



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2016 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Our March 3rd program will be Anne Prinz and Alice Spencer presenting an evening of music and history of the concert zither in Davenport, Iowa. They will share stories of the Davenport Zither Club starting in the late 1800's and how that club hosted the Second Annual American Zither Verband in 1913. They will span to 100 years later with the Davenport Zither Ensemble at the German American Heritage Center, who is hosting the North American Zither Gatherings.

Anne Prinz and Alice Spencer are members of the Davenport Zither Ensemble at the German American Heritage Center. They play a German folk instrument known as a concert zither, which was first created in the mid-1800's. The two have been performing duets together for the past eight years, providing educational programs in Iowa and Illinois.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu will be garden salad, grilled chicken with tomato-mushroom relish, rice, steamed broccoli, and chocolate mousse 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 February 29th. 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.

Attention: New requirements for accessing the Rock Island Arsenal as of December 1, 2015. Please use the following link to learn more about the new process.
<http://www.usagria.army.mil/AccessRequests/>

Regarding the use of an Illinois driver's license to obtain access/a pass, please see the link below:
<http://www.army.mil/article/160963>

Note: An Illinois driver's license is acceptable to use with a pass if you already have a pass issued before the current Department of Defense guidance concerning Illinois driver's licenses.

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
January 2016**

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
January 2016**

Anne Jochum – Photographic archives project
Jim Jochum – Scans for website requests for information

**Rock Island Arsenal Museum
January 2016 highlights**

The lighting project continued in the museum exhibit hall during the month of January. The fluorescent tube fixtures in the weapon display were modified to use dimmable LED tubes.

Mr. Ephriam Dickson, liaison at the US Army Center of Military History (CMH) for US Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Museums conducted a site visit at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum on January 19 & 20, 2016.

Change to Museum Operating Hours

Hours of operation for the Rock Island Arsenal Museum will begin on February 15, 2016. After that date, the museum is open to the public, Tuesday – Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

13th Annual Henry Farnam Dinner

The 13th Annual Farnam Dinner to be held March 18 will focus on the 200th anniversary of Fort Armstrong. George Eaton, local historian, will talk about the Centennial Celebration of the fort held in 1916.

The main speaker for the evening will be Dr. Samuel Watson, professor of history at the United States Military Academy, West Point. He is the author of two books on the Army on the Frontier, "Jackson's Sword: The Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1810-1821" and "Peacekeepers and Conquerors: The Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1821-1846."

The dinner will also feature a variety of display and information.

Displays and a social hour begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. and the program at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person. Reservations and information can be obtained through RiverAction website, <http://www.riveraction.org/>, or by calling RiverAction at (563) 322-2969.