

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

Spring 2010



Rising Waters Force Evacuation of Bookshop

On Friday, March 12 the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park received warning that the Shenandoah River was expected to crest between 22 and 26 feet. Heavy rain continued to inundate the Shenandoah and the Potomac, and both were already swollen from February's back to back blizzards. The wide margin between the predicted crest levels left park officials with a difficult decision. Twenty-two feet might reach the bookshop porch, but 26 feet would certainly immerse the building and other museums along Shenandoah Street. Erring on the side of caution, the call was made that afternoon to evacuate.

By 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning nearly 100 park employees and volunteers had gathered at the train station to begin coordinated evacuations. As the work progressed the varying crest predictions were monitored closely. In just over two hours approximately 80% of the books had been packed away when the order came to stand down. The latest crest prediction had fallen to under 22 feet.

After a nearly three hour wait the next prediction jumped again. The 11:00 a.m. report called for 23.5 feet. Park officials cancelled the evacuations of every building except the bookshop, which the water would reach first. After the tireless effort of staff and volunteers, the bookshop was completely empty by late afternoon, most of its contents loaded safely onto a 53 foot tractor trailer.

All night Saturday and into Sunday both rivers continued to rise. The Lower Town area of the park was closed to visitors, but many "flood watchers" ventured out to

see the rivers. In the end, the Lower Town parking stockade flooded, but the water stopped when it passed underneath the railroad trestle and reached the shuttle bus parking lot.



On Monday morning the trailer returned. Putting things back together was a much slower process, but the bookshop was still up and running by late morning Tuesday. This was due in great part to the support and assistance from the National Park Service staff and volunteers. The Association is especially grateful to Brian King, Dennis Frye, Christy Tew, Traci Manning, Tyler Gum, William Banks, and Norma Rishel for their help. Also, young men from the West Virginia CCC including Leonard, Clayton, Donald, Antoine, and Travis, and led by Ricky Britner, volunteered both days and made the entire operation a success.

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*Park staff remove boxes of
books from the bookshop.
(NPS Photo by Marsha
Wassel)*

*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."*

Armory Superintendent Members

Jo (Kuhn) Curtis in
memory of Jim Kuhn
and Alexander and Mary
Murphy
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Dr. Robert Johnson
Harpers Ferry, WV
Ronald Jones
Our Lady of Sorrows
School, Farmington, MI
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Don Campbell
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Jim and Suzanne Silvia
Taunton, MA & Harpers
Ferry, WV

Master Armorer Members

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Harpers Ferry, WV
Kirk Bradley
Sanford, NC
Donald and Patricia
Burgess
Harpers Ferry, WV
Rock Comstock
Vienna, VA
Hon. and Mrs. Thomas
Curtis and Family
Baltimore, MD
Clark Dixon, Jr.
Ranson, WV
Kim and Frank Edwards
Edgewood, MD
Scot Faulkner
Harpers Ferry, WV
Wayne Hammond
Saxton, PA

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The bookshop was last evacuated due to rising waters in 2003. As in 2010, the water only came as far as the shuttle bus parking lot. But the high water marks of two devas-

tating floods in 1996 (found above eye-level inside the bookshop) are stark reminders of the damage these rivers can do.

(NPS Photo by Marsha Wassel)

Pass Options for Visiting Your National Parks

If you are planning multiple visits to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park or any other park, you might consider one of these park passes to save money on entrance fees:

Harpers Ferry Annual Pass \$25.00. Valid for one year from month of purchase for Harpers Ferry NHP only. Admits passholder and passengers in a single, private vehicle (excluding groups) or immediate family if entering by other means. Nontransferable. (Included in Millwright, Master Armorer, and Paymaster level memberships.)

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass – Annual Pass \$80.00. This pass is available to the general public and provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity Fee for a year, beginning from the date of sale. The pass admits the pass holder/s and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas. (Children under 16 are admitted free) The pass can be obtained in person at the park, by calling 1-888-ASK USGS, Ext.

