



## **Harpers Ferry/ Bolivar History**

**SPRING 2019**

### **Internship Description:**

Research the history of the numerous merchant establishments and historic buildings in Harpers Ferry and Bolivar. Work with key individuals with extensive knowledge of history for the towns including the history of accommodations, restaurants, shops, homes, town offices and churches. Interview key resource individuals and organizations; attend monthly meetings of key history-related organizations. Research organization databases, including those related to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the Harpers Ferry Park Association, Harpers Ferry Civil War Roundtable, the Jefferson County Museum and Jefferson County Historical Society, and the National Register of Historic Places, museum collections, and others to be identified by the student(s).

Develop a digital database and hard copy document for ease of use by merchants, residents and historians.

As an optional activity, develop a historical walking tour of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, highlighting key historical sites in addition to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

The collected historical information will be an excellent, and helpful resource for merchants, historians and others to use to enhance the "visitor experience" for visitors and guests, for a long time to come.

### **Internship Emphasis:**

- Hospitality
- Communication
- Customer Service
- History

### **Skills Emphasis:**

- Customer interaction
- Synthesize information
- Verbal communication
- Computer skills

## **Challenge:**

Merchants, residents/home owners, and even historians do not have ready access to the rich history of buildings in the historic towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, West Virginia. A great deal is known about the historic buildings in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. However, little is known or collected regarding the history of individual buildings outside the Park boundary, in Lower Town Harpers Ferry, Upper Town Harpers Ferry, and in Bolivar.

The rich history of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar includes activities related to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Railroad, John Brown's Raid, the Civil War, Storer College, and the Niagara Movement. The individual history of shops, pubs, boarding houses, homes, churches, town offices, a jail and other uses of the buildings over time awaits discovery. The identification of owners of these establishments over time is also a reservoir of information that needs to be documented.

Attachment 1 provides a synopsis of the history of the Park and related areas of significance as part of the historical record. The full Foundation Document, *Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia, January 2016* is an excellent jumping off place for the initiation of research activities.

## **Internship Type:**

The History Internship will entail 150 hours of work by the student. This level of effort is what is required in order for the Intern to qualify for 3-Credit Hours of class credit for the work. The scope includes the achievement of both academic requirements, and merchant related activity, in order to qualify for class credit toward graduation. A College of Business faculty advisor will oversee the academic element of the work. The Vice President, Harpers Ferry Merchant Association, will oversee the merchant-related work.

The work will be reimbursed at the rate of either \$10 per hour, or can be in the form of a scholarship, to be managed by the College of Business.

## **Contact:**

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