



Community Bulletin



Prospects of Peace: A Soldier's Prayer 1864

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park invites the public to attend Prospects of Peace: A Soldier's Prayer 1864 on December 1-2, 2007. This special program offers a glimpse into our American Civil War past. In 1864, the country was torn apart by war, but families remained hopeful of reunion with their loved ones.

This living history program looks in on the town during its last wartime Yuletide in 1864. Union soldiers attempt to create their own version of Christmas at the front, while living in a town of citizens with questionable loyalties. With prospects of peace still four months away, young Charles Moulton, of the 34th Massachusetts Regiment, stationed in the Provost Marshal's office, muses about happier times at home.

It looks dubious about my coming home for Christmas...

Oh for a silent peek in upon that jovial family circle.

Perhaps for many there is little reason for Christmas cheer. Far from home, soldiers dream of family hearths, while those at home mourn the absence or loss of a loved one. Citizens who recalled years of abundance, now face hunger and destitution. For oth-

ers, freedom seemed imminent. The enslaved flooded into Union occupied areas, while the Union moved to consider ordinances to abolish slavery. President Lincoln pressed forward with the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, forever banishing slavery. With Abraham Lincoln re-elected, the nation looked toward a new year, the conclusion of war, prospects of peace, and possibly freedom for 4 million enslaved African Americans.

Saturday, December 1, 2007

12-9 pm Historic exhibits open.

12 noon "Our Men At Arms" a special tribute to soldiers past and present.

12:30-2:30 "Decking the Halls: Ornaments for the Tree" Make and take a 19th century style ornament.

12:30-1 "Mail Call: Packages From Home" local citizens gather to receive mail from the US Provost Marshal's office. Guided tour.

1-2 "The Perfect Gift: Christmas 1864" What did the people of Harpers Ferry consider as appropriate gifts for this Yuletide?" Guided tour.

2-3 "A Cry For Peace. . .On Earth" Soldiers look for disloyal citizens aiding Confederate John Mosby. Guided tour including weapons firing and demonstration.

3-4 "Edible Art: Gum Paste and Marzipan Sculptures" Come see the cornerstone of Yuletide confections. Meet at Roeder's Confectionery.

3-5 "A Grand Military and Citizen's Ball" Join the 34th Massachusetts Officers and their wives as they host a Victorian Dance. Dance instruction provided to period dance music.

5-6:30 "Prospects For Peace: A Soldier's Prayer" A lantern-lit walking tour. Space is limited. Reserve your free ticket at the Shenandoah Street Information Center.

7:30 "How the Yankees Stole Santa Claus" A Victorian shadow show for children of all ages.

Sunday, December 2, 2007

11-4pm Historic exhibits open

12 noon "The Perfect Gift: Christmas 1864" What did the people of Harpers Ferry consider as appropriate gifts for this Yuletide?" Guided tour.

Projects of Peace con't.

1-1:30 "Mail Call: Packages From Home" local citizens gather to receive mail from the US Provost Marshal's office. Guided tour.

1-2 "Edible Art: Gum Paste and Marzipan Sculptures" Come see the cornerstone of Yuletide confections. Meet at Roeder's Confectionery.

2-3 "A Cry For Peace. . . On Earth" Soldiers look for disloyal citizens aiding Confederate John Mosby. Guided tour including weapons firing and demonstration.

3-4 "Ho For Christmas" Carolers, sometimes called ballad mongers, strolled the streets in America tempting pedestrians to purchase sheet music of carols. Join this musical performance.

4 Special exhibits close.



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/

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Harpers Ferry Superintendent Honored with Prestigious Stephen T. Mather Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) recently held a reception at the U.S. Capitol to honor National Park Service Superintendent Donald Campbell of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, who recently received NPCA's Stephen T. Mather Award.

"This event commemorated the extraordinary leadership of Don Campbell—a tireless advocate and ambassador for Harpers Ferry National Historical Park for nearly 30 years," said National Parks Conservation Association Mid-Atlantic Senior Regional Director Joy Oakes.

On October 9, the National Parks Conservation Association bestowed the prestigious award on Superintendent Campbell for his steadfast leadership and persistent dedication to our national parks. As an unwavering advocate for Harpers Ferry and the region, Superintendent Campbell has successfully fostered a positive relationship with the local community that has proven invaluable to the park's continued success and ongoing protection.

"Don built credibility and respect for the National Park Service by repeated acts of friendship and trust with his neighbors. He planted a garden of goodwill," said Oakes.

That garden of goodwill has been critical to the protection of Harpers Ferry this year. When developers sought to build on land within the park's boundaries, where Union troops once unsuccessfully defended their position in the 1862 battle of Harpers Ferry against General Stonewall Jackson, Superintendent Campbell worked day and night for months to defend this historic property from a 2-million square foot business park.



"Don Campbell and his team unwaveringly participated in each and every public meeting, making compelling presentations at every opportunity," Oakes said. "They bravely faced personal attacks from the developers, and soldiered on."

The relationship that Superintendent Campbell built over the years with the community proved vital to the preservation of Harpers Ferry. The town councils of the surrounding gateway communities voted unanimously against the controversial development, while at the same time showing their continued support for the man who had helped make Harpers Ferry what it is today.

For more than 20 years, the National Parks Conservation Association has presented its annual Stephen T. Mather Award to a National Park Service employee who has worked tirelessly to protect our national parks—often in very trying circumstances. Award winners have expressed initiative and resourcefulness in protecting a park, and took valiant action when others hesitated.