

# Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation



**Annual Report**



**2005-2006**

## OUR MISSION

The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation's mission is to preserve the Colonel Davenport House and site and to foster knowledge of the history and development of the Quad Cities region through tours of the House, exhibits and educational programming.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

### OFFICERS

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**Robert Holliday**  
President

**Melvin "Buster" Miller**  
Vice-President

**Jamie L. Lange**  
Secretary

**Scharlott Blevins\*** (Jan-June)  
**Connie Runge** (July-Oct)  
**Nancy Cornish** (Oct-Dec)  
Treasurer

### MEMBERS

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**Nancy Cornish**

**Sharon Heinze**

**Helen Macalister**

**John Norton\***

**Kathy Peck**

**Janice Peterson**

**Peter A. Peterson**

**Connie Runge**

**Sara Thoms**

**Marcia Wetzel\***

\* Indicates a board member who served a partial term this year.



# *A Message From The President*

To our members:

The year 2006 was a year of accomplishment. Instilling a sense of pride, purpose and teamwork were, and still are, the tools used to build a successful pathway toward the achievement of organizational goals. You, the members of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation (CDHF), continue to provide support through your participation. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. Getting involved is what it is all about. In 2007 each of you will be asked to serve as personal ambassadors of the Foundation. Generating community awareness and interest in our organization depends on a team of special representatives. You, the members, can raise the bar by sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge of our great organization with everyone with whom you come in contact.

A comprehensive public relations effort is underway and has made significant strides. A newly designed web site, an educational DVD entitled "The House That Courage Built - The Story of Colonel George Davenport," informational public display boards and Public Service Announcements collectively serve to identify us as the area's premiere historical attraction.

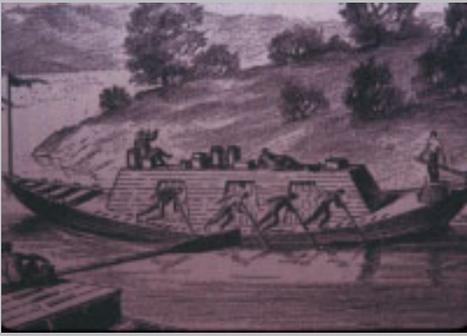
Your board has been actively involved in serving you to the best of its ability. A new mission statement has been chosen, one which clearly identifies who we are and what we do. Other events such as the Parade of Homes and Birdies for Charity bring in much needed revenue to assist with organizational programs. Recently, our organization was the recipient of a \$12,000 grant from the Scott County Regional Authority which will be of immense value when replacing windows, siding and a handicapped accessible ramp at the House. A special thanks to Joy Thompson, our grant writer.

The Lunch and Learn Program is very popular. I would encourage each member and their friends to attend these whenever possible. The *Cornucopia* newsletter and Web Site ([www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org)) will announce these and other special events so you may notate the dates on your calendars. There will be new opportunities available to become more involved in CDHF. Please do not hesitate to look into them. The time you are willing to donate will be very much appreciated.

In conclusion, let me say that I have had an enjoyable experience serving my term as your president. Looking at the challenges of today as opportunities of tomorrow, keeping focused on what is important and working with others to accomplish organizational goals, are a rewarding endeavors.

Respectfully,

Robert Holliday  
2006 CDHF President



## *The Davenport House*



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**“I enjoyed visiting (the House) since it’s an interesting part of local history. The tour guide provided a lot of additional insight into the Col. Davenport House too.”**

***-John Lacina, Davenport, IA***

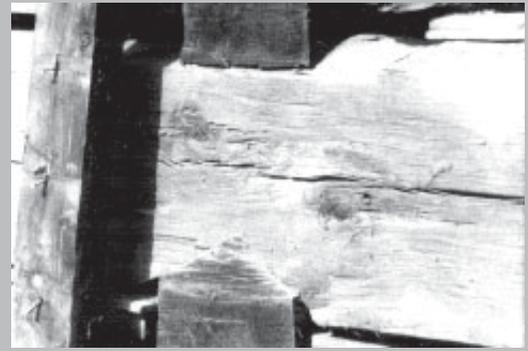
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**B**ased on a Federal Style, the Colonel Davenport House was built using technology known by a local carpenter. His method was to build the skeleton of the house as if it were a log structure. The logs were squared using axes and adzes and then notched to fit tightly against each other. Furring strips were then secured to the exterior with pine clapboards attached to the strips.

