



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2015 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 September 3th program will be given by Kathy Wine, Executive Director of River Action, who will give us an update on building a replica of one span of the “first bridge” to cross the Mississippi River here in the QC. Now that the Kickstarter Campaign has been met, she is able to go forward for grants from the DOT.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Memorial Field Pavilion, Rodman Avenue, Rock Island Arsenal. The menu will be fried chicken, baked beans, pasta salad, rolls, chips, cookies, coffee, tea and water all 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 August 31st. 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 Memorial Field Pavilion. 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.

Note:

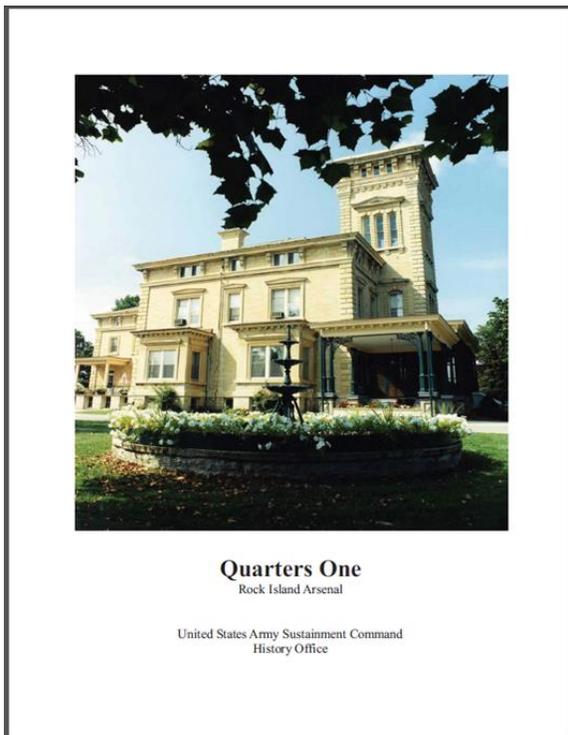
The Rock Island Historical Society/Rock Island Arsenal Museum website is up and running. Please take some time and visit - <http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org>. Feel free to forward the link.

On sale at the web are:

The DVD: The Rock Island Arsenal – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow for \$10 each;

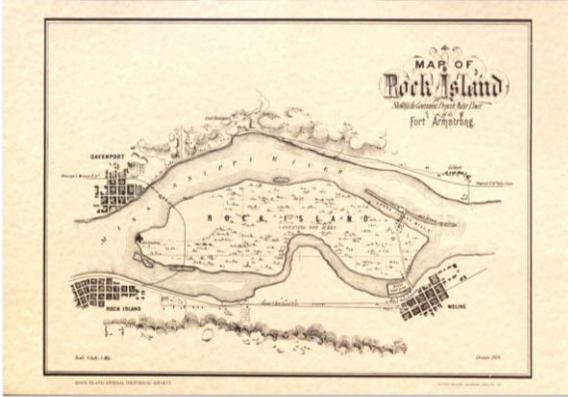


The book: Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal for \$15 each;

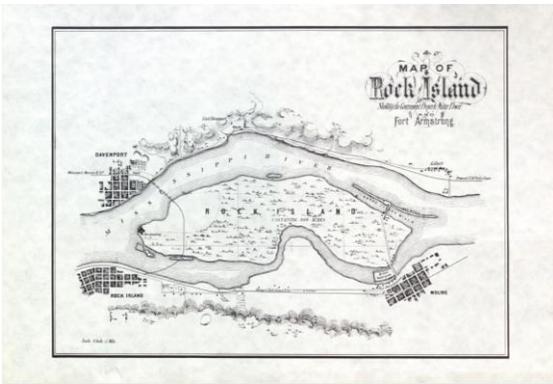


and the maps below for \$10 each.

