



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### April 2015 Newsletter

Hello Members:

#### Welcome New Members

Larry McHenry  
LaRea McMillin  
Molly Otting Carlson  
Margaret Palos  
Annamaria and Richard Rowe, Jr.

The Society's end of the year election time is fast approaching and the ballot will be attached to our next newsletter. As every year, we will voting to fill three board of directors positions. Unlike recent years, only one of the positions will have an incumbent running. If you are interested in running for the board or know of some who is interested, please contact one of the current board members or send an email to [contact@arsenalhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@arsenalhistoricalsociety.org) by Monday, May 18, 2015.

Our May 7<sup>th</sup> program will be presented by Ms. Maryan Wherry, PhD, American Culture Studies. In addition to teaching at colleges and universities, Professor Wherry, has taught at military bases in Europe and local history classes through CommUniversity. She is a docent for the Colonel Davenport House, Butterworth Center and the Rock Island County Historical Society. Dr. Wherry is currently writing a history of the Rock Island County Poor Farm. Her presentation will be on "Margaret, Susan and Marguerite: Founding Mothers". It is adapted from chapters of *Quad Cities' Herstories*, an anthology of 20 biographies of influential area women.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Rock Island Golf Club. The menu will be a lemon ranch salad, fresh grilled salmon filet with citrus compound butter, wild rice, steamed cauliflower and panna cotta with strawberry coulis all prepared by the Golf Club kitchen and 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, May 4, 2015. 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 Arsenal Island Clubhouse.

Note – As of April 13, 2015, the Rock Island Gate will be closed and the Davenport Gate will be opened 24/7 for ingress and egress to Rock Island Arsenal. This will continue until construction work is completed, currently anticipated to be in late May or early June 2015. Upon project completion, the Rock Island gate will reopen for normal operations.

The Moline gate will continue to be open 24/7.

Our website, <http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org>, is up and running. Be sure to share the link with your family and friends.

### **New Rock Island Arsenal Publication**

The newest release in Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series is ***Rock Island Arsenal***, by George Eaton, US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historian. The book is available online ([arcadiapublishing.com](http://arcadiapublishing.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)) or in the Rock Island Arsenal Museum gift shop. This soft cover book has 200 black and white images and commentary associated with Rock Island Arsenal's history. The majority of the images are from the photograph collection of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

### **Fort Armstrong Avenue Construction**

Rock Island Arsenal will be performing road work on the intersection of Fort Armstrong Avenue and Rock Island Drive. This work will result in a full vehicle closure of the Arsenal's Rock Island Gate and Rock Island Viaduct, as well as restricting vehicles crossing the Government Bridge to "Installation-only" traffic. Signs and barricades will be posted to warn and direct traffic. The American Discovery Trail will remain open.

Work began April 13, 2015. The Rock Island Gate will be closed and the Davenport Gate will be opened 24/7 for ingress and egress to Rock Island Arsenal. This will continue until construction work is completed, currently anticipated to be in late May or early June 2015. Upon project completion, the Rock Island gate will reopen for normal operations.

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*Get Ready for Some Fun During Quad Cities Museum Week June 13 -21, 2015*

Twenty museums from across the Quad Cities region will come together for the first ever, Quad Cities Museum Week.

Enjoy this celebration of our region's museums and participate in special activities, exhibits and promotions during this fun-filled week.

It is the perfect opportunity for families and friends to get out and explore. Each museum features its own, unique theme, history, galleries, and exhibits. Come and discover these wonderful gems that add to the quality of life in our region.

We encourage you to tweet and post on your Facebook page about your Museum Week experiences. To find out more about Museum Week, please visit [www.qcmuseumweek.com](http://www.qcmuseumweek.com)

**Special Thanks** to **Jolene Keeney** for attending the Quad Cities Museum Week meetings and representing both the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society and the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

**Special Thanks** to **Anne Jochum** for completing a Vietnam War PowerPoint program to be used for educational purposes. The program was debuted during the ribbon cutting for the Vietnam War exhibit at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

**Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers  
March 2015**

Judith Belfer – Board business; attendance at Vietnam War exhibit ribbon cutting; Farnam Dinner  
Arlis Enburg – Board business and meeting minutes  
Dick Hochstetler –Board financial business  
Monica Holeman - Historical Society dinner reservations  
Anne Jochum - Board business and publicity; newsletter; Farnam Dinner  
Jim Jochum – Board business; newsletter; Farnam Dinner

Jolene Keeney - Board business; Representative for Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau's museum week; attendance at QCCVB National Geographic meeting

Linda Miller – Historical Society dinner reservations; Board business; attendance at Vietnam War exhibit ribbon cutting

Pat Morthland - Board business

Martha Wahe – Board business

### **Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers March 2015**

Sebastian Bladel – Photographic archives project

Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project; Vietnam War Commemoration project

Jim Jochum – Information Requests; Monitoring of website

Greg Shelangouski – Photographic archives project

### **Rock Island Arsenal Museum March 2015 Activities**

During the month of March 2015, there were a number of facility projects in which the museum staff members were involved.

