

be a history buff

...preserving the past for our future

annual report
2005



education



preservation



programming



outreach



history

Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation

a message from from the president

Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation's mission to preserve the Davenport House and interpret its history and the era in which Colonel Davenport lived was advanced significantly during 2005. The committee reports give the details of the Foundation's many and various activities, but this message gives a brief overview for the year.

The Education Committee held several very successful educational programs for Home Schoolers, Girl Scouts and other targeted audiences. The knowledgeable and dedicated guides told the Colonel's story to ever-increasing numbers of visitors. Attendance at the House continues to increase from the post-9/11 slump, which is encouraging and gratifying to see.

The Board contracted with Avolux Media of Moline to develop and produce a video/DVD entitled "The House that Courage Built". With the help of grant-writer Joy Thompson, over \$143,000 has been requested from various local and state foundations and agencies to fund the production and distribution of the video/DVD. To date \$33,000 has been awarded and production is underway. This video/DVD, which will be given to local schools and public libraries as well as made available for presentations to civic clubs and organizations, will increase the House's visibility and make Quad Cities residents more aware of this treasure in our midst.

The Public Relations committee printed a wonderful new brochure to promote visitation to the house. This full color, illustrated brochure, funded by Riverboat Development Authority, is attractive, informative and a great addition to our PR efforts.

The Lunch and Learn Series and Ghost Tales continue to be successful programs and the committees appreciate the Foundation members who loyally attend and help with these events.

Maintenance of the house, a key to its preservation, included completion of the replacement of the siding and windows on the house's north side. This was made possible by a grant from the Scott County Regional Authority. The roof shingles were also treated in order to water proof and seal them. This small investment will reap the benefits of making the existing roof last longer.

For the first time, the CDHF participated in the Quad Cities Home Builders Parade of Home by staffing five houses over two weekends and a Wednesday evening. The Home Builders share the profits from this event with the volunteer organizations who staff the houses. Therefore, the event serves as a fundraiser for organizations such as CDHF.

The Foundation and its Board of Directors were saddened by the passing of two of its members. August Mueller and Alice West were valuable members of the Board and will be greatly missed.

The dedicated Board of Directors, officers and volunteers who serve on committees, as guides and Sutlers, and help with programs and events are to be commended for their efforts. I thank all of you for your time and talents which you share with the organization and the community. I would also like to thank the members of the Foundation, who pay their annual dues. Through your continued monetary support and interest in the Foundation's work, we are able to preserve, restore and tell the story of the Colonel Davenport House and its significant role in the founding and early development of our community.



Eunice Schlichting
Board President

our mission

The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation exists to preserve the Colonel Davenport House and site and to interpret the social history and material culture of the early 19th century contained therein for the benefit of the public.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2004-2005

Eunice Schlichting, *Davenport, IA*, President
Kathy Peck, *Moline, IL*, Vice-President
Scharlott Blevins, *Davenport, IA*, Treasurer
Sharon Heinze, *Rock Island, IL*, Secretary

Nancy Cornish, *Rock Island, IL*
Bob Holliday, *Davenport, IA*
Jamie Lange, *LeClaire, IA*
Helen Macalister, *Davenport, IA*
Melvin "Buster" Miller, *Davenport, IA*
August Mueller, *Davenport, IA*
George Nickolas, *Davenport, IA*

Janice Peterson, *Davenport, IA*
Pete Peterson, *Davenport, IA*
Connie Runge, *Davenport, IA*
Sara Thoms, *Rock Island, IL*
Alice West, *Bettendorf, IA*
Marcia Wetzel, *Moline, IL*
Sue Wolters, *Davenport, IA*

SUB-COMMITTEES

2004-2005

Building & Grounds Chair, Augie Mueller
Buster Miller, Kermit Brinkley

Collection Chair, Sara Hartsock
Joann Brasel, Marilyn Galley, Joyce Johnston, Joan Sherwin, and Kim Yarbrough

