Tyrone Brandyburg Takes the Helm at Harpers Ferry NHP

The Association is thrilled to welcome Tyrone Brandyburg, a 32-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), as the new superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He was most recently the superintendent of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in North Carolina.

Regional NPS Director Bob Vogel said, “[Brandyburg] has a great reputation as a leader and motivator, and his passion for making history relevant to modern society will support the great work happening at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.”

“I am truly honored to have been selected as the new superintendent and member of the team at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park,” Brandyburg said. “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the talented employees and volunteers to preserve the historic structures, landscapes, collections and views of the site. I look forward to working with the park partners and the community to continue to tell the story of John Brown, Storer College and the 1,000 years of human history in the region.”

Prior to his tenure at Carl Sandburg Home NHS, Brandyburg served six years as superintendent of Moores Creek National Battlefield, NC. He also spent 12 years at Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, AL, where he first worked as a lead interpretive park ranger and museum specialist, and later returned as chief of resource education and interpretation. Additionally, Brandyburg has served as chief ranger at Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy, VA, chief of interpretation at Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, in Topeka, KS, and interpretive ranger in the Sugarlands District of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He began his NPS career in college as a co-op student at Fort Sumter National Monument in Charleston, SC.

Brandyburg received his bachelor’s degree in American history and education from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, SC, and received a master’s degree in American history with an emphasis on African American studies from Alabama State University.

Deborah Piscitelli Receives James V. Murfin Award

Deborah Piscitelli, former Executive Director of the Harpers Ferry Park Association, was honored with the James V. Murfin Award at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Public Lands Alliance in Arlington, Virginia. The award recognizes an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the partnership between the National Park Service and Cooperating Associations. The award was presented to Ms. Piscitelli, who served as the Association’s Executive Director from 1980 to 2016, by Julia Washburn, NPS Associate continued on Page 5
Doug Perks Recognized for Preserving History

Doug Perks, long time Harpers Ferry Park Association board member and historian at the Jefferson County Museum, was recently recognized as a “West Virginia History Hero” by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. The award honors his work through the years in preserving, interpreting, and researching the history of Jefferson County. The West Virginia Division of Culture and History launched its West Virginia History Day at the Legislature through the West Virginia Archives and History Commission in 1997. Each year, three people from across the state are named “West Virginia History Heroes.”

According to Eleanor Finn with the Historic Shepherdstown Commission, Perks was nominated for his dedication to the history of Shepherdstown and Jefferson County. “Even though a lot of people associate [Perks] with Charles Town, he just knows a lot about the whole county,” Finn said. “He taught history at Jefferson High School for many years and I’m sure he was kind and helpful to the students. He is an incredible resource.”

According to Perks, his love affair with history began at a young age. “I got the bug in 1959. I was a Boy Scout, our troop was Troop 42 out of Charles Town Methodist Church. We did volunteer service out of Harpers Ferry during the centennial observance of John Brown’s Raid, so I was there and saw the whole thing. From then on, I was always very interested in the deep history that we have here in Jefferson County,” Perks said. Perks majored in social studies at West Virginia University and returned to the Eastern Panhandle after he graduated to begin his teaching career, which he stayed in until he retired in 2007. He said the plethora of local historic landmarks provided him and his students with many opportunities to learn outside the classroom.


NEW AT THE BOOKSHOP:

Civil War Battlefields: Walking the Trails of History

Walk in the footsteps of history with this stunning new volume that brings more than thirty Civil War battlefields to life. Civil War Battlefields: Walking the Trails of History, is published by Rizzoli, New York, in partnership with the Civil War Trust. The author, David T. Gilbert, is a Harpers Ferry Park Association board member and author of the Walker’s Guide to Harpers Ferry. The book’s Foreword is written by Jeff Shaara, best known for his historical novels about the Civil War, Gods and Generals and The Last Full Measure.

From the “First Battle of Bull Run” to Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Court House, the new book celebrates the history and scenic beauty of these hallowed grounds in a large-format, beautifully produced volume. Explore battlefields from Antietam to Chancellorsville, Gettysburg to Shiloh, including the first five national battlefield parks preserved by veterans in the 1890s. Each battlefield features extensive photos of the key sites and monuments, as well as beautiful landscapes and historic archival photography. The essays enable the reader to understand each battlefield from a strategic perspective—its topography, geography, and military value—and guide the reader on how best to tour the grounds on foot.

The new book is now available in the Park Bookshop (Hardcover | 336 pages | retail $50.00, members $42.50).
Upcoming Storer College Commemorative Events

“Some of these students have a thrilling history from the cradle of slavery to the throne of freedom. One of them came into the school as tall as he is now, began with a primer, and accomplished the work of years in a single winter. With a perseverance that would stagger many young men, he has worked and studied, till he is now a most successful teacher and Christian worker, and is preparing for college with no thought but to press on.” —early Storer College teacher Anne Dudley Bates on student Hamilton Keyes.

