



# RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

[www.RockIslandPreservation.org](http://www.RockIslandPreservation.org)

Membership Meetings

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| February 21, 2017<br>Tuesday<br>Doors open 6:30<br>Presentation 7:00 PM | Second Baptist Church, 919 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island<br>RIPS presents a program for Black History Month with uniquely Rock Island stories. <i>See related articles inside this newsletter</i>  |
| March 21, 2017<br>Tuesday<br>7:00 PM                                    | Gas & Electric Credit Union, corner of 24 <sup>th</sup> St. & 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Rock Island<br>216 Preservation Awards review and selection. Please be prompt to the 7:00 PM meeting start as doors will remain locked. <i>See related article</i> |
| April 18, 2017<br>Tuesday<br>7:00 PM                                    | Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24 <sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island<br>General business meeting  |

*Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A year goes quickly, and once again it's February and time to renew your RIPS membership. Most memberships expired this month but please check your mailing label for your expiration date, as a few of you are paid for additional years. We are a 501c3 organization so your dues are tax deductible, as allowed by law, as are additional donations. Please use the enclosed renewal form.

You will notice that we have raised our dues and have created different categories of membership. We hope you agree that, after over 30 years with no change, the slight increase is reasonable.

Some of you have taken advantage of an emailed option for our quarterly newsletter. If you prefer not to receive a hard copy, we will email you the direct link for each new newsletter as it is posted on our website. The current newsletter as well as archived newsletters are available to all members and visitors to our site.

Each month, we email meeting agendas and minutes for those who request them, but we do need your email address for this. We do NOT mail such material via the US mail. We will send you a membership card if you request one.

If you have any questions, call Diane Oestreich at 309-788-1845 or email [blueskies78900@yahoo.com](mailto:blueskies78900@yahoo.com)

## PRESERVATION AWARDS

This is the last call to submit ideas for potential awards to RIPS. Awards and Certificates of Recognition will be given for work completed in 2016. Candidates will be reviewed at the March membership meeting. In May, we will host a presentation before the City Council. Please send award suggestions (address and description of work completed) to Diane Oestreich, 788-1845, [blueskies78900@yahoo.com](mailto:blueskies78900@yahoo.com), or Daryl Empen, [daryl@gaselectriccu.com](mailto:daryl@gaselectriccu.com)

Candidates can be an individual, group, or business that has made special efforts to preserve or restore historic structures or whose actions have served to support historic preservation in Rock Island. When awards are for buildings, they are given primarily for exterior work that can be enjoyed from the public right-of-way and are completed during the previous year. Generally, a building must be 50 years old or more and located within the city limits of Rock Island.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Rock Island Preservation Society presents a program for Black History Month

Second Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
919 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201

**February 21, 2017 Tuesday**

Doors open at 6:30  
Presentation begins at 7:00 P.M.

**Black Civil War Soldiers**  
Presented by Virgil Mayberry

**Prince Hall Masonic Home-  
Rock Island's Black Legacy**  
Presented by Diane Oestreich

**FACTS AND FABRICATIONS ~  
Underground Railroad Quilt**  
Presented by Clayton Peterson

When facing the building there are two sets of doors. The entrance to the right leads to the Sanctuary; enter through the left entrance to access the Fellowship Hall.

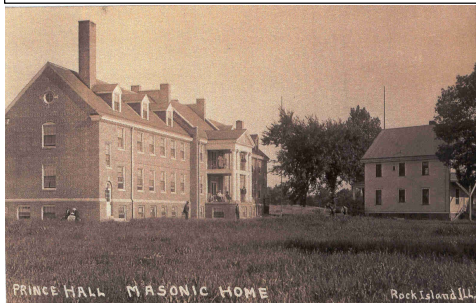
*Socialization and light refreshments to follow.  
Public Welcome*

## 108TH U.S. COLORED INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 108th regiment was stationed at the Rock Island Prison Barracks from September 1864 to May 1865. It was largely made up of former slaves from Kentucky who were charged with guarding Confederate prisoners of war here on Arsenal Island. This presentation will bring to life the history of the 108th.