Development Chair, Connie Runge
Scarlott Blevins, Bob Karwath, Helen Macalister, Jack Smit

Education Chair, Nancy Cornish
Dee Anderson, Dick Balzer, Doris Balzer, Joyce Johnston, Paul Johnston, Marion Lardner, Janice Peterson, Pete Peterson and Sue Wolters

Events Chair, Alice West
Helen Macalister, Vickie Wetzel

Governance Chair, Robert Holliday
Scharlott Blevins

Nominating Chair, Robert Holliday
Helen Macalister

Public Relations Chair, Jamie Lange
Scott Blum, Elesha Gayman, Bob Holliday, Julia "Lia" Pontarelli and Jessica Waytenick

Sutlers Chair, Marcia Wetzel

education



The Education Committee's goal is *to correctly share the story of the 1830-1850 time period with people in such a way that they will see who was here, why they came, what they did, and how that impacts us today.*

I am pleased to report that we met our goal this year by sponsoring community programming in the following ways:

1. We hosted a successful Home School Day on April 1st for children who are home schooled and their parents. We filled up so quickly that we plan to have two sessions in 2006 on March 24th. This event was co-sponsored with the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.
2. In conjunction with the Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley we hosted a Girl Scout Day on June 25th for 100 Girl Scouts who earned their Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation badges as they learned about life in the early 1800's. This event was co-sponsored with the Rock Island Arsenal Museum who provided an inside setting for the Native American presentation.
3. A training session for guides was held in April and new guides were added to the list for use with visitors and school classes.
4. Educational trunks consisting of lesson plans and classroom ideas, books, articles representing life in early days, furs and fur trade memorabilia, a video with the story of Colonel Davenport and books that would lead those interested deeper into the history of the area were delivered to classes requesting them prior to their visit to the house. These trunks are delivered to the classes free of charge.
5. Volunteers presented the Colonel Davenport story to groups requesting a program through slides, overhead projection, and puppets.
6. Applications for grants have been made which will permit further exposure in the area through a video that is being produced by AVOLUX MEDIA.

Nancy Cornish, Chair

house visitors and guides



Although admission prices were raised this year, numbers did not flounder. This year the house received nearly 1,800 visitors.

April	99	Girl Scout Day	50
May	456	Home School Day	65
June	269	Senior Day	33
July	278		
August	185		
September	242		
October	214		

Thank you to the many guides who gave countless hours to making this season a success. This year, despite rising costs and temperatures, CDHF had an outstanding year. A special thank you to guides who have been with CDHF for many years and to several new guides this year including Mary Ann Wherry, Connie Patridge, Chris Fiedler, Barb Emerson, Nancy Cornish and Dr. Arthur Pitz.

Guide	Hours	Guide	Hours
Pete Peterson	23	Chris Fiedler	7
Janice Peterson	19	Kathy Peck	7
Duane Wilker	14	Eunice Schlichting	6
Dick Balzer	13	Sharon Heinze	5
Doris Balzer	12	Lily Thompson	5
Bill Hampes	12	Arnie Shileny	4
Dee Anderson	11	Joyce Johnston	3
Mary Ann Wherry	9	Barb Emerson	3
Connie Patridge	8	Dr. Arthur Pitz	3
Jack McDonald	7	Nancy Cornish	2

The guides are terrific! Every second you volunteer is appreciated.
Sue Wolters, Chair

events and programs



The past year proved to be another exciting year with four terrific speakers for the Lunch and Learn series held at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

Dr. Norman Moline: “Renewal and Reinventions: River Towns of the Upper Mississippi”

Marilyn Johnson: “Galena’s Old Stockade and the Trading Firm of Davenport, Farnham and Farrah”

Wayne Kobberdahl: “Portrayal of Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition”

(Also an evening program at the Bettendorf Library, the first evening program in our history.)

