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Spirit of Jefferson [Charles Town, West Virginia]

Paul Shackel is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maryland at College Park. His recent book is Cultural Change and the New Technology published by Plenum Press (1996). The book details the relationship between wok and labor in the early industrial era at Harpers Ferry. He was employed as an archeologist for NPS from 1989 to 1996.

The Niagara Movement—Lessons Reviewed

On August 23-25, 1996, on the former Storer College campus in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, the past was remembered. During this commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the Niagara Movement's 1906 Conference at Harpers Ferry approximately 500 people attended events co-sponsored by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Harpers Ferry Historical Association, Jefferson County Branch NAACP, West Virginia Homecoming '96, and Shepherd College and Community College.

Presentations by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Chairman of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Harvard University, and Dr. David Levering Lewis, 1994 Pulitzer Prize winning author of W.E.B. Du Bois—Biography of a Race, brought forth the importance of the work started by the Niagara Movement on these grounds ninety years ago—

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From left to right: Dr. David Levering Lewis, Dr. Du Bois Williams, and Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. at the 90th Anniversary of the Niagara Movements's 1906 Conference at Harpers Ferry, WV. Photo courtesy Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

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work started then, but continuing today.

"Niagara Remembered," a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Lawrence Hogan,
Professor of African-American studies at
Union County College, included Dr. Gates, Dr.
Lewis, and special guest, Dr. Du Bois
Williams, grand daughter of W.E.B. Du Bois.

Dr. Du Bois Williams reminded those in attendance that now is a time for commitment and action so that the work of our families before us will not have been in vain.

The 90th anniversary of the Niagara Movement at Harpers Ferry was indeed a time for all to look back and yet move forward with renewed spirit, conviction, and courage.

—Marsha Starkey Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

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