Later more conventional building techniques of frame construction were used. East and west wings were put on the house. Davenport used the west wing as an office. A kitchen wing was added on the south. A small porch ran the length of the house which was the center of a number of buildings, as many as thirteen. These additional buildings acted as warehouses and storehouses for the trading network.

After the Civil War, the house deteriorated and eventually fell to the ravages of local souvenir hunters and vandals. In 1907, restoration began. In 1988 the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation raised funds and restored the roof, siding, windows, front porch and subsequently west wing. (The Federal Government) and the U.S. Army have contributed no money to this project.

The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Davenport House. It relies on private donations to support its activities and restoration efforts. The CDHF counts on volunteers to maintain and operate the House. The board of directors meets monthly to discuss finances, future planning, upcoming events, and tours.



## *Preserving the House*



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*“The building and grounds committee is always looking out for the best way to preserve the House. They take special care in choosing vendors that specialize in restoration.”*  
*-Jamie Lange, Board Member, LeClaire, IA*

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**T**he Colonel Davenport House enjoyed a north side face lift this year. Unfortunately, the freshly painted siding and windows quickly became a target for birds and insects. This required a substantial cleaning in the fall and then treatment by an Rock Island Arsenal pest control specialist to deter spiders. The House was also inspected for other pests at this time.

In early fall, Maas Mechanical repaired the heating system by installing a new pressure sensor and ignitor circuit. As preventative maintenance, a major roof waterproofing effort was completed using products specifically designed for wood shake shingles. All surfaces of the main house roof and the sutlrey were coated with approximately 60 gallons of the preservative. The east side of the model play house was treated and the west left untreated to serve as a test on the effectiveness of the preservative.

The north porch columns were removed for repair by a local tradesman. The columns are finished but the bases were not delivered by year's end. When completed, the project will greatly improve the appearance of the front porch. A rotted floor trim board will also be replaced as part of this project.

The Tri City Garden Club continues to lovingly tend the garden. Their many volunteers help to keep the garden welcoming and beautiful. This year a watering system was implemented to assist them. A booklet in the sutlrey identifies all the period plants and their locations.

Project improvements for this and next year will be greatly impacted by a donation from the Quad City Home Builders Association for capital improvements and a SCRA grant of \$12,000 for a handicapped accessible ramp project scheduled this spring.



## *Education*



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***“I purchased these books for my daughter because our family is from the Quad Cities originally and she can learn about the Mississippi River and river animals and much more.”***  
***- Teresa Lange, Mesa, AZ***

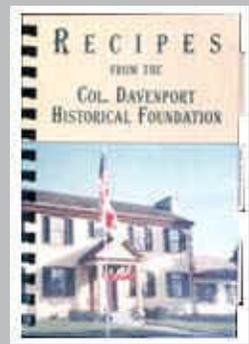
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**E**ducation is vital to preserving the mission of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation. Events are held several times throughout the year to encourage both youth and adults to learn about their local history. Home School Day attracted fifty people for the half-day workshop that consisted of packets of activities including the Colonel Davenport Go Fish card game, Math at the Trading Post, Reading a Map using the map of Colonel Davenport’s trading posts, a pioneer life folder, the booklet, Mississippi River, prepared by the Mississippi River Visitor’s Center, an activity sheet prepared by the Arsenal Museum, the Colonel George Davenport Mad Lib, and an evaluation sheet.

A special thanks to the following volunteers for helping with this event: Nancy Cornish, Duane Wilker; Connie Patridge, Janice Peterson, Pete Peterson, Schar Blevins, Marion Lardner, Sue Wolters, Marlene Scott, Marcia Wetzell, Dee Anderson, and Kris Leinicke.