Gordon Kilgore: “River Rogues and Scoundrels, Flamboyant Characters of Early Riverboat Days”

The weather was perfect for our evening of Ghost Tales with over 325 in attendance. (See the Ghost Tales storytelling contest winner on pg. 7.) Neil West’s antique tractor and wagon rides were a real hit. Dee Anderson was mistress of ceremonies with Babs Treiber and Dr. Ann Boaden as our featured storytellers. Vickie Wetzel and Bill Hampes were invaluable in organizing this event.

Sue Wolters orchestrated the Christmas Open House with the Tri-City Garden Club decorating the Colonel’s House in holiday greenery and the Embroiders Guild of America’s local chapter discussing the Colonel’s linen bed canopy.

On a sad note, Alice West, board members and chairperson of the Special Events Committee, passed away unexpectedly in Septemeber. Her talents, dedication and friendship are sorely missed.

Helen Macalister, Chair

events (cont'd)



The following is an excerpt from a story by Leslie Anthony of Milan, Illinois. She won the *Rock Island Argus* and *Dispatch*'s "Ghost Tales" storytelling contest this year.

After the Civil War, the deserted buildings of Camp Kinsman in Davenport were donated to the Iowa Soldiers Orphans Association to be used as an orphanage. One November night, lightning struck the main building of the orphanage, where 30 staff members and children were sleeping. The building burned to the ground, but miraculously, all of the children escaped. This is a story about that fateful night.

We had a tree in our back yard that would turn rich shades of red and brown in the fall. The autumn breeze would catch the leaves and hurl them to the ground, where my sister and I would gather them into an enormous pile, perfect for a Union soldier fort.

We were there, high in that tree, the day the soldiers came to visit my mother. We watched the soldiers from a distance as they made their way on horses toward our tiny house, the dust on the road kicking up behind them like a fog.

They entered our house, and soon my mother's screams pierced the afternoon air. I don't know how long my sister and I remained in the tree, clinging to each other, too afraid to come down.

The soldiers sent for our neighbors, and it was then that we found out that our father had died in battle. My mother was so grief-stricken that she stopped sleeping and eating. Two months later, she passed away, and my sister and I became orphans.

One week later, we boarded a steamboat called Keithsburg, bound for our new home, the Iowa Soldiers Orphans Home in Davenport, Iowa.

Upon arriving at the orphanage, my sister and I were shown to a room with two other girls, Ellen and Laura. They also had lost their parents during the war, and we bonded instantly. Later that night, we all made our way downstairs to dinner.

"This place is haunted, you know," Laura whispered to us across the table.

(continued on page 13)

development



In 2005 the finance committee acquired a new name, Development Committee. In so doing it also acquired a larger focus of responsibilities and goals. We continue to maintain a “watchdog” capacity for the financial health of CDHF as well as advise prudent administration of new projects. In addition we hope to stimulate efforts in areas such as endowments, reserves and partnerships in order to enhance our financial endeavors.

This has been a year of greater attention to structure with an active governance committee which is updating by-laws and job descriptions. We welcome this change as it will strengthen the work of this and all the standing committees.

The endowment fund was marketed with appeals in the fall newsletter as well as flyers at several Lunch and Learn events. The Gulf Coast tragedies curtailed the end of the year appeal mailing to our membership as their need preempted all.

We continue to seek committee membership and are happy to welcome the addition of Bob Karwath to the development committee.

Connie Runge, Chair

sutlers and sutlery sales



Thank you to all the volunteers who worked as Sutlers in 2005. You helped make it possible to keep the doors open for another season and you survived the third year of ringing the cash register.

New merchandise included custom refrigerator magnets featuring a photo of the Colonel Davenport House, festive placemats, kitchen towels and potholders and a selection of historically appropriate books and toys.

Sales totaled nearly \$1,300.

All of this is only possible because of the dedicated group of volunteers who greet and count the visitors, collect the admission money and cheerfully try to sell them some merchandise as a remembrance of their visit to the Colonel Davenport House.

