



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 16, 2012

Dear Members,

You have heard many programs at our meetings about famous historical people. What about your own history? Have you delved into it? You will hear some helpful tips for doing so at our program on Thursday, March 1st. Our speaker will be Karen O'Connor from the Davenport Public Library. She will focus on family history research, including information about local resources available, especially if you have ancestors from the Davenport, Scott County or Quad City area.

Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., followed by the program portion of the meeting around 7:00. The March menu will feature Italian Salad, Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread and Chocolate Mousse...all for just \$12.50 per person, including tax and tip!

Reservations for the March 1st meeting are due by noon on Monday, February 27th. We have a new person helping Linda Miller take reservations. You may now call **Monica Holeman** at (563) 650-4349, or call **Linda Miller** at (563) 355-6165, or, you may email her at 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.

MEMBER NEWS

Two New Members

A hearty welcome two new RIA Historical Society members. They are **Monica Holeman**, and **Buster Miller**. Both live in Bettendorf, and Monica is already serving as a volunteer. As mentioned above, she is now helping take dinner reservations, so give her a call.

Our Own Website!

Coming soon! Due to the vision of our Board President, **Jim Jochum**, both our members and the public will be able to view a [Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society website](#). Besides designing the layout, due to our supportive relationship with the government-owned museum some legal issues had to be ironed out. Most of the work is now completed by **Jim Jochum** and **Jodean Rousey Murdock**, so stay tuned for its debut. You will be pleasantly surprised with the wealth of information you will find.

Thank You, Kris!

Many thanks to Museum Director **Kris Leinicke** for filling in at the last minute for Betsy Ross impersonator, **Frances Plumb**, who became ill and could not be our speaker in February. Kris narrated a fascinating slide show about the Confederate Civil War Prison at the Arsenal, and many of us saw pictures and heard facts about it that we had never seen or heard before. We may be able to schedule "Betsy Ross" again in the near future.

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers (January)

Judith Belfer – Board business

Jerry Geiger – Gift Shop

Dick Hochstetler –Board financial business

Jim Jochum – Board business; Representative on Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner Committee; Representative on Rock Island Arsenal Sesquicentennial Committee

Elaine Vinzant –Historical Society newsletter

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (January)

Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project; Sesquicentennial History Breaks

Jim Jochum – Archives project; Sesquicentennial History Breaks

Alan Larsen – Collection project

Andrew Padavich – Archives and collection projects

Christine Powers - Exhibit project

Andrew Ring - Collection and archives projects

Rock Island Arsenal Museum January 2012 Activities

As part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration, Kris Leinicke wrote an article on Milton Howard for the Garrison Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office newsletter in observance of Black History Month. Howard was the Arsenal's first African-American employee. Photographs and exhibit labels documenting the life of Milton Howard were loaned for a Black History Month display in Heritage Hall, Building 60.

On Wednesday, January 4, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock provided an orientation for student volunteer, Christine Powers. Christine is enrolled at Western Illinois University in the Museum Studies program.

On Wednesday, January 4, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock provided a behind the scenes tour of the museum and resource center to four park rangers with the Mississippi River Visitors Center.

On Thursday, January 12, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a History Breaks lunch and learn program on *Rock Island Arsenal; History and Sites* to 35 attendees. The History Breaks are being held monthly to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of Rock Island Arsenal.

On Thursday, January 12, 2012, BG Joseph Carvalho, Jr., Commanding General for the Northern Regional Medical Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, visited the museum.

On Tuesday-Thursday, January 17-19, 2012, OSDI delivered and set up shelving units, card cabinets, desks, rare book storage cabinets, and garment racks. These components were part of the Spacesaver order placed in fiscal year 2011.

On Wednesday, January 25, 2012, Jodie Creen Wesemann met with Linda Basala, RDAR-EIS-C, to print engineer drawings from microfiche.

On Friday, January 27, 2012, Jennifer Malone met with Sue Lerch, ARDEC, to look at aperture cards for possible inclusion in the Resource Center archives. The cards pertain to Rodman Lab, packaging, and ammunition.

