



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

experience
YOUR AMERICA

National Park Service Historical Handbook Series

In 1918 the National Park Service recognized education as one of the primary objectives of park management when Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane instructed the Director of the National Park Service Stephen Mather on the educational implications of parks. In his memo Secretary Lane emphasized the following:

"The educational, as well as the recreational, use of the national parks should be encouraged in every practicable way. University and high-school classes will find special facilities for their vacation period studies. Museums containing specimens of wild flowers, shrubs, and trees and mounted animals, birds, and fish native to the parks, and other exhibits of the character, will be established as authorized."

Out of this effort grew the Field Division of Education of the National Park Service. Established in 1929 its main goal was to hire and train park naturalists (then called Ranger-Naturalists). This office also produced a number of reports which were useful for park naturalists and superintendents in developing interpretive programs or museum displays. These publications set the stage for more in-depth studies of the parks in subsequent years.

When the National Park Service acquired historical areas after 1933 these studies came to include both history and archeology. The Historical Handbook *series* below was part of this effort. While the handbooks in this series are long out-of-print (the first volumes were released in 1949), the Historical Handbook *series* has continued with newer publications produced at the Harpers Ferry Center - the interpretive design center of the National Park Service.

While some of the information contained in these handbooks is a bit dated, it is hoped that the on-line editions of these classic publications will give the viewer a sense of early efforts to provide educational and interpretive material for the historical and archeological areas in the National Park System.



Superintendent's Conference,
Yosemite National Park
NPS Historic Photograph Collection #HPC-
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(William C. Everhart) |
| 1: <i>Custer Battlefield</i>
(Robert M. Utley) | 22: <i>Kings Mountain</i>
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(Charles E. Hatch, Jr.) | 23: <i>Bandelier</i>
(Kittridge A. Wing) |
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(Stanley W. McClure) | 24: <i>Ocmulgee</i>
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(J. Paul Hudson) |
| 5: <i>Fort McHenry</i>
(Harold I. Leesem and George C. Mackenzie) | 27: <i>Montezuma Castle</i>
(Albert H. Schroeder and Homer F. Hastings) |
| 6: <i>Custis-Lee Mansion: The Robert E. Lee Memorial</i> | 28: <i>Scotts Bluff</i> |

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| (Murray H. Nelligan) | (Merrill J. Mattes) |
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| (Melvin J. Weig) | (J. Fred Roush) |
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| (Dennis C. Kurjack) | (Courtland T. Reid) |
| 9: <i>Gettysburg</i> | 31: <i>Antietam</i> |
| (Frederick Tilberg) | (Frederick Tilberg) |
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| (Benjamin Levine and Isabelle Story) | (Joseph P. Cullen) |
| 12: <i>Fort Sumter</i> | 34: <i>Wright Brothers</i> |
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