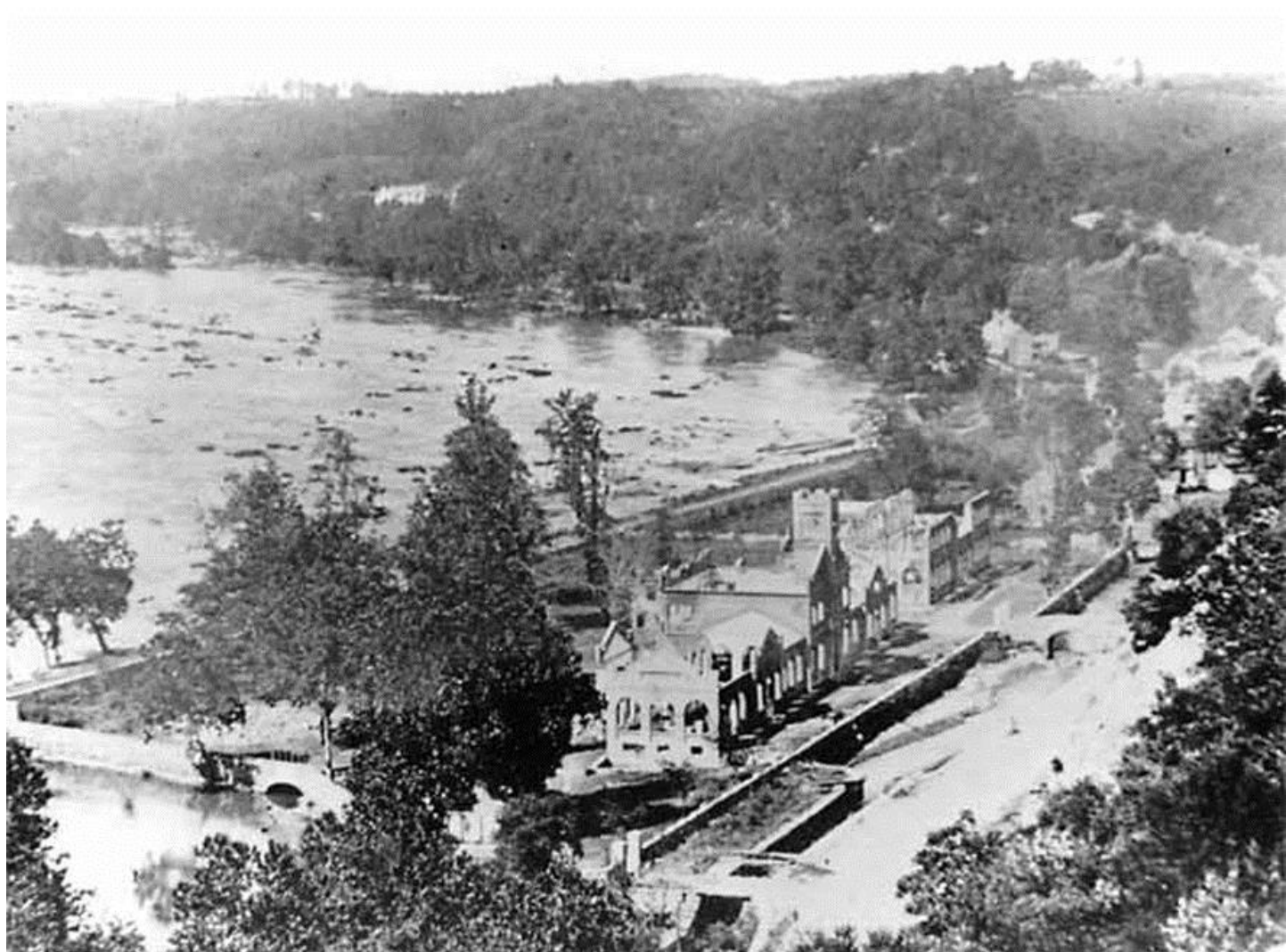


## *Harpers Ferry Armory Guns*

*Harpers Ferry Armory Guns.com is dedicated to the history of the manufacture of muskets, rifles, pistols and other war ordnance at the United States Armory & Arsenal, 1800-1861 on the banks of the Potomac River, and the Hall Rifle Works on the banks of the Shenandoah River 1819-1861 in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia).*



**Ruins of the U.S. Armory on the banks of the Potomac River at its junction with the Shenandoah River, Harpers Ferry, Virginia during the Civil War. The B&O Railroad bridge across the Potomac River is at top center, destroyed and rebuilt 9 times during the Civil War.**



