



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 2017 Newsletter

News Flash!

Rock Island Arsenal Museum Director, Kris Leinicke, is retiring after 34 years effective December 31, 2017.

*The Soldiers and Civilians of
The United States Army Garrison
request the pleasure of your company
at a Farewell Luncheon and Award Ceremony*

in honor of

Ms Kris G. Leinicke (Rock Island Arsenal Museum Director)

on Tuesday, the Nineteenth of December

Eleven o'clock

Rock Island Arsenal Club House

1838 Gillespie Street, Building 312

The favor of a reply is requested to Ms Jodie Wesemann at 782-2843 or

jodie.c.wesemann.civ@mail.mil

Please note: Luncheon buffet will be served at \$10/person (includes a drink).

Hello Members:

Our December 7th program will be presented by Dr. Jill M. Bjerke, CEO, Founder of Cut the Clutter Company in Davenport will speak at our Dec meeting. She will discuss ways to help us get organized during the busy holiday season. She is also a Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) and can provide Aging in Space Consultations and Home Assessments.

Cut the Clutter Co. has proudly served the Quad-Cities area and surrounding communities for more than twelve years. They are the Quad-Cities' premier downsizing, clutter elimination, reorganizing and senior home safety company.

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 December 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.

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.

Book Club Corner

By

Nancy Neuhaus

The Col Davenport Historical Foundation History Book Club met at Bucktown Center for the Arts on Tuesday, October 24, to discuss A Brief History of Bucktown by Jonathan Turner. Twelve people were in attendance, including the author, who led a rousing discussion about the “bawdy heyday” of Bucktown. This part of Davenport was most likely named for the young bucks who gathered there in the late 1800’s to early 1900’s and filled the saloons, dance halls, theatres, gambling dens, and brothels. Davenport was once called the “worst town in America”, but, oh, was it fun. The book quoted Kyle Carter, executive director of the Downtown Davenport Project as saying, “Nobody knows how cool the history is.” A Brief History of Bucktown leaves no doubt.

The book traces the evolution of Bucktown from its storied beginnings to the flourishing arts center that it is today. Bucktown’s historic buildings, including the Center for Arts, the Blackhawk Hotel, RME, and the Adler Theatre, roughly cover the area around 2nd St. in Davenport from the Gallery Center on 225th E. 2nd St. to the Figge Art Museum on 225 W. 2nd St, and up to 5th St. In 1919, the residents of Rock Island St. petitioned the city to rename it Pershing Ave in honor of General Pershing, as many Bucktown men had served under him in WWI. In 1920 during a tour of the Rock Island Arsenal he was driven with great fanfare to see the avenue that still bears his name today. In the Rock Island Arsenal Museum there is a plaque commemorating the first victory of the First US Army in WWI under his command.

The Bucktown Arts Center, as it stands today, supports local artists by providing them space to work and display their craft. A 2018 wall calendar featuring original artwork was available beginning October 27th at the center and at HyVee locations. Part of the proceeds will go to RiverAction.

The next Book Club meeting will be at 7:00pm on January 16, 2018 at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum to discuss Rebels at Rock Island by Benton McAdams. This meeting has been approved as a special event by the Deputy Garrison Commander. You are not required to obtain a pass. Present your driver’s

license to the Moline gate guard and mention that you are attending the Davenport House Book Club meeting at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum.

Thanks to Historical Society Volunteers
(October 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
Stuart Waxenberg – Board business

Thanks to Museum Volunteers
(October 2017)

Anne Jochum – Photograph organization project
Jim Jochum – Research requests
William Johnson – Research requests
Morris Merle – Museum desk duty, photograph organization project, visitor statistic compilation, QC Military Retiree Appreciation Day
Fred Miller - QC Military Retiree Appreciation Day
Linda Miller - QC Military Retiree Appreciation Day
Greg Shelangouski – Photograph organization project
Amelia Seutter – Richard Barnett documents and memorabilia organization project, updating artifact files, set up for QC Military Retiree Appreciation Day, created checklist for Civil War education trunk
Nancy Neuhaus – “Stories Behind the Artifacts” project

