



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 2012 Newsletter

Hello Members,

Those who were at our picnic on September 6th know that we had a fantastic program. We have another fantastic program lined up for our October meeting. You may remember that we had planned to have Betsy Ross visit us last January, but she became ill and couldn't be with us. Betsy, AKA Frances Plumb, is now feeling fine, and you can hear her tell her incredible story on Thursday, October 4th.

As usual, we will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Golf Club. The entrée will be Spaghetti and Meatballs, plus Garlic Bread, beginning with Tossed Salad and ending with a delectable Dessert prepared by the Golf Club Chef. With rising food prices, our price has gone up \$1.50 and is now \$14.00 per person, including tax and tip. That's still a terrific deal for a tasty dinner served in an elegant atmosphere. Please have your check ready to give to **Dick Hochstetler** or **Linda Miller** when you arrive.

Reservations for the October 4th meeting are due by noon on Monday, October 1st. You may call **Monica Holeman** 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. Or, attend just the program portion around 7:00 p.m. at no cost.

Remember, our meetings are open to both members and non-members. Those who wish to skip dinner and attend just the program portion of the meeting, starting at about 7:00 p.m., may do so free of charge.

Drivers and passengers entering the Arsenal must have a valid picture ID. Let the guard know 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

In order to be close to his son, **Jerry Bates** has moved from the Veteran's Home in Quincy, Illinois to a Veteran's Home in Phoenix, Arizona. Jerry will celebrate his 90th birthday on October 7th. Let's help make his celebration special by showering him with cards from his RIA Historical Society friends! Here is Jerry's new address:

Jerry W. Bates Unit D-2 Room 262-B
c/o Arizona State Veteran Home-Phoenix
4141 North S. Herrera Way
Phoenix, AZ 85012

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

Arlis Enburg - Board minutes; Board business; brochure project
Dick Hochstetler –Board financial business
Monica Holeman - Historical Society dinner reservations
Anne Jochum – Board publicity
Jim Jochum – Board business
Linda Miller - Board business; Historical Society dinner reservations
Elaine Vinzant –Historical Society newsletter and mailing; Board business; brochure project
Martha Wahe - Brochure project

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (August)

Willie Breuer - Historic tour of Rock Island Arsenal
Larry Flathman - Equipment/furniture move
Bob Horton - SNL database project
Elaine Horton – SNL database project
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project; Hoover Days event
Jim Jochum – Educational Collection project; Hoover Days event
Andrew Padavich - Archives project; equipment/furniture move
Christine Powers – Hoover Days event
Clark Ramser - Research project
Greg Shelangouski – Archives project; equipment/furniture move
Pat Steen - Historic tour of Rock Island Arsenal
Kym Vandygriff - Ride along on historic tours of Rock Island Arsenal

Rock Island Arsenal Museum August 2012 Activities

During the month of August, Jim Jochum and Dick Hochstetler, President and Treasurer of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society, respectively, and Kris Leinicke met to work on requirements to change the filing status of the Historical Society from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3).

During the month of August, Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society board members Arlis Enburg, Elaine Vinzant, and Martha Wahe met several times to update the museum's stock of brochures.

On Thursday, August 2, 2012, Steve Long and Mike Colon, WHBF, CBS 4 news, filmed Ferrell Anderson, QC Archeological Society, on the Indian Mounds of Rock Island. Kris Leinicke met with them for additional filming about the museum. The museum was featured in WHBF's "Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates" on Thursday, August 9, 2012.

On Saturday, August 4, 2012, Kris Leinicke, Rock Island Historical Society volunteers, Jim and Anne Jochum, and volunteer Christine Powers participated in the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site's Hoover Hometown Days. The event ended early due to severe weather that swept through West Branch, Iowa. Thirty-two people visited the museum booth before the event ended.

On Wednesday, August 8, 2012, Jennifer Malone, Museum Specialist, was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a commander's coin by Garrison Manager, Mr. Joel Himsl, for her years of government service. Jennifer resigned on Friday, August 10, 2012.

On Thursday, August 9, 2012, Kris Leinicke assisted with the History Break lunch and learn program "Historical Modernization of Rock Island Arsenal Buildings" presented by Mr. Benny Wild, retired USAG-RIA Garrison Staff Action Officer. Fourteen employees and members of the general public attended this program. The History Breaks are a monthly 150th Anniversary event to continue to the end of the calendar year.

On Thursday, August 9, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock and Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society President, Jim Jochum, met with Augusta Web Guild on further changes/additions to the RIAHS website.

On Friday, August 10, 2012, Kris Leinicke and Bill Johnson attended the First Army Historical Display unveiling in Building 68 as invited guests to acknowledge their assistance with the project.

On Monday, August 13, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock and Kris Leinicke met with Brian Leech, Fellow, Augustana College, to discuss potential oral history projects for a history methods class during the fall term.

On Thursday, August 16, 2012, Jodie Creen Wesemann assisted Richard Emory, RDAR-EIS-CS, with the conversion of an aperture card image to a digital file. Richard has approximately 300 other cards that he would like to convert. Jodie will instruct him on the process so that he is able to complete the project using the museum's Minolta microfilm reader.

On Tuesday, August 21, 2012, Kris Leinicke, Jodie Creen Wesemann, and Jodean Rousey Murdock met with Kathy Miller and Craig Deitz, DPTMS (Garrison Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security) in the former Audio Visual Information office, Building 56. Numerous supplies, furniture and equipment were earmarked for the museum as well as three items to be added to the collection (metal stool, wood step ladder and antique video camera).

On Tuesday, August 28, 2012, Bill Johnson attended a meeting for the annual Force Protection Full Scale Exercise. Bill Johnson participated in the exercise on Thursday, August 30, 2012.

On Tuesday, August 28, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock met with Craig Deitz, DPTMS and Jeff and John with RIIS (Rock Island Integrated Services) to move equipment and supplies from Building 56 to the Museum Resource Center.

On Tuesday, August 28, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock provided a volunteer orientation for Larry Flathman. Larry will be assisting Bill Johnson with information requests and projects as needed.

Contractors working on the second floor renovation project continued to work in the exhibit hall of the museum and resource center several days during August. Work consisted of removing obsolete pipes and patching any holes.

.RIAHS Sponsored Lunch 'n Learn History Breaks

Just three more chances to attend 150th Anniversary Lunch 'n Learn History Breaks, held in the Caisson Room, Bldg. 60, from Noon till 1:00 p.m. On **October 11, 2012**, Kris Leinicke will present "Rock Island Baracks." On **November 8, 2012**, Sam Heilig or Mike McKean, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will present "Mississippi River Navigation History." On **December 13, 2012**, Ron Deiss, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will present a Heritage Documentaries video, "The Rock Island Civil War Prison: Andersonville of the North." Call Linda Miller at (563) 355-6165 for reservations.