

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."

Volume 106 Issue 2

June 2005

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President's Message

As I sat to write this message, all of the weekly obligations I have ran through my head. ...finish writing the church history, quilting club on Monday, bible study on Tuesday and choir practice on Thursday... Oh yea, and then there's working full time at the museum!

The springtime is a very busy time for all of us and it has been extremely busy for the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation. Inside this issue, you'll learn about updates and improvements to the house inside and out. You can learn about some of the youth and educational activities that took place in April and some events that are planned for the coming months.

There are many opportunities to participate with CDHF that appeal to many different audiences. There is the lunch and learn series, tours of the house and many special events including "Ghost Tales." I encourage you this year, as members, to challenge yourself to step outside the norm and engage in a new area of CDHF and offer your time and talents to further the organization.

I encourage you to take a look at a sampling of committees on page 5 of this issue to see if something sparks your interest. Maybe someone you know would be a welcome addition to the organization as well.

A committee head will be contacting you to ask for your involvement. Each of us has talents which can be contributed to this organization. Please consider discovering where you can serve best.

The springtime is a great time to reaffirm your commitment to this great organization and begin to get involved in the many exciting activities that take place during the open season.

I hope each of you pledges to involve yourself in CDHF's work in some way this season. I look forward to meeting more of you this year through your efforts to preserve the Col. Davenport House. Each of us has a place with Colonel Davenport. I urge you to find yours.

-Eunice Schlichting, President



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

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

To submit information for future publication, contact Jamie Lange, Editor, 309-743-2166, jamielynn880@mchsi.com

SIDING AND WINDOWS PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION

The Colonel Davenport House is receiving a springtime makeover this month. Currently, a siding improvement project is underway to be completed before the house opening on May 7th. After being closed since October for the winter season, the house is being freshened up for its spring time visitors. The window replacement project is well underway and is scheduled for completion by May 31st.



LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

Join CDHF as we travel with Lewis & Clark on their expedition to explore the West. Wayne Kobberdahl from Council Bluffs, IA impersonates the famous explorers and will answer questions about the grand expedition.

When: August 9th Noon
 Where: Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club
 Cost: \$12 CHDF members
 \$15 Non-members
 RSVP: For reservations, mail check payable to CDHF to Alice West, 6205 Shadowbrook Drive, Bettendorf, IA 52722. If you have questions, please contact Alice West at (563)-332-5501. **RSVP by Aug. 2**

COLONEL DAVENPORT HOUSE OPENS SEASON WITH NEW ADMISSION PRICING

House Open: May 7 through October 29
 Hours: Thursday through Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.
 Special tour times are available by calling Sue at (563) 388-9657.

Admission Pricing
 Adults and Seniors: \$5
 Students: \$3
 Family (parents and children): \$10
 School Group: \$1 per person
 Adult Group: \$2 per person

NEW!

Tours have already begun with Home School Day and groups touring in April. Stop by the house for a tour or call Sue at (563) 388-9657 to schedule a group tour.

PIER TABLE DONATED BY QUESTERS ARRIVES; PLACED IN ENTRYWAY TO GREET NEW VISITORS

With the coming of the new season, improvements to the collections inside the historic house have been underway as well. A volunteer collections committee searched for the house's newest addition, a circa 1840 American Classical Pier Table and purchased the table in November with \$4,000 in grant funding provided by Questers International and several local Quester chapters. This table is a piece relevant to the period of the house and its inhabitants.



Funding for this table was made possible by Questers International and several local Quester chapters. The purpose of Questers is to educate by research and study of antiques and to donate funds to the

preservation and restoration of existing memorials, historic buildings and landmarks. They have been in existence since 1944 when Mrs. Will George (Bess) Bardens of Fort Washington, PA, founded the organization. Chapters exist throughout North America.

"I am proud to be associated with an organization such as Questers which is rooted in education about the past with a clear and compelling vision for the future. Questers have funded projects like the local Pier Table Project all over the United States and Canada," said Nancy Cornish, project chairman and CDHF board member.

Local Questers chapters on both sides of the Mississippi River were instrumental in making this pier table project a reality for CDHF. The local chapters were the Ancien Moulin #836, Annie Wittenmeyer #737, Duck Creek #570, Gleaners #387, Illowa # 581 and Le Vieux Grenier #837.

The pier table will be unveiled at a special tea recognition for board members from CDHF and representatives from the local Quester chapters on Sunday, May 15th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Following the unveiling, visitors can view the table at its permanent placement in the entry hall of the historic house.

Be sure to check on the newest addition to the Davenport House collection on your next tour. Plans are currently underway to begin searching for a hallway mirror to compliment the pier table.

