



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2013 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Welcome back!

Letter to the Editor:

Thirty years ago, after being the museum director for three whole months, I was recruiting for a temporary exhibits specialist position at the museum. Because it was a temp position we could only recruit locally. To the great good fortune of myself, the RIA Museum and the Army Museum System, Kris Leinicke applied for the job. In the course of my travels over the years I have occasionally run into Army museum people and can establish my high status within the Army Museum System with the simple statement that "I hired Kris Leinicke." Congratulations to Kris. May you have many more years of success.

*Dan Whiteman
Director RIA Museum, 1983-1998*

Our September 5th program will be given by Guest Speaker Bob Motz. His topic will be Monarch butterflies will touching on aspects of their importance, habit, and habitat. Mr. Motz taught Biology for 36 years at Rock Island High School; Botany, Methods of Teaching Science, and Supervisor of Student Teachers in Science and English for 10 years at Augustana College. He still teaches Genetics for College for Kids at Black hawk College.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Picnic Pavilion near the Colonel Davenport house. The menu will be fried chicken, baked beans, pasta salad, chips, rolls, and cookies prepared by the Golf Club kitchen, all for \$8.00, 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, September 2nd. You may call **Monica Holeman** (563) 650-4349, or **Linda Miller** (563) 355-6165 or you may 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.

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 Davenport House Pavilion. 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.

Upcoming Event

The Oakdale Memorial Gardens Forget-Me-Not Victorian Day 2013 commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, Will be held Saturday September 14, 2013. Activities are highlighted by Mr. Dan Haughey's portrayal of US Grant and includes:

- Guided tours
- First-hand accounts of the past as told by Oakdale "resident";
- Guest speaker Minda Powers- Douglas, author of "Cemetery Walk" and "Translating Tombstones" - Civil War ties at the Oakdale Cemetery
- Representatives of various historical societies

For more information about the event, contact Oakdale's office manager Deb Williams - Oakdale Memorial Gardens, 2501 Eastern Avenue, Davenport, IA 52803; Phone: 563-324-5121; Fax 563-3238141; E-mail oakdaleomg@aol.com

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers (June and July)

Judy Belfer - Board business
Arlis Enburg - Board meeting minutes; 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 - Historical Society dinner reservations
Martha Wahe - Board business

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers (June and July)

Sarah Blevins - Artifact conservation project; exhibit project
Phillip Bunker - Collections storage project; collection inventory
Ellyn Emde - Collections storage project; collection inventory
Amanda Elliff - Artifact conservation project; exhibit project
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project
Larry Flathman - Weapons inventory
Jim Jochum – Timeline project
Alan Larsen – Photographic archives project
Angelo Malisani - Collections storage project; collection inventory

Brendan Massengale - Glass plate negative and rare book inventory; photographic archives project
Morris Merle - Historical tours of Rock Island Arsenal
Andrew Padavich – Photographic archives project
Greg Shelangouski - Photographic archives project
Tarah Sipes - Photographic archives project; collection cataloging
Katie Vandenberg - Collections storage project; collection inventory
Lauren VanDerLugt - Collections storage project; collection inventory

RIAHS Website

From January to July 2013, a total of 11,608 individuals have visited the RIAHS website. Seventy-six percent of the visitors are from the United States, and twenty-three percent of the visitors are from foreign countries.

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.

Rock Island Arsenal Museum May - July 2013 Activities

On Wednesday and Thursday, May 15 & 16, 2013, Bill Johnson participated in Rock Island Arsenal's Active Shooter Full Scale Exercise and After Action Report.

In June and July 2013, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities graduate student volunteer interns, Amanda Elliff and Sarah Blevins, fabricated 85 archival polyester pouches to house vinyl covers in the collection. Each cover will be placed into freezer storage inside a double pouch, each with a velcro closure. The project also includes a museum staff member cleaning and photographing each artifact as it is placed into the pouches. In July, the interns started work on the Warehousing Exhibit in the museum as a secondary project.

On June 4, 2013, Kris Leinicke participated in the *Find Your Niche!* event hosted by Western Illinois University - Quad Cities, Moline, Illinois. Twelve people attended the event.

On June 5, 2013, repairs were made to the Civilian Monument at Memorial Field to include removing light fixtures; capping the electrical wiring; removing two metal message boards; and making the metal rods flush.

On June 11, 2013, museum staff members attended the Garrison Assumption of Command Ceremony held in Heritage Hall, Building 60. COL Elmer Speights, Jr. assumed command as the first US Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA) Garrison Commander. Mr. Joel Himsl, the second Garrison Manager, will be the Deputy Garrison Commander. Jodean Rousey Murdock created eight historical photo displays for the reception following the ceremony.

On June 13 and 17, 2013, Bill Johnson completed the quarterly weapons inventory with the assistance of museum volunteer Larry Flatham.

On June 15, 2013, Kris Leinicke, museum volunteer Tarah Sipes, and Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society (RIAHS) member MAJ Chris Crawford, participated in the *Pioneer River Days* hosted by the Davenport House, Rock Island Arsenal. Thirty people were in attendance.

On June 19, 2013, Kris Leinicke provided a tour of the museum, the museum's artifact storage, and the museum's resource center to COL Speights, Garrison Commander. Kathy Miller, Director, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) and the museum's supervisor, accompanied COL Speights.

On June 20, 2013, Kris Leinicke presented the program "Rock Island Barracks" as part of the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education (ROE) "Local History of the Upper Mississippi River" workshop for teachers. The program was held in the museum theater with 18 in attendance.

Jodie Creen Wesemann provided images and information on the M3 submachine gun to Chris Guska for inclusion in the article, *Guide Lamp: The Wartime M3. The M3 Submachine Gun in the European Theater of Operations*, written by Michael Ellis and published June 29, 2013.

During the month of July, Pleasant Valley High School student volunteer, Brendan Massengale, completed a service learning project with the museum. The project involved inputting 590 rare books and 463 glass plate negatives into databases and sorting and sleeving 150 photographs in the museum resource center.

Due to sequestration, museum staff members were on furlough one day a week beginning the week of July 8, 2013. To maintain the current hours the museum is open to the public, a schedule was established so each employee had one day off Tuesday – Friday. The day of the week changed each week.

On July 3, 2013, RIAHS board member Martha Wahe and Kris Leinicke were interviewed by Clay LePard, WHBF Channel 4, for a segment of *Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates*. "Building 299" aired Thursday, 18 July. Kris provided the interview at the request of the ASC Historical and Public Affairs Offices as George Eaton was on leave.

On July 10, 2013, Jodean Rousey Murdock and Jodie Creen Wesemann were presented certificates of appreciation by COL John Hannon, Acting Executive Director, Army Contracting Command - Rock Island, for a behind-the-scenes tour on April 19th.

On July 16, 2013, Jodie Creen Wesemann and Bill Johnson assisted researcher Jim Barvincak with his research on the French 75 and the Pederson device magazine and holster.

On July 22, 2013, five ROTC Cadet Command interns with Rock Island Arsenal-Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (RIA-JMTC) assisted museum staff with inventory of 950 artifacts and placing shelves within artifact cabinets.

On July 25, 2013, Jodie Creen Wesemann and Jodean Rousey Murdock assisted Liz Adrian, Army Contracting Command - Rock Island Public Affairs Office (PAO), with her research on Buildings 60, 61, and 62. Ms. Adrian is writing an article on the recent renovations of the buildings.