



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# August 2012 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Even though the summer was hot and dry (an understatement?), our Board hopes you enjoyed plenty of rest and recreation. Thank you to those who participated in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Rock Island Arsenal on July 7<sup>th</sup> by attending and/or volunteering.

It's time, again, to begin our 2012-2013 dinner programs! As usual, we are beginning with a picnic, but this year we won't care if it rains, because we will be indoors. It will be held in the air-conditioned comfort of the Golf Club. The menu will include Fried Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Rolls, Cookies and Iced Tea, still at the same low price of just \$8.00 inclusive! (Hint: At that price you can afford to bring a guest.)

In addition to a budget priced meal in a posh setting, we also have a most unusual program planned! Mr. Rudy Vallejo will present "The importance of the Bald Eagle to the Native American Indians." Mr. Vallejo is a member of the Kickapoo tribe of Kansas. His mother was one-hundred-percent Potawatomi, but born on the Kickapoo reservation in Kansas. He will explain his clothing and artifacts which he will have on exhibit and will dance for us. It promises to be an exciting presentation

Reservations for the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting are due by noon on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. You may call **Monica Holeman** at (563) 650-4349, or call **Linda Miller** at (563) 355-6165, or, email Linda 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. Or, attend just the program portion around 7:00 p.m. 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. need to proceed to the Rock Island Gate as the Davenport Gate will be closed.

### MEMBER NEWS

On Saturday, July 7, 2012, museum staff, volunteers, and Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society members participated in the Rock Island Arsenal 150th Anniversary Celebration. Attendance at the museum was 1,892. Attendance at Quarters One was approximately 1,000. Gift Shop sales were close to \$2,000.

### **Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers (May, June, and July)**

**Judith Belfer** - Board business; 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Arlis Enburg** - Board minutes; Board business; 150th Anniversary Celebration event; brochure project  
**Dick Hochstetler** –Board financial business  
**Monica Holeman** - Historical Society dinner reservations  
**Anne Jochum** – Board publicity; 150th Anniversary Celebration event; History Breaks  
**Jim Jochum** – Board business; 150th Anniversary Celebration event; History Breaks  
**Linda Miller** - Board business; Historical Society dinner reservations; 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Pat Morthland** - Board business  
**Elaine Vinzant** - Historical Society newsletter; Board business; 150th Anniversary Celebration event; brochure project  
**Martha Wahe** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event; brochure project

### **Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (May, June, and July)**

**Willie Breuer** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**George Brush** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Joel Dohrmann** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Lynn Dohrmann** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Marceia Duhm** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Julianne Hardy** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Bob Horton** - SNL database project  
**Elaine Horton** – SNL database project  
**Anne Jochum** – Photographic archives project  
**Jim Jochum** – Educational Collection project  
**Alan Larsen** - Historic tour of Rock Island Arsenal  
**Mary Maland** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Morris Merle** - Historic tour of Rock Island Arsenal; 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Andrew Padavich** - Archives project  
**Clark Ramser** - Research project; Collection inventory  
**Greg Shelangouski** – Archives project  
**Pat Steen** - Historic tour of Rock Island Arsenal; 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Kym Vandygriff** - 150th Anniversary Celebration event  
**Blake Weiman** - Exhibit project

### **Rock Island Arsenal Museum Museum Staff News**

On Wednesday, August 8, 2012, **Jennifer Malone** received a commander's award from Mr. Himsl, Garrison Manager, to acknowledge her accomplishments as a Museum Specialist (History) from May 1, 2006 – 10 August, 2012. As we bid her farewell from federal service, we thank her for her contributions as the Museum Resource Center Manager in developing a balanced and organized reference and research collection reflecting the museum's mission and

the history of Rock Island Arsenal and serving as the lead for six projects to upgrade artifact and archival storage facilities and install Spacesaver storage systems.

### **Rock Island Arsenal Museum May, June, July 2012 Activities**

On Friday, May 4, 2012, Channel 4 WHBF news crew, Steve Long and Mike Colon, filmed a segment on the bridges using the museum's Early History exhibit as the backdrop. US Army Joint Munitions Command (JMC) archivist, Paul Ferguson, spoke about the bridges of Rock Island Arsenal. This was the beginning of a series "Rock Island Arsenal: Behind the Gates" that continues to be filmed at the arsenal using the museum's images and resource materials. Eric Cramer, the Garrison Public Affairs Officer, and Kris Leinicke have been providing support for this ongoing project. These news spots are available for viewing under the "Multimedia" tab at: <http://ria150.army.mil/>.

On Tuesday, May 8, 2012, Kris Leinicke and Jodie Creen Wesemann attended the first meeting of the Time Capsule Working Group to discuss the proposed Sesquicentennial time capsule. After the initial meeting, Jodie Creen Wesemann and Jodean Rousey Murdock worked on the time capsule project as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. The contributions to the time capsule will remain on display in the museum until December 31, 2012.

On Thursday, May 10, 2012, Kris Leinicke and Gena Schantz, independent scholar, presented the History Breaks lunch and learn program on the history of Fort Armstrong and the Fort Armstrong Centennial Celebration. Seventeen employees and members of the general public attended this program. The History Breaks programs are being held to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of Rock Island Arsenal.

On Thursday, May 17, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented the video, *The Rock Island Arsenal: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, to Sociable Seniors. The program was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Coal Valley, Illinois and 18 were in attendance.

In May of 2012, Jodie Creen Wesemann provided images and information for the article, "Browning 1919A6", which appeared in *Small Arms Review*, 2nd Quarter, 2012, Vol. 16, No. 2.

