

Published for the
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Historical Association

Fall 2005

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**Panel Discussion On October 16
Terrible Swift Sword: The Legacy Of John Brown**

 On Sunday, October 16 at 1:00 p.m. the Harpers Ferry Historical Association will host a panel discussion on the Green across from the Bookshop on Shenandoah St. Participants include contributors to *Terrible Swift Sword: The Legacy of John Brown*, published by Ohio University Press and edited by Peggy Russo and Paul Finkelman. This collection of essays presents various perspectives on one of the most debated figures in American history, abolitionist John Brown.

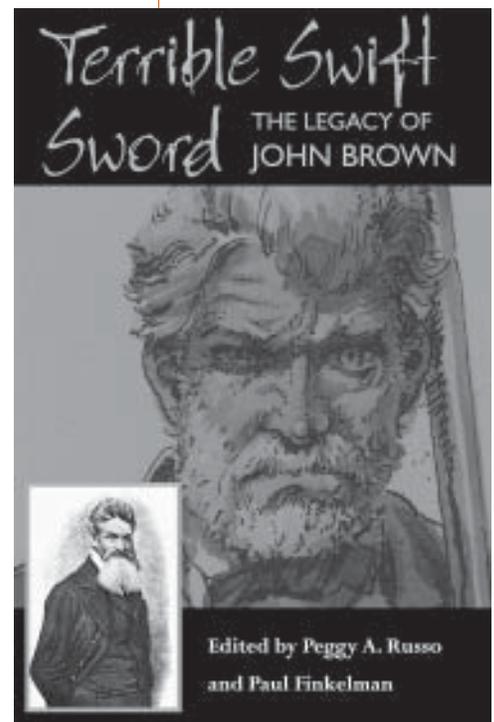
Contributors to the book discuss reasons why Brown's contemporaries supported him, and examine the iconography and mythology that surround his legacy. These authors attempt to define Brown using an interdisciplinary approach to discuss his ideology and actions. Through prisms of history, literature, psychology, criminal justice, oral history, African American studies, political science, film studies, and anthropology, *Terrible Swift Sword* offers insights not only into Brown's controversial character and motives, but also into the nature of a troubled society before and after the Civil War.

The following scholars will be appearing in the panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Russo:

- Peggy Russo, assistant professor English at the Mont Alto campus of Pennsylvania State University, received her Ph. D. from the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on theater history. She is published in the *Shakespeare Bulletin*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, *Journal of American Culture* and *Shakespeare in the Classroom*.

- Paul Finkelman is Chapman Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa College of Law. He is the author of many publications including *His Soul Goes Marching On: Responses to John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid* (1995), a History Book Club selection and *Slavery and Founders: Race and Liberty in the Age of Jefferson* (2001).
- Kenneth R. Carroll received the baccalaureate in psychology from the University of Chicago in 1974 and the doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of South Carolina in 1981. He lives and practices in Swarthmore, PA.
- Hannah Geffert is a graduate of Temple University and research assistant professor in political science at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV. She is a contributor to *John Brown Mysteries* (1999), and recent journal articles include "Rediscovering the Past: John Brown, Words, and Artifacts" (2001) published in *Columbiad*.
- James N. Gilbert holds a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is currently a professor and former chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska, Kearney. He has authored numerous texts, book chapters and articles relat-

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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."

Recent Donations

Dennis F. Kelly
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Jo (Kuhn) Curtis in memory
of Jim Kuhn
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Harpers Ferry, WV

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- ing to the investigative process, terrorism, literature and crime.
- Dean Grodzins is associate professor of history at Meadville Lombard Theological School. He is the author of *American Heretic: Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism* (2002), and editor of the *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History* since 1995.
 - William Keeney is an English teacher and director of professional development at Delaware Valley Friends School. He was educated at Columbia University and Boston University. An expert in adolescent literacy and an independent scholar and poet, he pre-

sents nationally on reading instruction for secondary students.

- Jean Libby is a retired community college instructor of U. S. and African American history in northern California. She has published extensively on John Brown, including articles in *Americana Magazine*, *The Californians*, and *The Daguerreian Annual*. She is the editor and primary author of *John Brown Mysteries* and the producer of the video *Mean to Be Free: John Brown's Black Nation Campaign*.

