



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2017 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Our September 7th program will be presented by Ms. K Krewer, currently serving as Chief Counsel at U.S. Army Sustainment Command. Ms. Krewer has also been the Deputy Command Counsel US Army Materiel Command and Chief Counsel US Army Tank-Automotive & Armaments Life Cycle Management Command.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the **Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse**. 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 September 4th. 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.

PLEASE NOTE that Gillespie Street is still under construction. It is not known if the project will be completed by September 7th. You may need to follow the detour signs along East Street to get to the Clubhouse. This would be the same route you travelled if you attended the June meeting.

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/>

Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society 2017 Board Election Results

Incumbents Judy Belfer, Linda Miller, and Martha Wahe were re-elected. Stuart Waxenberg was elected to fill an unencumbered board vacancy.

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.

**From the Museum
By Nancy Neuhaus**

Our “Stories Behind the Artifacts” project from the Rock Island Arsenal Museum is up and running. Look for the new entry Effie Afton Bell and discover the steamer behind the destruction of the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River. Our web site is www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org/museum/. Find the topic papers in the “Collection and Historical Highlights” tab.

**Thanks to Historical Society Volunteers
(May - July 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
(May - July 2017)**

Rachel Jacobs – Map organization project, cleaning office area
William Johnson – Moving exhibit cases
Anne Jochum – Photograph organization project
Jim Jochum – Research requests, quarterly weapons inventory
Morris Merle – museum desk duty, photograph organization project, historic tours of island for Knox County Farm Bureau (Galesburg, IL) Prime Timers and Vietnam Air Defense Artillery (ADA) veterans’ reunion group, familiarization tour for organizers of 25th Infantry Division reunion in 2018
Ryan Mueller – WWII Army-Navy “E” award correspondence, programs, photo collection organization project
Yuliya Rutherford – Photograph organization project
Greg Shelangouski – Photograph organization project, quarterly weapons inventory
Amelia Seutter – photograph organization project, organizing museum history files
Mark Struve – Rock Island Arsenal Research & Development report organization, quarterly weapons inventory
Nancy Neuhaus – research and writing topic papers on museum artifacts, cleaning office area

**Museum Activities
(May - July 2017)**

During the month of May 2017, Dr. Elista Istre, Perry Frazelle, and Eric Rodriquez completed and filed 586 Material Documented as Safe (MDAS) certificates for artifact ammunition in the museum collection that had been deemed safe during the Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Survey (QASAS) team survey of the collection.

Friday, May 19, 2017, was the last day for Dr. Elista Istre. During her six-month assignment, Dr. Istre participated in two quarterly weapons inventories, updated artifact locations in the Army Historical Collection Accountability System (AHCAS), processed historical property with volunteer Julia Evans, preserved leather artifacts with volunteer Julia Evans, and led the project to create MDAS certificates for artifact ammunition.

Friday, May 19, 2017, was the last day for Perry Frazelle. During his seven-week assignment, Mr. Frazelle tagged macro artifacts in Building 106, completed the requisite paperwork to turn-in obsolete IT equipment, and participated in the MDAS certificate project.

In June 2017, Mark Kane, Garrison Public Affairs, started a Facebook page for the museum. Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/RIAMuseum/>. Watch for volunteer Anne's and Greg's photograph picks on "Throwback Thursdays."

Tuesday, June 6, 2017, researcher Mark Reynosa visited the museum to study and photograph Model 1910 canteens in the museum collection.

Thursday, June 22, 2017, was the last day for volunteer Yuliya Rutherford, who accepted a position with Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), Rock Island Arsenal. During her tenure as a volunteer, she worked on the photograph organization project.

Friday, June 23, 2017, was the State of the Arsenal community meeting hosted by MG Daly, US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Commanding General, at the iWireless. Ephriam Dickson, Acting Director of Field Museums, attended the meeting as a representative of the US Army Center of Military History (CMH). During this meeting, the future of the museum was discussed. Prior to the meeting, Mike Bassett, ASC Public Affairs Office, completed a feature story "Some RIA museum artifacts to be stored in state of the art facility between exhibitions," on current museum status.

Wednesday, July 12, 2017, a professional development (behind-the-scenes) tour was conducted for twelve ROTC Cadets who would be completing summer internships at Rock Island Arsenal – Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (RIA-JMTC).

Friday, July 14, 2017, a professional development (behind-the-scenes) tour was conducted for Colonel Letcher, Commanding Officer of RIA-JMTC, and Command Sergeant Major Jones.

