



Hidden Gem:
National Park Service
Harpers Ferry Center
Commissioned Art Collection

What is Harpers Ferry Center?



- We are the National Park Service's Media Center that creates a variety of interpretive tools to assist NPS field interpreters.
- These tools include audiovisual programs, historic furnishings, museum exhibits, publications, and wayside exhibits.
- HFC also provides a variety of services including graphics research, interpretive planning, media contracting, artifact conservation, revision and reprinting of publications, and replacement of wayside exhibits.

Where is Harpers Ferry Center?



- The Interpretive Design Center is located in Harpers Ferry, WV.



Not all of HFC is in Harpers Ferry!



- The Willow Springs Facility is seven miles away in Charles Town, WV.
- The facility houses the Museum Conservation Services, the NPS History Collection, and the HFC Commissioned Art Collection.



What is the HFC Commissioned Art Collection?



- As part of its interpretive work, HFC often contracts with artists to create works to help visitors understand the many stories parks have to tell.
- Dating back over 50 years to the founding of the HFC IDC, art has been contracted for interpretive purposes through HFC contracts.
- Art purchased through HFC contracts, whether physical or digital, is controlled federal property and must be appropriately documented, tracked, and cared for in perpetuity via transfer to the HFC Commissioned Art Collection.

HFC Commissioned Art Collection Facts



- The Commissioned Art Collection has over 12,000 pieces of physical and digital art.
- All of the art is 2-D or digital.
- There are no photographs in the Collection (with the exception of some collages).
- Art in the Collection can be found NPS-wide in many formats.
- The Collection is also used extensively outside of the NPS with regular requests for research, publication, exhibits, curriculum content, waysides, social media posts, television programs, website content, etc.

Where can Commissioned Art be found?



Where can Commissioned Art be found?

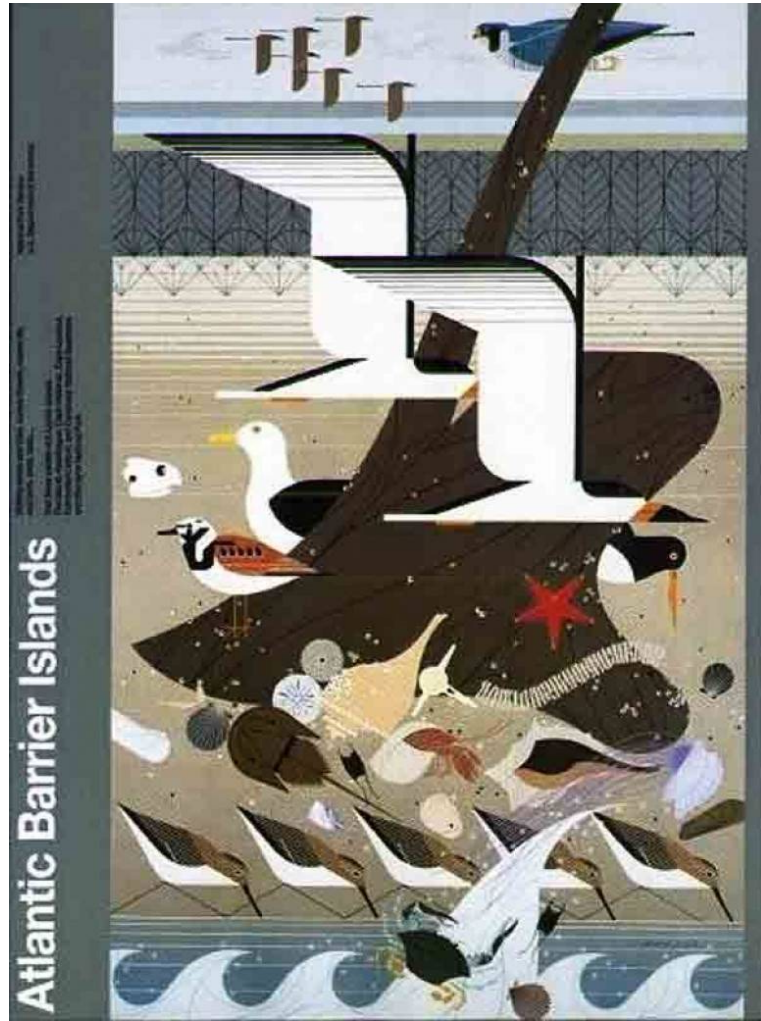


EVERYWHERE.

UNIGRID Brochures



Posters



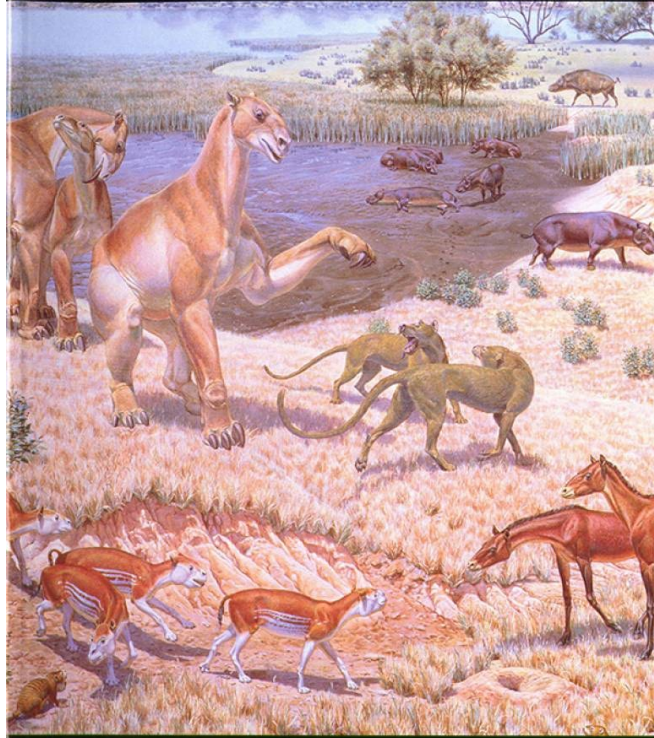
MORRISTOWN
NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK
GEN. WASHINGTON'S
HEADQUARTERS
1779-1780



Appomattox Court House



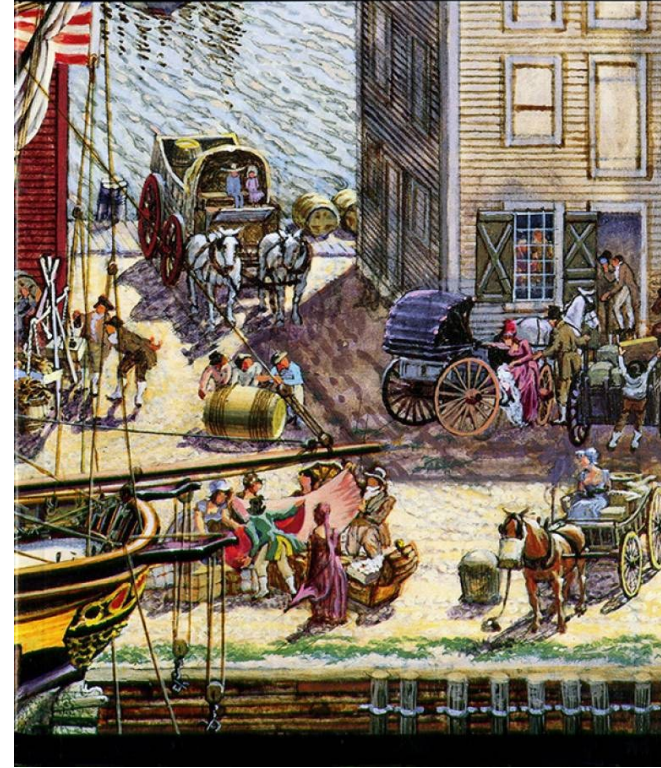
Agate Fossil Beds



Official National Park Handbook

Salem

Maritime Salem in the Age of Sail



Park Exhibits



MARTIME FOREST
Shelter from the storm... and the sun
Where Acacia is wild and most stable
and the oak spray weavers, a slightly higher
elevation allows lobolly pines and other trees
to grow.

