



## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### March 2013 Newsletter

Hello Members:

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:

Dan and Lorna Dauw  
Olivia Dorothy  
Kevin Farmer  
Frank Juarez  
Charlie Palmgren

We also want welcome returning member: Jean Dasso

Our April 4<sup>th</sup> program will be given by Guest Speaker Mr. Frank Krakow, amateur archeologist and local history buff, who will talk about local archaeology and display specimens he has collected.

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, chicken and rice, steamed broccoli, 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 March 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.

Upcoming Lecture:

Dakota Indian Imprisonment in Davenport, Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Gilbert/Lillienthal Room at the Bettendorf Public Library.

This is the 150th anniversary of the year that Dakota Native Americans from Minnesota were exiled from their homelands and sent to Davenport's Camp McClellan Stockade. Sara James, who has researched the history of the Dakota for the past 25 years, will tell us their story which started with a "war" between Minnesota settlers and starving Dakotas in 1862.

Four hundred Dakota men were tried for murder and 300 were convicted. President Abraham Lincoln intervened and only 38 men were hanged on December 26, 1862, in Mankato, Minnesota. It was the largest mass execution in U.S. history. The remaining men and some of their wives and children were subsequently sent to Davenport in April, 1863. James will tell us what life was like for those imprisoned at Camp McClellan, what happened to them when they died (as over 100 did), and where they were sent when they were released in May, 1866. This program is in partnership with the Scott County Historic Preservation Society and Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society.



The photo (courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa) is of Big Eagle (Wambdi Tanka) and was taken in Davenport at the time the Dakota were held there.

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

Arlis Enburg – Board secretary  
Judy Belfer – Board business  
Dick Hochstetler – Board financial business  
Monica Holeman – Historical Society dinner reservations  
Anne Jochum – Board business  
Jim Jochum – Board business  
Jolene Keeney – Board Business  
Linda Miller – Board business; Historical Society dinner reservations  
Pat Morthland – Board Business

## Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (February)

Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project  
Jim Jochum – Photographic archives project  
Andrew Padavich – Photographic archives project  
Clark Ramser – Research  
Greg Shelangouski - Photographic archives project  
Tarah Sipes - Photographic archives project; Collection inventory and cataloging

### Museum News February 2013 Activities

On Wednesday, February 6, 2013, Bill Johnson and Jodie Creen Wesemann were interviewed by Clay LePard, WHBF-Channel 4, for two segments of *Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates*. The first segment, "Hidden treasures at Arsenal Museum," aired Thursday, February 14th. The second segment, "Arsenal Museum Resource Center," aired Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

On Monday, February 11, 2013, Kris Leinicke provided a tour of the museum to Major General Glenn J. Lesniak, Deputy Commanding General for Support, US Army Reserve Command, Fort Bragg, NC and Major General Michael R. Smith, Commander, US Army Reserve Support Command, First Army, Rock Island, IL.

On Wednesday, February 13, 2013, Jodean Rousey Murdock provided a volunteer orientation to potential Coast Guard volunteers Mike Lewis and Tim Ross.

#### Member News

**Jerry Bates**, a charter member of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society, passed away at the Arizona State Veterans Home-Phoenix on February 18, 2013.

Jerry was admitted as Charter Member #34 of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society during the Charter Membership Assembly at the Clayton House in Davenport, Iowa, on June 30, 1972. Jerry served on the Board of Directors from 1980 to 1994. He was Treasurer from 1984-1986 and Vice President in 1987. On June 4, 1998, Jerry received the Stephen T. Hershberg Lifetime Achievement Award for distinguished

service and unselfish dedication of time and effort to the advancement and perpetration of the goals and activities of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society.

As a veteran of the U.S. Navy, Jerry served during the Second World War and the Korean Conflict. He worked as a procurement agent at Rock Island Arsenal. At the end of his federal career in the early 1980s, Jerry worked as assistant curator of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. At that time, Dorrell Garrison was the curator.

Upon his retirement, Jerry and his late wife, Delores, were very active members of the historical society and dedicated museum volunteers. Jerry was a volunteer tour guide, and Delores volunteered as the gift shop manager. Jerry's wit: Don't forget to pat a cannon on its cascabel. Jerry's wisdom: If you have the right tools, a job can be accomplished more easily, quicker, and better. Among the few artifacts Jerry and Delores donated to the museum, is a Mark II, Pattern 1, Synder-Enfield, .577 rifle-musket, circa 1856.

The family has asked that memorials be made to the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society.

**Dave Maehr**, a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society and a Rock Island Arsenal Museum volunteer, passed away at The Fountains in Bettendorf on March 1, 2013.

On July 31, 1988, Dave stopped by the museum to inquire about volunteer tour guide opportunities. By the end of the year, he had volunteered 20 hours. Within a year, he had conducted 11 tours and participated in an Armed Forces Day (at the time the museum volunteers provided guided tours of the island for the event).

Dave eventually volunteered as a host for museum and historical society information tables at local events and assisted museum staff members with requests for information. By the time Dave retired as a volunteer in 2009, he had accumulated more than 1,000 volunteer hours.

Dave was a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society from 1999 to 2013. He served on the Board of Directors from 2004 to 2009. On February 5, 2009, Dave received the Stephen T. Hershberg Lifetime Achievement Award for distinguished service and unselfish dedication of time and effort to the advancement and perpetration of the goals and activities of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society.

Dave served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946. He worked for Bawden Printing from 1950 until 1988 as an accountant and Vice President of Human Relations. Volunteering with the Rock Island Arsenal Museum and other local organizations not only productively filled his retirement years, but gave those who knew him a warm and congenial friend.

**Janet Christensen**, a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society from 1995-2003, passed away at Ridgecrest Health Center in Davenport, Iowa, on March 2, 2013. Janet's 30-year career at Rock Island Arsenal included positions as a legal secretary and as a contract specialist in the procurement office. In 1985, she was the President of Rock Island Arsenal's chapter of the International Training in Communications Clubs, formerly known as Toast Mistresses.