Friday, July 21, 2017, a professional development (behind-the-scenes) tour was conducted for fifteen members of the First Army G-3 Plans Branch.

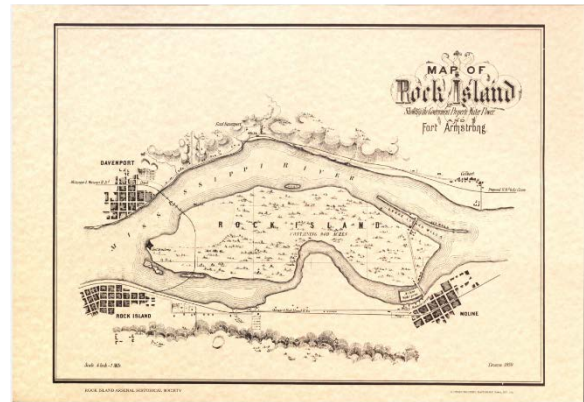
During the months of June and July, three college students volunteered at the museum. Mark Struve, St. Ambrose University, organized and created a spreadsheet for Rock Island Arsenal Research & Development reports. Ryan Mueller, Augustana College, organized and archivally housed the WWII Army-Navy "E" award correspondence, programs, photo collection. Rachel Jacob, John Brown University, primarily organized and created a spreadsheet for the map collection. A fourth student began volunteering on July 14, 2017. Amelia Seutter, St. Ambrose University, worked on the photograph organization project and files concerning the museum's history.

During the summer, three macro artifacts at Memorial Field were preserved and repainted. The walkway was removed from the Sherman tank. The Sherman tank, Ontos, and Terra Star were repainted. These projects were funded by the US Army Center of Military History.

Book Club Corner By Nancy Neuhaus

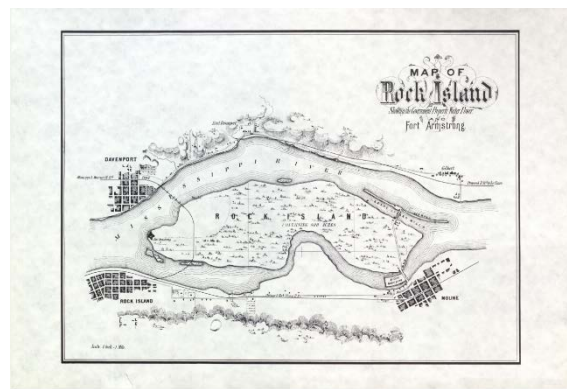
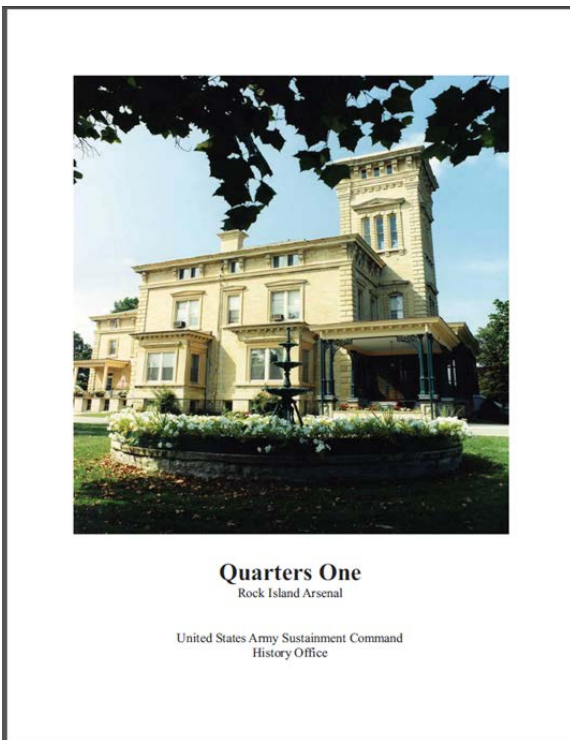
The Local History Book Club, sponsored by COL Davenport Historical Foundation, will be meeting on August 22, 7:00pm at the Hauberg Center. A \$5 donation is required for the center. This month's book is *When The Mississippi River Ran Backwards*, by Jay Feldman. Learn how Tecumseh used a series of earthquakes and aftershocks in 1811 and 1812 along the river to claim divine prophecy against the European settlers, as well as changing the course of the river and the War of 1812. POC is jessica.waytenick@gmail.com.

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.



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