



Preserving America's Heritage



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Of the Student, By the Student, For the Student: **John Brown Raid Service Learning Project at Harpers Ferry**

June 25—Today at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the *Of the Student, By the Student, For the Student* service learning project was unveiled. Students of the Harpers Ferry Middle School created the project to interpret the story of the John Brown Raid to other youths in this year marking the 150th anniversary of the October 16 raid.

Robert G. Stanton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, Department of the Interior, and former director of the National Park Service, spoke during the event. Stanton's duties include responsibility for Interior's new Office of Youth in Natural Resources.

"I am honored and privileged to witness this union of partners working together so effectively in the noble endeavor of preserving and sharing history," he said. "My greatest accolades are for the wonderful students who developed these outstanding programs. They are setting the standard for others to follow and is consistent with the charge put forth by Interior's Secretary Ken Salazar to the men and women of Interior—to engage our youth in student and education programs throughout the breadth of the Interior."

The students of Harpers Ferry Middle School conceived and created the six vodcasts interpreting the history of the John Brown Raid from their perspectives. These will be used by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership (JTHGP) to help educate visitors to the region to the significance of the John Brown Raid. The videos are also available on YouTube.

The project, supported by the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (HFNHP), the JTHGP, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), is intended to spur service learning at other federal, state, tribal, Native Hawaiian, community, and private historic properties across the nation. It is the first tangible result of the ACHP's Preserve America Service Learning Project. Coming at the beginning of the national observation of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the project is intended to inspire similar efforts where local schools and historic preservation organizations create educational efforts tied to curricula using local heritage resources to help people better understand American history and the importance of historic places.

The ACHP adopted the overall service learning effort as an initial best strategy to fulfill its Preserve America Summit charge to better involve youth in historic preservation. The basic strategy of the ACHP effort is to help create a new generation of preservationists by asking federal agencies and historic preservation organizations to incorporate local heritage assets into school service learning and community service programs in their youth involvement and education programs.

To view a brief explanatory video of the project, visit www.hallowedground.org/ofthestudent. For more information on the ACHP see www.achp.gov. For more information on service learning and historic preservation see www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/historic_preservation.

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