



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### January 2017 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Happy New Year!

Our February 2<sup>nd</sup> program features the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Italian Quartermaster Services Companies assigned to Rock Island Arsenal during the Second World War and will be presented by Kris Leinicke, Director of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The program begins at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu will be a Soup, Salad & Sandwich Buffet featuring fresh baked breads, cookies, coffee, tea, and water all prepared by the Golf Club kitchen, all for \$11.00, 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 January 30th. 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.

**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/>

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.

## Upcoming Event

The 14th Annual Farnam Dinner will celebrate: Quad Cities' Place in Baseball History

Date: Thursday evening, March 16, 2017

Place: St Ambrose University Rogalski Center

The two featured guest speakers will be Tom Shieber and Tim Rask.

Shieber is Senior Curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. He is the lead curator of "We Are Baseball," a traveling exhibit produced by the Hall of Fame and partners. Among other projects he curated is "The Rivalry," a temporary exhibit opening in late March of 2017 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. It details the long and intertwined histories of the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs.

Rask is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Rask currently serves as the "Umpire-in-Chief" (aka Chairman) of SABR's Iowa chapter. He has written numerous baseball articles and is the author of the book, Baseball at Davenport's John O'Donnell Stadium.

Also on the program will be Dave Heller, president and CEO of Main Street Baseball, LLC, owner of the Quad City River Bandits.

Cost: \$40 per person or \$375 for a table of 10

Registration for Dinners: Online registration available at <http://riveraction.org/>

### **Thanks to Historical Society Volunteers** (November and December 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 Museum Volunteers** (November and December 2016)

Julia Evans – Collections related projects, quarterly weapons inventory, assisted CMH conservator during site visit  
Anne Jochum – Photograph organization project  
Jim Jochum – Research requests  
Maureen Lonergan – Collections related projects, Integrative Pest Management (IPM) program, assisted CMH conservator during site visit  
Morris Merle – museum desk duty, research requests, photograph organization project  
Greg Shelangouski - Photograph organization project, monthly artifact inventory

## **Museum Activities**

(November and December 2016)

Jane Smith-Stewart, Chief Conservator for the US Army Center of Military History (CMH), conducted a site visit from November 7 – 9, 2016. Her project was to survey the museum's vinyl and canvas covers stored and maintained in a freezer to slow deterioration. Volunteers Julia Evans and Maureen Lonergan, as well as Kris Leinicke, assisted her during her visit.

The first broadcasts of the documentary *Bridging Urban America: The Story of Ralph Modjeski* were scheduled for WQPT on November 20-22, 2016. The segment on the Government Bridge includes images and information obtained from the museum.

We welcomed Dr. Elista Istre as a temporary addition to the museum staff on November 30, 2016. Dr. Istre is a CMH contract employee and has been assigned to the museum for six months. Her primary responsibilities will be collections related tasks and projects.

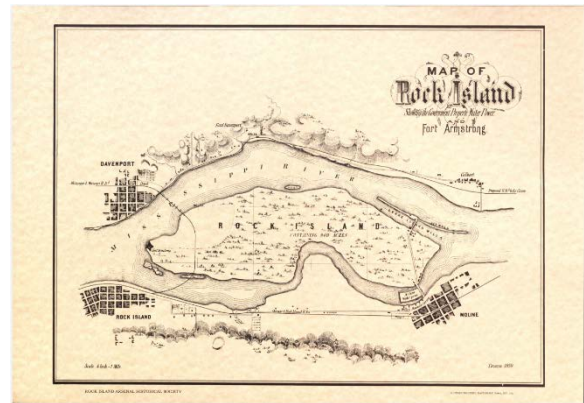
The December 2016 issue of *Man at Arms* includes an article on "The First Trapdoor Carbines." A carbine in the collection of the museum, one of two prototype carbines shipped to the Ordnance Office in 1869, is featured in the article.

On December 13, 2016, during the visit of Mr. Davis Tindoll, Director, IMCOM Directorate-Sustainment, to Rock Island Arsenal, Kris Leinicke conducted tours of Quarters One and the museum.

On December 16, 2016, Kris Leinicke conducted a tour of Quarters One for Freshman Illinois State Representatives Mike Halpin, Tony McCombie and Dan Swanson and Illinois Senator Chuck Weaver.

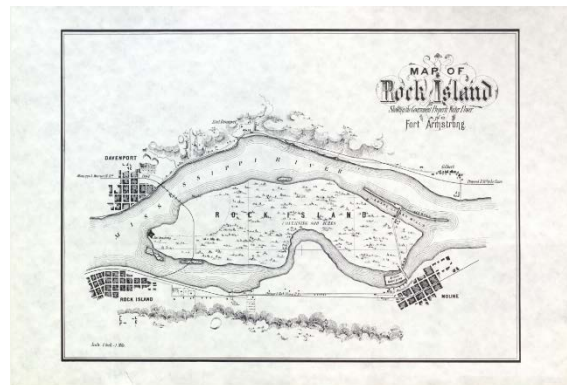
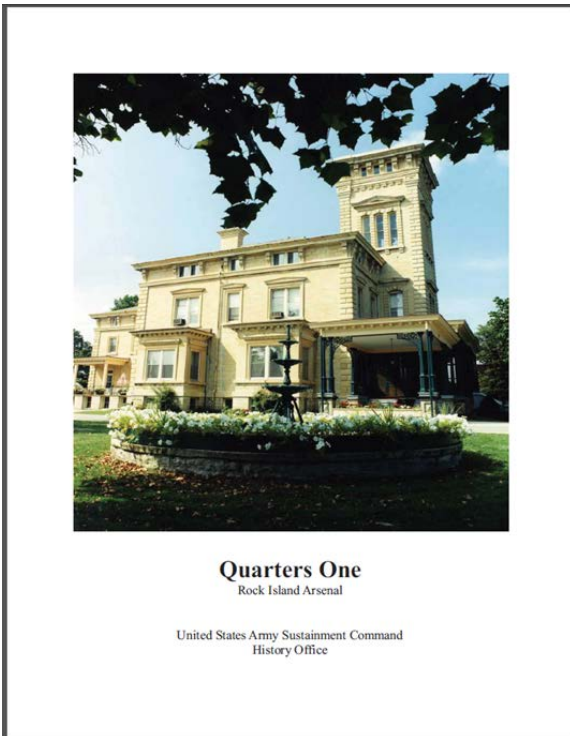
Dr. Elista Istre, volunteer Julia Evans, and Kris Leinicke completed the 100% quarterly weapons inventory on December 12, 2016. A total of 50 man hours was required to complete this by serial number inventory. The US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Public Affairs Office documented the weapons inventory for promotional purposes.

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



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

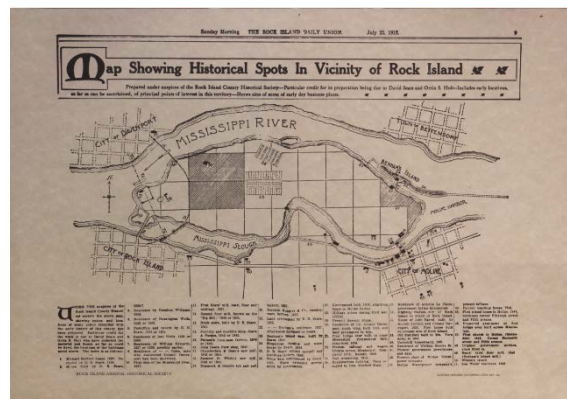
The book: Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal for \$15 each;



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

and the maps below for \$10 each.

All prices include postage and handling.  
Available for purchase at:  
<http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org>



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