



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 18, 2012

Dear Members,

February has an extra day this year, but is still the shortest month. Even so, February has several special days, including President's Day. It is fitting that our February program will be presented by a friend of President George Washington. You will hear seamstress Betsy Ross, AKA Frances Plumb of Bettendorf, tell how that friendship led to her being chosen to design the American flag. Don't miss this delightful presentation on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

As usual, we will start with dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program portion of the meeting around 7:00. The February menu will feature Beef Burgundy with Noodles and French Cut Green Beans, plus all the trimmings, starting with salad and ending with dessert...all at the unbeatable price of \$12.50 per person, including tax and tip!

Reservations for the February 2nd meeting are due by noon on Monday, January 30th. Call **Linda Miller** at (563) 355-6165, or, you may email her at [chiicaliinda@aol.com](mailto:chiicaliinda@aol.com). Dinner cancellations must be made by the reservation deadline or you will be liable for costs incurred and billed accordingly. Anyone wishing to skip dinner and attend just the program portion around 7:00 p.m. may do so at no cost.

Please have a valid picture ID and tell the guard at the gate you are attending a function at the Golf Club. Remember, those coming across the Government Bridge from Iowa after 5:30 p.m. now need to proceed to the Rock Island Gate as the Davenport Gate will be closed. Also, regardless of the time of day, as of January 16<sup>th</sup>, all southbound (Illinois bound) traffic crossing the Government Bridge is now required to stop at the intersection with the Davenport Gate.

### Member News

It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of **Delores Bates** on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. **Delores** is remembered as one of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society's most valuable and longest serving volunteers. She was a Rock Island Historical Society Board Member from approximately 1981 until 1996. In 1996 after volunteering for ten years and donating untold hours, she retired as the Manager of our Gift Shop. As such, she, ordered merchandise, paid bills, did tax forms and recruited, managed and scheduled both volunteers and part-time paid employees. She was a contact for dinner reservations for many years, right up through the December 2011 meeting. We are so thankful for the service given over the years by both **Delores** and her husband, **Jerry Bates**. As mentioned in the October 2011 newsletter, Jerry now resides at the Illinois Veteran's Home in Quincy, IL. We send Jerry and the entire family our sincere condolences.

**Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers  
(November, December)**

**Delores Bates** – Historical Society dinner reservations  
**Judy Belfer** - Board business  
**Arlis Enburg** – Board meeting minutes; Board business  
**Jerry Geiger** - Gift Shop  
**Dick Hochstetler** –Board financial business  
**Anne Jochum** – Board business; Board and “History Breaks” publicity  
**Jim Jochum** – Board business; Representative on Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner Committee; Representative on Rock Island Arsenal Sesquicentennial Committee  
**Linda Miller** – Board financial; Historical Society dinner reservations  
**Pat Morthland** – Board business  
**Elaine Vinzant** –Historical Society Newsletter preparation and mailing; Board business  
**Martha Wahe** - Board business

**Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (November, December)**

**Charles Davies** - Collections inventory  
**Robert Horton** – Archives project  
**Elaine Horton** - Archives project  
**Anne Jochum** – Photographic archives project  
**Jim Jochum** – Archives project  
**Andrew Padavich** - Archives project; collection inventory  
**Andrew Ring** - Collection cataloging; archives project  
**Greg Shelangouski** – Archives project

**Rock Island Arsenal Museum  
November and December 2011 Activities**

On Friday, November 4, 2011, Roger Leese, Co-Trustee of the Major General (MG) Henry A. Rasmussen estate, and Ms. Mary Trafford delivered General Rasmussen’s M15, .45 caliber, General Officers pistol, serial number GO 1. When General Rasmussen was the Commanding General for U.S. Army Weapons Command at Rock Island Arsenal, he secured final approval to produce the M15 from then Chief of Staff General Abrahms. The first M15 pistol was presented to him in a presentation case.

A digital image provided by Jennifer Malone was printed in the November 6, 2011 issue of the *Des Moines (Iowa) Sunday Register’s* “Service & Sacrifice: A Civil War Story”. The digital image is of a stereoview depicting roll call for the Rock Island Prison Barracks’ prisoners.

On Wednesday and Thursday, December 14 and 15, 2011, Jennifer Malone participated in the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference as a recorder.

On Monday, December 12, 2011, the 100% biennial collection inventory was reported as completed to the US Army Center of Military History (CMH). Jodie Creen Wesemann was the lead on this two-year task that included other museum staff members and volunteers.

On Thursday, December 15, 2011, William Johnson and Jim Jones conducted the 100% annual weapons inventory.

