

CORNUCOPIA

"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." November 2005

Volume 107 Issue 1

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President's Message

-Eunice Schlichting, President

Cornucopia is a quarterly publication for CDHF members, volunteers and Board of Directors.

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Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation, P.O. Box 4603, Rock Island, IL 61201-4603

A HISTORY MOMENT:

Courtesy of Joyce Johnston An excerpt from the Sunday Times-Democrat on Sunday, Oct. 24, 1965:
(continued from the November 2005 issue of Cornucopia)

“We Could See A Big Job Ahead”

The Home Builders had no funds for the restoration. They decided to hold a dance to see if they could raise some money. They hired a band and the manager of the Col Ballroom in Davenport donated the establishment to them. Working with their ladies auxiliary they managed to raise about \$400. Area lumber yards and roofing firms donated lumber and needed materials.

“It was hard for many of us to find the time to work on the house so we just did it whenever we could. Normally such a job could have been completed much sooner, but bit by bit we got it done,” Beaman explained.

Volunteers put on a new roof, rebuilt the porch and replaced much of the siding. In 1962, painting contractors repainted the outside with paint supplied free by area dealers.

Last year plasterers moved in to donate their services.

“We made no structural changes since we wanted to keep the home in as much the original condition as possible. It has big timbers between the siding and the inside plaster and the home is still basically quite solid event though it’s 132 years old,” Beaman said.

Recently members of the Willard Barron Memorial Apprentice School for Painters in Davenport have been spending four hours on Saturday mornings painting the interior of the old dwelling. They are given classroom credit for this work.

At least a dozen apprentices and their instructor painted the home’s four large rooms and hallway. Walls and ceilings were given two coats.

Same Colors As Use At Williamsburg

“We used the same colors used in the restoration at Williamsburg because we felt they would be typical of the time. We have a rose room, peach room, blue room and green room.

“The woodwork was done in the white enamel, the staircase was varnished, and the floors oiled, just as they used to do in the old days. The floors are pine and still in good shape,” Beaman disclosed.

The builders now hope that some interested group will take over the home and furnish it in pieces of the period.

“We would like advice and help from interested people who know something of the furnishings of that period and might have something to loan or donate. We’d like to give it to the community as an important part of our history,” Beaman said.

Though the home is not heated and has no lights, the builders feel it would be a big attraction for tourists and visitors.

“We think we may even enter it in the Parade of Homes as an added attraction,” Beaman disclosed.

The Col. Davenport home was one of the first buildings on the Arsenal. There the founding fathers conferred with the colonel to draft plans for developing towns in the area.

Prominent Indian chiefs often counseled with Col. Davenport there and once Abraham Lincoln, then a captain in the Black Hawk War of 1832, was a guest in the home.



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Annual Membership in CDHF is \$25 for an individual, \$30 for a family, \$20 for senior citizens (60 and older) \$15 for students. \$50 for a patron level, \$100 for a sustaining membership, \$500 for a benefactor and \$2,000 for a lifetime membership. If you are interested in becoming a member, please download the form at www.davenporthouse.org or call (309) 786-7336 to request a form.

WELCOME NEW CDHF MEMBERS

Become a member today! Mail check and form to PO Box 4603 Rock Island, IL 61201-4603

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events take place at the House unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, May 4 Noon **House Opens For Season**

Colonel Davenport's home will be opening in the spring with a Welcome Reception.

Sunday, December 4 1-4 p.m. **Holiday Open House**

In conjunction with the Tri-City Garden Club, CDHF is

Thursday, January 29 2-4 p.m. **Annual Meeting** held at

Butterworth Center in Moline, IL.