Farther inland, pioneers stak
Despite salty air, intense heat,
and shifting real estate, many
animals struggle to
survive.
As you move
color the glass
and trees, the
ray, insect, ma
and their poun
he thicket.

Forest: Two Types of Deer
Native or exotic?
The eastern white-tailed deer is native
and is found throughout the eastern United States.
The black deer is native to the western U.S. and was brought
to Acapulco in the 1500s.
Both are native to the region. The white-tailed deer
is native to the U.S. The black deer
is native to the U.S. and was brought to the U.S.
understand, and the deer case it when damaged.

BLACK DEER
WHITE-TAILED DEER



Waysides



Acadia National Park

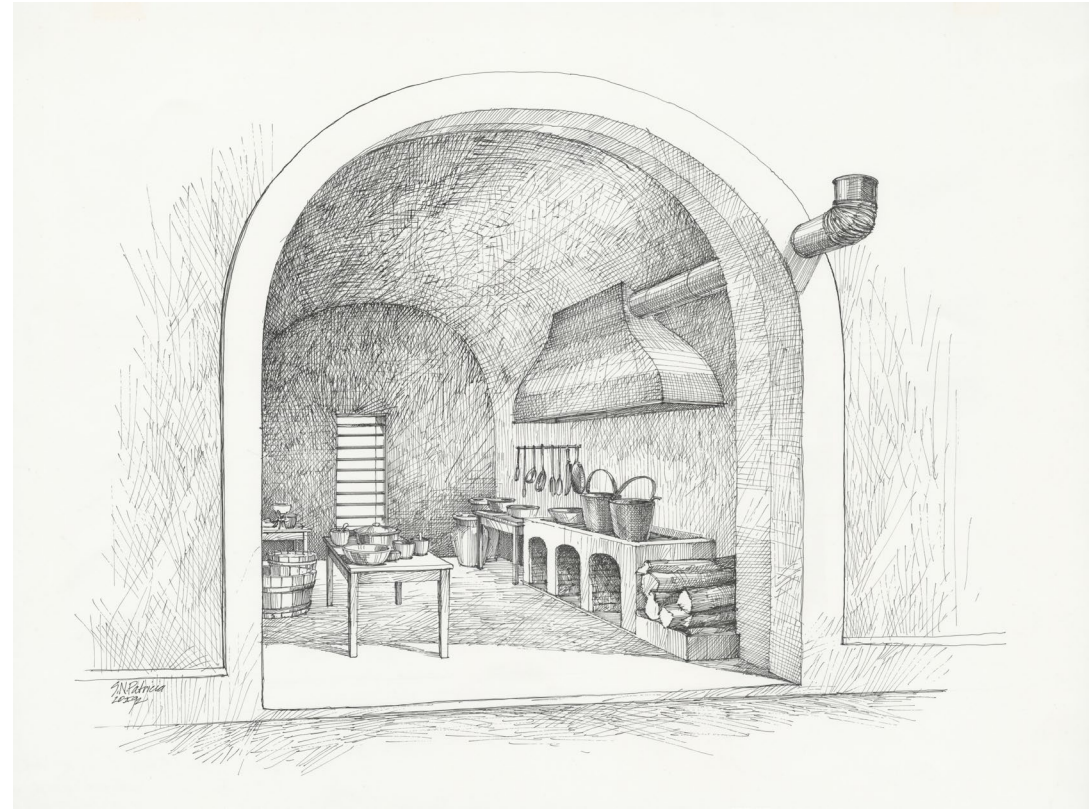
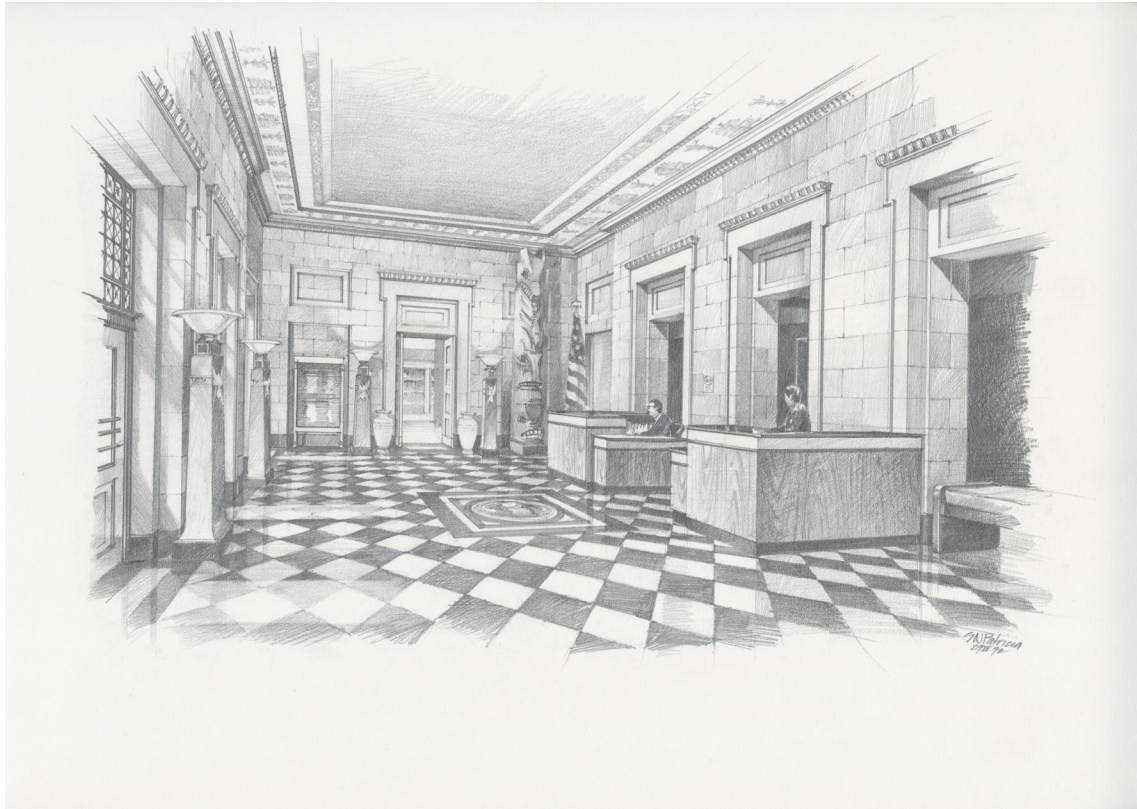
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Up Close and Personal

