

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

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Election Day 1860

Travel back in time in Harpers Ferry on Saturday, October 9 as the park presents one of its most popular programs—the historic portrayal of Election Day 1860. Over 150 living history volunteers and park interpreters will explore the turbulent times and issues facing the American electorate on the eve of the Civil War.

By 1860, the Democratic Party had split over the issue of slavery. This political breach produced a victory for the founding Republican Party and their candidate, Abraham Lincoln, resulting in the secession of Southern states. Just one year earlier, in 1859, the town of Harpers Ferry had experienced John Brown's raid to free slaves, giving its citizens a glimpse of the turmoil yet to come.

Throughout the day local electors will be stumping for their candidates with political debates, speeches and rallies. A grand militia muster and parade, a militia competition and a local temperance gathering are

some of the featured activities. Come listen to the issues, participate in political debates, converse with the local electors, and cast *your* ballot. How you vote will determine the future of our nation! Join us for the sights and sounds of the political process of another era. (See *schedule of events below*).



Election Day 1860 Schedule

12:00 noon – “Defenders of Freedom,”

A Grand Militia Muster & Parade

1:30 p.m. – Polls and Campaign Headquarters open to the public

1:30 p.m. – “A Divided Nation Goes to the Polls.” Join Park Ranger Kyle McGrogan for a Special Election Day Program

2:00 p.m. – Election Day Speeches by Andrew Kennedy, Elector for Candidate Bell; Alfred Barbour, Elector for Candidate Stephen Douglas; Thomas Isbell, Elector for Candidate John Breckinridge

2:15 p.m. – “The Four Little Pigs,” A Youth Political Sketch

3:00 p.m. – Militia Competition

3:30 p.m. – “Keep the Wet Vote Away,” Sons of Temperance Rally

4:00 p.m. – Electors Debate

4:30 p.m. – Grand Militia Muster and Parade followed by a ceremonial toast

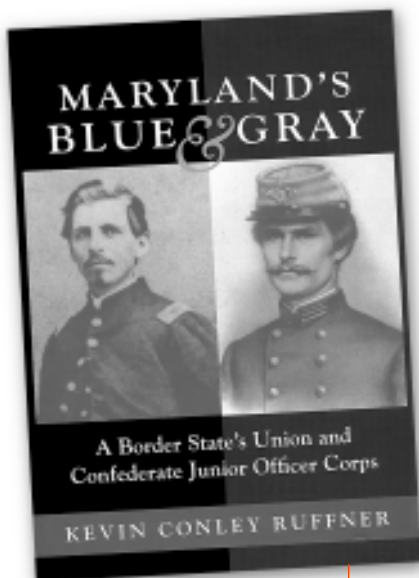
4:45 p.m. – “The People Have Spoken,” Election Results

These events will be held throughout the Lower Town of Harpers Ferry along Shenandoah and High Streets. You may pick up a detailed map for these activities at the Visitor Center or Information Center on the day of the event.

Philip Troll, Elector for Candidate John Breckinridge, greets local militiamen during Election Day 1860 event in Harpers Ferry. (Courtesy National Park Service).

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.”

3rd Annual Author Fest



In conjunction with Election Day 1860, the Harpers Ferry Historical Association will present its 3rd Annual Author Fest with 20-plus authors expected to participate. This event will be held in a festival tent on the green across from the Park Bookshop. This event provides the visitor with an opportunity to converse with scholars on subjects including the Civil War; Harpers Ferry and Shenandoah Valley history; and African-American history.

An informal reception is scheduled for authors and association members from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on the 2nd floor of the Park Bookshop. Also, **Keith Lyndaker** and members of *Jeremiah's Run* will kick off the fest with a performance of six new songs about Harpers Ferry beginning at 10:30 a.m. Keith's new interactive CD, *Village of Convergence*—featuring songs he created while serving as Park artist-in-residence—will be demonstrated in the Bookshop.

Authors will be available to visit with the public and to personalize copies of their books from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1:15 - 3:15 p.m., and 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the festival tent. Please check for additional authors and an updated schedule on the day of the event. Confirmed authors thus far include:

Garry Adelman, *Devil's Den: A History and Guide*.

Greg Coco, *Rebel Humor; Civil War Infantryman: In Camp on the March and In Battle; A Strange & Blighted Land: Gettysburg, the Aftermath of Battle; A Vast Sea of Misery: A History and Guide to the Union and Confederate Field Hospitals at Gettysburg, July 1 - November 20, 1863; Killed in Action; From Ball's Bluff to Gettysburg and Beyond: The Civil War Letters of Pvt. Roland E. Bowen, 15th Mass. Inf. 1861-1864; Wasted Valor: The Confederate Dead at Gettysburg; On the Blood-stained Field I and II; War Stories: 150 Little Known Human Interest Stories of*

the Campaign and Battle of Gettysburg.

