



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 2014 Newsletter

Hello Members:

We continue to look for an editor for our newsletter. If you are interested, please contact any of the board members.

Our February 6th program will be given by LTC (Ret) Harold Knudsen. LTC (Ret) Knudsen has an extensive military background that includes 25 years of active duty, combat service in Desert Storm, additional Middle East tours of service in Iraq and Kuwait, and service as a Department of Army Senior Program Manager. His topic will be: General James Longstreet, the Confederacy's Most Modern General. The discussion will include General Longstreet's military contributions that show he was a modern thinker unparalleled in the Confederate military.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Club, Gillespie Street. The menu will be tossed salad with breadsticks, pork tenderloin with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted Brussels sprouts, rolls and dessert prepared by the Golf Club kitchen, 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 3rd. 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 Golf Club. Remember, those coming across the Government Bridge from Iowa need to proceed to the Rock Island Gate as the Davenport Gate will be closed for inbound traffic.

Upcoming Events

Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation Annual Meeting

Learn from Terri Applegate about how to pass on your family heirlooms on Sunday, January 26th at 3:00 p.m. at Modern Woodmen Park Suite Level in Davenport (former John O'Donnell Stadium). Then participate in an Antique Appraisal Fair hosted by the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation (CDHF). Everyone is welcome to bring one item to be appraised. (Items must be easily carried and fit on a table. No firearms or very large items please.) Enjoy a meal of roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, dessert, coffee/iced tea.

The cost to attend the CDHF program is \$25 per person for the meal, program, and one item for appraisal. Advanced reservations are required. Purchase tickets online at www.davenporthouse.org or call Jessica Waytenick at 309-737-4280 by Tuesday, January 21.

Success of Broadway Historic District Program Topic on Jan. 28

Three residents of the Broadway Historic District will share the secrets of its success at a program, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 28th in the Rock Island Public Library's Community Room, 401 19th St.

At the program, "It's a Hit: The Genesis and Development of the Broadway Historic District", Alan Carmen, Diane Oestreich and Barb Braun will discuss the revitalization efforts of the late 19th and early 20th century neighborhood, located just south of Rock Island's downtown. The district celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013 and has gained national attention for its progress.

"The Broadway Historic District is a great example of people working together to revitalize a neighborhood through hard work, an inspiring vision, and a never-give-up attitude", said Barb Braun, district president.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Braun at 309-912-2657 or braun4@sbcglobal.net.

Annual Henry Farnam Committee Dinner

Mark your calendars. Annual Henry Farnam Committee Dinner will be held March 21st at the St Ambrose Rogalski Center. The featured speaker will be Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D. Professor Brinkley is an American author, professor of history at Rice University, and a fellow at the James Baker Institute for Public Policy. Brinkley is a history commentator for CBS News and a contributing editor to the magazines *Vanity Fair*, *American Heritage*, and *Audubon Magazine*.

Website

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)

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 publicity; newsletter
Jim Jochum – Board business
Jolene Keeney - Board business
Pat Morthland - Board business
Martha Wahe - Board business

(December)

Judy Belfer - Board business; Quarters One furniture restoration project
Arlis Enburg - Board meeting minutes; Board business
Dick Hochstetler –Board financial business
Anne Jochum – Board business
Jim Jochum – Board business; Quarters One furniture restoration project
Jolene Keeney - Board business; community outreach presentation
Martha Wahe - Board business

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers

(November)

Sarah Blevins - iBook project
Amanda Elliff - iBook project
Dale Heiser - Photographic archives project
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project
Jim Jochum – Scanning project
Tarah Sipes – Photographic archives project

(December)

Sarah Blevins - iBook project
Amanda Elliff - iBook project
Dale Heiser - Photographic archives project
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project
Jim Jochum – Archives project
Andrew Padavich - Photographic archives project
Greg Shelangouski - Photographic archives project
Tarah Sipes – Photographic archives project; research project
Andrea Wagoner - Research project; collection management project

Rock Island Arsenal Museum November and December 2013 Activities

On Saturday, November 9, 2013, Jodean Rousey Meleski hosted an information table at the Military Appreciation Night at the iWireless Center during a Mallards hockey game. Representatives from First Army, USO, and Army Sustainment Command were also present. 113 people stopped at the information table.

On Wednesday, November 20, 2013, Kris Leinicke provided a tour of the museum exhibit hall to American Legion district and department commanders, including the National Vice Commander.

On Monday, November 25, 2013, Dale Heiser began his volunteer internship with the museum. The volunteer internship is through Operation Warfighter. He is expected to volunteer for six months.

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, Kris Leinicke was interviewed by Clay LePard, WHBF Channel 4, for a segment of *Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates*. The segment focused on Brevet BG Thomas Rodman and his importance to Rock Island Arsenal.

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, Bill Johnson completed the 100% physical inventory of the weapons in the collection. The inventory was completed with the assistance of museum volunteer, Dale Heiser.

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, Jodie Creen Wesemann completed the 100% biennial physical inventory of the artifacts in the collection. The inventory was completed with the assistance of museum staff and volunteers.

On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, museum staff members assisted Public Works and Stanley Lynn, Tetra Tech, with research for an unexploded ordnance survey (UXO) of the area between the Davenport House and Quarters One. Historical photographs and maps of the area were scanned and sent to Mr. Lynn.

On Monday, December 16, 2013, with the U.S. Army Center of Military History's approval, a cut-away AK-47 was accepted into the museum's collection. It was obtained from Army Sustainment Command's 402nd Army Field Support Brigade's Small Arms Support Center formerly located at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.