



# Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Annual Report 2008



*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.*



**Colonel Davenport  
Historical Foundation  
PO Box 4603  
Rock Island, IL 61204-4603  
309-786-7336  
[www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org)**

**Located on Arsenal Island**

## The Davenport House Story



Colonel George  
Davenport

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 the west wing. The Federal Government and the U.S. Army have contributed no money to this restoration 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 Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation counts on volunteers to maintain and operate the House. The board of directors meets monthly to discuss finances, future planning, upcoming events, and tours.



## A Message from the CDHF President

*John E. Norton*

Completion of this summer's exterior painting and weatherproofing capped a year of vital maintenance work on the Colonel Davenport House. It couldn't have been completed without the help of board member and committee chair Buster Miller, the Building and Grounds Committee, and dedicated professionals. We now look to the future, with ambitious plans to reconstruct the east wing of the home, as a fully accessible exhibit and education area. It will restore the visual balance of this beautiful National Historic Landmark building, the oldest residence in the Quad Cities, and site of many decisions that created the future prosperity this region.

Reconstruction will involve at least two important steps. First is the creation of drawings and specifications by architects meeting historic preservation requirements, and second, the reconstruction project itself, perhaps one or two years away.

Initial estimates call for expenditure of about \$6,000 for the plans and specifications, and building expenses ranging from \$60,000 to \$150,000, depending on final use for the reconstructed wing. We value the input of all members and friends in making those vital decisions on use.

Best of all, the IRS, with the help of Congress, has just given a wonderful "gift to givers." Donors 70 ½ or older now receive a special tax benefit for making direct gifts of IRA- and similar retirement funds to charities of their

choice. These tax-favored gifts may be as much as \$100,000 during 2009. "Required Minimum Distributions" also qualify. Please see your tax advisor, or our friends at the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, for details.

As current stewards of this National Historic Landmark site, we owe it to ourselves, and future generations, to build as well and proudly as Col. George Davenport did. We are creating new interpretive programs beyond our very successful "lunch and learn" gatherings. We are working with area educators to offer opportunities for promising young students to research the history surrounding not just the Davenport House, but our community. We also hope to secure support for new public programs, to include plays and musical activities intended to educate, while bringing new financial support to operations and endowment for tomorrow.

We welcome your continued support, whether as a visitor, member, interpreter, guide or sutlery volunteer. We especially welcome gifts that bring special tax benefits to you and your family. We hope you will join us in preserving and interpreting the Colonel Davenport House for the future.




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### Board of Directors

John Norton  
*President*

Sue Wolters  
*Vice-President*

Janice Peterson  
*Secretary*

Kathy Peck  
*Treasurer*

Ginny Bauersfeld  
Judy Belfer  
Beth Carvey  
Bob Karwath  
Jack McDonald  
Buster Miller  
John Donald O'Shea  
Pete Peterson  
Keri Pleasant  
Connie Runge  
Jack Smit  
Judy Tumbleson  
Jessica Waytenick

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## Building & Grounds Committee

### *Buster Miller*

After the wonderful effort by the Quad City Homebuilders (Ehrecke and McCartney Construction companies) to reside the house and build the new porch in October 2007, additional exterior work had to wait until this year. A grant was received from the Riverboat Development Authority in May providing \$6,000 to perform the final painting and repairs.




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Thank you to Sara and Rick Hartsock, who were very gracious in coordinating the donation of paint from Sandstrom Products in Port Byron, IL.

Thank you also to the grants received from the Riverboat Development Authority and the RIA Women's Club.

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When the initial contractor couldn't complete the painting project, Mike Baker of Arterio Painting and a crew of two others came to the rescue. They finished the work including some major wood repair to the sutlery and the front porch floor. All was accomplished on time and within budget. The work was actually completed the day prior to our Ghost Tales event on September 27.

The next painting effort for Spring will be to determine if another final coat is needed for the north face of the main house. This was last done in 2005 but has faded considerably.