They Made a Difference
April 17-21 | 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room
Join a park ranger for special National Park Week programs which will connect Harpers Ferry’s civil rights stories to other national park sites.

The Search for Alexander Morrell
May 7 | 2 pm | Curtis Freewill Baptist Church
Is Reverend Alexander Morrell buried in Harpers Ferry, where he dedicated his life to Storer College? Find out about the search for the good reverend’s final resting place.

From Shackles to Scholars: Discovering New Life Through Education
May 22-29 | Lower Town
A student art exhibition for the Storer College sesquicentennial.

A Landscape Through Time: The Historical Development of Camp Hill
May 27 | 1 to 3 pm | Lower Town, Information Center
Opening reception. This exhibit will explore the historical development of Camp Hill, featuring its early use by the U.S. Armory, during the conflict of the Civil War, then as the campus for Storer College, and, finally, as part of the National Park System today.

A History of “Anniversary Day” at Storer College
May 28 | 2 pm | Camp Hill
Walk the grounds of Storer College with a park ranger to trace the steps of the students, teachers, and trustees of the school and learn how they celebrated graduation.

16th Annual Don Redman Jazz Heritage Awards and Concert
June 24 | 6 pm | Camp Hill, Mather Training Center Lawn
The event and concert commemorate Don Redman, the internationally acclaimed 1920 graduate of Storer College, and concert features special guests and the 2017 Honorees, Barry Harris and Rufus Reid, along with the Howard Burns Quartet. The program will also feature music by the 2017 Don Redman Next Generation Jazz Scholars.

For Freedom and Dignity: Voices from Storer College
July 22 | 7 pm | Meet outside Mather Training Center
Join park rangers and explore the rich history of Storer College. Proper footwear encouraged. Approximately 1/2 mile of walking involved during this 1.5 hour program.

Niagara Movement Pilgrimage to John Brown’s Fort
August 20 | 8 am | Murphy-Chambers Farm and Curtis Freewill Baptist Church
Retrace the footsteps of the men and women of Niagara during this commemorative walk to the site of John Brown’s Fort in 1906. A 10am memorial service will follow at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church.

Revelations in Research, Storer College Edition
September 16 | 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room
How do park rangers know the history of Storer College? Join rangers for a presentation about how they conduct research and what they have found concerning Storer College.

150th Anniversary Storer College Commemoration
October 6-8 | Time: TBA | Camp Hill
A weekend of special tours, programs, drama, and music will highlight the sesquicentennial of the founding of Storer College. Further details to be announced.

Schedule of Events

Schedule subject to change. Visit the park website for updates: www.nps.gov/hafe.
Recent Donations:
Civil War Dance Foundation
Jane Rissler
Jefferson County NAACP
Leslie McKinney
National Park Foundation
James Silvia
West Virginia Division of Culture and History

Armory Superintendent Members:
Dr. Robert Johnson
Harpers Ferry, WV
Nancy Myers, in Honor of Don Campbell
Harpers Ferry, WV
Jim and Suzanne Silvia
Taunton, MA and Harpers Ferry, WV
Ed Wheeless and Chris Craig
Harpers Ferry, WV

Paymaster Members:
Thomas Burger
Baltimore, MD

Mike Hegarty
Our Lady of Sorrows School
Farmington, MI
Bruce Kramer
Baltimore, MD
John Madigan
Harpers Ferry, WV
Cynthia Mason
Baltimore, MD

Honor and Mrs. Thomas Curtis
and Family
Baltimore, MD
Chris Dove
Harpers Ferry, WV
Kim and Frank Edwards
Edgewood, MD
Scot Faulkner
Harpers Ferry, WV
Patrice Flynn
Harpers Ferry, WV
Cynthia Gayton
Arlington, VA
Todd Gerken
Castle Rock, CO
Karen and Lawrence Goering
St. Louis, MO
Deborah Hale
Harpers Ferry, WV
Rebecca Harriett
Berryville, VA
Ethan Hilgeman
Cumberland, MD
Dan Jimeno and Sarah Shafer
Harpers Ferry, WV

New Photography Workshop Announced

Join former Harpers Ferry NHP artist-in-residence Ron Gaskins and his co-instructor Amanda Haddox on May 27 and 28 for a two-day photography workshop in your beautiful national park! Participants will have the opportunity to shoot various locations in the park including Lower Town, Camp Hill, Bolivar Heights, Virginius Island, and sunset at Jefferson Rock. This will be a hands-on workshop with limited classroom time.

