



# CORNUCOPIA

Volume 111 Issue 3

FALL 2010

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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."*

## RIA GARRISON PROVIDES YEAR-END GIFT

The CDHF has gotten a surprise fiscal year-end gift from the Rock Island Arsenal Garrison, in the form of three new, plastic-covered steel picnic tables, situated on concrete pads in shaded areas just west of the Colonel Davenport House. They replace the painted wooden tables, which had begun to show their age and are being replaced across the Island. Feel free to drop by the House during the remaining fall days, for a look at these fine new additions!



Feel free to consider making your own tax-favored year-end gift to the CDHF, whether to the Endowment or for a project of special interest to you. Rock Island Arsenal government employees are now making their own gifts through the Combined Federal Campaign.



In October, the Garrison arranged a tour of the House by a group of soldiers from the Wounded Warriors Program. It was a very small thanks for the sacrifices these young soldiers have made, and it was especially interesting to learn that one is a seasoned trapper, who found the fur trade exhibit especially interesting.

On November 4th, a large group of CDHF guides and sutlers were hosted to an appreciation and instructional lunch at the Caisson Room of Building 60 by the CDHF.

We are also in the process of securing bids for engineering and footing work needed to erect the historic east wing of the House, based on the generous offer of a \$5,000 gift from the Rock Island Arsenal Development Corporation. That work will probably begin in the spring with the pouring of the footings/foundation of the wing, which is the mirror image of the House's west wing and Sutlery.

*- John E. Norton, CDHF Board 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 [waytenick@winco.net](mailto:waytenick@winco.net) or call (309) 737-4280.

## IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT....

That's not just the start of a bad mystery novel, it describes the night of Ghost Tales perfectly. Because of the constant rain on Saturday, Sept. 25, Ghost Tales was moved to the picnic shelter east of the Colonel Davenport House. Despite the weather, over 110 people braved the elements to attend and we raised just over \$275. The event was sponsored by Adel Wholesalers and Hy-Vee.

Mary Beth Eggers from Rapids City, IL, won The Dispatch/Argus contest with her ghost story "The River's in His Blood." CDHF Board Member Connie Patridge read her winning story. J. Adam Lounsberry also read several ghost story selections.



This year's program also featured an original one-act play written and directed by John Donald O'Shea. The comedy called, "Is the Joint Haunted," told the story of two ghost hunters who come to the Colonel Davenport House in search of the ghosts of George Davenport and his family members. The play featured a cast of five Seton Jr. High School students.

## MOMENT IN HISTORY: CROSSING THE LINE

Start by thinking about your childhood home life, your dorm life, your barracks life, etc. We've all had a variety of "home lives", and we've carried influences from those past lives into our futures. In like manner, George Davenport carried the influence of many home lives into the decisions that influenced his history-making life.

Born into a meager farm life in class-divided England, he knew wealth and land holding was a dividing line he could only dream of crossing...and he held onto that dream. Apprenticed into the British Merchant Marine, he likely despised it as slave-like and a dead-end career.

Landing in New York City in 1804 and seeking his dream, he became Pvt. George Davenport, U.S. Army. While his military lifestyle was little better than being a seaman, his orders involved him in the experiences and the opportunities arising from the Declaration of Independence. Putting down the Burr expedition, building forts to establish land claims and protect settlers, fighting against the British in the War of 1812, moving between colonial life on the East Coast and frontier conditions in the Midwest...he always kept an eye to crossing the line.

Out of the Army, George Davenport, with wife and stepdaughter, called Fort Armstrong home for a year while he supported the food needs of the fort builders. Then, in 1817, a life-changing move into the first home of their own in a cleared area near the Fort. A bare bones, two room log cabin--it was big enough to support his Indian trade initiative and sustain his childhood dream of crossing the line. A dream that was reaching fulfillment when he built the house that stands today.

*- written by Dick Balzer, long time guide and CDHF member*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

**Chuck and Pam Roeder 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?

## AREA QUESTERS DEDICATE DONATION

On Sunday, November 14, members of the Quad Cities area Questers groups were invited to the Colonel Davenport House for a special reception.

Part of the proceeds from the 2009 SE Area Day that some of the local groups hosted went towards purchasing a large English Pearlware Platter, circa 1820-30, Nunham Courtney design, depicting Oxfordshire, River Thames, with a Wild Rose border. (It is the center platter on the top shelf.) Additionally, Quester Kim Yarbrough has donated a 20" flow blue circa 1840 platter made by the Davenport Company of England. (It is the center platter on the second shelf from the bottom.)

Sara Hartsock (left) and Kim Yarbrough show off the new plates in the house's dining room.



## CDHF OUT AND ABOUT

The CDHF had a booth at the Hooverfest on Saturday, August 7th at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library. Many families stopped by the CDHF's table.

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, the CDHF participated in the Combined Federal Campaign kick-off event at the Arsenal Fire Station. Non-profits were invited to set up an information table for Arsenal employees to learn about the organizations they can support through their CFC donations.



## SPECIAL PROJECTS BRING IN FUNDS



The Fall Parade of Homes brings in almost \$1,800 for the CDHF! Special thanks goes to the volunteers who made this possible. They are: Lily Thompson, Connie Runge, Patsy Woodworth, Judy Tumbleson, Helen Macalister, Judy Vukelich, Schar Blevins, Eunice Schlichting, Velma Held, Barb Hanson, Pete Peterson, Ginny Bauersfeld, Ruth Swab, Keith Johnson, Sharon Heinze, Bill Hamps, Buster Miller, Nancy Cornish, Barb Emerson, John Norton, Glenna Friel, John Donald O'Shea, Nancy Strohl, Janice Peterson, and Dick & Doris Balzer. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and the Quad-Cities Homebuilder's Association for including us in this project.

The Birdies for Charity fundraiser garnered almost \$800 for the CDHF. Thank you to the donors for your help!



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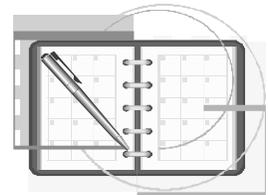
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30 - CDHF Annual Meeting (Invitations to be mailed separately.)

May 7 - Colonel Davenport House Opens for the Regular Season



## CDHF SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2011

The 2011 CDHF nominating committee is looking for board members who appreciate the mission of the organization and willing to give time to achieve its goals. As a member you have the opportunity to submit names of nominees for the board. Please contact any member of the nominating committee: Chet Doyle, 309-526-8459; [c.doyle@mchsi.com](mailto:c.doyle@mchsi.com); Jack Tumbleson, 309-786-5980; [jack@qconline.com](mailto:jack@qconline.com); Connie Runge, [cbrunge@gmail.com](mailto:cbrunge@gmail.com).

## IS THE COLONEL DAVENPORT HOUSE HAUNTED?

In July, the Iowa/Illinois paranormal group did a paranormal investigation of the Col. Davenport House. As a result of their investigation, they do not think the house is haunted. But, they did pick up some things on an audio recorder like some voices that were not their own. This is called an EVP (electric voice phenomena). They also have a photo where faces in a window are seen. Come back in May to see what you think! Or do you have your own spooky, hard-to-explain story to share?