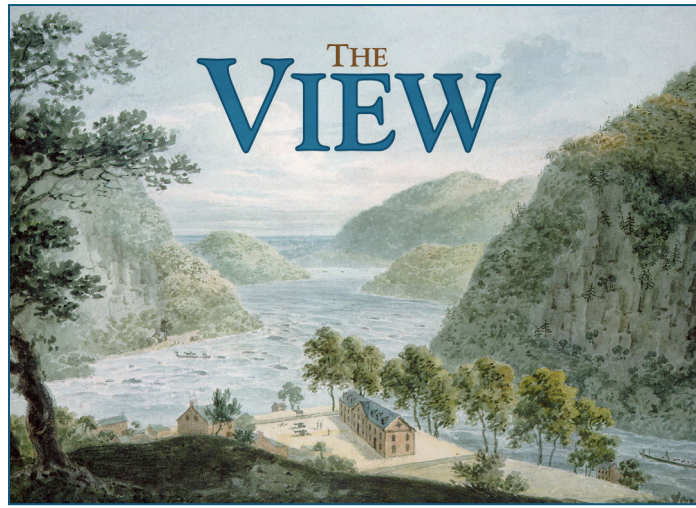


## Spring 2024

**Page 2** - Peregrine Falcon nesting season returns to Harpers Ferry

**Page 5** - Upcoming Park Programs

**Page 6** - Latest Harpers Ferry Park Association book releases



*“Junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah, Virginia,” by William Roberts, dating from 1808-1809. This is one of the oldest known prints of Harpers Ferry. In 1783, Thomas Jefferson declared that this view was “worth a voyage across the Atlantic.” (Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem, North Carolina)*

# Action Fund Grant To Benefit Local Church

When it was built in 1894, the First Zion Baptist Church in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, wasn't just a place of worship. The brick structure at 1030 West Ridge Street also served as an educational facility and important meeting place for the burgeoning African American community near Storer College.

Now, 130 years later, First Zion Church will come back to life as a secular community center thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Action Fund, the largest resource in the United States dedicated to the preservation of African American historic places, has raised over \$90 million in philanthropic funding to help preserve the stories and places of African American achievement, resilience and activism.

“The rehabilitation of First Zion will honor the vibrant and important community of African Americans that settled this neighborhood in Harpers Ferry and built the church with their own hands,” said Ed Wheelless, Chair of Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation.

Foundation Vice Chair Lynn Pechuekonis agreed, adding, “First Zion Church is a perfect physical space, a monument of sorts, in which a private owner like the Foundation can highlight the important role of African Americans in our community.”



Top: Ed Wheelless, Chair of Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation, and Vice Chair Lynn Pechuekonis stand in front of First Zion Baptist Church in Harpers Ferry. Right: Thanks to a recent grant, brick masonry repointing and repair/replacement of damaged bricks will be addressed.



Pending approval from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the funding received will be used to address window restoration, brick replacement and masonry repointing, foundation stone removal, front and rear gable

slate shingle replacement, and sanctuary door fabrication and installation.

Previously, grants from the Corporation of Harpers Ferry and The West Virginia Division of Culture and History (funded by the National Park Service) in addition to private donations helped make possible much-needed repairs to the church roof and guttering.

Concern over two vacant and neglected church buildings on West Ridge Street led to the Foundation's purchase of the church in 2017. Of the two buildings considered, the solid brick and stone construction of First Zion Baptist Church showed greater potential for reuse.

“(Former) Board member Carrie Gauthier did some research and found that the trustees of First Zion were open to selling the property,” said Wheelless. “Since historic preservation is one of the primary missions of the Foundation, the board saw this as an opportunity to take on a ‘brick-and-mortar’ rehabilitation project that would benefit the community.”

First Zion Baptist Church has earned its right to start anew. Through the years it survived financial problems, declining congregation numbers and pastoral changes. The church has mostly

continued on page 3

"THERE ARE NAMES WHICH RING  
LIKE BELLS IN HISTORY, AND  
SHENANDOAH IS ONE OF THEM."