The Sutlery Committee consists of Barbara Hanson, Rose Morrill, Marlene Scott, Nancy Strohl, Marcia Wetzel, Karin Wilker and Kim Yarbrough. Anyone wishing to be a member of this committee may contact Marcia Wetel at (309) 764-6471.

Here are the names of the volunteers who worked as Sutlers this past year:

Barb Acuff	Eunice Schlichting
Schar Blevins	Marlene Scott
Barbara Hanson	Joan Sherwin
Shirle Leman	Nancy Strohl
Helen Macalister	Lois Wehner
Marilyn Morley	Marcia Wetzel
Rose Morrill	Vickie Wetzel
Jan Nahra	Karin Wilker
Arlene Sax	Sue Wolters
	Kim Yarbrough

Marcia Wetzel, Chair

public relations



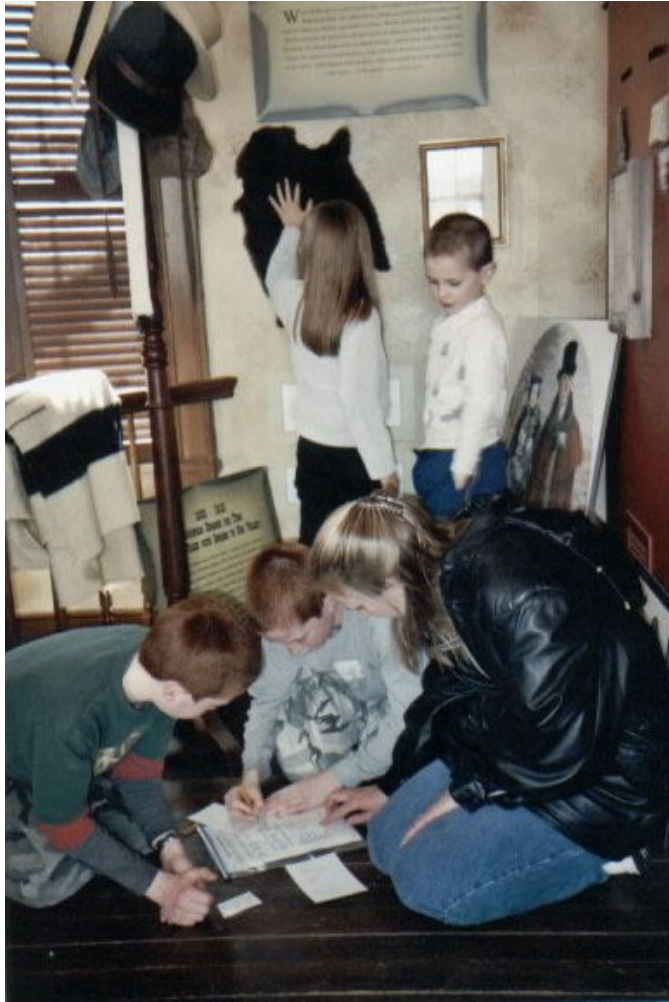
The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation is in the process of updating their printed materials and web page. This year, under the guidance of the Public Relations Committee, Midwest Graphics Management and designer Jeff Guthrie developed a four-color general interest brochure. The brochure is available at tourism locations throughout the community and surrounding region. The printing of this brochure was made possible by a generous contribution from the Riverboat Development Authority.

Cornucopia, the quarterly newsletter, was enhanced this year to include member submissions. Thank you to CDHF members who contributed to the Cornucopia. Also, a special thank you to Joyce Johnston for preparing the Cornucopia for mailing.

The Augustana Web Author's Guild has been hired to re-design and update the webpage www.davenporthouse.org in the winter months. The new page is expected to be unveiled in the spring.

Jamie Lange, Chair

membership



Members are the life-blood of our organization. Their interest, talent and support is most appreciated and definitely needed. Keeping our members informed is a top priority. Cornucopia, our membership newsletter, brings information to you on a variety of events and happenings. At this point, the website is being updated to convey a wealth of information to you via your computer. The goals of this committee are simple, yet extremely important.