2004 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE IN JULY

In an effort to conserve resources of both paper and postage, the 2004 Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Annual Report will be available online at www.davenporthouse.org. If you would prefer a copy be mailed to you, please contact Kathy Peck at (309) 797-5539 or kpeck@qconline.com. Check out the events and progress with the House in the report.

TRI-CITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS PREP PLANTS AND FLOWERS FOR SUMMER SEASON

In April, a committee of volunteers gathered at the House to do spring clean-up to the garden including mulching and planting. Currently, the Tri-City Garden Club plants and maintains an 1800s garden for CDHF. Members of the club are responsible for all maintenance, watering and weeding of the garden.

The Club allocated its \$2,000 Memorial Fund as well as a \$1,000 donation for civic beautification to create the Colonel Davenport House Garden.

In addition to making the grounds of the Colonel Davenport site more attractive to visitors, the garden's purpose is to show the plant varieties commonly grown in the 1800's. It also serves as an educational tool to enhance the public's understanding of life in Colonel Davenport's era.

Colonel George Davenport sold garden seeds along with other items to settlers heading west at his fur trade post. While it is documented from a letter that Col. Davenport wrote to his son in 1843 that a garden did exist on the site, it is not known exactly where the garden was located.

Gardens with herbs and remedies were historically located close to a house, so the newly created garden is located just south of the house on land previously disturbed when it was excavated by archaeologists in 1997.

A landscape architect revised an earlier plan to design the current garden. Tri-City Garden Club members and volunteers have worked with this company to prepare the land and adequately accommodate the planting. The club utilized plants from their own gardens and local nurseries as well as growing historic plants from seed.

After first planting old classics like Black Eyes Susans and Cone Flowers, the Garden Club soon discovered that the local wildlife feasted regularly on the vegetation. The group affectionately called the garden the "Colonel Davenport Delicatessen" before regrouping and doing further research on which plants could survive the animals. Members provided valuable tips in selecting the appropriate plants to the era as well as those that could survive the challenging environment. Local gardeners take note to visit the garden to get tips for their own deer and rabbit-ravaged yards.

ENDOWMENT FUND TOPS \$10,000

The Col. Dav. Endowment Fund administered by the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend has reached more than \$10,000 in the two years it's been operating. Thank you for your support of this fund and we hope to see it continue to grow. Please encourage others to give through this fund. For more information, contact Schar at (563) 324-8519 or scharathome@revealed.net.

EACH ONE, REACH ONE CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF WITH MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Any current member (individual, family, senior, student or patron) who refers five new members in one year will receive their succeeding year's membership paid. Be sure to sign the new member's application form for credit. By asking the current membership to invite new members, CDHF hopes to double its membership.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS!
COMMITTEES ARE BEING FORMED TO SUPPORT CDHF, FIND YOUR NICHE

Would you like to offer your talents to help CDHF continue to grow? CDHF is seeking volunteers to serve on board-led committees. Many committees meet once every month and communicate by phone and e-mail. Currently the following committees are seeking additional help. Please consider becoming engaged in CDHF and telling our story to others by getting involved in a committee. Brief descriptions are provided below as well as a contact name for the committee head.

Collections Sara Hartsock (563) 441-9346 sarahart@aol.com

Seek out additions to the house and work with local funders and groups to secure and preserve the artifacts inside the Colonel Davenport House.

Education Nancy Cornish (309) 788-7928 NMGKCornish@qconline.com

Assist with school tours, presentations and trips. Also help with Home School Day and Girl Scout Day to teach area youth and organizations about Colonel Davenport, the fur trade and life in the 1800's.

Events Alice West (563) 332-5501 nlwest@mchsi.com

Assist with the planning and implementation of various special events throughout the year including the Lunch and Learn Series, special trips, and annual fundraising events. **Ghost Tales:** Many volunteers are needed to make this annual September storytelling event a success.

Grounds & Maintenance "Buster" Miller (563) 332-6919 bustermiller@juno.com

Work to secure the grounds, building and site of the Colonel Davenport House. Work with contractors and historians to maintain the house and its cultural integrity.

Nominating Committee TBD

Members of the nominating committee will help recruit new board members.

Public Relations Jamie Lange (309) 781-1090 jamielynn880@mchsi.com

Assist the director in writing news releases, taking photographs at events, seeking out story ideas and producing the quarterly newsletter, *Cornucopia*.

HOME SCHOOL DAY SELLS OUT WITH 40 CHILDREN

The 3rd annual Home School Day was held on Friday, April 1st at the Colonel Davenport House. This year, more than 40 area home schoolers experienced life in the 1800's. Throughout the morning, children participated in a house tour, an Arsenal Museum tour, a prairie walk and the fur trade exhibit.

GUIDE UPDATES: 2005 SEASON OPENS; TOURS STARTING WITH GROUPS; NEW GUIDES RECEIVE TRAINING

In April, several tours took place including Home School Day groups and four special groups.

