

Guns of Harpers Ferry Tour Outline

I. Introduction — at the Green

A. Welcome, brief overview, safety message

B. Hafe beginnings

1. Robert Harper

a. 1747

b. Ferry service

c. town named after him

2. George Washington

a. Army plans — puts place on map

b. 1794

c. 4 reasons for it to be here

3. Thomas Jefferson

a. visits in 1783

b. "most stupendous scenes in nature"

c. "worth a voyage across the Atlantic"

C. going back in time ... imagine what's really here

1. stinky dirty town of 3500

2. by 1830, when railroads established, town really takes off

a. churches put in

b. homes and businesses arrive

3. the people aren't much different than us

a. 2 major differences

i. hygiene

ii. if skin dark enough, can be for sale

D. conclude

1. as move to next stop, think about what the town would have looked like to someone living 150 years ago and why they would have been here

II. Armory Life — in the Alcove

A. Armory Complex

1. 22 brick buildings extending 6 football fields down along the river with 90 ft smoke stack, churning out 10,000 guns every year, employing 400 workers

a. 600,000 total produced here

- missing about 2/3

2. best wages in town but not all good
b. Incidents

1. day worker v. piece worker
 - a. clocks added into factory
2. hand making v. machine
3. drinking in the armory
4. Cox-Dunn murder
5. 1842 Clock Strike

c. to get a closer look at the actual weapons made here that coincide with these stories we move onto Arsenal Square

III. The Guns and Beyond — Arsenal Square

- A. 1795
- B. 1803
- C. Hall 1819
- D. 1841 and forward
- E. Beyond

1. gun factory attracts John Brown
 - a. "the sins of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood"
 - b. words end up being prophetic
2. what John Brown sets out to do, to free the slaves by force/with violence, ends up being national policy
 - a. Civil War at Hare
 - i. Armory Burning
 - ii. burning of the point
 - iii. Seize of 1862
 - iv. military town
3. since the factory is gone, the town doesn't regain its former glory — it dies
 - b. the guns however continue to be produced in Richmond and Fayetteville, NC
 - c. influence becomes far reaching
 - i. James Burton
 - ii. John Hall + interchangeability

Conclusion: Guns used to protect what we believe.
The Constitution. American Flag. Sound these weapons stands for years of patriotism, strife, and conflict.