



The Hampton Gazette

Sifting Through Slavery Hampton's Annual African-American History Symposium

Hampton National Historic Site is pleased to announce its upcoming African-American History Symposium which will take place at Goucher College on Thursday, March 25, 2010. Speakers at the symposium include Dr. Jillian Galle of the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery at Monticello, Dr. Robert Chidester, author of "Labor's Heritage: A Historical Context for the Archaeology of Industrial Slavery in the State of Maryland," and actor and Frederick Douglass historian Michael E. Crutcher. The distinguished scholar and historian Dr. John Vlach is the keynote speaker.

The focus of the symposium will be archaeology and interpretation of agricultural and industrial slavery in the mid-Atlantic, a topic particularly suited to the interpretation of Hampton National Historic Site. Hampton once served as the center of a vast agricultural and industrial estate, which encompassed ironworks, a mill, 25,000 acres of property, and as many as 350 enslaved African-Americans. Hampton and the surrounding mid-Atlantic region set the stage for an unusual blend of agricultural and industrial slavery that still intrigues historians today.

Hampton National Historic Site invites you to take part in this year's symposium as we discuss this unique aspect of our regional and national history. Enjoy the lower cost of our half-day symposium! Join us on March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for *Sifting Through Slavery*.

To register for the symposium, visit nps.gov/hamp and print off the registration form or call 410-823-1309 x208 to register with Ranger Angela Roberts-Burton.



This year Hampton National Historic Site's annual African-American History symposium focuses on the archaeological evidence and interpretation of agricultural and industrial slavery in the Mid-Atlantic. Images courtesy of Hopewell Furnace NHS and the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

Changes to the Lower House and Slave Quarters Will Allow A More Complete Story

As Hampton NHS celebrates Black History Month, the staff also celebrates the changes occurring on site to better tell the story of the African-Americans enslaved on the estate. New exhibits in the Lower House and Slave Quarters will capture the individual stories that turn a tour of Hampton into a personal experience.

The Lower House will more fully tell the story of the people who worked at Hampton over time. Each room will highlight a different era. The new displays will be installed by this spring and represent the use of the rooms but will also highlight the interactions between enslaved and free workers and the transition in the labor force over time. The design of the displays will better illustrate the extent of the property and farm buildings that once existed on Hampton's land.



The Lower House and Slave Quarters of Hampton's farm are soon to receive new interpretive exhibits.

The two stone slave quarters, which date from the 1850s, tell the stories of the individuals who lived and worked on the Hampton estate. One is interpreted as a slave quarter; the other represents a tenant farmer's quarter. The new exhibits, scheduled to open September, 2010, will be engaging for all audiences and more interactive.

The upcoming changes are part of continued efforts to tell a more complete story, encompassing all who lived and worked on the Hampton estate.

The Hampton Gazette.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1876.

Superintendent's Welcome

It's winter at Hampton. I am always amazed at how beautiful the site looks in every season - and how there's always a special reason to visit, even in cold weather.

The NPS staff and volunteers at Hampton were delighted to host Deputy Director Fearn (see page 3) and learn about the new goals of the National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis in December. Hampton has a role to play in each emphasis area of the service's new leadership - stewardship, education, relevancy, and workforce development.

The articles in this issue highlight ways in which we care for and steward the site, make the stories of Hampton relevant to many audiences, emphasize the value of historic places as sites of continuous learning, and showcase the talents of those who work and volunteer at the property. In all these ways - and many others - Hampton is a vital part of the National Park Service!

Gay E. Vietzke
Superintendent

The Hampton Gazette is inspired by the small family newspaper written and published by the Ridgely children of Hampton in the 19th century. The original "Hampton Gazette" included family stories and satire, prose and poetry, and everything the Ridgelys' creativity could invent.

Above is the banner from a September 1876 issue, and below right is a reward notice from 1792 for an enslaved man named Bateman.

Thirty Dollars Reward
Ran away from the Northampton Furnace in Baltimore County on Saturday Night the Twenty third Inst. a Negro Man named Bateman, about twenty one years of age, about six feet high, lusty & well made, rather of a yellow complexion, has had a cut on one of his knuckles & the Scar is remarkably fresh, he is a well looking Negro, had on when he went away a dark olive colored cloth Coat with large yellow buttons full trimmed, striped Cassimere vest blue & white, fustian overalls of an olive colour, new Hat hold round Shirt & good shoes & buckles, he formerly belonged to Maunden Emos in Harford County, whoever takes up & brings home said Negro if ten miles from home shall receive Thirty shillings, if twenty miles forty five shillings, if thirty miles Three Pounds, if sixty miles other Pounds, if one hundred miles Five Pounds, if one hundred & fifty miles the above reward & reasonable charges if brought home paid by.
20th April 1791
Charles Ridgely

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NPS Deputy Director Mickey Fearn Visits Hampton NHS

As the staff and volunteers at Hampton NHS prepared for the second day of Yuletide 2009, we received a special visitor, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Mickey Fearn. As part of a tour of the site arranged by Superintendent Gay Vietzke, Deputy Director Fearn engaged the interpretive staff in an open dialogue.

