

# Annual Report

2006-2007



Colonel Davenport  
Historical Foundation  
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309-786-7336  
[www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org)

Located on Arsenal Island

*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.*



## The Davenport House Story

Based 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 that 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, and 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.



**Board of Directors**

John Norton  
*President*

Sharon Heinze  
*Vice-President*

Janice Peterson  
*Secretary*

Kathy Peck  
*Treasurer*

Ginny Bauersfield  
Beth Carvey-Stewart  
Bob Karwath  
Jack McDonald  
Buster Miller  
John Donald O'Shea  
Pete Peterson  
Keri Pleasant  
Connie Runge  
Jessica Waytenick  
Sue Wolters

## A Message from the President

This has been a banner year for the Foundation! Historically accurate windows and siding were installed on the south and west sides of the Davenport Home, thanks to the donation of skilled labor and materials from the Quad City Home Builders, and member organizations like McCartney Improvement Co. and Ehrecke Construction, and supported by a generous grant from the Scott County Regional Authority.

New cedar siding and window framing will have a much longer life than the previous pine, while a covered entry walk will make it far safer and more comfortable to enter the home from the Sutlery.

This year, we welcomed Congressman Phil Hare to our Veterans' Day Annual Meeting, recognizing Colonel George Davenport's long service to his country. These creative programs continue our community outreach, while bringing vital revenue to our work.

As custodian of this National Historic Landmark site, the CDHF depends on the generosity of its members and friends, whether in the form of financial support or volunteer efforts. We extend special thanks to our board members, dedicated house guides, interpreters and sutlery volunteers, interpretive gardeners, and educators at local schools who use the Davenport Home as part of their history and social studies programs. Those who served we thank profusely, and those who follow in their footsteps, we welcome!

Our primary mission is to preserve and interpret the Colonel Davenport House, as the oldest remaining home in the Quad Cities, while recognizing the many pioneering contributions of Colonel George Davenport to the development of our region, beginning in 1816.

We look forward to preserving that story for coming generations, and hope you will continue your personal support and interest.

John E. Norton  
2007 CDHF Board President



## Building & Grounds Committee

After almost 10 months of minimal activity and procrastinations, a great windfall befell the CDHF. This was in the form of the Quad City Homebuilder's deciding to assist in the restoration of the south side of the house, using the funding from the SCRA grant. Credit must be given to Janice Peterson and John Norton for developing this assistance, as an out growth of the Tour of Homes program.

Dave Burrows, director of the Quad City Homebuilders, convinced McCartney and Ehrecke Construction companies to participate in the effort. On October 5, 2007, the siding was removed from the south side and many local media came to cover the event, including Susan McPeters from WQPT, Alma Gaul from the Quad-City Times, Reggie Jarrell from the Argus/Dispatch, WQAD, WHBF, and Fox 18.

Dave McCartney provided wood from an 1890 Scott County barn to create the long awaited covered walkway between the main house and the sutlery. His crew also reoriented the existing walkway to parallel the south side of the sutlery. These two modifications have made a great improvement both in function and esthetics. The old walkway ramp will be stripped of paint and stained to hopefully match the new porch structure.

The new siding was delivered by Reed Swensen and the old siding is being stored on Arsenal Island for possible future use. After the new siding is installed, there will need to be a final coat of paint that will happen next spring.

The north side of the house, restored in 2005, continues to look good except for the insect residue, which will require annual cleaning. The sutlery will require a repainting on the south wall and touch up all around in the spring.

The heating and air conditioning gave us some problems this year. A new thermostat was installed in the sutlery replacing the difficult and confusing old unit. An annual HVAC maintenance contract was discussed and will hopefully be awarded this year. The telephone lines also had to be repaired after mice chewed through them.

Tri City Garden club continued to maintain the lovely house garden under the mentorship of Faye Waterman and a staff of volunteers.

Melvin "Buster" Miller  
Building & Grounds Committee Chairperson

New additions to the collections at the house include two replica flintlock muskets that were hand carved by Dr. Paul Johnson. These donations add to his previously and graciously donated items of keelboats and other carved materials. Rifles were one of the most traded items according to previous research of the fur trading center.

## Sutlery Gift Shop Committee

The sutler is the name of the person who supplies an army post with the food it needs, just as George Davenport did for Fort Armstrong when he arrived here in the area in 1816 and the reason for our calling his west wing office of the house, The Sutlery.