Eileen Conklin, *Exile to Sweet Dixie: The Story of Euphemia Goldsborough, Confederate Nurse and Smuggler* (new publication with ties to the Summit Point area of Jefferson County). Also, *Women at Gettysburg, 1863*.

William Frassanito Veteran author of studies of battles through historic photographs. *Early Photography at Gettysburg; Gettysburg, A Journey in Time; Gettysburg Then and Now and Companion; Antietam, A Photographic Legacy of the Bloodiest Day; Grant and Lee: The Virginia Campaigns, 1864 - 1865*.

Dave Gilbert, *Waterpower: Mills, Factories, Machines and Floods at Harpers Ferry, WV 1762 - 1991* (newly published). Also the best-selling *A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*.

Rich Gillespie, "A Perfect Sneering Nest of Rebels", *Leesburg in the Civil War*.

Dr. Joseph Harsh, *Taken at the Flood: Robert E. Lee and Confederate Strategy in the Maryland Campaign of 1862* (a new publication about the Maryland Campaign); *Sounding the Shallows: A Confederate Compendium for the Maryland Campaign of 1862*; and *Confederate Tide Rising: Robert E. Lee and the Making of Southern Strategy, 1861-1862*.

Sherian Hose, *The Genteel Lady: A Woman's Guide to Civil War Reenacting*.

Edith Hemingway and Jacqueline Shields, *Broken Drum* (a children's novel based on real-life Charley King, a 12-year old drummer boy at Antietam).

S. Roger Keller, *Riding with Rosser: Commander of the Confederate Laurel Brigade; Events of the Civil War in Washington County, Maryland; Crossroads: The Civil War in Washington County, Maryland; A Roster of Civil War Soldiers from Washington County, Maryland*.

Juanita Leisch, *Introduction to Civil War Civilians; Who Wore What: Women's Wear, 1861-1865*.

Robert S. Levine, *Martin Delany, Frederick Douglass, and the Politics of Representative Identity*.



Jim Paradis

Patron Members

Dianne Arena, Gettysburg, Pa.
Jim Castleman, Martinsburg, W.Va.
Sylvia Frye, Sharpsburg, Md.
Bruce Hopkins, Purcellville, Va.
Everett Ladd, Arlington, Va.
Mark & Lisa Peaster, Hydetown, Pa.
Jim and Suzanne Silvia, Taunton, Mass.
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Recent Donations

Denny Oakleaf, Edgewood Middle School, Wooster, Ohio
Ralph Lewis, Harpers Ferry, W.Va.
Jim and Suzanne Silvia, Taunton, Mass.
Great American Tour Company, Rapid City, S.D.
Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pa.
Carol Casler, Boise, Idaho

Ralph H. Lewis, *An Historical Sketch of Camp Hill-Wesley Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.*

Mark Nesbitt, *35 Days to Gettysburg: The Campaign Diaries of Two American Enemies; Saber and Scapegoat: J.E.B. Stuart and the Gettysburg Controversy; Through Blood and Fire: Selected Civil War Papers of Major General Joshua Chamberlain; If the South Won Gettysburg; Ghosts of Gettysburg* (4 volumes).

James Paradis, *Strike the Blow for Freedom: The 6th United States Colored Infantry in the Civil War* ("Presents a profound interpretation of African American participation in the Civil War . . ." –Charles L. Blockson).

Mark K. Ragan, *Union and Confederate Submarine Warfare in the Civil War* (Mr. Ragan is a consultant for TNT on the CSS Hunley movie); and *The Hunley: Submarines, Sacrifice, and Success.*

Sarah Sites Rodgers, *Ties of the Past: The Gettysburg Diaries of Salome Myers Stewart, 1854-1922.*

Dr. Kevin Ruffner, *Maryland's Blue & Gray: A Border State's Union and Confederate Junior Officer Corps; 44th Virginia Infantry and 1st Battalion Virginia Infantry, 39th Battalion Virginia Cavalry, 24th Battalion Virginia Partisan Rangers.*

Andrea Sutcliffe, *Touring the Shenandoah Valley Backroads* (released in June).

John M. Taylor, *Duty Faithfully Performed: Robert E. Lee and His Critics; While Cannons Roared: The Civil War Behind the Lines, and Confederate Raider: Raphael Semmes of the Alabama.*

Dean S. Thomas, today's foremost authority on Civil War small arms ammunition. *Roundball to Rimfire: A History of Civil War Small Arms Ammunition; Ready, Aim, Fire: Small Arms Ammunition in the Battle of Gettysburg; Small Arms 1856; Handbook of Civil War Bullets and Cartridges; Civil War Commanders.*



Andrea Sutcliffe

For a complete schedule of author appearances, please call the Association after September 30 at (304) 535-6881, or pick up a schedule when you arrive for the event.

