



# CORNUCOPIA

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SPRING 2008

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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"*

## THE LEGACY OF 1831, OUR CHALLENGE OF 2008

Last fall's new cedar siding and windows brought us a step closer to completing exterior preservation work on the Davenport House, with the help of board member and committee chair Buster Miller, the members of his committee, and the very generous donation of skilled labor and materials from Quad City Home Builders and their member organizations like McCarthy Construction and Ehrecke Construction. The results are worth your visit this spring, as are the beautiful historic gardens, adjacent prairie restoration, and new historic signage! Opening Day is Saturday, May 3.

During removal of the old siding on the south face of the home, we found a simple inscription "1831." It was chiseled into one of the substantial timbers of the building 177 years ago by a timberman preparing that log for transport and erection on the island in the Mississippi River.

That simple inscription on a single log spoke volumes to all of us. First, that this anonymous timberman was proud of his role in helping build what is today the oldest permanent residence in the Quad Cities. Second, that Col. George Davenport built solidly, not just a place of business, but a residence declaring his impressive accomplishments, and his intent to make a mark on the future of our area. He did much in his few remaining years.

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

With this goal in mind, we are planning new interpretive programs beyond our very successful "lunch and learn" gatherings. We are also working with area educators to offer opportunities for promising young students to research the history surrounding not just the Davenport home, but our entire community. We are also hoping 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, interpreter, guide, or sutlery gift shop 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](mailto:waytenik@winco.net) or call (563) 322-3911 Ext. 103.

## THANK YOU TO 2007 “SUTLERS”

Submitted by Joyce Johnston

I am taking this opportunity to reach a wider audience than I spoke to at the annual meeting in November. I wish to thank the 2007 Sutlery gift shop volunteers. Many of them have been long-term workers, while others are brand new. Some of them work once a month, others more often. They choose their work days during the season (May through October).

I would also like you to know what a wonderful group these ladies are and how they enjoy what they do. They get to meet interesting people from all over the United States and a few from beyond. And when there aren't any visitors or just a few, they find it a restful time when they can embroider, knit, read, or just chat with the house tour guide also on duty. They have also helped with inventory, suggestions for items to sell, and a bit of tidying-up when needed.

I have told them many times that without them, this “one of a kind” museum, along with its area history story, would not be able to be open.

Doesn't this sound good to some of you readers? Then visit the House, talk to the Sutlery volunteer or better yet give a call to Mavis Cline (563) 323-9343. She is in charge of calling and scheduling this coming season and can arrange for a day and time suitable for you to volunteer. It is only a four-hour tour of duty on an afternoon of your choice. There will be a brief training period where you will learn about the gift shop, Davenport family, and the house.

Here is the list of the 2007 Sutlery volunteers with a huge thank you from the Board of Directors.

Ginny Bauersfeld	Connie Patridge
Dorothy Denkhoff	Connie Runge
Chris Fiedler	Arlene Sax
Barbara Hanson	Nancy Strohl
Suzanne Hoskins	Ruth Swab
Shirle Leman	Doris Wherry
Rose Morrill	Karin Wilker
Marilyn Morley	Kim Yarbrough
Jan Nahra	

### CDHF OUT AND ABOUT: HENRY FARNAM DINNER

The CDHF had a display at the recent Henry Farnam Dinner. We had a short, fun quiz for people to take about Col. Davenport's and his family's contributions to the development of our area. Many were surprised by the answers! Did you know that Col. Davenport's son, Bailey, helped establish the Rock Island Arsenal?

## CDHF HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING; CELEBRATES LOCAL HISTORY

The CDHF held its annual meeting on November 11 at the Arsenal Golf Club. It was held in November to honor Col. Davenport's birthday and his service with the U.S. Army.

Representative Phil Hare was one of the featured speakers, and he spoke about veterans and their sacrifice. The program was about the clothing the settlers wore with actual clothing examples.



## CDHF APPLAUDES GENEROUS GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

The CDHF made over \$950 on the Fall Parade of Homes. Many thanks to the volunteers that helped that weekend.

A new addition to the collections at the house includes two replica flintlock muskets that were hand carved by Dr. Paul Johnson. Rifles were one of the most traded items according to previous research of the fur trading center.

The CDHF also received the donation of a newer copier from Karwath Insurance.

## Under Construction: COL. DAVENPORT HOUSE RECEIVES SOUTH SIDE LIFT

On October 5, the siding was removed from the south side and many local media came to cover the event, including Susan McPeters from WQPT, Alma Gaul from the Quad-City Times, Reggie Jarrell from the Argus/Dispatch, WQAD, WHBF, and Fox 18.

This necessary work was done thanks to a grant from the Scott County Regional Authority. Along with the siding and window work being done by McCartney Construction and Ehrecke Construction, they also replaced the handicapped accessible ramps that go into the house and the sutlery gift shop. Dave McCartney provided wood from an 1890 Scott County barn to create the covered walkway between the main house and the sutlery.



*Photos submitted by Buster Miller*



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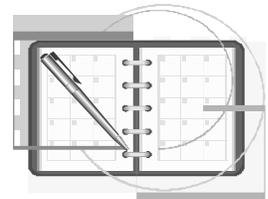
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**Be a History Buff!**

## JOIN US IN THIS MONTH FOR A LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM

See a re-enactment of the fifth Lincoln- Douglas Debate at the first Lunch and Learn on April 9th at the Arsenal Golf Club. This debate was held in Galesburg, IL, on October 7, 1858. John Donald O'Shea will take the part of Abraham Lincoln, and George Eaton will be Stephen A. Douglas. The Lincoln-Douglas debates still serve as models for modern day political debates. See the enclosed flyer for more information. RSVP today!



Date: Wednesday, April 9th

Time: 12 Noon

Location: Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club

RSVP to Sue Wolters at (563) 388-9657

The enclosed flyer includes a guest pass required for entrance to Arsenal Island. A valid photo I.D. is also required.

## Annual Report Available to Members, Donors Online Beginning in April

The 2007 Annual Report will be available online soon. Check out [www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org) for a summary of last year's accomplishments, programs and events.