



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 2017 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Our October 5th program will be presented by Mr. John Snow, Director, Karpeles Manuscript Museum (Rock Island). He will provide information about the benefactor of the museum, Dr. David Karpeles, and his family, as well as providing a history of why he started his museums, where he began, and details of his museums around the country. He will also provide information about the museum's current exhibit, featuring manuscripts from the work of Robert Fulton, inventor of the steam engine.

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 October 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.

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/>

Historical Society and Museum Website

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.

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.

Book Club Corner

By
Nancy Neuhaus

The Local History Book Club met on August 22 at the Hauberg House in Rock Island to discuss When the Mississippi Ran Backwards by Jay Feldman. Eleven people were in attendance owing to a competing event that night. The book is about the New Madrid, MO earthquakes that took place in December of 1811, the result of shifting tectonic plates that indeed caused the Mississippi to temporarily run backwards. In writing this book the author tied in local disparate groups including Indians, settlers, presidents, and even Spain. His book has all the elements of a thriller with Indian uprisings, murder, a disposed rich white family to cause trouble, and a catastrophic natural event. We discussed at length the physicality of the earthquakes along the Mississippi Valley and how the tremors reverberated for months. Our question remains how is fracking going to affect this little known fault line in the future?

The Local History Book Club is sponsored by the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation and led by Judy Tumbleson, contact information judyt100741@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be October 24 for A Brief History of Bucktown, by Jonathan Turner at Bucktown in Davenport, IA.

Museum News

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 (August 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 (August 2017)

Rachel Jacobs – Army-Navy "E" award file organization
William Johnson – Moving office furniture
Anne Jochum – Photograph organization project
Jim Jochum – Research requests
Morris Merle – Museum desk duty, photograph organization project, historic tours of island for Woodridge Supportive Living Residence (Geneseo, IL) and Hancock County Cooperative Oil Board of Directors (Fort Dodge, IA)
Ryan Mueller – WWII Army-Navy "E" award correspondence, programs, and photographs organization project
Greg Shelangouski – Photograph organization project
Amelia Seutter – Photograph organization project, updating artifact files

Mark Struve – Rock Island Arsenal Research & Development report organization
Nancy Neuhaus – research and writing topic papers on museum artifacts, Army-Navy “E” award file organization

New Museum Technician

Please stop by and introduce yourself to David Bighia, the new Museum Technician who began as a museum staff member on September 18, 2017. David hails from the Cornhusker state and calls Omaha home. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he obtained his BA in History. Upon graduation, he entered active duty with the U.S. Army assigned as a platoon leader and executive officer with the Multinational Force & Observers peacekeeping mission in the Sinai Peninsula. Following a year in the Sinai, he was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division at Ft. Riley KS as a company commander and battalion staff officer. Upon leaving active duty he continued his military career in the Army reserves participating in operation Desert Storm, and humanitarian relief operations in Rwanda. His non-military experience includes teaching high school History and Geography, federal service includes Environmental Compliance & Historic Preservation with both FEMA and the National Park Service as well as serving as a Historian for the U.S. Air Force and Museum Specialist for both the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. In his spare time David enjoys perfecting his horsemanship skills as he participates in historical reenactments as a mounted cavalry trooper covering the civil war and frontier campaigns time periods. An avid scale modeler and auto restoration enthusiast, he enjoys doing anything involving his creative spirit and love of all things “old & mechanical”.

Museum Activities (August 2017)

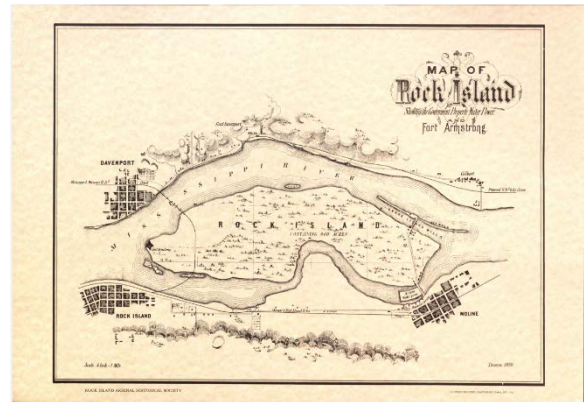
Wednesday, August 9, 2017, a professional development tour of the museum facility was provided for 26 individuals attending First Army’s Office of the Staff Judge Advocate meeting.

