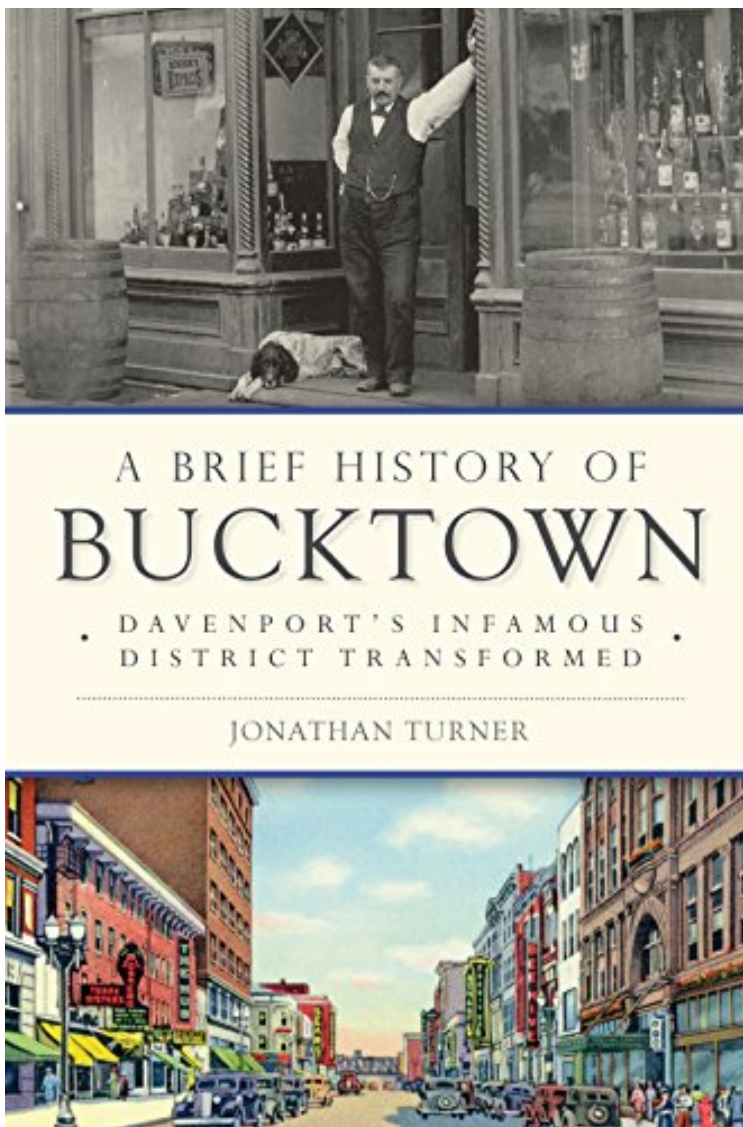


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A Brief History of Bucktown: Davenport's Infamous District Transformed

Jonathan Turner

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Jonathan Turner : A Brief History of Bucktown: Davenport's Infamous District Transformed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Brief History of Bucktown: Davenport's Infamous District Transformed:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful description of a community in constant changeBy Richard Frankwonderful description of a community in constant change. vividly portrays the life of the "other communities" along the river at the turn of the century. Exciting to discover how the the area has come into its own as an arts center

in recent years.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A pleasure to read, a joy to learn this historyBy Bruce Walters, professorJonathan Turner's "Bucktown" is a lively recounting of the Mississippi River's most infamous port. The book centers on Bucktown's heyday as the "Wickedest City in America," tells of its decline and -then- of the recent restoration of its architecture. A pleasure to read; a joy to learn this history.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An interesting urban comeback storyBy M. R. DavidsaverThis is a small but mighty volume that highlights the history and heritage of an important river town. Davenport was part of the Tri-Cities first and then the Quad Cities most recently as they all shared the banks of the Mississippi River. The river brought life, prosperity, and growing pains to an early frontier Davenport that rivaled the likes of cities many times its size. Turner documents it all with faithful quotes from a great many sources. He begins in the 1880s by showing us the booze-soaked red-light district and progresses forward through the boom and bust years of two world wars and a major farm crisis. He ends with an amazing come-back story of urban revitalization.The high point for me was going to hear the Quad City Wind Ensemble preform at St. Ambrose University's Allaert Hall. I'd just finished the part of chapter four that highlighted the cultural influence of the German American population's love of all things musical. The title of the performance was "Fiesta" and the music was lively and uplifting. I felt like I had a direct line back to those rowdy beer halls of Bucktown in its heyday without having to stagger home.There's just so much information here and the before and after photos are very helpful, but it left me wishing for someone to put together a tour to give me more. Turner has done an impressive job with his brief overview. I think he has opened a door to a lot of stories waiting to be told.

German immigrants created leafy beer gardens here nearly two centuries ago, establishing Bucktown as the heart of entertainment in downtown Davenport for generations. In 1916, the founding of the Tri-City Symphony Orchestra at the Burtis Opera House embodied the neighborhood's reputation for high culture. The numerous saloons and theaters, as well as the forty-two documented brothels that flourished within two blocks, lent a bawdy side to the good times. Varied industries thrived through World War II, and downtown bustled with shoppers visiting department stores like Petersen's. Later, the neighborhood struggled and declined as a farming crisis hit the region hard. With revitalized landmarks like the magnificent Hotel Blackhawk and the historic Redstone Building, the community is growing more vibrant as a place to live, work and play. Author Jonathan Turner explores this dynamic history and transformation.

About the AuthorJonathan Turner is an arts and entertainment reporter for the Dispatch and the Rock Island Argus in Moline, Illinois, for which he has written since 1995. During his twenty-eight-year professional journalism career, his work has been recognized by the Illinois Associated Press Editors Association, Northern Illinois Newspaper Association and the Moline Preservation Society. You can see more of his writing at [Facebook.com/JTreporter](https://www.facebook.com/JTreporter).