- Julia Davis, *The Shenandoah*, 1945



## Falcons Return To Harpers Ferry

The National Park Service (NPS) will again close areas on the bluffs of Maryland Heights from February 15 through July 31, 2024, so that a pair of returning peregrine falcons have enough space for nesting.

This will be the fourth consecutive year that the falcons have nested at the park.

All trails on Maryland Heights as well as the Union Walls climbing area will remain open. All closed areas will be marked clearly with fencing and signage.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park closures include several rock outcroppings near the overlook and climbing areas including The Gully, Sign Wall and ABC Ramps as well as the Train Tunnel Wall, Sign Wall, and Confederate Walls.

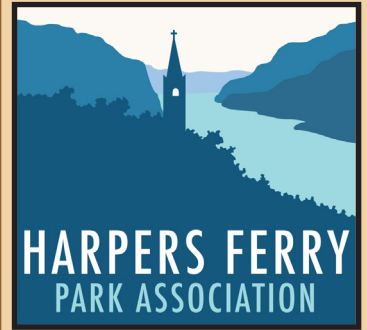
NPS staff suggests that people respect closures so that the peregrine falcons have a safe habitat to breed and nest.

Prior to 2021, Peregrine falcons had not successfully hatched chicks at Maryland Heights in almost 70 years. In 2022, three out of four young falcons survived past the vulnerable newborn phase and successfully fledged, which means that the young birds have developed the feathers that enable them to fly. Last year was another successful year, as all three fledglings successfully took their first flights. Protecting the sensitive species during the nesting phase is important because human interference can result in the loss of eggs or death to the fledgling.

For more information about peregrine falcons at the park, visit <https://www.nps.gov/hafe/learn/nature/peregrine-falcons.htm>.



Two of three peregrine falcons that fledged from Maryland Heights in 2023 perch on a bridge superstructure. *NPS Photo*



*The View* is published by the Harpers Ferry Park Association (HFPA), an Official National Park Cooperating Association that supports the mission of the National Park Service.

The Association operates the Park Bookshop in Harpers Ferry NHP. 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, e-mail us at [info@hfpawv.org](mailto:info@hfpawv.org), or visit our website at [www.harpers-ferryhistory.org](http://www.harpers-ferryhistory.org).

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continued from page 1

sat vacant since it closed its doors for the last time in 2009 after an interfaith revival.

Most people are unaware of the history of the church and its significance.

“From about 1870 to 1970, the environment in Harpers Ferry’s Camp Hill neighborhoods and on into Bolivar was uniquely available for Black families who wanted to own homes on good land, high above the floodwaters, thanks mainly to Storer College,” explained Pechuekonis. “Being close to Storer ensured there were good educational opportunities, from elementary age up, help for people with home ownership early on, and for many decades provided direct and indirect jobs, as well as job training.”

Thanks to the Action Fund’s recent grant, Wheelless believes the project can stand as a tribute to the freedmen who settled the neighborhood and serve to unite the Bolivar and Harpers Ferry communities.

“This important structure will add to the authentic character of our historic district and hopefully bring together residents from the adjoining towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar to build a cohesive community from fellowship and shared experiences,” he said.

“As you know, the National Park owns a lot of land and buildings in Harpers Ferry, including Storer College, and controls the narrative in those spaces,” added Pechuekonis. “Owning this church provides an opportunity for the Foundation both to serve the community with needed public space and to amplify the story of Black heritage that took place outside park boundaries.”

Wheelless, Pechuekonis and the entire Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Town Foundation will host a Community Charrette on May 15, 2024, to hear feedback from residents about how the church facility can best serve local needs within the parameters permitted in a residential district of Harpers Ferry.

Those who cannot attend can share

their ideas by taking a brief online survey in advance of the meeting by going to <https://historicharpersferry.org/event/community-charrette/>.

The Foundation has a number of other initiatives underway including a Black Heritage Walking Tour of Harpers Ferry, an oral history collection, researching and interpreting the little known potter’s field known as Pine Grove Cemetery, and assisting Cedar Hill Cemetery with headstone restoration and new fencing.

