



Community Bulletin



A Woman's Place: Harpers Ferry 1800-1931

Harpers Ferry Park announces the March 2006 Women's History Month Program, "A Woman's Place: Harpers Ferry 1800-1931." On Saturday and Sunday, March 25 -26 the public is invited to join "In the Shadows: A Woman's Place", a ranger-guided walking tour each day at 2:00 p.m. Self-guided walking tour brochures are also available at the park visitor center desk. The brochures highlight locations in the town where Harpers Ferry women made their contributions to the town's history.

Members of the living history group, The Frederick Ladies Relief Society, will interpret the lives and work of cotton mill workers in the Ready Made Clothing Store Exhibit. Harpers Ferry's rich industrial history includes the establishment of a cotton and weaving mill on the adjacent island and town of Virginus Island. The local papers described the mill as a *4 story Brick Factory of the most permanent character, fitted with gas lights and heated with steam pipes and contains 97 looms powered by 2 new iron turbine wheels.*

In the late 1840's, cotton industry workers from England immigrated to Harpers Ferry, Virginia, to begin a new life in a foreign country. Unfortunately



for these immigrants, the cotton and spinning mill fell into economic ruin. The Harpers Ferry's merchant district sold locally produced cloth and hired many local seamstresses to hand sew men's ready-made clothing in order to meet the demand for affordable mens wear.

Visitors are invited to Roeder's Confectionary to learn about the life and times of Mary Roeder, and her large German family, who immigrated to America in the 1840s. Mary was forced to become head of the family, raising her brothers and sisters when

her father, Frederick Roeder, became the town's first casualty during the Civil War.

Living in Harpers Ferry during the Civil War was risky but civilians, like Mary, who wanted to save their property knew it was necessary. Families were at the mercy of hungry, desperate, tired, scared, wounded, and occasionally hard-hearted troops.

Programs show the strength and courage of many remarkable women.

Wanted

Licensed Food Vendors

Non-profits welcome

Niagara Centennial Event

August 19-20, 2006

Harpers Ferry NHP

Call 304-535-6222
for information packet
before March 10.

An Evening with Charles Davis

On Friday evening April 7 at 8:00 p.m. Harpers Ferry Historical Association and the Jefferson County Branch of the NAACP will present "An Evening with Charles Davis" at the Quality Inn in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Known for his rich tenor sax and even stronger command of a baritone, Charles Davis is one of the elder statesmen of jazz. He has played with Sun Ra, John Coltrane, Johnny Griffin, Archie Shepp and countless others, including soulful singers Billie Holiday and Dinah Washington. Along the way, as he encountered greatness, he listened and learned. "There was always something to listen to," says Davis.

With Davis, it's about the breath he puts into the instrument and the story that comes out the other end. Sweet and solid. Listen to this jazz man and feel the music.



Tickets are \$30.00 per person advanced sales and \$40.00 per person at the door, if available. Tickets can be purchased through the Harpers Ferry Historical Association and can be bought in person at the Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop, or through phone charge by calling 304-535-6881 or 1-800-821-6881. Tickets ordered at least two weeks before the concert will be mailed. All others will be left at the "Will Call" window the night of the concert.

For additional information, contact Todd Bolton at 304-535-6026. Proceeds from this concert will support the upcoming 2006 Niagara Movement Centennial Commemoration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Upcoming Events

April 1 Civil War Preservation Trust Park Day

Volunteers interested in history and preservation contact David Fox at (304) 535-6282 or david_fox@nps.gov for more information.

April 8 Potomac Watershed Cleanup

Volunteers interested in the environment will remove unwanted trash at Harpers Ferry NHP. Contact David Fox at (304) 535-6282/david_fox@nps.gov for more information. 9 to noon

April 22 Hold the High Ground

Join living history volunteers on a program and hike to the Maryland Heights Naval Battery. Discover how soldiers felt about their duties and take in the breathtaking vistas.

May 13-14 From Citizens to Soldiers

The Southern Guard will portray a camp of mustering Virginia State Troops during the opening moments in the Civil War when citizens became soldiers and state militia became part of the Confederate army.

May 27-28 Defend and Protect: Arming the American Soldier

Special exhibits and programs highlight the Harpers Ferry Armory, technology, invention and how soldiers used these weapons for national defense and exploration.

June 24 6:00 p.m. The Fifth Annual Don Redman Heritage Concert with Hank Jones, Jimmy Heath & the Howard Burns Quartet on the grounds of Mather Training Center.



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.

Mark Your Calendar

August 18-20 Niagara Centennial Commemoration

Join the centennial celebration of the Niagara Movement, the cornerstone of the modern civil rights era. Celebration includes a variety of music, drama and scholarship. <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/niagara/index.htm>