

Spring 2011 *Hampton Highlights*

Volume 13
Issue 2



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Introducing: the Visitor Contact Station...



Completed in 1790, the Hampton Mansion is almost as old as Baltimore County. From these shared beginnings, a unique partnership has come together to enhance the quality of life for Baltimore County residents and visitors.

As Baltimore County's only National Park, Hampton National Historic Site (HNHS) is a destination for over 44,000 visitors a year. Hampton brings people together to tour one of the finest Georgian residences in this country, to stroll landscaped grounds and historic gardens, to discover new dimensions of African-American history, to enjoy a summer concert or a carriage ride, and to experience a taste of the County's agricultural past. Together, the partners have proposed building a Visitor Contact Station (VCS) that will provide orientation for the site as a whole, and space for additional educational exhibits.

Creating a more comprehensive visitor experience

The National Park Service (NPS), Baltimore County, and Historic Hampton, Inc. (HHI) are partnering with corporations, foundations, and private citizens to enrich the Hampton and Baltimore County visitor experience by bringing a new Visitor Contact Station to Hampton National Historic Site. The VCS will house offices, orientation and educational space, and visitor comfort facilities.

Hampton: gateway to exploring all of Baltimore County

The VCS will provide orientation to HNHS and help visitors to the area discover the hundreds of shops, hotels, restaurants, events, and unique attractions throughout Baltimore County.

Displays and literature will inform visitors about the County's fairs, wineries, museums, steeplechase races, galleries, shopping, historic sites, waterfront activities, dining, nature centers, concerts, and other recreational opportunities.

Centrally located just off the Beltway in Towson, the VCS at HNHS will enjoy high visibility signage along a well-traveled portion of I-695. The VCS will be promoted by the NPS and the Baltimore County Dept. of Economic Development.

For more information about how to contribute toward this project, please contact the office of HHI.



Battle Cry of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War in the Mid-Atlantic

Hampton National Historic Site, along with partners HHI and Goucher College, invite you to attend the 5th Annual Symposium on African-American History to be held Thursday, April 21, 2011, from 8 am to 1 pm in the Heubeck Multi Purpose Room at Goucher College. Dr. Clara Small of Salisbury University will be this year's keynote speaker. Register by March 25 to get a discount. For more information, please call the NPS Visitors' Center at: 410-823-1309, x-251.



Special Events

May 14: SAVE THE DATE for Historic Hampton, Inc.'s *Mint Julep and Garden Party*.

Details coming soon...

Second Sundays

Free public programs at Hampton National Historic Site

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

~ **April 10 at 2 pm:**

Baltimore Horse Guards

Join Ranger Jim for a program on Baltimore's Horse Guards. Formed in 1861, this company chose Hampton's Charles Ridgely as its Captain. Learn more about the Horse Guards and the Ridgely family's involvement in the Civil War.

~ **May 8, 12:30 to 4 pm:**

Mother's Day Carriage Rides

Celebrate Mother's Day in style with carriage rides at Hampton. This is a popular event so please arrive early. Tickets will be handed out at noon in the Orangery. First come, first served.

~ **June 12, 2 to 3 pm**

Silhouettes

Lauren Muney will provide a history and cutting of paper silhouettes. A limited number of free silhouettes will be available after the program.

All photos in this issue of *Hampton Highlights* are courtesy of HHI, the NPS, Baltimore County, and the many wonderful volunteers of Hampton, including Tim Ervin and Barbara Vietzke. Many thanks for your talent!

A Message from Ann H. Boyce, President of HHI

As spring approaches we can see some exciting developments at Hampton. The rehabilitation of the Caretaker's Cottage and the Garden Maintenance Building are underway, and a new roof is being installed on Slave Quarter B. We will keep you posted as the projects progress.

The wayside signs, funded by Preservation Maryland, have been popular with those interested in self-guided tours of the grounds. We gratefully thank PM for their continued support of HNHHS. Additionally, we are excited for our Hampton community to see the plans for the new Visitor Contact Station (VCS) that will replace the trailers. This will serve as a welcoming orientation center for HNHHS and Baltimore County, creating a federal, state, county and private partnership. With support from HHI and the County's business community, we are working to match federal grants for this project. The VCS will enable the "jewel of the County" to further educate and inspire visitors, and we look forward to your participation in this effort.

In January, HNHHS lost its dear friend, NPS gardener Mike Lynch, who helped to develop the grounds of Hampton for over 13 years. Our thoughts are with his loved ones at this time.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Superintendent Gay Vietzke and the excellent NPS staff on their beautiful work at Hampton and on the completion and opening of the fine Visitor and Education Center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.

We are very fortunate, and we look forward to seeing you at Hampton this spring!

The Women's Committee of Historic Hampton, Inc. extends a cordial invitation to A Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at Ten-thirty O'clock

*The Engineers Club at the Garrett Jacobs Mansion
11 West Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore*

*"Friendship Knows No Bounds ...
Jefferson, Lafayette, Ridgely"*

\$45 per person

*Complimentary Valet Parking
Silent Auction and Cash Bar*

*Net Proceeds Benefit
Hampton National Historic Site*

*For more information, please call
Ms. Nancy E. Smith
410-665-8133*





Have you visited the Museum Shop lately?

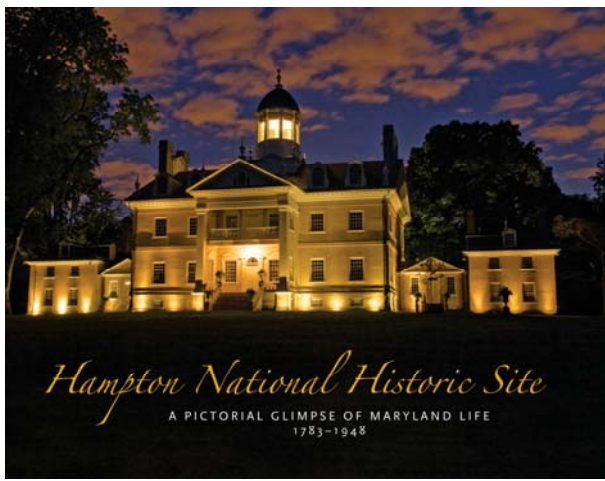
Do you need a unique or locally-themed gift? If so, then please consider a visit to the Museum Shop of Historic Hampton, Inc. The Museum Shop has both educational and decorative items relating to the history of Hampton and the Towson area. From beautifully-crafted, hand-turned wood items, to historically-themed coloring books, you are sure to find something here to your liking.

In stock is a new mug featuring the “Hampton at Night” photo by NPS volunteer Tim Ervin. The same image graces the cover of *Hampton National Historic Site, A Pictorial Glimpse of Maryland Life, 1783-1948*, our new coffee table book, which is now available for sale at the Shop and is pictured on page 4 of this newsletter. This book provides a close-up look at details of Hampton National Historic Site that a visitor might otherwise miss, and showcases Hampton in all of its four-season splendor. The book is dedicated to the many wonderful volunteers who help to make Hampton the national treasure that it is today. Among the Museum Shop’s other unique offerings are note cards depicting images from Hampton’s vast collection, such as the floral print pictured to the right.



As we look forward to spring, please note that we will have a variety of new items available every month, so visit us often. Members of HHI enjoy a 10% discount on almost every purchase in the Shop, so please consider becoming a member today and helping in support of HNHS.





HHI ~ 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286



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 on Hampton's events:

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