

Accession 1997-03  
Davenport Public Schools Department/Attendance Medal aka Kuhnen Medal  
Amanda Moldenscheidt, 1890, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

This silver medal is about the size of a 50 cent piece, measuring 1.25" in diameter.

One side is engraved with "**Amanda Moldenscheidt, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, 1890**" in the center and the words "Awarded to" and "Public Schools Davenport Iowa" above and below the engraving. The other side has an image of an oil lamp with flame positioned on top of a book and the words "For good deportment, regularity of attendance and general progress" written around the outer edge.

*Davenport Morning Tribune*; Davenport, Iowa; Friday, June 27, 1890; page 4

"The Pupils of the Public Schools Who Won the Silver Medal"

The following are the names of the pupils in the different buildings and grades, who yesterday received medals for good conduct, regularity of attendance and diligence in study during the past school year.  
School No. 3. Seventh grade: Amela Carstens, **Amanda Moldenscheidt**.

A ca1978 newspaper article from the *Times* newspaper called "Wanted: School Museum" by Donovan mentions a Kuhnen medal.

Kuhnen medal originally a silver medal given to best student in each school. Parents complained of favoritism; changed to copper medal given to every student who completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade; funds for medals donated by Nicholas Kuhnen.

*A History of Davenport's Schools* by Baker also addresses the Kuhnen medal on pages 80 and 81. Based on the description found on page 80 it seems likely this medal is a Kuhnen medal.

Mr. Kuhnen was best remembered for the silver medals he provided to scholars who achieved distinction in attendance, deportment and achievement. The medal awards were discontinued in 1913.

This 1978 book states the mold from which the medals were struck as well as several Kuhnen medals are present in the collection of the Davenport Schools Museum.

**Amanda MOLDENSCHIEDT** was born in Iowa in July of 1877 to Asmus and Anna MOLDENSCHIEDT, German immigrants. In 1890 they all resided at 826 Warren Street in Davenport. According to the Davenport city directory, the closest school to that address would have been School Number 3 at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Warren, later known as Jefferson School.

The 1892-1893 Davenport City Directory lists Miss Amanda MOLDENSCHIEDT as residing at 826 Warren and working at A. C. England & Co. – a millinery and fancy goods establishment under the direction of Miss Anna C. England and Miss Anna S. Kuhpfahl at 318 West 2<sup>nd</sup>. It could be presumed that Amanda concluded her education after 8<sup>th</sup> grade and went on to learn the millinery trade.

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That same directory lists a Miss Emma STROHKARCK as a clerk at A. C. England & Co. residing at 823 Warren – a neighbor to Amanda.

The 1900 census and city directory list 22-year-old Anna's occupation as "milliner". She is living with her parents at 325 Fillmore. Emma STROHKARCK still resides at 823 Warren with her family, including brother Franz, age 26, a hardware clerk at Hanssen's Hardware.

The Scott County Marriage Certificates list Amanda MOLDENSCHIEDT married Frank August STROHKARCK on 25 November 1903.

By 1910 Frank is the president and treasurer of Strohkarck, Stehn & Eckermann Co. and he and Amanda live at 907 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. However by 1915 and from then on Frank is listed as working for Louis Hanssen's Hardware store in various capacities. They went on to have three children, Mildred, Frank and Helen.

Amanda MOLDENSCHIEDT STROHKARCK died in Bettendorf on 13 November 1953.