



# 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."*

## FINE END TO A GREAT YEAR FOR THE HOUSE

The successful family program, "Ghost Tales," on September 26 and the final "Lunch and Learn" on October 7 wrapped up a great year for the CDHF. The fall "Lunch and Learn" talk was presented by the outstanding Augustana College scholar Roald Tweet, whose WVIK historic snippets "Rock Island Lines" have won him fame throughout the Midwest.

Dr. Tweet has made a lifetime career of gathering stories about the Mississippi and the Quad Cities. Many deal with George Davenport as sutler, fur trader, soldier and community founder, along with other visionaries like Antoine LeClaire. Roald's talk offered delightful new surprises about riverboat and canal interests in their struggle for markets, money, and political favor with the growing railroad interests of the 1850s and the years that followed.

2010 promises a continued upswing in the economy, and hopefully a related growth in our funding to support the all-volunteer efforts to maintain and interpret the Colonel Davenport House. Negotiations are now underway with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency on the next phase of restoring the east wing of the House as an interpretive center. Our participation in the Combined Federal Campaign for the first time may bring welcome new support from the Rock Island Arsenal family.

With the economic upswing may also come higher taxes, so we encourage consideration of tax-favored "legacy planning" which can bring donors the twin benefits of tax savings now, and even a lifelong stream of income through programs offered by the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, with which we cooperate.

If you have not been to the house recently, we invite you to drop by on Veterans Day for a special day for the house to be open to see the fall colors on the river, the garden and adjacent prairie restoration, as well as the fine work our restorers and interpreters have done to keep the legacy of the Davenport family and house alive for all visitors, whether children or adults.

John E. Norton, President

*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) 277-0937 Ext. 103.

## GHOST TALES ENJOYS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR



It looked imminent at this year's Ghost Tales event on Saturday, September 26 that it would have to be moved to the rain location shelter. But it luckily quit raining at 5 pm, so the event was still held on the Col. Davenport House grounds.

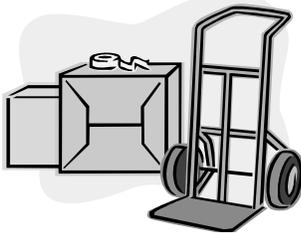
Over 135 people attended the event that also included tours of the house and attendance by the Rock Island Paranormal Society to show off their equipment and answer questions about their group.

Local storytellers Scott Tunnicliff and Jan Gray entertained the crowd with great stories from traditional to funny to one about the ghosts on Arsenal Island. Connie Patridge read the winning ghost story from the Argus/Dispatch contest. Winning writer Karen Clark of Milan, IL, attended the event and her story was about a serial killer from Milan in the 1890s called "The Autumn Mist of Milan."

The CDHF thanks all the writers for their entries and for the Argus/Dispatch for their contest assistance. Other sponsors included Hy-Vee and Adel Wholesalers, Inc. Thank you also to the sutlers, guides, and volunteers who helped with this event!



### CDHF MOVES STORAGE SPACES



Due to the impending sale of the Rock Island Argus building, the CDHF needed to move out of its storage space there and into a new space graciously provided by the Arsenal. On Saturday morning, Oct. 17th a group of board members and volunteers moved everything. Special thanks goes to four young men from the Alleman football team who were a tremendous help. Several pickup trucks and vehicles were used to accomplish this big project.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Connie Carlson from Bettendorf, Iowa**

**Patrick and Beverly Gadiant from Davenport, Iowa**

Are your membership dues up to date? Keep up with all of the CDHF happenings and enjoy free tours of the house and a discount of Gift Shop purchases. Have you seen the new books for sale?

## COL. DAVENPORT HOUSE OPENS FOR VETERANS DAY

The Colonel Davenport House will be open for special hours on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, for Veterans Day. The house will be open from 1:30-4:00 p.m., and admission costs just \$1.00. Guides will be available to answer questions.

The gift shop will also be open, selling Early American items like toys and candle molds, souvenirs, and books, including two that give information about Colonel George Davenport and his military service.

Colonel Davenport was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving for ten years. He then came to Rock Island as a civilian who had a contract to supply rations to the soldiers at Fort Armstrong. He supervised construction of the bake oven house where soldiers could bake their bread. It was the first building on what is now Arsenal Island.



The 8th regiment left from St. Louis in 1815 to build three forts along the Upper Mississippi River. Some soldiers stayed in Warsaw, IL, to build Ft. Edwards. The next stop was Rock Island and they arrived on May 10, 1816. While the soldiers located a suitable place to build a fort, George and his men began to construct storehouses for the rations. The site they chose was on the tip of the island which was high above the river and a good lookout place. It was also close to some of the most hostile Indians in the country at that time, the Sauk. After the War of 1812, the Rock River Sauk remained friendly to the British and did not accept the Americans as victors of the war. They tried hard to scare the Americans away, but the soldiers continued to build Ft. Armstrong. The rest of the soldiers continued up river to Prairie du Chien, WI, to build Ft. Crawford.

During the Black Hawk War, Gov. John Reynolds of Illinois commissioned George Davenport as an assistant quartermaster with the Illinois Militia. This is how he got his honorary title of colonel.



## CDHF PARTICIPATES IN PARADE OF HOMES

The CDHF participated in the Quad-Cities Home Builders Fall Parade of Homes in September by volunteering at three houses. Through this effort, the CDHF received \$823.83! Thank you to the volunteers that helped at the three houses.

## CDHF IN THE NEWS

The Tri-City Garden Club was recognized by the Quad-City Times on August 23, 2009, article about their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the wonderful work they do at the Colonel Davenport House with a garden of plants and flowers from Colonel Davenport's time. The CDHF thanks you!



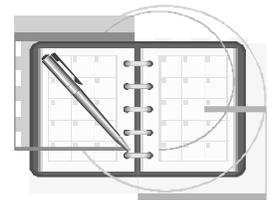
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 25 - Colonel Davenport House Closed for the Season
- November 11 - Veterans Day at the Colonel Davenport House from 1:30-4 pm
- January TBA - CDHF Annual Meeting
- May 1 - Opening Day at the Colonel Davenport House from 12-4 pm



## LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM

The CDHF has a great DVD about Colonel Davenport and early life in the Quad Cities. This DVD can be used as part of a program, or the CDHF has several speakers who can come to speak to your group about Colonel Davenport and his contributions to the growth of the area. Contact Janice Peterson at 563-359-1988 for more information.

## DONATE USED BOOKS

Used books are a big seller in the Sutlery and donations are greatly appreciated. We sell fiction and non-fiction, paperback and hard cover and prefer topics of historical or local interest. They can be dropped off at the Sutlery during open hours. If you are unable to get them there, call Ginny Bauersfeld at 309-236-0741 and arrangements can be made for pick-up.