



# CORNUCOPIA

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*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](mailto:jessica.waytenick@gmail.com)

*"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."*

## CHRISTMAS TEA EVENT AT QUARTERS ONE

Enjoy an afternoon tea on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 p.m. with scones, and savory and sweet delights. It will be held at the historic Quarters One mansion on Arsenal Island beautifully decorated for the holidays. Guided tour included with admission.



Tickets are \$25.00 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Judy Tumbleson at 309-786-5980, any of the board members, or purchase tickets online at [www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org).

## HOUSE OPEN ON VETERANS DAY



The Colonel Davenport House is open for special hours on Tuesday, November 11th for Veterans Day from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Admission is only \$1.00 and free for military.

Guides will be available to answer questions. The gift shop will also be open, selling Early American items like toys and candle molds, souvenirs, and books, including two that give information about Colonel George Davenport and his military service, new books about the Mississippi River, and Mississippi River mud t-shirts.

Colonel Davenport was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving for ten years. He came to Rock Island in 1816 as a civilian who had a contract to supply rations to the soldiers at Fort Armstrong. He supervised construction of the bake house, the first building on Arsenal Island.

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT PHASE OF PROJECT

The CDHF Collections Committee is in the process of moving the museum records of the items in the house from paper files to a world-class computer system, called 'Past Perfect.'



The first phase, the 'registration phase', was completed over last winter. That phase included locating all the objects and their corresponding paper records, assigning identification numbers (accession numbers) to the objects, marking those numbers on the object itself, photographing each object, and entering that information into the computer system.

The next phase, or the 'curatorial phase', will begin in November when the house closes for the season. We will create new paper files for each object (we will keep the original paper records), describe, measure, and clean each object; evaluate the condition of the object and describe any damage. This new information will be entered into the Past Perfect system. Also, we will scan any important documents pertaining to the object from the old paper files into the new system. Finally, we will evaluate any object of extrinsic value for appraisal and insurance purposes. We will also attempt to correct any errors that crept in during phase one (there are, we suspect, a few).

There are no requirements for computer expertise (other than plain, old two-fingered typing) as the Past Perfect system guides you through the process. We will also provide detailed written instructions on using Past Perfect itself and on the evaluation and care of museum artifacts.

Training and tutoring will be provided for all those interested. The process is set up so that an individual can work when it is convenient. The work space is clean, well lit, spacious and comfortable (located in the new east wing).

It's quite interesting to learn the background of the house's objects. If you are interested in this next phase of cataloging items, please contact Chet Doyle at (309) 234-5921 or email [ckdoyle2@frontier.com](mailto:ckdoyle2@frontier.com).

## NEW QUAD CITIES MUSEUM WEEK IN 2015

Did you know that historic houses are among the most numerous museums in the country? That's just one small fact but it emphasizes the point that the Colonel Davenport House plays an important role for the Quad Cities area. We are one location where people can go to learn about the early settlement of this area, and why that information is still relevant today. And the Quad Cities museums are partnering together for a promotion next June 13-21 called Quad Cities Museum Week. Area museums will offer special events, discounts, and programming.

## CROQUET EVENT PUSHED TO SEPT., BETTER WEATHER

The CDHF decided to postpone the Colonel's Croquet Party until Saturday, September 13th due to the very hot and humid weather for the original August date. September 13th was a cooler-than-normal day but it was sunny, highs near 60°, and no wind—so it was a beautiful day for croquet on the Quarters One lawn. The attendees had a great time and almost \$400 was raised for the Colonel Davenport House. Thank you to our sponsors—American Bank & Trust, K&K Hardware, and Sedona Technologies, WHBF CBS4, and the Quad-City Times.



(Pictured on the right) Winners were Paul Johnston and Dan Sharp, both of Rock Island.

## GHOST TALES HELD ON A GORGEOUS FALL NIGHT



Switching things around to have Ghost Tales told from the front of the house, it was a gorgeous night on the last Saturday in September. Dorie Foster, an English teacher at Rock Island High School, told several stories along with a handful of her students that also told some stories.

Rex Whitmore, of Davenport, was the winner of the 2014 Ghost Tales contest sponsored by The Dispatch, The Rock Island Argus, and the CDHF.

Taken by The Dispatch

and the time from 1850 to 1950, when the world was changing “faster than people could keep up.”

Mr. Whitmore has worked with horses since he was a young teen, and is interested in the Civil War era

He had read a memoir written by president and general Ulysses S. Grant, and learned that he, too, became fascinated with horses as a boy. His life as a boy “kind of piqued (my) interest,” Mr. Whitmore said. What happened to the teen in his ghost tale actually happened to a lot of 17-year-olds during that time period, said Mr. Whitmore, who did some research about the Rock Island Arsenal, and worked to make a story out of it all. “It kind of all just dropped together,” he said.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 11 – Veterans Day at the House  
November 12 – House Closes for the Season  
December 14 – Christmas Tea at Quarters One  
May 1 – House Opens for the Season

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### Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Membership Form

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.

New  Renewal  Gift

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: (Kept confidential) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual - \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron - \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Family - \$30

\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining - \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior (60 & older) - \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor - \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ Student - \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ Life - \$2,000 (submitted to the Endowment Fund)

Also included is a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. TOTAL ENCL: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on volunteer opportunities.

*Please return with check enclosed.*