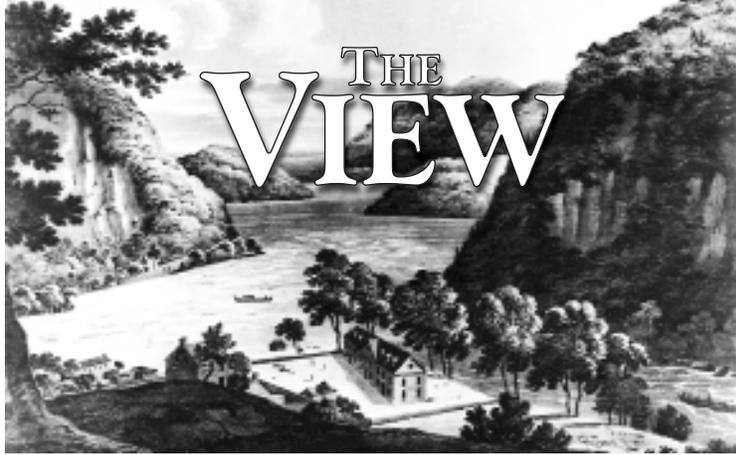


Published for the
Members and Friends
of the Harpers Ferry
Historical Association

Spring 2001



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Reintroducing
Peregrine Falcons

Freedom's Birth:
An American
Experience

Association Annual
Meeting will be on
Saturday, June 30

Carrie Allen McCray at "Freedom's Birth" Event

Freedom's Birth, An American Experience" — Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's celebration of Independence Day — has been presented since 1995, the year following the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Park. Each year many people come to watch the spectacular fireworks display. If you are planning a visit, please come early and spend the day attending the many programs that highlight the real meaning of freedom.

This year's featured guest is Carrie Allen McCray, author of *Freedom's Child: The Story of My Mother, a Confederate General's Black Daughter*. Born in 1913, in Lynchburg, Virginia, she graduated from Talladega College in 1935 and New York University School of Work and Sociology in 1955. She was a social worker in New York City for many years before returning to Talladega College to teach. She was named United Negro College Fund Teacher of the Year in 1976. A writer for many years and a member of many writers' organizations, Ms. McCray began a serious literary career at the age of 73. She now lives and writes in Columbia, South Carolina.

When she was a child, Carrie wondered about the framed photograph on her mother's dresser. It showed a white man dressed in a uniform. She was afraid to ask who he was. It was many years later that she learned he was her grandfather, and that her grandmother was a former slave. These family secrets haunted Carrie McCray until finally, in her late seventies, she went searching for the truth in graveyards, in library archives, and in old friends' memories. What she uncovered is the remarkable

and inspiring story of her mother's life.

Mary Rice Hayes Allen, born eleven years after the end of the Civil War, was the illegitimate daughter of Brig. General J. R. Jones, Confederate Army, Ret., of Lynchburg, Virginia. Her mother, Malinda Rice, a former slave, was a servant in the general's house. She died at age twenty-nine, and though the Rice family raised her children, their father recognized Mary and her brother publicly and paid for her education. For this, he was cast out of society and belittled by contemporary Civil War historians. It is of interest to Harpers Ferry historians that Jones commanded Stonewall Jackson's Division, which held the left flank of the Confederate line in the 1862 battle.

Mary grew up to become a college graduate; a teacher; the wife of the president of Virginia Seminary; and later, as his widow, acting president; the wife of a leading lawyer; the mother of ten children and a lifelong activist working for what she called "full freedom" for African Americans.

Freedom's Child is a loving remembrance of how this beautiful and very determined woman spent her life beating down the barriers to equality. A leader in the founding of the NAACP, she worked tirelessly fighting prejudice and segregation. In her daughter's earliest memories, she fed her friends (who ranged from intellectuals and



Author Carrie Allen McCray.

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

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Harpers Ferry, WV
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Arlington, VA
Jim and Suzanne Silvia
Taunton, MA
Mary Sloat
Front Royal, VA

Carrie Allen McCray *continued from Page 1*

leaders such as Langston Hughes and W.E.B. Du Bois to local people “in service”) as they plotted the war against discrimination at her kitchen table. McCray’s memories reward us with an extraordinarily vivid and intimate portrait of a truly remarkable woman.

