

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

Fall 2003

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**Keeping Christmas  
Schedule of Events**

**Association Mourns  
Loss of Mrs. June  
Newcomer**

**New Membership  
Categories**

## Association Education Outreach Report

In June 1999, the Harpers Ferry Historical Association adopted a revised strategic plan with education goals for the present as well as future years. The short-term goals included continuing to allocate funds to support Park education programs, providing education programs to area schools, continuing to host Elderhostel programs, and conducting fee-based educational symposia.

Long-term goals are to expand education programs provided to area schools, to present quarterly local history programs, to develop a fee-based education institute and to offer a fee-based guide service.

In July of 2001 the Association hired a full-time education coordinator to begin work on these goals. The following is an update on the progress of the education outreach initiative.



**Expansion of education programs provided to area schools targeting programmatic levels:**

### Teacher Institutes

A one-week workshop focusing on the theme "Harpers Ferry: Power of Place" assisted participants in creating a variety of lesson plans based on the institute themes. Thirty-seven teachers from Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties participated in two institutes.

### "Burr Farm Heritage Days"

Five hundred seventy Jefferson County 4<sup>th</sup> grade students experienced demonstrations and participated in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century heritage crafts during this four-day event. Partners included Jefferson County Schools and Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission.

*Burr Farm Heritage Days,  
May 2003.*

## Walker's Guide Correction

The photograph of the U.S. Musket Factory, c.1859, which appears on page 56 of the 2003 edition of *A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*, is incorrectly credited to Bill Gavin. This photograph should have been credited to Michael Murtaugh, who owns the image and all rights relating to its use. The author sincerely regrets the error.

Mr. Murtaugh points out that this photograph may be the earliest known photograph of the Harpers Ferry Armory, likely taken at or about the time of John Brown's Raid.

—David T. Gilbert

*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."*

Continued on Page 2

## Recent Donations

West Virginia Humanities Council

Charleston, WV

Marilyn Tetzlaff

Pensacola, FL

San Diego Civil War Roundtable

San Diego, CA

Edgewood Middle School

Wooster, OH

Frederick Community College - Institute for Learning in Retirement

Frederick, MD

Karen Willis

Chestertown, MD

*Park Ranger John Powell leads the Storer College History Seminar, April 2003.*



## Association Education Outreach Report – continued from Page 1

### “Prepared For Success” – Storer College History Seminar

This two-day event highlighting the history of Storer College was attended by 200 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. Partners assisting with this program included the Harpers Ferry Alumnae Association, and Berkeley and Jefferson County Schools.

### “Shenandoah and Potomac History Seminar”

This one-day program for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from Jefferson and Berkeley Counties highlights a different park theme each year. One hundred fifty students attended. Jefferson and Berkeley County Schools were partners, and the West Virginia Humanities Council, Bank of Charles Town and Jefferson Security Bank provided funding.

### “Bridging the Watershed”

This curriculum based science program is designed for high school students and is

supported by the National Park Service and the Alice Ferguson Foundation. This year 87 students from area schools participated.

### Presentation of quarterly local history programs:

#### “Education Adventures”

Since 2001, seven “Education Adventures” were presented with 163 participants. Programs included “A History of Black Education in Jefferson County” by the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society, “How and Where to Look It Up—Resources for Researching Jefferson County” by Bill Theriault, “19<sup>th</sup> Century Life—Jewelry and Men’s Clothing” by Suzanne and John Isaacson, “Harpers Ferry Waterpower” by Dave Gilbert, “The Capture, Trial and Execution of Shields Green and John A. Copeland” by the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society, “American Quilt History” by Fawn Valentine, and “A Forensic Examination of John Brown Photographs” by Jean Libby.

In addition, there were five Education Adventures that were cancelled due to low enrollment, inclement weather or the illness of the presenter.

Currently, a fee-based education institute is in the planning stages. Elderhostel programs, which had to be suspended because of inadequate lodging facilities, will resume with programs scheduled in September and October 2004.

In addition, the Association provided cash funding for Park interpretive programs including educational programs associated with the Lewis and Clark commemoration, funds for a replica of the iron-frame boat built for Meriwether Lewis, School House Ridge 5<sup>th</sup> grade Civil War program, training for park interpreters, and lunch storage containers for school groups.

