

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

Winter 1999

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Center in Park

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Photography Workshop Set for February 27

 In February 27, the Association will sponsor a Photography Workshop featuring nature photographer and author, Jim Clark. Jim recently visited the Park to promote his new book *West Virginia: The Allegheny Highlands*. Visitors and staff were most favorably impressed with his musical/slide presentation, *A Natural Celebration*, which has been enjoyed by audiences throughout the nation. We are delighted to find that Jim offers day-long photography workshops, so we have invited him back so that others may be instilled with his enthusiasm and inspired by his work.

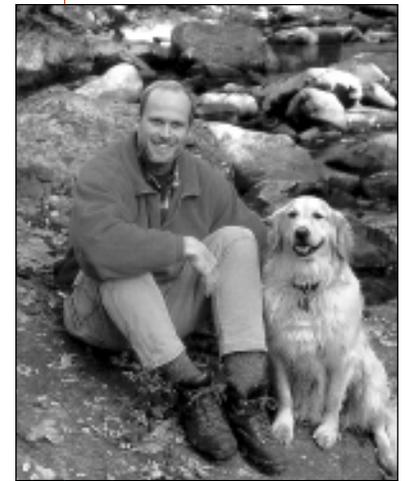
Nature's View: Tips for capturing outstanding images of nature, is a one day workshop that provides participants at the beginning and intermediate skill levels with approaches for capturing nature images that exemplify the "essence of the moment." The workshop emphasizes practical applications and techniques. Methods of instruction include classroom instruction, slide presentations, video, camera and equipment demonstrations, and question and answer sessions. It establishes a foundation for understanding the basic techniques of nature photography, the importance of developing a personal style in photography, and the use of compositional guidelines for creating exceptional images. Other topics include the basics of wildlife, landscape, wildflower and close-up photography, tips for selecting equipment, editing your images, and ethics. This is a classroom setting with no field trips or photo-shoots. Participants may want to bring a camera and lens to practice some of the techniques to be discussed.

One gentleman who has participated in Jim's workshop along with members of his camera club states, "Thank you for the best short course on photography that I've attended in more than 40 years of pursuing photography as a hobby and quasi professionally. Your pictures, discussions and slide programs were excellent and inspiring. I especially enjoyed your in-depth explanations of how you metered specific scenes and how you determined what adjustments you made and why you made those adjustments."

This will be a day filled with fun and information with the workshop beginning at 8:00 a.m. and closing about 5:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. The fee for the workshop is \$25.00 per person. A maximum of 20 people will be registered, so call us soon at 1-800-821-5206 (or phone 535-6881 if you live in Jefferson County). The session will be held in the Park and directions will be provided when you register.

Jim currently works for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, serving as Chief of the Branch of Wildlife Training for the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. His wildlife career has taken him from Alaska to Texas and New Mexico, and back to the East. He has also been a freelance nature photographer, writer and workshop instructor for the past 23 years. His images have appeared in books, calendars, catalogs, and advertisements. Jim's articles and images have been published in magazines such as *Outdoor Photographer*, *Birder's World*,

