



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 2018 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Just in time to help you get in the mood and prepare for the upcoming holiday festivities. This month's program will be: "Arthur Murray: The Man, The Company and Everything In Between". Mr. Wesley Arnold, current business owner, will go over the story behind and about one of the oldest continued businesses in downtown Davenport. The presentation will include Arthur Murray's personal life, background, education, building a nationwide business, Mr. Murray's retirement, and current company organization.

Mr. Arnold will also talk about the Davenport location including: it's history and beginning; the original Davenport location owner, Lester Hillier; what they are today; what they teach; how they teach; opportunities they offer; and the benefits of dance.

Mr. Arnold started with the company in 2003 at the Sterling Heights, MI studio as an instructor and worked his way up to Studio Manager. There, in addition to becoming an award-winning instructor winning the Top Teacher award himself several times, he developed an award-winning staff. Since he took over as the owner of the Davenport franchise, the school has grown and also boasts an award-winning staff.

Since arriving in Davenport, Wesley has concentrated his efforts not only on his studio, but also the community that it serves. This past year at Franchisee Convention, he returned a studio excellence award as well as a community impact award for his work with a multitude of local organizations. Since his ownership in 2013, Wesley has involved the studio in efforts to raise money for Livefit With Lupus, The First Tee, Dress For Success, Juan Diaz Rancheros, artsBASICS, The Creative Arts Academy, Quad Cities Missing Persons Network, Gilda's Club, the Alzheimer's Association and more. He is also personally a supporter of River Music Experience, Mississippi Valley Blues Society, and volunteers as a big with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley.

The finale will be one you won't want to miss! There will be dance demonstrations.

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu will be Plantation Salad, Shepard's Pie, Chocolate Cake rolls, coffee, tea, and water all prepared by the Golf Club kitchen, all for \$12.00, 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 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.

Museum News

From the Director

August and September have been busy at the museum with October shaping up to be the same. Attendance for August reached 1,949 boosted by several events on post including a bring your family to work day on August 9 and the street naming ceremony on August 21 that honored Medal of Honor recipient MSG John Baker, Jr. and the Arsenal's first African-American worker, Milton Baker with streets named after them in the new housing development on the north side of the island. September attendance stands at 585 as of the 19th.

The museum's Facebook page continues to grow its audience and increase its engagement. As of September 19, the page has over 600 likes, up nearly 200 since August 1. We are sharing a mix of content from videos to photos to archival documents. If you are on Facebook please follow the page at [facebook.com/RIAMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/RIAMuseum) there is some great history there.

Upcoming, the museum will be part of an island-wide tour organized by the Davenport Schools Foundation's Great Minds Program. The museum along with other Arsenal sites will host 1200 students and staff from the Davenport Community Schools as they explore the history of the island and its Civil War connections.

LST 325 Comes to Quad Cities

by Nancy Neuhaus

If you've ever wondered how we got all the troops and tanks on shore for D-Day, the answer was berthed in Bettendorf, Iowa at the Isle of Capri Casino over Labor Day weekend. I channeled my inner Navy (six years in the US Naval Reserve) and went to check it out. After all, it did carry army equipment and personnel. The USS LST-325 was one of 1051 ships built specifically for this purpose during WWII.

They were not individually named and were referred to by hull number. LST stands for "Landing Ship Tank", and that's exactly what they unloaded, really fast, and back across the English Channel to get some more. The Tank Deck alone could hold 20 Sherman Tanks, and the main deck was a parking lot for jeeps and deuces. The ship also has racks for up to 300 soldiers. And an LST could defend itself. She has 2 twin 40mm gun mounts, 4 single 40mm gun mounts, and 12 single 20mm gun mounts. The 40mm gun mounts on the LST-325 are on the upper deck, Bofor Guns, which were an all-purpose anti-aircraft weapon.

The men who crew the LST-325 are volunteers. There are 50 of them, and they live on the ship while touring 3-4 weeks a year. LST-325's home port is in Evansville, IN. Evansville produced 171 LST's during the war years. I had a great tour and met a lot of vets of all ages and services. LST-325 participated in the Normandy Invasion of 1944, truly an inter-service effort, and that spirit of camaraderie was reflected everywhere during my visit.



RIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

By
Nancy Neuhaus

The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society met September 6, 2018 after a hot summer and a month of rain.

Good to see Kris Leinicke again!

One of our own was guest speaker, Patrick Allie, the new Museum Director. He received his history education in Kansas and Oklahoma, and most recently comes to us from the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis, MO where he presided over their renovation as a curator and spokesman. He talked to us about his vision for the Arsenal Museum supported by Garrison and CMH (Center for Military History). He sees our museum as interpreted through local history and a key part of the package that is the Rock Island Historical District.

A special but “doable” project on Mr. Allie’s list is to bring in temporary displays so there is always something new for people to check out. He has promised to resurrect the Gift Shop too. Also on his planning sheet is a display at the airport.

He sees our museum as a venue for events and lectures, and continuing education for the community, working with local schools and scouting groups. But most of all, he wants to see us be “cool” again! Welcome Patrick Allie, and we are on board with you!

Book Club Corner

By
Nancy Neuhaus

The COL Davenport Foundation Local History Book Club met at The Machine Shed on Tuesday, September 18 to discuss *A Culinary History of Iowa*, by Darcy Dougherty Maulsby. Twelve people came to “pig” out. For those who like to eat delicious Iowa farm food while reading about it, this was the perfect pairing.

