

*Published for the  
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of the Harpers Ferry  
Historical Association*

*Summer 2002*

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# Americorps Blazes New Trail at Harpers Ferry Park

The wooded incline, tangled with vines, poison ivy, rocks and downed timber, defied clearing as the ten Americorps volunteers entered the stand of trees to begin clearing the trail. Working daily from April 15 through May 13, the novice trail-builders from Americorps' Washington, D.C., campus battled the undergrowth, flies, gnats, and the unseasonable heat and humidity to build two separate trails, totaling three-quarters of a mile from the Bolivar Heights area of the park to the Union Skirmish Line, located along Bakerton Road.

Despite the arduous work, team member Kevin Brunelle said, "This work in the restful setting of Harpers Ferry is a most pleasant and welcome change." Park Landscape Architect Steve Lowe noted that the park had been planning to install this trail for over a year and said, "We were very excited to have had such a motivated and enthusiastic Americorps team here to complete this work."

According to Park Superintendent Don Campbell, "The AmeriCorps efforts at Harpers Ferry have enabled us to connect two important Civil War resources — Bolivar Heights and the Union Skirmish Line, allowing park visitors and neighbors to more easily make the historical connections that are vital to understanding the Battle of Harpers Ferry in 1862 and other related Civil War events in 1861 and 1864. The trail will also provide access for local citizens who enjoy walking, hiking and jogging in this beautiful area of the park."

Walking the mulched path under the canopy of green, birdcalls echo overhead and a damp fragrance of flowers and leaves

fills the air. Strategically placed logs and rocks meld with nature's landscape forming steps and buffering against erosion. Although new, the path is not an intrusion to the woods as it leads gently down to the open fields below. The trailblazers have left their mark while treading lightly here. It is a job well done.



**Note:** These trails from the Bolivar Heights section of the park will connect to a new trail along the Union Skirmish Line that is slated to be completed sometime early in 2003.

*by Marsha Starkey  
Education/Public Relations Specialist  
Harpers Ferry NHP*

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## Annual Association Membership Meeting

Please join us on Saturday, July 29, for the Harpers Ferry Historical Association Annual Membership Meeting. The business portion of the meeting will begin at Mather Training Center at 10:30 a.m. A review of last year's activities of the Association, as well as current activities, will be presented. There will also be an election of Board Members.

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*Americorps volunteers and Harpers Ferry Park staff pose along a section of the new Bolivar Heights-Union Skirmish Line trail. NPS photo by Marsha Starkey.*

*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

Harpers Ferry High School  
Alumni Association  
Harpers Ferry, WV  
Loudoun Valley High  
School  
Purcellville, VA  
Our Lady of Sorrows School  
Farmington, MI  
Michael Sterns  
Oakland, CA  
Charles Town Race Track  
Charles Town, WV

## Patron Members

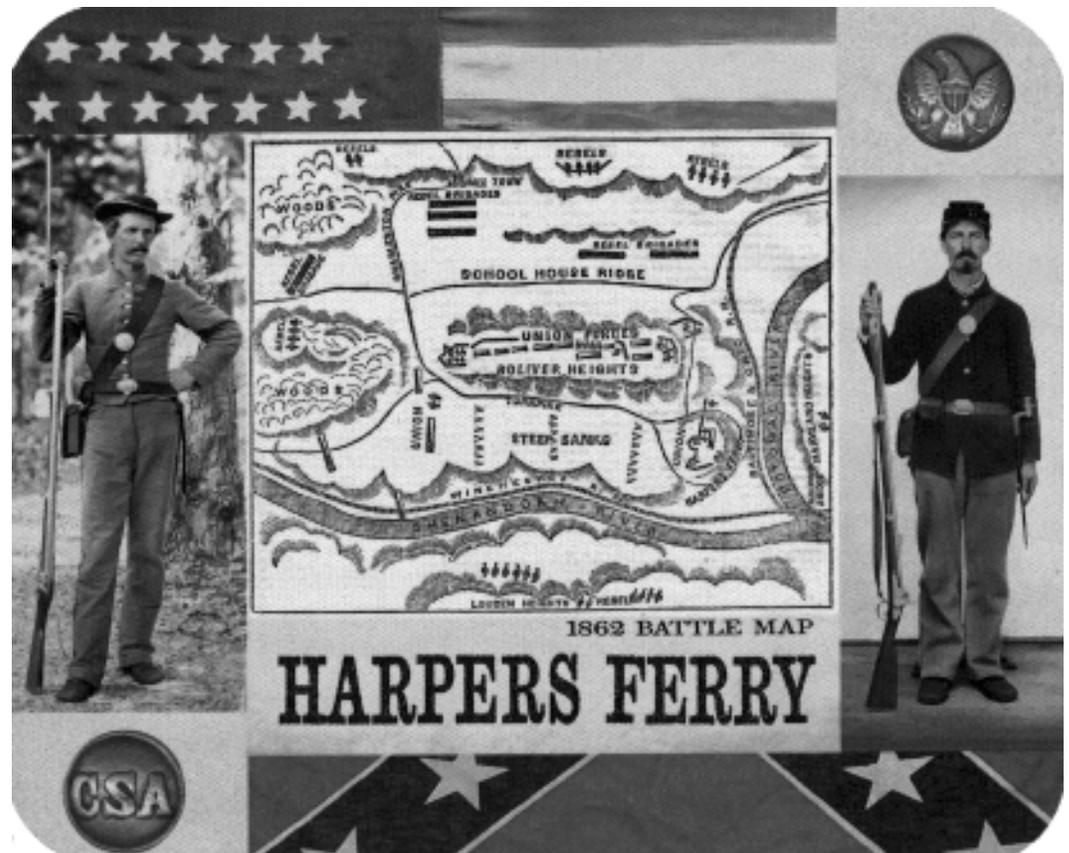
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Nancy Myers  
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Richard Oakley  
Oak Hill, VA  
Jim & Suzanne Silvia  
Taunton, MA

