

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR RIPS MEMBERSHIP

Check the mail label on the newsletter for the expiration date of your membership. Our membership year begins on February 1st each year. When you renew, your next label will show "Membership expires 2/1/2025". All you have to do is fill out the form on the bottom of the previous page and include with your check.

Overall, we are in good financial shape, which is why we keep our dues very affordable at \$15 for an individual or \$25 for family membership. Since we are a 501(c)(3) organization, dues are deductible as a charitable donation as allowed by law.

If you are viewing this newsletter online and wish to renew or join, just send your name, address, email, and phone number to RIPS, PO Box 3261, Rock Island, IL 61204-3261. Your contact information will not be shared with any other organizations or individuals. For those who joined in the last few months of 2023, we automatically extended your membership to 2025.

If you want to receive monthly agendas, minutes, and the occasional email news, send the renewal form on the previous page to let us know your preferences. We can send your quarterly newsletter either by USPS or we can send an online link to the posted newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Rock Island preservation!



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

Membership Meetings

February 20, 2024
Tuesday 7:00 pm

Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Regular business meeting

March 19, 2024
Tuesday 7:00 pm

Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Regular business meeting

April 16, 2024
Tuesday 7:00 pm

Hauberg Civic Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island
Regular business meeting

At your request, an email reminder with the Meeting Agenda can be sent prior to each meeting with confirmation of time and location of each meeting. You will be notified if the meeting is moved to virtual format when weather or other issues require a change.

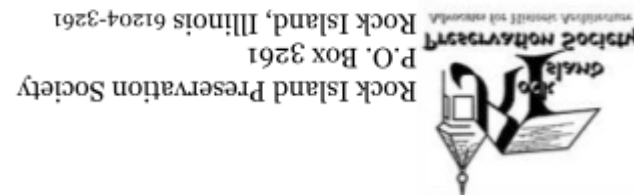
*Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar
For monthly RIPS meeting and activities*

SEEKING AWARD CANDIDATES

RIPS is asking our members for suggestions for potential Preservation Awards, which are presented annually, usually during National Preservation Month at a May Rock Island City Council meeting.

Awards and Certificates of Recognition will be given for work completed in 2023 (or earlier, if we overlooked a prior year's project). Candidates will be reviewed at our March membership meeting. Please send award suggestions, including address and description of work completed, to Linda Anderson at lwickerrph@aol.com or Diane Oestreich at blueskies78900@yahoo.com or call 309/788-1845. If you are aware of a project that is underway but not completed, send the description and address so that we are aware of a potential future award candidate.

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 structures, they are given primarily for exterior work that can be enjoyed from the public right-of-way. Generally, a building must be 50 years or more and lie within the city limits of Rock Island.



SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH



Second Baptist Church, located at 818 6th Avenue in Rock Island, can trace its history to the late 1860s. Mrs. John Boyer, then a member of First Baptist Church, donated a piece of property with the intent of starting a new congregation. Services began in a small building known as West Side Mission House located on the property. It was not long before fundraising began for a new church. At that time, Rock Island County was getting ready to demolish its first

courthouse. The congregation asked for and received demolition rights. They reused the bricks and stonework to construct their new church, which was named McKinley Chapel. As much labor as possible was done by the congregants. It was completed in 1871 with an estimated cost of \$10,000. In about 1906, under the leadership of Rev Crusholm, the name McKinley Chapel was changed to Second Baptist Church.

In January 1965, local architect Gary Hodson was hired to design a larger church, to be built on their current property. General Contractor Willie Franck was hired with the understanding that church members would work alongside the construction crew, contributing their work which included digging trenches for sewer tiles, laying floor tile, and helping whenever they could. A headline in the Rock Island



Argus on May 15, 1969 read “ *A Dream Comes True - New Second Baptist Church Will Be Dedicated at a Ceremony Sunday*”.

The new modern church reflected the intention to open its doors wide and welcome all. It included a fellowship hall, two classrooms, restrooms, and a kitchen. The modern roofline with its exaggerated geometric shape sits atop a long V-shaped sanctuary that leads to a beautiful stained-glass window installed behind the altar. The church building was enlarged as the congregation and outreach grew. Today they offer an amazing range of ministries from bible study to a food pantry to music classes. Just this past year Second Baptist Church celebrated its 150th Anniversary

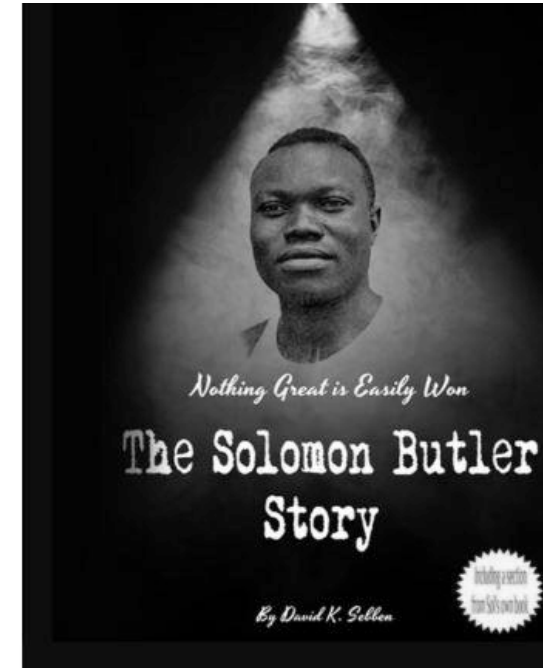
Congratulations to Second Baptist Church!



Photos: Upper left, Second Baptist Church. Right, Early photo of McKinley Chapel. Middle left, RI Argus photo accompanying May 16, 1969 article. Lower left, Entrance into Second Baptist Church



SOLOMON “SOL” BUTLER



Local author and historian, David Sebben, has completed his major research with a will-written biography. It has just been released and is available on Amazon. The book is an eye-opening treat for anyone who loves local history and/or sports. According to Sebben, Solomon “Sol” Butler was probably the greatest athlete you never heard of, which Sebben hopes will change with this book.

It begins with Sol’s father’s life as a slave prior to the Civil War. Subsequently he moved, ending up in Kansas where Sol was born. Early on, Sol demonstrated his athletic prowess in Kansas and then at Rock Island High School. Although he lived here only a short time - coming to Rock Island for his senior year - he quickly became a star. He secured his own way to college in Dubuque where he also starred - basketball, track, plus quarterback all four years. He represented the

United States in the 1919 Inter-Allied Games (a military substitute for the canceled Olympics) and was a participant in the 1920 Olympics. He was the second black quarterback in the NFL, playing several years for different early NFL teams.

After his professional football career, he went on to do many sports related activities, such as forming men’s and women’s basketball teams and he owned the contracts of several black boxers, working with their training and managing their bouts. He was an outstanding individual who met racial hardships with class, perseverance, and character.

“Nothing Great is Easily Won - The Solomon Butler Story”

By David K. Sebben
is available on Amazon.com



RIPS Membership Renewal - 2024 to 2025

If you include your membership label on the reverse side, you do not need to include your name, address, phone or email unless they have changed.

Annual dues are \$15 per person or \$25 per family. Mail this form and your check to:

Rock Island Preservation Society
P.O. Box 3261
Rock Island, IL 61204-3261

Yes **No** I wish to receive monthly email meeting agendas, minutes and occasional updates. (Please include your preferred email)

Yes **No** I prefer an email link to future letters. Please do NOT mail my newsletters.