



The Hampton Gazette

Mood Swings Big Band Concert a Noteworthy Event

Music and laughter filled the night during the concert on the lawn on July 18. Over three thousand people came to Hampton National Historic Site to hear the 1940s swing dance music of Mood Swings, a twenty-five piece big band made up of doctors from the Sheppard Pratt Health System.

The last generation of Ridgelys at Hampton, John III and his wife Lillian, both lived through the height of the big band era. John III served overseas during World War II in the Army Air Corps and Lillian was an army nurse. Thus, the music of Mood Swings was not new to Hampton.

During the concert, visitors toured the mansion, viewed the newly restored terraced gardens, and picniced with family and friends. They covered every available space on the North Lawn. "The visitors embraced all Hampton had to offer: the gardens, grounds, music, and history," Ranger Catherine Holden explained.

Everyone was encouraged to bring their own seating and food or enjoy the selection provided. Many also brought their dancing shoes! Whether they performed on the designated dance floor or clapped and sang along from their seats, a good time was had by all.

The Towson Chamber of Commerce and Hampton National Historic Site worked together to coordinate this unique event. One visitor raved, "It was so great to sit out on a summer evening with our friends and family. It really gave us a chance to enjoy the event and learn about the site!"

The concert ended on a high note. Visitors had the opportunity to experience the site and enjoy the event. The Mood Swings concert at Hampton National Historic Site received a standing ovation.



Visitors in lawn chairs and on picnic blankets enjoy the music of the Mood Swings twenty-five piece big band on the North Lawn of the 18th century Georgian mansion at Hampton National Historic Site.

"Why are there National Park Rangers on Hampton Lane?"

Over the years you may have asked yourself this very question or similar questions such as what does a ranger do? Or even more simply what is a National Park Ranger? Hampton National Historic Site joined the National Park Service in 1948, the first site selected on the basis of its "outstanding merit as an architectural monument".

Although the National Park Service was established in 1916, "park rangers" predate the Service by almost forty years. Five years after the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872 Congress authorized a salary for a park superintendent and minimal funds "to protect, preserve, and improve the Park." With this funding the government hired the first park ranger.

Harry Yount, hired in 1877, is considered the first National Park Ranger. Yount was tasked with preventing vandalism and

poaching within Yellowstone NP; however, in the isolated Lammaar Valley, a lonely winter and a vast territory took its toll on Yount and he resigned after only one year. In his resignation statement Yount stated that the job was too big for any one man and the park would be better served by a "small and reliable police force of men."

Between 1878 and 1916 the title "ranger" would be used for various individuals employed to protect the National Parks, referred to as Forest Rangers in three National Parks located in California (due to the fact that the funding for these rangers was diverted from funds intended to protect National Forest Reserves). With the transfer of the National Forest Reserves to the Department of Agricultural in 1905 the term "Forest Ranger" ceased to be used

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The Hampton Gazette.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1876.

Superintendent's Welcome

What a summer!

It's hard to believe that it's more than half over. So much has been happening at Hampton from the garden restoration to the Fourth of July festivities to the truly successful outdoor concert. I hope you've had the chance to rediscover Hampton National Historic Site and you're planning another visit.

If you wander the grounds you will notice a number of masonry projects are now complete. The stonework on the Tenant Farmer's Quarters has been re-pointed and the Coal House and Spring House ruins have both been stabilized. Special thanks to the park's preservation crew for their careful work on the fragile features.

We're striving to preserve Hampton's resources as best we can and find new ways to share Hampton's stories with the public. Please let us know how you think we are doing. And as always, enjoy this spectacular place!

Gay 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 clip from that paper.

The National Parks: America's Best Idea

Airing on PBS beginning Sunday, September 27 at eight o'clock p.m., *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* introduces viewers to the history and beauty of America's National Parks. Directed by Ken Burns and co-produced by Dayton Duncan, this six-episode series covers not only the spectacular land preserved and protected by the National Park Service but also the many individuals from every background who worked to make the National Park Service and the National Parks what they are today.

As a complimentary piece, Maryland Public Television will also present *Outdoors Maryland: Love Our Parks* on Sunday, September 27 at seven o'clock p.m. This documentary will feature Hampton NHS, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, and other local parks. Mark this date on your calendar for a grand tour of the National Parks, the natural and cultural landscapes owned by all of the American people.



One cover image of the Ken Burns documentary.

PROBABILITIES for the Middle States.—
Clear or cloudy weather; rising or falling barometer. Possible rain.

Cable News.

IN a desperate encounter between the Turks and Servians to-day, the former repulsed the latter, with severe loss, felt most by the former, although occasioning inconvenience to the latter.

France.

The French have abandoned a republic, and declared for a monarchy.

England.

The illness of the Prime Minister has occasioned much discussion, Mr. Trollope's name being foremost.

Italy.

The Pope and Victor Emanuel are at loggerheads

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Why is There a Park Ranger (continued from page 1) in National Parks and the title park ranger enjoyed more widespread usage. The park ranger had arrived!

