



Newsletter

July 2026

SCHPS Annual
Picnic
July 9, 2026, at
6:00 pm

Lost Valley Farm
(Kreiter Tree
Farm)
12010 70th
Avenue, Blue
Grass

Upcoming Tours & Talks

8/13 6:30p Ellen Shapley, Designing the Quad Cities: Untold and Unusual Stories @ Davenport Library, Fairmount Branch*

8/20 6:30p Hose Station No. 7 built in 1905 @ 1354 W 4th St.
Davenport

9/10 6:30p Lambrite-Iles-Petersen House @ 510 W. 6th St Davenport

10/8 6:30p Rivermont Collegiate @ 1821 Sunset Drive, Bett.

11/12 6:30p Unconfirmed - Abner Davison Home @ 1234 River
Drive, Davenport

*Ellen's talk will be held earlier on July 14 at the Davenport Library Eastern Branch if you cannot attend in August.

July Events

Party in the Parks!
5:30p to 7:30p

Visit the SCHPS Booth!

7/16 Lindsay Park

7/30 Duck Creek Park



Take Two!

Our June Annual Meeting was canceled because of the weather, and fortunately, we could reschedule.

The Annual Meeting will begin with a potluck dinner. Please bring your own drink and a side dish to share. SCHPS will provide chicken. To be environmentally conscious, we encourage you to bring your own tableware. Paper goods will be available. Lost Valley Farm has a big barn with tables and chairs. Following the meal, we will conduct SCHPS business, present awards, and tour the farm. You must be a current member (dues paid by that evening) to vote.

Friends are welcome! Please RSVP with the number attending by **Sunday, July 5th**, to Miriam Whitaker at 812-309-8362.

Directions: The farm entrance is 2 miles from the intersection of Mayne and Mississippi. Look for the balloons on the mailbox and follow the lane to the barn.

A BIG Thank you!

To our outgoing Board
Members:
Frank Juarez and
Chris Iossie!

Frank Juarez has served as an at-large member for the past ten years. He has been involved in many activities and organizations promoting preservation. His extensive knowledge of Quad City history has been invaluable, and his enthusiasm is contagious.

Chris Iossie has served on the board for over ten years in various capacities, such as president, vice-president, and secretary. She has volunteered countless hours for the betterment of our community and to keep our history alive. Thank you, Chris and Frank!

What We Learned at the Preserve Iowa Summit

Several Scott County Historic Preservation Society members recently traveled to Ankeny to attend the annual Preserve Iowa Summit, where preservationists, archaeologists, architects, educators, and community leaders gathered to share innovative ideas and success stories from across the state.

One message echoed throughout the conference: the future of historic preservation depends on the next generation. By 2030, the United States will need an estimated 100,000 skilled historic tradespeople to restore and maintain our nation's historic buildings. Many young people are eager to learn traditional crafts such as masonry, woodworking, plasterwork, and window restoration, but there's one significant hurdle—connecting aspiring tradespeople with experienced craftspeople willing to mentor them.

Organizations like the Campaign for Historic Trades are helping bridge that gap through training and apprenticeship programs. Iowa has recently established a State Apprenticeship Agency, creating exciting opportunities for workforce development. The next step is developing partnerships specifically focused on historic preservation trades.

Another encouraging theme was the growing enthusiasm young people have for preserving the places they call home. Across Iowa, communities are finding creative ways to involve youth in preserving historic buildings, planning community projects, documenting local history, and shaping the future of their downtowns. When schools, businesses, local governments, and preservation organizations work together, they create meaningful opportunities for the next generation to become stewards of their communities.

Perhaps the most inspiring takeaway was a simple reminder: **One person really can make a difference.**

The story of Pilot Rock in Cherokee County proves it. This unique natural landmark, known for both its archaeological and historical significance, inspired author James Fenimore Cooper while writing *The Prairie*. As the site became increasingly popular, visitors began damaging the rock formation. Recognizing its importance, one of Cooper's friends stepped forward, purchased the property, and protected it for future generations.

That single act of stewardship preserved an irreplaceable piece of Iowa's history.

As preservationists, volunteers, and community members, we all have the opportunity to make that same kind of impact—whether by restoring a historic home, mentoring a young tradesperson, advocating for preservation, or simply sharing the stories that connect us to our past.



Preserving Beauty, Building the Future

One fascinating lesson from the Preserve Iowa Summit centered on the widespread use of white and cream-colored terra cotta following the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Architects embraced this elegant, durable material, transforming downtowns across America with bright, ornate facades that reflected optimism and progress at the dawn of the 20th century.

Take a closer look the next time you stroll through the Quad Cities. Many of our historic commercial buildings are adorned with intricate terra cotta details, remarkable works of craftsmanship that have stood the test of time. These architectural treasures are all around us, yet preserving them has become increasingly challenging as the number of skilled restoration specialists continues to decline.

The summit also shared an encouraging message from communities that have successfully revitalized their historic downtowns: great preservation doesn't happen overnight, it happens one project, one partnership, and one success at a time.

Again and again, speakers demonstrated that a positive attitude, collaboration, and persistence can transform buildings once considered beyond saving into vibrant landmarks that become sources of community pride. Small victories build momentum. Momentum inspires investment. Investment transforms neighborhoods.

The lesson was clear: historic preservation is possible when people believe it is.

Together, we can preserve the places that tell our story and ensure they continue inspiring generations to come.

Welcome our Newest Board Members Victoria Edwards and Kelly Lao

Victoria Edwards

Victoria Edwards is the Director of Development at Nahant Marsh, where she began her journey as a volunteer before serving as an AmeriCorps Naturalist. She holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from St. Ambrose University and is passionate about advancing conservation through community engagement and philanthropy.

Victoria lives in Long Grove with her husband, two young children, a German Shepherd, and 10 chickens. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, camping, traveling, live music, and spending time with her family.

Kelly Lao

Kelly Lao is Vice President of Museum Experiences at the Putnam Museum and Science Center, where she leads innovative exhibits and major initiatives, including the museum's upcoming triceratops project. Previously, she served as Executive Director of the German American Heritage Center, helping expand its programs while preserving the historic 1871 building.

Kelly holds a master's degree in Museum Studies from Western Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Iowa. She serves on several regional and statewide cultural boards and is a passionate advocate for arts, history, and education. Kelly lives in Rock Island with her husband and three children and enjoys hiking, kayaking, and painting.



2026/2027 SCHPS Board Roster

President
Miriam Whitaker
812.309.8362

Vice-President
Michele Darland
563.52.0382

Secretary
Victoria Edwards
563.210.4587

Treasurer
Duncombe Brooke
917-488-6457

Treasurer Trainee
Kelly Lao
563-336-7307

At-large Membership
Sonja Rekers
563-349-8163

At-large Historian
Christine Deines
563-884-5442

At-large
Kathryn Whalen
605-430-1352

Emeritus
Judy Belfer
563-324-7779

Need to pay your 2026/2027 dues?

Click on this QR code and rejoin
us.

After July, anyone not current
will be dropped off the
newsletter and membership list.
No dues = no news.



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