



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### January 2013 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Happy New Year!

First of all we want to thank Elaine Vinzant for her service and dedication to this organization. She has been tireless in the performance of duties as a member of the Board of Directors; "editor" of our newsletter; and volunteer for the museum. Unfortunately, due to some ongoing health issues, Elaine has reluctantly resigned from the board and given up the newsletter. Please join the board in wishing her well and a speedy recovery. Her services will be sorely missed.

In accordance with our by-laws, the Board has asked Jolene Keeney, and she has accepted the invitation to fill the vacancy created by Elaine's resignation. Jolene brings with her a wealth of experience with various historical organizations, including this one, and activities in the Quad Cities area as well as having had a career of working on the Rock Island Arsenal.

We are still looking for someone to take over the responsibilities of putting out this publication. Please let the Board and/or Kris Leinicke know if you would be willing to help with newsletter.

We want to welcome the following new members:

Command Sergeant Major Jessie L. Andrews  
Colonel Mark Deschenes  
Colonel Jim Fly  
Brigadier General Duane Gamble  
Ms. Debbie Gellerstedt  
Mr. Michael Hutchinson  
Mr. Richard Nesbitt  
Lieutenant Colonel Todd Reed  
Command Sergeant Major James Spencer

Our February 7<sup>th</sup> program will be given by Guest Speaker Curt Roseman. His topic will be "Historic Bridges of the Quad Cities." A native of Moline, IL, Professor Roseman received a B. A. degree from Augustana College and a Ph. D. from the

University of Iowa (1969), both in geography. He is Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Southern California, having been on the faculty at the University of Illinois (1969-1985) and USC (1985-2004). He has published scores of articles, chapters, and books on human and cultural geography, was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for research in New Zealand in 1989, and was selected as the 2005 Distinguished Scholar by the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers. His most recent research focuses on the historical geography of the Upper Mississippi River region and of Los Angeles.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Golf Club. The menu for will be tossed salad with bread sticks, Pork Tenderloin with Gravy, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Brussels Sprouts, Rolls, and Dessert prepared by the Golf Club Chef, all for \$14.00, including tax and tip. Please have your check or cash ready to give to **Dick Hochstetler** or **Linda Miller** when you arrive.

Reservations are due by noon on Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>. You may call **Monica Holeman** (563) 650-4349, or **Linda Miller** (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.

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 7:00 p.m., may do so free of charge.

Drivers and passengers entering the Arsenal must have a valid picture I.D. 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.

**Note:** The Rock Island Historical Society/Rock Island Arsenal Museum website is up and running. Please take some time and visit - <http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org>. Feel free to forward the link.

### **Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers** (November and December 2012)

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

## **Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers**

(November and December 2012)

Anne Jochum – History Breaks lunch and learn program; photographic archives project

Jim Jochum – History Breaks lunch and learn program; prop collection project; photographic archives project

Alan Larsen - Historical tour of Rock Island Arsenal

Morris Merle - Historical tour of Rock Island Arsenal

Brendan Massengale - Archives project; collection inventory

Andrew Padavich - Collection project; photographic archives project

Greg Shelangouski – Archives project; photographic archives project

Tarah Sipes - Collection inventory; exhibit project; photographic archives project

### **Special Thanks**

The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society sponsored a monthly *History Break*, a lunch and learn event, throughout 2012. Each *History Break* focused on a topic related to Rock Island Arsenal history, as the arsenal celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 12, 2012. A total of 305 arsenal employees and members of the general public attended the 12 events. The events could not have been successful without the dedication of three members of the board of directors. Linda Miller took reservations from the general public throughout the year. Anne Jochum submitted publicity to the local media each month. Jim Jochum participated in setting up the monthly events.

One arsenal employee, Debbie Gellerstedt, attended all 12 History Breaks. To acknowledge her accomplishment, she received a certificate of achievement from Mr. Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager, and a one year free membership in the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society.

### **Museum News November and December 2012**

On Thursday, November 1, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a program on the Rock Island Barracks to the Moline Literary and Fine Arts Guild. The program was held at the Butterworth Center, Moline, Illinois, with 15 in attendance.

On Thursday, November 8, 2012, Fran Riley with Channel 6 KWQC filmed inside the museum and interviewed museum volunteer Morris Merle and Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS)' Neonia Wick-Markin, for a *Fran Riley Features* segment in honor of Veterans Day. The segment aired on 9 November 2012.

On Thursday, November 8, 2012, the History Break lunch and learn program featured "Mississippi River Navigation History" presented by Sam Heilig, Park Ranger with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District. Twenty-three employees and members of the general public attended this program.

On Saturday, November 10, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock provided an orientation for student volunteer, Brendan Massengale. Brendan will be volunteering at the museum to fulfill his service learning hours at Pleasant Valley High School.

On Wednesday, November 14, 2012, William Johnson attended the Senior Leader Emergency Management Seminar covering the Installation Emergency Management Plan.

On Wednesday, November 14, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a program on Women at Rock Island Arsenal in the First and Second World Wars to the Golden Scholar Program, co-sponsored by Black Hawk College and the QC Plus 60 Club. The program was held at the Arsenal Golf Clubhouse, with 82 in attendance.

On Friday, November 16, 2012, David Feeney and Lori Feeney Behling donated their father's Centennial Committee paperweight and photographs to the museum. The paperweight was placed in the Centennial/Sesquicentennial exhibit in the museum.

On Tuesday, December 4, 2012, Kris Leinicke presented a program on the Sesquicentennial of the Rock Island Arsenal to the Jackson County Historical Society. The program was held at the Clinton Engines building, Maquoketa, Iowa, with 33 members in attendance.

On Monday, December 10, 2012, The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society's website went live. Jodean Rousey Murdock and Jim Jochum worked on the website project. The website is hosted by Augustana College's web guild and features information on the historical society and the museum. The URL is: <http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org>.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Bill Johnson and Kris Leinicke completed the annual 100% physical inventory of the weapons in the collection.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, the History Break lunch and learn program featured "The Rock Island Civil War Prison: Andersonville of the North?", a Heritage Documentaries video, presented by Ron Deiss, Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Twenty-nine employees and members of the general public attended this program.

On Tuesday, December 18, 2012, Jodean Rousey Murdock provided an orientation to potential volunteer Nick Weime.

On Wednesday, December 26, 2012, work began on the project to block in the windows on the north wall of the Museum Resource Center. The stone work continued into January 2013.

During the months of November and December, the North Avenue improvement project continued. A place for a bus to park along North Avenue in front of the museum was included in the project. Handicap parking spaces and reserved parking spaces for museum visitors are now located in the lot to the north of North Avenue. The two Spanish cannon in front of the museum have been temporarily removed until new concrete bases can be fabricated. Additional improvements will be made in the spring.