



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."

CHRISTMAS TEA EVENT AT QUARTERS ONE

Enjoy a Christmas Tea on Sunday, December 9 at the historic Quarters One mansion on Arsenal Island beautifully decorated for the holidays. Guided tour included with admission. **There are going to be two seatings--12 noon and 3 p.m.**



High Tea - 12 noon with heartier savory and sweet delights and several types of tea (\$30)

Afternoon Tea - 3 p.m. with a selection of delectable sweet treats and several types of tea (\$20)

Please make sure to use the Moline gate if you attending the tea. No additional pass needed; just your U.S. picture I.D. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Jessica Waytenick at 309-737-4280 or purchase tickets online at www.davenporthouse.org.

The Christmas Tea is sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America and Modern Woodmen representative Doug Grenier.

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

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER Q1 TOUR

This July the CDHF sold out four tours of Quarters One on the last Sunday of the month. Each tour had approximately 35 people each and the tours were sold out the week before the event. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed lemonade on the patio. Tours have been scheduled again for Sunday, July 28, 2019. Tickets will go on sale in the summer.



2018 MARKS FORTY YEARS FOR THE CDHF

Forty Years! The Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation has been officially organized for forty years. Lest we forget, let us look back at how we began and appreciate all the sound thinking, careful planning, hard work, and many hours that went into making this organization a truly important contribution to the history of the Quad Cities.

Prior to the Bicentennial of the United States in 1976, Questers International, Inc. urged its members to become involved in local preservation projects. Several Quad Cities chapters joined to preserve the Davenport House located on Arsenal Island. It was believed that this house was the home of the first pioneer family in this area and the oldest of its kind in the Mississippi Valley



north of St. Louis. Although the Davenport House had been restored and opened to the public, its history had been neglected. We formed a volunteer committee and set about to remedy this situation.

Taking on a house with historical significance was no small venture. The house is the property of the U.S. Government, but no funds are provided for its maintenance. From 1907, when the house was restored by the Pioneers and Old Settlers of Rock Island County, leases were let to various community groups for its care and upkeep. Questers

opened the house to the public in the spring of 1976 and formally signed a lease in August of that year. The Davenport House Committee of Questers began to function on a regular basis, electing officers, recording decisions, beginning research, establishing funding, etc. The name Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation was chosen, policy decisions made, goals developed, and a budget projected. Since May 1978, the house has been opened on weekends and by appointment from May 1 to October 3.

Finding Out More About the History of the House

As “the committee” became more organized for the daily operations of the house, the members also became more knowledgeable about the history of the house and its role in community development. The Davenport Collection, housed in the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines, provided a sense of how the house was originally furnished. A first goal was developed to furnish the house in a period correct manner to promote our unique-ness as an historical site. A slide show was produced to use in this promotion as well as an educational tool. Securing the help of apprentices and local service organizations, the house was painted inside and out, and the committee began to search for appropriate period furnishings.

“The committee” sought the advice of various historical and preservation departments in both Iowa and Illinois. Research was conducted in St. Louis, Des Moines, and Springfield, Illinois. The Davenport genealogy was obtained from a local genealogist. The curator at Montauk conducted a

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PIONEER DAYS RETURNED IN JUNE

The Colonel Davenport House was a hub of activity during Pioneer Days on Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10. The Boy Scouts helped add new elements with campfire cooking and their rustic rope bridge, approximately 40' long, and a rustic tower of lashed tree trunks and rope approximately 15' tall.



Pioneer Days was spearheaded by Ross Wherry, and the pioneer re-enactors were back with a new trading post with great period-looking items for sale. Crafters demonstrates a variety of crafts. 170 people attended and could take a tour of the House, or try one of the games that involve aiming and throwing (quoits, tomahawks). They were quite popular. Children's activities include scrub board washing, making a yarn dolls, and others.

Mark your calendars for the next Pioneer Days on June 8-9, 2019!

CONTINUING THROUGH THE FIRST DECADE

workshop for our guides. A silver consultant catalogued the Davenport silver collection held by the State Historical Society. Others with historical expertise were contacted to educate us in establishing a mission, a written purpose, and a Master Plan. By-laws, a constitution, and non-profit status were accomplished with the help of a local lawyer and we became a member organization. Instead of operating as a committee, we now became a board of directors.

In 1983 the CDHF attracted the attention of the Junior League of the Quad Cities. Their funding assistance provided a feasibility study for guidance in restoring the house. Archeological and Architectural studies were conducted. Workshops were conducted by these consultants and consultants from the National Trust for Historical Preservation and The Illinois Preservation Office, for the education of our members and the general public.

As we grew in confidence we started historical re-enactments of the death of George Davenport and pioneer life in general. We introduced historical dress into our public programs, established a newsletter for our membership, and devised a handbook for guides. By the end of the first decade of organizational existence, the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation had not only established a footing in the historical world, but also built a solid foundation upon which we could grow.

-Submitted by Regena Jo Schantz

LOOKING FOR A PROGRAM FOR YOUR GROUP?

Bill Hampes is available to come and provide a free program about the interesting life of George Davenport, his family, and life in this area in the early days! Contact Bill at 309-792-1769.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LOUTH, ENGLAND TO AMERICA

Some years ago I signed up for a tour in England, and one of the events was a reception at the London School of Economics, a renowned university. One of the hosts was a man from Louth, England. As you can expect, I told him about George Davenport (also known as George King) and how he became a successful businessman and a town on the Mississippi River was named after Davenport. The host listened to my story and when I finished he said, "You may be interested to know that another lad from Louth made a name for himself in America. His name was Patrick Henry."



-submitted by Connie Runge

If you have a story with a Davenport family connection, submit it to Jessica Waytenick.

DO YOU LOVE EVERYTHING CLEAN AND SPARKLING?

The CDHF is looking for volunteers to help give the Colonel Davenport House a good spring cleaning in April before it opens to the public for the season. This can be a one-time volunteer opportunity, or the CDHF is also looking for several who would commit to coming once a month through November. Contact Judy Tumbleson at 309-786-5980 or judyt100741@gmail.com.

