



CORNUCOPIA

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SPRING 2017

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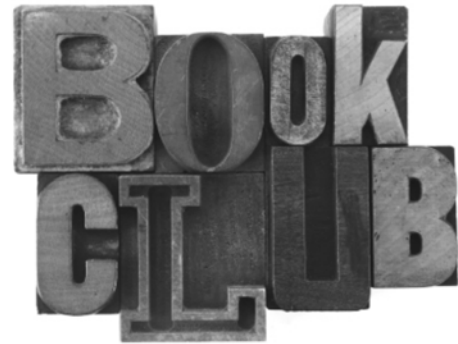
Maryan Wherry

"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."

NEW LOCAL HISTORY BOOK CLUB TO MEET

We know there are many in the Quad Cities who like to read, and also many in the Quad Cities who like history. Why not combine the two and start a new book club related to local and regional history? All are welcome to come.

The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation is organizing the first meeting on **Tuesday, April 25 at 7 p.m.** at the Deere-Wiman House, 817 11th Avenue in Moline. (Parking is located across the street.)



At the first meeting, everyone is invited to bring fiction and non-fiction book selections so the group can choose from them going forward. A guided tour of the Deere-Wiman House is also included on April 25. Future plans include meeting at various local historic places.

Please contact Jessica Waytenick with questions at 309-737-4280 or coloneldavenport1833@hotmail.com.

NEW HOURS AT THE DAVENPORT HOUSE

Starting in 2017, the Colonel Davenport House is going to be open **Wednesday to Saturday from 12-4 p.m.**, instead of Thursday to Sunday. The house will open for the season on Wed., May 3.

Visitor numbers have decreased since the Arsenal implemented the new security measures. The board felt these days would better coincide with the hours at the Arsenal Museum to have more opportunity for visitor crossover. The museum is open Tuesday to Saturday 12-4 p.m.

Please help spread the information about the new hours so that we can avoid confusion. Thank you!



Cornucopia is a publication for CDHF members and volunteers. It is published three times yearly. To submit a story for publication, contact Jessica Waytenick, Editor, at 309-737-4280 or jessica.waytenick@gmail.com

HISTORICAL FINDS FOUND IN NOOKS AND CRANNIES

Progress continues on the collections management project of record computerization begun in 2013. The initial inventorying, marking and photographing of the objects in our collection was completed and the resulting data entered into the PastPerfect computer database in 2014 and 2015. We celebrated the completion of the project (not with champagne, with ginger ale). But...after poking around a bit, we found a batch of lost catalog and donation files in a sutlery file cabinet. Oh well.

The past year was spent locating these objects, trying to match them with items previously cataloged in the system, or if not found, accessioning them as new objects. That project is now completed (without the ginger ale). Good things came from it! One discovery included four 1914 sepia-toned snapshots located in an obscure file folder in the back of the cabinet. The photographs document local residents visiting the Colonel Davenport House and Arsenal Island on a Decoration Day outing.



Photograph of Grace Louise Nordstrom Kremheller (left) and Louise Barnes (right) seated on the north porch of Colonel Davenport House on Decoration Day [May], 1914, with unidentified male photographer standing at far left. Carved initials are also visible on the porch columns, clapboard siding and door. (CDHF Collection)

Cynthia Empen, a very faithful volunteer, has worked on the collections project since the beginning. Currently she is assisting with the curatorial phase, proofing the existing database records, and adding relevant research material for each object.

Board member Chet Doyle has also begun cataloging photographs and archival documents. We have found, cataloged, and digitally scanned over 20 photographs of historical interest. As we search around in more nooks and crannies, we expect to find many more.

The CDHF is in possession of many interesting historical documents (both original and copies). Our next major project will be to catalog, describe, and digitally scan these items so they may be conveniently available to the interested public.

The CDHF also houses many valuable original research papers on local history. We plan to eventually catalog and digitalize these items and make the information available to the public. All this will take time and effort. We (Cynthia and Chet) are always looking for volunteers interested in careful historical research. Please contact Chet for more information at 309-234-5921.

LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM FOR YOUR GROUP?

Bill Hampes is available to come and provide a free program about the interesting life of George Davenport, his family, and life in this area in the early days! Contact Bill at 309-792-1769.

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR OF ARSENAL ISLAND ON APRIL 29

Last August, CDHF members, volunteers, and guests were invited to a talk by Gena Schantz, the presentation of the new sewing table into the collection, and a tour of the house.

This year, members, volunteers, and guests are invited for a guided bus tour of Arsenal Island with Arsenal Historian George Eaton. A tour of the Colonel Davenport House will be given afterwards.

Everyone will meet at the Arsenal's Moline Gate Visitor Center at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 29. You can get a pass for the Arsenal if needed, and leave your car there to board the bus to enjoy the guided tour. Please plan on approximately two hours for the tour of Arsenal Island.

Please RSVP to Judy Tumbleson at 309-786-5980 by April 20 to go on the tour.



JUST HAVING A LITTLE WORK DONE

During the off-season the Colonel Davenport House needed some plaster repair work done. After many years, the plaster starts to crack and come loose from the wall. The recent repair work is not the only thing that needs repaired at the House.

Unfortunately, the list is long and the bank account isn't that big. The CDHF is looking at additional ways to raise funds for these needed projects. Please watch for more information!

The CDHF also built a shed to have more on-site storage at the house site. It blends in quite well as one of the out buildings.



WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES?

What goes into maintaining a historic house from 1833? How does all the work get done by just volunteers? You can learn a lot by joining the CDHF Board for a year or two. The CDHF is looking for more board members whether you like history, events, house maintenance, volunteering, speaking to groups...or none of the above! We *are* also looking for a new treasurer if interested. We work with an accounting firm to double-check and create reports, etc. Contact Jessica Waytenick at 309-737-4280 or jessica.waytenick@gmail.com.

TAKE THE OTHER ROAD

Don't forget that to get to the Colonel Davenport House now, you must go west of the House and turn at Davenport Drive to take the road that goes a long the river. This is due to the new housing construction project.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 25 – Book Club at Deere-Wiman House
- May 3 – House Opens for the Season
- June 17 – Pioneer Day at the House
- June 17-25 – Quad Cities Museum Week at the House
- September 30 – Ghost Tales at the House
- October 28 – End of Regular Hours at the House
- November 11 – House Open for Veterans Day



DO YOU LOVE EVERYTHING CLEAN AND SPARKLING?

The CDHF is looking for volunteers to help give the Colonel Davenport House a good spring cleaning in April before it opens to the public for the season. This can be a one-time volunteer opportunity, or the CDHF is also looking for several who would commit to coming once a month through November. Contact Judy Tumbleson at 309-786-5980 or judyt100741@gmail.com.

