



# The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

*Welcoming Young & Old Alike to Join in Remembering the Past and  
Working for an Even Better Future*

***The District's Oldest Civic Organization –  
Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 154<sup>th</sup> Year!***

***Bulletin #156  
May 2019***

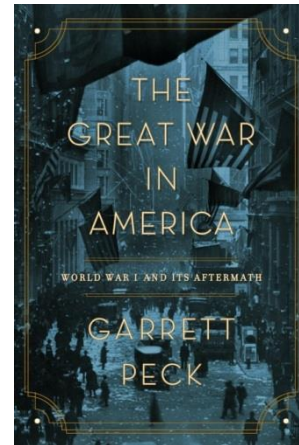
## ***Lost Farms & Estates in D.C.***

**Kim Prothro Williams** is a staff member of the D.C. Office of Historic Preservation and its National Register Coordinator. She gave an intriguing and fact-filled talk about what has become of many of the District's earliest farms and estates, the last of which, east of the Potomac River, was broken up in 1966. (She noted that while she doesn't consider these places "lost," her publisher insisted on putting the word in the title of the book.) The speaker focused on several such locations, leading off with what many people know as the Marjorie Webster school campus in upper northwest D.C., originally owned by Philip Fenwick in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The historic spring house, listed on its national register application, had the capacity to store 312 pounds of butter and milk at almost constant temperature. The farm held 145 acres and was worked by slaves. Ms. Williams said that she worked extensively with maps and found a 1944 map the most useful, although the 1927 Boschke map was quite helpful. Pinpointing exact locations of original buildings was made more difficult because a number of them were moved over the years, and many were altered in appearance. Nonetheless, Ms. Williams was able to identify 84 standing structures from Washington's earliest years. The speaker spelled out the terms on which the original proprietors of the land that became the District of Columbia were reimbursed: after deeding their land within Pierre L'Enfant's 10-mile square to the federal government, they were to receive in exchange half of their property...

(Cont'd p. 3)

## **May's Luncheon Event:**

**"The Great War in America"  
Garrett Peck**



***Please join us...***

Friday, **May 17**, at the **Capitol Skyline Hotel** (free Parking) 10 I ("eye") Street, SW. (Metro Rail to Navy Yard Station), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m.

**(\$35 per person** - please make your check payable to "AOI" and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact payment).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, not later than noon Tues., May 14, 2019. **This voice mail box number is the only means to make a reservation.** Late reservations make planning very difficult for us and **failure by you to cancel prior to Noon on Thurs., 5/16, will result in you being charged.** Please be prepared to leave your name, the number in your party, your guest's names for name tags, your meal preferences (***Grilled Salmon with Kang Pao sauce, Grilled Skyline Chicken Breast, Grilled Black Angus Flank Steak, or Braised Ratatouille of Vegetables***) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute event cancellation.

## Future Meetings...

The AOI's 154<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

June 21, 2019 – TBA

Sept. 21, 2019 – TBA

Oct. 18, 2019 – Jenny Masur, “Heroes of the Underground Railroad around Washington, D.C.”

Nov. 15, 2019 – Robert Headley & Paula Padua, “Motion Picture Exhibition in Washington, D.C.”; annual election of officers and directors



NOTE: All meeting subjects and speakers have been invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative. If our published RSVP line (202-342-1865) is not answering or appears out-of-order, please call 202-342-1638.

Remember: No luncheon meetings July/August nor December/January

Note: The Board of Directors meets at the Heurich House Museum at 10 a.m. on the Monday immediately prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Be Advised: In case of inclement weather call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

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## If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the May 17, 2019 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the third luncheon meeting of its 154<sup>th</sup> year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, April 19, 2019 with 71 members and guests present. **President Jan Evans** welcomed the attendees, gave a brief preview of coming topics and brought to everyone's attention some up-coming events of interest. **Vice-President Bill Brown** conducted the remainder of the business meeting. He called for approval of the notes of the March meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. With no further corrections or additions, upon a motion made by **Iris Holliday** and seconded by **Patricia Clark**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

**New Members:** There were three member applications for consideration: **Nicholas DelleDonne; Gayle George; and Marcia Rock** (Connie Kerwin's guest at the March meeting). The new members were enthusiastically voted in upon a motion by **Allen Beach** and **George Hutchinson**.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented the Treasurer's Report:

### Membership

- 274 people have joined or renewed their membership so far this year.