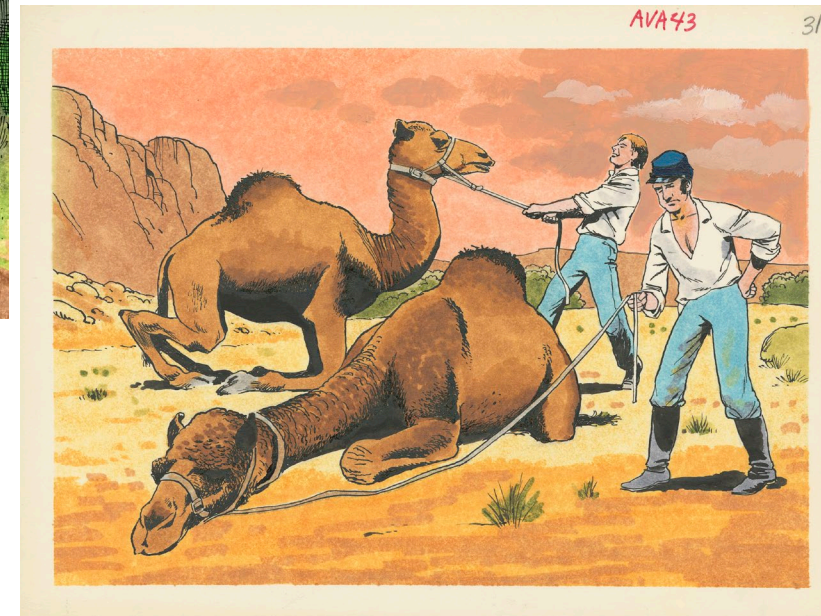
Explore Echo Lake—one of the few places in Acadia you may swim because it is not a source of public drinking water—and discover all the wildlife and plants that thrive in these crystal clear waters. You might find yourself eye to eye with a fish patrolling for prey, a turtle sunning itself, or a frog waiting patiently to snap up a passing insect. Watch a dragonfly zip between reeds and lily pads as it chases a mosquito, gnat, or fly and plucks it out of thin air. Look carefully. The lake hums with all kinds of activity.

Labels in the annotated illustration include:
Broodleaf cattails
Swamp candle
Common whitetail dragonfly
Water lobelia
Bayonet rushes
Pickered frog
Banded killifish
Brown bullhead
Landlocked salmon
Rainbow smelt
Pumpkinseeds
Brook trout
Floating hearts
Yellow pond lily
Painted turtle
Loon and chicks
Fragrant water lilies