**Ruins of the Hall Rifle Works/ US Rifle Works on the banks of the Shenandoah River at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, burned June 28, 1861 at the beginning of the Civil War**

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*Your web host Jim Prentice grew up in Harpers Ferry as the son of Park Superintendent Joseph R. Prentice and his Mom, Helen Portell Prentice, moving there in 1961. Jim lived in other National Parks as a youth, but Harpers Ferry is his home town. He has been described as "a Virginian at heart and has an intimate perspective of Harpers Ferry and it's history of weapons manufacturing". He currently volunteers at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park with Visitor's Services, as a volunteer staff member and new in 2013 as a Certified Park Tour Guide.*

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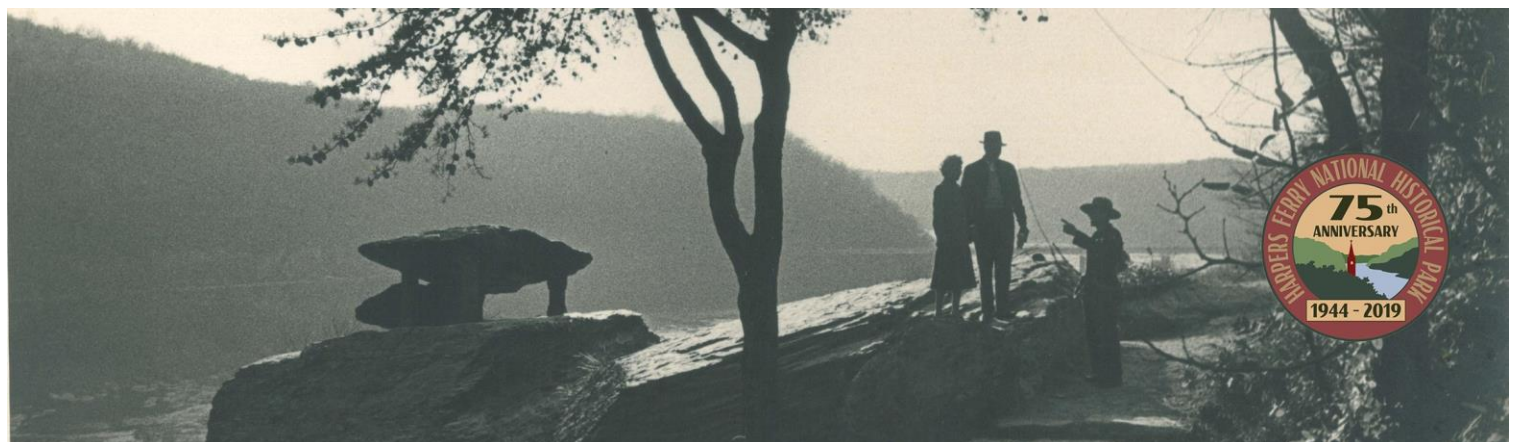
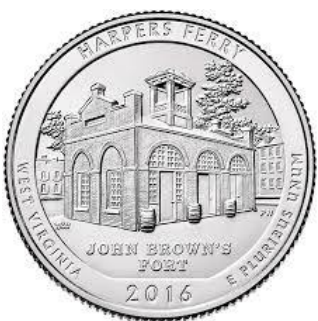
*Here is Jim doing a volunteer firearm display at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in spring 2014 in the back room of the Master Armorers House in historic Lower Town Harpers Ferry. One rack shows an example of every Model gun made at the great United States Armory at Harpers Ferry, and the other rack shows one of every Model rifle made at the Hall Rifle Works on the banks of the Shenandoah River at Harpers Ferry, after 1841 known as the U.S. Rifle Works.*