In addition to a this successful event, CDHF published two important historical books. Through a grant from the Riverboat Development Authority and the efforts of CDHF volunteers, William Hannan extensively annotated and footnoted “Your Obedient Servant,” an excerpt from Franc Wilkie’s “Davenport Past and Present.” Hannan has illuminated this book with numerous graphics, maps, artwork, and uncredited photos bringing this important piece of history to life.

The third book in the Backyard History Series, “Wildcat’s Wily Dinner: A Pourquoi Story from the Shawnee Indians” has been retold by Dee Anderson. In addition to this charming tale, Roald Tweet has contributed “On the Mississippi,” a history of the Rock Island Rapids through the 1860’s making this third in the series an important historical picture of the development of the Quad Cities. Both books are available for \$5.00 each at the sutlery and local bookstores.



## *Gift Shop & Tours*



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**“There’s no substitute to actually being at the murder site, to hear the story from the tour guides, and to read real accounts from the period in order to really get a sense of what was going on during that period in history.”**

***-Joe Ortiz, Washington, DC***

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In June, four experienced committee members took on the responsibility for the sutlery. The sutlery is the gift shop where admissions are taken for those who tour the House. Joyce Johnston managed the sutlery for the remainder of the year. A lot was learned in a very short amount of time. Several sutlers advised the committee during this re-adjustment period including former sutlery chair, Marcia Wetzel.

Because the stepback cupboard was needed back in the dining room, it was replaced with three bookcases found on sale at Staples. The bookcases are a great addition as they provide more storage space and have doors which can be closed.

The sutlers worked out a new way to manage cash flowing into the House so that deposits were made in a timely manner. This new procedure reduced the concern of having too much cash on hand at the House, helped the Treasurer, and aided our record keeping.

Purchases were limited because of budget constraints this year. There were many good ideas on new ways to display items currently in inventory and ways to promote the new publications that were out in the fall. Because attendance was down this year, sales in the sutlery suffered. Next year plans are in the works to take sutlery items “on the road” to help promote our available items.

The sutlery has been and continues to be run entirely by volunteers. We truly appreciate all the time and effort the sutlers contribute to the operation of the CDHF gift shop. Thank you all!



## *Special Events*

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*“I always walk down by the House and on Arsenal Appreciation Day I finally got to see inside. It was a great event.”*  
*-Sandy Biermann, Bettendorf, IA*

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The Colonel Davenport House opened for the 2006 season on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> with an **Opening Weekend Celebration** hosted by the Public Relations committee volunteers. Admission was free and refreshments were provided at no charge. More than 40 visitors came through the house on Opening Weekend.

There were four “**Lunch and Learn**” presentations at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club this year. This popular program was initiated by past president and board member, Marcia Wetzel. On April 11<sup>th</sup> Dr. Arthur Pitz gave a speech entitled “The Rock Island Line Bridges the Mississippi River.”

In conjunction with Illinois Humanities, CDHF hosted Dr. Michael Wiant who delivered a power point presentation entitled “The History of Native Americans in Illinois” on June 6<sup>th</sup> in addition to an evening program on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Butterworth Center in Moline, Illinois.

Humanities Iowa joined CDHF in bringing “Lewis and Clark in Iowa,” a lecture and slide show by Dr. Donald Shurr on August 8<sup>th</sup> as well as an evening program at the Bettendorf Library on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Professor Maryan Wherry completed the season on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with her discussion of “Women of the West: A Modest Reconstruction of Margaret Davenport.”



## *Special Events*



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“We (my son and I) enjoyed the hay rack ride and all the snacks that were provided. *Ghost Tales* was a very well put together and very entertaining event. Keep up the good work!”

***-Jennifer Clark, Rock Island, IL***

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The Colonel Davenport House grounds were a venue for the **Riverways Storytelling Event** held the weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>. Various groups throughout the Quad Cities participated in this grand event and CDHF was proud to be involved.

Buster Miller, with help from the Public Relations committee, held the first **Arsenal Appreciation Day** at the House on September 28<sup>th</sup>. More than 90 Arsenal employees and their families were granted free admission in recognition of the Arsenal's support of the Davenport House. Members of the Quad City Antique Ford Club provided an old car shuttle service between the House and the main post. Special thanks to Dr. Paul and Joyce Johnson, Nancy Cornish and Pete Peterson who did a marvelous job staffing the grounds that day. This event was so popular that it is already scheduled for next year.