Thursday, August 10, 2017, a tour of the museum exhibit hall was conducted for Lieutenant General Gwen Bingham, Army Assistant Chief of Staff of Installation Management, who was the guest speaker for Rock Island Arsenal Women’s Equality Day Observance.

During the month of August, three college students completed their volunteer efforts at the museum. Mark Struve, St. Ambrose University, organized and created a spreadsheet for Rock Island Arsenal Research & Development reports. Mark continues at St. Ambrose and is now an intern with the US Army Sustainment Command (ASC) History Office. Ryan Mueller, Augustana College, organized and archivally housed the WWII Army-Navy “E” award correspondence, programs, and photo collection. Ryan continues as a history major at Augustana College. Rachel Jacob, John Brown University, primarily organized and created a spreadsheet for the map collection. Rachel continues as a history major, museum studies minor, at John Brown University.

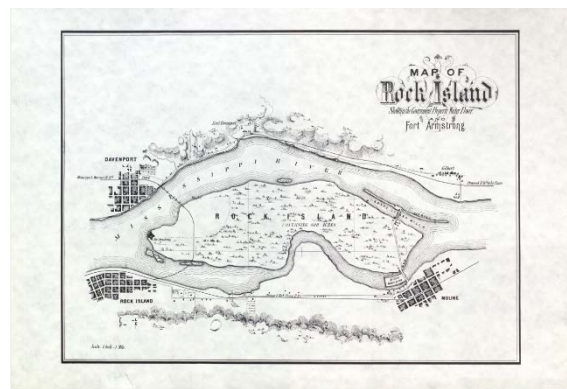
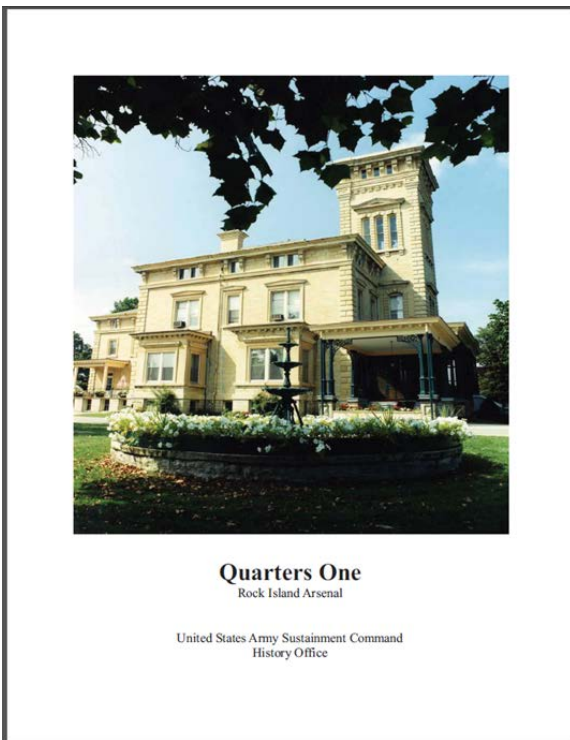
Friday, August 25, 2017, was the last day for Eric Rodriguez. During his assignment, Mr. Rodriguez tagged macro artifacts in Building 106, participated in the Material Documented as Safe (MDAS) certificate project, participated in artifact inventories and two weapons inventories, and packaged duplicate government publications for transfer to the Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania

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

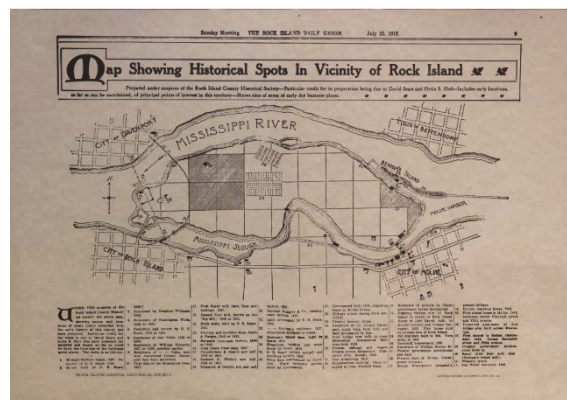
The book: Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal for \$15 each;



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