Ms. McCray will be attending the Association picnic and personalizing copies of her books following the picnic (see page 4). Later in the afternoon she will present a public program at Cavalier Heights Visitor Center followed by a book signing. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to meet this interesting lady.

In addition to Ms. McCray, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Frederick Douglass will all return to Harpers Ferry for presentations. Living history demonstrations including a Civil War Quartermaster Wagon, Signal Corps and Engineer Corps demonstrations will be held on Bolivar Heights.

Musical performances for the day in-

clude three 19th century music concerts by the Wildcat Regiment Band and a musical program prior to the Fireworks display by Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino of Magpie.

Blues legend David “Honeyboy” Edwards returns to Harpers Ferry to perform two blues programs. Honeyboy’s life is like a distillation of the classic blues legends. His good friends and musical partners were blues pioneers Charlie Patton, Tommy McClennan, Big Walter Horton, Little Walter Jacobs, and Robert Johnson. He went on the road to play guitar at age 17 under the tutelage of Big Joe Williams.

Edwards autobiography, *The World Don’t Owe Me Nothing: The Life and Times of Delta Bluesman Honeyboy Edwards*, gives firsthand accounts of his upbringing as a share-cropper’s son, the 1927 Mississippi River flood, plantation life, the racial problems and economics of southern blacks, and the Depression. It also contains comprehensive appendices that provide the history behind Honeyboy’s words including information on all the musicians and songs he mentions. For a complete schedule of the day’s events, see below.

Freedom’s Birth: An American Experience Schedule of Events - June 30, 2001

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. – **Wildcat Regiment Band 19th Century Music Concert** at the Arsenal Square Tent.

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – **“The Potomac: The Path to the West”** with Bill Sommerfield as George Washington at Hamilton Street.

12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m. – **“This Scene is Worth a Voyage Across the Atlantic”** with Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson at Hamilton St.

1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. – Fred Morsell as **Frederick Douglass** at Hamilton Street.

2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. – **Wildcat Regiment Band 19th Century Music Concert** at the Arsenal Square Tent.

3:00 p.m.-3:45 p.m. – **David “Honeyboy” Edwards Concert and Stories** at the Visitor Center Outdoor Theatre.

4:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. – **A Conversation & Booksigning with Carrie Allen McCray** at the Visitor Center Outdoor Theatre.

5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. – **“Harpers Ferry and the American Civil War”** – Activities including a quartermaster wagon, signal corps, and engineer corps will interpret Harpers Ferry’s significance during the Civil War at the Bolivar Heights Battlefield.

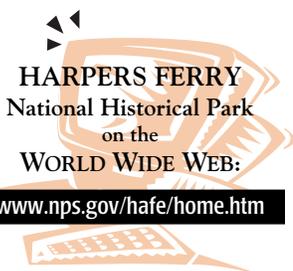
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. – **“The Rebellious Disposition”** – George Washington and Thomas Jefferson at Harpers Ferry at the Visitor Center Outdoor Theatre.

7:00 p.m.-7:45 p.m. – **David “Honeyboy” Edwards Concert & Stories** on the Main Stage at the Visitor Center.

8:00 p.m.-9:45 p.m. – **Magpie Concert** on the Main Stage at the Visitor Center.

8:30 p.m.-9:45 p.m. – **Wildcat Regiment Band Concert** at the Bolivar Heights Battlefield Stage.

9:45 p.m.-10:15 p.m. – **Fireworks Finale** – View from both Bolivar and Cavalier Heights.



Peregrine Falcon Restoration

Much excitement centers around the Park's recently announced plan to restore peregrine falcons to an historic nesting site on Maryland Heights across the Potomac River from Harpers Ferry. The peregrine falcon has been delisted as a federal endangered species; however, it is listed as a state endangered species in Virginia and Maryland, and a state rare species in West Virginia. Peregrine falcons were last seen nesting in the Harpers Ferry area in the 1940s.

As a part of a falcon recovery effort underway in Virginia, the park is working with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary to release six to eight juvenile falcons this year and next year on Maryland Heights. Recently hatched falcons will be taken from selected nesting sites in nearby states and brought to Harpers Ferry in late May. The falcons will be placed in protective "hack" boxes on a rocky outcrop

on Maryland Heights which overlooks the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. Park employees will be responsible for daily feeding and care of the falcons. The boxes will be opened when the young falcons are ready for flight. It is hoped that several falcons will imprint on the site and return as breeding adults in 2 to 3 years.