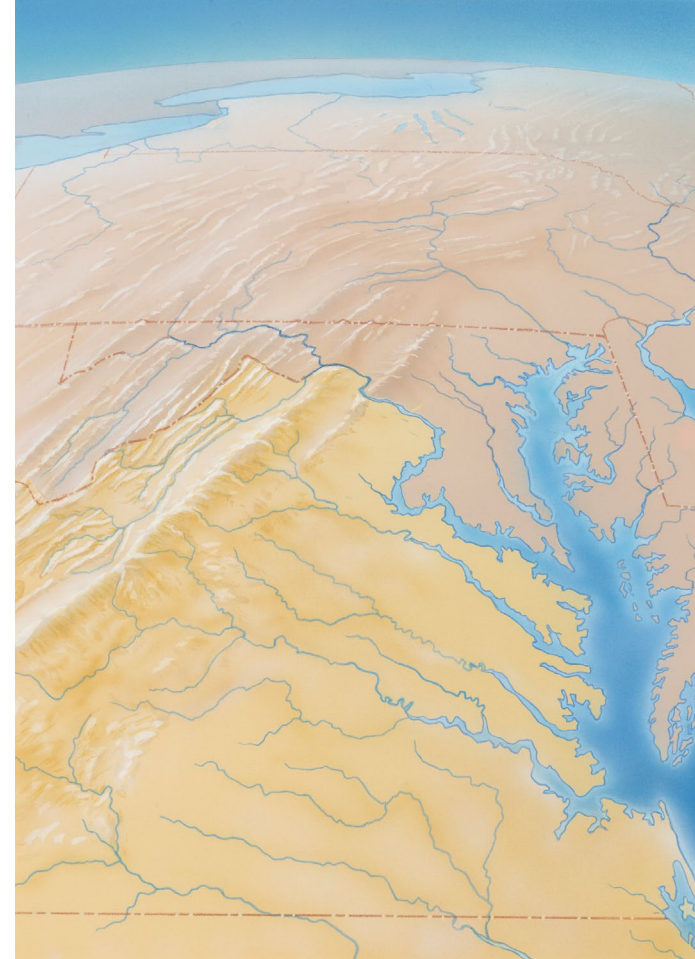
Historic Furnishing Reports



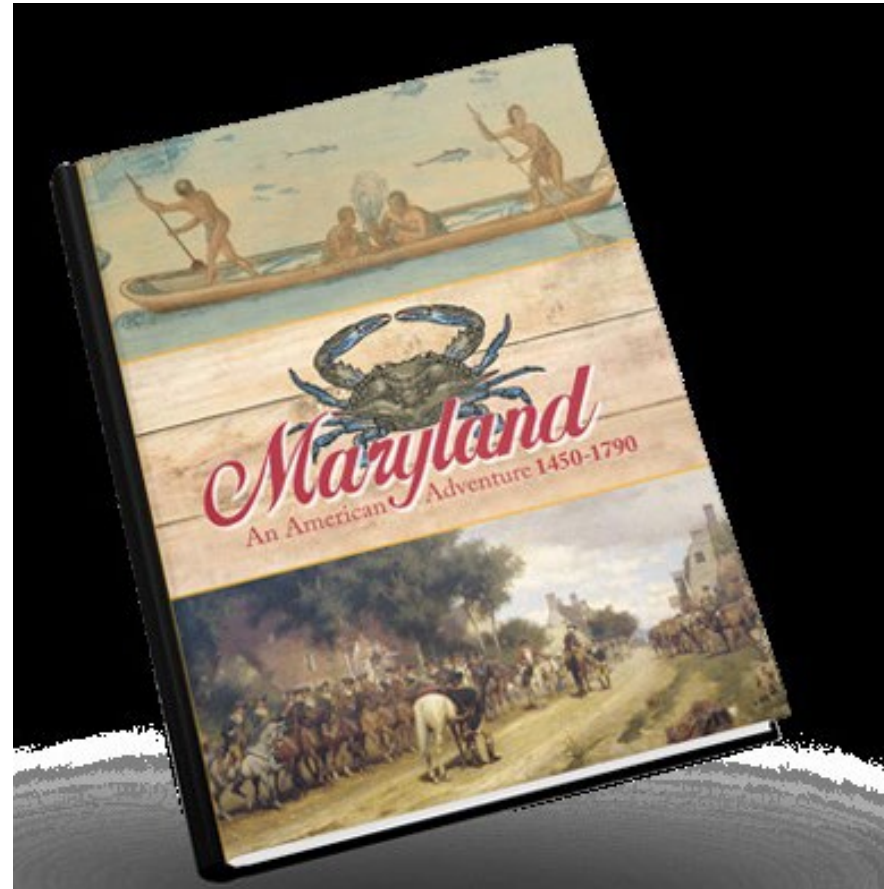
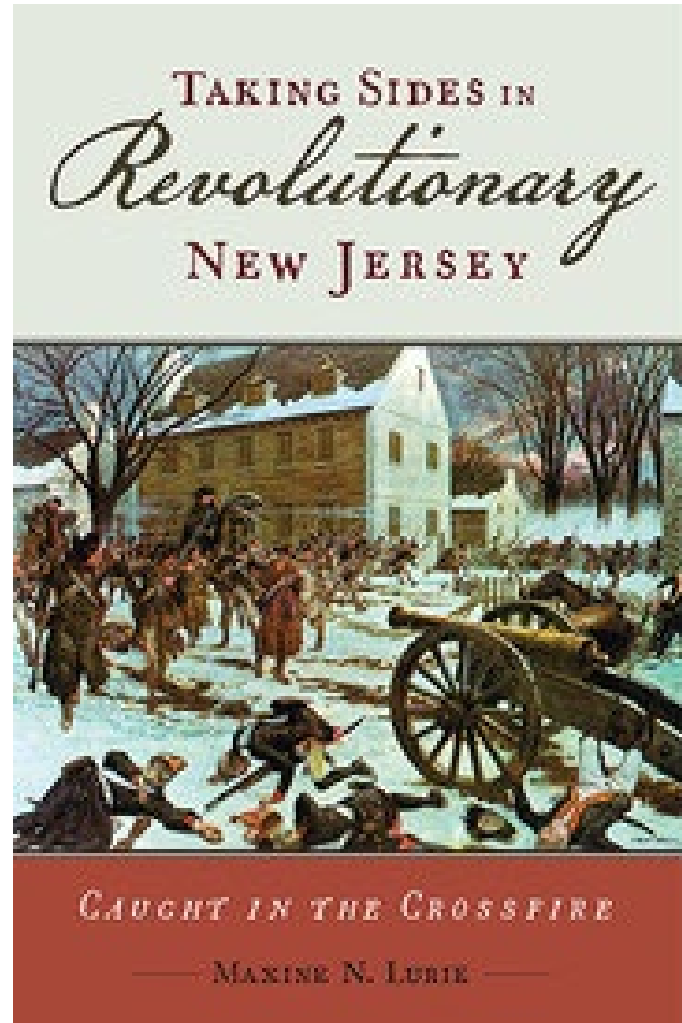
NPS Audiovisual Programs



Cartography



Non-NPS Publications



External Organization Projects



Making Iron

The ironmaking process was well-known and cold-blast furnaces built in 18th and 19th century America mimicked designs first used 400 years earlier. A thick stone furnace, shaped like a flat-topped pyramid, served as the place of transformation, where minerals became metal.

Fillers dumped alternating layers of charcoal fuel, iron ore and limestone flux into the top of the furnace. As the charcoal burned, air forced into the furnace from the outside raised the temperature to 2,600-3,000 F, creating several byproducts. Carbon gases escaped up the furnace stack, molten iron sank to the bottom and impurities called slag floated on the liquid metal. Workers drew off the useless slag and gattormen channelled the iron into connected castings called pigs.

As this outdoor drawing on the left shows, wooden buildings and machinery designed to fan the fire to 2,600 F, where surrounded the flat-topped stone furnace. Customarily, only the stone stack survive.

DENR
Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental and
Natural Resources

Cutaway of a Cold-Blast Furnace

1. **Chimney:** Smoke, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide escape here.
2. **Tunnel Head:** Limestone, iron ore, and charcoal are dumped into the furnace here.
3. **Firebrick:** Furnace lining.
4. **Insulation:** Sand and clay insulate and cushion lining.
5. **Air Duct:** Machinery forces air through this duct into the furnace.
6. **Tuyere (Twee-air):** The narrow pipe directs air into the furnace and boosts heat.
7. **Crucible:** Narrowest and hottest part of the furnace where iron melts.
8. **Boch:** Melting iron still mixed with impurities (slag).
9. **Hearth Stone:** Iron and slag settle here.
10. **Dam Stone:** Holds back iron and slag until tapped.

CO & CO₂ escape here

Limestone
Iron ore
Charcoal

Credit: Smithsonian Center of the National Park Service



NPS Park Self-Produced A/V



The Paw Paw Tunnel



Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP
273 subscribers

Subscribe

65 Share Save ...

2,706 views Oct 30, 2021

Join Ranger Stephanie for a walk through the Paw Paw Tunnel.

NPS Park Websites

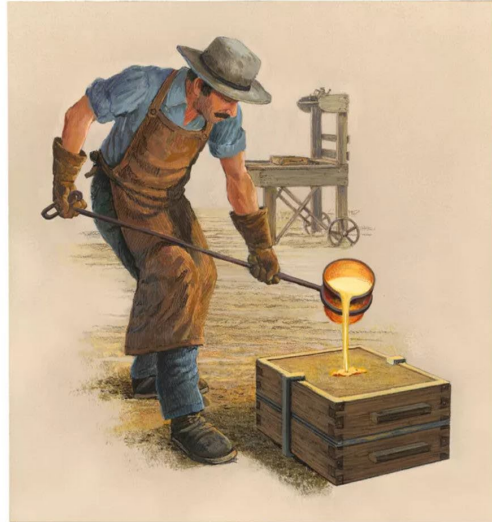


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Iron Workers

Historians have styled rural iron making operations like Hopewell's, called "iron plantations," as feudal. This was a self-sufficient community of craftsman and laborers living lives directly or indirectly governed by the furnace. It could be a difficult taskmaster – dirty, noisy, and dangerous at times, ever needing to be fed and tapped. But a demanding furnace also meant community prosperity. A silent furnace meant lean times.

A traditional hierarchy governed the furnace's operations. At the pinnacle was the **ironmaster**, director of the enterprise and often an owner. Good ironmasters had to be financier, technician, bill collector, market analyst, personnel director, purchasing agent, and host to prospective buyers. His was a volatile job: bad luck or poor judgment usually meant failure. Success often brought wealth. A **clerk** helper kept the books, ordered supplies, served as paymaster, and managed the office store. The job well performed could be a stepping-stone to ironmaster.