In conjunction with the Author Fest, the association will conduct a **Silent Auction** on Saturday, October 9, in the room adjacent to the Park Bookshop. Among the items available for bid include the highly sought-after framed limited edition print of Mort Kunstler's painting **Southern Stars**, donated by association board members Jim and Suzanne Silvia. The

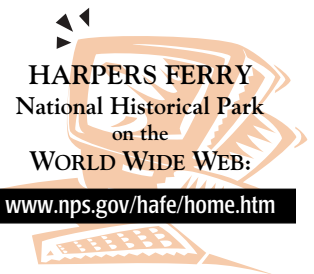
auction will be open for bidding from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Association is currently accepting donations for this event. If you have something you would like to donate, please call us. All proceeds from Author Fest book sales and the Silent Auction benefit Park interpretive programs.

More Fall Author Visits

Other authors visiting the Park Bookshop later this fall include **Clint Johnson**, author of *Touring Virginia's and West Virginia's Civil War Sites* (October 20); and **Earl McElfresh**,

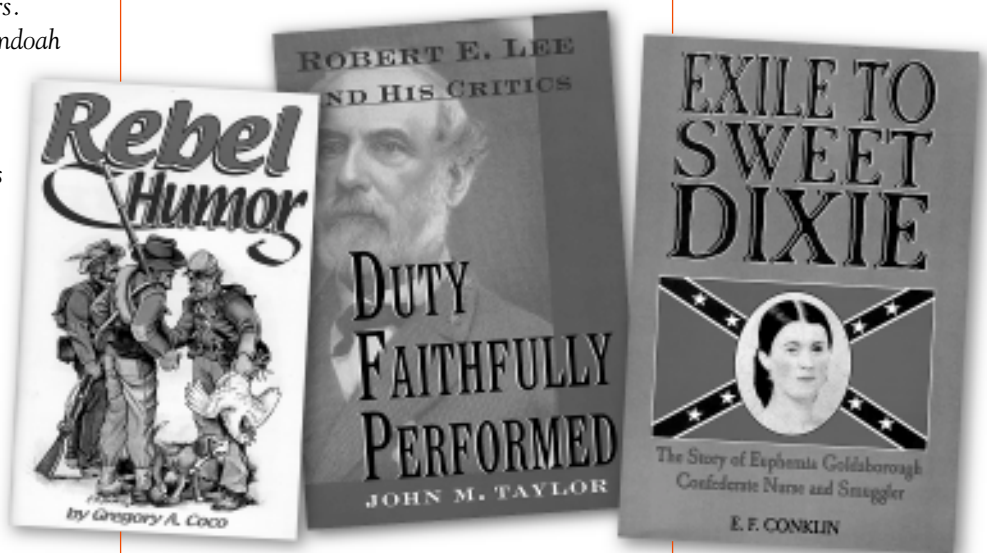
who will introduce his new book, *Maps and Mapmakers of the Civil War* (November 13).

Please call the Park Bookshop at (304) 535-6881 for more information.



A Christmas Gift for Our Members

The Park will hold its annual Christmas event on December 3-5. This year, as a thank you to our members for their support, the Association will hold a special members-only book sale on the second floor of the Bookshop Friday, December 4, from noon until 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 5, from noon until 5:00 p.m. There will be savings from 25%-50% on selected titles. Also, at this time we hope to introduce the new Harpers Ferry CD Rom, *A Place in Time*, for sale to the public. This item, which includes two CDs, is a treasure of old photos and video clips of the Park throughout its history. Please make time to browse through our selections and visit us this holiday season.

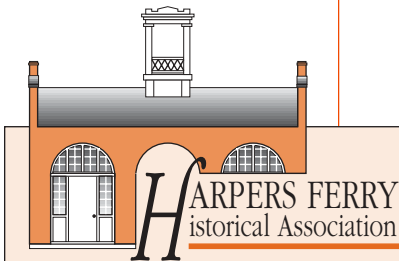


The Harpers Ferry Historical Association operates the National Park Bookshop in Lower Town Harpers Ferry. Profits from sales are returned to the park to support interpretive and educational programs to enhance your visit.

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

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New Publications

The Association has recently published two new books about local history. *An Historical Sketch of Camp Hill-Wesley Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*, researched and written by Ralph H. Lewis over a period of more than ten years, is now complete. This is a detailed study that examines the individual development of the Harpers Ferry Methodist Protestant Church and the John Wesley Church, the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church of Harpers Ferry and their path to merger. These churches were both an integral part of armory and town history.

The 15th edition of Tom Hahn's *C&O Canal Towpath Guide* is now for sale in the Park Bookshop. Donated to the Association by Captain Hahn, this popular publication is a detailed, section by section guide to the canal's rich historical features and recreational opportunities

The Association's next publication, which will be a history of Harpers Ferry in the Civil War, will be published in 2000. Written by historian Dennis Frye, this book will outline the town's role in the War and the effect of the struggle on the town. This full-color publication will be richly illustrated with historic and contemporary photos.

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

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