

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

Spring 2005

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Volunteers Make A Difference

In 2004, volunteers donated five million hours to national parks at a value of \$85.9 million. These volunteers came from all over the world and included all ages. The formal Volunteers-In-Parks program began in 1970 as a vehicle through which the National Park Service can accept and utilize voluntary help and services from the public in a mutually beneficial way.

At Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, volunteers make a difference in the quality of the visitor's experience in the park as they work both with the public and behind the scenes. Last year volunteers gave 19,748 hours in service at Harpers Ferry. Ages participating in volunteer programs range from high school students to retired couples. Some folks are local, while others come from a distance, and spend months at a time here—and come back every season.

Their motivations are diverse. Some serve as part of their higher education requirements; many enjoy working in the beautiful park surroundings, others serve to help others learn about history or to give back to their community. They describe their experience as “enriching, inspirational, and enlightening.” Whatever the reason, volunteers make a difference.

The park has volunteers assisting in research and curatorial duties, in supplementing the education program for school groups, in staffing historic exhibits, in visitor centers and book sales. Volunteers come to share their skills in period trades such as blacksmithing. Boy Scout troops, as well as members of the community, volunteer in the park for clean-up days. Trail groups have helped maintain and improve park trails.



Groups of volunteers come to participate in special events, to perform period music, and to set up tents on the banks of the Shenandoah bringing the Civil War era to life for the visiting public. Their participation in park programs adds another dimension to park interpretation and visitor experience. Look at the enclosed schedule of events for all the military and ladies' volunteer groups that will be appearing at the park this summer as part of the living history weekends and special events.

We would like to take this opportunity to send a heartfelt “Thank you” to all those who have served, and continue to serve this park as volunteers. Your service is greatly appreciated by us and by the many people who visit the park.

For those of you who are interested in volunteering in the park, please visit the park's new volunteer website at www.nps.gov/hafe/volunteers.htm

Jessica Lancia and Chris Suiter volunteer at the park's Information Center in the Lower Town.

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.”

Historical Association Volunteers Needed



The Association currently has one volunteer, Nancy Weaver of Winchester, Virginia. Nancy assists with clerical work and membership services. We appreciate the fact that even after moving from the Harpers Ferry community, she continues to travel from Winchester to help us out. The association also has a nine-member Board of Directors who volunteer their time in the guidance of the Association.

Currently the association needs volunteers to help with tent sales during special events. If you would like to commit to helping us for a day a week, or on select weekends throughout the year, please call Debbie at 304-535-2078.

David Day from Neenah, Wisconsin, volunteers in the park's Blacksmith Shop.

Recent Donations

All-in-One Tours & Cruises
Lancaster, PA
Jennifer & Garry Adelman
Germantown, MD
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Auvil
Harpers Ferry, WV
BB&T
Charles Town, WV
Rock Comstock
Vienna, VA
C.R.N.C.V.A.
Lewis Bearden, Chairman
Pasadena, CA
Phyllis D'Angelo
Charles Town, WV
Col. William Norris Camp
1398
Sons of Confederate
Veterans
Mt. Airy, MD
Don & Barbara Cumberland
Kearneysville, WV
Paula Degen
Arnold, MD
Mark Elrod
Germantown, MD
William Everhart
Reston, VA
William Gavin
Charles Town, WV

Grants Received from WV Humanities Council and Harpers Ferry Foundation

We have been fortunate to receive generous financial assistance for the commemoration of the Niagara Movement in 2006 from several sources. The West Virginia Humanities Council granted the Association \$20,000 for the development and review of Niagara Movement curriculum guide for grades K-12, and for the 2005 Teacher Institute on the Niagara Movement. George Rutherford, Association member and President of the Jefferson County Chapter of the NAACP, was instrumental in the successful preparation of our grant application.

This curriculum guide has been completed in draft form by Doug Perks, with the aid of a teacher cadre composed of ten educators from the tri-state area. The guide will be reviewed again at the 2005 Teacher Institute in June, and field-tested in the fall. Final copies will be prepared in 2006 for distribution to local schools, and to schools in nearby urban areas.

