



CORNUCOPIA

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SUMMER 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 EAST WING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

A record was certainly set when over 450 visitors came through the Colonel Davenport House during the island-wide Armed Forces Day celebration on Sunday, May 22nd. On the day before children were treated to an I Spy History Day for Kids game created by Dee Anderson that was a great success.

The gardens are gorgeous and in full bloom thanks to the near daily visits of the Tri-City Garden club. Thanks and keep up the good work, ladies! Sutlers and guides continue to do yeoman's work—sometimes non-stop during their 4-5 hour shifts. They continue to do a wonderful job educating the visitors on the history and contribution of the Davenport family.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that construction has begun on the East Wing project. With a generous grant from the R.I. Arsenal Development Group, we have been able to complete the footing and foundation.

CDHF member Jim Westphal hand dug the entire 75-ft. trench during his free time from teaching and on weekends. Another CDHF member Steve Treiber consulted and surveyed the corner points for the excavation and calculated the required concrete.

Also nine U.S. Navy Seabees arrived to assist in the pouring of the 15-yards of concrete for the trench footing. Carl Rice and his sons laid over 120 concrete blocks and then covered the exterior surface with stone salvaged from the RIA water reservoir. Come and see the progress so far!

The CDHF has received two more grants totaling \$7,500 for the east wing project from the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend and the Doris & Victor Day Foundation.

Buster Miller, CDHF Board 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 or call 309-737-4280.

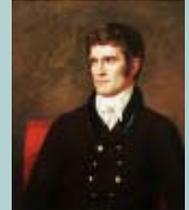
RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW FOR THE TWO UPCOMING LUNCH & LEARNS

Tuesday, August 9 at 12 noon

Sen. John C. Calhoun's Pre-Civil War Opposition to Income Redistribution

Presenter: John Donald O'Shea

John C. Calhoun of South Carolina served our country America's 10th Secretary of War during the Administration of President James Monroe, as America's 7th Vice President under John Quincy Adams and continuing under President Andrew Jackson, and as Secretary of State under John Tyler. He also served six years in the House of Representatives, beginning in 1811. Calhoun gained his greatest fame in the Senate of the United States where he served from 1832 until his death in 1850 (except during the two years he served as Secretary of State).



John C. Calhoun is best known for his views on the slavery, the tariff and state's rights, but underlying all, are his views on "Income Redistribution." In 1957, a Committee of the U. S. Senate named John C. Calhoun, with Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Robert LaFollette, and Robert Taft as the five greatest American Senators. Reservations due August 5.

Tuesday, September 13 at 12 noon

Campbell's Island's Colorful History - Presenter: Matt Flynn

Campbell's Island was the site of the Battle of Rock Island Rapids, one of the westernmost battles of the War of 1812, when a band of approximately 500 Sauk warriors allied with the British Army clashed on July 21, 1814, with an American force led by Lieutenant John Campbell of the 1st U.S. Regiment of Infantry. This victory helped to enable the Sauk to maintain their control over the Quad Cities area for almost 20 more years. Reservations due September 9.

*Both programs take place at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. Cost is \$15 for members; \$18 for non-members. **Reservations in advance are required.** Mail check, payable to CDHF c/o Don O'Shea, 3113 2nd St., Moline, IL 61265. Questions? Please contact Don at (309) 762-8156 or pelagius@qconline.com*



SPINNERS A HIT AT I SPY HISTORY DAY

The first 200 people to the I Spy History Day for Kids on Saturday, May 21st received free tickets to a Quad Cities River Bandits game. There is a connection between the team and the Davenport family because the first organized sports team in the area was a baseball team that practiced in the pasture of George Davenport's son, Bailey. Wool Spinners also demonstrated their craft at the house, presenting a wonderful educational experience.

SAVE THE DATE

CDHF members can take a tour of the Historic Clock Tower on Oct. 5 at 1:00 pm. Scott Pettis, from the Corps of Engineers, will give us a historical tour. Pettis has been an active duty Coast Guard and Coast Guard reservist for the past 35 years.

SUMMER SALE

There's a summer sale going on for new members who join the CDHF! The CDHF membership is offering \$10 annual dues for Students, Teachers, Military, and Government workers. A corporate/affiliate membership has also been approved for \$200 per year. A new membership drive will be initiated for the remainder of the summer. We encourage all members to recruit at least one new member for 2011. We must keep our base of membership and volunteers active and growing.



WANT A CHICAGO TO QUAD CITIES RAILROAD?

The present-day group promoting passenger rail service from Chicago through the Quad Cities might consider a visit to the Colonel Davenport House.

George Davenport was aware of the arrival of railroading in the U.S. But its usefulness to Davenport's development plans for this area didn't become crucial until the early 1840s. Existing transportation systems in the area then weren't adequate for the growing influx of settlers who farmed or for businessmen operating mills on the riversides. Canal boats and steamboats couldn't match railroad speeds; railroad beds were cheaper to build than canals or improve river irrigation; and railroads weren't shutdown when the waterways froze.



All of these factors prompted the historic meeting at Davenport's house in June 1845. At the meeting was Col. Davenport, his son George L., Antoine LeClaire, Judge Grant, Charles Atkinson, and A.C. Fulton. Mr. Fulton concluded that the more favorable place for a railroad bridge would be just downriver from Davenport's house because piers supporting the bridge could be based on the rocks in the rapids. Col. Davenport put his name behind the general plan, namely, to form a railroad company between Chicago and Rock Island, build a bridge, and send the railroad westward.

Tragically, Davenport was killed a few weeks later before the plan was fulfilled. Nonetheless, in 1847, the charter for the "Chicago & Rock Island Railroad" was approved and by 1854 a railroad was successfully built in the area.

Suggestion: The Colonel Davenport House would be a great setting for a press event or event connected to railroading in order to capitalize on this historic connection between past successes and present goals.

-Story Submitted by Dick Balzer

WHAT ARE YOUR VOLUNTEER INTERESTS?

The CDHF is compiling a directory of information about our volunteers' interests and skills. Please let us know if you are aware of someone who could donate additional time for sutlery, giving tours, or help with cleaning or repairs around the house. We always have opportunities for additional workers. Also, remember our video that is available for programs in the community. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Janice Peterson at 563-359-1988 or Peterson1@mchsi.com



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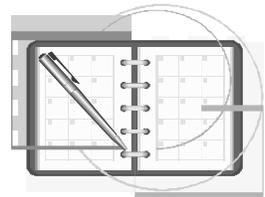
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 21 - Arsenal Appreciation Day at the Colonel Davenport House from 12-4 pm
- July 21-24 - Train Festival 2011 at Schwiebert Riverfront Park in Rock Island, IL
- August 9 - Lunch & Learn at the Arsenal Golf Clubhouse at 12 pm
- September 13 - Lunch & Learn at the Arsenal Golf Clubhouse at 12 pm
- October 5 - Arsenal Historic Clock Tower Tour at 1 pm for CDHF Members



COLONEL DAVENPORT'S TRAIN CONNECTION

On July 21-24, 2011, the sounds of steam whistles, the clickety-clack of steel wheels on rails, and excited rail fans and families will fill Schwiebert Riverfront Park in Rock Island for Train Festival 2011.

Steam and Diesel Locomotives from around the country will be on display and open for tours and photo opportunities. Model Train collectors and organizations will feature beautiful model train layouts under the protection of large tents, and vendors from around the globe will be selling unique train items. This will be a great time if family is visiting to show them the other railroad sites in the area, including the Colonel Davenport House. See inside for the railroad connection.