

Fall
2011
Volume 14
Issue 1

Hampton Highlights



535 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21286
telephone: 410-828-9480

Editor: Judy D. Cohen, Managing Director
www.historichampton.org

*The Board of Directors requests your presence at the
Annual Meeting of Historic Hampton, Inc.
Monday, October 17, 2011, at 4 p.m. in the Orangery*

Hampton National Historic Site ~ 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland

Light refreshments will be served ~ RSVP ~ 410-828-9480

All members of Historic Hampton, Inc. are cordially invited to attend.

If you are not yet a supporting member of Hampton, please consider becoming one by remitting the form on the back page.

Please join HHI and the Nat'l Park Service in welcoming *Tina Orcutt*, Superintendent—Hampton Nat'l Historic Site and Fort McHenry Nat'l Monument & Historic Shrine

NPS Regional Director Dennis Reidenbach has appointed Tina Orcutt, Superintendent of Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca, NY, as the new Superintendent of Hampton and Fort McHenry. According to Reidenbach, Ms. Orcutt's "strong background in cultural resources, interpretation and park management, makes her the ideal leader for the home of The Star-Spangled Banner, and to tell the stories of those who owned, and those who were enslaved at Hampton."

"With the coming Bicentennial of the War of 1812, I look forward to telling the stories of those who did not enjoy the rights guaranteed by our Constitution," says Orcutt, a 23-year veteran of the NPS who began her service career while a student in the NPS Junior Fellowship Program at Gettysburg Nat'l Military Park and Eisenhower Nat'l Historic Site in PA. Subsequent assignments included Colonial National Historical Park, VA; Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, LA; and Jewel Cave National Monument, SD, where she served as acting superintendent. Following a move to Booker T. Washington National Monument, VA, where she was chief of interpretation and resources management, she did a detail assignment in the NPS budget office in Washington, D.C. Prior to her assignment at Women's Rights, she served at the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, MD, as chief of resources management and as acting deputy superintendent.

Orcutt holds a Bachelors Degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland and is working on a certificate in Legislative Studies from the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.



A Message from President Ann H. Boyce

The Board of HHI is excited to welcome Tina Orcutt as the new superintendent of HNHS and Fort McHenry. Please join us in welcoming her at our Annual Meeting on Oct. 17. Once again, we'd also like to thank Gay Vietzke for her leadership over the past six years. In addition, we send best wishes to Ranger Kirby Shedlowski, who is now working with the NPS in Washington, DC.



Last April, the Women's Committee hosted another very successful Spring Luncheon: "Friendship Knows No Bounds ...Jefferson, Lafayette, Ridgely" (photo-above, right). The WC also collaborated with HHI to host the Mint Julep & Garden Party in May. The ladies hats were very popular at the Silent Auction (photo-left). As Fall approaches, we look forward to the wine tasting party to be held on Nov. 4 in the Orangery. Please RSVP soon (below) as these events always fill to capacity.

Improvement projects are progressing on the grounds at HNHS. Please stop by to have a look at the Caretaker's Cottage, the Garden Maintenance Building, and two of the beautifully restored parterre gardens (right). While at the Mansion, be sure to view the new exhibit **A House Divided: The Civil War at Hampton** in the North Portico, and don't forget a visit to HHI's Museum Shop where you will find a variety of unique items that make wonderful holiday gifts!



Special Events

Oct 2 at 2 pm: Exploring Architecture. Join us for an in-depth look at the design of the Hampton Mansion and its surrounding landscape.

Oct 17 at 4 pm: Annual Meeting of HHI-Orangery. All members are invited to attend. RSVP: 410-828-9480.

Oct 29 & Nov 26 at 2 pm: The African-American Experience at Hampton. Experience through the eyes of an enslaved woman the "peculiar institution" that fueled the U.S. economic engine and made possible vast plantations like Hampton. Ranger Angela Roberts-Burton will give a 90-minute tour of the Mansion, ice house, and octagon foundation, while telling tales of those who toiled to make the Ridgelys' lavish lifestyle possible.

Second Sundays

Free public programs at HNHS
All times and locations are subject to change.

Please call the
NPS Visitors' Center to verify:
410-823-1309, X-251

For more details:
www.historichampton.org
www.nps.gov/hamp

Oct. 9: Fall Family Day, 1 pm
Enjoy the crisp fall air on this family friendly farm day. Activities will include a visit by Harriet Tubman, stories, crafts, and more. Learn about how estates like Hampton prepared for the winter months ahead.