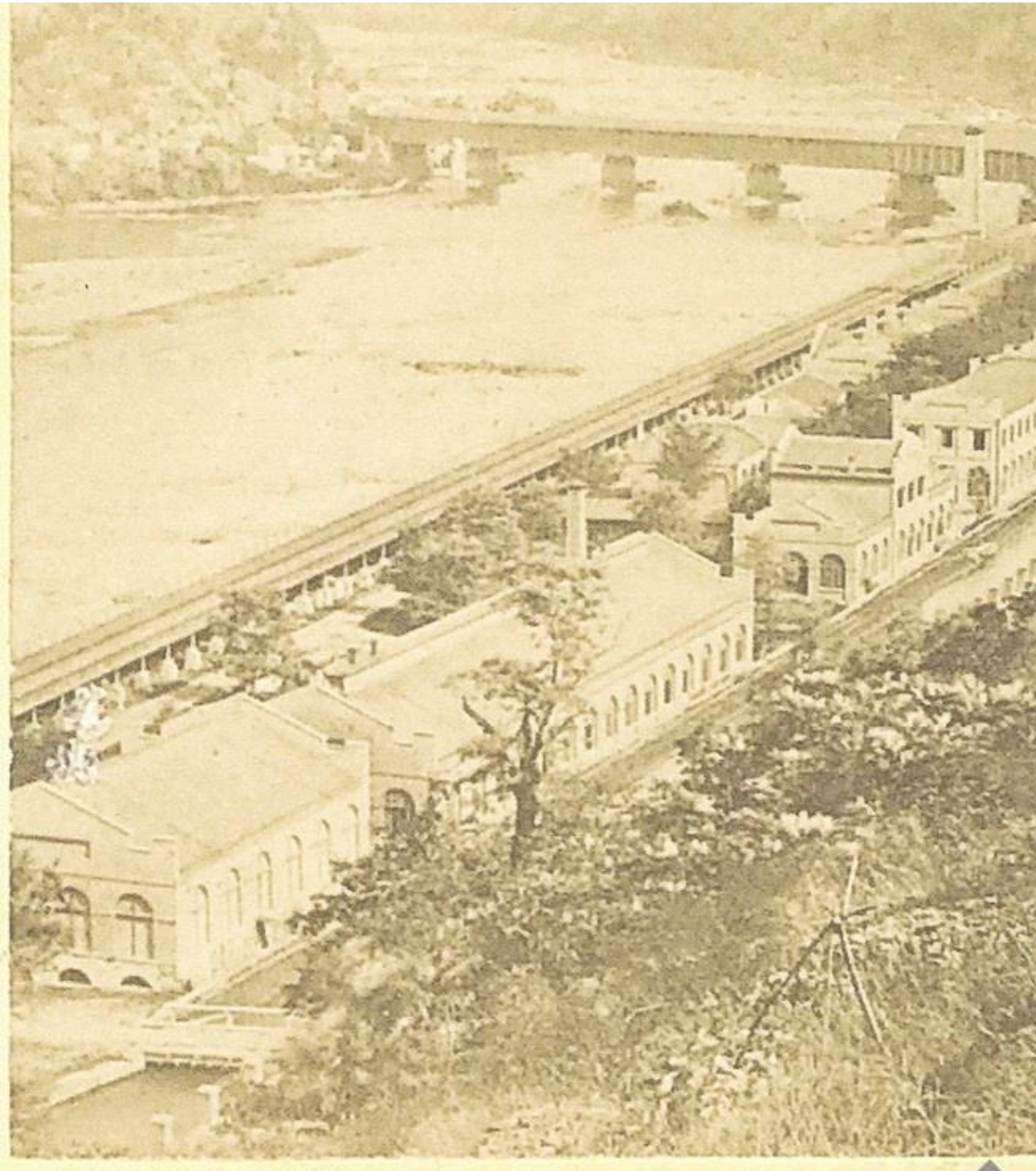
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### **New in 2013**

**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is proud to announce a new Certified Park Tour Guide program. Similar to Gettysburg and Antietam National Battlefield Park tour guides, for a nominal fee you can secure your own Park Tour Guide for a 2- 1/2 hr. guided visit to historic Harpers Ferry. You can choose from the many layers of history at Harpers Ferry to suit your points of interest. Just contact the Harpers Ferry Park Association, [www.harpersferryhistory.org](http://www.harpersferryhistory.org) or phone 304-535-6881 or check this link:**

**[www.harpersferryhistory.org/certified-guide-tours](http://www.harpersferryhistory.org/certified-guide-tours). The folks at HFNHP would love to see you!**





The great United States Armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia on the banks of the Potomac River at its height, ca. 1859. The famed B&O; Railroad Potomac Viaduct Bridge, in its original position, is in the upper center. This is the bridge John Brown and his Raiders crossed on the night of October 16, 1859 on the insurrection that would ignite the Civil War.



Looking from Potomac Street, ruins of the US Armory 1862.



Original Harpers Ferry Model 1816 flintlock smoothbore musket, .69 caliber, lockplate 1828. Total production in 3 Types 244,309 from 1816 - 1842.



Ruins of the United States Armory at Harpers Ferry 1862.



Model 1819 Halls breechloading originally flintlock rifle, converted to percussion. Breechblock dated 1831, .54 caliber. Not only did John Hall invent and patent his breechloading rifle in 1811, he went on to patent several machines used in the manufacture of his interchangeable parts system. These patent records were lost in a fire at the US Patent office in Washington, DC.



