



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 6-7, 2008. 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 was little reason for Christmas cheer. Far from home, soldiers dreamed of family hearths, while those at home mourned the absence or loss of a loved one. Citizens, who recalled years of abundance, now faced hunger and desti-

itution. For others, 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 6, 2008

12-9 pm Historic exhibits open.

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

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

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

3-4 pm "Comfits and Sugared Confections" Come see the process of

making Yuletide confections. Meet at Roeder's Confectionery.

3-5 pm "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.

6:00 pm "How the Yankees Stole Santa Claus" A Victorian shadow show for children of all ages.

7:30 pm "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.

9:30 pm Last park shuttle departs the lower town for entrance station parking.

Sunday, December 7, 2008

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.

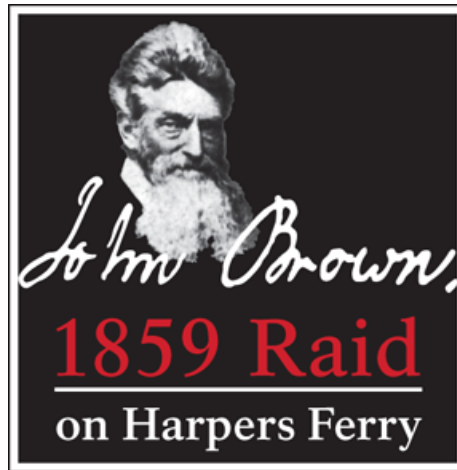
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2-3 pm "A Cry For Peace. . .On Earth" Soldiers look for disloyal citizens aiding Confederate John Mosby. Guided tour including weapons firing and demonstration.

3-4 pm "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 pm Special exhibits close.

6:45 pm Last park shuttle departs the lower town for entrance station parking.



In 2009 Harper Ferry NHP and partners will host a variety of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the John Brown Raid.

For information on 150th upcoming activities and events log on to <http://www.johnbrownraid.org/> or call 304-535-6298.

Restoration Work Begins on Small Arsenal

The NPS Historic Preservation Training Center will be stabilizing, repairing and rehabilitating the site of the small arsenal building in the Lower Town District of the park. This work will provide improved educational opportunities for park visitors. The project will be completed in time for the 2009 events commemorating the 150th anniversary of John Brown's Raid.

Upcoming Events

February 1, 2009 – Black History Month Opening Ceremony
This opening event for Black History Month 2009 features an exhibit on the founder of The Niagara Movement, Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois.

April 18, 2009 – "A Prelude to History: The Wedding of Virginia Kennedy"
This opening event for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park John Brown Raid Sesquicentennial features a full day of programs and activities focusing on the arrival of Captain John Cook to Harpers Ferry and his subsequent marriage to Virginia Kennedy. Highlights include family & youth activities focusing on Harpers Ferry 1859 and a dramatic presentation entitled, "My Conspirator", the life of Captain John Cook as told by his sister, Kate.

Park Announces Holiday Schedule

The Acting Superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park recently announced that the park will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27; Christmas Day, December 25; and New Year's Day, January 1, 2009. The park will reopen the day following each holiday at 8:00 a.m. The Harpers Ferry Historical Association's Bookshop on Shenandoah Street will also be closed on these holidays. This holiday schedule allows park and bookshop employees to spend time with their families.

For additional information regarding park schedules and events, please call the Visitor Center at 304-535-6298 or log onto the park's web site at www.nps.gov/hafe.



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.