Workshop Fee: $250. Fee does not include travel, breakfast or dinner, lodging, or $10 entry pass into the National Park. (Entry pass is valid for 3 days.) Box lunches will be provided both days. Group rates are available at the Clarion Hotel in Harpers Ferry; 304.535.6302 or www.clarionhotelharpersferry.com. Reservations must be made by April 26 to receive the group rate. Use code “Photographers Training” when making your reservation.

Call 304.535.6881 or visit www.harpersferryhistory.org for detailed information and to register.

Registration closes May 5, 2017. (Minimum of 10 and maximum of 20 participants.) Register today to reserve your spot!

2017 HFPA Workshops

May 27-28
Photography Workshop
June 10-11
The Art of the Forge: A Blacksmith Workshop
October 14
Grand Civic and Military BBQ
Nov. 11-12
African American Influence on Dance
Dec. 2-3
While Visions of Sugar Plums Danced in their Heads

Visit the Workshops page on our website for details: www.harpersferryhistory.org

Did You Know?
We send out a monthly e-newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at the Association, in the Bookshop, and at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. If you are not receiving these, please email us at hfha@earthlink.net and we will make sure you don’t miss any of the wonderful things happening in the park!

Follow us now on Twitter!

@HFParkAssoc
Director of Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers. Ms. Piscitelli’s 36 years of leadership as Executive Director exemplifies the lasting positive impact that the Murfin Award seeks to spotlight.

The Award—inaugurated in 1988—is named for James V. Murfin, the talented and dedicated Servicewide Cooperating Association Coordinator who worked tirelessly to encourage excellence and innovation in the National Park Service Cooperating Association program. Murfin’s groundbreaking ideas included improved bookstore design, effective training programs, and stellar literature offerings—especially in the area of children’s literature. His unparalleled expertise and generosity of spirit made him a revered mentor for many, including Ms. Piscitelli.

From Distress to Success
Before joining the Association in 1980, Ms. Piscitelli spent nearly ten years as an NPS front-line interpreter and supervisor at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. She immediately set to work improving the Association’s finances, designed a new book store, and spearheaded the Association’s move into the historic Stagecoach Inn. Under her inspired leadership, the Association re-focused on its mission of “stewardship through education.”

Prevailing Against Disasters
Ms. Piscitelli’s time at the Association was not without challenges, both natural and economic. Pinched between the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, Harpers Ferry is under constant threat of flooding. During her tenure as executive director, floods severely impacted the Association on three separate occasions: 1985, January 1996, and September 1996. In each instance, water inundated the bookshop. Ms. Piscitelli coordinated dozens of employees and volunteers to move books, equipment, and infrastructure. Additionally, by working closely with park staff, she was able to open a temporary sales area to ensure continued operations.

In addition to floods, the Association has also weathered severe economic recessions over the years. Yet during each downturn Ms. Piscitelli managed the Association with determination and pragmatism, making difficult but necessary decisions that ultimately strengthened the organization.

A Legacy of Business Savvy, Public Service, and Partnership
Ms. Piscitelli displayed an extraordinary ability to identify publications that connected visitors to the park. Her creativity and her passion for Harpers Ferry’s diverse history resulted in twelve unique publications—including three national award winners. Titles such as *The Harpers Ferry Heritage Trail* (1984) imbue the park with meaning for visitors of all backgrounds. She also oversaw the publication of teacher study guides, including the *School House Ridge Elementary Education Study Guide* (1998)—a Civil War program guide for which the Association received an Award of Excellence—and the *Niagara Movement Education Study Guide* (2006), which focused on civil rights and the establishment of the NAACP.

Over the course of Ms. Piscitelli’s tenure, more than $1.8 million in aid to interpretation was donated to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Without the Association’s aid and assistance, the park’s 50th anniversary, centennial, and sesquicentennial special events would have been impossible. She also extended the Association’s partnership outreach by joining with the Civil War Trust and Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to provide books and educational merchandise at their annual meetings.

James V. Murfin
Murfin was a close friend of Ms. Piscitelli. She often consulted with Jim,

*From the Riot and Tumult*, and oversaw its publication, for which the Association received a National Association of Interpreters Publications First Place Award.

Please join us in extending our congratulations to Ms. Piscitelli!
Support Harpers Ferry National Historical Park!

To view detailed descriptions of our membership categories or to join online, please visit www.harpersferryhistory.org

☐ 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):

☐ $25 Armory Worker – Basic membership for a family.
☐ $25 Sarah Jane Foster – An alternative basic membership for educators.
☐ $50 Millwright – For those members who are frequent visitors to the park.
☐ $100 Master Armorer – A supporting membership category.
☐ $250 Paymaster – For businesses, vendors or family donors who wish to contribute to the Association’s mission.
☐ $500 Armory Superintendent – For supporters (individual and corporate) who wish to perpetuate Association and Park education programs.

☐ 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

Phone: (304) 535-6881
Fax: (304) 535-6749
Email: hfha@earthlink.net

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