

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Battle of Harpers Ferry



First Battle of Harpers Ferry

Date: October 16, 1861

On the two year anniversary of John Brown's Raid, Harpers Ferry's first battle occurred on Bolivar Heights. Pennsylvanian John Geary led his command of 600 Union troops against Virginian Turner Ashby and 500 Confederates. Both sides claimed victory after six hours of combat that produced more excitement than casualties.