



BLOCK HOUSE 1816

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### November 2018 Newsletter

Hello Members:

Our December 6th program will be “The Colonel Davenport House and Family” presented by William Hapes, PhD. Dr. Hapes graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a B. S. in Psychology and from the University of North Dakota with a M. A. in General Psychology and a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology. He taught psychology for 38 years at St. Michael’s College in Vermont, Louisiana State University at Eunice, and Black Hawk College, where he is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology/Sociology. He has published ten articles in academic journals in the area of the psychology of humor, and travel articles in the Moline Dispatch and Midwest Streams and Trails. He will have a book coming out this spring on the depiction of courage in film and television Westerns. He has been a guide at the Colonel Davenport House for 28 years and is currently serving on their Board of Directors

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu will be caesar salad, panko breaded chicken with mushroom ragu, rice pilaf, corn with peppers, strawberry 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 December 3rd. You may call **Monica Holeman** (563) 650-4349, or **Linda Miller** (563) 355-6165 or you may email Linda at: [chiicaliinda@aol.com](mailto: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

November continues to be a busy month at the museum. On November 5th the museum hosted the Moline High School History Club, one of the top 10 history clubs in the country. The students arranged the trip and were excited to explore the history of the arsenal. The museum also hosted 75 2nd Graders from the Rock Island – Milan School District and they had a great time with the scavenger hunt. And right before Thanksgiving 80 JROTC students from the Davenport Community School District visited the museum.

Several initiatives continue including working with Garrison to wrap the museum into on-post events, exploring programming opportunities, and seeking partnerships with the other cultural institutions in the Quad Cities.

Finally, the museum will be hosting an Open House and Brown Bag Presentation on December 3 at the museum. I will be speaking about plans for the future of the museum and answering any questions attendees may have..

### **Veterans Day on the Arsenal**

By  
Nancy Neuhaus

“National Cemeteries are special places.” Garrison Commander COL Stephen Marr opened his speech with this sentence at the Veterans Day ceremony held Sunday, November 11, on the Rock Island Arsenal. Indeed they are, and thanks to the Quad Cities Area Patriot Guard Riders and the Vietnam Veterans of America, this ceremony was special too. We gathered at the flagpole in our own National Cemetery on a cold, sunny day to honor those who serve our country, past and present. The PGR’s stood behind the low stone wall, each one bearing the flag, and the VVA completed a protective circle around us with their rifles on the other side of the flagpole. VVA member Jim Bell sang the national anthem. The Master of Ceremonies was Lance Pridemore, the Assistant Director of the Cemetery, and COL Marr was the keynote speaker. He noted that 5380 souls are buried in our National Cemetery, and we build our military, the finest in the world, on the legacy of these men. He spoke of World War I and how it set in motion a new international order that continues to this day, 100 years later. The traditional wreath was laid, the VVA fired a 3-shot honor salute, and the ceremony was completed with a haunting rendition of Taps. Sunday was a day to come together, be humble and gracious, and kind to each other. A lesson we hope was repeated across the country in these troubled times.

### **Veterans Day Retrospective**

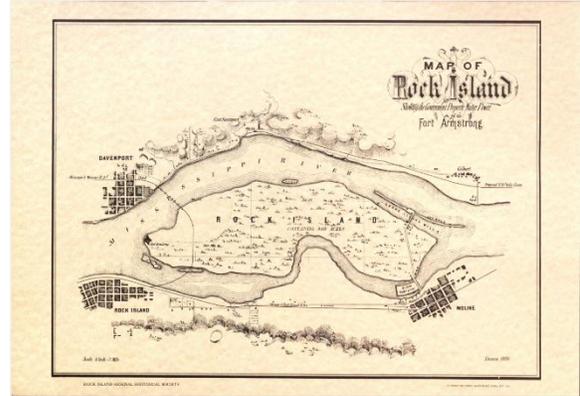
By  
Nancy Neuhaus

This Veterans Day also marked the end of the 100th Year Commemoration of World War I. The “war to end all wars” officially ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. It is also called the Armistice of 1918. It is curious to note that “armistice” means a truce, a temporary cessation of fighting. And this “war to end all wars” was indeed temporary, as we all know. At the end of WWII Armistice Day was renamed “Remembrance Day” to honor veterans of both wars, and the US eventually turned it into “Veterans Day”, to honor all US veterans.