## Benny Powell to Perform at Freedom's Birth

Famed jazz trombonist Benny Powell will return to Harpers Ferry on June 29 to perform during the evening for the park's *Freedom's Birth* celebration. Powell had previously visited Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to preside over the opening of an exhibit honoring the life of Storer College graduate Don Redman. Redman, a close friend of Powell, received little recognition during his life, but now has the distinction of being the first great jazz arranger, and revolutionizing jazz through subtle changes in the way bands are organized.

Benny Powell, a New Orleans native, is best known for his eight-bar contribution to Count Basie's hit "April in Paris." After a 12-year stay with Basie, Powell's rich musical career as a trombonist ranged from Duke Pearson's New York Big Band to Hollywood's Merv Griffin Show. He is also a respected teacher and promoter of jazz music.

He continues to perform, and visitors will have the pleasure of hearing him featured with the Howard Burns Quartet at 8:00 p.m. on June 29 during *Freedom's Birth*.



## Help Save Harpers Ferry Battlefield

The Civil War Preservation Trust has launched its fundraising campaign to save 232 acres of land adjacent to Harpers Ferry NHP. This land was significant in the September 1862 siege of Harpers Ferry. The Harpers Ferry Historical Association is raising funds to aid this cause by selling T-shirts, with the proceeds donated to the Civil War Preservation Trust. The tan shirt features an 1862 map of the Bolivar Heights

and School House Ridge battlefields framed by both Union and Confederate flags and soldiers (see photo above). The map was reproduced from one found in the September 18, 1862 issue of the *New York Times*.

The shirts are available in adult sizes small to 2XL, sell for \$16.50, and can be purchased at the Bookshop or by calling toll free 1-800-821-5206. The same image is available on a mouse pad for \$9.95.

# Freedom's Birth: An American Experience 2002

If you are looking for a good day to visit Harpers Ferry, you can't choose better than Saturday, June 29. Once again the park is presenting a full schedule of events, with something to suit all interests and ages, to celebrate the nation's Independence Day. The park opens at 8:00 a.m. and special activities begin at 11:00 with a 19<sup>th</sup> Century music concert by the Wildcat Regimental Band at Arsenal Square in the Lower Town. Following the concert will be individual presentations by four prominent men of history: George Washington (Bill Sommerfield), Thomas Jefferson (Bill Barker), Frederick Douglass (Fred Morsell) and Abraham Lincoln (Jim Getty).

At 4:00 p.m. on the plaza at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center, author Alan Kay will discuss his new children's book *On the Trail of John Brown's Body*, part of the Young Heroes of History series. Mr. Kay was recently awarded the Florida History Day Teacher Award, and was one of the eight finalists for the National History Day Teacher Award. He will be available to sign copies of this and other books in the series. The Association will have an outside sales area on the plaza during the celebration.

At 5:30 p.m. the four men of history will gather together in the Festival Tent for a dynamic performance of "The Meeting of the Minds." Then the Howard Burns Quartet, joined by Joe Wilder and Benny Powell during their second set, will entertain visitors waiting at Cavalier Heights for the spectacular fireworks display.

