



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 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 November 5th program will be presented by Mr Bob Schiffke, Executive Director of the Buffalo Bill Museum, LeClaire, IA. Mr. Schiffke will portray Mississippi River rafting Capt. J. W. Van Sant.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu will be garden salad, roasted turkey with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans and pumpkin pie all 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 November 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 Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. 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.

**Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society Volunteers
September 2015**

Judith Belfer - Board business
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
Martha Wahe - Board business

**Thanks to our Rock Island Arsenal Museum Volunteers
September 2015**

Aidan Brady – Weapon inventory
Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project
Jim Jochum – Scans for Joint Munitions and Technology Center (JMTC) video
project
Alan Larsen – One historic tour of island
Morris Merle – Four historic tours of island
Greg Shelangouski – Photographic archives project; artifact inventory

**Rock Island Arsenal Museum
September 2015 Highlights**

During the month of September, progress was made in improving the museum facility. The 30-year-old air-handling unit and accompanying ductwork were removed, as they were replaced by an upgraded climate control system earlier in the year. The air-handling unit in east range storage broke, and staff members escorted contractors in the area numerous times as fixing the unit became a challenge. Staff members also escorted contractors in Building 106 as they continued to finish the installation of natural gas heaters in the ceiling of the museum's macro artifact storage area.

On Tuesday, September 1, 2015, Kris Leinicke conducted a tour of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum for U.S. Congressmen Rogers (Alabama) and Lobesack (Iowa), who were escorted by MG O'Connell, Commanding General of US Army Sustainment Command (ASC).

On Thursday, September 3, 2015, Kris Leinicke and Jodie Creen Wesemann conducted a tour of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum for representatives of the New Zealand Ministry of Defense who were visiting Lewis Machine & Tool in Milan, Illinois.

On Thursday and Friday, September 24 and 25, and Monday, September 28, Kris Leinicke and Bill Johnson conducted a quarterly weapons inventory. Aidan Brady, a graduate student in the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities museum studies program, assisted to fulfill his volunteer requirement for the Introduction to Museum Studies class.

On Sunday, September 27, 2015, the museum was open for a special tour for 15 members of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association Convention. Kris Leinicke and Eric Cramer, Garrison Public Affairs Officer conducted the tour.