## Upcoming Historical Happenings

### Col. Davenport Historical Foundation Annual Meeting

You need to hurry to get reservations in on time for this one!

The Annual Meeting of the Col. Davenport Historical Foundation will be held at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club on Sunday afternoon, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The program will start at 3:00 p.m. with ***A Lighthearted Tribute to President Ronald Reagan***, presented by Lt. Col. Buster Miller, Former Presidential Communications Officer. A dinner buffet will follow.

Tickets are \$15.00 per person (or \$13.00 for CDHF members). Mail check to CDHF, PO Box 4603, Rock Island, IL 61204-4603. If you have questions contact Jessica Waytenick, 309-372-8205 or [waytenik@winco.net](mailto:waytenik@winco.net)

Reservations (including check) are due January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Henry Farnam Dinner

The Ninth Annual Henry Farnam Dinner will be held on March 9, 2012 at Jumer's Casino, Rock Island, and will be of special interest to RIA Historical Society Members and RIA employees.

First Regena Schantz, expert on Fort Armstrong and the life and career of Colonel Davenport, will discuss: *Fort Armstrong and the Island Before the Arsenal*.

Then featured speaker Leslie D. Jensen, Curator of Arms and Armor at the West Point Museum in New York, will present: *The Rock Island Arsenal, Reflection of an Army 1862-1920*.

The 2012 Farnam Dinner will also feature numerous displays relating to the Arsenal, the island, the river, and other historical topics.

Reservations required - Dinner and program \$40 per person; \$375.00 for a reserved table of 10.

Contact River Action at 563-322-2969 or River Action, 822 East River Dr., Davenport, IA 52803

### ROCK ISLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY (RICHS) LUNCHEON

On President's Day, February 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Arthur Pitz will talk about "Two Civil War Presidents: Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis." First Congregational Church in Moline is the place. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., followed by the program at 12:15 p.m. Please make reservations no later than Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> by calling the RICHS Library, 309 764-8590. The luncheon price is \$7.50 and will feature Pork Chop, pasta salad, roasted red potatoes, mixed vegetables, cherry crisp and beverage. You may pay at the door. You needn't be a RICHS member to attend.

## SCOTT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY (SCHPS)

SCHPS will have a Valentine Party at the German American Heritage Center at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Dinner is \$5.00 per person, plus a dish to share. All else is provided. Bring an old/antique item for "show and tell". For reservations please call Judy Belfer, 563 324-7779.

### ARSENAL TOUR OF HOMES

Here's something to put on your calendar now to do in April. The Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club (formerly the Rock Island Arsenal Women's Club) will host a tour of the historic Rock Island Arsenal homes on Saturday, April 28, 2012. We will provide more details later.

### RIA CELEBRATES 150 YEARS!!

Rock Island Arsenal is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and to commemorate it RIA Historical Society is sponsoring monthly "history breaks." These are Lunch and Learn sessions being held on the second Thursday of each month in the Caisson Room, Building 60, Rock Island Arsenal, from noon to 1:00 pm.

Various Rock Island Arsenal history experts will present the programs. The first one, in January, was "Rock Island Arsenal: History and Sites" by Kris Leinicke. The program on February 9<sup>th</sup> will be "Quarters One History" by Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historian George Eaton.

These sessions are open to the public as well as RIA Historical Society Members and Arsenal Employees, so feel free to invite a friend to attend them with you. There is no cost, but you can bring a brown bag lunch with you, or pick up lunch at the Bldg. 60 Cafeteria. Since the Caisson Room holds only 50 people, reservations are needed. Please call 563 355-6165. (Linda Miller) or email her at [chiicaliinda@aol.com](mailto:chiicaliinda@aol.com).

Thursday, February 9, 2012	Quarters One History
Thursday, March 8, 2012	Davenport House
Thursday, April 12, 2012	"RIA by RAIL: Bridging the Mississippi"
Thursday, May 10, 2012	History of Fort Armstrong and the Fort Armstrong Centennial Celebration
Thursday, June 14, 2012	Landscape Photography of the Upper Mississippi Taken by Henry Bosse
Thursday, July 12, 2012	History of Rock Island Arsenal
Thursday, August 9, 2012	Historical Modernization of Rock Island Arsenal Buildings
Thursday, September 13, 2012	Battles of Credit Island and Campbell's Island, War of 1812
Thursday, October 11, 2012	Rock Island Barracks
Thursday, November 8, 2012	Mississippi River Navigation History
Thursday, December 13, 2012	"The Prison and the Copperhead: The Story of the Rock Island Civil War Prison"