Moulders created sand molds for castings.
NPS Photo



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Native Americans



For thousands of years, Native Americans hunted and fished in the Monocacy River Valley. Today fish weirs in the Monocacy River continue to testify to their presence.
Richard Schreckel, copyright by Richard Schreckel

Social Media

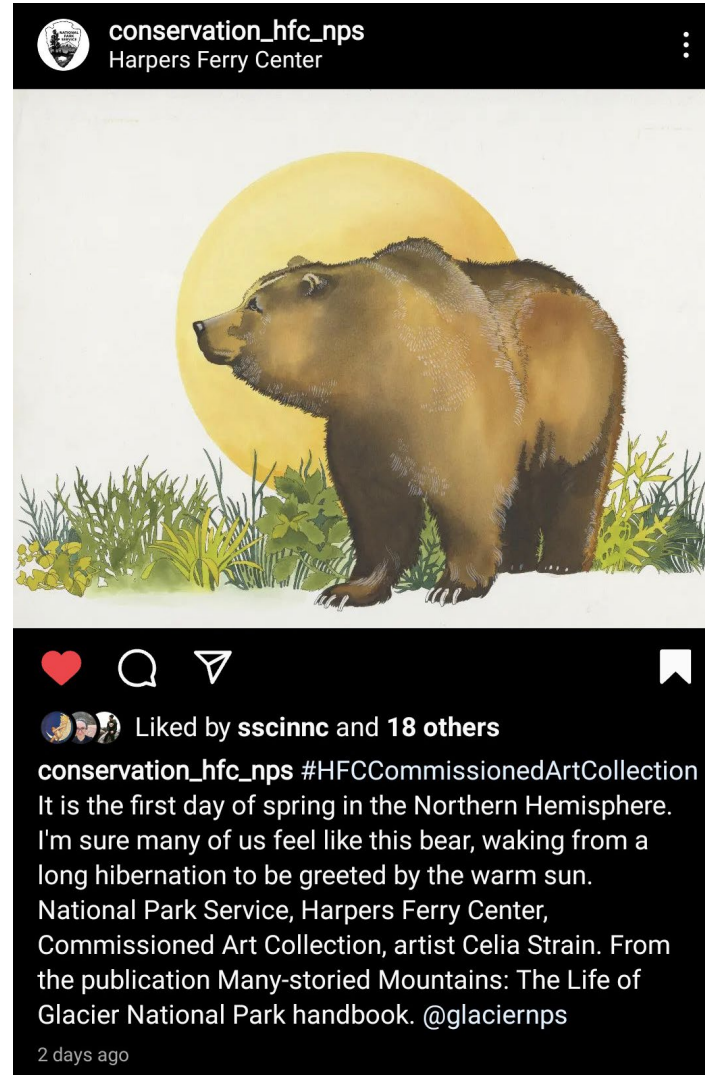


11

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022 AT 11:00 AM EDT

Native American History of Kennesaw Mountain

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park



Making the Commissioned Art Collection Accessible and Useful

Multi-year project to rehouse every object in the collection.



New work space to accommodate collection items



New work space to accommodate collection items



New work space to accommodate collection items



Every item has been touched!



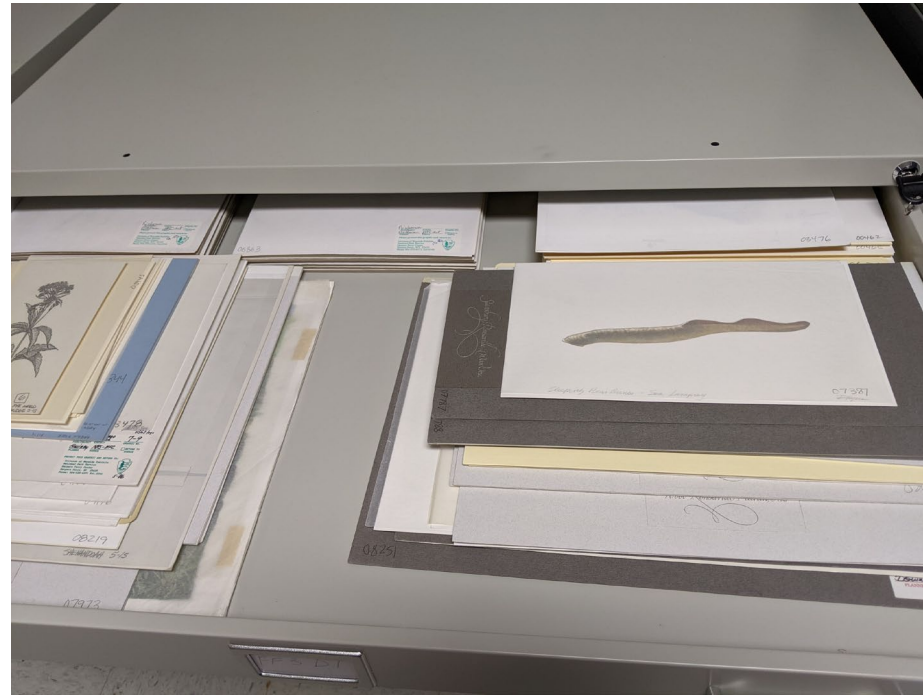
- Removed old shelving and boxes. Added flat files.



Every item has been touched!



- New housing from inside out.



TLC for some objects



- HFC Conservator Allison Holcomb trained interns and treated objects.