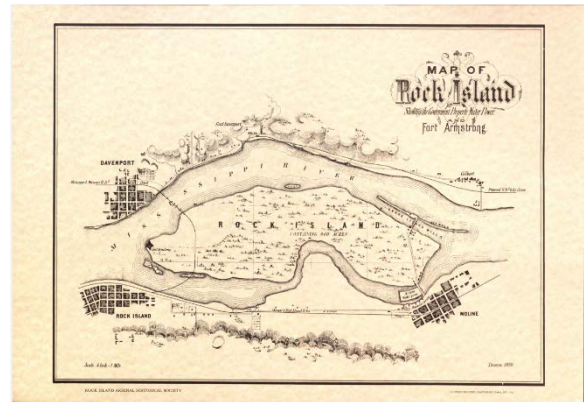
Museum News

Our “Stories Behind the Artifacts” project from the Rock Island Arsenal Museum is up and running. Look for recent entries on the Effie Afton Bell, the reproduction George Washington sword, and workers passes. Our web site is www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org/museum/. Find the topic papers in the “Collection and Historical Highlights” tab.

Special thanks to Morris Merle, Fred Miller, and Linda Miller for hosting the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society/Rock Island Arsenal Museum information table at the QC Military Retiree Appreciation Day, held at Heritage Hall, Rock Island Arsenal on Saturday, October 14, 2017. A total of 340 individuals attended the event.

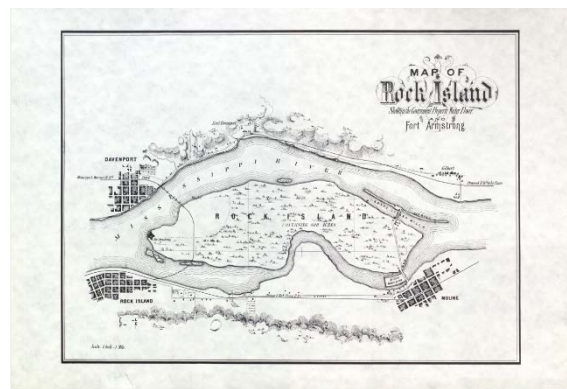
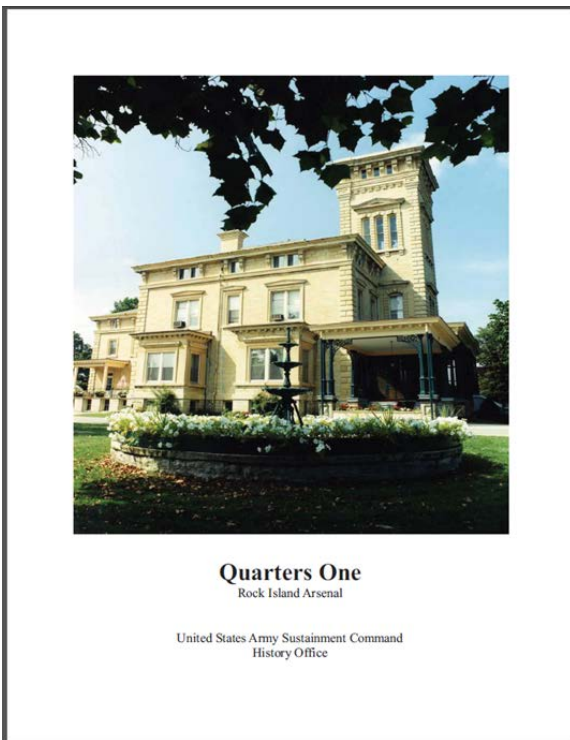
During the month of October, Andalusia (Illinois) Elementary School used the museum’s Civil War education trunk for three special activity days. A total of 275 students used the trunk.

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

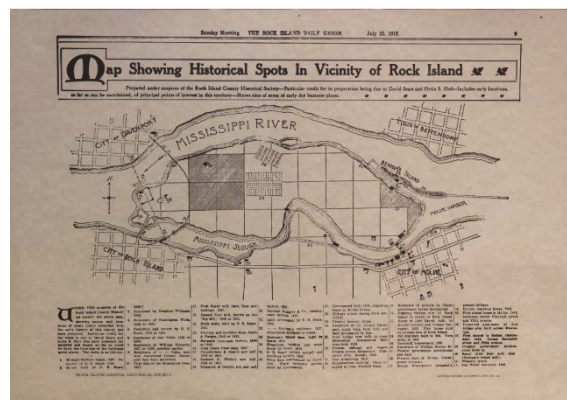
The book: Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal for \$15 each;



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