The Sutlery is the place that visitors come first where our volunteers, or sutlers, greet them pleasantly and tell them about touring the house. Then, the sutler takes their admission fee, asks them to sign the guest book, and introduces them to their guide. Also here is a small gift shop that sells such things as our animal and history books and our "Obedient Servant" book, a biography of George Davenport. There are also old time children's toys, pottery, cookbooks, soap, and t-shirts for children and adults.

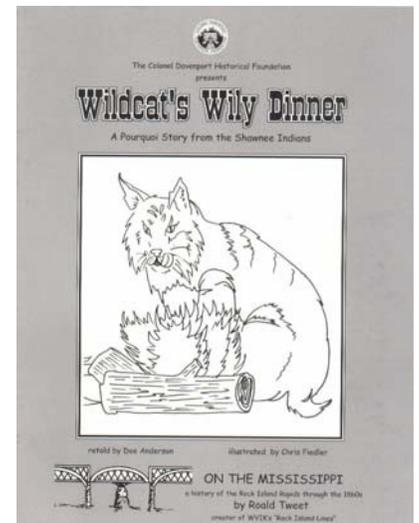
We invite our members to come by, look things over, and take a free tour. We promise you that you will find it enjoyable and fascinating. The house is the stage and background for a history lesson/story over 180 years old. What was life like then? And that is not so long ago!

Sales at the Sutlery came to \$1,596. Increased attendance would help with increasing our sales. Our attendance this past season was approximately 1,100.

We had many small adult tours, many visitors from all over the United States, and school tours. One school tour this year was 144 students who were divided up in groups and also visited the other sites on the Island. We would like to increase this number and must work on getting the news of our unique museum out to the local public. Believe it or not, many are not even aware of it.

Joyce Johnston  
Sutlery Chairperson

The CDHF is now selling at the Sutlery its newest paperback book, "Your Obedient Servant". It tells the story of Colonel Davenport. The CDHF also continues to sell its three Backyard History Series of children's books with local history and Native American tales. The new DVD "The House that Courage Built" is also for sale.



## Education Committee

### Lunch and Learn Activities

Connie Runge's "Lunch and Learn Committee" presented three "Lunch and Learns" in 2007 at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

On May 2, 2007, Neil Dahlstrom, archivist for Deere & Co., presented a program on John Deere, the founder of Deere & Co., and his life here in the area.

On July 18, 2007, Mary Elizabeth Sievert presented a program on "*The Influence of the Industrial Revolution in England and America on the Domestic Interiors of the Frontier.*" The program described what was happening in manufacturing here and abroad for people with means, like the Davenport family, to furnish the interior of their homes in the 1830s style.

2007 was the sesquicentennial of the *Dred Scott v. John F. A. Sanford decision 1857*. That case was quite possibly the most important case ever decided by the United States Supreme Court. Many historians feel the decision made the Civil War inevitable.

With that in mind, the CDHF presented a new original mini-play written by local playwright Judge John Donald O'Shea, called "*A Shave and a Haircut. Two Bits.*" The presentation was made at the Lunch and Learn on September 12th. Featured in the cast were the author, Jack Tumbleson, Dick Balzer, William Zessar, and Chuck Rubovitz.

The play was situated in a barbershop in March 1857, with the dialogue derived from U. S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Taney's majority opinion, the dissenting opinions of Justices McLean and Curtis, and the editorials of four local newspapers.

### "Ghost Tales" Project

In 2007, the education chair began to gather, compile, and cull the ghost tales that have been submitted for presentation at our annual "Ghost Tales" event in September. The ultimate goal is to publish a book for sale to afford the CDHF a source of royalty revenue.

### The Musical "*George!*" Project

In 2007, the education chair received permission from Ann Boaden, the author of the musical "*George!*", to make use of the musical for the CDHF as a fundraising device. At the present time, Mary Kae Waytenick has undertaken arranging the music for a small orchestra, with a goal of creating a musical that will be usable by community theaters.

John Donald O'Shea  
Education Committee Chairperson

### Traveling Trunks

Two trunks stuffed with educational materials continue to be available to school teachers for educational purposes to help students learn about the development of this region, what life was like in the 1800s, and the contributions of Col. George Davenport and his family.

## Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee had a busy year of promoting the house and the CDHF's projects and events. This publicity led to many published stories. The biggest story was when the house's siding was removed in October. It was a beautiful, sunny day and almost all of the local media covered the event.

Another major project for the committee was the creation of a new section on the website for teachers. The majority of the materials came from the Traveling Trunk packet and they can be used in conjunction with watching the DVD, "The House the Courage Built: The Story of Colonel George Davenport." And the materials can also be used in preparation for visiting the house. A letter was sent to area 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to let them know about the new online materials, and a follow-up postcard will be sent to the same group in the spring. This material will continue to be updated.

The CDHF had displays at the Heritage Fair at the Putnam Museum in February and participated in Art Stroll in downtown Davenport in August. During Art Stroll, we had quill pens and ink for people to see what it was like to write with what Colonel Davenport used.

The PR Committee published three issues of the *Cornucopia* newsletter with information for the members. And the website continues to be an important way for people to get information about the Colonel Davenport House. In 2007, the website had over 14,500 visits!

### Events

- Opening Day on May 5<sup>th</sup> brought beautiful weather and many visitors to the house. It was a busy day of tours and gift shop sales.
- Arsenal Appreciation Day on September 27<sup>th</sup> brought numerous Arsenal employees to the house for a free tour.
- Ghost Tales on September 29<sup>th</sup> brought around 100 people to the house grounds for refreshments and a night of spooky stories. Linda Stark, East Moline, contributed the winning ghost story through the Argus/Dispatch contest.
- The CDHF held its annual meeting on November 11 at the Arsenal Golf Club. It was held in November to honor Col. Davenport's birthday and his service with the U.S. Army. Representative Phil Hare was one of the featured speakers, and he spoke about veterans and their sacrifice to the 50 people that attended. Then the program was about the clothing the settlers wore with actual clothing examples.

Jessica Waytenick  
Public Relations Committee Chairperson

The new DVD was unveiled last year and was produced by Avolux Media, Moline. The script was developed by Mick Elliott, Bill Hannan, Regena Schantz, and James Wilke. Funding was made possible by the Riverboat Development Authority, Figge Foundation, Hubbell-Waterman Foundation, and the Hunt & Diane Harris Foundation. Additional support was provided by the Illinois Arts Council, Humanities Iowa, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Annual Report

### Membership Committee

Every member of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation plays an important role in the organization. There are currently 151 members. 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. In addition, we welcomed four new members to CDHF.

#### 2007 Membership Report

Month	Renewals	New Members
January	\$ 165.00	
February	\$ 225.00	
March	\$ 105.00	
April	\$ 255.00	
May	\$ 415.00	
June	\$ 240.00	1 member
July	\$ 640.00	1 member
August	\$ 345.00	
September	\$ 295.00	1 member
October	\$ 620.00	
November	\$1,155.00	1 member
December	\$ 305.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,765.00</b>	

Kim Yarbrough  
Membership Chairperson

#### New Members 2007

Beth Carvey-Stewart  
Glenna Friel  
Suzanne Hoskins  
Keri Pleasant-Hagedorn  
Babs and Steve Treiber



## Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Annual Report

# CDHF Financial Report

## Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2007

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

ABTC-Checking	21,827.35
Endowment Fund-CFGRB	21,184.63
Savings Account-ABTC	5,423.99
Savings Capital Improvements-ABTC	3,764.49
Savings Collections-ABTC	1,989.82
Vanguard Money Market	<u>5,040.10</u>
Total Checking/Savings	59,230.38

Total Current Assets 59,230.38

#### Fixed Assets

Accumulated Depreciation Building/House	-160,606.26
Total Building House	399,024.69
Furniture Fixtures	<u>96,538.43</u>

Total Fixed Assets 334,956.86

**TOTAL ASSETS 394,187.24**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Equity

Opening Balance Equity	319,573.67
Retained Earnings	63,129.62
Net Income	<u>11,483.95</u>

Total Equity 394,187.24

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 394,187.24**

The CDHF opened a Vanguard Money Market account this year to make idle operating funds work hard without a lot of risk.

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**Spring Parade of Homes**  
\$910

**Birdies for Charity**  
\$610.46

**Fall Parade of Homes**  
\$971.69

**THANK YOU!**





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