Dec. 9, 10 & 11: Yuletide
Join us for a full schedule of day and evening holiday festivities. Activities will include storytelling, crafts for kids, seasonal music, and so much more.

All photos in this issue of *Hampton Highlights* are courtesy of HHI, the NPS, and many wonderful volunteers. Many thanks for your talent!

The Women's Committee of HHI invites you to attend A Taste of Claret

~ Red Wines of Bordeaux, France ~

Friday, November 4, 2011

from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Orangery at Hampton

\$65 per person

includes wine, light fare, and private tour

All proceeds directly benefit projects at Hampton.

*Please consider that space is very limited and
our wine-tasting events always sell out!*

Please RSVP by October 21

*Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Women's Committee of HHI
535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286*

For more info, please email: corinne.onnen@gmail.com



Special Exhibition—*A House Divided: The Civil War at Hampton*

Please be sure to take the opportunity when visiting HNHS to explore the new exhibit *A House Divided: The Civil War at Hampton* in the changing exhibition gallery at Hampton Mansion. One hundred and fifty years ago, the nation was plunged into Civil War. At Hampton one finds evidence of conditions seen across the country, but especially in border states such as Maryland: families with divided loyalties, tensions on the home front, enslaved peoples' desire for freedom. The exhibit will highlight these themes as seen through Hampton NHS's rich museum and archival collections, featuring numerous items never before on view including historic photographs, arms, and war-related manuscripts and memorabilia.

One whole section of the exhibit will highlight the exciting story of the Baltimore County Horse Guards. Charles Ridgely of Hampton was the captain (pictured, c.1861) of this group of mainly pro-Southern gentlemen from the area who played an interesting role in the tumultuous days at the very beginning of the war when Maryland's fate had not yet been decided. Says Chief of Interpretation Vince Vaise, "The Horse Guard, in their ornate uniforms of blue and gray, epitomized the notion that riding off to war was a romantic adventure — that changed quickly in the summer of 1861."

Curator Gregory Weidman is especially impressed by the ironies seen in the split allegiances of various family members. "Nicholas Greenbury Ridgely, a young cousin of Hampton's mistress Eliza Ridgely who spent much of his childhood at Hampton, wrote and published ardently pro-Southern satirical poetry during the War, making fun of Union politicians and generals. At the same time, his own father was serving heroically as a captain in the Union navy!" Not surprisingly, "Cousin Nickody," as called by the family, published his works under various pseudonyms.

The Ridgelys of Hampton held the second-largest number of enslaved persons in Baltimore County in 1860. The exhibit brings light to their individual identities and examines what became of them after Emancipation. Documents even show the names of Hampton slaves who became recruits for the Union Army. This exhibit is on view through March 2012.



News from the Museum Shop of HHI

As we approach the holiday season, please be sure to stop by the Shop to check out the limited edition Hampton pottery crock, made by Beaumont Pottery, along with other unique items. For those of you who have not yet seen *A Pictorial Glimpse of Maryland Life: 1783—1948*, please be sure to check out this beautiful keepsake book. It is full of exquisite photos taken by HNHS volunteers. The purchase of this item includes a one year Individual membership to HHI, valued at \$40 to \$45.



Picture book photos are courtesy of Tim Ervin, NPS Volunteer

HHI ~ 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286



Photo by Richard Anderson



Please consider becoming a member of HHI

Kindly make your check payable to **HHI** and remit to **535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286**

Since 1979, HHI, a non-profit friends group, has assisted the NPS in generating community awareness and helped in expanding and enhancing the historical, educational, and interpretive activities at Hampton National Historic Site. If you are already a member, we thank you very much for your support and hope that you will tell your friends about Hampton. If not, we hope that you consider joining so that we may continue in our efforts.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please check here if you would like to be contacted about the many volunteer opportunities at Hampton: _____

Areas of interest: _____

Benefits include:

- ~ Hampton Highlights newsletter*
- ~ Discounts in the Museum Shop*
- ~ Invitations and pre-registration to special lectures, tours, and events*

Guardian	\$500
Patron	\$250
Benefactor	\$150
Sponsor	\$100
Family	\$60
Sr. Family	\$50
Individual	\$45
Sr. Individual	\$40

Please visit these websites often for updates and details on all events taking place at Hampton:

www.nps.gov/hamp
www.historichampton.org