

Published for the
Members and Friends
of the Harpers Ferry
Historical Association

Spring 1998

Park Inaugurates Artist-In-Residence Program

Throughout history Harpers Ferry has been the subject of poems, plays, and stories. Artists have traveled long and far to interpret the spectacular beauty of the area's landscape in their drawings and paintings. From Stephen Vincent Benet to Julia Davis, Rembrandt Peale to Garnet Jex, many have been inspired by the unique history and scenery of this place. It is fitting that Harpers Ferry National Historical Park should join other National Parks in inaugurating the Artist-in-Residence Program to offer photographers, artists, writers, performers, musicians, and film makers the opportunity to creatively interpret Harpers Ferry.

Six artists have been chosen for 1998 from over 30 applicants by a panel of jurors. They will remain for one month and be provided with a studio adjacent to the courtyard behind the John Brown Museum.

Marie Stewart, the Park's first artist-in-residence, arrived April 10 and immediately began her work. Marie, a landscape painter in the *plein air* tradition of the impressionists, is from Louisa, Virginia. Her training was completed at the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida, and at Florida International University in Miami, where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting in 1985. In 1989, she completed a graduate-level residence program at the Vermont Studio School. Marie's work may be found in public buildings throughout Florida, as well as in public and private collections.

Marie will be working throughout the park in the *plein air* tradition—painting in the out-of-doors directly from the subject. She will have studio visitation hours and

two public presentations including workshops for adults. Marie sees her residency as “an opportunity to freshen my view of the natural world. The mountains, rivers and historic scenery of this area offer a welcome and exciting challenge.” She expects to complete a large body of work during her one-month stay.

The second artist-in-residence, R. T. Smith, a published writer and poet, will arrive on May 15. Mr. Smith says of his plans, “I have been working on a series of Civil War poems for the past 15 years, and I would like to return to that project and write both some short lyric pieces and a couple more extended epistolary poems... I am especially interested, as a nonfiction subject, in town life around an arsenal.”

Mr. Smith was educated at Georgia Tech, the University of North Carolina, and Appalachian State University, where he founded *Cold Mountain Review*. He was nineteen years on the faculty at Auburn University, where he served as Alumni Writer-in-Residence for a dozen years and served as co-editor of *Southern Humanities Review*. In 1988 he received the Alabama's Governor's Award for Achievement by an Artist. Rod lives with his family in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and edits *Shenandoah* for Washington and Lee University. He plans to share his work by speaking to



Marie Stewart of Louisa, Virginia, is the park's first artist-in-residence. She is one of six artists chosen from over 30 applicants.

The picture which appears on our newsletter's nameplate, dating from 1803, is one of the oldest prints of Harpers Ferry. Twenty years earlier, in 1783, Thomas Jefferson had declared that this view was “worth a voyage across the Atlantic.”

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1998 Park Events

- May 16-17 – “How Does Your Garden Grow,” 19th century kitchen gardens
June 27 – “Freedom’s Birth: An American Experience” & Second Annual Author Fest
October 10 – “Election Day 1860”
December 4-6 – “Keeping Christmas 1860”



Second Annual Author Fest on June 27

The Association will host its Second Annual Author Fest on Saturday, June 27, in conjunction with the Park’s Independence Day Celebration, *Freedom’s Birth: An American Experience*. The Association event will begin with the *Annual Membership Meeting* at 11:00 a.m. at the Cliffside Inn, followed by a luncheon with guest speaker William Everhart (see related article). Author appearances, readings, and book-signings will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center Plaza on Cavalier Heights. The annual member and author picnic will also be held at Cavalier Heights. This location change was made to allow members to enjoy the evening musical programs prior to the fireworks display on Bolivar Heights.

Park events for June 27 will include performances by Mr. William Barker por-

traying Thomas Jefferson, Mr. William Sommerfield as George Washington, and Mr. Fred Morsell assuming the role of Frederick Douglass. The Great Southern Menagerie and Circus Acts will add a festive air to the Lower Town and remind visitors of a by-gone era. The Wildcat Regimental Band, Kim and Reggie Harris, Magpie, and Larry Johnson, an acoustic blues musician, will perform throughout the day.