During the month of May, museum staff members, primarily Jennifer Malone and Kris Leinicke, focused effort on providing historical information and images to reporters and editors of the *Quad-City Times* and *Dispatch/Argus* for advanced articles, a multimedia presentation, and a combined Rock Island Arsenal 150th Anniversary publication on June 10, 2012. Members of the US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historical Office also provided information to the newspaper representatives. Assistance was provided to the following individuals: Roy Booker, David Burke, John Beydler, Paul Colletti, Don Doxie, Bill Mayeroff, Susan McPeters and Barb Ickes, Joe Payne, Roger Ruthhart, Jan Touney, Anthony Watt, Todd Welvaert, John Willard, Bill Wundram, Jennifer Witt. Kurt Allemeier, Kay Luna, Todd Mizener, John Willard.

On Saturday, June 2, 2012, LPW-I moved one of the museum's pack howitzers from east range storage, Building 60 to the lobby of Building 68. With the approval of the US Army Center of Military History (CMH), the pack howitzer will remain on display in the lobby of the First Army Headquarters.

On Monday, June 4, 2012, reproduction uniforms from the educational prop collection were loaned to Child, Youth, and School Services (CYSS) to be used in their photo opportunity during the 150th Anniversary Celebration.

On Thursday, June 7, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock and Mark Kane, Garrison Public Affairs, met with *Quad-City Times* reporter, David Burke, and cameraman Kevin Schmidt, to provide information on the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The article on the museum appeared in the Weekend section of the *Quad-City Times* on Saturday, June 9, 2012.

On Thursday, June 7, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented the program, *History of the Rock Island Barracks* to the St. Paul Lutheran Church Circles Outing. The program was held at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, and 27 were in attendance.

On Friday, June 8, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock provided an orientation to student volunteer Blake Weiman. Blake is a student at Davenport Central High School and volunteered during his summer break.

On Thursday, June 14, 2012, Jim Jochum and Kris Leinicke assisted with the History Breaks lunch and learn program "Battles of Credit Island and Campbell's Island, War of 1812", presented by George Eaton, US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historian. Twenty-one employees and members of the general public attended this program.

On Friday, June 15, 2012, Jodie Creen Wesemann provided a phone interview for Augustana College's WVIK radio. The interview pertained to the Rock Island Arsenal's Sesquicentennial Time Capsule. The recorded interview was broadcast several times.

On Saturday, June 16, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a short program, *History of the Rock Island Barracks* for a Father's Day Luncheon at Friendship Manor, Rock Island, Illinois. Thirty five fathers and sons were in attendance.

On Tuesday, June 19, 2012, Jennifer Malone met with Katie Voelliger, Rock Island Arsenal Joint Munitions and Technology Center (RIA-JMTC), to review archive material that may be used for RIA-JMTC's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration programs. Ms. Voelliger browsed the archives again on Wednesday, 20 June 2012.

On Wednesday, June 27, 2012, Kris Leinicke provided a tour of the museum, primary artifact storage, and the arms room to Brigadier General Feldmann, Deputy Commanding General for Operations and Mobilization, US Army Sustainment Command (ASC). BG Feldmann was accompanied by CPT Eric Pahnke.

Contractors working on the second floor renovation project also worked in the museum several Mondays during June and July. Work in the museum consisted of removing pipes that were no longer being used, asbestos removal, patching holes in the ceiling, running electrical, and painting.

In July 2012, Jennifer Malone provided photographs to researcher Charlie Brown. The photographs were included in the article, "U.S .30 Caliber M1 Linked Ammunition Belts" which appeared in the July 2012 issue of *Small Arms Review*.

On Wednesday, July 11, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented the program, *History of the Rock Island Barracks* to eleven teachers in Teacher's Workshop: Local History of the Upper Mississippi River organized by the Rock Island Regional Office of Education. The program was held in the Museum theater, Rock Island Arsenal.

On Thursday, July 12, 2012, Jim Jochum and Kris Leinicke assisted with the History Breaks lunch and learn program "History of Rock Island Arsenal", presented by George Eaton, US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historian. Twenty-nine employees and members of the general public attended this program.

On Friday, July 20, 2012, Bill Johnson and Jodie Creen Wesemann picked up a Centennial Pistol and presentation case that were being added to the museum collection. The pistol and case was donated by Edward Hains, East Moline, Illinois.

### **. Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Rock Island Arsenal's 150th Year Anniversary Celebration**

##### **Lunch 'n Learn History Breaks**

In case you haven't been to one of these sessions yet, plan to attend the "Brown Bag Lunch" History Break on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Ron Deiss, Archeologist, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), will talk about "Landscape Photography of the Upper Mississippi River Taken by Henry Bosse."

One of the Mississippi River's greatest photographers, Henry P. Bosse, created blue or cyanotype photographs that documented the US Army Corps of Engineers' early work on the Upper Mississippi River, the working boats on the river, railroad and wagon bridges, and cities and town. Together, these images comprise a rich essay on the evolution of one of the world's greatest rivers --The Mississippi.

These Lunch and Learn sessions are sponsored by you, the members of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society. They started in January and will continue each second Thursday through December. They are held in the Caisson Room, Bldg. 60, from Noon till 1:00 p.m. If you wish to eat lunch during the lecture, you may bring food with you, or purchase it in the Bldg. 60 Cafeteria. You may make reservations to attend the program by calling Linda Miller at (563) 355-6165.

We will announce October, November and December programs in the next newsletter.