- 1) To familiarize the public on the historical importance of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation (CDHF),
- 2) To encourage and promote membership in the CDHF, both from individuals as well as businesses and corporations,
- 3) To provide volunteer opportunities to our members, realizing that whatever time, talent and interest individuals have, there is a special place that it can be put to use, and is very much appreciated. The committee is in the process of compiling a membership information packet which will assist and inform new members about their organization, its role and their role as well.

Bob Holliday, Chair

events (cont'd)

(continued from page 8)

“What?” we all shouted.

“This orphanage used to be called Camp Kinsman. It was used during the war to train and house soldiers. At night, you can hear the dead soldiers roaming the hall, moaning and crying. Sometimes they’ll even snatch children out of their beds, and the children are never seen or heard from again,” Laura continued.

“How do you know this?” I demanded.

“I overheard a couple of the other girls talking it. They stay in Room 2B, and one of their roommates woke in the middle of the night to find a soldier standing over her bed. He had been stabbed, and you could see the knife sticking out of his chest.”

We exchanged nervous glances across the table. I suddenly had lost my appetite. Then the bell to signal the end of dinner rang ominously, and we reluctantly made our way back to our room.

I don’t know if it was the boat ride or the long walk to the orphanage that had exhausted me, but I fell asleep immediately, dreaming of the tree in our back yard.

Suddenly I was wakened by my sister’s screams. I sat straight up in bed. As my eyes adjusted to the darkness, I could make out Ellen and Laura in the bed across the room, huddled together, crying.

“They’re here!” my sister whispered. “Don’t look.” She was hugging me, her head buried in my shoulders.

“Who?” I shouted.

“The ghosts!” she sobbed. “Listen!”

My heart pounded loudly in my chest. I gripped the edge of the blanket and stared out into the darkness. The wind beat softly at the windows outside, and an owl cried in the distance. I heard a muffled snuffle from Ellen.

“I don’t hear...” My sentence was cut short as a long and low wail filled the room. The hairs on the back of my neck rose as the wail continued to grow louder. It was a man’s voice, filled with pain and anguish. The wailing continued, coming from every corner of the room, growing louder and longer.

I shot up from the bed and fumbled for the doorknob, but my sweat-soaked palms caused the knob to slip from my hands. Suddenly, I felt hot breath on the back of my neck.

“Get out” the voice hissed into my ear. “Get out or you will die here!”

I screamed loudly, throwing open the door and running out into the hallway. I made it to the top of the stairs before I collapsed onto the floor, the world turning black before my eyes.

The ghosts came every night. We would huddle in the corner, our arms wrapped around each other, trying to shut out the moans. “Get out!” the voices would hiss with rage. “You are going to die!”

We told the house matron, but she smiled at us and shook her head. “Girls, you’ve been through so much,” she cooed. “It’s no wonder you’re not sleeping.”

(continued from page 4)

events (cont'd)

(continued from page 13)

On Nov. 9, a terrible storm hit, and the matron insisted we all retire to our rooms. We huddled in one bed as the rain pounded against the windows and walls, thunder and lightening piercing the darkness. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning shot through the sky, and there was a deafing explosion outside our door.

We screamed and ppulled the covers over our heads. The window in the bedroom shattered, and the rain began to pour into the room, drenching the sheet across our heds.

Suddenly, the covers were wrenched from our hands and thrown across the room. We looked up into the empty eye sockets of three Union soliders who were standing at teh end of the bed. Their uniforms were tattered and bloody; one of the soldiers had a bandage around his head, and one wsa missing one of his arms.

“Get out!” they hissed. “Get out or you will die!”

Somehow we found our feet and raced twoard the door. I started to pull the doorknob when someone reached over me and slammed the door in my face. That was when I smelled it: Something was burning. “Get out!” the soldiers screamed.

I spun around the room and saw one of the solides pointing to the open window. I grabbed the other girls and pushed them through the boken window into the darkness below. As I jumped onot the window ledge, I looked back long enough to see the room become engulfed in flames.

