



CORNUCOPIA

Volume 120 Issue 1

SPRING 2020

Board Officers

Jolene Keeney,
President

Jessica Waytenick,
Vice-President

Rotating Duties,
Secretary

Harvey Hoskins,
Treasurer

Board Members

Ginny Bauersfeld

Judith Belfer

Chet Doyle

Bill Hampes

John Norton

Richard Rowe

Carla Rutin

Deanna Tumbleson

Jack Tumbleson

Judy Vukelich

Jim Westphal

“The mission of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation (CDHF) is to preserve the Colonel Davenport House and site, and foster knowledge of the history and development of the Quad Cities region through tours of the house, exhibits, and educational programming.”

HOUSE NOT OPEN FOR TOURS AT THIS TIME

This year the Colonel Davenport House did not open for the season on May 1 like usual. Illinois has its “shelter in place” order in effect until the end of May to stop the spread of COVID-19. The CDHF also has to follow the directives from the Rock Island Arsenal. It is uncertain when the house will be allowed to be open.



The house is not unlike other attractions in the Quad Cities who have had to close during this time, or cancel events like the planned CDHF Mother’s Day Tea at Quarters One. It is not a good situation for the budget when the CDHF relies on admission money from visitors and school field trips coming into the cash register.

The CDHF Board decided to cancel the annual Pioneer Days event in June. They are considering doing small one-day activities at the house possibly in late summer or fall if it is permitted at that time.

Board members have been allowed individually to access the house for maintenance and administrative needs. Please watch the website and the Facebook page for updates. Thank you for your support!

BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB PLANTING



Thank you to the Bettendorf Rotary Club for funding and completing the planting project last year along the SE quadrant of the division between the Colonel Davenport House and the new Army Family Housing area.

Cornucopia is a publication for CDHF members and volunteers. It is published throughout the year. To submit a story for publication, contact Jessica Waytenick, Editor, at 309-737-4280 or jessica.waytenick@gmail.com

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DAVENPORT HOUSE

As the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation became organized, the need to address repair and restoration became the top priority. Several steps toward fundraising for this venture were taken including the development of a written historical significance of the house (why it should be restored), and having an architectural survey of the house completed by an historical architect.

The Colonel Davenport House is historically significant, not only because it reflects the growth in prosperity of this one man, George Davenport, but also because it reflects the settling of the west on a much larger scale. As Davenport expanded his business interests and involved himself in town development, this house--grand by comparison with others of the time period--became the center of local commerce as well as a crossroad for trade in this region. It became the nucleus about which the Quad Cities developed.



Postcard of the house from 1980

The house was built in 1832-33 and reflects the Federal or Adam style developed on the Eastern seaboard after the War of Independence. (Adam refers to three Adam brothers who were the major architects in England in the late 1700s.) In addition, this style was familiar to both Mr. and Mrs. Davenport. This style was common in Louth where Mr. Davenport had grown up and also in Winchester, Virginia, where Mrs. Davenport lived prior to coming to Illinois.

One distinctive detail on the Davenport House, typical of the Adam style, is the elliptical window over the front door flanked by narrow windows or “side lights”. Other features of the house are consistent with the Federal style. It is a two-story, square structures with a pitched roof and side gables. The chimneys can be either interior or exterior chimneys on the narrow ends of the building (as the Davenport house has). Window and front door placement is symmetrical, with two windows on either side of the door, a five-bay design. Windows are double-hung and usually have six-over-six panes. Clapboards cover the log construction of the original structure, as was common in the East as well as in the South. The logs themselves are squared oak logs with notched and fitted v-shaped notches. Often a small porch was built in front of the door.



View of the log construction under the siding

- Con't on next page

Thank you to Regena Jo Schanz for contributing this article.

The 1985 Architectural report, prepared by MacDonald and Mack of Minneapolis, Minn., and funded by the Junior League of the Quad Cities, provided information on the house's condition and identified original ca 1830s features, as well as those that dated ca 1850 or ca 1906 restoration.

Millwork found in the attic was of the 1830s style and showed that the baseboards on the second floor were stylistically correct. The baseboards on the first floor were of a later style. The cupboard doors in the SE corner of the east room (dining) features pin-less hinges evidence that they were original to the ca 1830s. The complete front entry also appeared to be original to the 1830s construction, but interior doors and the back doors were not. Windows were determined to be the original size, although replaced in the past and the upper story windows on the east and west ends of the house had been added ca 1850. Evidence that windows had heavy wooden shutters on the exterior came from physical and photographic evidence. There was evidence of a full-length back porch that once connected the east and west wings and protected the doors. There was no evidence of any other doors to the wings.



View of a similar cupboard in the NE corner of the dining room

Before restoration in the 1980s, the house featured a Greek Revival style porch with four columns, which was out of character with the Federal or Adam style. Architect George Gleason suggested that this porch dated from a remodeling of the house in the 1850s. During restoration, removal of the siding revealed evidence of the original porch, smaller with a steeper pitched roof, which was authentic to the original style of the house. Archeological excavation below the porch floor confirmed the footprints of the smaller, more accurate Federal-style porch and fit the dimensions of the original porch roof.



Kitchen Wing (looking west)

The architectural report determined that the east and west wings were built on the narrow ends of the house about the same time period. Archeological digs have determined the original sizes of these two wings. No determination of the use of these wings was made by the architects, although historical documents state that the west wing was used as Davenport's office. A detached kitchen wing, attached later to the main house to create an ell, was built on the south east side of the house. From photographic evidence taken when the house was in disrepair, we know this wing to be a two-story structure with a large stone fireplace at the southern end and access to the main house on both floors.

IN MEMORIUM

We must acknowledge and remember several important individuals who have contributed greatly to the work of the CDHF and Colonel Davenport House. — Judy Tumbleson (d. 2019), Ross Wherry (d. 2019), Maryan Wherry (d. 2020), and Paul Johnston (d. 2020).



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Davenport, IA
Permit No. 146

P.O. Box 4603
Rock Island, IL 61204-4603
309-786-7336
davenporthouse.org

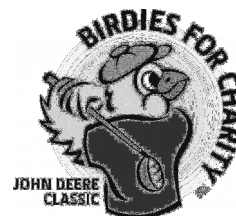
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SUPPORT CDHF THROUGH BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Just like everything else, the Birdies for Charity program looks a little different this year. The CDHF has not gotten the 2020 pledge forms to mail directly to you, and our little office printer isn't up to printing mass quantities. This *does not* mean you can't support the Colonel Davenport House through this program, especially when your donation **increases by 5% with no extra work!** Please consider making a donation to the CDHF this year. Here are the ways to donate:

1. Go online to birdiesforcharity.com, click "Make a Donation" and find the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation #1372. Fill out your information and donate by credit card.
2. Go online to birdiesforcharity.com, click "Charity" and go to Pledge Forms. Then you can print your own pledge form to mail directly to the Birdies for Charity office with your check. Be sure to fill out Col. Davenport Historical Foundation #1372 in the top blank so your donation gets recorded to the right charity.
3. If you have any questions about the Birdies for Charity process this year or can't access the website, please contact Jessica Waytenick, CDHF Board, at 309-737-4280.



The deadline is July 10 to get your pledge form or online donation completed, so do this anytime! In the event of any disruption to John Deere Classic tournament play, penny/birdie pledges will be adjusted to flat donation of \$20 per one cent pledge.