Animals continue to be a nuisance. In addition to the constant battle with mice under the floor of the sutlery, there are now have squirrels in the attic. Traps have been set and we will continue to monitor it through the winter. The Arterio paint crew also found a nest of carpenter ants on the northwest corner of the sutlery. This was treated by RIA contract personnel. After an expensive repair of the sutlery furnace, another

service call was required to remove a nest that had been built in the exhaust port for the high efficiency furnace.

The windows in the sutlery will need attention next year as the glazing on the glass has begun to crack and separate, thus allowing water to get to the wood sash and dividers—potentially rotting them. Preventive maintenance will correct this and hopefully preclude the expensive (\$1,500) future window replacement. Any volunteer support for this project next spring would be appreciated. A new door is still needed for the sutlery and the hand and kick rails on the porch need to be installed. A stock of old wood to match the porch has been collected for these safety rails and a \$300 grant was received from the RIA Women's Club for this project.

The building of the east wing is still a major goal of the building committee. This would add architectural balance to the house and allow the transfer of the wonderful fur trade exhibit to the ground floor making it more accessible.



## Sutlery Gift Shop Committee

*Ginny Bauersfeld*

Taking its cue from the early 1800's, the gift shop at the Colonel Davenport House is called The Sutlery and the volunteers who staff it are called Sutlers. These Sutlers, as well as the Guides/ Interpreters, are the people who make this 175-year house come alive for all who visit and tour the property. Explaining not only the life of George Davenport and his family, but also the customs, hardships and lifestyles of the early 1800's gives a background and perspective to life on the Mississippi River at that time.

Much of the merchandise in the Sutlery relates to the pioneer life, from wooden toys to pottery to candles. The top sellers seem to always be the books, which cover a wide variety of early American topics for adults as well as children. Catering to modern-day needs, a new supply of CDHF logo T-shirts, sweatshirts and tote bags are available.

Paid admissions this year were about 18% more than the previous year at 1,295 visitors, but Sutlery sales were about 9% less at \$1,450. This could be a reflection of the economic conditions...stay closer to home and spend less money. In spite of that, there were visitors from many parts of the U.S. and several foreign countries.

The Sutlers and Guides are the volunteers who make it possible to have the house open to the public 4 days a week. One Sutler and one Guide are on hand during open hours. This year 34 volunteers generously donated their time for the six months the house was open. Recruiting more volunteers is always a goal and anyone interested can call Ginny Bauersfeld at 309-757-9020.

Just as George Davenport provided food for the Army in his position as Sutler, the current volunteers provide food for thought for all who visit.




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This year the Col. Davenport House was part of the Arsenal Island tour that American Queen passengers toured while they were docked in the Quad Cities for the day. Over 250 visitors from the riverboat toured the house.

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## Education Committee

*John Donald O'Shea*

During 2008, The Education Committee was active in three principal areas: Lunch and Learn presentations, Ghost Tales, and "George!".

### Lunch and Learns

The "Lunch and Learns" are held in the beautiful main room of the historic Rock Island Arsenal Golf Clubhouse. During 2008, four "Lunch and Learn" programs were presented. Over 150 people attended all of the Lunch and Learns. Thank you to our speakers this year!

On April 9, John Donald O'Shea and George Eaton recreated the 1857 Lincoln-Douglas debate in Galesburg.

On May 28, the preservation efforts in the Quad Cities were the topic of a panel discussion with four participants: George Eaton, Command Historian; Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager; Gretchen Small, Butterworth Center and Deere-Wiman House; and Rebecca Lawin McCarley, historic preservation consultant.

On July 2, it was a Red, White, and Blue event with information about 4<sup>th</sup> of July's

in the past from John Willard, and North Scott High School students Beau Dexter and Gabriella Green presented their National History Day project about Col. Davenport.

On September 10, Jack Tumbleson spoke about the Mississippi River: Highway for Armies and Builders.