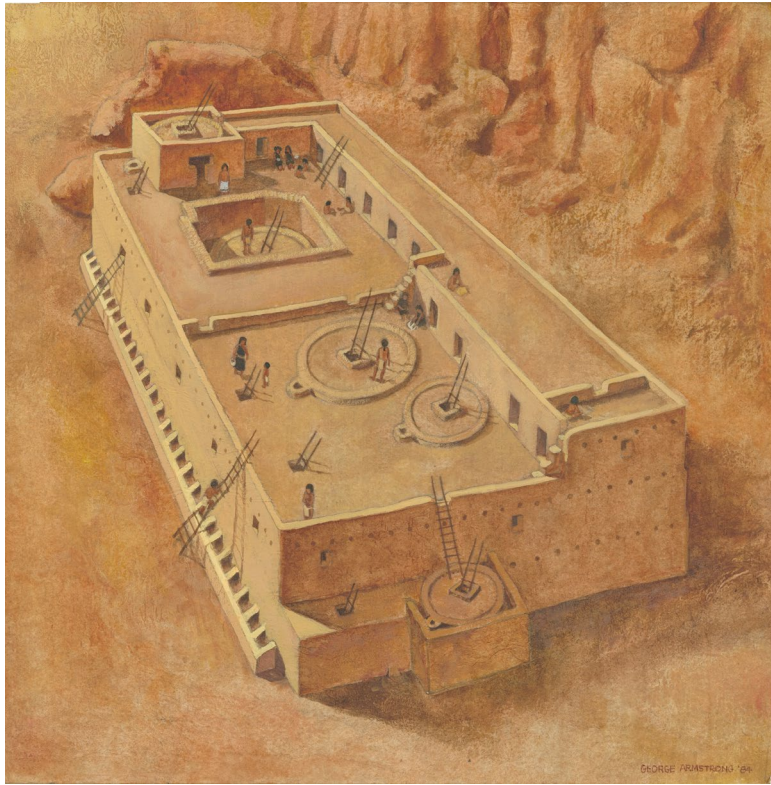


Physical care leads to better intellectual control

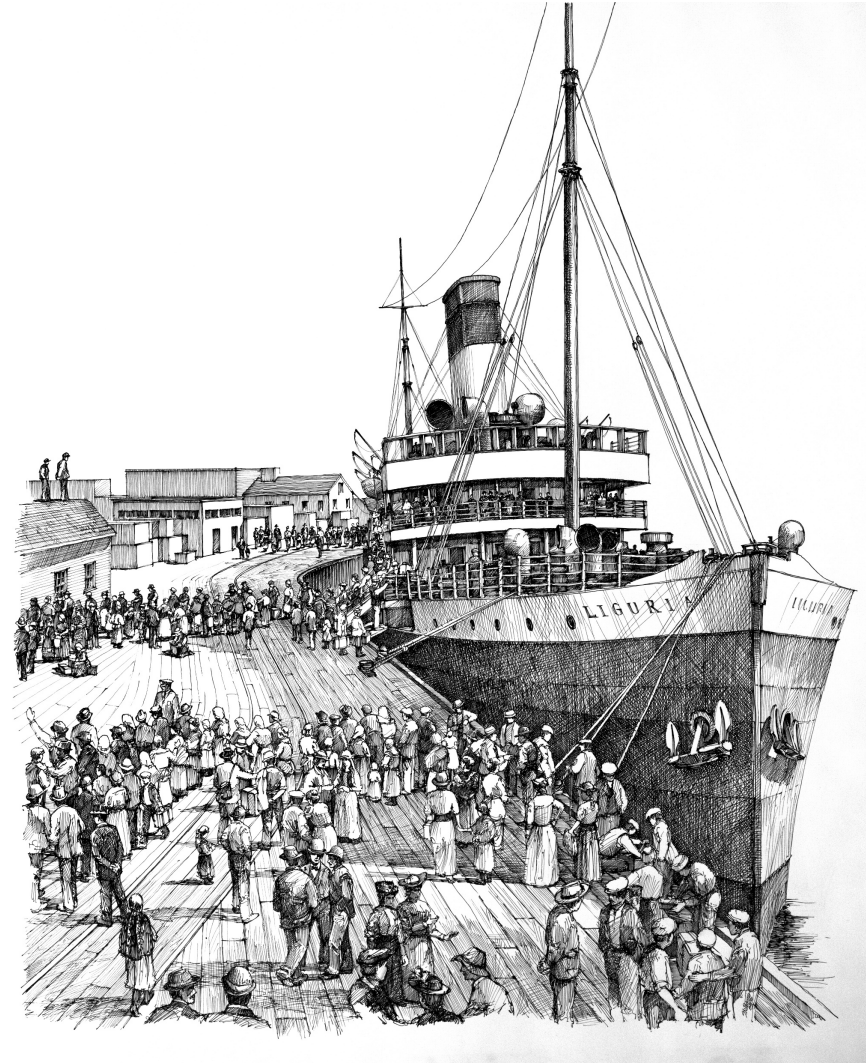


- Over 10,000 objects have been rehoused and inventoried in two years
- Over 8,000 items have been scanned or photographed in two years
- We can easily find objects when needed
- We lessened the handling of objects by creating high quality images
- We are updating descriptive language in object records to be appropriate and give agency to those historically marginalized
- With accurate descriptions and complete record information, will be able to share the collection with more audiences

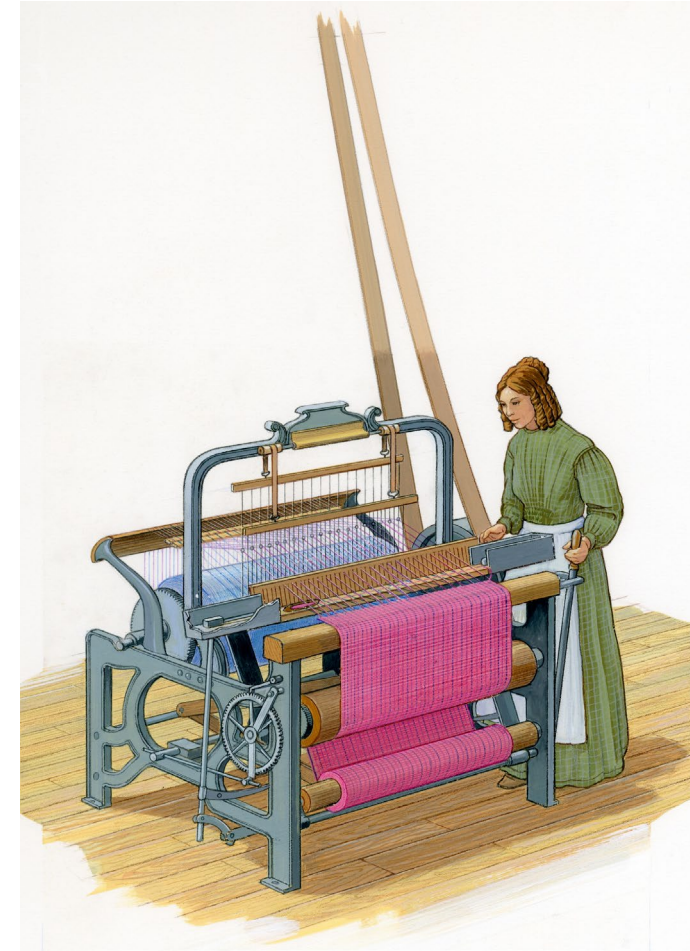
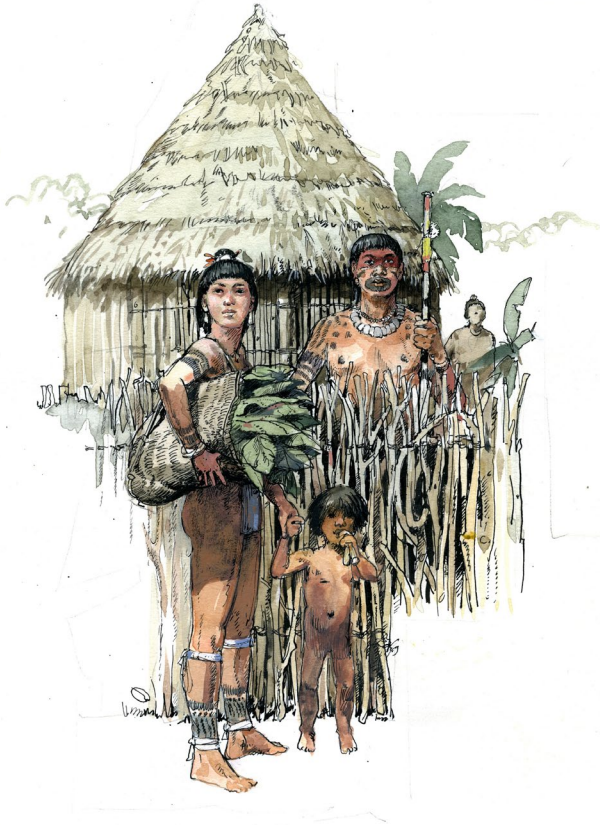
Language matters



What time period do you need?



