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of the Harpers Ferry
Historical Association

Fall 2004

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The thick, green canopy stretched overhead, providing at least some shelter from strong winds, blistering sun and drenching rains; protecting the five young people and their leader as they sawed, whacked, chopped and dug their way through the dense jungle of weeds, saplings and vines that had reclaimed this spot. The work was hard. A test of physical strength and endurance, it was also something more—a test of commitment, a commitment to completing a job they had started. The work was important, although they may not have thought about that during the dirt and sweat-filled days. It was important. Day by day more of the ground below was uncovered—an uneven surface, an occasional brick here and there, bumps in the dirt to the untrained eye. Inch by inch and blister by blister, the outlines of history were revealed—the foundations of the United States Armory.

Members of the West Virginia Citizens' Conservation Corps completed this Her-



culean task, learning that the work of history is not always confined to books. Their work, phase one of the study of the U.S.

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Outline of foundations of armory buildings as they appeared in 1931.

What's New at Harpers Ferry Park?

If you haven't visited Harpers Ferry National Historical Park recently or have only driven through the town without stopping, you may be missing some of the new programs and activities that have taken place this summer. Living history has played a big role in summer interpretation, and the streets have been full of interpreters, volunteers, interns, and YCC students in period clothing. Many of the exhibits in the Lower Town will be open throughout the fall months.

There are new trails to hike, and work being done by the WVCCC to prepare the way for historical studies. This fall there will be orientation talks and interpretive tours offered daily. In addition, Election Day 1860 will be presented in the park on October 9; a Civil War weekend will be held the first weekend in November; and an 1864 Yuletide will be re-created December 11 and 12. Check out the detailed schedule of fall events on pages 3 and 4 in this newsletter to help plan your trip to Harpers Ferry.

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."



**The Armory Revealed: A Herculean Task
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Armory grounds, literally cleared the way for historians and archeologists to study the site over the next several years. “The efforts of the WVCCC have really moved us forward,” said Park Superintendent Donald Campbell. “We would not be at this point in the Armory project if it hadn’t been for them. I congratulate them on a job well done.”

– Marsha Wassel

Members of the WVCCC (left to right): Teezar Taylor, Aaron Edwards, Nerissa Ford, Terron Doswell, Lamar Patterson, and group leader Richard L. Gladden. (Photo by Marsha Wassel)

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Membership Application

- I wish to join the Harpers Ferry Historical 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 household. Benefits include newsletter subscription, 15% discount on all bookshop purchases, a lapel pin, and invitations to annual meeting and events.
- \$25 Sarah Jane Foster** – An alternative basic membership for educators. Benefits include the above plus open house for teachers and discounts on programs for teachers.
- \$45 Millwright** – For those members who are frequent visitors to the park. Benefits are the same as Armory Worker category plus a 12-month Harpers Ferry Park entrance pass.
- \$100 Master Armorer** – A supporting membership category. Includes all benefits of the Millwright category plus a “My Home Towne” replica of the John G. Wilson Building (bookshop), member recognition in our newsletter and at our annual meeting, and a special tour.
- \$250 Paymaster** – For businesses, vendors or family donors who wish to contribute to the Association’s mission. Benefits include 15% discount on all bookshop purchases; a newsletter subscription; lapel pin; invitations to annual meetings, events, and association-sponsored education programs; a 12-month park pass; “My Home Towne” replica; recognition in newsletter and at annual meeting; special tour; and additional membership card.
- \$500 Armory Superintendent** – For supporters (individual and corporate) who wish to perpetuate Association and Park education programs. Benefits include 15% discount on all bookshop purchases, a newsletter subscription, lapel pins, invitations to annual meeting, events, and education programs, “My Home Towne” replica, recognition in the newsletter and at annual meeting, special tour, a National Park pass (for use in all parks) for individuals, and a display plaque for businesses.

- 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 Historical 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

Email

Please clip and mail to:

Harpers Ferry Historical Association
P.O. Box 197
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Toll-free: 1-800-821-5206

Phone: (304) 535-6881

Fax: (304) 535-6749

Email: hfha@earthlink.net

New Teacher's Guides

Watch for new teacher's guides for grades K-12 to begin appearing on the park website this winter. This will be the first time guides based on national curriculum standards, as well as West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland standards have been available for all grades and to cover all park themes.

This work was made possible by a Parks as Classroom grant funded by the National Park Foundation and received by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The Association's curriculum specialist, Doug Perks, completed these many guides working in conjunction with Park education specialist, Catherine Bragaw.