Continued on Page 2

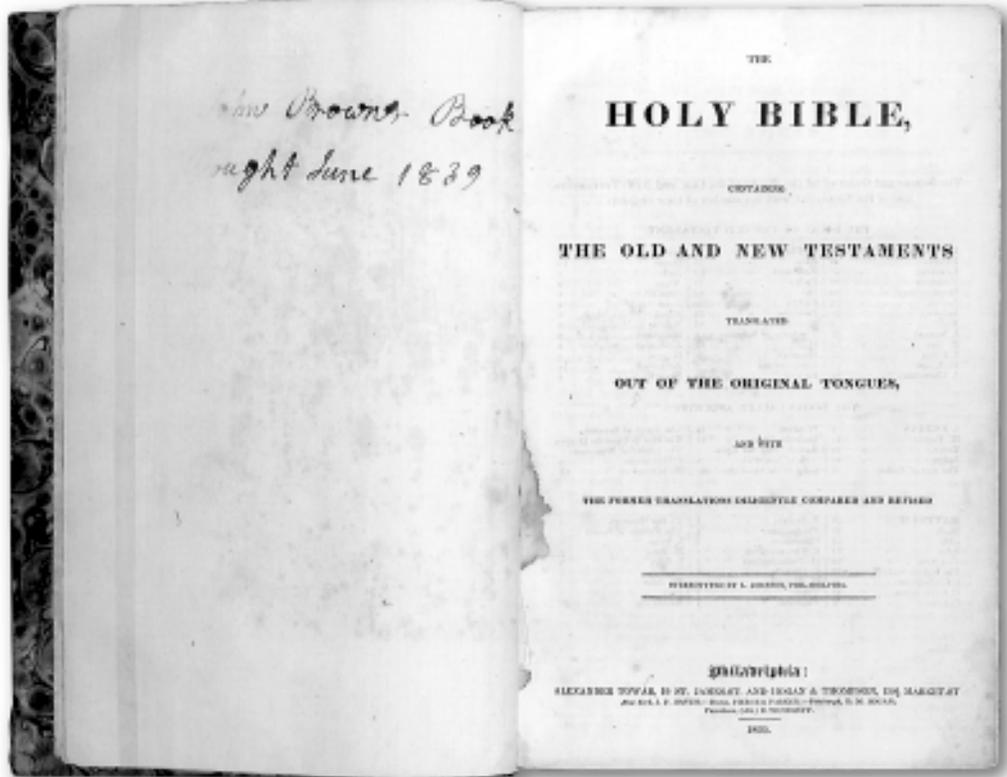


Nature photographer and author Jim Clark will present the Association's one-day Photography Workshop on February 27. Photo courtesy Westcliffe Publishers.

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

Bicycling Education
Association
Nan Carolyn Howard
Enslow Publishers
Americal Division –
Veterans Association
Old Line Field Music
Capt. Thomas Hahn



John Brown's Bible is once again on display in the John Brown Museum in Lower Town Harpers Ferry. The Bible was temporarily removed from the Lower Town following the record Floods of 1996, pending installation of a new flood-safe display case. National Park Service photo.

Association to Open Research Center

The park maintenance staff has begun renovations to a former storage area adjacent to the Bookshop in preparation for installation of computer stations and a small research library by the Association. This area will be available to the public in early Spring, and will be open during regular Bookshop hours. Visitors, students, and scholars will be able to access a database of historic photographs; *Explorer* (the Jefferson County module of the West Virginia history database); a variety of Civil War records; genealogical references; cemetery records; and research reports. We anticipate that this area will assist in meeting the needs of the many queries which the park receives for access to research materials.

This space will also be used as a gallery for the exhibition of works created by the Artist-in-Residence program, and for receptions showcasing the artwork of current visiting artists.

The Association welcomes donations of appropriate material to add to the Research Center, as well as volunteers to assist visitors in using the resources. Please call the Association at 304-535-6881 for more information.

Photography Workshop *continued from Page 1*

WildBird, Nature Photographer, Petersen's Photographic, Nature Photographer, Outdoor Traveler, Nature Conservancy, Horizons, Country, and Outdoor & Nature Photography. A charter member of the North American Nature Photography Association, he serves as a member of its Youth Education Committee. A native of West Virginia, Jim now resides in Leesburg, Virginia, with his wife Jamie, photo-dog Bailey, and photo-cat Nikon.

Please mark February 27 on your calendar and call us to reserve your space for this exciting and informative day.

HARPERS FERRY
National Historical Park
on the
WORLD WIDE WEB:

www.nps.gov/hafe/home.htm

Artist-in-Residence Program a Resounding Success

The 1998 Artist-in-Residence program recently came to an end and the new 1999 program began on January 1. We reflect on the success of the old year's program while looking forward to a new and rewarding experience for the park community and its visitors.

In 1998, this program brought six practicing artists to the Park to live and work for one month each. The Park proved to be a great inspiration for these artists. Local community and area schools, as well as our visitors, were able to participate in workshops in creative writing, printmaking, papermaking, painting, and photography. Association-sponsored Elderhostel groups, for example, joined Jane Allen for spirited papermaking sessions. Visitors and park staff expanded their visual knowledge of the park's environs, and each artist donated to the park a piece of their work that was created during their stay.

Tony Sweet, a photographer from Baltimore, gave a color photograph titled *Past Reflections*. Patricia Canelake, a painter from

Duluth, Minnesota, contributed a two-part oil painting *B&O Bridge, Maryland Heights and the Point*. Jane Ingram Allen, a sculptor and papermaker from Hamilton, New York, donated the map sculpture called *Harpers Ferry*. Rod T. Smith, a poet/writer, will publish a booklet of poems he produced during his tenure, including *John Brown's Sharps* (see below). Marie Postle Stewart, a painter from Louisa, Virginia, donated an oil painting entitled *Pulp Factory Ruins*. Dohrn Zachai, a painter from Oxford, Maryland, gave three works to the park: a pastel *1860 Election Day Lunch*, a watercolor entitled *The Gap*, and a charcoal drawing named *Railroad Tunnel*.

These wonderful and diverse works will be on display in the Association Research Center upon its completion this Spring.



Artist-in-Residence Jane Allen instructs Elderhostel participants in the art of papermaking. Photo by Sue Baker.

