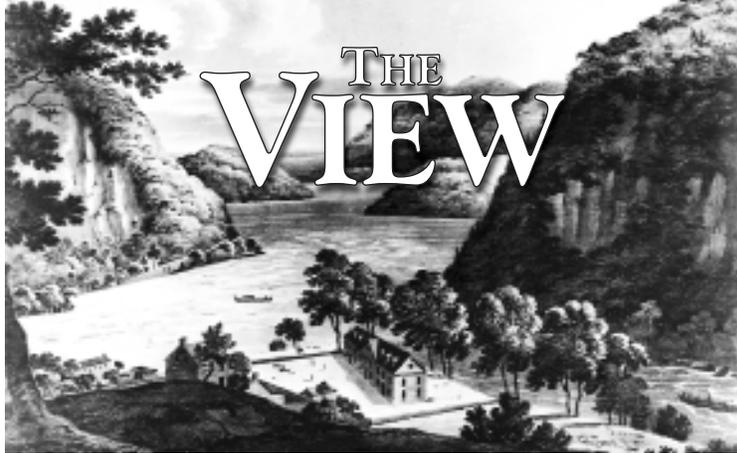


Published for the  
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of the Harpers Ferry  
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Spring 2000



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# John Brown 2000 Events Set for May

**H**arpers Ferry National Historical Park will host a variety of events in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of John Brown. On **Tuesday, May 9** at 1:00 p.m., the **Opening Ceremony** will begin on Shenandoah Street with a welcome and introduction of guests. Dr. Raymond Dobard of Washington, D.C., will speak on the Underground Railroad quilt code and the significance of this code in helping slaves to escape. Dr. Dobard is the co-author of *Hidden in Plain View: The Secret Stories of Quilts and the Underground Railroad*. Magpie will present musical selections from their new CD, *Sword of the Spirit*. Mark McEachern, Director of the Torrington Historical Society in Torrington, Conn.—the birthplace of John Brown—will give a presentation entitled “Torrington 1800.”

Following the guest speakers there will be a formal opening of the John Brown Museum, which has been updated in recent months to include two new multimedia exhibits. The “Trail to Harpers Ferry” exhibit traces the significant geographic movements and events in John Brown’s life from birth to burial. The “Who’s Who” exhibit highlights over 50 individuals who were associated with John Brown and the raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. Another feature will include reactions to the raid. These exhibits will be offered in a CD ROM format for sale by the Association.

A temporary quilt exhibit *Designs for Escape: The Underground Railroad Quilt Code* will also be opened in the Information Center. Following these openings there will be a public reception and the Association will host a book signing for Dr. Dobard.

A specially designed bicentennial postal cancellation will be unveiled by the United States Postal Service and will be available at a USPS Cancellation Station on Arsenal Square throughout the day from 12:00 Noon - 4:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evening at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church (near Mather Training Center on Camp Hill) there will be a public presentation of *Sword of the Spirit*, a one-act play featuring the last days of John Brown, performed by Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner.

On **Wednesday, May 10** and **Thursday, May 11** a guided walking tour, “In the Footsteps of John Brown,” will be offered in the Lower Town. On **Friday May 12**, there will be a public performance at 2:00 p.m. by Magpie. This will include specially written musical selections about John Brown from their new CD, *Sword of the Spirit*.

Presentations will resume again on **Saturday, May 13** at 1:00 p.m. with “John Brown Revisited.” Paul Finkelman, Chapman Distinguished Professor at the University of Tulsa College of Law, will lead the presentations. Finkelman has completed extensive research in the area of slavery and law, and is the editor of *His Soul Goes Marching On: Responses to John Brown and the Harpers Ferry Raid*. Actor Fred Morsell portraying Frederick Douglass will recreate the “John Brown Day Address.”

*Continued on Page 2*



Actor Fred Morsell will portray Frederick Douglass during the John Brown 2000 events at 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.”*

## John Brown 2000 continued from Page 1

Musical selections about the life of John Brown will be performed by *Magpie*, followed by a reading from Stephen Vincent Benet's *John Brown's Body*. "Music and the Underground Railroad" will be presented by Kim and Reggie Harris.

The Honorable John Lewis, U.S. House of Representatives representing Georgia's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, will offer closing remarks. Described as "one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced," he has written a first-hand account of his experiences entitled *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*.