All of the girls and staff in the orphanage managed to escape the fire. The firemen were incredulous; how did everyone survive such a powerful, merciless fire? We couldn't answer their questions, even though we all knew the answer.

We just sat and stared as the firemen pulled three burnt Union soliders uniforms from the rubble, their brass buttons and medals shining brilliantly in the morning sun.

financials

Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation
Balance Sheet - Unaudited
Cash Basis As of December 31, 2005

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	
ABTC-Checking	7,051.52
CD-IHMVCU-70090059	10,257.34
Endowment Fund-CFGRB	14,533.19
Savings Account-ABTC	11,833.80

Total Checking/Savings 43,675.85

Total Current Assets 43,675.85

Fixed Assets

Accumulated Depreciation	-160,606.26
Building/House	
Leasehold Improvements	399,024.69
Total Building/House	399,024.69

Furniture and Fixtures 96,538.43

Total Fixed Assets 334,956.86

TOTAL ASSETS 378,632.71

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Bal Equity	329,193.20
Retained Earnings	44,255.46
Net Income	5,184.05
Total Equity	378,632.71

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 378,632.71

collections



The Collection Committee was responsible for the selection of the mahogany empire style pier table now located in the front entryway of the house. This important addition was made possible with a grant from Questers International and local Quester chapters. The table was placed in the house in May, following completion of the window renovation project. The Foundation hosted a Quester Tea at the house on May 15, when the table was unveiled.

Additionally, the Committee met several times during the year to clean the house and discuss priorities for future acquisitions. With the support of local Questers and antique groups, we hope to proceed with upgraded period window coverings in 2006.

The Committee would like to complete a computerized catalogue of the collection, as this would greatly facilitate a professional appraisal of the contents of the house.

The Collection Committee has also forwarded to the Board a draft of a Collection Policy for consideration.

Sara Hartsock, Chair

building and grounds



The building committee gladly reports that the major construction effort was finally completed on the north side made possible by a generous grant from the Scott County Regional Authority.

This project involved removing all of the siding and windows from the front of the house and replacing with new. Reed Swenson, who is quite familiar with the house, was the winning bidder. He selected Carver Window company to remake the windows and ordered the siding from a mill near Chicago. There were significant delays as the windows took quite some time to manufacture and the late winter weather prevented an early start.

In April, the north siding was removed back to the logs and wrapped in tyvec house wrap prior to residing. The furring strips were found to be in fairly good shape which mitigated a potentially high cost repair. An oak block was cut from a local custom saw mill and installed under a second floor window sill.

Reed's crew and several subcontractors did an excellent job of rebuilding and repainting the siding and windows on the front side back to the north chimney faces. We

were also fortunate enough to be able to purchase the new siding for the back side of the house at the same time. This gave us assurance of the correct type of siding and at the current pricing. Reed has agreed to store these materials for our future project at his warehouse at no charge until funding for the south side siding project can be secured.

An additional task included the painting and wood repair of the Sutlery fascia and the lower "drip edges trim" on the west and north side. Carpenter ants were found and in accordance with our lease, the Arsenal staff was contacted to treat the wood. New boards were made, installed with a beveled edge and painted.

The last project of this year was the preservation and treatment of the roofing shingles on the main house and the sutlery which was completed before the first snowfall of the season.

We are assured that Augie was glad to know that work was completed on the north side of the house. We will miss him dearly but continue to restore the house for future generations to enjoy. Upcoming projects include new windows and siding on the south side of the house, replacement of the front porch columns, and development of a more accessible ramp structure entering the house and the sutlery.

Buster Miller, Chair



Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation
PO Box 4603
Rock Island, IL 61204-4603
www.davenporthouse.org

Nonprofit Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 146
Davenport, IA

Be a History Buff!

The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation exists to preserve the Colonel Davenport House and site and to interpret the social history and material culture of the early 19th century contained therein for the benefit of the public.