1, or via the Internet at store.usgs.gov/pass (Included in Armory Superintendent level membership.)

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass – Senior Pass - \$10. This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). The pass can only be obtained in person at the park. The Senior Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally **does NOT** cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

2010 Schedule of Events

These family events relate the natural and cultural history of the area and give accounts of the men and women whose contributions made Harpers Ferry a significant place in our nation's heritage. These events are made possible through the efforts of the park staff, NPS volunteers, living history groups, and the Harpers Ferry Historical Association. For more information call 304-535-6029 or visit the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park website at www.nps.gov/hafe.

June 5 National Trails Day

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Take a hike and enjoy the breathtaking views of the town and park! Guided hikes depart from the Trails Day Tent on the Green.

June 19 Navy Band Concert

6pm. Camp Hill at Mather Training Center. The Navy Band ensemble "Cruisers" will perform on the Mather lawn.

June 26 Ninth Annual Don Redman Jazz Heritage Concert & Awards

6pm. Camp Hill at Mather Training Center. Enjoy this free concert featuring Harold Mabern and Mickey Roker with the Howard Burns Quartet.

July 4 Celebrating the Glorious Fourth 1860

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Experience how Americans celebrated the nation's birthday with picnics, band concerts, and patriotic speeches honoring the founding fathers and the glorious republic. Featuring the Wildcat Regiment Band, the Regimental Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

July 10 Meriwether Lewis Returns to Harpers Ferry

10am - 4pm. Lower Town. Discover Harpers Ferry's role in the Lewis and Clark expedition with Richard Cheatham as Captain Meriwether Lewis.

July 24 Slavery, the Abolitionist Movement and Reflections of Jefferson

1pm & 3pm. Lower Town. Listen to this insightful dramatic presentation on the issue of slavery featuring Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson.

July 24-25 Medical Weekend: Giving Aid and Comfort 1864

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Hear the story of the national and local civilian and military efforts to sustain the Union Army as General Philip Sheridan prepared his army for the Shenandoah Valley Campaign.

July 31- Aug 1 I Will Follow Them to the Death: Sheridan's Soldiers 1864

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. The 11th New Jersey will demonstrate Union army garrison duties such as guard mount parade; searching and arresting spies, deserters, and traitors; processing prisoners of war; searching citizens; and maintaining military security in an occupied enemy town.

August 14-15 A Summer of Fire: Harpers Ferry 1864

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Join the military as the 142nd Pennsylvania recruit, post a guard mount, question prisoners, issue the

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Master Armorer Members (Cont'd)

Rebecca Harriett
Rocky Mount, VA
Bruce Kramer
Baltimore, MD
Anne A. Long
Myersville, MD
Cynthia K. Mason
Baltimore, MD
Linda Parks
Washington, DC
George Rutherford
Ranson, WV
Maureen Weber
Falling Waters, WV

Recent Donations

Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society
The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
Verizon
Vicke Tarallo

Richard Cheatham plays the role of Captain Meriwether Lewis during exhibit dedication ceremonies in Lower Town Harpers Ferry on March 29, 2003. (NPS Photo by David T. Gilbert)



Militia muster and parade on Shenandoah Street in the Lower Town during Election Day 1860 event. This popular annual event is made possible by the participation of dozens of living history volunteers and re-enactors. (Photo by David T. Gilbert)



oath of allegiance and carry out orders to look for disloyal citizens aiding Confederate Partisan Ranger, John Singleton Mosby.

August 22
Niagara Movement Pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort

8am. Murphy Farm. Retrace the footsteps of civil rights pioneers during this commemorative walk to the site of John Brown's Fort in 1906. A 10:00am memorial service will follow at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church.

August 28
How Does Your Garden Grow?

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Learn about kitchen gardens & heirloom vegetables and how they differ from today's gardens. Join Master Gardener Carol Anderson for a discussion, hands-on raised beds demonstration, and examination of 19th century garden tools and heirloom garden plants.

September 4
United States Marine Band "Free Country"

6pm. Camp Hill at Mather Training Center. Enjoy the music of one of our country's premier military bands.

