



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

# ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## November 2012 Newsletter

Dear Current Members, Former Members and Potential Members,

Why is the Membership Form on the first page of the newsletter instead of the last, as in the past? As your newsletter editor, I have a confession to make. Before I started doing the newsletter, when it arrived I eagerly opened it to see what the program and menu for the next meeting were going to be, then put it aside to finish later when I had more time. Sometimes "more time" never came.

That's why the form is on page one this time. Please take it and put it with your stack of bills now due. (Of course you who receive your newsletter via email will need to print at least the first page). Also, please read the section in the newsletter headlined **What Your Dues Do**. Thank you!

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### 2013 Membership Dues

#### ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Paste Mailing label or write name and address:

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail  
address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Couple

Please make checks payable to the *Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society* and mail to Richard D. Hochstetler, 1209 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. Apt. C103, Rock Island, IL 61201

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## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### November 2012 Newsletter

As members of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society we recognize the importance of preserving history. Our program in December focuses on an organization dedicated to this concept. It's the National Society Daughters of the Revolution (NSDAR), commonly known as D.A.R. Our speaker is Kathy Carey, a former Silvis teacher who has held prominent offices in D.A.R. and other historical organizations. Her topic is "D.A.R. – Let's Take a Look." She will explain about this, the largest American Heritage Society, and will leave time to answer your questions relating to Heritage Societies.

Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m., prepared by the Golf Club Chefs. The entrée this month is Filet of Salmon with Cucumber Tomato, Coleslaw, Rice Pilaf and Green Bean Almandine. All this, plus tossed salad and dessert, just \$14.00 per person, including tax and tip. Have your check ready to give to **Dick Hochstetler** or **Linda Miller** when you arrive.

Reservations for the December 6th meeting are due by noon on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Call **Monica Holeman** at 563-650-4340 or **Linda Miller** at (563) 355-6165. Or, you may 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. .

As always, our meetings are open to both members and non-members. If you wish to attend just the program portion you may do so at no cost, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Please have a valid picture ID and tell the guard at the gate you are attending a function at the Golf Club. Remember, after 5:30 p.m., those coming across the Government Bridge from Iowa will need to go to the Rock Island Gate as the Davenport Gate will be closed.

#### **Member News**

Since we don't meet during January, this will be your last newsletter of 2012. The January newsletter will inform you about the February program and menu.

Your Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Board of Directors wishes you a Bountiful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## **Hot Off the Press! *Quarters One* Books for Sale!**

New books featuring *Quarters One*, once the second largest U.S. Government residence, will be available at our December meeting for the affordable price of \$10.00 each. The cover has a colorful photo of *Quarters One*, and the inside is packed with black and white photos plus a comprehensive historical narrative by U.S. Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historian, George Eaton. You will definitely want one for yourself, plus they will be appreciated Christmas “stocking stuffer” gifts, especially for anyone with ties to the Arsenal, and anyone who might be interested in the past and the future of *Quarters One*. The book was commissioned by the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Board of Directors, with profits going to benefit the Museum. So do your part and buy a book...or two...or more!

## **What Your Dues Do**

The main purpose of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society is to support the Museum. While the Museum receives Federal funds, in this age of Government belt tightening there are needs that the Museum has which are not funded. At our Board Meetings the Museum Director, Kris Leinicke, requests these desired but unfunded items.

While the services of volunteers for both the Historical Society and the Museum are truly valuable and appreciated, cash is also needed. One way we receive cash is through donations made by visitors to the museum in the box provided. Other sources of funding are the Gift Shop, fund raisers (such as the *Quarters One* Book now being sold), and Membership Dues.

Although our dues have stayed lower than most similar organizations for many years. Currently there are no plans to increase the dues even though the cost to mail the newsletter has increased. In addition to paper, labels, envelopes, ink, etc. the ever higher cost of postage is now a major expense.

Fortunately many of you have opted to receive your newsletter via email, eliminating the costs mentioned in the previous paragraph. There are many of you, however, who still receive your newsletter through the U.S. Postal Service. We have not purged our Membership List recently, and it includes quite a few of you who have not renewed your membership recently.