John Brown's Sharps

for Luke Quinn

White gloved as any honor guard
or riverboat minstrel,
I lift the heavy weapon
from the vault until light
can gloss the barrel and walnut stock.
So this is the lethal artifact,
one of "Beecher's Bibles," a slant
breach Sharps sent
to Bleeding Kansas, the wrested
at the Harpers Ferry Armory
from the flint-eyed martyr.
Wound in a sheet and kept
in a summer cabin's dark,
its action is still crisp, as if
awaiting a new arising, brass
fittings and blueing intact.
The hammer is sleek as a cock
heron's crest. So long asleep,
it is starved for a spark.
Ghost-handed to protect the steel

from mortal oils, I test the heft
and balance, rehearse port arms
and shoulder, but will not aim
or snap it. Even in this cellar,
I'm sweating to feel the owner's
energy and zeal in the trigger's
new moon. Wood and iron,
how easy to be death's animal,
to yield to temptation, the smolder
of a righteous anger.
I need to prop it back in shadow,
before it has to speak, before
I mistake fireflies by the bridged
river for carbines discharging,
before my dream of ploughshares
is over and I start hoping
for targets and share that old urge
to sight down the barrel
with a divining eye's gray ice.

— R. T. Smith

The Harpers Ferry Historical Association sponsors two Elderhostel programs annually in September. For information on all Elderhostel programs, please call Elderhostel toll-free at 1-877-426-8056 or visit their Website at www.elderhostel.org



School House Ridge Property is transferred to Harpers Ferry NHP. Left to right: Rev. Brian Owens (Pastor, Chapel of St. Peter's); Dennis Frye (Historian); Elliot Gruber (The Civil War Trust); Donald Campbell (Superintendent, Harpers Ferry NHP); and Doug Perks (Jefferson County Schools). Photo by Dave Gilbert.

Civil War Trust Transfers School House Ridge Property to Park

The Civil War Trust transferred 56 acres of land comprising a portion of the School House Ridge battlefield to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Saturday, October 10, 1998. A public dedication ceremony celebrating the event took place on the battlefield site.

The Civil War Trust is a private non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of our nation's endangered Civil War battlefield lands. Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, the 25,000-member Civil War Trust has spent \$5.5 million to preserve more than 6,500 acres of battlefield land in 24 states.

This 56 acres of land, purchased by the Trust in 1993, is the heart of the School House Ridge portion of the battlefield, where Confederate General Stonewall Jackson masterminded the siege and capture of the Union garrison at Harpers Ferry on September 13, 14, and 15, 1862.

Wager Painting Added to Park Collection

Harpers Ferry NHP recently added a folk art painting of John Wager, Jr., great-nephew of town founder Robert Harper, to its museum

collection. The oil painting, which is currently undergoing conservation treatment, dates from the 1790s and is the only known image of a close Robert Harper relative. There is no apparent signature on the painting, but experts currently believe that John Frederick Kemmelmeyer, an itinerant portrait painter, was probably the artist.

John Wager, Jr. – the only son of John Wager, Sr. and Sarah Ann Harper Wager (niece of Robert Harper) – was born in Philadelphia on September 23, 1772. He lived there until 1791, when he moved to Harpers Ferry with his father to take possession of the property which descended to them from Robert Harper. When the Wagers sold land to the federal government for the *United States Armory and Arsenal* in 1796, the family retained possession of two key parcels of land in the Lower Town, and were responsible for much of the commercial growth and development of Harpers Ferry during the early decades of the 19th century. John Wager, Jr., died on October 22, 1812, and was buried in the Harper Cemetery.

According to Park Curator Judith Mueller, "This is an exciting find. It is a fine piece of American folk art which holds major historical significance for the Park, and on a larger scale for the collections of the American people." The painting is scheduled to go on exhibit during the first half of 1999.



Tom Hahn Donates C&O Canal Books to Association

For many years Tom Hahn, industrial archaeologist and canal expert, has provided the Association with a variety of titles about the C&O Canal. Recently, he has decided to move away from the area and discontinue his publishing business.

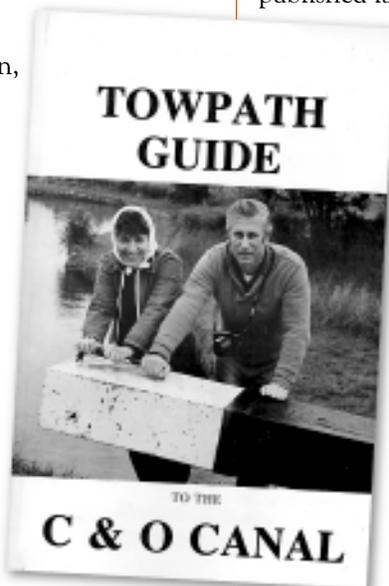
Tom recently conveyed the remainder of his inventory to the Association, and delivered a letter stating, "I have had a very compatible and enjoyable business association as book buyer and book seller for over 25 years with the Association. Because of my respect for the Association and its employees, and the good works that the Association has done, I hereby donate to the Association the rights to these books."