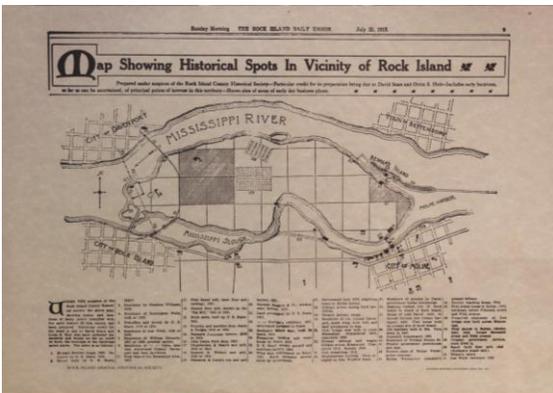
All prices include postage and handling.



20X14 inch Peach Parchment Map of Rock Island Showing Government Property, Water Power and Fort Armstrong Drawn in 1859 and included the 1861 Appeal to Congress



21x14.5 inch Antique White Parchment Map of Rock Island Showing Government Property, Water Power and Fort Armstrong Drawn in 1859 and included the 1861 Appeal to Congress



20X14 Map Showing Historical Spots in Vicinity of Rock Island from the Rock Island Daily Union July 25 1915

Farewells and MANY THANKS

At the conclusion of their most recent three-year term, Arlis Enburg and Pat Morthland retired as board members of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society in June 2015. We thank them for their dedication to our organization.

Pat was a member of the board of directors from 2010 to 2015, and drove all the way from Cordova to attend meetings.

Arlis was a member of the board of directors from 1994 to 2015, maintained the guest speaker guest book, and served as the Secretary for 21 years. She received the Stephen T. Hershberg Lifetime Achievement Award on June 5, 2003.

Final Farewells

Longtime member and volunteer, Gerald (Jerry) Geiger passed on June 25, 2015. Jerry was a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society beginning in 1980, and was a past board member. Jerry received the Stephen T. Hershberg Lifetime Achievement Award on September 6, 2001.

Jerry volunteered in the museum gift shop from 1991 to 2013. Jerry initially volunteered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but eventually cut back to one day a week. We called those days "Jerry Tuesday." In 2011, he was recognized by the Rock Island Arsenal Volunteer Coordinator as the sole volunteer with 4,500 volunteer service hours, the highest amount of accumulated volunteer hours.

Elaine Horton, a resource center volunteer from 2002 to 2013, passed on July 2, 2015. Elaine often accompanied her husband, Bob, to assist with organizing the reference materials and processing drawings on microfilm.

Patricia (Pat) Steen, a volunteer tour guide from 2004 to 2015, passed on July 3, 2015. Her last historic tour of the island for a bus group was June 4, 2015. According to Pat's obituary, tours brought together two things she enjoyed: travel and sharing history.

Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers May, June, and July 2015

Judy Belfer - Board business
Arlis Enburg – Board business; meeting minutes
Dick Hochstetler –Board financial business
Monica Holeman - Historical Society dinner reservations
Anne Jochum - Board business and publicity; newsletter
Jim Jochum – Board business; newsletter
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
May, June, and July 2015**

Sebastian Bladel – Photographic archives project
Louise Erps – Photographic archives project; relocation of artifact files
Joe Grady – WWII exhibit upgrade; LED lighting for exhibit cases project; The Wall That Heals; research for requests for information;
Pat Hagedorn – Photographic archives project (approximately 2,000 processed); relocation of artifact files; research for requests for information
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project; Putnam Museum exhibit opening
Jim Jochum – Scans for Putnam Museum project and Joint Munitions and Technology Center (JMTC) video project; The Wall That Heals; Putnam Museum exhibit opening
Alan Larsen – Three historic tours of island
Morris Merle – Five historic tours of island
Alex Schmitz - iBook project; test fielding of 4 iPad minis on exhibit floor
Greg Shelangouski – Photographic archives project; The Wall That Heals
Pat Steen – One historic tour of island
Martin Whalen – US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) exhibit upgrade proposal; artifact cataloging