Mark this date on your calendar and watch for our next newsletter in June for complete details. Registration forms for the luncheon and picnic will be available in mid-May by calling the Association at (304) 535-6881 (from Berkeley and Jefferson Counties) or 1-800-821-5206 (from all other areas).

Bill Everhart Featured Speaker

Among his many credentials, Bill Everhart served as first Executive Secretary of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. Some of you may remember his presence at our 25th anniversary meeting in 1996. Bill will visit with us again on June 27 as our luncheon speaker, and share stories from his newly published book, *Take Down Flag and Feed Horses*, about Yellowstone National Park and its rangers.

Take Down Flag and Feed Horses is part memoir, part reportage, and all good reading. A work devoted to the daily enterprise of staff members at Yellowstone National Park, the book is divided into two parts. The first chronicles daily life at Yellowstone and the second details the savage fires that hit the park during the summer of 1988.

Bill lived in the park during the summer of 1978, accompanying the superintendent and his staff of rangers, naturalists, and scientists on daily rounds. His lively anecdotes and observations make this book difficult to put down. He and other members of the elite cadre of Park Service employees who had served for many years would smile knowingly when one would recall the old-timer who left often unnecessary instructions that regularly concluded with “take down flag and feed horses (TDF&FH).” A

gentle and charming excursion through places and among people, this book is attractive to a wide range of readers, especially those who enjoy good stories about parks and man’s efforts to preserve and interpret nature.

Bill Everhart writes of the Park Service from a broad perspective. A historian by education, he held positions ranging from park historian to assistant director during his 27-year tenure with the Park Service. He served as park historian at Gettysburg, surveyed sites for potential designation as National Landmarks and Seashores, and was instrumental in planning the museum for the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri. He is well known in Harpers Ferry for his work in planning and implementing the Interpretive Design Center, a manifestation of his concept of excellence in interpretive media. Bill served as the first Director of the Interpretive Design Center.

He is a recipient of the Department of the Interior’s Distinguished Service Award, and author of *The National Park Service* as well as co-author of *America’s Historylands*. Bill and his wife live in nearby Reston, Virginia.

In the introduction of *Take Down Flag and Feed Horses*, Bill comments on the meaning of interpretation, writing, “If you would charm and inform, you must delight

in sharing what you know.” It is obvious from this book that Bill truly delights in sharing what he knows. Please plan to join us on Saturday, June 27.

Bridges Over Time Author will be at Fest

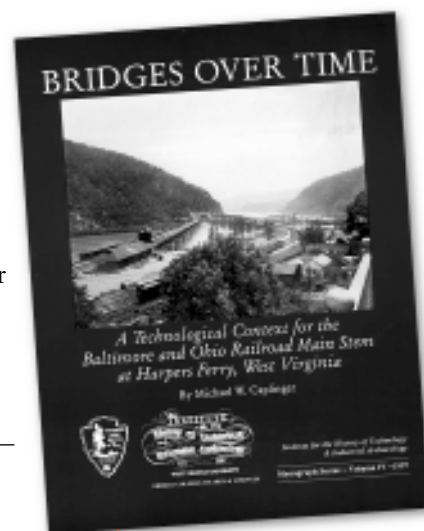
Michael Caplinger, author and researcher, will be at the Association’s Author Fest to discuss his recently published book *Bridges Over Time: A Technological Context for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Main Stem at Harpers Ferry, WV*. This work is part of the monograph series published by the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology (a unit of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University), and fills a gap in published information on the history of bridges at Harpers Ferry.

In the early 1830s, Harpers Ferry became a crossroads for turnpikes, canals, and railroads. It was a gateway to the west for one of the most daring and significant internal improvements undertaken by the young

nation—the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1834, the B&O’s main-line officially opened to the riverbank opposite Harpers Ferry at Wager’s wagon bridge (erected by Lewis Wernwag in 1824).