The guide is written to the standards of learning in West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland and is designed to provide on-

and off-site activities to help students in understanding the role of Harpers Ferry and the events of the 2006 Niagara Convention in the Civil Rights movement.

In addition, the Harpers Ferry Historic Town Foundation donated \$500.00 to assist in presenting the Academic Symposium that will precede the Niagara commemoration in 2006. This symposium will feature noted scholars on W.E.B. Du Bois and the Niagara Movement, including two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Dr. David Levering Lewis. A call for papers has been issued to invite scholars to participate in this seminar. For more information on this event, visit the Harpers Ferry Park website.

The Park and Association are most grateful to have the participation and financial support of these partners in presenting this historic event. For those of you who wish to contribute to this event, or know of potential individual or corporate donors, please contact Debbie at 304-535-2078 for more information.

Fourth Annual Don Redman Heritage Awards & Concert

On Saturday, June 25, 2005 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will host the Fourth Annual Don Redman Heritage Awards & Concert. This year's event features legendary jazz saxophonist/flutist Frank Wess and trombonist Vince Prudente. The two men will be joined by the Howard Burns Quartet.

Octogenarian, Frank Wess began his professional career over sixty years ago with the Blanche Calloway Orchestra. He then had stints with Billy Eckstine and Lucky Millinder in the late 1940's. This was all a prelude to Mr. Wess' most important period with the count Basie Orchestra. It was during his decade plus with Basie that he became a ground breaker as the first major jazz flutist. He has continued to remain



active in jazz as a leading alto, tenor and flute player. Last year Mr. Wess was a featured guest at the 50th Anniversary of the Newport Jazz Festival.

Vince Prudente's professional career spans fifty years. His resume includes membership in the Lionel Hampton Orchestra, and the Woody Herman Orchestra. Mr. Prudente is probably best remembered as a featured soloist with Duke Ellington's Orchestra in the later years of the leaders' life. He has spent much of his last twenty years as a music educator while continuing to play professionally.

This free concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. on the lawn behind the Mather Training Center, on the campus of Storer College in Harpers Ferry.



Annual Meeting on June 25

Our annual meeting and picnic will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, June 25 at Mather Training Center. The meeting will start at 4:00 p.m. followed by a picnic on the plaza at about 5:00 p.m. Plan to stay after the picnic to enjoy the Fourth Annual Don Redman Heritage Awards and Concert to be held on the Mather lawn beginning at 6:00 p.m. (*see above*).

Please plan to bring a covered dish to share at the picnic. Meat, drinks and place

settings will be provided. If you know you will be able to attend, a call (304-535-6881) or e-mail (hpha@earthlink.net) to us by June 23rd will help us plan for the right number of guests. Parking will be at the tennis courts below the Mather lawn, with the parking lot at Mather reserved for handicapped parking.

Please plan to join us for this once-a-year opportunity for meeting new members and visiting with old acquaintances. We look forward to seeing you.

Recent Donations

(continued)

Nancy Grams
Middletown, MD
Mildred Hammond
Kearneysville, WV
Marsha Kleiman
North Potomac, MD
Loudoun Valley History
Club
Purcellville, VA
Mark McGilloway
Red Bank, NJ
Allan & Kathy Montgomery
Charles Town, WV
Motts Military Museum,
Inc.
Groveport, OH
Michael Musick
Harpers Ferry, WV
Our Lady of Sorrows School
Farmington, MI
Roger Perry
Charles Town, WV
George Rutherford
Ranson, WV
Michael Sponseller
New Market, MD
Michael Watson
Harpers Ferry, WV
Nancy and Max Weaver
Winchester, VA
Dolores Wojcik
Harpers Ferry, WV

Donations for the Niagara Centennial 2006

West Virginia Humanities
Council
Charleston, WV
Jefferson County Chapter,
NAACP
Charles Town, WV
Harpers Ferry Historic Town
Foundation
Harpers Ferry, WV
Blacks in Government /
Equal Employment
Opportunity
McLean, VA