Those interested in learning more about the Foundation or volunteering on a project can visit <https://www.historicharpersferry.org> or email [volunteer@historicharpersferry.org](mailto:volunteer@historicharpersferry.org). For more information on The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund visit <https://savingplaces.com>.



Top: Repairs will focus on the church’s stone masonry foundation walls, selective stone repairs and reapplication of parge coat and whitewash. Above: A miniature replica of First Zion Baptist Church, built for raising awareness of the rehabilitation project, sits aboard a parade float. Below: The church’s original flooring is protected while the sanctuary’s double entry doors are fabricated and reinstalled. Original windows and colored glass glazing will also be restored.

**Community Charrette**

**May 15, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Bolivar Community Center, 60 Panama Street, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425**

**(304) 535-2476**



# Upcoming HFPA Programs

## Birds of Prey Hike [Trails Less Traveled]

Saturday, April 13, 2024 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### The Point

Join us for a guided hike to view nesting sites of Osprey, Peregrine Falcons, and Bald Eagles within Harpers Ferry NHP. We'll discuss the nesting and hunting behaviors of these birds and, with luck,



we'll see some of these raptors on or near their nests. This hike is approximately 2 miles and rated easy to moderate with an approximate 200-foot elevation gain. There will be areas of uneven rocky and muddy footing. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and/or a camera with a telephoto lens. Pets welcome.

## Common Threads: A Weaving Workshop Featuring Fibers and Mindful Weaving Techniques

Saturday, April 20, 2024 | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### Lyceum, John Brown Exhibit

This class will offer an informal and fun introduction to weaving. Some of the techniques that will be discussed and taught will include basic tape loom weaving and mindful weaving. Tape looms were used widely in the 18th and 19th centuries by women of all classes to make woven bands of tape for ties and binding.

Workshop participants will get hands-on instruction on the basic techniques of weaving and also weaving on a tape loom. There will be practice looms available for attendee use during the workshop period.

Maximum of 10 Participants

Workshop Fee: \$50.00

## As American as Apple Pie: The Industrial Revolution | Living History Workshop

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### Beehive Oven and White Hall Tavern

Bake your own pie, the 19th century way in a bee-hive oven!

This 6-hour workshop examines the role of locally grown



and harvested apples and foods versus those from long distances. Learn about the town's renewable energies and later dependence on fossil fuels for cooking and heating. **Workshop Fee: \$50.00 per Person.**

## Birds of Virginus Island Hike [Trails Less Traveled]

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 8:00 AM Virginus Island

Meet a birding enthusiast for a bird-watching hike on today's nature-filled Virginus Island.

On trails that weave past factory ruins and canals, see if you can spy a few of the 170 bird species of Harpers Ferry, such as a pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), American goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*), Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*) or great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*).



## Where They Prayed: Walking Tour of the Harpers Ferry Lower Town Churches, Past & Present [Trails Less Traveled]

Saturday, May 11, 2024 | 10:00 AM

### Lower Town Harpers Ferry

Come and take a stroll with two of Harpers Ferry's Certified Park Guides as we discuss early religion in Harpers Ferry and seek out where the residents worshiped in the 19th century. We'll talk about where the churches were as well as the one that is still standing today.

## 1850 Farming in the City | Historic Garden and Seed Sale

May 18 - 19, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Join Harpers Ferry National Historical Park staff and horticulturalist and historic foodways expert Carol Anderson for an Heirloom Kitchen Garden seeds and seedlings sale.

Plants and seeds will be available for purchase in smaller quantities so that visitors can sample the staples of a 19th century backyard kitchen garden in their own homes!