In the history of engineering, certain rivers have been epic tests for bridge-builders and, for a time, the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry was such a place. Through a series of often unlikely events, three of the 19th century’s great bridge designers—Lewis Wernwag, Benjamin Latrobe Jr., and Wendel Bollman—built bridges for the B&O’s Potomac crossing. With the addition of two more recent bridges, four different eras of bridge-truss technology are represented at Harpers Ferry, encompassing the transition from wood, to iron, and finally to steel building materials.

Bridges Over Time, priced at \$15, is available at the Park Bookshop or may be mail ordered by calling 1-800-821-5206.



Study Guide Wins Award

The School House Ridge Elementary Education Study Guide was recently awarded top honors in the Curriculum-based Program or Project category of the 1998 National Park Service Excellence in Interpretation Awards. These awards recognize the outstanding contributions cooperating associations make in interpreting the nation’s natural and cultural resources in national parks.

Funded by a grant from the National Park Foundation, and produced by the Association in conjunction with Harpers Ferry NHP and the Jefferson County Board of Education, the guide assists fifth grade teachers and students in following a week-long course of study about Stonewall Jackson’s siege and capture of the federal garrison at Harpers Ferry in September 1862.

The guide is broken into five sections that explore the people, places, themes, and events that culminated in “Stonewall’s Brilliant Victory” at Harpers Ferry. “School House Ridge Day,” which is presented to all Jefferson County 5th grade classes by Harpers

Ferry Park staff and volunteers, ties the week’s activities together. The Association has helped support this event for the past ten years.

The Association acknowledges and shares this award with the following educators whose dedication and tireless efforts made this project possible: Douglas Perks, Jennifer Caling, Judy Chesley, Dawn Morrison, and Martha Rizzo from the Jefferson County School system; Park Educational Specialist Marsha Starkey; and Park Living History staff members Melinda Day, Catherine Bragaw, and John King. Special thanks go to Dave Gilbert for designing, editing, and managing the project.

The Association also was recognized with an Honorable Mention for the *Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Virtual Visitor Center* website. This project was initiated and researched by Peggy Bethany, a volunteer in the Park, and designed and developed by Dave Gilbert, editor of this newsletter. You may visit this award-winning site at www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm



Draft Strategic Plan for Review



Members of the Strategic Planning Committee. Left to right (kneeling): Suzanne Silvia, Marsha Starkey, Megaly Green; (standing): Jim Silvia, James Castleman, Dennis Frye, Bruce Hopkins, Susan Baker, Bruce Noble, Douglas Perks, Michael Watson, Deborah Piscitelli, Heather Walters, and Rebecca Sollars.

The members of the Board of Directors, Association staff, and representatives of the Park, Harpers Ferry Center, and Mather Employment Development Center have been meeting since January to draft a five-year plan for the Association. These meetings were successfully facilitated with the assistance of Lucia Bragan of the National Park Service Washington Office. The Association thanks the many members who have requested a questionnaire and shared their ideas with us.

The draft of this document appears below for your review and comments. Association members will be asked to approve this plan at the Annual Meeting on June 27. Following the acceptance of the plan, goal committees will continue to work out the details of implementing this plan. *Please forward your comments to the Association by May 20.*

Mission Statement: Stewardship through Education

Education Goal:

To develop creative educational programs that promote stewardship to diverse audiences: park visitors, local schools, community, Internet, and association members.

Education Objectives:

1. HFHA will continue to allocate funds to support the Park's curriculum-based and public education programs.
2. HFHA will provide education programs to area school systems which target programmatic (i.e. K-4, 5-8, and 9-12) levels.
3. HFHA will continue to host Elderhostel programs with the support of Park staff.
4. HFHA will conduct fee-based educational

seminars/symposia that 1) do not supplant existing Park programs, 2) support Park themes, and 3) encourage understanding of 19th century culture as it existed in Harpers Ferry. The first seminar should coincide with the John Brown Bicentennial.