Also contributing to this publication, but not able to appear include Paul Shackel, professor of anthropology at the University
continued on next page

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 a newsletter subscription, a 15% discount on all bookshop purchases, a vinyl decal, 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 Brown Fort, 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; vinyl decal; 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, vinyl decals, 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

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Address

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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



Fred Morsell discusses Niagara member Rev. Reverdy C. Ransom with the teacher institute participants.

Teacher Institute

Harpers Ferry Historical Association, in conjunction with the Park, sponsored a Teacher Institute in June. This program is part of the process for developing the educator's guide "Cornerstone of the Modern Civil Rights Era: The 1906 Niagara Movement at Harpers Ferry." The guide is being developed for grades K-12 with the support of a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council. The final product will be in CD Rom format, and will also be available for teachers on the website.

At the institute, Doug Perks led the group of educators through a series of programs to help them understand the significance of Niagara and its role in Harpers Ferry's history. From subject-matter experts

the group learned about the history of Storer College, the men and women who participated in the Niagara Movement, the history of local civil rights activities, and the philosophy of W.E.B. Du Bois. They actively debated the issues that surrounded this historic meeting and the far-reaching consequences. Teachers also tested and experienced activities designed for students and critiqued lesson plans, offering suggestions for improvements that are being incorporated into the content of the guide.

Field testing will begin this fall with teachers and students visiting the Park and using the lesson and activity plans. The final guide will be completed and available by next summer.

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of Maryland and former Harpers Ferry archaeologist; Scott John Hammond, associate professor of political science at James Madison University; Charles J. Holden, assistant professor of history at St. Mary's College of Maryland; Eyal Naveh, professor of history at Tel Aviv University; and Bruce Olds, author of award-winning novel *Raising Holy Hell* (1995).

Also participating in the panel discussion will be Dr. Lou DeCaro, author of *Fire From the Midst of You: A Religious Life of*

John Brown. This work discusses Brown's actions in the context of American religious history.

The public is invited to attend this presentation which is being held on the 146th anniversary of the John Brown Raid. The discussion will last approximately one and one-half hours and will be followed by a question and answer period and book signing. After the book discussion there will also be dramatic presentations portraying Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Please plan to join us for a thought-provoking and enriching afternoon.

Current Master Armorer Members

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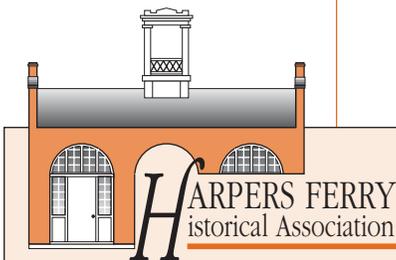
The Harpers Ferry Historical Association operates the National Park Bookshop in Lower Town Harpers Ferry. Profits from sales are returned to the park to support interpretive and educational programs to enhance your visit.

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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Don't Miss the Big Book Sale

If you purchase them, we don't have to move them! Please plan to come to our **Really Big Book Sale** and purchase lots of items. We will make it worth your while. From Wednesday, October 19 through Sunday, October 23 we are offering all our members a *double discount* on all sales over \$10.00. During those dates you will receive not 15%, but 30% discount on your purchases. Take advantage of this opportunity to shop for Christmas, or get that book you have been wanting to add to your library. In addition, we will be having tent sales on weekends during October. Please plan to visit us during this time and lighten our move.

Temporary Move for Bookshop

The Park Bookshop will be packing up for a move to a temporary location at the end of October. Fortunately this time it isn't flood waters chasing us out! The building we occupy and the building adjacent to us are scheduled for rehabilitation to replace heating and air conditioning systems, solve drainage problems and to install a handicapped restroom.

In addition, our structure will be getting some added support for all our heavy books, a fire suppression system and improved lighting.

Our shop will be moving to the location of the previous special Lewis and Clark Shop. This building sits just beyond the Stone Steps in the first block on High St. We plan to return to our present location in March of 2006. We will continue to offer items for sale at our Cavalier Heights location as well as on High Street until our current building is complete. We hope you will plan to visit us in our new location.

Donations for Niagara Centennial 2006

- West Virginia State Conference NAACP Branches to sponsor Dr. Benjamin Hooks
- Stephen T. Mather Training Center to sponsor Dr. David Levering Lewis
- Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society, Jefferson County, WV
- Jefferson County Chapter, NAACP, Jefferson County, WV

Harpers Ferry Websites

Harpers Ferry Historical Association
www.HarpersFerryHistory.org

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
www.nps.gov/hafe