**Rock Island Arsenal Museum
May, June, and July 2015 Highlights**

There were numerous facility upgrades during the past three months. The air handling unit in the museum was upgraded, and an air handling unit was installed in west range storage. All macro artifacts stored in Building 338 were moved to Building 106. William Johnson was the project lead for the macro artifact move. All the lighted exhibit cases in the exhibit hall were upgraded to LED lighting. The museum staff continued to work with Public Works on a lighting upgrade for the exhibit hall, a project that is scheduled to begin on August 24, 2015.

On May 14, 2015, Jodie Creen Wesemann and William Johnson presented a tour of the museum for 23 participants with the Soldier Show.

On May 14, 2015, Kris Leinicke presented a program on the Rock Island Barracks for 32 members of a Lincoln Land Community College sponsored tour group.

On May 17, 2015, Kris Leinicke presented a program on the Rock Island Barracks for 30 members of the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation.

The opening for the Putnam Museum's exhibit, *Arsenal of Innovation*, was held June 6, 2015. The exhibit closes on November 13, 2015. This exhibit about Rock Island Arsenal includes 123 artifacts from the collection of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. Museum staff members were involved in artifact selection, completing artifact condition reports, graphic selection, storyline support, and coordinating the loan process with the US Army Center of Military History (CMH). Jim Jochum scanned images to include an early drawing of the telodynamic system and research and development drawings from the 1960s. These images were used in the exhibit, and the telodynamic system drawing

was used as a wallpaper for the entire exhibit hall. *Arsenal of Innovation* was an event promoted during Quad Cities Museum Week, June 13 to 21, 2015.

On June 13, 2015, the museum opened early to participate in the *Rock the Island Car Show*. Jodie Creen Wesemann was the staff member on duty that day.

On June 13 and 14, 2015, the Rock Island Arsenal Museum participated in *Pioneer River Days* at the Colonel Davenport House. Bill Johnson hosted the museum's table on Saturday, and Kris Leinicke hosted the museum's table on Sunday. *Pioneer River Days* was an event promoted during Quad Cities Museum Week, June 13 to 21, 2015.

During the month of June, Channel 4 filmed two episodes of *Rock Island Arsenal: Inside the Gates* at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. One episode featured behind the scenes, and the other was about the Battle of the Little Bighorn guns in the museum collection.

During the month of July, the XM102 105mm howitzer, located at Memorial Field, was repainted. During the Vietnam War, Rock Island Arsenal was given the task to develop a new artillery system that could adapt to jungle fighting. The M102 105mm lightweight howitzer that could be transported by helicopter was developed and first fielded in 1967. The XM102's recoil mechanism and carriage are both serial number 1.

On July 14, 2015, William Johnson gave a tour of the museum's weapon collection to members of the Illinois State crime lab.

The Wall That Heals, a half scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., was hosted by the U.S. Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA) as one of the events for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Wall arrived on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders. After it was assembled, it was manned continuously by volunteers from noon on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 until the morning of Monday, August 3, 2015. Colonel Elmer Speights, Jr., Rock Island Arsenal Garrison Commander hosted the Opening Commemoration on Thursday, July 30, 2015. Mr. William (Bill) Albracht, President of Vietnam Veterans of America, Quad Cities Chapter 299 and one of the most highly decorated veterans of the Vietnam War, was the featured speaker. During the Opening Commemoration, Vietnam veterans were presented with commemoration pins and copies of the Presidential Proclamation.

This was the first time a government contract was used to fund the Wall That Heals for display at a federal installation. A total of 116 volunteers worked more than 390 hours to provide assistance to visitors and a 24 hour vigil. Kris Leinicke was the Contract Officer Representative (COR) for the contract, the volunteer coordinator, and a participant in the organization of the event. Jodie Creen Wesemann provided support for volunteers during the event.