



# CORNUCOPIA

Volume 123 Issue 2

FALL 2023

*“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.”*

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## WHAT WENT ON AT THE HOUSE IN 2023

To all of our old friends and new friends we have met in 2023, we want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

Many, many thanks go out to all the volunteers, guides, sutlers, family members and friends who helped at our events and with our weekly openings. We definitely couldn't do it without your support.

Can you believe we are in the final decade before our beautiful, historic Colonel Davenport House's 200th Birthday? To make sure we get there, we need your continued help.

First, we want to share our accomplishments in 2023. Then we will tell you how you can help us get to our exciting 200th Birthday. We held three special events at our museum this year.

The annual Pioneer Days event in June brought 76 visitors and we made \$314.

On August 5-6, we hosted our first Native American Cultural Days by inviting the Inter-Tribal League of American Indians to our museum site to entertain and educate our guests with their traditional dances, tipi, and materials. In spite of inclement weather on the second day, this was a huge success which brought 103 visitors and earned us \$350. We hope that we will be able to continue this partnership with the Inter-Tribal League of American Indians in future years.

September brought 74 visitors to our annual Ghost Tales event with great storytellers, and we garnered \$483 from this event.

We continue to reach out to local colleges and other historical homes in the area to gain support and networking opportunities. We attended the Quad Cities Archive Fair at the Hauberg Estate in October and learned of several new resources.

The re-opening of the Arsenal Museum at the end of June substantially increased our number of visitors. For the period July 1 to October 31, our revenue from admissions was the highest since 2015. The increased number of visitors overwhelmed our volunteers on some days and showed the need for attracting more volunteers. In September, we put

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*Cornucopia* is a publication for CDHF members and volunteers. To submit an item for publication, contact Jessica Waytenick at 309-737-4280 or [jessica.waytenick@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.waytenick@gmail.com)



Pioneer Days brought its share of visitors and a new local honey opportunity.



In August, the CDHF hosted its first Native American Culture Days.



The CDHF held its Ghost Tales event on the warmest night in recent history (no coats needed!). We had three great storytellers, including one with paranormal experience.



Thank you to the members of the Tri-City Garden Club for maintaining the historic garden at the house. It is the first thing visitors walk by and it is a beautiful welcome.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP?

Thank you to these people for their continued support of the CDHF and their wonderful contributions past and present. They committed to the success of the organization and its mission by becoming lifelong members.

Connie Runge  
 Michael and Hedy Hustedde  
 Larry Lamont (this year)

Nancy and Kent Cornish  
 Don Pruter and Vickie Palmer-Pruter  
 William Hapes

If you would like to learn more, please visit [davenporthouse.org](http://davenporthouse.org) and click on 'Join and Support', followed by Membership.

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up signs around the house and did some in-kind advertising on WVIK asking for volunteers. We have received some interest in volunteering, but we still need more people to volunteer. (Do you know anyone interested? Please let them know about our organization—especially our need for gift shop volunteers.)

As well as the in-person support we have received, we continue to need your financial support for the never-ending maintenance on the structure. The west wing is in dire need of wall repair and siding replacement.

During the year, we met with the Seabees from the Naval detachment located on the Rock Island Arsenal concerning work on the house. They have previously worked on the Col. Davenport House and indicated that they were very interested in the restoration of the outside of the house. We hope that this interest will turn into some maintenance work done next year.

We also attracted interest from several paranormal groups who have each stayed at the house for multiple hours at a time collecting whatever evidence they can find.

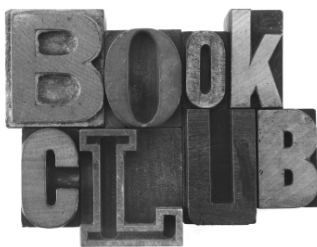
From January 1, 2023, to November 31, 2023, the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation had a positive cash flow of \$8,344.69 which can be used for the repairs on the house in 2024. Although this is a good start at paying for our needed repairs, we still need your generosity since necessary repairs will cost much more than this.

As we are a 501(c)(3), your donations are fully tax deductible. We thank you in advance for considering the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation in your year-end giving. Please send any donations to PO Box 4603, Rock Island, IL 61204-4603.

Well wishes to you for a happy and healthy New Year!

Jolene Keeney

CDHF Board President

**BOOK CLUB ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST BOOK OF NEW YEAR**

On Tuesday, January 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Orchid Room of the Butterworth Center, the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Book Club will discuss *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore.

The book club meets every other month to discuss a book related to local/regional history. If you'd like more information, please reach out to Bill Hampes at 309-792-1769.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to former board member John Norton for his many, many years of service on the board and with the organization, his financial guidance, Rock Island Arsenal knowledge, invaluable influence, and volunteering at the house.



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309-786-7336  
davenporthouse.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## SAVE THESE DATES IN 2024

May 2 – House Opens for the Season

June 8-9 – Pioneer Days at the House

👁️ Look inside for pictures of 2023 events!



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED  
TO US THROUGH BIRDIES FOR CHARITY!**

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS

What better way to learn from the past than to become part of it? You could be a guide. You will receive a prepared script and train with a current guide until comfortable giving tours on your own. Contact Bill at 309-792-1769. Or sutlers are in charge of the gift shop while a volunteer guide gives tours of the house. We call our gift shop the Sutlery in honor of George's role as sutler in the Army. Contact Ginny at 309-236-0741. Feel free to pass this info on to the others!