Maulsby’s trip took us across the state and hit all the high notes: German food from the Amana Colonies, kolaches from the Czech population in Cedar Rapids, Dutch “S” cookies from Pella, and pork everywhere. The odd coupling of chili and cinnamon rolls was included as a school lunch staple. It was lonely on the farm, and women connected through church socials and radio shows. Supper clubs were big in early 20th century, and we lamented the loss of social connection they brought before television and computers took over the evening hours.

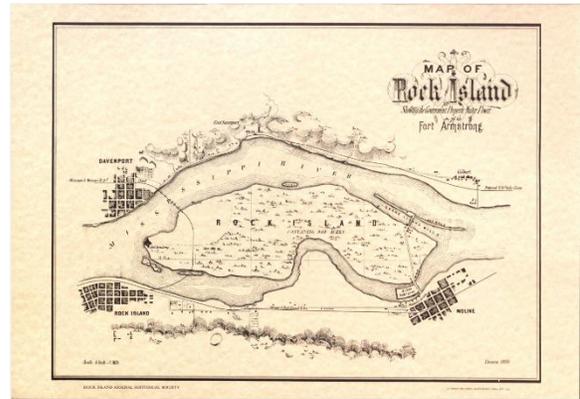
Maulsby wrote that the three meals of the day were breakfast, dinner, and supper. Her culinary travels took us between the two rivers that form Iowa’s east and west borders, from the Native Indian settlements, European immigrants, and subsistence farming, to the restaurants, companies (Sterzing’s potato chips and Earl May nurseries), and festivals that we enjoy today.

Living History Farms in Urbandale was mentioned frequently as a great go-to-place for your food history fix. We thought the Index could have been more specific, breaking down pork into sub-categories, for example, and wished the author had included a few maps to refresh our memory of place names like Le Mars (home of Blue Bunny ice cream), and Burr Oak, where the Ingalls family passed through in the 1870’s.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 20, as we are trying to connect with the author of the book *A Keel Boat Journey During the Civil War*, by Leslie Boothroyd. We will be at the Coast Guard Auxiliary station at Sunset marina in Rock Island.

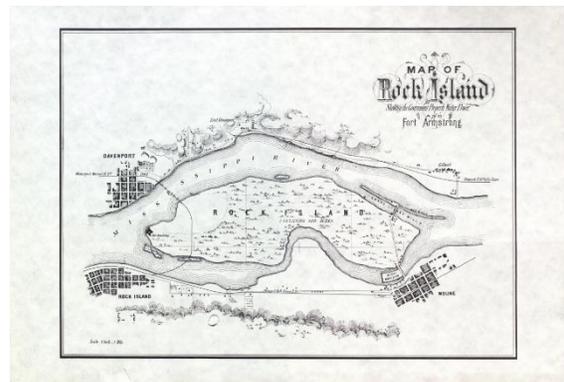
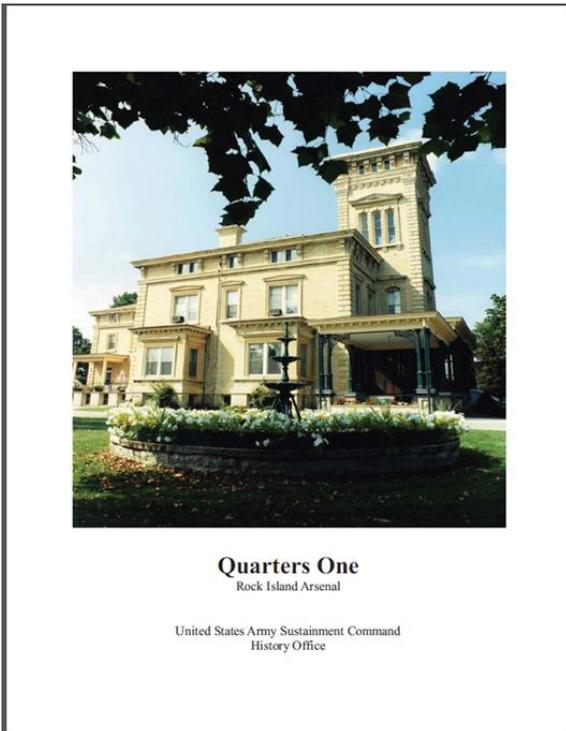
For sale at our website -

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

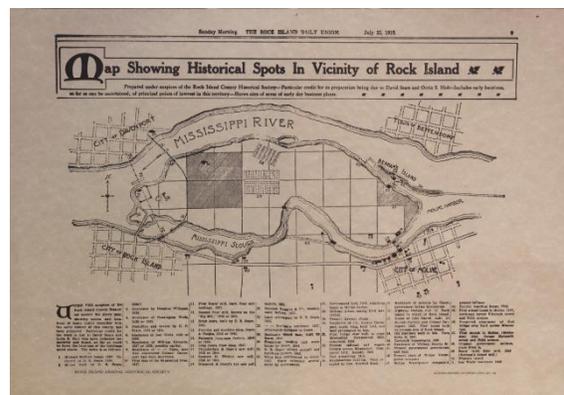
The book: Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal for \$15 each;



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