The Deputy Director spoke with excitement of his new position, his first with the National Park Service, he has previously worked with state and city parks for more than thirty years. He is the first to serve under the title Deputy Director of Communications and Community Assistance, a title which emphasizes the new focus on reaching out to underrepresented groups throughout the nation.

Deputy Director Fearn spoke of the changes that he and Director Jon Jarvis hope to bring to the National Parks. They hope to make the parks relevant for a new generation of Americans, which means targeting youth of all backgrounds. Hampton has taken the first steps by being part of the Youth Mentoring Program. Last year four students worked as entry-level Ranger-Interpreters, answering phones, following tours and giving short talks at both Hampton and Fort McHenry. This year two students will be working solely at Hampton five days a week.

Deputy Director Fearn wants to learn how the NPS functions from the Rangers in the field.

One Park Ranger suggested that Deputy Director Fearn could start immediately, when the house opened minutes later for the Yuletide crowds!

The Deputy Director ended his visit to Hampton with a tour of the farm led by Ranger Angela Roberts-Burton and a visit to the Orangery to see the children's Yuletide crafts. We hope this is the first of many visits from Deputy Director Fearn.



Left to right: Deputy Director Mickey Fearn, Curator Gregory Weidman and Superintendent Gay Vietzke.



Deputy Director Mickey Fearn (center) with staff and volunteers, including (second row left to right) Acting Chief of Maintenance Wayne Boyd, Superintendent Gay Vietzke, and Chief of Interpretation Vince Vaise.

My Favorite Things

The museum collection at Hampton NHS includes a variety of furnishings, tools, and toys which add to the ambiance of the Mansion. Naturally, members of the staff and volunteers become particularly fond of certain items. Ranger Ron's favorite item at Hampton is the cellarette in the Dining Room. Shaped like a Roman temple, the wooden vessel served as a wine holder and sometimes wine cooler.

The cellarette is a sign of the Ridgely wealth, for one visitor wrote the Ridgelys allowed every man his own bottle of wine at dinner. The ice that cooled the wine was also a luxury for a private residence in the 1800s, the period before refrigeration.

Yet, the cellarette and the ice and wine it held not only reveal the lifestyle of the Ridgelys but also that of their enslaved African-Americans who cut the ice from local ponds, packed it into the ice house, and brought it into the kitchen for use in the cellarette, cold drinks, or the making of ice cream. The cellarette also stands in front of the door into the butler's pantry, a room added onto the mansion by Governor Charles Carnan Ridgely in the early 1800s to keep his enslaved workers as invisible as possible.

The cellarette, like most objects at Hampton, holds a story of the changing technology, labor force, and family life. These deeper meanings inspire the staff, volunteers, and hopefully visitors to preserve the objects that speak of the American past.





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The Hampton Gazette is the official news bulletin of Hampton National Historic Site. It is produced quarterly and distributed to park friends, supporters, and visitors.

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Upcoming Events at Hampton NHS



As 2010 begins, Hampton prepares for a full year of fun activities. Mark these dates on your calendar and enjoy! As always, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable year!

Second Sunday Events

Keeping Time with the Ridgelys
March 14, 2010; 2:00p.m.

Come hear a lecture by David Gorrell on the history of clocks and clock repair. Learn about the intricate workings of the time keepers on which we all depend!

Easter Egg Hunt
April 11, 2010; 2:00p.m.

Join us for Hampton's annual Easter egg hunt, a tradition the Ridgely children enjoyed. Bring your whole family and use clues to search the estate for eggs filled with sweet treats. Don't forget your camera!

Mother's Day Carriage Rides and Crafts
May 8 and 9, 2010; 12:30 p.m.- 4:00p.m.

Join us for Hampton's Mother's Day weekend celebration. Enjoy two days of free carriage rides and children's crafts. Tickets are first come, first served.

Other Upcoming Events

Sifting Through Slavery
March 25, 2010; 8:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Hampton NHS is proud to announce the arrival of its symposium on African-American history to be held in Goucher College's Merrick Lecture Hall. For more information on registration, by email at hamp_symposium2010@nps.gov, or on the web at nps.gov/hamp.

Architecture at Hampton: Part 1
May 1, 2010; Time To Be Determined

This spring, join historian Ann McKee on a 2 hour architectural tour of the farm property. Hampton was the first site designated a national park for its architectural significance. Take a tour highlighting this aspect of Hampton's past.

Please call the park for further information at 410-823-1309 x251. All events are subject to change.