Included among Tom's books is the authoritative and ever-popular *Towpath Guide to the C&O Canal*, first published in 1982. The Association is currently making minor revisions in preparation for a new printing this spring.

Recent Publications

Burials in Jefferson County West Virginia, compiled by Hugh Voress and published by the Jefferson County Historical Association, is now available in the Bookshop. This volume, covering the years 1978-1997, was compiled to update *Tombstone Inscriptions: Jefferson County, 1687-1980*. Additional information has been included for Shepherdstown Reformed Church Cemetery, Edgehill Cemetery, and Elmwood Cemetery, and updates for all other cemeteries have been added. In the second volume, parents of the deceased are included.

These volumes are available at the Bookshop for \$18.00 each. The first volume is limited in quantity. These books are invaluable for anyone researching family in the local area.



Upcoming Titles

Waterpower, by David T. Gilbert, will be published later this spring by the

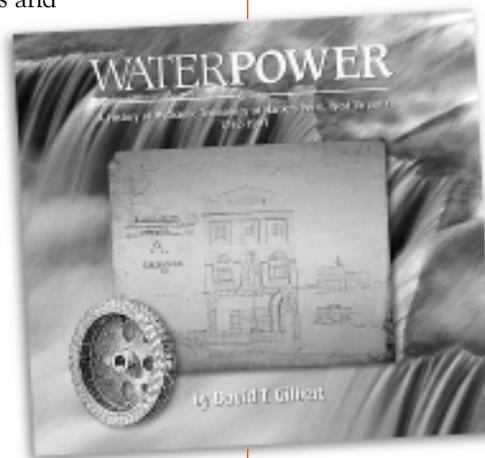
Harpers Ferry Historical Association. This new book will trace the history of hydraulic technology at Harpers Ferry from 1762, when Robert Harper first established a small grist and sawmill here, up until 1991, when the Potomac Power Plant ceased operation. Dave is also author of *A Walker's Guide to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*, now in its 11th printing.

John Brown: The Thundering Voice of Jehovah, by Stan Cohen and published by Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., is also expected later this spring. This 200-page book will be a comprehensive pictorial record of John Brown, portraying the places he lived, his family and associates, and the many artifacts and objects associated with his life and his infamous raid. The book will also contain news articles and letters dating from the period of the raid.

The Association plans to host book signings for both authors later this year.

Bookshop Hours

The National Park Bookshop in Lower Town Harpers Ferry is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Many of our more popular titles are also available in the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center. To see our most popular titles, visit our Website at www.nps.gov/hafe/bookshop/catalog.htm.



Activities & Events

In celebration of **Black History Month** the exhibit *Struggle for Freedom* will open on January 31 & At the end of February, the Bookshop will have a drawing for the **American Girl** doll "Addy." Please stop in anytime during February and sign up & **Women's History Month** will be celebrated in March with special weekend programs to be announced & **Earth Day** is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 & This year's **Spring Blues Concert** features Byther Smith at Shepherd College on Friday, April 30 & The Association's 3rd **Annual Author Fest** and the Park's **Independence Day** event will be held on Saturday, June 26 & Visit the Park's Website at www.nps.gov/hafe for the latest information on activities, programs, and events.

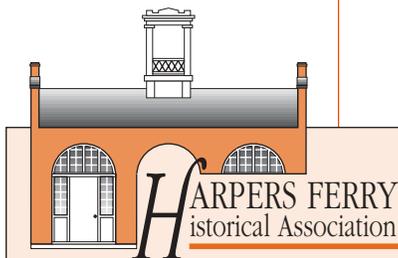
The Harpers Ferry Historical Association operates the National Park Bookshop in Lower Town Harpers Ferry. Profits from sales are returned to the park to support interpretive and educational programs to enhance your visit.

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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Membership Report

Membership in the Harpers Ferry Historical Association this year reached a record high with 208 *Basic* members, 23 *Basic-Plus* members, 16 *Contributing* members (a new category this year), and 9 *Patron* members.

When added to our *Charter* members, the Association's membership rolls now total over 500. Recent *Patron* members include Dianne Arena from Clear Spring, Maryland; Sylvia Frye from Charles Town, West Virginia; and retiring board member Mike Musick from Harpers Ferry.

The Association wishes to thank all of you who have renewed your membership. We also welcome those of you who have joined for the first time. Because of your generous support, we have succeeded in increasing our membership for the second straight year!

Your continued support allows us to contribute to park programs and events, as well as provide quality educational materials to visitors. If you should change your address over the course of the year, please use the form below to notify us so you may continue to receive this newsletter.

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 _____

Please clip and mail to:

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