In 1916, thirty-seven National Parks, Monuments, Battlefields, and Memorials were combined under the newly formed National Park Service. Early Park Rangers were responsible for enforcing federal law, resource monitoring, guiding visitors, and general upkeep of the parks. Over the years both the term Park Ranger and the position of a law enforcement ranger evolved into what they are today.

The title Park Ranger refers not only to law enforcement rangers, but also Interpreters (rangers who give nature walks, education programs, and staff the visitor center), Resource Management (biologist, geologist, hydrologist, and lots of other “ologists”), and wild land firefighters. Law Enforcement Rangers are tasked with enforcing both federal and state laws within the parks, responding to medical emergencies, conducting search and rescue operations, overseeing workplace safety programs, and managing both structural and wild land fire protection programs.

The Law Enforcement Rangers at Hampton National Historic Site and Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, often referred to as Protection Rangers, are responsible for the fire protection and safety programs as well providing police and medical services to park visitors. Protection Rangers have recently increased patrols at Hampton NHS and have expanded operations to include evening and early morning shifts to protect this valuable cultural resource.

All of the rangers at Hampton NHS strive to continue to protect the resource of the property and historic buildings while allowing visitors to enjoy one of America’s treasures. We hope that you will stop in to see this National Historic Site and say “Hi” to the Rangers.

This article was contributed by **Senior Law Enforcement Officer Glen Clark.**

Volunteer Spotlight: Dave and Carol Erhardt

Volunteers are essential to the National Park Service! Over 145,000 people of all ages and backgrounds bring their talents and skills to 391 National Parks. This month, we would like to honor a husband and wife pair that work together to make Hampton NHS a better place: **Dave and Carol Erhardt.**

Carol began volunteering at Hampton six years ago and a year later her husband Dave joined her.

What They Do On Site

Carol volunteers giving tours at the Mansion and enjoys doing living history programs on the farm. Dave works with the maintenance team keeping the estate in good condition. They both have musical talents that they share at special events!

Other Places They Volunteer

Dave and Carol volunteer not only at Hampton NHS but also at the B & O Museum, the Irish Railroader’s Museum and Fort McHenry. They take part in living history events at Humpback Rocks and The Johnson Mountain Farm on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Explore Park near Roanoke, and Latta Plantation in Huntersville, NC. The two also play music in nursing homes, festivals, wineries, and weddings, as well as a farmer’s market in VA.

Their Favorite Places at Hampton

Carol writes, “My favorite area on site is the farm. I guess it’s because I volunteered there for three years and it is there that I can demonstrate some of my favorite activities such as spinning, weaving, carding wool, etc. especially with children. I feel children of this generation need to be taught about our past. They will be the ones to pass it down to their children.”

Dave explains, “My favorite structure at Hampton, as odd as this may seem, is the ice house. I enjoy taking visitors there because of its cold, damp, and eerie feel. It always gets an emotional response from visitors and it is the only place on the site where they can go ‘under ground.’”

Thanks Dave and Carol for giving your time and talents to Hampton NHS! And thanks to all National Park Service volunteers; your hard work makes everything possible.



Carol and Dave Erhardt sharing their musical talents outside the Lower House.

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 view the mansion collection frequently and become particularly fond of certain items.

Seasonal Ranger Carol Van Natta prefers the large mirrors in the Drawing Room. These ornate, Baltimore-made mirrors make the room look larger and display part of the Ridgely family crest. Yet, it is not only their beauty that attracts Carol. The mirrors are the work of Baltimore artisans, illustrating the craftsmanship available in the region during the pre-Civil War era. The third mistress, Eliza Eichelberger Ridgely, purchased the mirrors for the room and their naturalistic style speaks of Eliza’s great love for nature and gardening. A mirror of that size and splendor also speaks of the labor involved to hang and clean it. Thus, the mirror also reminds the viewer of the house slaves at Hampton who polished and dusted the massive object.

This one object at Hampton captures the complex interrelationship between artisan, mistress of the estate, and slave, an example of the larger American social and economic pattern. It is these connections between Hampton and the nation as a whole that make it an important National Historic Site.





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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

Hampton is proud to offer a variety of family friendly events. Visit the park website www.nps.gov/hamp for more information about upcoming events and the park hours of operation. All of the events at Hampton NHS are free so come enjoy!

Second Sunday Events

Please Note: The second Sunday activities for September and October have been moved to the third Sunday of each month. From September 11-13 visit Fort McHenry for Defenders Day Weekend. Then return to Hampton for more free fun!

Manly Arts Day

September 20, 2009; 1:00-4:00pm

See how young men learned "good sportsmanship." Demonstrations of historically accurate fencing, boxing, cudgeling, wrestling, and more will show how men defended their honor in the time of Charles Carnan Ridgely. Visitors will be able to view an array of fencing swords and practice their own technique using a variety of wooden cutlasses, sticks, and swords.

The Hampton Harvest

October 18, 2009; 1:00-4:00pm

Join in the harvest on the Home Farm at Hampton National Historic Site. Help the park staff bring in the harvest, try your hand at making butter, watch the blacksmith make tools that would have been used on the farm. This afternoon, full of hands-on opportunities, will be sure to keep you busy.

Please call the park for further information. All events are subject to change.