At 7:30 p.m., *The Sword of the Spirit* play will be repeated at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church. The Association



The Honorable John Lewis, U.S. House of Representatives representing Georgia's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, will offer closing remarks.

will host book and audio signings for all presenters on Saturday, May 13.

All of the above events are open to the public. For updates, please refer to the Park's Website ([www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm)). These programs address John Brown's legacy and provide historic and contemporary insights into one of America's most controversial figures. Please make plans to join in on some of these exciting activities.

This project is being presented by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, sponsored by the Harpers Ferry Historical



West Virginia Humanities Council

Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Jefferson County NAACP, the John Brown Heritage Association, and Penn State University, Mont Alto Campus, with financial assistance from The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## John Brown 2000 Conference Schedule

### May 15-17, 2000

(Conference Registration is required for all activities listed below. Please see the adjacent pullout section of this newsletter).

### Monday, May 15

**1:00 p.m.** Welcome and opening session at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church. Afternoon sessions will conclude at 5:00 p.m.

**8:00 p.m.** *Sword of the Spirit*, a one-act play based on the life and letters of John and Mary Brown.

### Tuesday, May 16

**8:30 a.m.** Morning session begins.

**Afternoon.** "In the Footsteps of Brown and his Men at Harpers Ferry" – a walking tour.

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Reception at the Kennedy Farm in Maryland.

**7:30 p.m.** "An Evening in Harpers Ferry." Stroll the quiet streets of the town and tour selected museums and exhibits. The Bookshop will host authors and book signings, and a John Brown film will be shown on the second floor of the John Brown Exhibit.

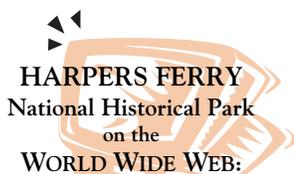
### Wednesday, May 17

**8:30 a.m.** Concluding session at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church.

**Time to be announced.** Tour of Brown-related sites: Charles Town Courthouse, Charles Town Museum, the hanging site, and Beallair.

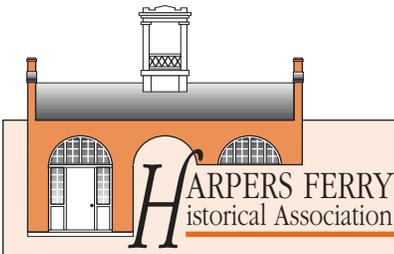
Presentations will take place in the classrooms of the Mather Training Center in the Camp Hill area of the park. The papers that have been submitted for presentation deal with many aspects of John Brown's life and legacy. Subjects include how John Brown has been portrayed in poetry, literature, and textbooks; John Brown's experiences in Kansas, Ohio, and Pennsylvania; and African American responses to John Brown at the time of the raid. Presentations will be interspersed with discussions and on-site activities.

For information on area lodging, or other questions, please call the Association at 304-535-6881, or consult the Park's Website ([www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm)).

**HARPERS FERRY**  
National Historical Park  
on the

WORLD WIDE WEB:

[www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm)



# John Brown Conference Registration

## May 15-17, 2000

The year 2000 marks the bicentennial of the birth of John Brown. Almost a century and a half after his death, John Brown remains one of the most controversial figures in American history. Beginning May 9, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will host a variety of free, public events, including commemorative, educational, dramatic presentations and interpretive activities highlighting John Brown's life within the larger context of the slavery issue, his influence, and his place in history. Included among the many partners sharing in the sponsorship of this event are the Harpers Ferry Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Jefferson County NAACP, the John Brown Heritage Association and Penn State University, Mont Alto Campus.

On Monday, May 15, a 3-day conference on John Brown will begin. The conference will be held in the Camp Hill district of the Park. In addition to the presentation of papers there will be guest speakers, panel discussions, musical and dramatic presentations, tours, interpretive exhibits and book displays.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

All attendees must register for the **John Brown Conference**. The registration fee includes all educational sessions, programs and performances, and the opening reception. The park entrance fee will be waived for participants during the conference.

**Please Complete:**

**Number of People**

**Total Amount**

Conference Pre-registration (*deadline May 8*) – \$50.00 per person  
 (Onsite Registration is \$65.00 per person)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to attend the reception on Tuesday evening, May 16?  Yes  No

**Payment Type:**

Check or money order enclosed (*payable to Harpers Ferry Historical Association*)

Please charge to my:

MasterCard  Visa  Discover  American Express

Card Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please fold, tape closed with address label facing out, add proper postage, and return to the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. **If sending a check or money order, please be sure to tape both ends as well.** You may also fax us this form at (304) 535-6749. For more information, please call the Association at (304) 535-6881.