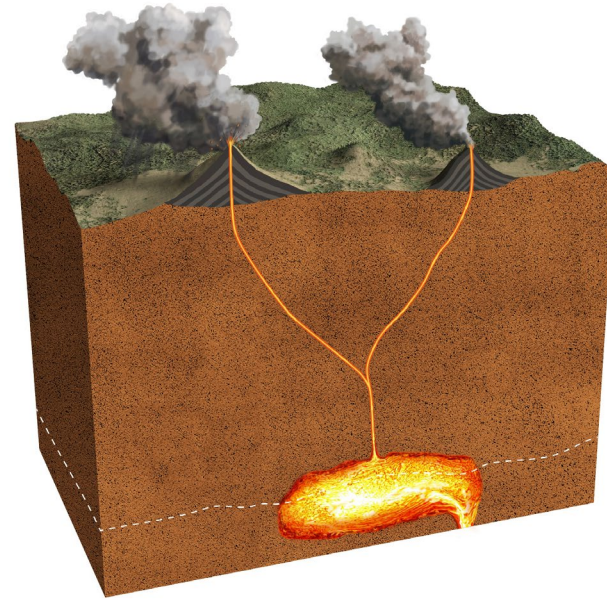
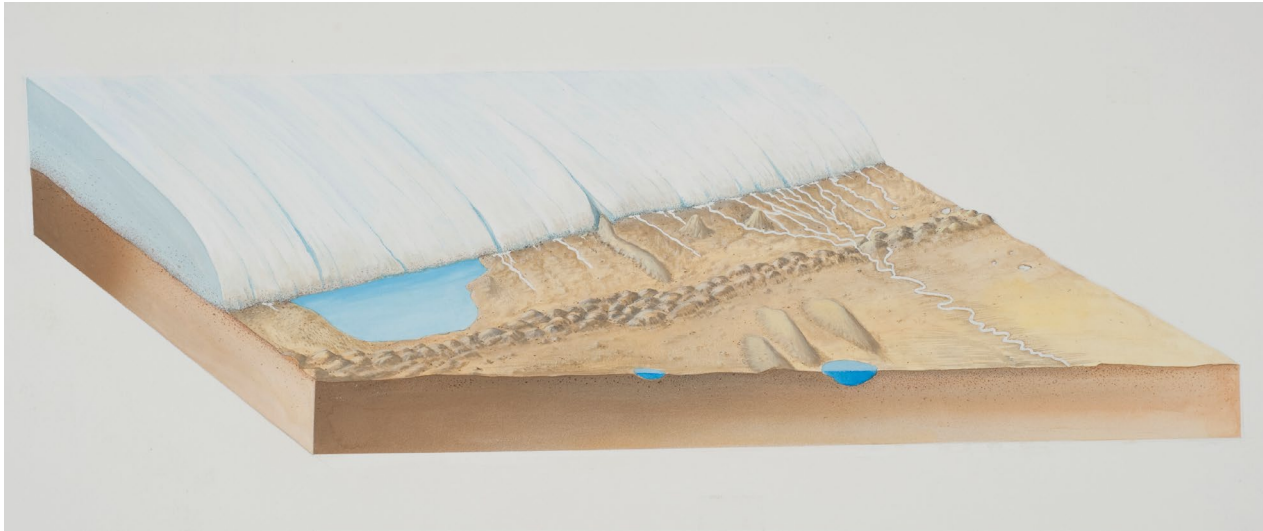
Who are you looking for?



What do you need to explain?



- We have a diagram for that!

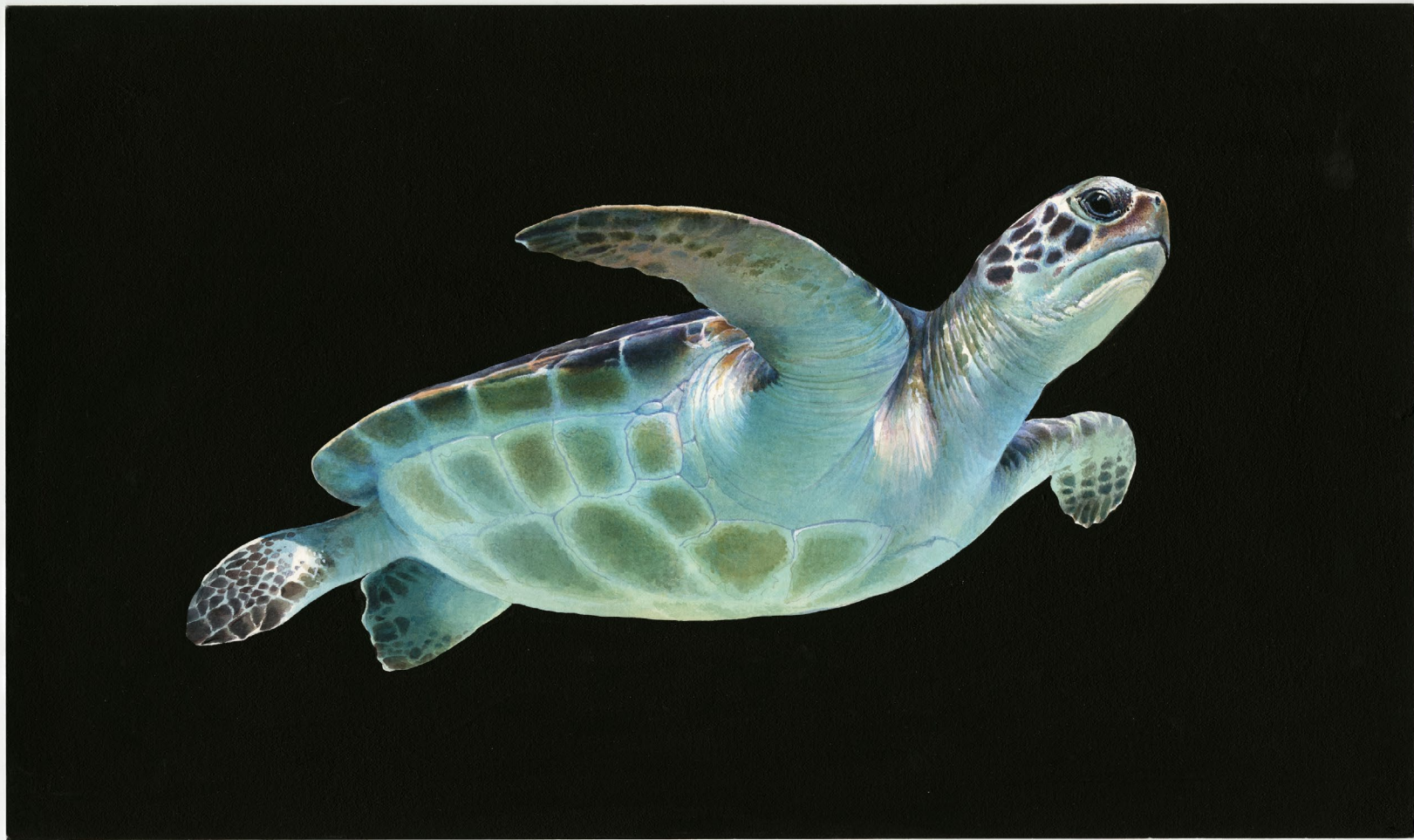


Looking for amazing wildlife art?