# New Membership Categories

The Association will revise its annual membership categories effective January 1, 2004 with increases at several levels, and the opportunity for members to contribute more to the educational mission of the organization. The increase in the basic level in membership is only the third since the Association's formation 33 years ago. Categories have been given new names reflecting the history of Harpers Ferry. You will receive an explanation of that category name with your welcome packet. All new members and all members renewing in 2004 will receive a Harpers Ferry Historical Association logo lapel pin. Please read the following options to determine which category best fits your desired level of participation.

## **Armory Worker** (formerly *Basic*) – \$25

Basic membership for a family household. **Benefits:** 15% discount on all bookshop purchases, a newsletter subscription, invitations to annual meeting and events.

## **Sarah Jane Foster** (new category; *Sarah Jane was a teacher of freedmen after the Civil War at what would become Storer College*) – \$25

An alternative basic membership for educators. **Benefits:** 15% on all bookshop purchases, a newsletter subscription, open house for teachers, invitations to annual meeting, a discount on programs for teachers, notification of events of interest to educators.

## **Millwright** (formerly *Basic Plus*) – \$45

For those members who are frequent visitors to Harpers Ferry Park. **Benefits:** 15% on all bookshop purchases, a newsletter subscription, invitations to annual meeting and events, 12-month Harpers Ferry Park Pass. **Note:** Effective January 1, 2004 the annual park pass to Harpers Ferry when purchased at the entrance station will increase from \$20 to \$25.

## **Master Armorer** (formerly *Patron Member*) – \$100

For those members who wish to contribute to the Association's mission. **Benefits:** 15% discount on all bookshop purchases, a news-

letter subscription, invitations to annual meeting and events, 12-month Park Pass, changing annual premium, recognition in newsletter and at annual meeting, special tour.

## **Paymaster** (new category) – \$250

For businesses, vendors or family donors who wish to support annual education programs. **Benefits:** 15% discount on all bookshop purchases, a newsletter subscription, invitations to annual meeting and events, invitations to observe and participate in association-sponsored education programs, 12-month Park Pass, changing annual premium, recognition in newsletter and at annual meeting, special tour, additional membership card.

## **Armory Superintendent** (new category) – \$500

For supporters (individual and corporate) who wish to perpetuate Association and Park education and interpretive activities. **Benefits:** 15% discount on all bookshop purchases, a newsletter subscription, invitations to annual meeting and events, changing annual premium, recognition in newsletter and at annual meeting, special tour, National Park Pass (allows free entrance to all National Parks) for individuals/display plaque for corporations or businesses.

In addition to the tangible benefits of membership, members have the satisfaction of knowing that they are contributing to the continuation of education programs that will instill the importance of Harpers Ferry's history in future generations, who in turn will perpetuate stewardship of the park and its unique stories for years to come.

**Note:** Most cooperating associations in other national parks will honor our card for a discount on your purchases at their shops. Each association individually determines what that reciprocal discount is. Most will offer 10-15%. It is important you show your card and ask about the discount *before* you make your purchase.

## **Patron Members**

Allison Alsdorf  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Bill Bradberry  
Lake Worth, FL  
Kirk Bradley  
Sanford, NC  
Dorothy Brown  
Estero, FL  
James Castleman  
Martinsburg, WV  
Suzanne Doggett & George  
Guessford  
Alexandria, VA  
Dr. James Ebeling  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Dr. Robert Johnson  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Elizabeth Kettler  
Adamstown, MD  
Everett & Antigone Ladd  
Gettysburg, PA  
Jean Libby  
Palo Alto, CA  
Carlos Lleguer  
Herlong, CA  
Cynthia Mason  
Baltimore, MD  
Nancy Myers  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Dr. Steven Nichols  
Shenandoah Junction,  
WV  
Linda Parks  
Washington, DC  
Suzanne & Jim Silvia  
Taunton, MA  
Thomas D. Rose, Jr.  
Baltimore, MD



# Keeping Christmas



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park invites the public to this year's holiday program, *Keeping Christmas*, on December 13 and 14. Come stroll the streets and observe pre-Civil War Yuletide celebrations.

Contrast how drastically different the holiday was in 1860 as compared to our present-day celebrations. Typical 19th century period decorations included modest evergreen swags on lampposts, small sprigs of holly on windowpanes, and a few simply decorated Christmas trees. Catch a glimpse of Christmas past.