For the first portion of RIPS' Black History Month presentation, Virgil Mayberry will present an interactive talk on the Colored troops housed at the Arsenal. His presentation will discuss some of their weekend escapades in Davenport's Bucktown as well as some of the positive aspects of having them in the Quad Cities. This captivating talk will give insights into what being "colored" was like in the Quad Cities 150 years ago.

*Right: A formal photograph of Private Christopher Anderson, a member of the 108<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry Regiment, who served as a prison guard at the Rock Island Prison Barracks during the Civil War. .  
(ArsenalHistoricalSociety.org)*



## PRINCE HALL MASONIC HOME- ROCK ISLAND'S BLACK LEGACY

Rock Island is home to a nearly hidden and mostly forgotten treasure of black history. In 1899, local black Masons announced the purchase of a 4 ½ acre lot on the Rock River to provide a home for the aged Masons, widows, and orphans throughout the state. It was named for Prince Hall, an English-born American and the first black man to become a Master Mason. In 1904, a large frame home was constructed on the site, the first Prince Hall Masonic Home.

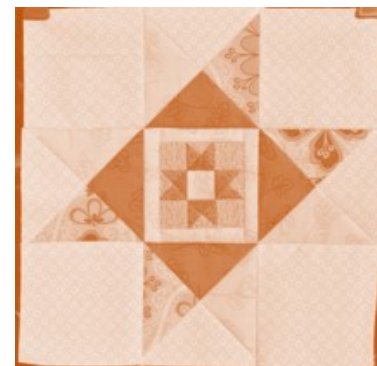
It was not until 1927 that the long-planned, stately building depicted was finally constructed. By 1969 the Prince Hall Masonic Home had been surrounded by apartment buildings, making the original structure nearly invisible. Today it still stands, no longer bearing the Prince Hall name, but commanding a beautiful view of the Rock River and a symbol of a proud and foresighted history.

The presentation includes photos of the original building as well as contemporary views.

## FACTS AND FABRICATIONS ~ UNDERGROUND RAILROAD QUILT

"FACTS AND FABRICATIONS" it is all about the journey. Clayton Peterson began quilting in 2010 following retirement in November of 2009 from the U.S. Postal Service. This fact and fabrications journey includes quilt #25 "Underground Railroad" the story behind many of the blocks in this 'sampler' quilt. The journey for Mr. Peterson and this quilt began in 2011 and finished more than 12 months later in August of 2012. This piece of the program will contain many facts about slavery and escape and many folk lore examples of that journey.

"Ohio Star" is the pattern name of the block pictured to the right. It is one of the blocks featured in the Underground Railroad portion of the program. Many of the Southern Slaves found safe haven in the state of Ohio.



*Upper Left, Prince Hall Masonic Home, postcard, c.1927 (Postcards from Home, RIPS, RockIslandPreservation.org)  
Lower Right, Ohio Star, detail of Quilt #25 'Underground Railroad', photo by Clayton Peterson*

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Rebels at Rock Island

One of the Union's largest camps for Confederate prisoners was right here on Rock Island. The camp came to the attention of movie goers when the fictional Ashley Wilkes of *Gone with the Wind* called the camp the "Andersonville of the North". But the true story of the camp is presented in a book titled *Rebels at Rock Island, A Story of a Civil War Prison* by Benton McAdams.

In the summer of 1863, Commissary General of Prisoners William Hoffman, was looking for places to house captured soldiers. He found what he thought was a perfect spot on Rock Island. And so begins a story that involves eccentric military leaders, punitive cost cutting measures, brutal weather, smallpox, local merchants, profiteering, local newspaper man J.B. Danforth, sympathizers on both sides of the conflict, and the black men of the 108th Colored Infantry brought here from Kentucky to guard the Confederate prisoners.

It is well researched, accurate and a fascinating read.