5. HFHA will present quarterly Local History programs that 1) do not supplant existing Park programs, 2) support Park themes, 3) encourage the research of Local History, 4) promote an interest in Local History, and 5) provide a source of articles for a periodic journal.
6. HFHA will develop a fee-based Education Institute similar to the Teton Science School.
7. HFHA will provide a fee-based guide service modeled after the existing program at Gettysburg National Battlefield *when the Park is unable to provide such a service.*

Business Goal:

To seek new markets and revenue-generating programming to enhance stability and promote growth.

Business Objectives:

1. After using feasibility studies, HFHA will explore opening outlets outside the park.
2. HFHA should consider the benefits/disadvantages of locating the Bookstore to another Park building in the Lower Town above flood levels.
3. HFHA will expand its home page to include the capability for Internet sales.
4. HFHA will print a catalog of its merchandise.
5. HFHA will acquire a bookmobile to provide a traveling sales outlet.

Marketing Goal:

To market the HFHA and its products and programs through diverse strategies.

Marketing Objective:

1. Establish a formal and agreed upon marketing action plan whose intent is to expand the influence and income of HFHA. The document would comprise many elements (e.g. product analysis, market analysis, competitor analysis, etc.).

Partnership Goal:

To redefine, formalize, and expand current partnerships and establish new partnerships.

Partnership Objectives:

1. HFHA will meet regularly with the Superintendent of Harpers Ferry NHP, the Su-

perintendent of Mather Training Center, and the Manager of Harpers Ferry Center to provide communication between the HFHA and each of its NPS Partners that will enhance the accomplishment of mutual goals and objectives.

2. HFHA will aggressively pursue Partners whose missions are similar to ours, those who can contribute to the mission of HFHA, and, of course, those who would be recipients of HFHA's largesse.
3. HFHA will develop a public relations kit that will be available to potential Partners. The kit will describe to potential Partners, corporations, and foundations what we think we are all about. The kit will be as elegant as the Association itself and as charming as Harpers Ferry.
4. HFHA will continue to maintain Partnerships with the surrounding communities.

Publications Goal:

To publish a periodic, themed journal.

Publications Objectives:

1. HFHA will establish a prospectus for the publication of journals to include a statement of purpose, title, intended audience, frequency, format, size, production costs, sales price, circulation, and themes for five possible issues.
2. HFHA will publish its first journal to coincide with the John Brown Bi-Centennial.

Services Goal:

To improve services and accessibility by creating a multi-purpose setting with a larger sales area at Cavalier Heights or a suitable off-site location.

Services Objective:

1. HFHA will work with the NPS and state and local tourism agencies to determine the feasibility of constructing a multi-purpose building on Cavalier Heights or in that vicinity which would house a visitor center/sales area/research library/auditorium/conference room.

Membership Goal:

To significantly expand and involve an active membership in the achievement of the goals of the HFHA to increase revenue, rally support for the mission of the park, and to reach a broader audience with educational messages.

Membership Objectives:

1. HFHA will attract new members by way of in-store advertising.
2. HFHA will attract new members through its newsletter and other written information.
3. HFHA will use the Internet to attract new members.
4. HFHA will actively recruit new members from the employees at both the Harpers Ferry Center and Mather Training Center.
5. HFHA will hold an annual membership drive beginning in the Fall of 1999 which targets different geographic areas and groups each year.
6. HFHA will publish a more interactive newsletter.
7. HFHA will provide opportunities for its membership to become actively involved in the Association.

Military Bands Return to Harpers Ferry Park

For those of you who attended last year's concerts, you will be happy to know that they will be repeated this year. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will again host four military band concerts for the enjoyment of the local community and visiting public. The *Saturday Night at the Park* performances are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. at Cavalier Heights Visitor Center on the following dates:

June 13—The U. S. Army Blues Band Concert

July 11—The Air Force Airmen of Note Concert

August 8—The U. S. Navy Band and Sea Chanters

September 12—The Quantico Marine Band

Artist-in-Residence, continued from Page 1

high school English and history classes, and will offer public readings in the Park.

