



# Community Bulletin

## Phil Officer Named December Volunteer of the Month

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park would like to honor Living History Volunteer Phil Officer as the Park's December Volunteer of the Month. Since beginning his internship, Phil has provided park visitors with over 1,120 hours of front line service. Phil's passion for the American Civil War and US History has been evident in the multitude of programs and events he has presented from the War of 1812 to the Civil War.

Phil graduated in 2008 from Keene State College in his native state of New Hampshire, with a Bachelor's of Arts in Theater with an emphasis in Acting and Directing. After graduation, he worked for a professional theater company in Vermont called Northern Stage, as a technical intern. After attending a seminar at Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, MA, Phil used living history as a technique to bring American history to life in the classroom. It was then that the world of interpretation became apparent to Phil. Interpretation afforded Phil the opportunity to combine his two greatest passions; connecting visitors to American History through the art of presentation.

In early spring, Phil was selected for a summer internship as a front line living history intern interpreting the park's

six themes. Phil shared the importance and significance of Harpers Ferry with visitors by providing guided tours and demonstrations. Phil demonstrated a keen ability to adapt his programs and interpretation to fit different historical time periods and audiences.

At the end of the summer season, Phil elected to stay on and continue to volunteer his services. Throughout the fall, Phil assisted in developing new events and exhibits. He has been instrumental in helping his co-workers stage volunteer driven fall events. Phil has helped maintain the branch's "VIP" statistics of 13,000 volunteer hours, track budgeted and purchased property, conducted 20 volunteer event correspondence, mailings to 600 volunteers, updated volunteer database mailing lists, registered volunteers, provided logistical support to special military encampments, demonstrated an appropriate and tasteful sense of 19th century material culture streetscape & political decorations. Continually moving forward on Living History staffing and volunteer management duties, Phil always stops to field visitor questions that come his way.

Phil is currently enrolled in a certificate program for Resource Interpretation at Stephen F. Austin University,

and hopes to one day pursue a career in interpretation with the National Park Service.



Phil talks to a couple of interested recruits about the War of 1812.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering at Harpers Ferry Park, please contact Jessica Liptak, the park's volunteer coordinator, at [jessica\\_liptak@nps.gov](mailto:jessica_liptak@nps.gov) or 304.535.5017.

# Harpers Ferry and the Civil War Sesquicentennial

Starting in 2011 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will host a number of sesquicentennial events and exhibits commemorating its rich Civil War history.

## Schedule of Events 2011 - 2015

**Title of Event:** War Comes to Harpers Ferry: The Burning of the Federal Arsenal

**Date:** April 16-17, 2011

**Description:** This two-day event will focus on the April 1861 secession of Virginia from the Union and the subsequent burning of the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Title of Event:** In the Shadows of John Brown: The 1861 Battle of Bolivar Heights

**Date:** October 15-16, 2011

**Description:** Two years to the day after John Brown's Raid, Union and Confederate troops clashed on Bolivar

Heights. The event will highlight the unique parallels between John Brown and participants of the battle. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Title of Event:** Marches, Skirmishes & Battles: Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign

**Date:** April 21-22, 2012

**Description:** This event will focus on the significance of Harpers Ferry during Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign in the spring of 1862. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Title of Event:** Under Fire: The 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry

**Date:** September 13 -16, 2012

**Description:** This event will chronicle the three day Battle of Harpers Ferry in September of 1862 that resulted in the largest surrender of US troops during the American Civil War. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Exhibit:** Forever Free: The Emancipation Proclamation

**Date:** February 3, 2013 through end of year

**Description:** This year long exhibit will highlight the refocused war effort and the Union commitment to ending slavery.

**Title of Event:** Harpers Ferry, the Gettysburg Campaign & the Birth of West Virginia

**Date:** June - July 2013

**Description:** Weekend events through June and July will highlight Harpers Ferry's role in the Gettysburg Campaign and commemorate the birth of West Virginia in June of 1863. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Title of Event:** Washington Saved! Jubal Early's 1864 March on Washington

**Date:** July 4-6, 2014

**Description:** This event will focus on Harpers Ferry's roll in delaying Jubal Early's 1864 march on Washington. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Title of Event:** Thunder in the Valley: Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign

**Date:** Multiple events August - October, 2014

**Description:** This event will focus on Harpers Ferry's role as a staging ground and supply base during Philip Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Activities will include, living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

**Exhibit:** The Freedman's Bureau, Educating the Newly Freed Slaves and the Prelude to Storer College

**Date:** February 1, 2015 through end of year

**Description:** This exhibit will launch a full year of activities that will highlight Harpers Ferry's role in the education of newly freed slaves post Civil War. Activities will include living history, ranger conducted programs and family/youth activities.

## Holiday Schedule

Harpers Ferry NHP will be closed Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1. 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 and for inventory on January 3-4, 2011.

This holiday schedule allows park and bookshop employees to spend time with their families.



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

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page  
[www.nps.gov/hafe/](http://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.