Another annual favorite is **Ghost Tales**. Neil West, husband of former board member Alice West, and his tractor rides were a huge hit again this year. He was joined by storytellers Babs Trieber and Dee Anderson the evening of September 30<sup>th</sup>. CDHF volunteers and event committee members Vickie Wetzal and Bill Hampes helped to make this event a success. The Rock Island Argus and The Dispatch contest for a local ghost story is a popular attraction. More than 300 people attended Ghost Tales this year. As always this event is free and open to the public, although donations were encouraged. Homemade cookies and light refreshments were available for sale..



## *Development*

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***“The Foundation educates both young and old about the rich Quad Cities history. I hadn’t heard about the Davenport House until I submitted a story for the Ghost Tales contest”  
- Leslie Anthony, Milan, IL***

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**T**his past season the development committee assumed the duties of finance. As a member of the committee Connie Runge was appointed Treasurer from June 30 until October 10, when Nancy Cornish took over the position. This arrangement was necessary because of the resignation of the current treasurer, Scharlott Blevins. The committee held meetings to review the various duties and tools of the treasurer; to discuss the two estimates for an audit, to consider the hiring of a bookkeeping service, to review grant applications for fall deadlines and to discuss the preliminary audit report.

The development committee successfully created and presented a comprehensive list of priorities, the 2007 budget, and planning calendar to the board. It was approved at the October meeting and will be distributed to all members attending the annual meeting.

The partial pro bono estimate of Sitrick & Co. was accepted for an audit to cover the time period of January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. The audit was completed in October and approved at the November board meeting. Several recommendations were presented to the Board by the auditor for implementation.

The transfer of all bank accounts was arranged and Linda Cain, CPA was hired as a bookkeeper. She will reconcile monthly bank statements, present monthly financial statements to the board, and file all tax and non-profit papers to state and federal offices. A board member will still serve as Treasurer. In order to maintain stability, no changes were made as to vouchers, transmittals and the software systems. CDHF purchased QuickBooks Pro, which is used by Ms. Cain.



## *Development*



**“Thanks to all our members and friends who give so generously of time, talents and funds to ensure our future, and to assure that the story of Davenport’s first citizen will continue to be told,”**

***-John Norton, Moline, IL***

New accounts were established including the Capitol Improvement Fund and the Collections Restrictive. The former will cover all major improvements such as painting and roofing which are not included in the annual maintenance budget and is made possible by our participation in the spring and fall Parade of Homes events. Currently the balance in this account is \$1,831.08. The Collections Restrictive Account was established for better accountability. The current balance is the fund is \$1,961.44. Birdies for Charities, a fundraising event sponsored by the John Deere Classic, earned 533.24, which was added to our operating fund. A grant was awarded by Scott County Regional Authority in November for \$12,000 toward siding and window repair and the installation of a hand-capped accessible ramp to the south side of the house in 2007.

Dee Anderson, Dr. Roald Tweet, and illustrator Chris Fiedler collaborated on the Backyard History series third book, “Wildcat’s Wily Dinner.” Our new DVD, “The House That Courage Built-The Story of Colonel George Davenport,” produced by Avolux Media, is available for public showing and marketing. In addition, we received a grant from Riverboat Development Authority for a new brochure and the booklet, “Your Obedient Servant,” edited by Bill Hannan.

Insurance was reviewed and the house collection was increased to \$50,000 at no additional cost. In addition, the board approved adding Directors and Officers Liability Insurance to our policy for the coming year at a cost of \$450.

This report indicates a season of changes and achievement, none of which could have been made possible without the interest and hard work of the board members and committee members.



