



JIM BECKMAN

Certified 2018

Jim Beckman first fell in love with the natural beauty and history of Harpers Ferry approximately twenty-five years ago when visiting the Park as an active duty Army officer. Even though Jim has been a full-time university professor in Florida for the last twenty years, Jim nevertheless continues to spend significant periods of time each year in Harpers Ferry and owns a former Armory worker's home in town that was built in 1847. Jim's background as a full-time university-level educator includes service on the Staff & Faculty of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (1994-1996), an Associate Professor of Government & World Affairs at the University of Tampa (2000-2011), and most recently, as a Professor of Legal Studies at the University of Central Florida (2011-Present). He holds academic degrees from the University of Tampa, Ohio State University and Georgetown University. Jim was also selected as an Artist in Residence for the Harpers Ferry National Park in 2001 and researched Storer College during his Park residency.

During his multiple visits and time at the Park each year, in addition to being passionate about showing and explaining the Park's rich history to others, Jim enjoys using the serene and inspirational Park setting to complete a variety of different research and writing projects. Jim has authored a number of articles about many aspects of Harpers Ferry's history, including multiple publications dealing with diverse topics such as John Brown, Storer College, Uncle Tom's Cabin, the U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry, as well as articles on the Civil War generally. Additionally, one of Jim's six published books tells a pictorial history of Harpers Ferry through the use of 195 vintage photographs and antique postcard images to portray various historical events which occurred in town (Harpers Ferry, Arcadia Publishing 2006).