



# CORNUCOPIA

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*Cornucopia* is a publication for CDHF members and volunteers. It is published throughout the year. To submit a story for publication, contact Jessica Waytenick, Editor, at 309-737-4280 or [jessica.waytenick@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.waytenick@gmail.com)

*"The mission of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation (CDHF) 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."*

## LETTER FROM CDHF BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

Another year has gone by, albeit a very unique and difficult one for non-profits everywhere. We are within two decades of the house's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and I don't see how we can survive without your continued help. We hope that you will join us in our mission to save this important local landmark

As you well know, we are living in unprecedented times right now. Due to Covid-19, we have not been able to host any fundraising events this year. The Rock Island Arsenal attractions remain closed even now. We used Facebook for the distribution of several videos to help show off the house and Bill Hampes has kept our history book club going.

Although our revenue has been reduced, we still have had fixed monthly expenses to pay. On a bright note, we received a grant which helped meet some expenses and allowed us to do a much-needed repair of the eaves. However, we do still estimate a cash net loss for the year.

The replacement of the roof is still our number one priority, but we continue to deal with smaller projects which must be addressed as well. We have two furnaces/ACs in need of replacing. Additionally, we need to repair some siding. In order to save the house, we will need the support of generous individuals and businesses. Your support is critical for completion of all our projects needed to save the house.

As always, we greatly appreciate your generous donations in year's past that have helped us save this magnificent piece of local history.

We would be especially thankful if you would include the 501(c)(3) Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation (CDHF) in your year-end giving donations so the all-volunteer CDHF can move forward with the projects needed to preserve the Colonel Davenport House.

If you have any questions about any of our projects or the CDHF, please contact me at 563-823-0792. I would be happy to hear from you.

Jolene Keeney, CDHF Board President

## SHOULD YOUR NAME BE ON THE LIST?

The CDHF Board is working on compiling a list of people who have volunteered at the Colonel Davenport House over the years. The goal is to put together a book listing the volunteers since the inception of the CDHF in 1977. The book will be kept in the east wing and will be open to visitors. Harvey Hoskins, who is doing the bulk of this work, has already gathered most of the officers and directors since 1977. The only officers and directors missing are:

- 1) Board Presidents for 1983, 1992, 1997, and 2000.
- 2) Officers:
  - A. Vice President & Treasurer for 1992
  - B. Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer for 2000
  - C. Vice President & Secretary for 2004



Additionally, we're trying to identify people who have volunteered as docents (guides), sutlers, gardeners, or did other volunteer work on behalf of the CDHF. If you information regarding this project, please contact Harvey at 309-558-6831 or [hghosk46@mchsi.com](mailto:hghosk46@mchsi.com).

## SO THANKFUL



The CDHF Board was grateful to receive an Illinois Humanities COVID-19 Emergency Grant earlier this summer. This \$2500 grant made it easier to pay our bills because our house tours and special events were sidelined by the pandemic.

The CDHF received a grant from the Regional Development Authority to help cover a portion of the expenses to replace the heating/AC units in the sutlery and the main house. Thank you to RDA and the Rhythm City Casino for funding arts/culture/heritage projects in the Quad Cities.



The Scott County Regional Authority also awarded the CDHF grant money to help pay for the two new HVAC units for the house. Thanks to the SCRA and the Isle Casino Bettendorf.

## NEW CARES ACT MAKES SUPPORTING CHARITIES EASIER

When Congress enacted the first round of the CARES Act in March, it made it easier for Americans to give generously to non-profits. The measure grants taxpayers an "above-the-line" deduction for up to \$300 in charitable donations this year. This means that come Tax Day 2021 if you take the standard deduction and give \$300 to charity, you will get a \$300 tax break in addition to the standard deduction.

## NEW BOOK ABOUT GEORGE DAVENPORT PUBLISHED

Gena Schantz has been involved with the CDHF since its inception and served as secretary on the first board of directors in 1977. She's also been researching and writing about George Davenport for about the same amount of time as she also was a member of the Questers group. Gena wrote her master's thesis about Davenport's house and family when she returned to school to get her master's in American Studies from the University of Iowa in the early 1990s.

Fast forward to the year 2020 and Schantz's book has come to fruition. It was released in June in print and online in Amazon Kindle format. Fittingly Gena had planned for the book's release in time for the 175th anniversary of George Davenport's death on July 4th.

The book, titled *The Trader at Rock Island: George Davenport and the Founding of the Quad Cities*, is the first and only biography ever written about the man for whom the city of Davenport is named. It was published by Heritage Documentaries.

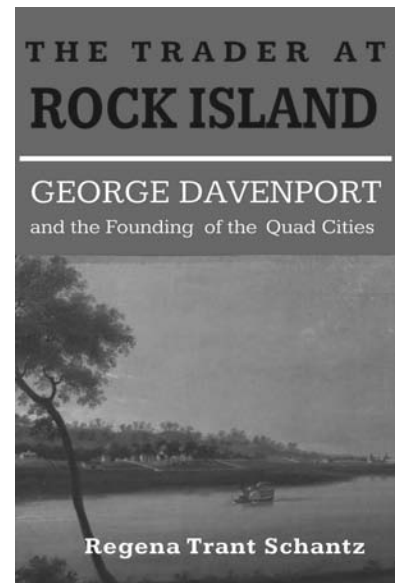
The book's summary on Amazon states:

Throughout the Upper Mississippi Valley, George Davenport's name was widely known as a trader with the Sauk and Mesquakie, the U.S. Army, and settlers who were attracted to the untapped waterpower surrounding Davenport's home on Rock Island.

*The Trader at Rock Island* tells the story of George Davenport and his entry into the Indian trade and his eventual transition into services and businesses marketed toward the new settlers. After the Black Hawk War, Davenport promoted land development as the frontier turned from Indian land to commercial centers of industry. By the time of Davenport's murder in 1845, the cities now known today as the Quad Cities in Iowa and Illinois were in their infancy.

The CDHF Board wanted to have a big release party this summer for Gena's book and to celebrate all of her work. We look forward to hopefully having that party in 2021. In the meantime, you can order copies to be shipped to your house of *The Trader at Rock Island* on Amazon (both in print and as an ebook). If someone wants a signed copy, they can purchase one on the Heritage Documentaries website at [heritagedocumentaries.org](http://heritagedocumentaries.org). (Hint: It can be a great gift for the history buff on your holiday shopping list.)

Congratulations again, Gena!!





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