## Art of the Forge: Blacksmith Workshop | Living History Workshop

Saturday, June 8 - Sunday, June 9, 2024 OR Saturday,

June 15 - Sunday, June 16, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### Blacksmith Shop, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Shenandoah Street

Learn this historic trade from professional blacksmith

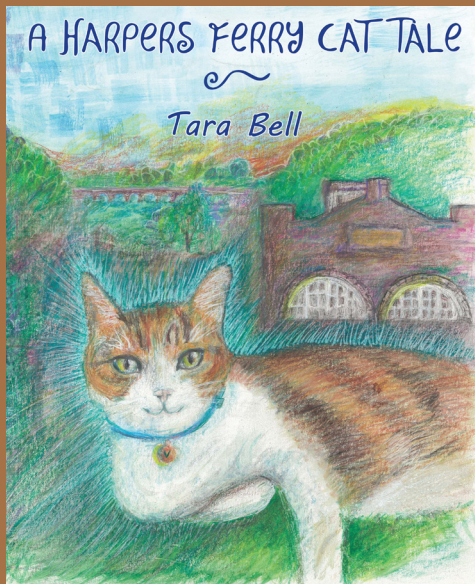
David Dufficy and echo the clang of the hammer on hot iron - just as they did 150 years ago!

**Workshop Fee:**

**\$150.00**

Class Size: Limited to 6 Participants 18 years of age or older.



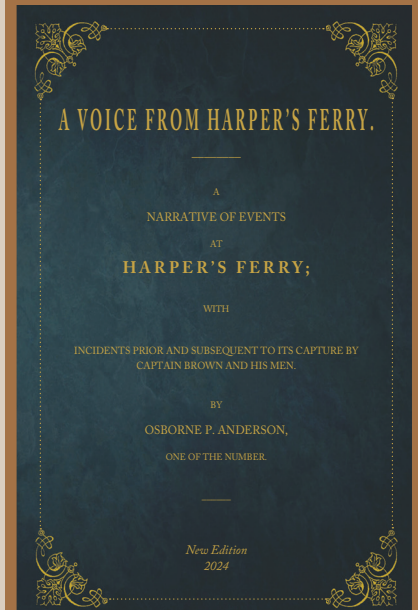


## UNDER FIRE

AN EXPERIENCE IN THE CIVIL WAR



ANNIE P. MARMION



*A Harpers Ferry Cat Tale* is available for preorder. *A Voice from Harper's Ferry* and *Under Fire: An Experience in the Civil War* are available for purchase now in the Harper's Ferry bookshop.

## Check Out The Latest HFPA Book Releases

Harpers Ferry Park Association recently released two new publications—reprints of important firsthand accounts of pivotal moments in the history of Harpers Ferry. Another book, *A Harpers Ferry Cat Tale*, is available for presale!

In *A Voice from Harper's Ferry* (HFPA, 2024) Osborne P. Anderson, one of five Black men who joined John Brown's army, narrates the events before, during, and after the raid.

Anderson, who originally published his words in 1861, was determined to give an accurate, detailed account that documented the bravery of Brown's men.

This edition includes a foreword by park rangers Creighton Waters and Isaac Wickenheiser, and an essay from former *Washington Post* writer Eugene L. Meyer. Meyer is the author of *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army* (Lawrence Hill Books, 2018).

Order by going to: <https://www.harpersferryhistory.org/product/voice-harpers-ferry>.

Annie Marmion was just nine years old at the outbreak of the Civil War.

Daughter of the town doctor, Nicholas Marmion, she kept a journal of her experiences that were later published

by her nephew in 1959. In *Under Fire: An Experience in the Civil War* (HFPA, 2024), Annie's words provide a unique perspective of the hardships civilians endured throughout the war. Can you imagine being a child hiding in a basement while your town is being bombarded?

Both *A Voice from Harper's Ferry* and *Under Fire: An Experience in the Civil War* feature rarely seen watercolors painted by artists commissioned by the National Park Service. Go to <https://www.harpersferryhistory.org/product/under-fire-experience-civil-war> to order.

Children and adults will love following Victoria, a mischievous little kitty, on her adventurous day around Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in *A Harpers Ferry Cat Tale*. What will happen when Victoria makes this national park her playground?

The printing of this book was made possible by a grant from the Nora Roberts Foundation.

Pre-Order *A Harpers Ferry Cat Tale* at <https://www.harpersferryhistory.org/product/pre-order-harpers-ferry-cat-tale>.

# On This Day In Harpers Ferry History

## March

On March 16, 1803, Meriwether Lewis arrived at the United States Armory on a mission from President Jefferson.

