



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 16, 2012

Dear Members,

There is more than one way to take a trip. For example, on Thursday, April 5th, you can take a trip back to the turn of the 20th Century. Mary Evans, Education Specialist at the Hoover Presidential Library, will be at our April meeting to show personal photos from the Hoover family albums. Many were taken by Herbert Hoover's wife and photography buff, Lou Henry Hoover, during the Hoover's world-wide travels. This fascinating program will start at 7:00 p.m., after dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Golf Club.

The menu on April 5th will begin, as usual, with tossed salad and bread sticks. The entrée is Chicken Breast with Raspberry Sauce, plus Herb Roasted New Potatoes and Green Beans Amandine. Dessert is Chocolate Decadence Cake. The price? Still just \$12.50, including tax and tip.

Reservations for the April 5th meeting are due by noon on Monday, April 2nd. **Monica Holeman** is now helping Linda Miller take reservations. You may call her at (563) 650-4349, or call **Linda Miller** at (563) 355-6165, or, email Linda 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

We welcome another new member to Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society. Her name is Laurie M. Johnson and she lives in O'Fallon, MO.

Do you have friends or family members who might be interested in supporting our Historical Society and the Museum? They needn't live here locally to belong, so feel free to invite them to become members. They can keep up-to-date on what's happening via the newsletter (either by snail mail or email), and will soon be able to view our website!

Special Thanks to Jim Jochum

Special thanks are in order for Jim Jochum. While serving as a committee member of the Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner, he represented the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society. His efforts and time on our behalf contributed to a successful event that feted Rock Island Arsenal's 150th Anniversary. A total of 292 history enthusiasts attended the event at Jumer's Casino and Hotel in Rock Island on Friday, March 9, 2012.

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

Judith Belfer – Board business

Arlis Enburg - Board minutes; Board business

Jerry Geiger – Gift Shop

Dick Hochstetler –Board financial business

Monica Holeman – Historical Society Dinner Reservations

Anne Jochum – Board business, Board publicity

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

Linda Miller - Board business; Historical Society dinner reservations

Pat Morthland - Board business

Elaine Vinzant –Historical Society newsletter; Board business

Martha Wahe - Board business

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (February)

Bob Horton - Archives database

Elaine Horton - Archives database

Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project; History Breaks

Jim Jochum – Archives project; History Breaks

Alan Larsen - Collections project

Andrew Padavich - Archives project; collection project

Christine Powers - Sesquicentennial exhibit project and website timeline

Andrew Ring - Collection project; archives project

Rock Island Arsenal Museum

February 2012 Activities

Jodie Creen Wesemann provided images and information to Charles Brown for an article on The Browning 1919A5. The article appeared in *Small Arms Review*, 1st Quarter, 2012, Volume 16, No 1.

On Friday, February 3, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock, Jim Jochum, and Anne Jochum met with representatives of the Augustana web guild to continue the process of creating a Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society website. This website will also serve as the unofficial website for the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

On Monday, February 6, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a program, "Meet the People of Rock Island Arsenal," to 20 members of the Scott County Genealogical Society at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa.

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, the second Sesquicentennial *History Break* took place in the Caisson Room in Building 60 at Rock Island Arsenal. Sponsored by the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society, this event featured George Eaton, Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historian, who talked about the history of Quarters One. A total of 44 individuals, both employees and members of the general public, attended this presentation.

On Thursday, February 9, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a program, "The Rock Island Barracks," to 31 members and guests of the Black Hawk Shriners at the Viking Club in Moline, Illinois.

On Tuesday, February 21, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a program, "The Rock Island Barracks," to 18 members of the Rock Island Women's Club at the Hauberg Center in Rock Island, Illinois.

On Thursday, February 23, 2012, Bill Johnson conducted a tour of the museum's weapons exhibit for six forensic scientist trainees with the Illinois State Police Crime Lab in Chicago, Illinois.

On Monday, February 27, 2012, Mr. Himsl, Garrison Manger of the US Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA), presented to Jim Jones a retirement certificate and a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his exemplary service as Archives Technician at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. Jim was a member of the museum staff from April 1, 2008 to February 28, 2012. He will officially retire on March 30, 2012 with more than 29 years of military and federal civilian service.

On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock loaned items from the museum's educational prop collection to the ASC Historical Office for an exhibit at the Adler Theater in Davenport, Iowa. The exhibit was part of the cross promotion between the Quad City Symphony, the ASC Historical Office, and the museum for the local performance of *Britten's War Requiem* on March 3 and 4, 2012. Two WWI scale models made by museum volunteer Bob Horton were also loaned for the exhibit.

New Museum Hours

The operating hours for the Rock Island Arsenal Museum changed on March 11, 2012. The Rock Island Arsenal Museum is open to the public, Tuesday - Saturday, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. The museum is closed on Sunday, Monday, Federal Holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve.

Visitor Entry Requirements: A current photo id is required for everyone age 16 or older. Foreign visitors must register one week ahead by calling 309-782-2686.

New Exhibit at Rock Island Arsenal Museum

Calendar year 2012 will mark a yearlong Sesquicentennial celebration of the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA), founded by Act of Congress on July 11, 1862. During its 150 year history, RIA has been responsible for the design, development, manufacture, repair, and storage of a wide variety of equipment required to support the U.S. Army and all the joint services.

In celebration of the 150th year anniversary, a special exhibit is now available for viewing at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. If you haven't been to the museum in a while, please stop by. Admission is free.

There are a number of souvenirs on display from the Centennial Celebration in 1962, including a medal designed by Orville "Porky" Meyers. One side depicts the Clocktower Building and an Honest John rocket launcher. The other depicts the main entrance gate for the Rock Island Arsenal. Forty thousand medals were made for the Arsenal Open House and were given to employees and adult visitors. Did your family visit this event and do they still have a souvenir medallion? Tell us your story! Also on display at the Centennial Open House was a full size replica of the Mercury Space Capsule. A picture of the replica and a souvenir bank are included in the current exhibit.

The exhibit was created by Jodean Rousey Murdock, Curator of Education, and Christine Powers, a volunteer intern in the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities graduate program in museum studies.

UPCOMING HISTORY-RELATED EVENTS

"Lunch and Learn" During RIA's 150th Anniversary

These sessions, held in the Bldg. 60 Caisson Room, and sponsored by your Arsenal Historical Society, have been well-received. They will continue on the 2nd Thursday of each month for the rest of 2012. .

The April 12th Lunch 'n Learn will be about the Railroad Bridges and will be presented by Paul Ferguson, Joint Munitions Command Historical Office.

These sessions are open to the public at no cost. Bring a lunch, or buy it 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.

Rock Island County Historical Society (RICHS) Friends Luncheon

Everyone loves Whitey's ice cream! Learn about "The History of Whitey's and Changes in the Industry" from Jon and Jeff Tunberg at the RICHS Luncheon on April 16th. Reservations are due. The menu is Salisbury steak, mandarin salad, scalloped potatoes, corn, apple crisp and beverage, for \$7.50. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Moline. Call (309) 764-8590 by Thursday, April 12th for reservations.

Arsenal Tour of Homes in April

The Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club will host a tour of the historic Rock Island Arsenal homes, including Quarters One, 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. 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. If you wish to volunteer at this event, email tina.morris70@gmail.com.