### Ghost Tales

On September 27, 2008, the CDHF's signature Ghost Tales event featured three varied presentations. As usual, the event featured the winner of the Ghost Tales contest conducted by the Dispatch/Argus who was Gabriele Doyle. In addition, local author Mike Romkey told a tale of "boot legging" days in the Village of East Davenport. Finally, six students from Alleman High School and Seton Jr. High performed a one-act "ghost" play, *"Caveat Emptor, Darling?"* by John Donald O'Shea. Ghost Tales was sponsored in part by Karwath Insurance and Adel Wholesale, Inc. Admission was charged this year. The house was open for tours and over 200 people attended this event on a beautiful, warm evening.

### "George!"

Local composer Mary Kae Waytenick is nearing completion of the orchestration of the musical, "George!". "George!" is a play about the life of Col. George Davenport, and his family and friends. It was written by Ann Boaden and Joanne Beaumont.



## Public Relations Committee

*Jessica Waytenick*

The Public Relations Committee had a busy year of promoting the house and the CDHF's projects and events. It was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CDHF in 2008.

More copies of the DVD "The

House the Courage Built: The Story of Colonel George Davenport" were needed to be made in order to sell in the Sutlery, and now all main branches of the area libraries have a copy.

A successful grant was written to the Riverboat Development Authority in April for \$6,000 for the painting work that needed to be completed. A request to the Rock Island Community Foundation for more brochures was not granted.

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. The website continues to be updated to have the most current information. In 2008, the website had over 23,315 visits and that was a great increase over last year!



### Events

- Despite the rainy weather, Opening Day on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> brought over 40 visitors to the house. It was a busy day of tours and gift shop sales.
- Arsenal Appreciation Day was moved to June this year to avoid the government's end of the year work. Around 80 Arsenal employees came to the house for a free tour that day.
- Ghost Tales on September 27<sup>th</sup> brought over 220 people to the house grounds for refreshments and a night of spooky stories. It was a warm and beautiful night. This year radio advertising was purchased on Mix 96 to run the week preceding the event.
- An opportunity arose for the CDHF to have a display at the Moline Public Library. For the month of November, items from the house and materials were in the library's display cases.

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The CDHF had displays and handed out information at the Henry Farnam Dinner in February and an Open House for area school teachers in August.

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## Membership Report

*Kim Yarbrough*

Every member of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation plays an important role in the organization. There are currently 128 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.

### 2008 New Members

Bette and Don Berg,  
Milan, IL  
Hedde and Michael  
Hustedde  
Davenport, IA  
Judy Tumbleson,  
Rock Island, IL  
James Westpahl,  
Davenport, IA

### 2008 Membership Report

Month	Renewals
January	\$ 100.00
February	\$ 75.00
March	\$ 110.00
April	\$ 440.00
May	\$ 420.00
June	\$2,230.00
July	\$ 510.00
August	\$ 440.00
September	\$ 315.00
October	\$ 265.00
November	\$ 615.00
December	\$ 460.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,980.00</b>





## CDHF Financial Report

*Kathy Peck, Treasurer and Linda Cain, CPA*

Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation  
Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2008

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

ABTC-Checking	17,943.72
Endowment Fund-CFGRB	20,226.69
Savings Account-ABTC	5,442.24
Savings Capital Improvements-ABTC	4,789.61
Savings Collections-ABTC	2,248.78
Vanguard Money Market	<u>15,320.28</u>

Total Checking/Savings	65,971.32
Sutlery Inventory	2,630.00

Total Current Assets 68,601.32

#### Fixed Assets

Accumulated Depreciation Building/House -170,327.26

Total Building/House 374,392.52

Furniture Fixtures 92,888.43

Total Fixed Assets 269,953.69

**TOTAL ASSETS 365,555.01**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Equity

Unrestricted Fund Balance 344,743.29

Retained Earnings 14,019.22

Net Income 6,792.50

Total Equity 365,555.01

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 365,555.01**

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The CDHF participated in the Birdies for Charity program and received over \$300. Many volunteers also helped the CDHF with the two Parade of Home tours in the spring and fall. For collecting admissions at the assigned houses, the CDHF received over \$1,500. Quad City Homebuilders is only doing on Parade of Homes in 2009.

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*This balance sheet does not include the endowment fund report and depreciation has not been booked.*



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