These guides contain everything teachers need to know about bringing their classes to Harpers Ferry Park including reservation forms; content standards and curriculum correlations for each grade and each activity; lesson plans for subjects including physical and historical geography, industrial revolution, John Brown's Raid and the Civil War; freedom and equality; and 18th, 19th, and 20th century America. Pre-and post-visit activities are suggested and a variety of teacher's resources are included.

Currently the education division of the park is gathering the necessary items needed

for students to complete the activities during their school visit. Lesson plans will be available on line as items are acquired. For more information, call Catherine Bragaw at 304-535-6283.

Take a Hike

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is inviting you to take a hike and discover one of the newest trails in the park—the Murphy Farm Trail. Covering about two miles, this trail begins at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center, crosses Shoreline Drive, and winds its way through the woods and open farm fields to one of the most beautiful overlooks in the park. Will you be able to find an old road hidden under the bridge? What kind of wildlife will you see and hear?

Keep your eyes and ears open. You don't want to miss a thing. With each step, you'll be walking into history. To help you discover this aspect of the farm, a new brochure is now available at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center and the Lower Town Information Center. The brochure, *From Civil War to Civil Rights*, includes six stops that reveal the history of this special place. Find out why it's called home, farm, battlefield, and shrine.

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Harpers Ferry Park Announces 2004 Fall Tour Schedule

Harpers Ferry NHP is pleased to announce its 2004 Fall Tour Schedule of ranger-guided programs. For additional information call the Information Center at 304-535-6029.

Tours starting at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center

Harpers Ferry Today – Join a park ranger for an orientation talk that highlights what to see and do in the park. This program is offered daily at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 throughout September and October. *10 minutes.*

Civil War to Civil Rights – Join a tour that explores sites where the conflicts of Civil War and Civil Rights came together. This

program is offered Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 in September and daily at 2:00 in October. *60 minutes.*

Tours starting in the Lower Town District

Harpers Ferry: A Place in History – Explore the diverse history that made Harpers Ferry famous. This program is offered daily at 11:00 and 2:00 throughout September and October. *45 minutes.*

Journey to Freedom – Interactive program for children and adults about the struggle for human rights. This program is offered at 11:30 and 1:30 on Saturdays and Sundays in September. *45 minutes.*

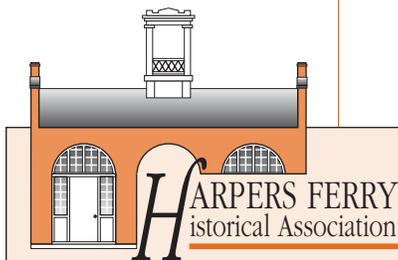
The Harpers Ferry Historical Association operates the National Park Bookshop in Lower Town Harpers Ferry. Profits from sales are returned to the park to support interpretive and educational programs to enhance your visit.

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@earthlink.net

Harpers Ferry Historical Association

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Upcoming Park Events

Visit Harpers Ferry on October 9 to experience a re-creation of the ***Election of 1860 & John Brown's Legacy***. John Brown's Raid further polarized slavery and anti-slavery factions, including national political parties, and influenced the presidential election held on November 6, 1860. To the slave owner, Brown represented a murderer, a northerner interfering in southern issues. From the anti-slavery supporters, Brown had received admiration, martyrdom, and sainthood. This living history program will share these diverse viewpoints with park visitors. Turn off the current political coverage on television for a while and step back in time to discover the issues facing the nation on the eve of civil war.

The day's activities will feature state militia and camp; re-enactors portraying local and national reaction to John Brown's Raid; voting polls at the Dry Goods Store where visitors may cast their ballot; military parades and muster; musical presentations; a children's program; displays illustrating the social, economic, cultural and political divisions that permeated the national scene; and a guided tour. Events begin at noon.

On the weekend of November 6-7, ***Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862*** will be presented. This program will

interpret the 1862 siege and the surrender of the Union garrison to southern forces led by General Stonewall Jackson. Artillery firing demonstrations are scheduled.

Harpers Ferry Park will celebrate the Christmas season with ***Prospects of Peace: A Soldier's Prayer*** on December 11 and 12. This special program will focus on Yuletide 1864 when Harpers Ferry soldiers attempted to create their own version of Christmas on the battle front. Programs and activities will feature local citizens and soldiers preparing for the Yuletide, a Civil War era Santa dispersing presents to the soldiers, a Victorian Cotillion, Yuletide confections, and special guided walking tours.

Living History Exhibits September-October Schedule

Blacksmith Shop – Open 10-5 on Saturday and Sunday.

Dry Goods Store – Open 10-5 on Saturday and Sunday and 10-3 Monday through Friday.

Provost Marshal Office – Open 10-5 on Saturday and Sunday and 10-3 Monday through Friday.