



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2017 Newsletter

Hello Members:

PLEASE NOTE: Next month's newsletter will include the ballot for this year's election. In addition to the three board positions that expire this, we have two vacant positions that we need fill. We are asking for your help with nominations. Please consider running for a Board of Directors seat and/or nominating someone for one.

Our April 6th speaker will be Dr. Elista Istre. She is an author, historical interpreter, and museum professional who is especially passionate about promoting understanding of and appreciation for the rich Cajun and Creole cultures of her native South Louisiana. She is the assistant director of the documentary film "First Cousins: Cajun and Creole Music in South Louisiana" and is author of a forthcoming book on Louisiana Creoles.

The film "First Cousins: Cajun and Creole Music in South Louisiana" explores the rich musical heritage of the region's French-speaking people who have shared tunes, borrowed instruments, and danced in each other's arms for generations. In private moments and in packed dance halls, some of the region's most beloved musicians reveal the passion they share for making music and carrying on family traditions. With roots reaching all the way back to Africa, Europe, and French Canada over the past three centuries, the solid trunk of Louisiana's Creole and Cajun music has flourished into a family tree with intertwined branches. A little too distant for siblings, these communities and their music are surely related enough to be considered first cousins!

In addition to a discussion of Creole and Cajun music and culture, Dr. Istre's presentation will include clips from the film.

Copies of the film will also be available for purchase.

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 May 1st. 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/>**

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 Historical Society Volunteers
(March 2017)

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
(March 2017)

Julia Evans – Collections related projects, disinterested weapons inventory
William Johnson – Research requests
Anne Jochum – Photograph organization project
Jim Jochum – Research requests
Maureen Lonergan – Collections related projects, Integrative Pest Management (IPM) program
Morris Merle – museum desk duty, research requests, photograph organization project

Museum Activities
(March 2017)

On Monday and Wednesday, March 6 and 8, 2017, the US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) QASAS (Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Survey) team and the QC Bomb Squad completed surveys and a site visit to determine how to proceed with final evaluation of the museum's ammunition-related artifacts and historical property.

During the week of March 13, 2017, the four reproduction Mountain Howitzers were returned after repair and refurbishment. They are located in front of Building 90 and the club entrance to Building 60.

On Monday, March 13, 2017, Kris Leinicke presented a program on the *Italian Quartermaster Services Companies at Rock Island Arsenal in the Second World War* to 18 members of the Geneseo Izaak Walton League.

The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society and the museum presented table top displays at the Fourteenth Annual Farnam Dinner, held at the Rogalski Center, St. Ambrose University, on Thursday, March 16, 2017.

On Tuesday, March 21, 2017, US Army Garrison – Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA) employee Eric Rodriguez was assigned to the museum.

The semiannual disinterested weapons inventory was completed on Monday, March 27, 2017. SSG Ryan Scott, ASC was the lead for this project.

On Tuesday, March 28, 2017, USAG-RIA employee Perry Frazelle was assigned to the museum.

On Thursday, March 30, 2017, Kris Leinicke presented a program on the history of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum to 25 members of the QC Rotary.

Upcoming Programs at the Moline Public Library



Folksongs of the First World War

**Tuesday,
April 25, 2017
12 noon
Meeting Rooms**

Adam Miller
from Drain, Oregon
will perform
folksongs from
"The War to End All Wars."
Many of the songs from
the conflict have become
part of the
English-language
oral tradition.

The sing-along program
revisits the
songs, poems, and stories
of the Great War



WWI DOUGHBOY

**ONE MAN SHOW
SATURDAY,
APRIL 29, 2017
3:00 P.M.
MEETING ROOMS**

Reenactor George Reinke
of St. Charles, Illinois
will appear as a
World War I American soldier
discussing the
war experiences
of the
soldiers in the trenches.

Military artifacts from
World War I
will be on
display and discussed.



World War I and America Initiative

Public programming
exploring the First World War
and its resonances today
to coincide with the
100th anniversary of our
nation's entry into the
war in 1917,
that aims to bring
veterans and their families
together with the general public
to explore the continuing
relevance of the war by reading,
discussing, and sharing insights
into the writings of Americans
who experienced the war
firsthand.

This program series is part of
World War I and America, a
two-year national initiative of
Library of America presented in
partnership with The Gilder
Lehrman Institute of American
History, the National World War I
Museum and Memorial, and
other organizations, with
generous support from The
National Endowment for the
Humanities.



THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY