

**Steve Bloom<sup>1</sup>**

**Confluence**  
(June 2011)

“Shenandoah” . . .  
“Potomac” . . .

Such native names are poetic  
enough. No need to add the word “river.”

I watch them come together between granite cliffs,  
flowing over and around boulders that once fell

into the streambed, or else emerge  
as water grinds its way through centuries past.

At this moment the current is peaceful enough for rafters,  
for paddlers of kayaks, also for the geese and herons.

I spy an eagle hovering above the portal  
to the railroad tunnel on the North bank.

On this spot. in 1761 a ferry was established where Robert  
Harper had already built his cabin. I do not doubt that you

will now recall why the town of "Harper's Ferry" is historic.  
Today, visiting again after fifty years, I discover a footbridge

---

<sup>1</sup> **Steve Bloom** is a New York City activist, poet, and composer of “contemporary classical” music. He is a State Committee member of the NY Green Party and also active in the struggle in solidarity with US Political Prisoners. Steve is a founding member of the Radical Poets Collective in NYC and producer of the “Poetry of Protest and Struggle” video series which you can find on his YouTube channel. His work has been published in numerous print journals and on-line, including a page at [www.eco-poetry.org](http://www.eco-poetry.org). Steve’s own poetry website is [www.stevebloompoetry.net](http://www.stevebloompoetry.net). Poems reprinted by author’s permission.