*Review by Linda Anderson*

*To learn more about the 108th Colored Infantry, attend our program celebrating Black History Month on Tuesday, February 21st.*

## History in Our Own Backyard

The southwest corner of the National Cemetery on Arsenal Island is the final resting place for 50 Union soldiers from the 108th U.S. Colored Infantry. Below is the tombstone of Louis (Lewis) Moxley, age 23, a farmer from Wilson, KY. He died on May 17, 1865 while serving as a prison camp guard at the Rock Island Prison. He is buried on Arsenal Island.

*(Photo by Kris Souza, [www.bqc.wikispaces.com/An+Introduction+to+the+108th+Regiment](http://www.bqc.wikispaces.com/An+Introduction+to+the+108th+Regiment))*



## Second Baptist Church

In 1869, on a lot donated by First Baptist Church member Mrs. John Boyer, a building known as the West Side Mission house was built and some of the early Rock Island pioneers worshipped there.

During 1870-71 a new building, known as McKinley Chapel was built and became the place of worship until 1873 when it was given to pioneers who felt they needed to organize a church of their own. A new congregation was organized.

In 1898 an extension was added to McKinley Chapel but after the completion, there was a fire and the edifice was burned. The Chapel was rebuilt, and the name was changed to Second Baptist Church. At this time, they became a member of the Wood River Baptist District Association, Inc., leaving their affiliation with the Northern Baptist Association.

In 1943 the church experienced another fire and held services at the Rescue Mission until August of the same year. The Church was renovated once again.

In 1964 it was determined that there was need for a new building. The new church was constructed and in September of 1978 a mortgage burning service was held.

In 1993, Reverend Joseph D. Williamson III, was called to pastor and instituted many ministries which caused the congregation to grow physically and spiritually. Another expansion of the church was necessary and the Family Life Center was dedicated in September of 2002.

More information about the Second Baptist Church can be found at [www.sbcricri.org](http://www.sbcricri.org).

***Thank you to the Second Baptist Church for their generosity in hosting our Black History Month event and all their assistance!***



*(Image from [www.sbcricri.com](http://www.sbcricri.com))*

## FRIENDS OF HAUBERG

### Local History Series

7-8 pm Thursdays

\$5 admission, Friends of Hauberg members free

**Feb 16:** Linda Anderson on Olof Cervin and Rock Island's World War 1 Housing Project

Local architect Olof Cervin prepared designs for over 400 houses that were built in Rock Island, Moline and East Moline for the purpose of housing war production workers at the Rock Island Arsenal. Using original drawings, house plans and newspaper articles, we will uncover the story of this United States Housing Corporation project. And we will tell the story of Olof Cervin, one of Rock Island's premiere architects, who designed modern office buildings, large factories, ornate theaters, beautiful churches and lavish homes.

**March 23:** Diane Oestreich on historic parks postcards.

Imagine our city without parks. Public parks dedicated to and landscaped for recreation were a natural outgrowth of the nationwide City Beautiful movement in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The growth of our park system was paralleled by the growth of the picture postcard industry. We'll use these early postcards to show where our parks were and what they looked like.

### Fundraising Social Events

**Mardi Gras at the Mansion**

Saturday, February 25, 2017 7:00 to 11:00PM  
\$35.00 per person

**Murder Mystery Scavenger Hunt at Hauberg**

Saturday, March 4, 2017 6:30-9:00pm  
\$25.00 per person

More information and advanced ticket sales are at  
[www.haubergcenter.org/events.php](http://www.haubergcenter.org/events.php)

## Rock Island Preservation Commission

During the past few years, the Rock Island Preservation Commission has been less active than in the past. Linda Anderson's Landmark application for the Denkmann-Hauberg Estate was a recent highlight as was the consultant-prepared and ultimately approved Heritage Resources Plan. But the day-to-day work of the Commission was very low key. That may change as the city administration is changing. The new city liaison, Ryan Berger, has knowledge of and an interest in historic preservation, and is encouraged by the path set out in the Plan. Right now, the Community and Economic Development Department is understaffed, but we look forward to a much more active Preservation Commission under this new leadership.



Rock Island Preservation Society

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