Lewis, with William Clark, had been appointed to lead a Corps of Discovery across the continent, exploring the vast western lands recently acquired through the Louisiana Purchase. The armory provided 15 rifles, 15 powder horns, 30 bullet molds, 30 ball screws, extra rifle and musket locks, gunsmith's repair tools, several dozen tomahawks, and 24 large knives.

Lewis also worked with armory engineers to develop a collapsible iron-framed boat that could be transported over land when necessary.

## April

For more than a century, the thirteen acres which comprise Virginius Island bustled with industry.

Enticed by the power of the Shenandoah River, entrepreneurs raised a series of mills and factories, including a grist mill, cotton factory, rifleworks, iron foundry, and blacksmith and wheelwright shops, along with tenement housing for workers. During the Civil War, the island's cotton factory served as a hospital for ill soldiers, and sometimes, as a prison. Though war and floods repeatedly battered the island, enterprising individuals returned again and again to rebuild and repurpose the structures. The flood of 1936, however, coming in the midst of the Great Depression, so deeply devastated Virginius Island that industry was finally silenced. Over time, nature slowly reclaimed the floodplain.



A recently-discovered cabinet card photo shows what is believed to be Phillip Coons' Butcher Shop and Boarding House on Virginius Island following the 1889 flood.

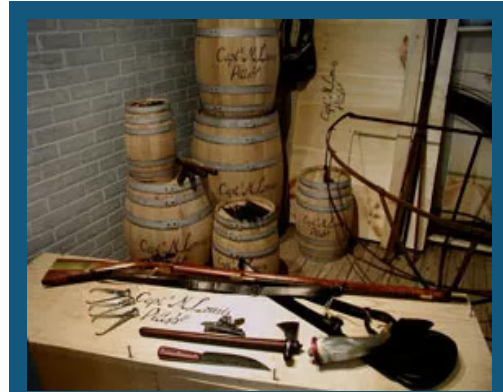


Lieutenant Robert Gould Shaw. *Library of Congress Photo.*

## May

Visiting Harpers Ferry in 1783, Thomas Jefferson was struck so powerfully by the beauty of the gap that he declared the view "worth a journey across the Atlantic." He was not the first to fall in love with the scenery, nor would he be the last.

During the Civil War, Lieutenant Robert Gould Shaw wrote home to his sister enthusiastically: "From the hill which we are on there is a very magnificent view across the river...and the sunsets which we have here are really finer than ours."



## List of Inventory Acquired by Meriwether Lewis at Harpers Ferry

- 15 Rifles
- 24 Pipe Tomahawks
- 36 Pipe Tomahawks for "Indian Presents"
- 24 Large Knives
- 15 Powderhorns and Pouches
- 15 Pairs of Bullet Molds
- 15 Wipers or Gun Worms
- 15 Ball Screws
- 15 Gun Slings
- Extra Parts of Locks and Tools for Repairing Arms
- 40 Fish Giggs
- Collapsible Iron Boat Frame
- 1 Small Grindstone

## Welcome new members!

Bobby Bartett  
Germantown, MD  
Andrea Hall  
Catharpin, VA  
Deborah and Mike Hopkin  
Shenandoah Junction, WV  
Betsy Kravitz  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Kathy Notarfrancesco  
Philadelphia, PA  
Julie Prevratil  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Jane Wilkerson  
Boyce, VA

## NextGen Members

Sarah Baldau  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Gabe Lucas  
Clayton, NC

## Lockwood Members

Joseph F. Andrews III -  
“In Memory of Ranger David  
Larson”  
Rockville, MD  
Rockhaven Bed & Breakfast  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Lysbeth Bainbridge  
Leesburg, VA  
John Barton  
Shepherdstown, WV  
Ryan and Katherine Bauer  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Jason Bell  
Trappe, MD  
Kirk Bradley  
Sanford, NC  
Karl Buchspics  
Willow Grove, PA  
David Cahan  
Lovettsville, VA  
Laura Clark  
Shepherdstown, WV  
Judge Thomas Curtis  
Baltimore, MD  
Peter Dessauer  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Christopher Dove  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Claudia and Matthew Dressler  
Kearneysville, WV