Guide training was held on Saturday, April 23rd with 12 guides in attendance. Information sharing was very beneficial to the attendees. Look for more trainings in the future. **Attention Guides: A new lock has been installed at the sutlery entrance. Contact Sue with questions.**

BEST EPITAPHS BROUGHT TO LIFE AT CHIPPIANNOCK CEMETERY

The top ten favorite characters in the Chippiannock Cemetery will be portrayed in “Epitaphs Brought to Life” on Saturday, June 25. The characters to be featured are as follows: Frederich Boetje, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, Ellen Gale, Colonel George Davenport, Susanne Denkmann Hauberg, Minne Potter, Philip Dingeldein, A.D. Huesing, Eddie & Josie Dimick and Susan Lewis Goldsmith. The public voted for their top ten favorite characters out of more than 100 people.

These ten individuals will be portrayed by actors at the opening of Chippiannock’s 2005 exhibit. The actors will perform historical vignettes written by Charles Oestrich at the gravesites from 1:00-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 25th. In addition, you can catch a presentation about the meaning of Victorian Symbols on gravestones by Loren Horton (former Lunch and Learn presenter) at noon in the Chapel at the cemetery. Carriage rides through the cemetery will be provided by Armstrong Stables for a fee.

Epitaphs Brought to Life is annual event hosted by the Chippiannock Cemetery. Mark your calendar today for this event!

Epitaphs Brought to Life Book

The book contains the scripts, biographies and relevant images related to the 118 characters that have been portrayed in nine years of Epitaphs events.

The proposed grant funded book is:
 8.5” x 11”
 300 pages
 Soft cover
 Book bound

If you would like to receive an advance offering to purchase this book at a prepublication rate, call or contact the cemetery office at (309) 788-6622.

LOOK FOR NEW FACES AT THE HOUSE AND WELCOME NEW GUIDES!

Dr. Arthur Pitz: Dr. Pitz is retired but teaching at Black Hawk College, St. Amborse University and Augustana College. CDHF is very happy to have him aboard. Please welcome Dr. Arthur Pitz to the organization.

Two newly trained guides from last year are returning and are learning many things this spring. Please welcome back Maryan Wherry and Connie Patridge.

Thank you to all of CDHF’s guides for suppling the enthusiasm and willingness to lead tours.

Interested in becomming a guide? Training is available. Contact Sue at (563) 388-9657.

GEORGE NICKOLAS JOINS CDHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Nickolas has joined the board of directors. Please welcome him to the organization.

Bob Holliday’s, new board member featured in the February issue of Cornucopia has had family involvement in CDHF for quite some time. Bob’s wife, Julie, illustrated CDHF’s first book, Beaver’s New Coat. Be sure to get your copy of Beaver’s New Coat at the sutlery.

JOIN CDHF IN SEPTEMBER FOR
SPOOKY TALES AND FAMILY FUN!

Saturday, September 24
Colonel Davenport Lawn

**Bring your family and friends for this
fun filled unique night out on the
banks of the Mississippi River.
Hear spooky tales from local storytellers
and a special *Dispatch* contest winner.**

Snacks, hot dogs, chips, hot cocoa, cider and coffee
will be available for a nominal fee.

Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Visitors over 16 years of age, bring a photo ID for entrance to the Arsenal.

Watch *Cornucopia* for more details this fall.
Save the date today!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Be a History Buff!

COLONEL DAVENPORT HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Annual Membership in CDHF is \$20 for an individual, \$25 for a family, \$15 for senior citizens (60 and older) \$15 for students. Additional levels are available.

Dr. & Mrs. Braatlien	Moline, IL
Robert Holliday	Davenport, IA
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley Priester	Davenport, IA
Stephen Witte	Moline, IL

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.

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.

May 15 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Pier Table Unveiling** Board members, Questers International, local Questers Chapters and CDHF members are invited to tea for the unveiling of the newly acquired pier table. See article on page 3 for more information.

June 25 8 a.m. **Girl Scout Day** Learn about Colonel Davenport, the fur trade, and life in the 1800's from local presenters. Cost is \$7 for Girl Scouts and includes presentations, a prairie walk, storytelling, a house tour and a Colonel Davenport House patch. Call Nancy at 788-7928 for more information.

August 9 Noon **Lunch & Learn Series, Arsenal Golf Club** Travel back in time to visit Lewis & Clark on their expedition to explore the West. Wayne Kobberdahl from Council Bluffs, IA impersonates the famous explorers and will answer questions about the grand expedition.

September 24 Time TBD **"Ghost Tales"** Hear local ghostly tales. Free to the public. On the lawn of Colonel Davenport House. Details inside on page 7.