



CORNUCOPIA

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"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"

OUR NEXT STEP..... RECONSTRUCTING THE EAST WING!

Based on comprehensive architect's drawings and archaeological work done in 2003, plans are now being made for the reconstruction of the larger east wing of the house. There are many ideas on what this future space could hold such as interpreting domestic living conditions of the mid-1800s, and displaying both permanent and traveling exhibits on the contributions of the Davenport family to the Quad Cities. We'll keep you informed as these ambitious plans develop!

Our "lunch and learn" programs are thriving under the leadership of board member and education committee chair John Donald O'Shea. Our July "Red, White, and Blue" program at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club gave journalist/historian John Willard the opportunity to tell the story of famous Fourths, and we saw a wonderful presentation produced by history students at North Scott High School on the success of Col. George Davenport in easing relations with native Americans through compromise, respect, and friendship. There is another one in September, and even more exciting opportunities for 2009!

An article by Reggie Jarrell in the July 20th Argus/Dispatch newspaper emphasized our need to build and keep our vital and interested staff of volunteers. Their work is absolutely necessary to preserving and interpreting the story of the Davenports and pioneer life in the Quad Cities area. None of this can happen without the active support of our many friends and members. Feel free to add your name to our list of guides, interpreters, or Sutlery volunteers!

Sincerely,
John E. Norton, President

Cornucopia is a quarterly publication for CDHF members, volunteers and Board of Directors. To submit a story for publication, contact Jessica Waytenick, Editor at waytenik@winco.net or call (309) 277-0937 Ext. 103.

CDHF WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Bette and Don Berg, Milan, IL
Hedde and Michael Hustedde, Davenport, IA*
Judy Tumbleson, Rock Island, IL
James Westpahl, Davenport, IA

* indicates a lifetime membership status

WELCOME

MISSISSIPPI RIVER LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER

“Mississippi River: Highway for Armies and Builders” will be presented by Jack Tumbleson on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008 at 12 noon. Jack presently serves as the Public Relations Officer for Division 9 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and writes a column on boating for the Argus/Dispatch. This event will be held at the Arsenal Golf Club on Arsenal Island. The cost for lunch is \$13 for CDHF members and \$16 for non-members. **Advanced reservations are required.** For reservations, call John Donald O’Shea at (309) 762-8156 or e-mail pelaguis@qconline.com by September 8th.

GHOST TALES A “TELLING” EVENT FOR CDHF



The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation presents ”Ghost Tales” on the grounds of the Colonel Davenport House on Arsenal Island at 7 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Admission for this family-friendly event is \$3 for adults; \$2 for children under college age; and families \$10. Enjoy the refreshments for sale. Don’t forget to bring a lawn chair or blanket.

At ”Ghost Tales,” the winner of the Argus/Dispatch contest will present his/her tale. Local author Mike Romkey presents “The East Village Horror” that follows a mysterious entity as it moves back and forth between the Village and the caves in the downstream end of Arsenal Island via a cavern in the limestone deep under the

Mississippi River.

Also watch a one-act play by John Donald O’Shea entitled “Caveat Emptor, Darling.” Erin’s roommate Sage tries to tell Harry to get something exotic so he doesn’t buy a practical gift. So armed, Harry and his friend, Tom, go to ebay to find the perfect gift for Erin. Among the items advertised is a “Ghost!”

Come before the main event to get a guided tour of the Colonel Davenport House from 5:45 until 6:45 p.m. Karwath Insurance in Davenport is a proud sponsor of this event.

Guests must enter Arsenal Island via the downtown Moline gate. Attendees age 16 and older must show U.S. photo I.D. In case of inclement weather, ”Ghost Tales” will be relocated to Memorial Field Pavilion on the Island. For more information, visit www.davenporthouse.org.

