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## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### April 2013 Newsletter

Hello Members:

**June Board of Directors Election** – Ballots will be sent out with the May newsletter and will be for the three positions which expire this year. Ballots may be submitted via email to [contact@arsenalthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@arsenalthistoricalsociety.org), via USPS sent to the address listed on the bottom of the ballot or they may be handed in to the Board at the June meeting. If you are interested in running for a Board seat or you would like to nominate someone, with their permission, please let a current Board member know so the name(s) can be added to the ballot. All three incumbents, Anne Jochum, Richard Hochstetler, and Jolene Keeney have agreed to run for another term.

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.

Our May 2nd program will be given by Ms. Linda Polich. Her presentation will be: "Genealogy: A Peek into Your Past". Ms. Polich is a past President of the Rock Island County Genealogical Society, and currently teaches classes on how to research family history

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 Picatta, pasta, seasonal vegetable medley, 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 April 20<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.

#### Website Statistics:

1,131	Website visits in March 2013
3,086	Total website visits in 2013
71.33	Percentage of website visits in US
28.67	Percentage of website visits outside US

#### 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 (March)**

Judy Belfer - Board business  
Arlis Enburg - Board meeting minutes; Board business  
Dick Hochstetler –Board financial business; Board business  
Monica Holeman - Historical Society dinner reservations  
Anne Jochum - Publicity; Board business  
Jim Jochum – Board business  
Jolene Keeney – Board Business  
Linda Miller - Board business; Historical Society dinner reservations  
Pat Morthland - Board business  
Martha Wahe – Board Business

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

Elaine Horton - SNL archives project  
Bob Horton - SNL archives project  
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project  
Jim Jochum – Prop collection cataloging project  
Alan Larsen – Photographic archives project  
Mark Meleski - Photographic archives project  
Morris Merle - Historical tours of the Arsenal  
Andrew Padavich – Photographic archives project  
Eric Prufer - Photographic archives project  
Clark Ramser - Research project documenting the 150th Anniversary Celebration  
Tim Ross - Photographic archives project  
Tarah Sipes - Photographic archives project; Collection cataloging  
Pat Steen - Historical tours of the Arsenal

## **Museum News March 2013 Activities**

On Monday, March 11, 2013, Jodean Rousey Murdock organized the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) Lunch & Learn - Historical Tours of Rock Island Arsenal. Museum volunteer Morris Merle provided an hour long riding tour to DPTMS staff.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, Bill Johnson completed the biannual weapons inventory with disinterested parties representing different directorates of the US Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA).

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, Jodie Creen Wesemann was interviewed by Clay LePard, WHBF Channel 4, for a segment of *Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates*. "Military Equipment Lasts the Test of Time" aired Thursday, March 28, 2013. The focus was on the M1910 Infantry Equipment Board.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, Kris Leinicke presented the program "Rock Island Arsenal Museum" to members and guests of CASI, Center for Active Seniors, Inc, as part of their monthly "Talk of the Town" program. The program was held at the CASI facility in Davenport, Iowa, with 30 in attendance. Upon approval from the Garrison Public Affairs office, Kris Leinicke was interviewed and filmed during her program by WHBF, Channel 4 News.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, Kris Leinicke presented the program "Women at Rock Island Arsenal in WWI & WWII" to members of PEO Chapter LH. The program was held at a private home in Hampton, Illinois, with 34 in attendance.

On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, Jodie Creen Wesemann was interviewed by Clay LePard, WHBF Channel 4, for a segment of *Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates*. "Transporting the Howitzer" aired Thursday, April 4, 2013. The focus was on the 75mm Pack Howitzer.

The Rock Island Arsenal Museum was mentioned in the article, "Quadruple Your Fun in the Quad Cities", which was printed in *Senior News & Times*, First Quarter, 2013. The publication is based in Springfield, Illinois.