M1795 Harpers Ferry musket, 44 1/2" barrel, .69 caliber, converted to percussion, with a lock plate dated 1801. Barrel stamped with US and Eagle Head oval proof marks; barrel and butt plate stamped with serial # N1402. Only 293 muskets were made at the Harpers Ferry Armory in 1801.



Original M1841 "Mississippi" Rifle, bored out to .58 caliber with muzzle fitted for a sabre bayonet, under orders from Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce.



**Original Harpers Ferry Model 1795 flintlock musket, .69 caliber, lockplate 1816. These guns were the first model produced by the Harpers Ferry & Springfield National Armories, patterned after the French Charleville musket.**

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**Original Model 1819 Halls flintlock breechloading rifle, breechblock dated 1838, .54 caliber. First machine of any kind made with **TOTALLY INTERCHANGABLE PARTS**, This was part of the beginning of what was called the "American Method of Manufacture", where less skilled workers could operate machinery to build gun parts, then assemble the whole gun. People from all over the world came to Harpers Ferry to see this wonder of modern manufacture. As of April 2013 the Model 1819 Hall Rifle has been adopted by the WV Legislature as the Official State Firearm of the great State of West Virginia.**

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**Original Hall Model 1819 flintlock breechloading rifle, with stock shattered due to blown breech. This was a flaw with the Hall's rifles; when the breechblock was loaded and seated, gunpowder or other elements could become lodged in the seat, causing the gun to blow gas out the sides of the breechblock chamber upon discharge. Breechblock dated 1834.**

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**Harpers Ferry Model 1841 "Mississippi" rifle, 1847 lockplate, original .54 caliber. One of the most beautiful and sought after of all Civil War era guns, these rifles were made popular by Col. Jefferson Davis's Mississippi troops during the Mexican War, 1846-1848. Highly accurate and well balanced, these guns were sold to some soldiers after the Mexican War for their cost of \$14.50. Later as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce, Jefferson Davis had many of these guns rifled to a standard .58 caliber and fitted for a bayonet in various configurations.**

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**Sharps Model 1853 carbine, AKA "Beecher's Bibles" or "John Brown" Sharps, used by John Brown in his raid on Harpers Ferry, Oct. 16, 1859. Serial number #15,775, this SN is in the range of Sharps carbines used by Brown at Harpers Ferry. Christian Sharps learned his craft at Harpers Ferry under John Hall, and his breechloading rifled carbines were one of the most deadly weapons used in the Civil War. These carbines were not made at Harpers Ferry, but were contracted out to SHARPS RIFLE MANUFG. CO., HARTFORD, CONN. as stamped on barrel.**



**Original Harpers Ferry Model 1842 smoothbore musket, .69 caliber. Lockplate dated 1844, the first year the M1842 was produced. The M1842 was the first gun produced at both Harpers Ferry & Springfield Armories with totally interchangeable parts from both Armories.**

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**M1842 Harpers Ferry, original .69 caliber smoothbore musket, lockplate and barrel dated 1853. This is 1 of 10,000 M1842 smoothbore muskets that were taken and rifled & fitted with a long range sight about 1853-54. The .69 caliber bore with 42" barrel proved too powerful, leading to the design of the M1855 rifle.**

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**Original extremely rare Model 1836 Hall breechloading carbine in .64 caliber smoothbore barrel, breechblock dated 1837, 22" angular bayonet slotted under barrel to slide in and out as needed. First and only Hall gun made in original percussion cap firing system. 1st production of 1,000 carbines had stock storage area with brass hinged cover plate. Total 1st & 2nd production 2,020. Issued mainly to 2nd US Dragoons for the Seminole Wars. 1st PERCUSSION CAP WEAPON ACCEPTED BY THE U.S ARMY.**

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**Original Model 1855 Harpers Ferry rifled musket, .58 caliber, 40' barrel, lockplate dated 1859, 3 band, dropleaf long range sight. This gun was on the table in the Armory or in the rack in the Arsenal in Harpers Ferry at the time of the John Brown Raid, October 16, 1859.**

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**Same M1795 musket, converted to percussion by drum conversion, lock plate dated 1801, serial number N1402 stamped on barrel and butt plate. One of the oldest guns originally made at Harpers Ferry in existence today. Initials on the stock link the gun to a family in New England, and was briefly used in the Civil War.**

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*Please feel free to contact us for a FREE evaluation of any Civil War era gun, collections or estates you may have. We only ask, if possible, you travel to the Washington DC/ Harpers Ferry WV area or email with photos for an honest evaluation of your collection by our long time professional evaluators of Civil War and Harpers Ferry guns, with our references readily available. Contact information below:*



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*Information on this page has been edited for clarity by MH3WV.*