



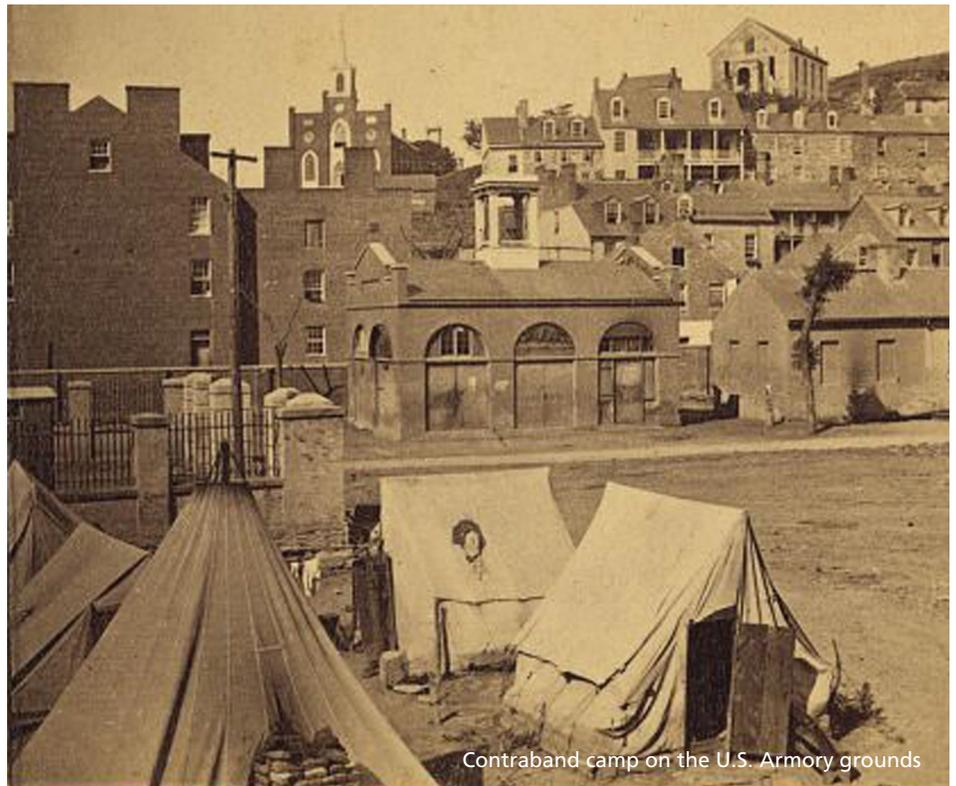
Community Bulletin

Park Opens Black History Month Exhibit

In conjunction with Black History Month, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is pleased to announce its Black History Month program for 2012. Throughout February, a special exhibit, *Running to Freedom: Fighting for Freedom*, will focus on the African American struggle to escape bondage and fight to end the institution of slavery.

This special exhibit opens on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. on the second floor of the John Brown Museum on Shenandoah Street in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Come learn Harpers Ferry's role in this story as one of many Union garrison towns where runaway slaves, or "contraband," sought refuge.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln said his goal was to preserve the Union and not to abolish slavery. But four million enslaved African Americans knew otherwise. For them, the war was their path to emancipation. When Federal armies moved into the South thousands of slaves fled to Union camps seeking freedom. At first, no consistent federal policy regarding fugitive slaves existed, allowing individual commanders to make their own decisions. Some officers put runaways to work for the army as cooks, laborers and spies; others simply turned



Contraband camp on the U.S. Armory grounds

them away or returned them to their masters. Finally, on August 6, 1861, the United States Congress declared fugitive slaves to be "contraband of war," officially preventing freedom seeking refugees from being returned to bondage.

Less than two years later, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, not only changing the

purpose of the war, but opening the door for blacks to join the Union Army. African American men rushed to enlist despite facing segregation and discrimination. By the time the war ended in 1865, almost 200,000 black men had served in the United States Army and Navy. Roughly 90,000 were "contraband of war." Perhaps more than anyone else, these men understood the value of freedom.

An Evening with Author, Tony Horwitz

On February 21, 2012, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, in cooperation with the Jefferson County Board of Education and the Harpers Ferry Middle School, invites you to panel discussion, and question and answer session on John Brown's Raid, with Tony Horwitz. Other invited panelists include: Dennis Frye, Chief Historian, and David Fox, Park Ranger, both of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; John Rudy, adjunct professor of history at Gettysburg College; and Dr. James Bryant, professor of history at Shenandoah University.

In addition to being a noted author, Mr. Horwitz also won a Pulitzer Prize for his work with the Wall Street Journal. The recently-released *Midnight Rising*, a book on John Brown's Raid, has received rave reviews. Copies of the book will be available at the event. This special program is part of an ongoing development series being provided by the Office of Education, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, through



a grant from the Jefferson County Board of Education.

The event is FREE, and will be held in the auditorium of the Harpers Ferry Middle School, on Tuesday, February 21, from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. (In the event of inclement weather, this event will be canceled.)

For more information, contact Jeff Driscoll, in the Office of Education, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, by e-mail: Jeff_Driscoll@nps.gov or by phone: 304.535.6053

Upcoming Events

March 31 - April 1
"Necessity: The Mother of Invention"
Women's History Month
Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Location: Lower Town
Meet Harpers Ferry's industrial workers and citizens at special exhibits featuring the technological advances in health, food preservation, and arms production.

April 28 - 29
"Bateaux on the Rivers: Highways of Trade 1812"
Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Location: Lower Town
Step back to Harpers Ferry's early

settlement and Basil Williamson's Tavern when John Wager & Co. Boating shipped flour and produce to Georgetown, Washington, and Alexandria Virginia. Experience the town's early industry, trade, and transportation with the park's living history staff and volunteers & the Virginia Canals and Navigation Society. Special exhibits and demonstrations include:

- a Bateau and Boatman's camp
- Guns of Harpers Ferry U.S. Armory
- Basil Williamson's Tavern
- Period musicians

May 26 - 27

Stonewall Stopped: Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Lower Town

Learn about General Rufus B. Saxton's successful defense of Harpers Ferry during Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign in the spring of 1862. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

June 16

In Defense of Our Nation: The Harpers Ferry Armory and the War of 1812

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Lower Town

Join us for this commemoration that coincides with the two-hundredth anniversary of the declaration of war which escalated arms production at the Harpers Ferry Armory. Activities include ranger conducted programs, War of 1812 recruitment, historic flintlock firing demonstration, family and youth programming, drama, and music. Featured highlights will be a dramatic presentation by John Douglas Hall as President James Madison and a musical presentation by David & Ginger Hildebrand presenting "Music of the War of 1812".



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.