September 25
National Public Lands Day

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Explore area trails, see breath-taking vistas while helping to keep trails clean and pristine. Guided hikes rated easy to challenging will be offered in many areas of the park.

October 2
Mr. Lincoln Returns to Harpers Ferry

1pm & 3pm. Lower Town. Our 16th president comes to life as Jim Getty portrays Abraham Lincoln.

October 9
Election Day 1860!

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Attend our living history fall event "Election Day 1860." Look back 150 years to November 6, 1860, when the American electorate cast their ballots for the next president of the United States. Cast your vote!

October 16
At All Times Ready: The U. S. Marines

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Learn how the U.S. Marines reacted to abolitionist John Brown's October 1859 raid on the U.S. Armory.

October 30-31 – Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862

11am - 4pm. Bolivar Heights Battlefield. Learn about the Battle of Harpers Ferry and see an artillery demonstration. Baltimore Light Artillery presents a military camp. Programs are at 12 noon, 2pm & 3pm.

November 6-7
Fall Cider Making

11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Enjoy this fall tradition that harks back to happier times for German immigrant Frederick Roeder and his family when the tavern business was thriving.

December 4-5
Captain Flagg's US Quarter Master City: Approach of Peace 1864

Sat. 12 - 8pm and Sun. 11am - 4pm. Lower Town. Join this special Yuletide of 1864, when Harpers Ferry soldiers attempted to create Christmas in a war zone. Programs 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.

Volunteer Recognition

Larry Baker of Harpers Ferry recently presented Executive Director Debbie Piscitelli with a check for \$750, a donation from the Verizon Volunteers program. The program awards approved non-profit organizations a donation for every fifty hours of employee volunteer time. In October of 2009, Baker gave over seventy hours of his time throughout the week of the **John Brown Raid Sesquicentennial**.

Baker proved to be an invaluable helper that week. In addition to the “heavy lifting” behind the scenes, Baker ran errands, served coffee and refreshments to the Symposium attendees, made sure each presenter had

water, helped bag purchases in the sales tent, and assisted in the tear down. Just as important, his sunny disposition remained as constant as the rain.

Always a great help to the association, Baker also volunteered during the Niagara Movement Centennial in 2006.



Larry Baker presents check to Debbie Piscitelli. (Photo by Stephanie Sager)

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 “John Brown’s Fort” ornament, 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; “John Brown’s Fort” ornament; 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, “John Brown’s Fort” ornament, recognition in the newsletter and at annual meeting, special tour, an Amercia the Beautiful 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

E-mail

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

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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2010 Don Redman Heritage Awards and Concert

The Harpers Ferry Historical Association is proud to join the park in sponsoring the Ninth Annual Don Redman Heritage Awards and Concert. The event will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, on the lawn of the Mather Training Center in Harpers Ferry. The recipients of this year's awards are jazz pianist Harold Mabern and drummer Mickey Roker.

Characterized as a hard bop and soul jazz pianist, Mabern played early on in Chicago with Walter Perkins' MJT + 3 before moving to New York. He's worked with Jimmy Forrest, Lionel Hampton, the Jazztet, Donald Byrd, Miles Davis, J. J. Johnson, Lee Morgan, Hank Mobley, Sonny Rollins, Freddie Hubbard, Wes Montgomery, Joe Williams, and Sarah Vaughan. A longtime faculty member at William Paterson University, Mabern is a frequent instructor at the Stanford Jazz Workshop

A mainstay and icon of the jazz world, drummer and mentor Mickey Roker has played with Dizzy Gillespie, the Modern Jazz Quartet, Lee Morgan and many other signature groups of modern jazz. He has witnessed and been part of the jazz world for over six decades. When asked about Jazz he said, "With jazz, the main thing is swing. It's a feeling and you can't explain a feeling. Unlike classical, jazz is made up as you go along. You gotta listen, open your heart and mind. That's what jazz is."



Harold Mabern (left) and Mickey Roker.