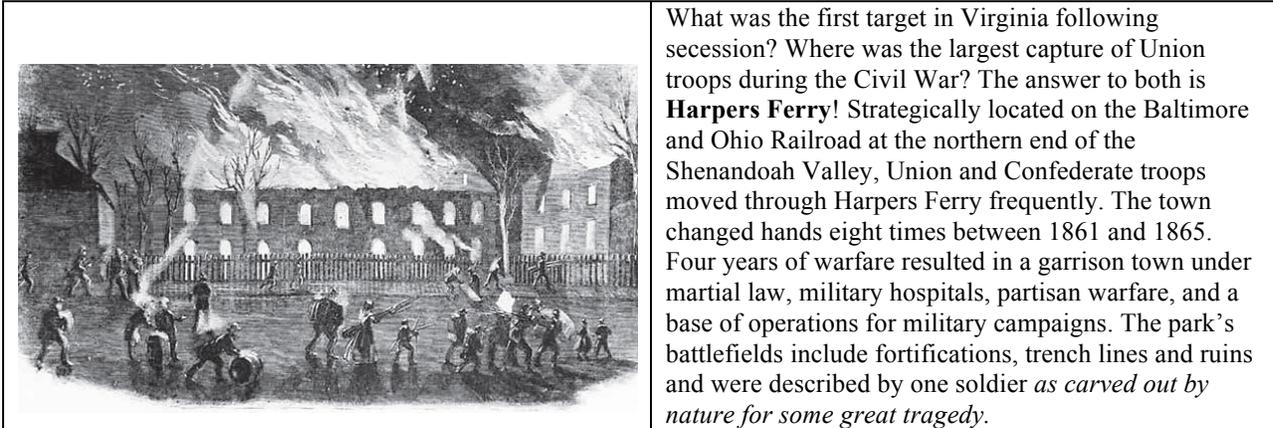


# Harpers Ferry and the Civil War Sesquicentennial



What was the first target in Virginia following secession? Where was the largest capture of Union troops during the Civil War? The answer to both is **Harpers Ferry!** Strategically located on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley, Union and Confederate troops moved through Harpers Ferry frequently. The town changed hands eight times between 1861 and 1865. Four years of warfare resulted in a garrison town under martial law, military hospitals, partisan warfare, and a base of operations for military campaigns. The park's battlefields include fortifications, trench lines and ruins and were described by one soldier *as carved out by nature for some great tragedy.*

## Schedule of Events 2013 - 2015

**Exhibit:** *Forever Free: The Emancipation Proclamation: A New Birth of Freedom*

**Date:** February 3, 2013 through end of year

**Description:** This year long exhibit will highlight the refocused war effort and the Union commitment to ending slavery.

**Event:** *The Birth of a State: 150th Anniversary of the State of West Virginia*

**Date:** June 22, 2013

**Description:** This one day event will commemorate the birth of West Virginia in June of 1863. Activities will include living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Event:** *First Alert: Harpers Ferry, the Gettysburg Campaign*

**Date:** June 23, 2013

**Description:** This event will highlight Harpers Ferry's role in the Gettysburg Campaign. Activities will include living history, ranger conducted programs, and family/youth activities.

**Exhibit:** *The USCT & the Spirit of Freedom*

**Date:** February 2, 2014 through end of year

**Description:** This year long exhibit will highlight dedication and commitment of African American soldiers and their fight for freedom.

**Event:** *Harpers Ferry and the USCT Recruiting Station*

**Date:** April 26-27, 2014

**Description:** This event will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Harpers Ferry's role in the recruitment of United States Colored Troops during 1864. Activities will include living history and ranger conducted programs.

**Event:** *Invasion Stalled: Harpers Ferry and the Defense of Washington*

**Date:** July 4-6, 2014

**Description:** This event will focus on the prelude of the Battle of Monocacy and Harpers Ferry's role in helping to delay Jubal Early's 1864 march on Washington. Activities will include living history, ranger conducted programs, and family/youth activities.

**Event:** *Thunder in the Valley: Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign*

**Date:** September 27-28, 2014

**Description:** This event will focus on Harpers Ferry's role as a staging ground and supply base during Philip Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Activities will include living history, ranger conducted programs, and family/youth activities.

**Event:** *Abraham Lincoln and the Election of 1864*

**Date:** October 11, 2014

**Description:** This event will explore Harpers Ferry's critical role in our nation's wartime presidential election. Activities will include living history, ranger conducted programs, and family/youth activities

**Event:** *Capt. Flagg's US Quartermaster City: Prospects of Peace*

**Date:** December 6-7, 2014

**Description:** Learn the magnitude and scope of Harpers Ferry's role as Captain Flagg's 1864 US Quartermaster city that supplied Gen. Philip Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley. Reflect on what the Civil War will determine; the Union of the States and eventual freedom of 4 million enslaved people.

**Exhibit:** *The Freedman's Bureau, Educating the Newly Freed Slaves and the Prelude to Storer College*

**Date:** February 1, 2015 through end of year

**Description:** This exhibit will launch a full year of activities that will highlight Harpers Ferry's role in the education of newly freed slaves post Civil War.

For updates to the schedule of events and park activities go to [www.nps.gov/hafe](http://www.nps.gov/hafe)

For books, art, maps, posters, music CDs, historic photos, DVDs, games, puzzles, note cards, and postcards visit the Harpers Ferry Historical Association website at

<http://harpersferryhistory.org>