



Volunteers of the Month

The Baltimore Light Artillery is in its 25th season of bringing to life the daily workload of an artillery unit. The group debuted at Antietam National Battlefield in 1985 presenting regular programs three to four weekends a season. After a year of success, the Baltimore Light Artillery (BLA) was able to recruit a dozen more men into the unit. Ross Kimmel, former State Historian for the Maryland State Park System was very instrumental in forming this Confederate artillery detachment. Their uniforms were modeled after late war Richmond Depot uniforms as Kimmel was enamored with a surviving jacket worn by a member of the original unit.

In 1986, the BLA came to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to participate in the first School House Ridge event, a program where 5th graders from Jefferson County come to learn about the history of the area.

Amongst their peers, the BLA is seen as one of the most authentic and safest units in the reenactor community. Their commitment to public history is evident during their demonstrations. Their ranks are filled with modern day professionals of history - from the Smithsonian, to state museums as well as private. The BLA continues to set the standard bar high from their period clothing to their educational messages.

From Spring 1862 to October 1864, the BLA served in the Army of Northern Virginia. In 1864, the group lost its two last guns in Woodstock, VA

Baltimore Light Artillery



when overrun by Custer's Cavalry covering Jubal Early's retreat up the valley. The remaining men were put into Confederate artillery or infantry units and served until the war ended.



If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Harpers Ferry, please call (304)535-5017.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering at Harpers Ferry Park, please contact the park's volunteer coordinator at the address or phone number listed below. Volunteer today and give back!

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Volunteer Coordinator
P.O. Box 65
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Phone
304.535.5017

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