Two falcons each year will be fitted with miniature, satellite-received transmitters to monitor their migration between breeding and wintering ranges. The public will be able to obtain information about this project and monitor the migration of the falcons at the park's web site at www.nps.gov/hafe.

To read more about these birds, as well as other birds of prey, visit the Park Bookshop in the Lower Town.



Peregrine falcon from The Wildlife Center of Virginia during International Migratory Bird Day at Harpers Ferry Park on May 12, 2001.

Artists-in-Residence 2001

May 15-June 15

Jeff Van Kleeck, a photographer from Madison, Wisconsin. His studio work will provide a brief history of landscape photography and its tradition in the National Park Service. Van Kleeck hopes to provide a landscape photography workshop for the public and to create a room-size pinhole camera to demonstrate how the eye and camera visualize images.

June 20-July 20

George B. Miller, an actor and playwright from Allentown, Pennsylvania. During his tenure in the park Miller will create a theater performance piece about Dr. John D. Starry and his involvement with the John Brown Raid.

July 25-August 17

James A. Beckman, a writer and Assistant Professor of Law and Justice at the University of Tampa, Florida. The focus of

Beckman's research will be a study of Storer College and its relation to the town of Harpers Ferry in light of prevailing race relations laws and norms. He will work on an article to be published and provide presentations or lectures on the findings of his research.

October 5-November 5

Sandra Weber, a writer, independent scholar, and lecturer from Lansdale, Pennsylvania, and part-time resident of Elizabethtown, New York, near the John Brown Farm. The time spent in Harpers Ferry will provide Weber with inspiration for a biography of Mary Ann Day Brown, the wife of John Brown. While here, she will present a public lecture on Mary Brown.

For more information about the Artist-in-Residence program, please call Richard Raymond at 304-535-6497.

Harpers Ferry: A Battlefield Under Siege



Many of you may not live in our area and may not be familiar with the challenges presented by the increasing influx of population from the metropolitan areas of Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Maryland, and from growth in northern Virginia. Jefferson County, once an essentially rural community of farms and orchards, is now experiencing the mushroom-like growth of housing developments along every major highway and every once-scenic back road. The natural beauty and cultural heritage—the very things that have attracted so many to our area—are now at risk. Lands adjacent to the Park's present boundaries that are of significant historic importance, and provide a scenic view shed, are included in this threat of development.

On February 27, 2001, The Civil War Preservation Trust announced their inaugural list of America's Most Endangered Battlefields—Harpers Ferry was among

those named. The "top ten" were chosen following careful analysis and study of each site. The CWPT consulted the landmark study compiled by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission that rated each battlefield in respect to its historic significance and state of preservation.

The Harpers Ferry Battlefield is classified as a Priority I, Class B site, meaning its preservation is highly threatened and also that this battle was highly significant to the course of the war. Two major tracks of land are currently unprotected: The Murphy Farm and Jackson's left flank on School House Ridge. The Murphy Farm has been in agricultural use for over 150 years and the owners have been good stewards of the land and its history. Despite a good relationship with the park, the National Park Service has been unable to acquire the property to date. It is currently slated for a 188-home

Continued on Page 5

Annual Association Meeting & Picnic



Association members enjoy the picnic after last year's annual membership meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Harpers Ferry Historical Association will be held on **Saturday, June 30**, in conjunction with the Park's Independence Day celebration, *Freedom's Birth*. Beginning at 12:00 noon,

there will be a covered-dish picnic on the patio of the Interpretive Design Center. All Association members and their guests are invited to attend. **Please make your reservations** and let us know how many will be attending the picnic by calling 304-535-6881, or by e-mailing the Association at hfha@intrepid.net by Wednesday, June 27. Please plan to bring your favorite casserole, salad or dessert. Meat, drinks, and tableware will be provided by the Association.

You will have an opportunity to visit personally with honored guest, Ms. Carrie Allen McCray, during the picnic. She will be available to personalize copies of her book following the picnic. The annual business meeting will begin after the book signing. It will conclude in time for Ms. McCray's public presentation at the Visitor Center at Cavalier Heights. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Association, and we hope many members will join us to celebrate this event.