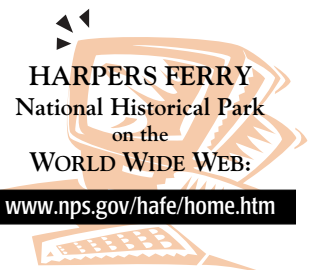
For more information on the Artist-in-Residence program, please contact Judith Mueller at 304-535-6223. The Harpers Ferry Historical Association is providing financial assistance for this program. For those who would like to donate funds to support this budding Artist-in-Residence program, please send your tax-deductible contribution to the Association at P.O. Box 197, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 (please indicate that the donation is for AIR).

Byther Smith Blues Concert

On Friday, May 29 at 8:00 p.m. the Harpers Ferry Historical Association, Jefferson County Branch of the NAACP, and Shepherd College will present *An Evening with Chicago Blues Legend Byther Smith with 2Blue Ensemble* at the Storer Ballroom, Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Advanced tickets may be purchased by calling the Association at (304) 535-6881 (from Berkeley and Jefferson Counties) or 1-800-821-5206 (from all other areas). Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and children. Tickets will be \$15 at the door.

Concert proceeds support public education and interpretation of African-American history at Harpers Ferry NHP.



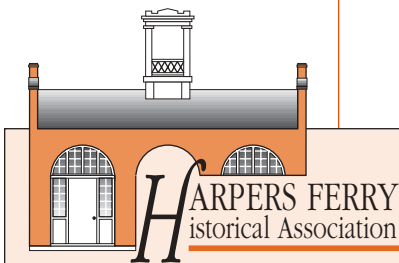
The Harpers Ferry Historical Association operates the National Park Bookshop in Lower Town Harpers Ferry. Profits from sales are returned to the park to support interpretive and educational programs to enhance your visit.

You are invited to join this unique organization and be a part of Harpers Ferry's special family. For more information call (304) 535-6881 or send e-mail to: hfha@intrepid.net

Harpers Ferry Historical Association

Post Office Box 197
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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Bulk Rate
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Association Membership

Our membership rolls continue to increase, with members represented at all category levels. This year the category of "contributing member" has been added and has proved a popular one. Patron members who have renewed for 1998 include Jim and Faye Castleman (Martinsburg, W.Va.), Jim and Suzanne Silvia (Taunton, Mass.), and Nancy Myers (Harpers Ferry). A new patron member this year is David Saylor, President of KC Publications (Las Vegas, Nevada).

A reminder to those of you whose membership has expired: please renew your mem-

bership today. *If you have a red check mark on your mailing label, this will be your **last newsletter** until we receive your renewal.* We need and appreciate your support, so please complete the membership form below today!

Recent Donors

The Harpers Ferry Historical Association wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the following recent donors:

Old Line Field Music
Richard Greene
Joe Galliani
Crofton Association of Retired Persons

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Membership Application

I want to join the Harpers Ferry Historical Assn.
Please enroll me in the following member category:

\$10 Basic Member – (includes *The View* newsletter and a 15% discount on all items sold in the Park Bookshop).

\$27 Basic Plus Member – (includes *The View* newsletter and a 15% discount on all items sold in the Park Bookshop, plus a 12-month Harpers Ferry Park entrance pass).

\$50 Contributing Member – (includes *The View* newsletter and a 15% discount on all items sold in the Park Bookshop, plus a 12-month Harpers Ferry Park entrance pass and the *Back to Harpers Ferry* video).

\$100 Patron Member – (includes *The View* newsletter and a 15% discount on all items sold in the Park Bookshop, plus a 12-month Harpers Ferry Park entrance pass, an Association Totebag, and member recognition in our newsletter and at our Annual Meeting).

I'm already a member;
please note my new address below.

By notifying us of your change of address, you'll continue to receive this newsletter at your new location.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Please clip and mail to:

Harpers Ferry Historical Association
P.O. Box 197 ■ Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
Phone: (304) 535-6881 ■ Fax: (304) 535-6749