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HARPERS FERRY WV 25425-0197



## Author Ann Rinaldi Returns to Harpers Ferry

Joining in the commemoration of John Brown 2000, the Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Library, with the support of the West Virginia Library Commission, will host Ann Rinaldi at the Library on May 20 at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Rinaldi, a popular and award-winning author of historical fiction for young adults, attended the Association's Author Fest two years ago after the publication of her book, *Mine Eyes Have Seen*, about John Brown's daughter, Annie. Rinaldi's books, based on fact and carefully researched, usually feature a young girl at some significant time in history.

For each book, the author spends about one week doing on-site research, about a month on background



research to get the flavor of the period and everyday lifestyles, and then begins extensive character sketches.

Her most recent book is *Amelia's War*. Based on documented history of the ransom of Hagerstown, Maryland, in July 1864, the characters in this book are a blend of fact and fiction. The story portrays young people dealing with the Civil War in a strife-torn border state. As in her other works, Rinaldi adds an author's note to sort reality from fiction.

Please plan to attend Ann Rinaldi's book talk and reception at the Library in Bolivar. The Association will host a book signing featuring many of Ann's titles following the presentation.



### Harpers Ferry Park Schedule of Events

- Earth Day**  
April 29
- John Brown 2000**  
May 9-17
- To Defend and Protect**  
May 27-28
- Freedom's Birth**  
July 1
- Election Day 1860**  
October 14
- Keeping Christmas**  
December 1-3

## Association Publications Receive Awards

On March 9, 2000, two association publications were awarded Honorable Mention at the National Park Service Cooperating Association Awards for Interpretive Excellence competition in Anchorage, Alaska. *Waterpower: Mills, Factories, Machines, & Floods at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, 1762-1991*, by David T. Gilbert, was one of three books receiving recognition in the category of Human History.

A series of eight bookmarks featuring Harpers Ferry's interpretive themes was recognized in the theme-related product category. These bookmarks were designed for the Association by Linda Weisler, VisComm Publishing. Cooperating Associations entered a total of 165 media products into this year's competition, highlighting their continued creativity and commitment to producing quality educational material.

### Recent Donations

Melvin T. Strider Colonial  
Funeral Home  
F&M-Blakeley Bank  
Jefferson Security Bank  
Charles Town Races  
Rich Gillespie and the  
Loudoun Valley History  
Club

## Association Members Win in Photography Contest

Marsha Starkey, Cooperating Association Coordinator for Harpers Ferry NHP, received two first place, one second place, and one third place award for her entries to the Civil War Preservation Trust Annual Photography Contest. Marsha's "Sunrise at Antietam" is featured on the cover of the recent issue of *Hallowed Ground*, the Trust's first issue since their merger with APCWS. Her vivid photograph of the Cedar Creek

re-enactment can be found on the CWPT web page.

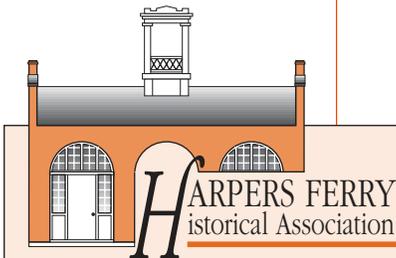
Another association member, Noah Mehrkam, was awarded third place in the scenic category with his photo of "Harpers Ferry from Loudoun Heights." Both Marsha and Noah are members who attended the association-sponsored photography workshop in February 1998, taught by award-winning photographer Jim Clark.

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  
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Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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## Artists-in-Residence Schedule

**June 20-July 20** – Robert Solywoda, a photographer from New York City accomplished in the technique of flat plate photogravure. He plans to create a photo album of the local town's people and offer photography workshops.

**July 25-August 25** – Germaine Curry, a writer and poet from Houston, Texas. She plans to write a children's book placed in Harpers Ferry, write a collection of poems, and conduct creative writing workshops.

**August 30-September 30** – Jean Loy-Swanson, a photographer and sculptor from Rogers, Minn. She plans to create photo collages from images she will take of the historic landscape and offer workshops in *Quilting as Inspiration for Photographic Collages*.

**October 5-November 5** – Karen Bell-Hanson, a stained-glass artisan from Hancock, Mich. She plans to interpret the historical scene through a three-dimensional or low relief panel and offer workshops on stained glass technique.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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