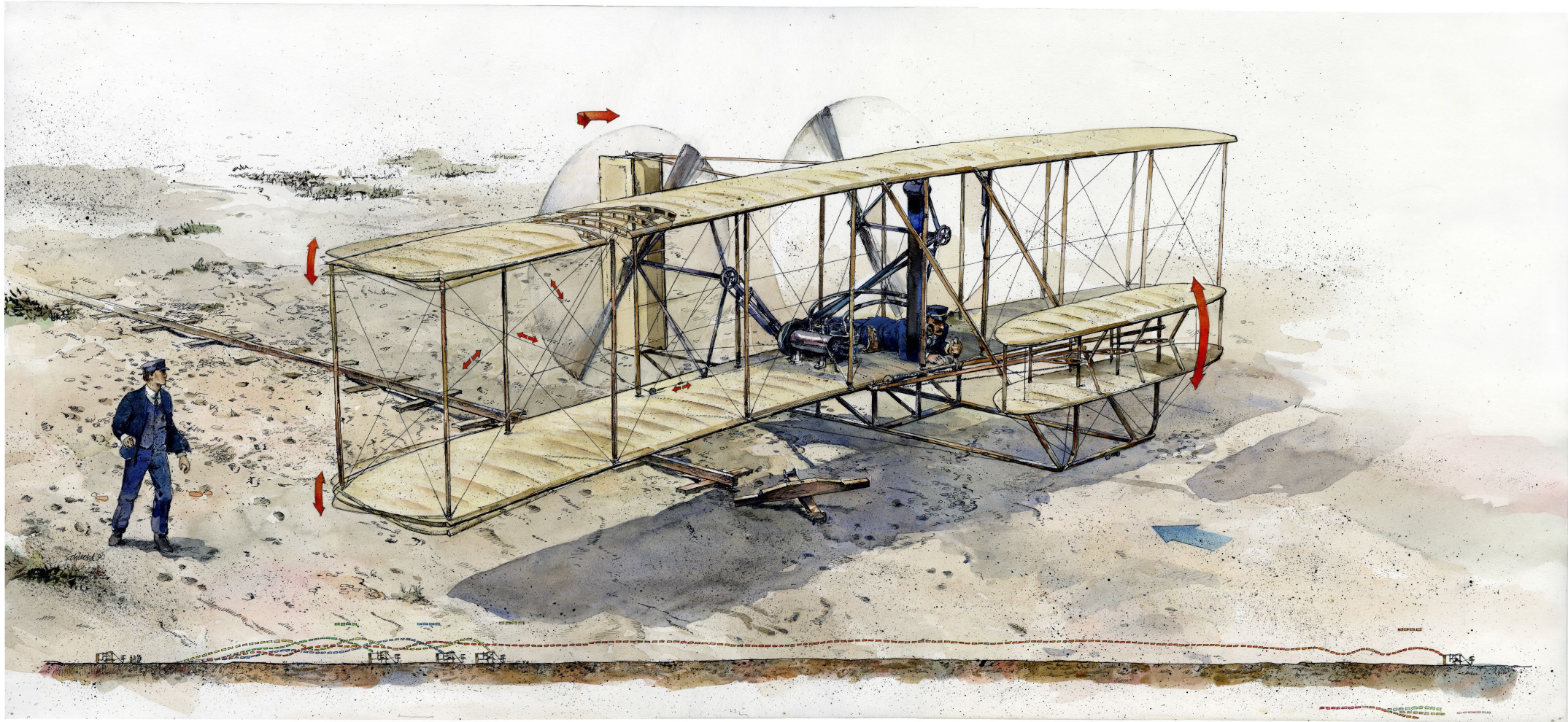


Need a depiction of a historical event?









You need it, we probably have it!



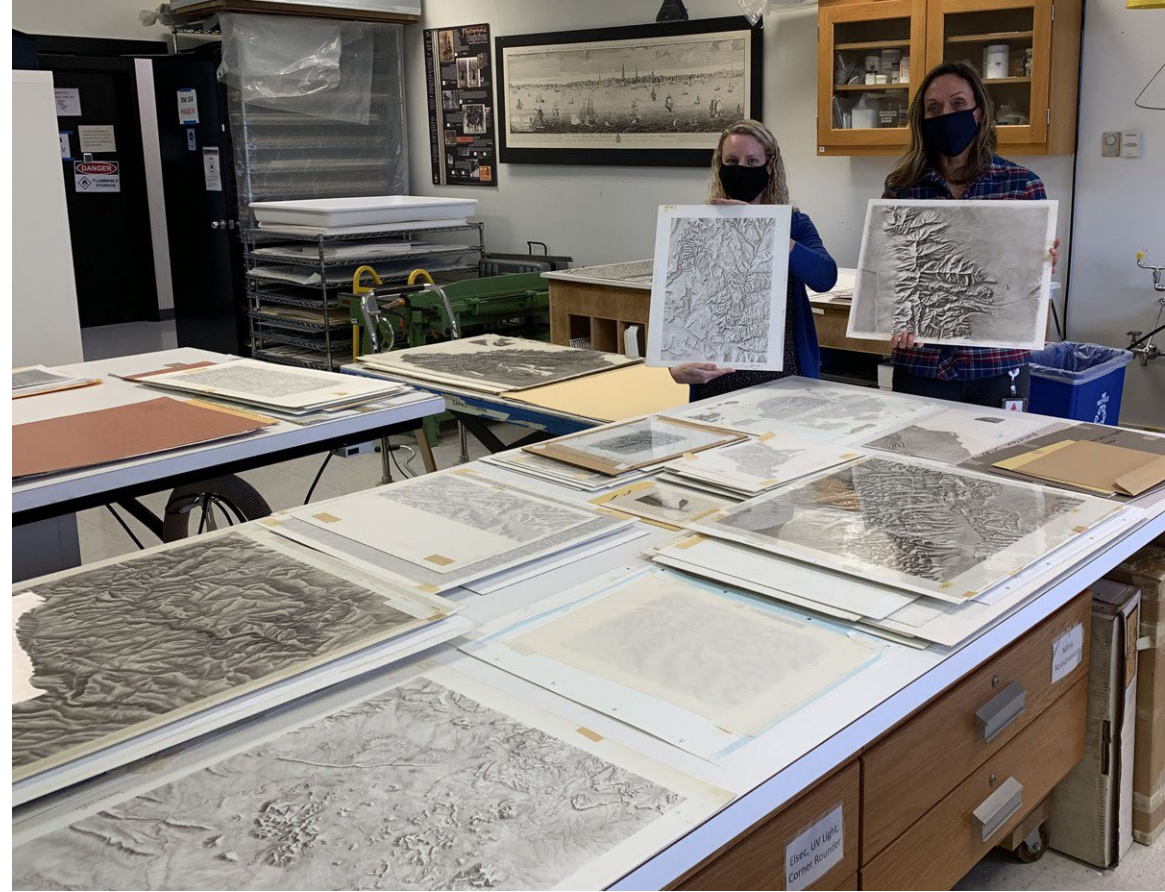
What do I do day to day?



- Complete research requests for anyone and everyone
- Fulfill art use requests for parks, researchers, and educators
- Help the public find art on specific topics
- Answer questions about copyright, use rights, and ownership
- Continue to research and complete object records
- Work to make the Collection more accessible and better promoted



New opportunities



How can you use the Commissioned Art Collection?



It's so easy!

- Search NPGallery for items you may be interested in using for your project:
<https://npgallery.nps.gov/HFC/Art/>
- Email me and I can do research for you. I will let you know of any use restrictions on the art and provide correct credit lines. kyle_bryner@nps.gov
- I can provide digital copies of most art in the Collection. We do not provide hard copies of any art.
 - I am here to help!



Thank You