

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

Fall 2014



Civil War Sesquicentennial Special Event

“Thunder in the Valley: Sheridan’s
1864 Valley Campaign”
September 27 & 28, 2014

Today visitors may find Harpers Ferry a quaint, sleepy town, but 150 years ago, it was a bustling military district, crowded with soldiers and civilians tasked with helping to bring the Civil War to an end.

Union General Philip Sheridan—hand-picked by Gen. U.S. Grant—arrived at Harpers Ferry on August 6, 1864, and established his headquarters at the Lockwood House. His orders: “Give the enemy no rest.” Grant’s Shenandoah Valley strategy in the fourth year of the war was to defeat Gen. Jubal Early’s army and destroy the Confederate supply line. “Do all the damage to railroads and crops you can,” he instructed. “Carry off stock of all descriptions, and negroes, so as to prevent further planting.”

Nearly 50,000 Union troops depended on quartermaster, commissary, and ordnance supplies based at Harpers Ferry. The streets were jammed with mules and wagons rotating to and from the front. Hundreds of civilians were hired to support the operation including storekeepers, receiving clerks, blacksmiths, carpenters, saddlers, and veterinary surgeons. Many of the teamsters who drove the wagons were African Americans, aiding in a campaign that the Union hoped would secure Abraham Lincoln’s re-election and ultimately end the war.

Sheridan appointed Virginia native Brigadier Gen. John Dunlop Stevenson to command the newly designated Military District of Harpers Ferry. In addition to

the heavy responsibilities of protecting the railroads, supply base and wagon trains, and thwarting Confederate guerrilla attacks, Stevenson was charged with enforcing martial law. Under his stringent rules, the citizens of Harpers Ferry experienced restricted movement, communication, and commerce. Their town was not under enemy bombardment, but it was one of the most challenging times of the war.

On September 27 and 28, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will hold a special event focusing on Harpers Ferry’s role as a staging ground and supply base during Sheridan’s campaign.

Featured Guests:

On Saturday, September 27, at 1:00 p.m., authors **Daniel Davis** and **Phillip Greenwalt** will be discussing their Emerging Civil War Series book, *Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864* (Savas Beatie, 2014). Enhanced with maps and illustrations, the book shifts attention away from the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia to the campaign that ultimately determined the balance of power across the Eastern Theater.

Daniel is a graduate of Longwood University, with a B.A. in Public History. He has worked as a historian at both Appomattox Court House National Historic Site and at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

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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

American Public University System
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David L. Larsen Memorial Fund Donations

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Thunder in the Valley

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Phillip holds a B.A. in History from Wheeling Jesuit University and a M.A. in American History from George Mason University. He works for the National Park Service at George Washington Birthplace National Monument and Thomas Stone National Historic Site. Previously, he was a historical interpreter at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Both authors regularly speak to Civil War Round Tables and are core contributors to the Emerging Civil War blog (www.emergingcivilwar.com)

Jared Frederick will be leading the activity, "Capture History: Learn to be a Civil War Sketch Artist" on Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28. Jared has been a long-time student of American History, earning his M.A. in History from West Virginia University. Establishing History Matters Publications in 2005, he specializes in historical artwork and writing. Having served as a park ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in the past, he currently serves as a lecturer in History at Penn State Altoona. Read more about Jared at www.historymatters.biz.

Scheduled events:

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. – James Taylor Exhibition – Reproductions of the drawings of Civil War Artist James E. Taylor who recorded Sheridan and the 1864 Valley Campaign for *Franks Leslie's Illustrated Magazine* on display. (Event Tent)

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. – Family/Youth Tent – Practice Civil War drill, complete a scavenger hunt, and win Civil War trading cards. Take a Civil War Selfie, share it on social media, and you could win a prize at civilwarselfies.com. (Family & Youth Tent – Hamilton Street)

10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. – "A Thousand Wagon a Day" – Guided horse and wagon rides every 30 minutes. Tickets available at the Bookshop. (Meet on Hamilton Street)

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. – A Soldier's City 1864 – Living History interpretations throughout the town, including Provost Marshal office "Show Your Pass!" (Lower Town Exhibits)

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Sat.), 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Sun.) – Capture History: Learn to be a Civil War Sketch Artist – An activity for all ages with Jared Frederick (Event Tent)

11 - 11:45 a.m., 3 - 3:45 p.m. – Harpers Ferry: Supplying the Valley Campaign – Ranger conducted program (Meet on The Green)

1 - 2:30 p.m. (Saturday only) – Author Discussion & Book Signing – Daniel T. Davis and Phillip S. Greenwalt – *Bloody Autumn: The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864* (Event Tent)