Park Calendar of Events 2001

June 9 – U. S. Navy Band Commodores Concert 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Park Visitor Center (Free)

June 30 – Freedom's Birth: An American Experience 11:00 a.m.-10 p.m. An Independence Day Heritage Celebration including historical presentations, living history demonstrations and exhibits, musical presentations, and concluding with a fireworks display.

July 14 – U. S. Army Band Concert 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Park Visitor Center (free)

July 14-15 – Summer of Fire-1864 Military living history with the 7th Pennsylvania and affiliated units.

August 11 – U. S. Air Force Band Concert 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Park Visitor Center (Free)

August 11-12 – Sheridan's Campaign: Fight for the Valley Military living history with Maine and affiliated units.

August 18 – Commemorative Program honoring the 95th Anniversary of the Niagara Movement at Harpers Ferry.

September 8 – U. S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps Concert 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Park Visitor Center (free)

September 8-9 – The Fall of Harpers Ferry: The 1862 Maryland Campaign Military weekend and Artillery Demonstrations with the Southern Guard and affiliated units.

September 22 – Bringing in the Harvest: 19th Century Stores for the Winter.

October 13 – Election Day 1860 Beginning at 12:00 noon. Activities focus on the political contest that resulted in the national election of Abraham Lincoln. Political rallies, speeches, and debates are conducted by local electoral delegates. A Militia Muster, local Temperance Rally, and Grand Parade portray pre-war Harpers Ferry.

October 14 – After John Brown A living history militia program.

December 7-9 – Keeping Christmas Friday 6:30-10:00 p.m., Saturday 12:00 noon-10:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This living history program portrays Christmas during the mid-nineteenth century. Members of military and civilian living history groups provide a Yuletide setting typically found in Harpers Ferry's shops and homes before the American Civil War.

For additional information call the Park Visitor Center at 304-535-6298 or visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/hafe.



The National Park Service recently adopted an official new Arrowhead logo. The above artwork depicts the standard "grayscale" version of the new Arrowhead. Two color versions, a more detailed grayscale version, and a simpler black-and-white version of the Arrowhead have also been developed.

A Battlefield Under Siege continued from Page 4

development and a 130-foot water tower that would have an adverse impact on the history and scenery of Harpers Ferry.

Preservation of the Harpers Ferry Battlefield is not a new issue. The National Park Service, many Jefferson County (WV) residents, and conservation organizations have been trying to preserve these nationally significant resources for over two decades. Time is running out. The Civil War

Sites Advisory Commission identified seventy-one Civil War battlefields that have been lost. What will be the fate of Harpers Ferry? If you enjoy visiting this Park, please make it a priority to stay informed concerning this dilemma.

To learn more about the preservation efforts underway, please consult the following websites: Civil War Preservation Trust (www.civilwar.org); Harpers Ferry Conservancy (www.harpersferry.org); and National Parks Conservation Association (www.npca.org).

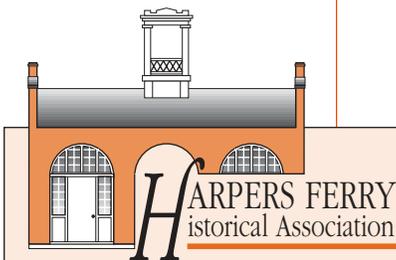
The Harpers Ferry Historical Association operates the National Park Bookshop in Lower Town Harpers Ferry. Profits from sales are returned to the park to support interpretive and educational programs to enhance your visit.

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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Harpers Ferry Art Featured in New Books

Two publishers have included artworks featuring Harpers Ferry in recent publications. The West Virginia University Press has published *Early Art and Artists in West Virginia*, a richly illustrated narrative of the development of art in the state, by John A. Cuthbert. The author has created a directory of over 1,000 artists—some visitors to the state, some natives—who are part of West Virginia's art history. Harpers Ferry is represented in works by Frances Guy, Garnet Jex, Rembrandt Peale, Childe Hassam, and many others. This book includes a great

amount of research, and is a joy to read and study.

The Virginia Historical Society and Howell Press have joined forces to produce *The Virginia Landscape: A Cultural History*. Authors James C. Kelly and William M. S. Rasmussen chronicle visitors' perception of the Virginia landscape through time by focusing on over 250 paintings, drawings, and prints. Both books have been beautifully produced with color reproductions of the original works.

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.

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Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Please clip and mail to:

Harpers Ferry Historical Association
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Phone: (304) 535-6881 ■ Fax: (304) 535-6749