The bottom line is, we can no longer afford to mail the newsletter to those who are not current members. If you wish to keep receiving the newsletter starting with the January 2013 issue, please return your membership form and your check for your dues by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

### **Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers (October)**

**Arlis Enburg** - Board minutes; Board business; Military Retirees Appreciation event  
**Eva Hammond** - Brochure project  
**Dick Hochstetler** –Board financial business  
**Monica Holeman** - Historical Society dinner reservations  
**Anne Jochum** – Board publicity  
**Jim Jochum** – Board business  
**Fred Miller** - Military Retirees Appreciation event  
**Linda Miller** - Military Retirees Appreciation event  
**Elaine Vinzant** –Historical Society newsletter and mailing; Board business; Military Retirees Appreciation event

### **Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (October)**

**Willie Breuer** - Historical tour of Rock Island Arsenal  
**Bob Horton** - SNL database project  
**Elaine Horton** – SNL database project  
**Anne Jochum** – History Breaks lunch and learn program  
**Jim Jochum** – History Breaks lunch and learn program  
**Alan Larsen** - Historical tour of Rock Island Arsenal  
**Morris Merle** - Historical tour of Rock Island Arsenal  
**Andrew Padavich** - Archives project; collection project  
**Greg Shelangouski** – Archives project  
**Pat Steen** - Historical tour of Rock Island Arsenal  
**Kym Vandygriff** - Historical tour of Rock Island Arsenal

### **Museum News (October 2012 Activities)**

During the month of October, Augustana College students visited the Museum Resource Center to conduct research for oral history projects and an inquiry project, and story idea development, research, and photo selection were provided to support the Channel 4 stories, “Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates.” The North Avenue construction project made its way to the west end of the avenue, near the intersection with Gillespie Street. The avenue directly in front of the main museum entrance is being completely rebuilt to include a pull off for a bus. The two Spanish cannon and concrete carriages were moved from the crosswalk in front of the museum to the courtyard of Building 66. The plan is for the cannon to be placed on new concrete bases and pads in front of the museum at the completion of the project.

On Monday, October 1, 2012, Kris Leinicke and Jodie Creen Wesemann attended the Ghost Hunters dinner and tour for training for future support of the Quarters One Ghost Hunters dinner and tour. This was done to accommodate a request for support from the U.S. Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historical Office.

On Thursday, October 11, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented the History Break lunch and learn program "Rock Island Barracks". Eighteen employees and members of the general public attended this program. The History Break programs are being held to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of Rock Island Arsenal, established by Act of Congress on July 11, 1862.

On Thursday, October 11, 2012, Kris Leinicke's taped interview with Steve Long aired on WHBF Channel 4 news. The interview was on the Italian soldiers at Rock Island Arsenal during WWII and part of the series, "Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates".

On Saturday, October 13, 2012, Jodie Creen Wesemann presented a historical overview of Rock Island Arsenal and Quarters One for 106 attendees at the Ghost Hunters dinner and tour. This was done to accommodate a request for support from the ASC Historical Office.

On Saturday, October 13, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a program on the History of Rock Island Arsenal to the Geneseo Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The program was held at the Geneseo Public Library, Geneseo, Illinois, with 15 in attendance.

On Thursday, 18 October 18, 2012, museum volunteer Bob Horton's taped interview with Steve Long aired on WHBF Channel 4 news. The interview was on the M115 Howitzer and part of the series, "Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates".

On Wednesday, October 24, 2012, William Johnson met with Kathy Miller, Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) for the US Army Garrison – Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA), to present the museum's 1-N spend plan for Fiscal Year FY13.

On Saturday, October 27, 2012, The Rock Island Arsenal Museum and Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society participated in the Military Retiree Appreciation Day by hosting an information table. Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society volunteers Linda Miller, Fred Miller, Arlis Enburg, and Elaine Vinzant staffed the table during the event. Approximately 150 were in attendance.

On Wednesday, October 31, 2012, approximately 2.5 linear feet of historical photographs, primarily manufacturing-associated images, were transferred from the Prototype Branch, Machining Division West, Rock Island Arsenal – Joint Munitions and Technology Center (RIA-JMTC).