## *Membership*




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*“I support the Davenport House because I feel it’s important to educate children about our local history. I’m a member because I’m proud of our heritage and history”*  
*- Helen Macalister,*  
*Davenport, IA*

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**E**very member of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation plays an important role in the organization. Whether by serving on a committee, recruiting new members, helping at special events, being a board member or by paying membership dues, each person helps to further our mission. This year renewals grew to \$7,225 (up from \$4,865 last year). In addition, we welcome nine new members to CDHF. They are listed below:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Renewals</b>	<b>New Members</b>	<b>New Member Names</b>
January	\$2235	1 member	Dorothy Denkhoff
February	\$0		Chet Doyle
March	\$220	2 members	Robert Miller
April	\$890	3 members	Jose Ortiz
May	\$340		Peggy Payne
June	\$40		Barbara Ray
July	\$720	1 member	Mary Ann Tyler
August	\$420		Jessica Waytenick
September	\$580	1 member	Kathy Wine
October	\$820	1 member	
November	\$535		
December	\$425		



## *Public Relations*



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***“It’s wonderful to help spread the word about local history. I’ve learned a lot not being from this area originally.”***  
***-Scott Blum, PR Committee, Davenport, IA***

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**W**ith so many successes to celebrate this year, the Public Relations Committee easily supported the Foundation’s efforts. The year boasted many completed projects including a volunteer brochure, a newly designed website, and a display board. Plans are underway to help promote the recently completed DVD, “The House That Courage Built - The Story of Colonel George Davenport.”

A major accomplishment this year was the redesign and unveiling of the new website. Changes and updates were made by Augustana Web Guild designers Beth Ann Eisemann, Ossian Mogensen and Tim Shearouse. The new design features updated photos, membership and gift shop information. A calendar of events has been revamped and will be continually updated. Be sure to check our calendar.

The season opened with a big rush of visitors in May at the Open House event. Thank you to Schnucks for providing cookies and Jody Vincent of LeClaire, Iowa for providing beverages for the re-opening celebration.

The Public Relations Committee completed several projects this year including an updated volunteer brochure to help recruit new volunteers for the Foundation. A limited quantity has been printed. The committee is still seeking a sponsor to print additional copies for distribution in the area.

To assist with increased outreach efforts, a professional display board was purchased and designed this year. It includes information on the House, on Colonel George Davenport, exhibits, educational programming and books and more. It is available for use by members at the House and can easily be transformed to fit the need of any program. The Public Relations Committee continues to help promote all areas of the Foundation and works to increase awareness and attendance at the House each season.



## *Collections*



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**“The stories and artifacts about the murder of Colonel Davenport were fascinating. The Wanted Poster was eerie.”**  
***Rosalie Vincent, Rock Island, IL***

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**W**indow covering replacement was the focus of the Collection Committee for 2006. After studying alternatives and taking budget constraints into consideration, the Committee decided to start with replacement of the curtains in the parlor.

This autumn point d’esprit curtains and damask valences were ordered for the parlor. Since the house was soon to be closed for the winter, it was decided to postpone hanging the new window coverings until spring, when the house will be cleaned and freshened up before opening for visitors. A special thanks to the Antique Study Group for their donation toward the curtain restoration project.

Members of the Collection Committee have over the years faithfully attended to preserving the artifacts in the Davenport House and to keeping the House as clean and tidy as possible. Members include Marilyn Galley, Joann Brasel, Joan Sherwin, Kim Yarbrough, Joyce Johnston, and Sara Hartsock.

# Foundation Financials

## Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Balance Sheet

Assets as of December 31, 2006\*

	<u>Dec. 31, 2006</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
ABTC-Checking	18,975.85
Endowment Fund-CFGRB	18,762.75
Savings Account-ABTC	5,359.31
Savings Capital Improvements ABTC	1,831.08
Savings Collections ABTC	1,961.44
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Total Current Assets	46,890.43
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Fixed Assets	
Building/House Leasehold Improvements	399,024.69
Furniture and Fixtures	96,538.43
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	495,563.12
Accumulated Depreciation	-160,606.26
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Total Fixed Assets	334,956.86
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u><u>381,847.29</u></u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Net Assets Available for Operations	381,638.06
Net Income	209.23
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Total Equity	381,847.29
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u><u>381,847.29</u></u></b>

*\*These financial statements do not reflect income and/or account balance for the Endowment Fund for the fourth quarter as we have not received a statement as of 1-22-2007. Endowment Fund balances are as of 9-30-2006.*



P.O. Box 4603  
Rock Island, IL 61204-4603  
309-786-7336  
[www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org)