Wiman House, 817 11th Avenue, Moline IL 61265 April 16, 2026 4:00-6:00

Memorial

In March we lost 2 people who were heavily invested in Scott County history and preservation -

Mary Ellen Chamberlin: Among her many contributions, she worked for years on the Riverboat Development Authority and was responsible for multiple grants to SCHPS for the renovation of the Antoine LeClaire House.

Marlys Svendsen: a historian, author, and historic preservationist. You can see her book [Davenport: a Pictorial History](#) at Davenport Library. Her focus was on buildings, but she believed "historic preservation was first and foremost about people."

Announcements

Researchers Wanted! Are you or someone you know passionate about local history? We are looking for several people willing to research local Davenport sites. If interested, contact a board member for more information.

Have you checked out our Facebook page? **Scott County Historic Preservation Society**

Mississippin' Through Davenport

a walking scavenger hunt with 7 stops. Includes riddles to solve. Scavengerhunt.com

https://www.letsroam.com/scavenger-hunt/davenport-ia?srsltid=AfmBOoqYMvnuaTuwxXdBnasxXPi_SE_sW8Ui1OahjjPsrPNyXbF9k8ao