**Current Armory
Superintendent
Members**

Jim & Faye Castleman
Martinsburg, WV

**Current Paymaster
Members**

Jo (Kuhn) Curtis in memory
of Jim Kuhn
Brandywine, MD
Nancy Myers
Harpers Ferry, WV

2005 Park Schedule of Events

June 18 – “Fred Morsell at Harpers Ferry” – Fred Morsell as Frederick Douglass on the grounds of Mather Training Center (1:00 p.m.). “The Spirit of John Brown” – Fred Morsell as Reverdy Ransom on the grounds of Mather Training Center (4:00 p.m.).

June 18 – “U. S. Air Force Military Band Concert” – Cavalier Heights Visitor Center from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Free of charge.

June 20-24 – “Niagara: A Story of Freedom” – You are invited to participate in the 2005 Teacher’s Institute, “Niagara: A Story of Freedom,” to be held at Harpers Ferry

National Historical Park. Institute participants will have the opportunity to explore in depth the role that Harpers Ferry played in our Nation’s struggle for freedom, equality, and opportunity.

June 25 – “The Don Redman Heritage Concert” – on the grounds of Mather Training Center (6:00 p.m. – see page 3).

July 2-3 – “America’s Picnic: Celebrating The Glorious Fourth” – This year’s event will present a special living history program with members of the 2nd Virginia, Company D, portraying the turbulent

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

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

2005 Schedule of Events – continued from Page 4

years at mid-century and how the 4th was celebrated in America. On July 2nd visitors are invited to experience a traditional hometown band concert with the Wildcat Regiment Band, the Regimental Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

July 16-17 – “Giving Aid and Comfort: Medical and Relief Work during the Civil War” – Living history volunteers and staff will portray the medical and relief efforts that provided aid and comfort to the soldiers fighting during the Civil War.

July 30 – “Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson” – “This Scene is Worth a Voyage Across the Atlantic” with Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson (1:00 p.m. in Lower Town). “The Object of Your Mission: Thomas Jefferson and the Lewis and Clark Expedition” with Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson (3:00 p.m. in Lower Town).

August 6 – “U.S. Army Military Band Concert” – Cavalier Heights Visitor Center from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Free of charge.

August 6-7 – “I Will Follow Them To the Death: Sheridan’s Soldiers 1864” – This living history program will present Harpers Ferry as the staging area for Union General Philip Sheridan’s Shenandoah Campaign. Members of the reactivated living history group 11th New Jersey will demonstrate Union army garrison duties.

August 13-14 – “A Soldier’s City: Harpers Ferry 1864” – This living history program will present the Union occupation of the town in 1864. Living history volunteers of the 7th Pennsylvania will interpret garrison duties. Historic weapons, drill and firing demonstrations will be featured.

August 20-21 – “Rally For Virginia 1861: From Citizens to Soldiers” – This program will present The Southern Grays, a reactivated living history group, as a camp of mustering Virginia State Troops during the beginning of the Civil War.

August 27 – “Mr. Lincoln Returns to Harpers Ferry” – Jim Getty as Abraham Lincoln. 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the Lower Town.

September 3 – “U. S. Marine Military Band Concert” – “Free Country” will perform at

the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Free of charge.

September 10-11 – “The Capture of Harpers Ferry 1862” – Includes interpretation of the Battle of Harpers Ferry and the surrender of the Union garrison to southern forces under General Stonewall Jackson. The Stonewall Brigade, a volunteer living history group, will depict the soldiers that captured the garrison.

October 8-9 – “John Brown’s Legacy: Beyond the Gallows” – Special programs will feature the U.S. Marines who captured Brown, militia drill, ladies fair booth in support of the local militia, a northern reaction anti-slavery musical performance, a political rally, and tribute to the former mayor killed in the raid.

October 15-16 – “John Brown Raid Anniversary” – Fred Morsell as Frederick Douglass and James Getty as Abraham Lincoln discuss and debate John Brown.

