



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2018 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Our March 1 program will be presented by Kelly Saul, outreach advocate for Braking Traffik, a program of Family Resources Inc. Ms. Saul has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and her Master's degree in Human Services with a concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy from Liberty University in Virginia. The program will be general overview of human trafficking to include:

- The legal definitions of human trafficking.
- Risk factors involved in human trafficking.
- The process by which human trafficking occurs.
- How human trafficking looks locally.
- Resources available locally for human trafficking survivors.

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 February 26th. 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

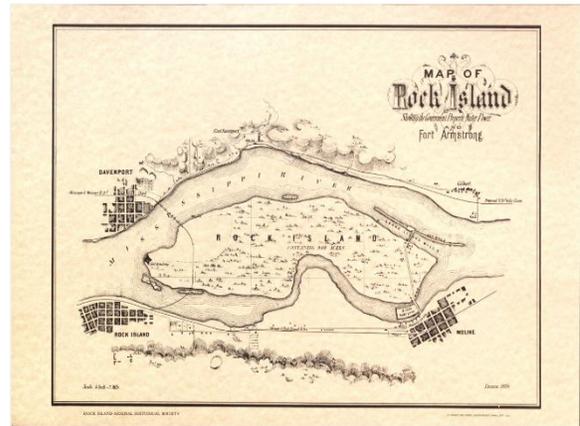
Our Local History Book Club met at the Rock Island Arsenal Museum on Tuesday January 16th to discuss Rebels at Rock Island by Benton McAdams. George Eaton, Interim Director and ASC Historian, gave an excellent tour of the museum's Civil War artifacts and guided us through the history of the Confederate prison compound.

Some highlights of the book discussion were the conditions the prisoners faced. The first ones arrived on December 3, 1863 from the Army of Tennessee. The southern soldiers had never seen a Midwestern winter in full blow at 25 degrees below zero. They came in rags, carrying smallpox with them. The commandant, Adolphus Johnson, had to contend with housing, feeding, and clothing the prisoners as well as keeping reign over the guards who could be as troublesome as the prisoners. Johnson also had to deftly maneuver between opposing journalists, the Federal Commissary General of Prisoners William Hoffman, the civilians who wanted to come out and "have a look" at real rebels, and the proclivity of the guards to sneak across the river to the saloons, starting a black market with the confederate prisoners.

Our consensus: The book was an enjoyable read, lively and well told with much background information. We questioned the motives of the author's sources, as if Rock Island needed to prove that conditions were not as bad as those at other prison camps. The author also used unexplained syntax, for example, describing a man as a "blower in camp and when the powder was burned he was not any good", with no further reference as to what a blower was or if this was simply a metaphor for other behavior.

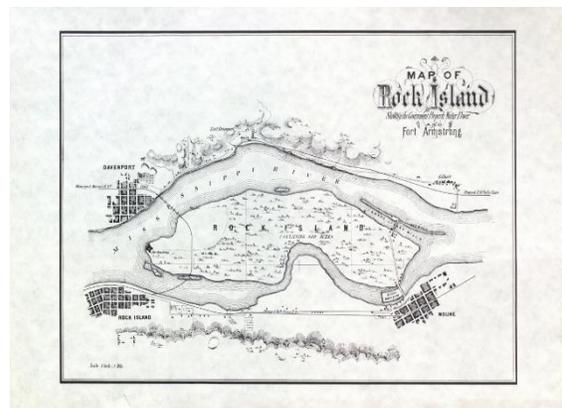
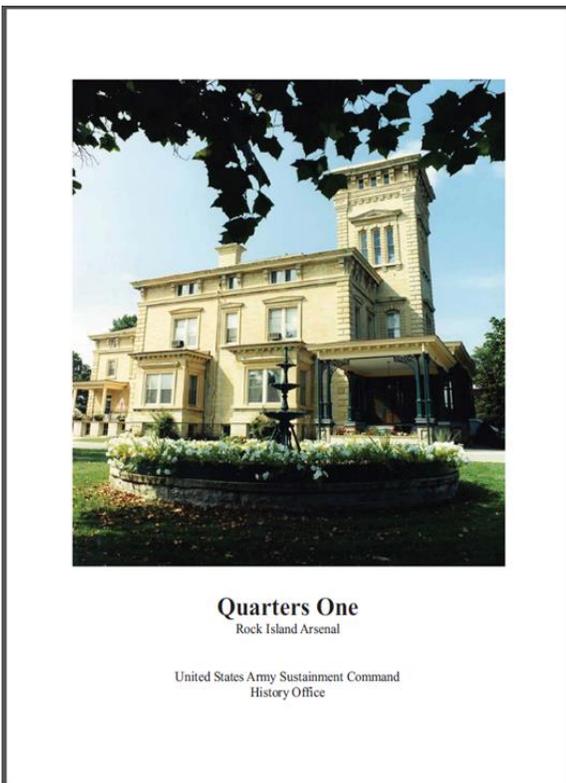
Overall, it was a great meeting where book and venue came together perfectly. The next book club meeting will be March 20 at 7:00pm. Local author and editor of the SCHPS Newsletter John Brassard Jr will be discussing his new book "Murder and Mayhem in Scott County", which comes out this February. For location of the meeting and how to get a copy of his book please contact Judy Tumbleson at judyt100741@gmail.com, or John Brassard Jr through SCHPS.

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

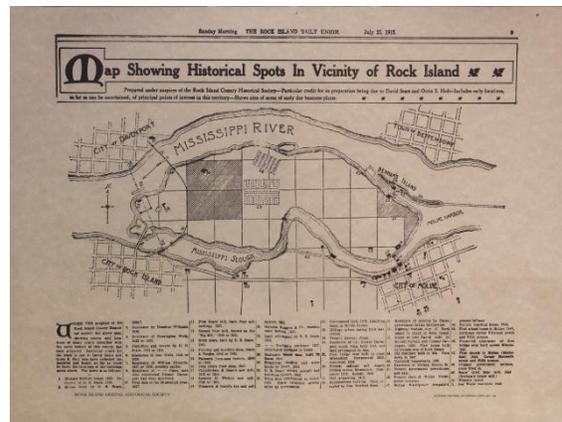
The book: Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal for \$15 each;



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