



Community Bulletin



Niagara Movement descendants read new outdoor exhibits at the Murphy Farm.

Explore New Battlefield Trails

Several miles of new trails and new outdoor exhibits await exploration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Winding through forests and across open fields, these trails on the Murphy Farm and Bolivar Heights transport you through historic battlefields and the foundations of the civil rights movement.

Stunning vistas of the Shenandoah River reward those who walk The Civil War to Civil Rights Trail on the Murphy Farm. Rated as an easy walk, this 1.9 mile trail (roundtrip) begins at the Visitor Center and passes through gently rolling fields rich with the history of the Civil War and early Civil Rights.

This landscape, remarkably unchanged over the past two hundred years, bears silent witness to the hopes, dreams, fears and struggles of previous generations. Here Confederate General Stonewall Jackson sealed the fate of 12,500 Union soldiers in 1862. Years later it became hallowed ground for African Americans. This singular plot of land is home, farm, battlefield and shrine—a place that echoes with stories from the past. Highlights of this

trail include the former location of John Brown's fort, from 1895 to 1909, and Civil War fortifications.

Beginning at the parking area on Bolivar Heights, the 1.6 mile loop trail passes sweeping vistas at the top of the ridge and proceeds down a forested slope to explore the Night Battlefield

and the Union lines during the 1862 Battle for Harpers Ferry. (See map on page 2)

Additional outdoor exhibits will be installed in the future as new trails are constructed across various areas of the Harpers Ferry Battlefield.



Upcoming Events in the Park

SEPTEMBER

September 2 U. S. Marine Band “Free Country” will perform at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free of charge.

September 9-10 The Siege and Capture of Harpers Ferry 1862

Includes the interpretation of the Battle of Harpers Ferry and the surrender of the Union garrisoned town to southern forces under General Stonewall Jackson. The town’s surrender became an important prelude to the Battle of Antietam. Volunteer living history groups will depict the soldiers that captured the hapless garrison and will demonstrate a military encampment and civilian response to the town’s surrender.

September 30 Hike Harpers Ferry/ National Public Lands Day

OCTOBER

October 7 John Brown’s Legacy: Beyond the Gallows Special programs will feature the US Marines who captured Brown, militia drill, ladies fair booth in support of the local militia, a northern reaction anti-slavery musical performance, a political rally, and tribute to the former mayor killed in the raid.


Saturday, October 14 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Mr. Lincoln Returns to Harpers Ferry with Jim Getty as Abraham Lincoln (Lower Town)

October 21-22 Family Life 1860 in Harpers Ferry: The Frederick Roeder Story Help the Living History staff and volunteers, crush, shred, and squeeze apple cider for Roeder’s Tavern while hearing about the family’s life and times. Each day a special talk and cider making demonstration will be presented at the Tavern.

October 28-29 The Eyes of the Army: The Cavalry Living History volunteers Company H, Second US Cavalry, will demonstrate cavalry riding, weapons firing, sabre drill, and bugling. On Saturday and Sunday, the group will join the ranger-guided tour for a historic weapons firing demonstration.

NOVEMBER

November 4-5 Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862 will interpret the Battle of Harpers Ferry and surrender of the Union garrison to General Stonewall Jackson. Artillery firing demonstrations are scheduled. Members of Baltimore Light Artillery, Fredericksburg Light Artillery and the Liberty Rifles will portray Confederate artillery soldiers. A military camp will be open for visitation on the Bolivar Heights Battlefield



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 or 800-821-5206

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page
www.nps.gov/hafe/

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