



CORNUCOPIA

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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."

STORY BEHIND HISTORICAL MARKERS IN IL

You've probably seen historical markers as you drive throughout the Quad Cities. But who stops to read them? Rock Island Reference Librarian James Shearouse has taken a closer look at the markers on the Illinois side of the river. Hear the stories behind these markers and their history.



Join us for this program and lunch at the CDHF Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 20 at 1 p.m. at the Butterworth Education Center, 701 12th Avenue in Moline.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person. To make reservations, send a check to the CDHF at PO Box 4603, Rock Island, IL 61204-4603, or purchase tickets online at www.davenporthouse.org. **Deadline is May 13th.** If you have any questions, contact Jessica Waytenick at 309-737-4280.

DAVENPORT HOUSE OPENS FOR SEASON

The Colonel Davenport House opens for the season on Wednesday, May 2nd. The house will be open regular hours through the end of October. Hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 12-4 p.m.

Opening day will be a celebration of the completion of the east wing exhibits. It has been a long process since the construction of the east wing started in 2011. The construction and the exhibits have been dependent on donations and grants.



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

FAMOUS AMERICANS KNEW ROCK ISLAND

The Colonel Davenport House is the only remaining local physical civilian reminder of a major period of American history, the westward and northward territorial expansion of our nation. Rock Island and Nine-mile Rapids on the Mississippi was a focus of this migration. Eventual Presidents and Generals in American history passed through Rocky Island in these early years, and would have probably met George Davenport when they arrived after 1816.



◀ Lt. Zebulon Pike explored the upper Mississippi in 1805, naming Pike's Peak at the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. It's now a scenic Iowa State Park. In 1820, after traversing the prairie to the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, the much higher Pike's Peak was renamed in Colorado.

Maj. Zachary Taylor lost a battle to Black Hawk at Credit Island in 1814, the westernmost battle of the War of 1812, and retreated downriver. He later went off to Florida, had fame in the Mexican War, and was elected to the White House.

George Davenport arrived in 1816 with the founding of Ft. Armstrong. He maintained the supply line to the fort from St. Louis and Mackinac with his own fleet, providing for the 600 soldiers as well as maintaining a stock of materials for trading with the Native Americans.¹



◀ Captain Abraham Lincoln served in the Illinois militia in 1828 in the early days of the friction between the Sauk and Meskwaki and the incoming American settlers.

Lt. Jefferson Davis passed through on the way to Ft. Crawford in Prairie du Chien in 1834 where he was Black Hawk's jailer for a time. Davis later became Secretary of War in Washington before becoming president of the Confederacy.

In his early career, Lt. Robert E. Lee surveyed the Nine Mile Rapids from Rocky Island to Port Byron in 1837. Later, Captain Lee became chief engineer in the Mexican War and chief General on the Confederate side of the Civil War.



◀ Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott led an ill-fated expedition in 1832 from Ft. Dearborn via Dixon's Ford to the Mississippi. His troops brought Asiatic cholera from Canada with them; more than 600 of his 850 troops died en route. The cholera cemetery at Ft. Armstrong is buried deep under the railroad berm that today traverses the Island. "Old Fuss and Feathers" became the most senior general officer in Mexican War, for the Union in the Civil War, and was three times an unsuccessful candidate for President.

These early arrivals honed their military skills at Rock Island and their experience here contributed mightily to the rise of our Nation.

- Written and contributed by Ross Wherry

¹Nothstein, Ira O. [A History of Rock Island and Rock Island Arsenal](#), vol.1, p.38, Rock Island Arsenal, 1937

PIONEER DAYS RETURNS IN JUNE FOR TWO-DAY EVENT

We will bring the Colonel Davenport House alive for a weekend in the spirit and activity of 1835 during Pioneer Days on Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10.

For the brave, there will be a rustic rope bridge, approximately 40' long, and a rustic tower of



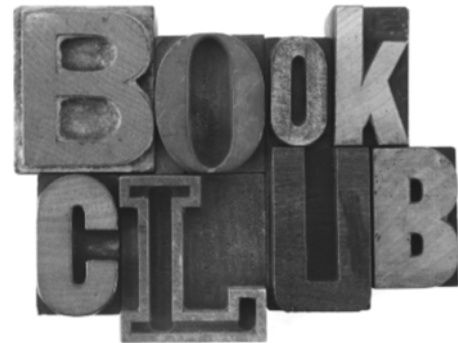
lashed tree trunks and rope approximately 15' tall. See re-enactors demonstrate a variety of crafts (quilting, embroidery, spinning, lace making, and chair caning). Take a tour of the House, or try one of the games that involve aiming and throwing (quoits, tomahawks).

A color guard will raise and lower the historical 25-star flag in front of the house. In the outdoor kitchen, see open hearth baking of sourdough bread and calico cornbread, pan-fry catfish, cooking beans, hominy, and blueberry cobbler. More children's activities include scrub board washing, making a yarn doll, scavenger hunt, walking on stilts, and punched tin designs.

HISTORY BOOK CLUB ALMOST AT ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The History Book Club is coming up on its one year anniversary. They met for the first time in April 2017. Meeting every other month on the third Tuesday at local historic places, the group has met at the Deere-Wiman House, Colonel Davenport House, Hauberg Center, Bucktown Center for the Arts, and Sutter Community Church. Anyone is welcome to come—whether all the time or just once, whether you've read the book or not.

The book club next meets on **Tuesday, May 15 at 7 p.m.** back at the Colonel Davenport House. The book discussion is about "Hell Gate on the Mississippi" by Larry Riney. To get to the Colonel Davenport House that night, please bring your U.S. photo ID to the Moline Gate. If you don't have an Arsenal pass, plan on a few extra minutes to fill out the form.



LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM FOR YOUR GROUP?

Bill Hapes is available to come and provide a free program about the interesting life of George Davenport, his family, and life in this area in the early days! Contact Bill at 309-792-1769.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 2 – House Opens for the Season
- May 15 – History Book Club at the House
- May 20 – Annual Meeting at the Butterworth Education Center
- June 9-10 – Pioneer Days at the House
- June 9-17 – Quad Cities Museum Week at the House
- July 17 – History Book Club at Location TBD
- July 29 – Quarters One Tours organized by CDHF



DO YOU LOVE EVERYTHING CLEAN AND SPARKLING?

The CDHF is looking for volunteers to help give the Colonel Davenport House a good spring cleaning on April 16 at 9 a.m. before it opens to the public for the season. This can be a one-time volunteer opportunity, or the CDHF is also looking for several who would commit to coming once a month through November. Contact Judy Tumbleson at 309-786-5980 or judyt100741@gmail.com.

