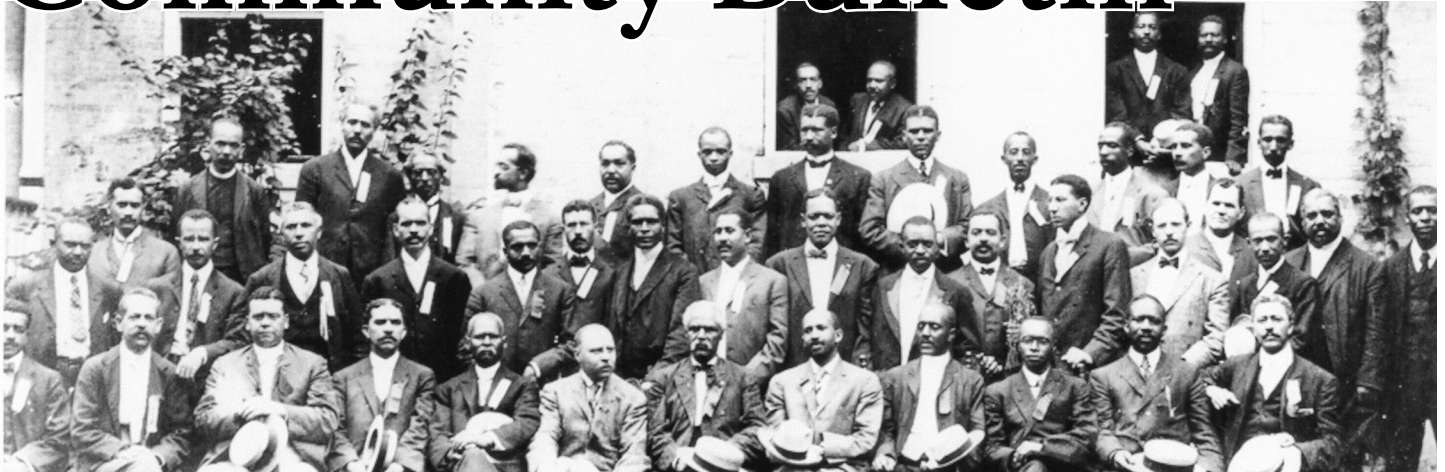




Community Bulletin



African American History Month Honors Freeman Henry Morris Murray

As part of its African American History Month Celebration, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park invites the public to attend the opening of a new exhibit, *Freeman Henry Morris Murray: Devoted to Equality and Justice for All*. The opening and reception will be held on Sunday, February 4, at 2:00 p.m. on the second floor of the John Brown Museum on Shenandoah Street. The exhibit remembers the life of F. H. M. Murray, an organizer of the 1906 Niagara Movement meeting held in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The program will feature Ms. Anita Hackley-Lambert, Mr. Murray's great-granddaughter and author of his biography.



F.H.M. Murray at the 1906 Niagara Meeting in Harpers Ferry.

Freeman Henry Morris Murray (1859 – 1950) was born in Cleveland, Ohio during a time when African Americans were considered nothing more than second class citizens. Determined to excel in the face of adversity, Murray moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where he fought for equal rights and civil justice.

The exhibit will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. throughout the month of February.

Bat Gate Installed at John Brown Cave

A bat gate was installed at the entrance to the John Brown Cave recently by Adam's Landscaping and Lawn Care of Martinsburg, WV. The purpose of the gate is to provide access to the cave for bats and wildlife while prohibiting human access. CSX and NPS officials have been working since 2004 to plan the installation. A CSX flagman was required since the entrance is very close to CSX active tracks.

The cave has been closed by CSX and the NPS for many years; however, trespassing on CSX property and violation of the closure has been a problem. In January 2006, park rangers issued violation notices to several people who had illegally entered the cave, disturbing hibernating pipistrelle bats. A biologist, specializing in bats, informed the park the hibernating bats that were handled probably died. In 2002, a father and son were rescued from the

cave when their light sources failed. Several species of salamander are also known to inhabit the cave.

The gate is based on a design by Mr. Roy Powers, Civil Engineer, who has constructed similar gates across the United States. The design was modified to fit the entrance. If you have any questions about this project, contact the park's Natural Resource Manager at 304 535-6038.

Main Street News

from Director Betsy Bainbridge

Wintertime is traditionally a quiet period in Lower Town Harpers Ferry, when cold weather discourages people from strolling around town. So far this winter we have seen a change in this trend. Happily, our Bed and Breakfasts and downtown businesses have kept busy with the very popular Christmas events and visitors on holiday. The unseasonably warm weather has encouraged more of us to enjoy our town and its sights on foot, especially on weekends. Harpers Ferry Park reports a 10.5 percent increase in visitation for 2006.

Main Street suggests you join your neighbors in taking the opportunity to check out the exterior of the newly renovated train station, have lunch, do a little shopping, and enjoy our unique downtown.



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 or 800-821-5206

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.

Information Center Refurbished

The Master Armorer's House, has been utilized as the Lower Town Information Center since 1997. After the last flood in September 1996, the building was cleaned and renovated with new paint and carpeting. It has been upgraded through the years to include modern air conditioning and heating. In October 2006 the Buildings and Utility Department of Harpers Ferry NHP initiated work on the first floor to update and refresh the center. Led by Project Leader Larry Moore, the entire B&U department has been actively involved in this project. Additional assistance has been received from the Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia led by supervisor Josh Baldwin. Air quality was tested by an outside source to ensure the Park offered visitors the best environment possible. The heating and air conditioning systems have been upgraded to include cleaning and sanitation of all duct systems and the introduction of fresh air into the environment. Old carpeting was removed and the wood floors have been refinished. In addition, ceilings and walls received a fresh coat of paint and all new exhibit lighting will be installed throughout the first floor. Completion of all work and the reopening of the Information Center is anticipated during the month of February.



Project Leader Larry Moore prepares the Information Center to reopen in February.

Draft Environmental Assessment of Water Line Relocation

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) to relocate a 200-foot section of the Harpers Ferry Water Works' water supply line in the vicinity of the water treatment plant on Bakerton Road. Public notice of this project was provided in the park's October 2006 Community Bulletin and on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/hafe>.

The current line is exposed where it crosses Elk Run. This exposed section can be damaged by floating debris during flood events which would disrupt and possibly contaminate the community's water supply, which serves the Towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar and the National Park Service. The Harpers Ferry Water Works has requested to relocate the line to a more suitable location on park land approximately 75 feet south of Elk Run. The existing main line would be removed from the stream when the new line is completed.

The draft EA is available for 30-day public review from January 30 to February 28, 2007. During this period, hard copies will be placed in the Bolivar Library, Harpers Ferry Town Hall and the park's headquarters in the Morrell House on Fillmore Street. An Acrobat Reader (pdf) version will be available on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/hafe> by clicking "Management". For those who have bookmarked the park's website, please reset your bookmark to this URL address.