



# CORNUCOPIA

Volume 112 Issue 1

SPRING 2011

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*"The mission of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation 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."*

## NEW EVENT FOR KIDS IS A HIGHLIGHT IN MAY

On Saturday, May 21st, it's the free I Spy History Day for Kids at the Colonel Davenport House from 12-4 p.m.

Children will receive a sheet with a scavenger hunt to guide their exploration through the house and help them discover the role the Davenport family and their home played in local history. Guides will be available to answer questions. Participants can also watch demonstrations of the pioneer craft of spinning.



The first 200 participants will get a free ticket to a River Bandits game of their choice. (There is a connection between the team and the Davenport family, because the first area organized sports team was a baseball team that practiced in the pasture at the home of Colonel Davenport's son Bailey.)



The kid's scavenger hunt information and River Bandits tickets will be available while supplies last through Sunday for the Arsenal's Armed Forces Day celebration. It is FREE admission to the Colonel Davenport House on May 21-22, with donations gratefully received.

## HOUSE PART OF ARMED FORCES DAY MAY 22

The US Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal is sponsoring a Rock Island Arsenal Open House on Sunday, May 22, 2011, from 12-4 p.m. in honor of Armed Forces Day. A parade is scheduled at 12 noon along Rodman Ave.



From 1-4 p.m., school buses will take attendees to: Quarters 1; Colonel Davenport House; JMTc manufacturing; Arsenal Museum; Mississippi River Visitor Center and/or display at Navy & Marine Reserve Center. There will also be displays in front of the old stone shops along Rodman Avenue.

George Eaton will conduct historic tours of the island at 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

*Cornucopia* is a publication for CDHF members, volunteers and Board of Directors. It is published three times yearly. To submit a story for publication, contact Jessica Waytenick, Editor at [waytenik@winco.net](mailto:waytenik@winco.net) or call 309-737-4280.

## BUSTER MILLER IS THE NEW 2011 BOARD PRESIDENT

I'm greatly looking forward to an exciting 2011 at the Colonel Davenport House and the Rock Island Arsenal. The addition of First Army, a Three Star General, over 100 active-duty military, and a similar number of civilian employees presents a great opportunity for us and the community.

Some of my personal goals for 2011 are: 1) Extensive progress on the East wing project and associated fundraising; 2) Expanded membership with focus on the "next generation" younger members and families; 3) Enhanced recognition for our most valuable asset—our guides, sulzers, board members, and volunteers; 4) Continued outreach activities to the schools and colleges; 5) aggressive solicitation of the RIA employees financial support through the combined federal campaign.

We are still looking for a trailer to store the recycled siding lumber if any members have any ideas, please contact Buster Miller at [bustermiller@juno.com](mailto:bustermiller@juno.com).

I'd also like to give a special thanks to a wise ole George Davenport who built his home on a little knoll which remains "just" above flood level.

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30, the CDHF elected its 2011 board of directors. We welcomed three new board members--Chet Doyle, Suzanne Hoskins, and Jim Loula.

Buster Miller, 2011 Board President

## WAGON JOURNEY TALES TOLD AT ANNUAL MEETING

The CDHF had their Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30 at the Butterworth Center in Moline. In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the City of Davenport in 1836, local historian Karen Anderson gave a very entertaining and informative program about first-hand experiences of the grueling covered wagon journey people made to reach the Mississippi River and the newly-opened land.

For well over a century, history textbooks have featured the dramatic photo of the headlong race out across the western prairies that heralded the opening of the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1893. Yet 60 years before this momentous event, and long before eastern newspaper reporters found the courage to venture 1,200 miles west of the Alleghenies and into Indian country to do their reporting, the very first legal land grant program west of the Mississippi River officially opened the Louisiana Purchase to settlement on June 1, 1833, in Scott County, Iowa.

The solitary wagon trips of 1833 were recorded by hand in trip journals, diaries, and letters sent back home from the prairies. Once read, they were lovingly tied into bundles with ribbon and tucked away into trunks and dresser drawers for the next 150 years.





## CELEBRATE OPENING DAY MAY 7

On May 7th from 12-4 pm, celebrate the start of the 2011 season by coming for a free tour of the Colonel Davenport House on Opening Day. Bring a friend along to get a guided tour of the house and enjoy refreshments. Free admission that day!

## NEW PIECE COMPOSED ABOUT COLONEL DAVENPORT

The Quad City Wind Ensemble will be celebrating the final concert of their 2010-2011 season, "A 25th Anniversary Celebration", on Sunday, May 1, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. at the Galvin Fine Arts Center located on the campus of St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

For a special observance of the 25th Anniversary of the Quad City Wind Ensemble *and* the 175th Anniversary of the City of Davenport, the Riverboat Development Authority funded the commissioning of a new piece in remembrance of Col. George Davenport. It was composed by Roy D. Magnuson.

## CDHF GAINS FROM ARSENAL'S FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

For the second year the CDHF participated in the Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign, which is the Arsenal's version of the United Way for federal employees where they can select charities to receive donations automatically taken out of their paychecks. The CDHF received \$400 in 2010 contributions--doubling 2009's total. The CDHF's reference number is #93-178 if you are a federal employee and would like to donate to the CDHF in this manner. Thank you!

## REMEMBERING DAVENPORT'S TRAIN CONTRIBUTIONS

The CDHF had a display table at the 2011 Henry Farnam Dinner. Henry Posner III, chairman of the Iowa Interstate Railroad, spoke on "A Bridge to the Future," as part of the 2011 area celebration of the "Year of the Train."

On a late June afternoon in 1845, rowboats departed both sides of the Mississippi, pulling for the home of Col. Davenport. It was railroads on the minds as they greeted each other in Col. Davenport's yard at sundown, then "talked long into the night," according to "Iron Road to Empire." When the meeting finally broke up, the group had a plan: They'd petition the Illinois Legislature to charter a rail line from Rock Island to LaSalle, some 75 miles to the east. The charter was finally approved in 1851, but Davenport wasn't alive to see it.



## CORNUCOPIA CORRECTION

From the picture in the previous issue--The platter on the second shelf in the dining room at the house was donated by Joanne Brasel. Kim Yarbrough donated the platter that's in the middle of the diningroom table at the house. The platter in the center on the third shelf down was donated by Illowa Questers #581.



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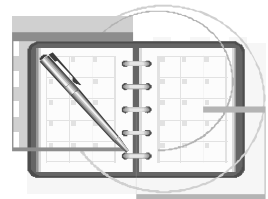
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 4 - Volunteer Recognition Reception at the Arsenal Golf Club at 3 pm
- May 7 - Opening Day at the Colonel Davenport House from 12-4 pm
- May 21 - I Spy History Day for Kids and Families at the Colonel Davenport House from 12-4 pm
- May 22 - Island-wide Armed Forces Day Celebration from 12-4 pm, including the Colonel Davenport House



## HELP US RECRUIT SOME MORE CDHF MEMBERS

Would you help us out? Please do this one important thing for our efforts this year! Spread the word, shout to the rooftops, and see if you can recruit one new member this year? It could be someone you know who really likes history and would like to help our efforts to preserve this house and educate the community. Contact our Membership Director Suzanne Hoskins at 309-558-6831 or [tecladot@mchsi.com](mailto:tecladot@mchsi.com).

## GUESS THE BIRDIE COUNT

Watch your mailbox for the CDHF Birdies for Charity form that will be mailed out mid-May!