CDHF APPLAUDES VOLUNTEERS FOR SPRING PARADE OF HOMES

A big THANK YOU goes to all of the volunteers who helped staff a house for the spring Parade of Homes sponsored by Quad City Homebuilders. The CDHF received over \$1,000 for their participation in the recent event. Thank you to these volunteers: Ginny Bauersfeld, Judith Belfer, Irvine Beryl, Peg Brehmer, Nancy Cornish, Janet Day, Dorothy Denkhoff, Barb Emerson, Barb Hanson, Bill Hampes, Keith Johnson, Joyce Johnston, Helen Macalister, Marilyn Morley, Jan Nahr, John Donald O’Shea, Kathy Peck, Janice Peterson, Pete Peterson, Keri Pleasant, Barb Ray, Connie Runge, Barb Sandberg, Joan Sherwin, Marlene Scott, Arnie Shilney, Jack Smit, Nancy Strohl, Lily Thompson, Judy Tumbleson, Lois Wahner, Patsy Woodworth and Sue Wolters.

HISTORY MOMENT: EARLY CANDLEHOLDERS IN AMERICA

Light has always been of major importance in human history. From the primitive clay lamps to warm kerosene lamps, light is full of beauty and symbolism.

The earliest form of lighting was torches made from wood splinters bound together, and they depended on human hands as the “holder.” The earliest documented evidence of candles dates from the 11th century is a paschal candle being lit by a taper. Tapers were formed from a chord thinly coated in wax or animal fat.

The earliest candlestick, which held only one candle, found in this country was excavated in 1930 on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, at the site of a 1630s Pilgrim trading post. It was made of “latten” or thin-layered brass with a saucer base with a socket for the candle and a long handle with a hole for hanging.

Styles of candleholders were preserved mainly in silver, glass, and porcelain as these were of more value than those made of brass, bronze, copper, tin, pewter, or wood. The earliest methods of making candleholders required constructing a mold out of clay in which molten metal could be poured. Hand finishing was necessary. Sheet metal could also be hammered onto the surface to make designs.

Find out what candleholders the Colonel Davenport House has by taking a tour.

Source: An excerpt of a 1980s paper entitled “Early Candleholders in America” by Barbara Maple, a past CDHF president.

HOUSE CLOSES IN OCTOBER: VIEW IMPROVEMENTS SOON

Work continues on the house with painting by David Pai. The CDHF received a \$6,000 grant from the Riverboat Development Authority for the project. He is at work now having finished the laborious task of filling the estimated 1,500 nail holes with a two part epoxy system, sanding and will prime each prior to painting the final top coat. When the west wall of the sutlery was being scraped, several rotten boards were discovered. They will have to be repaired before it can be painted. The project is taking longer than expected because the paint is best applied with lower temperatures and humidity below 80%.

He will also install lower guards and railings for the new porch using old salvaged vintage wood. Sara and Rick Hartsock were very gracious in coordinating the donation of paint from Sandstrom Products in Port Byron, IL and thanks Jim Westphal for picking up the paint and delivering it to the house.

The Colonel Davenport House, located on the North end of Arsenal Island, is getting ready for its winter hibernation and welcomes everyone to tour the house and grounds another time before October 25 from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m.





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Be a History Buff!



CDHF FALL 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sept. 10	Noon	Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club	Lunch and Learn
Sept. 27	7:00 p.m.	Col. Davenport House	Ghost Tales
Oct. 25	Noon-4:00 p.m.	Col. Davenport House	House Closes for Season

Clip Now and Save!!

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS COUNT!!

Are your annual membership dues up to date? Or is that CDHF renewal form lost in a forgotten stack of papers? In order to obtain grants, we need to maintain a roster of members whose dues payments are current. The higher our number of dues-paying members, the higher our chances of obtaining much needed grant money. This is so important to fund our ongoing restoration efforts, educational opportunities, and other community projects. Our numbers do count!!! If you are in doubt about the status of your dues, call Kim Yarbrough at (563) 332-5925 today.