*Keeping Christmas* will present exhibits and activities that paint a portrait of a Harpers Ferry of long ago. "Christmas Past, 1858" will feature the story of Isaac and Sarah Gilbert, two Harpers Ferry slaves and their struggle for freedom. "Christmas Present, 1860" will showcase the park's historic exhibits and a weapon's demonstra-

tion, "From Citizen to Soldier: America Spirals Towards War." "Christmas Future, 1864" will share the story of Mrs. Stipes' Boarding House and the Yankee soldiers occupying the town in that year.

Special attractions include "Doctor Murdock's Traveling Medicinal Extravaganza & Drollery", a 19th century puppet and magic show presented by Virginia-based "Historical Diversions" Old Time Street Entertainers; "The Bog Wanderers Ceili Band" presenting Irish ballads, Christmas carols and instrumental medleys of spirited jigs, reels and hornpipes; a ranger-guided lantern-lit walking tour "The Spirit of Christmas: Past, Present and Future." Space is limited for this Saturday tour, so reserve your free ticket by calling 304-535-6298. Saturday evening visitors can enjoy a Victorian shadow show, "How the Yankees Stole Santa Claus."

## Schedule of Events

### Saturday, December 13

**8 a.m.-9 p.m.** – Visitor Center and Information Center open.

**12 noon-9 p.m.** – Historic exhibits open.

**12 noon-2 p.m.** – "Decking the Halls: Ornaments for the Tree" – Make and take a

19th century style ornament. Experience the new fashionable 1850s parlor decoration – a Christmas tree. (Lyceum Tent).

**1-2 p.m.** – "The Perfect Gift: Christmas 1859" – What did the people of Harpers Ferry consider appropriate gifts for this Yuletide? (Lyceum Tent).

**2-3 p.m.** – "From Citizen to Soldier: America Spirals Towards War" – In the wake of John Brown's Raid, the militia of the North and South became the Union and Confederate armies. Both armies struggled in Harpers Ferry for four years. Experience the motivations, weapons, and the drill of the citizens who became soldiers. (Lyceum Tent).

**3-4 p.m.** – "Belly Guts Taffy: Awful Name, Great Candy" – Join Confectioner Carol Anderson for this 19th century Yuletide

treats demonstration at Stipes' Boarding House.

**4-5 p.m.** – "Ho For Christmas: Music for the Yuletide" – Music of the Emerald Isle. Join the Bog Wanderers for a musical and dance performance. (Lyceum Tent).

**5-6 p.m.** – "The Spirit of Christmas: Past Present and Future" – Take a compelling journey through the lives of the town's inhabitants as shared by 19th century Irish bard and historian, Joseph Barry. Space is limited. Reserve your free ticket at the Shenandoah Street Information Center or by calling 304-535-6298. (Lyceum Tent).

**6:30 p.m.** – "How the Yankees Stole Santa Claus" – An optical journey through American's stormy past. A Victorian shadow show for children of all ages. (Lyceum Tent).

**8:00 p.m.** – "Doctor Murdock's Traveling Medicinal Extravaganza & Drollery" – A 19th century puppet and magic performance. (Lyceum Tent).

### Sunday, December 14

**8 a.m.-5 p.m.** – Information Center, Visitor Center, and Park Museums open.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Harpers Ferry Websites

Harpers Ferry Historical Association  
[www.HarpersFerryHistory.org](http://www.HarpersFerryHistory.org)

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
[www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe)

## Gilbert Honored for Service

At the Association's Annual Meeting and "Birthday Party" held in July 2003, long time Association member and former Board member Dave Gilbert was honored with a surprise presentation for his many years of service to the Association. In addition to marking the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of *A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry*, the Association recounted Dave's many accomplishments for the organization, including his other book, *Waterpower*, creation of the Association's logo, and design of the park's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative program. He also wrote the "School House Ridge Study Guide" for Jefferson County fifth grade teachers, and maintains both the Park and Association websites. Dave's most recent design assistance contributed to the success of the "Meriwether Lewis at Harpers Ferry" commemorative event this past March.

For his continuing generosity, the Association presented Dave with commemorative items related to the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and will fund his participation in the Association of Partners for Public Lands Conference in St. Louis in 2004.

