

**HARPERS FERRY  
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
PO BOX 1079, HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425**

DATE: Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

TIME: Dinner 7:00 PM; Program 8:00

PLACE: Camp Hill Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, WV

SPEAKER: Jim Glymph

SUBJECT: The Confederate Memorial in Arlington Cemetery

The Speaker:

Jim Glymph lives on the Avon Bend of the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County. He is a retired Department of the Army data administrator and Northern Virginia Community College associate professor of Information Technology. Although his career was computer-oriented, The War for Southern Independence has been his passion for sixty years. Currently, he is the editor of the Jefferson County Historical Society magazine, president of the Old Charles Town Library board, member of the Henry Kyd Douglas Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, member of General Adam Stephens Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and an avid relic hunter.

The Subject

In 1912, almost fifty years after The War, the Federal Government allowed the cornerstone to be laid for a memorial to Confederate dead in Arlington National Cemetery. Unveiled in 1914, surrounded by Confederate soldier and family member graves, it is a monument of intense power and symbolism. The presentation, accompanied by numerous photographs, will include the politics leading up to the approval and location, the ceremony, a history of the sculptor, the monument and the analysis of its symbolism.

The Meal

A family-style meal will be served at 7:00 PM prior to the program. The cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person. Reservations for the meal **must be phoned in no later than Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**, to Allison Alsdorf, at 304-535-2101 or you can email her at [alsdorf@comcast.net](mailto:alsdorf@comcast.net) The meal will be Sliced Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Iced Tea, Rolls, Butter, Dessert.

## On this Day, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1861

On U.S.S. *San Jacinto*, cruising in the Old Bahama Channel, the word was “Beat to quarters” as smoke was seen on the horizon. The British mail packet *Trent* bound for Britain steamed into view. The ensuing events became a cause célèbre of international relations, threatened war between the United States and Britain, gave the Confederacy cause for outcries against Federal tyranny, and provided international law with a precedent forever after. James M. Mason of Virginia and John Slidell of Louisiana, named commissioners to Great Britain and France by the Confederate States of America, were en route to their new posts, having escaped the blockade at Charleston on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. The Federal authorities had thought they were on a Confederate man-of-war and had made efforts to intercept them. *San Jacinto* under cantankerous, troublemaking yet competent Capt. Charles Wilkes had called at Havana, Cuba, and found the commissioners there waiting passage on the *Trent*. *San Jacinto* in turn awaited *Trent*’s departure from Cuba. Sailing in the early afternoon of this day, *Trent* was halted by threat of force, and after a spirited argument and some hot words, Mason and Slidell, with their secretaries, were taken under guard to *San Jacinto*, leaving behind outraged wives and children, and an irate and far-from-speechless British captain, officers and crew. *San Jacinto*, proud of its accomplishment, headed for Hampton Roads, and *Trent* drove on for Britain. For the remainder of the year the seizure on the high seas would hardly be out of the news. (Excerpted from *The Civil War Day by Day*, E. B. Long, published by Doubleday)

## 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 of Arts in Theater with an emphasis on 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 one day to pursue a career in interpretation with the National Park Service.

## 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.

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.

## 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.