



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."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DAVENPORT HOUSE

Early spring was devoted to interior preservation and painting of the Col. Davenport House's parlor, with work now continuing on the dining room and main hall. The results are wonderful, with authentic wood graining replacing the weathered paint on all wood surfaces and fresh, historically accurate colors on all walls.

All of this is thanks to the work of many volunteers and skilled craftsmen, supported by a generous matching gift from Connie Runge's family foundation. The work was directed by board member and committee chair Buster Miller, helped by members of his committee.

The results are worth your visit to the Colonel Davenport House this spring, as are our beautiful historic gardens now being refreshed by the Tri-City Garden Club. And, our adjacent prairie restoration will soon be in bloom. And we still remain *fully accessible* from the Rock Island and Davenport entrances of the Rock Island Arsenal.

As current stewards of this National Historic Landmark site, we owe it to ourselves and future generations to build well and proudly not just a structure, but a living tradition.

With this goal in mind, we are again part of the Combined Federal Campaign at the Rock Island Arsenal, giving federal employees the opportunity to make donations directly to preservation of the Col. Davenport House.

We continue work with area educators to offer opportunities for young students to visit the house, and to research the history of the Davenport house and the role of the Davenport family in our community. We also hope to secure support for new public programs, to include plays and musical activities intended to educate, while bringing new financial support to operations and endowment for tomorrow.

We welcome your continued support, whether as a visitor, member, guide or sutlery volunteer. We especially welcome our new board members, and hope you will join them in helping preserve and interpret the Colonel Davenport House for the future.

John E. Norton, President

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

CDHF CHANGES HOUSE HOURS THIS SEASON

Due to the Moline bridge entrance to Arsenal Island closed for construction, volunteers and visitors are asked to please use the entrances in Rock Island, IL, or Davenport, IA. Due to this closure, the house's regular hours are changing for this season. **The new hours are Thursday and Friday - Open 11 am-3 pm; Saturday and Sunday - Open 12-4 pm.**



Only Arsenal traffic (two lanes in/two lanes out) will be allowed to enter and exit via the Davenport entrance during peak traffic hours (5:30-8:30 a.m. & 2:30-5:30 p.m.). The Rock Island entrance will remain two-way traffic throughout the closure. Visitors are asked to come on the Island only after 8:30 a.m. Visitors can exit the Island during peak traffic hours in the afternoon, but must follow the set traffic patterns. Please allow extra time. For questions, please call the house at 309-786-7336.

QUESTERS DONATIONS ADD TABLEWARE TO COLLECTION

Though the generosity of local donors, the Colonel Davenport House continues to add to its collection of artifacts appropriate to the time the home was built. The Davenport residence was considered a show-place of its time, and the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation continues to enhance the home in effort to create for visitors a genuine experience of early 19th century life in this region.

Questers International, an association of antique study groups, has supported the Colonel Davenport House over the years through gifts made by its local chapters. Most recently, gifts and memorials to benefit the collection have been received from the Quester chapters Duck Creek, Illowa, Ancien Moulin, and Brownlie Sod House.



The findings of the archeological dig several years ago at the Colonel Davenport site have provided important details of items used in the house during occupancy of the Davenport family. The dig unearthed transferware pottery fragments that can be traced by pattern and maker. Transferware from England, with detailed scenes and floral designs, was extremely popular tableware in the time of George Davenport.

Last year, the Illowa Questers donated a circa 1830 "Wild Rose" pattern pearlware platter that resembles shards found in the dig. A complementary platter (circa 1820-1830), which repeats the wild rose motif in the border, was then given by five Iowa Quester chapters with proceeds from their Area Day celebration in October 2009.

The five chapters are Duck Creek, Illowa, Gleaners, Eldridge Junction and Phebe Sudlow. Additionally, Quester Kim Yarbrough has donated a 20" flow blue circa 1840 platter made by the Davenport Company of England. These pieces will be on display in the dining room at the Colonel Davenport House when it reopens for the season on Saturday, May 1st.



CELEBRATE OPENING DAY MAY 1

On May 1st from 12-4 pm, celebrate the start of the 2010 season by coming for a free tour of the Colonel Davenport House on Opening Day. Bring a friend along to get a guided tour of the house and enjoy refreshments. Free admission that day!

HOUSE UNDERGOES CHANGES IN THE OFF-SEASON

In March, a crew from Carney Painting, Inc., Davenport, started transforming the parlor at the Colonel Davenport House. The room is being repainted in a lighter green color, new crown molding is being added, and the woodwork is being changed from painted white to faux oak grain. The change is amazing!

This look is believed to be more historically accurate based on the paint analysis study conducted several years ago by David Aborgast, Iowa City.

Owner Ron Carney also did the sutlery wood graining in 1999. Ron apprenticed under a Swedish Master many years ago and learned the graining techniques.

His daughter Nicky is the lead person on the current project. Nicky found some interesting carvings under all the paint on one of the interior parlor windowsills that are probably over 100 years old from a visitor that wanted to make his mark.



The parlor is only the first phase. Phase two and three include the dining room and hallway and entry foyer and refinishing the stairway banister. All work should be completed in time for Opening Day on May 1. The timing is appropriate since May is National Preservation Month.

Longtime supporter and founding board member Connie Runge helped initiate this project with the help of a matching challenge grant from the Runge Foundation.

While the parlor was cleared to make way for the painting crew, the parlor rug was taken to the Holst-Kakert Co. where Peter Holst generously cleaned and repaired it at no charge.

CDHF JOINS ARSENAL'S COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

Last year, the CDHF participated for the first time in the Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign, which is the Arsenal's version of the United Way for federal employees where they can select charities to receive donations automatically taken out of their paychecks. The CDHF received \$207.28 in 2009 contributions. The CDHF's reference number is #93-178 if you are a federal employee and would like to donate to the CDHF in this manner. Thank you!



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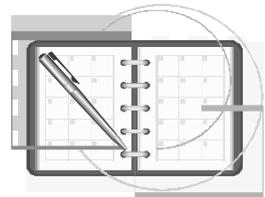
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30 - Volunteer Open House at the Colonel Davenport House from 10 am-12 pm

May 1 - Opening Day at the Colonel Davenport House from 12-4 pm

May 4 - Lunch & Learn at the Arsenal Golf Club at 12 noon with George Eaton,
Arsenal Historian as the speaker

July 15 - Arsenal Appreciation Day at the Colonel Davenport House
from 11 am-4 pm



VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Are you a volunteer at the house already? Or are you interested in volunteering at the Colonel Davenport House? Learn about its unique history, and share it with others, by becoming a tour guide or working in the gift shop from May-Oct. Attend a volunteer open house for new and current guides and sutlers on Friday, April 30 from 10 am-12 pm. There is no minimum time commitment for volunteers. For more volunteer information, contact Ginny Bauersfeld at 309-236-0741.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carol and Marshall Daut from Davenport, Iowa

Are your membership dues up to date? Keep up with all of the CDHF happenings and enjoy free tours of the house and a discount of Gift Shop purchases. Have you seen the new books for sale?