But what was actually going on at the Arsenal in 1918? We were more prepared to leap into war production than at any other time in our history. We had enough people to step up, but technology was changing, and we needed new buildings, new machines, new mass manufacturing techniques. Although we came late to the war, in 1917, the Arsenal force increased to over ten thousand during that time. At least 17 different items were churned out in massive quantities before the armistice in 1918, everything from gun carriages, wagons, wheels and spokes, to rifles and howitzer shells. We produced over one million bacon cans! Our national obsession with bacon runs deep. Three military schools were started in 1917 to increase efficiency of wartime production. In 1918, 14,400 men and women were employed at the Arsenal. And when you visit the Rock Island Arsenal Museum, you can see the contributions they made to the war effort. war effort.

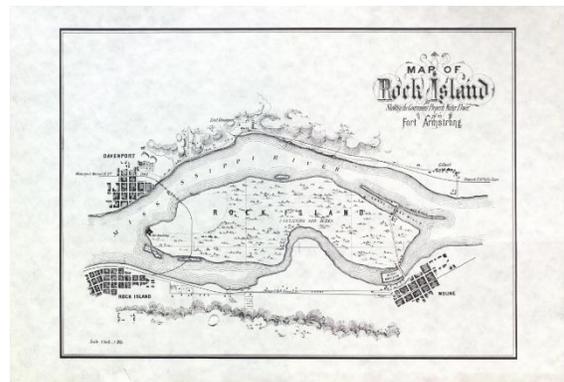
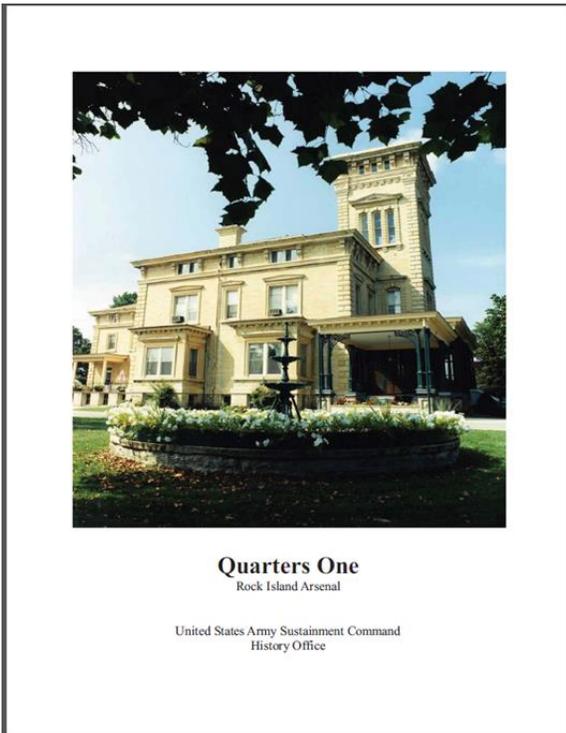
For sale at our website -

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

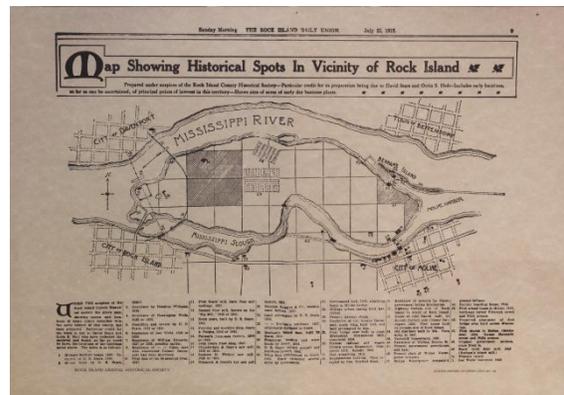
The book: Quarters One, Rock Island Arsenal for \$15 each;



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

**Member News**

It's time to renew your membership.

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**2019 Membership Dues**

**ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Paste Mailing label or write name and address:**

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**Telephone number:**

**E-mail address:**

**Membership dues are: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Couple \_\_\_\_\_ \$8.00 Student**

Please make checks payable to the *Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society* and mail to Richard D. Hochstetler, 1209 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. Apt. C103, Rock Island, IL 61201

You may also renew your membership electronically at our website at this link:

<http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org/benefits.html>

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