



Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum

Jim Kuhn collection on
Harpers Ferry, circa 1823-1996

Carrie Gehrler

2011

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<http://www.anacostia.si.edu/Collections/ArchiveCollection>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
Title:	Jim Kuhn collection on Harpers Ferry
Identifier:	ACMA.06-007
Date:	circa 1823-1996
Extent:	0.54 Linear feet (2 boxes)
Creator:	Kuhn, Jim, d. 2003
Language:	English
Summary:	This collection, which dates from circa 1853-1996, contains material documenting the history of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, including the Harpers Ferry Armory, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and the incorporation of Murphy Farm into the Historical Park. A highlight of the collection is a framed copyprint of members of the Colored Women's League on the Murphy Farm after their annual meeting in Washington, D.C., July 1896. Also contains several issues of Gleason's Pictorial, dating from circa 1853. Materials include newspapers, videorecordings, photographic prints, booklets, brochures, correspondence, maps and postcards.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Jim Kuhn.

Preferred Citation

Jim Kuhn collection on Harpers Ferry, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution, gift of Jim Kuhn.

Restrictions

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist at acmarchives@si.edu.

Conditions Governing Use

Anacostia Community Museum does not hold the copyright to all material in this collection. Please contact the archivist for further information.

Biographical Note

During the Civil War, the Murphy Farm near Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, witnessed the 11th-hour attack by Confederate Gen. A.P. Hill that forced the surrender of the 12,000-man federal garrison at Harpers Ferry. The farm is also the home of the Harpers Ferry engine house that abolitionist leader John Brown used in his abortive 1859 attempt to spark a slave uprising. The Brown fort was sent to Chicago for the 1893 Columbian Exposition, and, upon its return, Alexander Murphy deeded 5 acres to rebuild the structure on his farm. On August 15, 1906, the Niagara Movement, led by author and scholar W.E.B. DuBois, held its first meeting on American soil on the campus of Storer College, now part of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The three-day gathering, held to discuss how to secure civil rights for African Americans, was later described by DuBois as "one of the greatest meetings that American Negroes ever held." Attendees of the 1906 meeting walked from Storer College to the nearby Murphy Farm to visit the engine house where John Brown's quest to free four million enslaved African Americans reached its bloody climax. Jim Kuhn was the great-great-grandson of the farm's original owners Alexander and Mary Murphy.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

African American social reformers
Civil rights -- United States
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Types of Materials:

Booklets
Brochures
Copy photographs
Correspondence
Maps
Newspapers
Photographic prints
Postcards
Video recordings

Names:

Harpers Ferry Armory (U.S.)
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (Agency : U.S.)
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Geographic Names:

Harpers Ferry (W. Va.)
United States -- history -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Battlefields