Scot Faulkner  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Andy Jackson  
Ranson, WV  
Michael P. Kalis  
Falls Church, VA  
Annette and Lawrence Keener-  
Farley  
Camp Hill, PA  
Michael Keller  
Clearwater, FL  
Leon Kunkle  
Spring Grove, PA  
Deborah and Lance Martin  
New London, WI  
Donna Mattson  
Golden, CO  
Christian Miles  
Washington, DC  
David Petr  
Street, MD  
Kathleen Pino  
Home, PA  
Bruce Rice  
Carlisle, PA  
Elise Rutherford  
Ranson, WV  
George Rutherford  
Ranson, WV  
Patricia Syrud  
Hillsboro, VA  
Michael Vidmar  
Westminster, MD  
Anne Villanueva  
Halethrope, PA  
Kathleen Winters  
Lorton, VA

## Shenandoah Members

Jeremy Brenneman  
Accident, MD  
Storm DiConstanzo & Gillian  
McPhee  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Bruce Kramer  
Baltimore, MD  
Keith Maxfield  
Medford, OR  
Karan Townsend  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Gayle Underwood  
Fairfield, PA

## Potomac Members

Catherine Baldau  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Rebecca Harriett  
Bluemont, VA  
Jim and Suzanne Silvia  
Taunton, MA

## Benefactor Members

Noah and Hilary Mehrkam  
Washington, DC  
Daniel Wayland  
Hamilton, VA  
Ed Wheelless and Chris Craig  
Harpers Ferry, WV

## Donations Received:

Kelsey Andrews  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Battle Grounds Bakery & Coffee  
Bolivar Bread Bakery  
Paula Degen  
Frederick Douglass Elementary  
School - “In Memory of  
Enrique Del Rio Murtinho”  
Jefferson County Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
River Riders  
Cliff Viaud  
Robert Vierick

### Attention Members!

The Association sends out a monthly e-newsletter and occasional updates on special events happening in the Ferry.

If you are not receiving this and would like to, please send us your email at [info@hfpawv.org](mailto:info@hfpawv.org), or call 304-535-6881.

If you are receiving it, please open it— if it is not read after two or three months it will go to your spam folder.



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**Harpers Ferry Park Association**

Post Office Box 197  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425



*Published for the Members and Friends of the Harpers Ferry Park Association, the official Cooperating Association for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.*

**Support Harpers Ferry National Historical Park!**

To view detailed descriptions of our membership categories and benefits, or to join online, visit [www.harpersferryhistory.org](http://www.harpersferryhistory.org)

**Basic Membership Benefits:** 15% discount on every item in the Park Bookshop; additional members-only sales throughout the year; discount at most national park bookshops around the country; discounted tickets and early registration for our unique fundraisers and educational workshops; subscription to *The View*, our quarterly newsletter; monthly e-newsletter with the most up-to-date information on events at Harpers Ferry; invitation to our Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic.

- I wish to join the Harpers Ferry Park Association (*new member*)
- I wish to renew my membership (*renewal*)

**Please enroll me in the following member category (check one):**

- \$16-\$34 NextGen** – Membership for visitors 16-34. Cost is based entirely on your age. Example: If you are 21, then the cost will be \$21.
- \$35 Peregrine** – Basic Membership.
- \$55 Wayfarer** – Membership for frequent visitors (includes annual pass).
- \$75 Marmion** – Membership for families with children or furbabies.
- \$100 Lockwood** – Supporting Membership with additional benefits.
- \$250 Shenandoah** – Supporting Membership with additional benefits.
- \$500 Potomac** – Supporting Membership with additional benefits.
- \$1,000 Golden Anniversary Benefactor** – Legacy Supporter with special benefits.

- I am not interested in receiving member benefits, but I would like to make a contribution in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to aid the mission of the Harpers Ferry Park Association.
- I am a Charter Member and would like to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Check if this is a new address for you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

**Please clip and mail with check or money order:**

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