



Community Bulletin



Bolivar Heights Battlefield

Giving Aid and Comfort: Medical and Relief Work During the Civil War

On Saturday and Sunday, August 13th and 14th, Harpers Ferry NHP invites the public to attend a special living history program, “Giving Aid and Comfort: Medical and Relief Work During the Civil War.” Living history volunteers along with park staff will portray Harpers Ferry’s medical and relief efforts which provided aid and comfort to the thousands of soldiers fighting during the American Civil War. The outpouring of funds and care was so vast that the relief effort was described as “an artery of the people’s love to the people’s army.” This program will tell the story of both the national and local civilian and military efforts to sustain the Union Army.

In the autumn of 1864, General Philip Sheridan prepared his army for the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Harpers Ferry became a supply depot for food, equipment, ammunition and medical attention for the army in the field. Commissary, Diet Kitchens, a Soldiers Rest, the U.S. Quartermaster, and Sanitary Commission were included in the vast sustenance needed for that army.

Special exhibits will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Ranger-guided walking tours will be offered at 1, 2, and 3 featuring how the town was utilized by both civilian and military operations from camp to grave and a historic weapons firing demonstration.

For additional information, please call the Information Center at 304-535-6029.

Programming Schedule:

1:00 pm “Beans Killed More Than Bullets: The Diet Kitchen” Two thirds of soldiers’ deaths in the American Civil War were due to diseases from bad food, septic conditions and vermin. Join a Civil War soldier on his journey from the company of his comrades to the “patriot grave,” and discover the dangers lurking in the lives of every soldier in the American Civil War.

2pm “The Hidden Enemy: Carriers of Disease” Discover the struggles for surgeon and soldier as they wage a battle to save lives.

3:00 pm “Summer of Fire: Make the Valley a Desert” Join this guided walking tour and weapons firing demonstration. The hot months of summer

during the Civil War were the prime opportunity for an army to march and fight. Join park rangers as they recount the fire that raged around Harpers Ferry during four long years of war.

In the Shadows of John Brown: The 1861 Battle of Bolivar Heights

Harpers Ferry NHP invites the public to attend this special Civil War 150th Commemorative Event on Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16, 2011.

This event includes special ranger-guided programs, book signings and author discussions, family and youth activities, and archeology activities.

Visitors must park at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center and board shuttle buses to the event on Bolivar Heights. The National Park Service expects this to be a busy event, so plan to arrive early and allow for transportation time to reach event activities.

Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862

"We are surrounded by enemy batteries", wrote a Union officer garrisoned at Harpers Ferry on September 15, 1862. On that day, the 12,500-man Union garrison surrendered to Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. This military action at Harpers Ferry was the largest surrender of Union troops during the American Civil War. Following the surrender of Federal troops, Jackson's men marched northward to join Confederate General Robert E. Lee near Sharpsburg, Maryland, arriving in time to save Lee's flank from annihilation during the Battle of Antietam.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 16-17, Harpers Ferry Park's Living History staff will present federal artillery demonstrations on the battle which led to General Stonewall Jackson's capture of 12,500-man Federal soldiers. Visitors are invited to witness the power of the Federal artillery that defended

the Union garrison during the Siege of 1862. A military camp will be open for visitation on the Bolivar Heights Battlefield from 11:00 to 4:00pm.

Artillery demonstrations are scheduled for 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Visitors will be shuttled from the Visitor Center at Cavalier Heights to the Bolivar Heights Battlefield.

Upcoming Events

August 20-21 - "Beehive Oven Baking and Rye Straw Bread Basket Weaving"

Time: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Lower Town

Learn the basics of making bread and rising in Rye Straw Baskets. Watch how Frederick Roeder was able to run large bake ovens.

September 3 – Military Band Concert "Free Country," U.S. Marine Band

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Camp Hill, Mather Training Center grounds

Enjoy the music of one of our country's premier military bands.

September 3-4 - "Eyes of the Army: The Calvary Factor"

Time: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Lower Town

Join members of the 2nd US Cavalry as they demonstrate the speed and might of horse and soldier.

October 1 - "Mr. Lincoln Returns to Harpers Ferry"

Time: 1:00 PM & 3:00 PM

Location: Lower Town

Our 16th president comes to life as Jim Getty portrays Abraham Lincoln.

October 8 - "Reacting to the Raid: Virginia Militia Arming to the Teeth"

Time: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM


Location: Lower Town

Features militia drill and firing demo, martial law, ladies fair booth, and grand civic barbecue. Special tours at 1,2,3 and 4 p.m.

October 22-23 - "Basil Williamson's Tavern and the War of 1812"

Time: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Lower Town, Harper House
Special displays and living history rangers and volunteers help revisit and portray the town's reaction to the British invasion! Special program at 3 p.m.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than one event, one date, or one individual. It is multi-layered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation's history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop
304-525-6881

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page
www.nps.gov/hafe/

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Remembering the Niagara Movement: A Pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort

On Sunday, August 21 at 8:30 a.m. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park invites the public to retrace the 1906 footsteps of the men and women of the Niagara Movement during a commemorative walk to the 1906 site of the John Brown Fort. The ceremony will include music, historic readings and a memorial roll call of the members of the Niagara Movement.

Following the pilgrimage, a non-denominational memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church in Harpers Ferry. Those wishing to participate should drive directly to the Murphy Farm and then to the church.

For further information, call Harpers Ferry National Historical Park at 304-535-6029.