



# CORNUCOPIA

Volume 116 Issue 3

FALL 2015

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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 an afternoon tea on Sunday, December 13 with scones, and savory and sweet delights. It will be held at the historic Quarters One mansion on Arsenal Island beautifully decorated for the holidays. Guided tour included with admission. **NEW This Year! There are going to be two seatings--12 noon and 3 p.m**



Tickets are \$25.00 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Judy Tumbleson at 309-786-5980, any of the board members, or purchase tickets online at [www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org).

## CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE!

The brand-new CDHF website went live at the end of September at [www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org). Thanks to the Community Impact Endowment at the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, the

new website was designed by students from the Augustana College Web Guild. The CDHF has hosted their website with them since the beginning in the 1990s.



The new website is designed using what is called "responsive design" so whatever device

someone is using—smartphone, laptop, tablet, or desktop computer—the website will be formatted to be readable and easy to use. The website has all new content, better navigation, and all new pictures.

*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](mailto:jessica.waytenick@gmail.com)

## LONG-TIME GUIDE RETIRES FROM THE DAVENPORT HOUSE



After 25 years as a guide at the Colonel Davenport House, Dick Balzer is retiring as a docent. Dick was greatly appreciated by guests to the House over the years for his encyclopedic knowledge of the Davenport House and family and the early history of the area, along with his graciousness, helpfulness and every ready smile.

Dick was not only a wonderful guide whose dedication motivated him to purchase his own genuine beaver hat to wear on tours, but was willing to jump in and help when needed for special events.

After retiring from John Deere in 1990, Dick has been extremely active, not only guiding at the Davenport House (which Dick describes as “fun and satisfying”), but also working as a guide at the John Deere Commons for 15 years, directing acting parts at Quad City Music Guild for 12 years, and enjoying his three children and grandchildren. Dick and his wife, Doris, who was a greeter when Dick was guiding, made an incomparable team that will be sorely missed. THANK YOU!

## BIRDIES FOR CHARITY GIVES GOOD RETURNS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the CDHF through Birdies for Charity. The number of birdies during the John Deere Classic equaled 1990. The Birdies for Charity checks were handed out on October 30. The CDHF received \$778.80 with 10% interest from the John Deere Foundation so we made over \$850. What a great program for the community!

## PAINT THE ISLAND PURPLE

You can't tell by the black and white photo but the CDHF board members are wearing purple for the Island-wide Paint the Island Purple Initiative for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. Departments decorated their offices in purple and were encouraged to wear purple.



## NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Our board member in charge of processing Membership Renewals is quite ill so please forgive us if we are not as on time with your membership renewal as we have been in the past. Thank you for your understanding.

## CROQUET EVENT ON A SUNDAY THIS YEAR

The CDHF had a beautiful day for croquet at the Colonel's Croquet Party on Sunday, August 23 on the Quarters One lawn. The attendees had a great time and over \$700 was raised for the Colonel Davenport House. Kids from the Davenport Junior Theatre came dressed as Alice in Wonderland characters and played croquet with the kids and were a great addition! Thank you to our sponsors—American Bank & Trust, K&K Hardware, and Sedona Technologies, WHBF CBS4, and the Quad-City Times.



(Pictured on the right) Winners were Gabriel Freund and Scott Breitfelder, both of Dubuque.

## GHOST TALES HELD ON A GORGEOUS FALL NIGHT



Switching things around to have Ghost Tales told from the front of the house, it was a gorgeous night with a full moon on the last Saturday in September. Dorie Foster, an English teacher at Rock Island High School, told several stories along with a handful of her students that also told some stories.

Debbie Borkgren, of Geneseo, was the winner of the 2015 Ghost Tales contest sponsored by The Dispatch, The Rock Island Argus, and the CDHF. Hy-Vee also contributed to the event.

Taken by The Dispatch/Argus

“Ms. Borkgren says her tale was inspired by stories she heard while visiting her grandparents in Bishop Hill during her childhood.”

According to Debbie's story...Grandpa pointed at the Steeple Building. "That there building has been here for 160 years," Grandpa instructed. "They say it's haunted." "Legend has it that Erik Jansson roams its corridors and haunts the clock tower. My grandfather always told me that if you could run around the Steeple Building three times before the stroke of midnight, your wish would be granted."



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 12 – House Closes for the Season
- December 13 – Christmas Tea at Quarters One
- May 1 – House Opens for the Season
- June TBD – Pioneer Days at the House
- June 18-26 – Quad Cities Museum Week at the House
- September 24 – Ghost Tales at the House

## COLONEL DAVENPORT JOINS FACEBOOK

The Colonel Davenport House has joined Facebook and you can follow along too. To 'Like' our page, go to [www.facebook.com/coloneldavenporthouse](http://www.facebook.com/coloneldavenporthouse) or go to the website at [www.davenporthouse.org](http://www.davenporthouse.org) and click on the Facebook logo to head directly to the page to Like it. The more followers we have, the better it is!