## June Newcomer is Missed

On October 6, 2003, Mrs. June H. Newcomer passed away. She was 87 years old and spent many of those years doing things for others. A talented, hardworking businesswoman, she and her husband John founded the Cliffside Inn in 1939, and operated it until their retirement in 1982. She enjoyed volunteering her time to many community organizations and charities throughout her life.

She was a long-time member of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association, and served as Treasurer of the Board of Directors in recent years. June, who knew Garnet Jex personally, was instrumental in preparing and presenting the Jex Art Reception held in honor of the Park's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1996. Her kindness, humor, and wisdom will be greatly missed by fellow Board members and Association staff.

The Association is making plans to offer an annual park internship in memory of Mrs. Newcomer and her service to the community, the National Park Service, and the Association.



June Newcomer

---

### Keeping Christmas Schedule of Events – continued from Page 4

**11 a.m.-4 p.m.** – Historic exhibits open.

**12 noon-1 p.m.** – "The Perfect Gift: Christmas 1859" – What did the people of Harpers Ferry consider appropriate gifts for this Yuletide?" (Lyceum Tent).

**1-2 p.m.** – "Ho for Christmas" – Carolers, sometimes called ballad mongers, strolled the streets in America tempting pedestrians to purchase sheet music of carols. Join the "Victorian Parlor Ensemble" to hear the roots of our American holiday traditions.

**1-2 p.m.** – "Edible Pictures: the Art of Springerle" – Join us in Roeder's 19th century kitchen to bake and decorate this unique German cookie for your Christmas tree.

**2-3 p.m.** – "From Citizen to Soldier: America Spirals Towards War" – In the

wake of John Brown's Raid, the militia of the North and South became the Union and Confederate armies. Both armies struggled in Harpers Ferry for four years. Experience the motivations, weapons and the drill of the citizens who became soldiers. (Lyceum Tent).

**3-4 p.m.** – "Belly Guts Taffy: Awful Name, Great Candy" – Join Confectioner Carol Anderson for this 19th century Yuletide treats demonstration at Stipes' Boarding House.

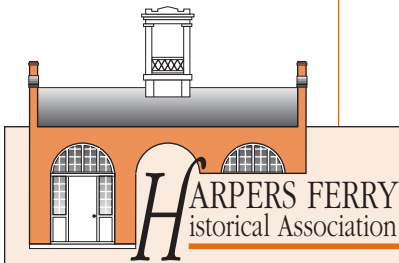
**3-4 p.m.** – "Ho for Christmas" – Carolers, sometimes called ballad mongers, strolled the streets in America tempting pedestrians to purchase sheet music of carols. Join the "Victorian Parlor Ensemble" to hear the roots of our American holiday traditions.

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
25425  
Permit No. 12



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Deborah K. Piscitelli

**EDITOR**  
David T. Gilbert

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Jim Silvia, *President*  
Jim Castleman, *Vice-President*  
Heather Morgan, *Secretary*  
Wayne Welty, *Treasurer*  
Bruce Hopkins  
Anne Long  
Allan Montgomery  
Suzanne Silvia

## Hadden Print Donated

Through the generosity of Charles Town resident Mr. D. C. (Doug) Fargo, the Association will be raffling a copy of the print "Good Lord! He's Just a Lad." Mr. Fargo, a member of the Charles Town Kiwanis Club, responded to a request for a donation for the Association's education outreach programs by donating this print by artist Stan Hadden. All proceeds from the raffle will be used to support Association education programs for boys and girls in the Eastern Panhandle.

Signed and dated by the artist, the art depicts Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson on horseback leaving the grounds of the U. S. Armory in Harpers Ferry. Mr. Hadden is a self-taught artist who, in his own words, "push(es) the paint around until I like the result." He describes his style as "Red Blooded American Art." Collectors in at least 25 states own his work. Mr. Hadden served his country in both World War II and the Korean War as a decorated member of the USMC. A former printer, Mr. Hadden and his wife Ruth

until recently operated the *Red Bull* antiques shop in Bolivar.

Chances on the print are \$1 each, or 7 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased in the Bookshop on Shenandoah Street in Harpers Ferry Park, or you may call the Association (304-535-6881) to arrange for purchase. The drawing for the winner of the print will be held at the Association's first Education Adventure in February 2004. You do not have to be present to win. Please take this opportunity to support Association education programs for local youth.