October 29-30 – “The Eyes of the Army: The Cavalry Factor” – Living History volunteers Company H, Second U.S. Cavalry, will demonstrate cavalry riding, weapons firing, sabre drill, and bugling. At 11:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, the group will join the ranger-guided tour for a historic weapons firing demonstration.

November 5-6 – “Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862” – This event will interpret the Battle of Harpers Ferry and the surrender of the Union garrison to General Stonewall Jackson. Artillery firing demonstrations are scheduled. Members of Baltimore Light Artillery, Fredericksburg Light Artillery and the Liberty Rifles will portray Confederate artillery soldiers.

December 3-4 – “Prospects of Peace: A Soldier’s Prayer” – This event presents a special program focusing 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 style Santa Claus dispersing presents to the soldiers, a Victorian Cotillion, Yuletide confections, and special guided walking tours.

Current Master Armorer Members

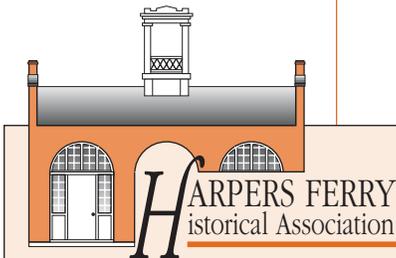
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Kim Edwards
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Sue Frank
Charles Town, WV
Robert & Robin Gibson
Harpers Ferry, WV
Dr. Robert Johnson
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Suzanne & Jim Silvia
Taunton, MA
Maureen Weber
Falling Waters, WV
Clarke Wilhelm
Granville, OH

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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Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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Notebook Computer Donated

The Association has received a donation of a notebook computer from AEM. Sharon de Monsabet, Ph. D., owner of the Chantilly, Virginia based technology company, made this donation through AEM employee, Keith Baker. Keith is the son of Susan Baker, a long-time employee of our Association. This laptop will make it much easier to conduct off-site and tent sales.

Everyone at the Bookshop thanks Dr. de Monsabet and Keith for making this donation possible.

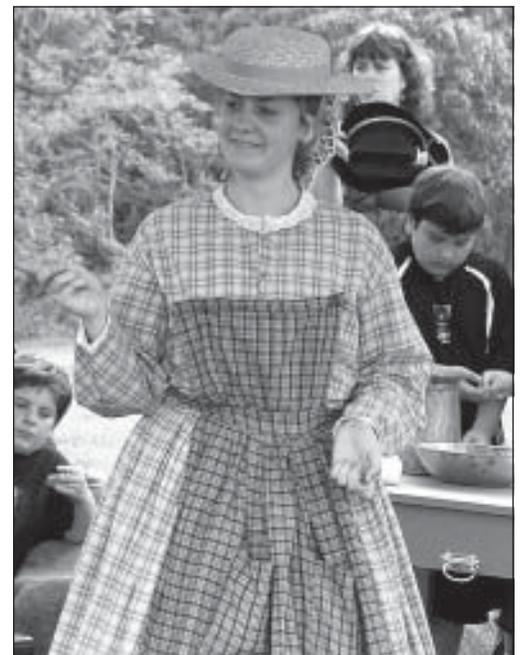
Please Update Your Mail and Email Addresses

Many of you who live in this area have had address changes due to 911 addressing. Please remember to give us your new mailing address. This newsletter is sent by bulk mail which means it may not be forwarded by the post office to your new address.

Also, we would like to have a current e-mail address for you. If you are a charter member we may not have that information. We are looking forward to regularly e-mailing you notices of

park and association events, so please keep us current with your addresses. It is our policy **not** to share addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses with anyone, for any reason.

You may email us at hfha@earthlink.net with address additions or changes or call 304-535-6881 locally, or toll free 1-800-821-5206 if you live out of the area.



Student Kate Morris volunteers with the park's Education Program.

Harpers Ferry Websites

Harpers Ferry Historical Association
www.HarpersFerryHistory.org

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