Museum Staff News

Jim Jones, "Jonesz", Archives Technician, will retire on February 28, 2012. Jonesz has been a member of the museum staff since April 1, 2008. In addition to maintaining the technical manual database and answering requests for information, Jonesz has been the facility manager and has assisted other staff members with a variety of exhibit and collections-related projects. He transferred to the museum from the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), so he retires with 29 years of federal government service.

UPCOMING HISTORY-RELATED EVENTS

Henry Farnam Dinner

You are invited to attend the Quad Cities' most famous and fabulous annual historical event! It's the Henry Farnam Dinner, and this year will be of special interest to everyone who is associated with or interested in the Rock Island Arsenal. In addition to pertinent speeches, there will be numerous displays relating to the Arsenal, the island, the river, and other historical topics.

This is the ninth annual Henry Farnam Dinner, being held on Friday, March 9, 2012 at Jumer's Casino, Rock Island.

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*.

If you have never been to a Henry Farnam dinner, this is your opportunity to do so. Dinner and Program are \$40.00 per person, or gather a group of friends and reserve a table of 10 for \$375.00. Of course reservations are required, and are due by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6th. Contact River Action at (563) 322-2969 or River Action, 822 East River Dr., Davenport, IA 52803

Would you like to receive a personal invitation in the mail before deciding on whether to attend? Call Curt Roseman (309) 764-6122, or email croseman@usc.edu.

RIA 150th Anniversary Lunch 'n Learns

Rock Island Arsenal is celebrating its 150th Anniversary with "Lunch and Learn" sessions held on the second Thursday of each month in the Caisson Room, Building 60, Rock Island, Your RIA Historical Society Board is sponsoring these monthly "history breaks" and agreed to pay for use of the Caisson Room.

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.

The March 8th Lunch 'n Learn will be about the Col. Davenport House and will be presented by Keri Pleasant, JMC Historical Office.

Rock Island County Historical Society Luncheon

So you thought Recycling was new? Marty, Mitch and Eric Davis will present the program about "Midland Davis Corporation: 100 Years of Recycling. The Living History" at the March RICHS Luncheon on March 19th at the First Congregational Church in Moline. Lunch, served at 11:30 a.m., will feature Beef Stroganoff, egg noodles, peas, cottage cheese with pineapple, vanilla or chocolate pudding and beverage at a cost of \$7.50. Reservations can be made by calling the RICHS Library at (309) 764-8590, and are due by Thursday, March 15th.

Music Merges with History

You may have read in the newspaper about the Quad City Symphony Orchestra's presentation of Benjamin Britten's 1962 "War Requiem," being called the "Peace Project." It will feature multiple choirs, including one from Germany. Concerts will be March 3rd at the Adler Theater and March 4th at Centennial Hall. There will be other adjunct events, including free lectures by Army Sustainment Command Historian George Eaton. The first will be at the Black Hawk Hotel on the same night as our historical society meeting, March 1st, and again on Friday, March 2nd, at 5:30 p.m. in the Caisson Room, Bldg. 60 at the Arsenal. He will describe the British trench experience during World War I. The Rock Island Arsenal Museum will be open until 5:30 that evening to support the talk in the Caisson Room.

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Arsenal Tour of Homes in April

The Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club will host a tour of the historic Rock Island Arsenal homes on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The price is \$25.00 per person and is open to adults and children 12 and over. It will include the newly furnished Quarters 1, plus Quarters 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 34 and the Quarters 1 Gardener's Home. You will also receive an Historical Homes Booklet. Tickets may be purchased in advance by sending a check or money order to RIAWC. Mail check and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: RIAWC Historic Homes Tour 2012, PO Box 564, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0010, Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at The Arsenal Attic (Thrift Shop), Quarters 1 or the Memorial Park Pavilion "Shelter" Moline Gate. If you wish to volunteer at this event, email tina.morris70@gamil.com.