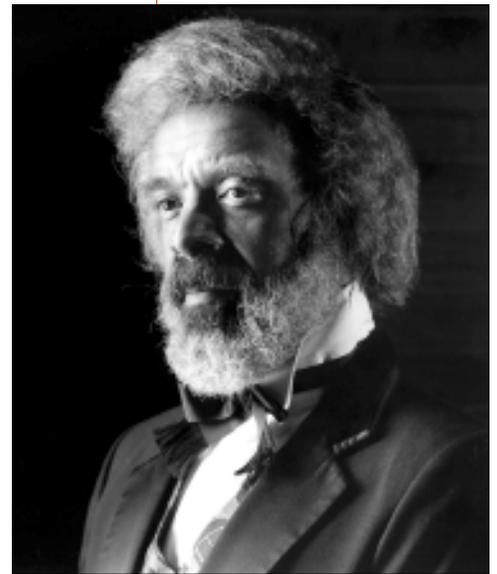
Throughout the evening on Bolivar Heights Battlefield, "Relive the Dark Days

of the Civil War" will be re-enacted. See the talking flags and torches of the U.S. Signal Corps. Discover how the U.S. Quartermaster supplied beans, bullets and bandages. Witness "sappers and miners" (the U.S. Engineers) at work. Join the drill of the light artillerymen or enlist in the infantry and learn the duties of a soldier. The Wildcat Regimental Band will provide the "Grand Independence Day Concert" for those waiting on Bolivar Heights for the fireworks finale.

Come and join in the celebration! No entrance fee will be charged for this event. Parking will be available at Cavalier Heights throughout the day and at Bolivar Heights starting at 4:30 p.m. Entrance to parking areas will close at 9:15 p.m. Public safety is of utmost importance on this very busy day, and visitors are reminded there will be no parking along the shoulder of Route 340, Washington Street or Whitman Avenue. Also, personal fireworks will not be allowed in the park. Insect repellent, lawn chairs or blankets, and a flashlight will help make your visit safe and enjoyable.

In the event of heavy rains or thunderstorms on June 29, the fireworks display will be held at 9:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 30. No concerts will be held on Sunday.

For more information about the day's events, call the Park Visitor Center at 304-535-6298.



*Fred Morsell appears as Frederick Douglass at this year's Freedom's Birth event. Also appearing are Bill Sommerfield as George Washington, Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson, and Jim Getty as Abraham Lincoln.*

## Harpers Ferry Websites



Harpers Ferry  
Historical Association  
[www.HarpersFerryHistory.org](http://www.HarpersFerryHistory.org)



Harpers Ferry  
National Historical Park  
[www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe)

## Annual Association Membership Meeting *continued from Page 1*

Following the business meeting there will be a covered-dish picnic on the patio of the Interpretive Design Center. All members and their guests are invited to attend.

There is no charge, but **please call and make your reservations by Wednesday, June 26**, and let us know how many will be attending the picnic. You may reach us at

304-535-6881 or at [hfa@intrepid.net](mailto:hfa@intrepid.net). Please plan to bring your favorite casserole, salad or dessert. Meat, drinks, and tableware will be provided by the Association.

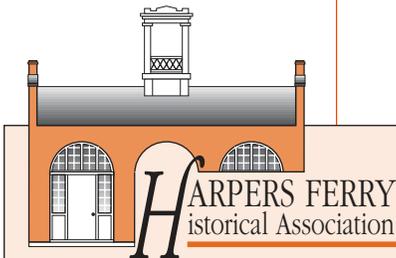
During the picnic, you will have the opportunity to meet legendary jazz trombonist, Benny Powell, who will be joining us for lunch. Following the picnic, all members are invited to join in the *Freedom's Birth* activities sponsored by the Park.

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  
Post Office Box 197  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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25425  
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## Summer Programs Sponsored by the Harpers Ferry Historical Association

Sign up today for **STEPBAC**, a summer history day camp for kids. Join in the fun of engaging in history and nature activities. Small groups allow for a great learning opportunity in an outdoor setting. Week-long sessions begin June 24 and end August 2. The fee for a one-week session is \$150.

Grandparents can get into the act of experiencing history with their grandchildren. **History with Grandparents** is a 3-

day program offered August 6, 7, and 8. Designed for children 10, 11, and 12 and their grandparents, this program offers a unique vacation adventure to make learning fun for both generations. Activity-oriented experiences are presented in an inspiring setting. The fee is \$150 per person including six meals.

For more information about either program, or to register, call 304-535-6881.

### Harpers Ferry Historical Association Membership Application

- I wish to join the Harpers Ferry Historical Association (*new member*)  
 I wish to renew my membership (*renewal*)

I'm already a member (*note my new address*)

Please enroll me in the following member category (*check one*):

- \$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 two Harpers Ferry watercolor prints: *Shenandoah Street* and *The Stone Steps* by Jane Gyer).
- \$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, a copy of *Waterpower*, and member recognition in our newsletter and at our Annual Membership Meeting).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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