- Conduit for a mass notification system was installed by contractors in the museum exhibit hall, resource center, and storage areas. A second group of contractors began pulling wires through the conduit and installing the notification equipment. As a museum staff member must escort the contractors at all times, approximately 40 hours were devoted to this task.
- Initial steps for the project to replace the museum exhibit hall climate control began. This included work in the museum arms room as its AHU's outside condenser was relocated to make space for the new condenser for the museum exhibit hall.
- The project to replace the museum's overhead lighting was developed in coordination with the Directorate of Public Works prior to forwarding the project for estimating.

Throughout the month of March 2015, museum staff members worked on a Vietnam War exhibit to be included in the timeline section of the exhibit hall and on a Rock Island Arsenal exhibit for the Putnam Museum.

Jeff Guthrie, Midwest Graphics Management, worked on the layout for the Vietnam War weapons display cases. A proposal and estimate were submitted and presented at the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society (RIAHS) board meeting to request the funds for the project. Approval was obtained, and the weapon display cases were completed on March 24, 2015.

On Wednesday, March 4, 2015, Kris Leinicke conducted a tour of the exhibit hall and behind-the-scenes for COL Donald Wols and his wife. Currently the G4 for First Army,

COL Wols is the incoming Rock Island Arsenal-Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (RIA-JMTC) Commander.

On Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Kris Leinicke participated in a meeting to develop an outline for the storyline of the Rock Island Arsenal exhibit at the Putnam Museum. The Putnam Curators and Exhibit Specialist and US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Historian George Eaton attended the meeting held at the museum resource center.

On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, Bill Johnson and Jodie Creen Wesemann conducted a behind-the-scenes tour for six individuals associated with the Care of Historical Firearms class offered by The Campbell Center, Mt. Carroll, Illinois.

On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Bill Johnson conducted the Biannual Disinterested Officers inventory of the weapons collection. The inventory was conducted by employees with the Directorate of Public Works and Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

On Thursday, March 19, 2015, Channel 4 news interviewed Bill Johnson and Kris Leinicke about the Vietnam War exhibit for a segment of *Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates*. The segment aired on Thursday, April 2, 2015.

On Monday, March 23, 2015, Kris Leinicke and Bill Johnson conducted a behind-the-scenes tour for 24 students and 1 instructor from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Brian Leech, the instructor, is teaching an Introduction to Historical Research Methods course for the History Department. As one class assignment is a research paper, some of the students may be using the museum's resources during the term

On Friday, March 27, 2015, Jim Jochum, Anne Jochum, and Judith Belfer hosted informational tables for the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society and the Rock Island Arsenal Museum at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Farnam Dinner held at Jumer's, Rock Island. The theme this year was a celebration of the life and work of Government Bridge designer Ralph Modjeski.



On Sunday, March 29, 2015, the museum was open from 1200-1600 for the Vietnam War exhibit opening. A ribbon cutting was held at 2 pm, following the Vietnam Veterans Memorialization Ceremony. The memorialization ceremony was sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Quad Cities Chapter 299 and was held at Memorial Park at 1 pm. Approximately 120 people attended the ribbon cutting. COL Speights,

Garrison Commander, led the ribbon cutting with a brief talk. The ribbon was cut by two individuals featured in the exhibit: Howard Van Winkle (USMC) and Cliff Anderson (USA). Anne Jochum created a PowerPoint presentation on the Vietnam War that could be viewed in the museum lobby.



Howard Van Winkle (left) and Cliff Anderson (right) cut the ribbon at the Vietnam War exhibit opening ceremony.

On Monday, March 30, 2015, Bill Johnson interviewed Joseph Grady for a potential summer volunteer internship. As a History and Art History junior at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Joe will begin volunteering for at least 75 hours on May 12, 2015.