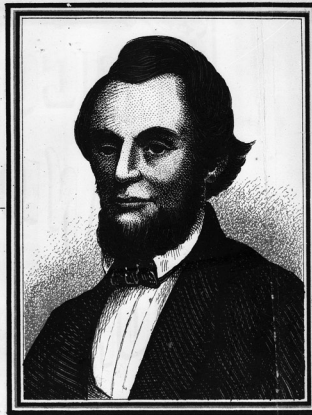
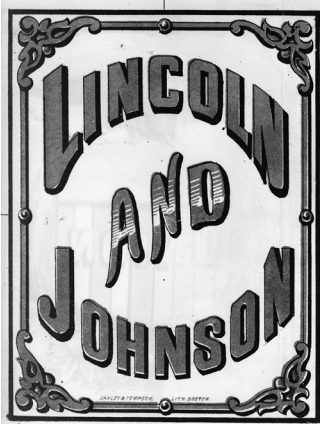
3 - 3:45 p.m. – Guns of Harpers Ferry – Ranger conducted program (Meet on The Green)

3:45 - 4:45 p.m. (Saturday only) – Music: Ft. McHenry Fife & Drum Corps (tentative) (Arsenal Square)

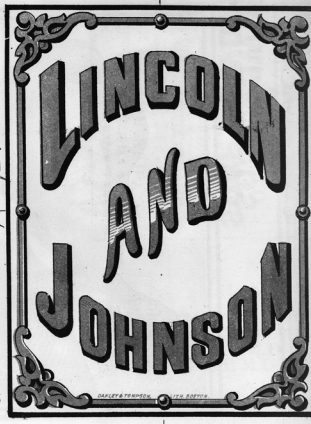
For additional information please call 304-535-6029 or visit www.nps.gov/hafe. Schedules are subject to change.

This event is being presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.





Depicted Oct. 11, 1864
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Upcoming Special Event: **Abraham Lincoln and the Election of 1864**, October 11, 2014. This event will explore Harpers Ferry's critical role in our nation's wartime

presidential election. Activities will include living history, ranger conducted programs, and family/youth activities. (1864 Campaign Banner Photo: Library of Congress)

- Master Armorer Members (Cont'd)**
- Kim and Frank Edwards
 - Patrice Flynn
 - Deborah Hale
 - Rebecca Harriett
 - Bruce Kramer
 - Carlos Lleguer
 - Anne A. Long
 - James Madden
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 - Karan Townsend
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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 an 8 x 10 Harpers Ferry print, 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; an 8 x 10 Harpers Ferry print; 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; an 8 x 10 Harpers Ferry print; recognition in the newsletter and at annual meeting; special tour; an America the Beautiful pass (for use in all parks) for individuals; and a display plaque for businesses.

- I would like to make a donation to the **David L. Larsen Memorial Fund** to support Harpers Ferry Park internships.
- 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

E-mail

Please clip and mail to:

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

Phone: (304) 535-6881

Fax: (304) 535-6749

Email: hfha@earthlink.net

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, send e-mail to hfha@earthlink.net, or visit our website at www.harpersferryhistory.org

Harpers Ferry Historical Association
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Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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Special Exhibit

When visiting Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, be sure to visit the special exhibit, **Terrible Swift Sword**, which highlights the dedication and commitment of the 19th U.S. Colored Troops and their fight for freedom. In the spring of 1864 the 19th USCT recruited soldiers in Harpers Ferry who later fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, including the "Crater" at Petersburg, VA, and in Richmond, the Confederate capital. The exhibit is located on the second floor of the John Brown Museum and will continue throughout 2014.

Bicyclists!

There is still time to register for the September 27 event: **Pedal through the Past**, a 36-mile, interpretive bike ride through three national parks benefiting the David L. Larsen Memorial Fund. For more information or to register, visit: www.active.com/harpers-ferry-wv/cycling/races/pedal-through-the-past-2014?int=.

Support HFHA Through Amazon

The latest and greatest way to support the Harpers Ferry Historical Association is through a new Amazon site, AmazonSmile. When you shop using www.smile.amazon.com you can donate 0.5% of the price of your purchase to HFHA.

Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and you will be prompted to choose a charitable organization after you log in to your existing Amazon account or when you create an account.

Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. There is no cost to you or HFHA to participate. Purchases made using an Amazon Shopping app, a Kindle E-reader, or through the Kindle store are currently not eligible for donations.

Visit www.smile.amazon.com for more program details.



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Welcome HFHA's newest board members (L to R): Ed Wheelless, Patrice Flynn, and Bob Johnson.