### Donations

- Thanks to your generosity, we have received a little over \$4,600 for our Unrestricted Fund

### Non-Routine Expenses Since February Luncheon

- \$638.15 Donation to DC National Guard for a table of 8 to be used for their volunteers or staff for their 217th Birthday Gala. (If you remember, the DC National Guard provided almost everything needed for the 100<sup>th</sup> Remembrance of WWI which AOI initiated.)

### Investment Account

- Our investment account continues to do well
- So far this year, we have earned a little over \$900 in interest and dividends.

### Luncheon Report

- 51 Attended our March luncheon
- Once again, our appreciation to those who, at the last minute, were unable to attend the luncheon, but still paid the \$35.

**Vice-President Brown** welcomed everyone on the Officers' & Directors' behalf and in addition to spouses and family members: **Lillian Young was Pat Clark's guest; Linda Ingram had with her Katie McDonald; Richard Marino's guest was Walter Springman; Mary Pett had with her Bill Wilbprett; Charles Szlenker had with him Charles Asante; Dino Bonaldo was Winfield Swanson's guest; and,** everyone welcomed a potential member **Andrea Seiger**.

Brief Announcements: AOI Director **Maggie Hobbs** provided a report to the membership on the status of her efforts to convince the Veterans Administration to provide headstones for four District of Columbia women who served and died in World War I. Maggie's efforts were successful in obtaining a

headstone for **Pauline Marie Everett Lawrence** (Landsman for Yeoman, U.S. Naval Reserve Force) at Mount Olivet Cemetery; however, the VA wouldn't accept the evidence that Maggie had so thoroughly researched for the three clerks and nurses buried at Congressional Cemetery: **Bertha Ryan Hayes** (Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, U.S. Naval Reserve Force), **Blanche Eleanor Ridgely Pierce** (Landsman for Yeoman, U.S. Naval Reserve Force) and **Mattie Virginia Bushee** (Nurse, Army Nurse Corps). AOI will work with the staff of Congressional and AOI will provide appropriate memorial markers for the two whose graves are presently unmarked and obtain a commemorative medallion for the headstone of the third woman is buried with her brother. They have a headstone but there is no acknowledgement of her military service in World War I.

**Nelson Rimensnyder** challenged the audience with a number of trivia questions and provided 'prizes' consisting of historic documents, pamphlets and memorabilia from his collections and archives. His questions ranged from "Whose statue was dedicated in 1909 on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the District Building?" (Alexander Shepherd, of course) to "How did the District building resolved a rat infestation during its remodeling?" (bring in some cats!). Luncheon visitor **Andrea Seiger** and members **Paula Smith-Vanderslice** and **Elaine Newman** provided the answers and received prizes. Nelson also presented a newly minted can of DC Brau beer to AOI President **Jan Evans** as the labeling on the can paid tribute to her grandfather, the District's premier brewer **Christian Heurich**.

**The Day's Speaker:** [see cover story] Today's guest speaker was **Kim Prothro Williams** speaking on "Lost Farms and Estates of Washington, D.C."

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, May 17, 2019 when member Garrett Peck will speak on "The Great War in America."

*Respectfully submitted by John P. Richardson, Secretary*

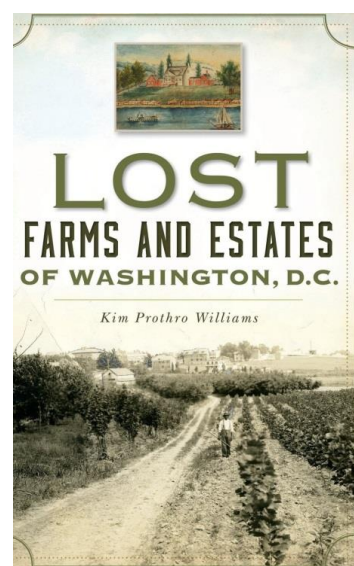
[AOI's programs may be heard in their entirety at <http://www.aoidc.org/aoi-luncheon-audio.html>]

### ***Farms & Estates (Cont'd)...***

... – after deduction of streets and public places – in the form of house lots they were free to sell. The farmhouse of David Burns was the last of the original proprietors' houses to be demolished, in 1894. The Pierce Mill complex is one of the most complete remaining properties, containing the mill, a barn, and the farmhouse. The Civil War ruined many farms in the District, taken over for fortifications and often made

unusable as farms even once returned to their owners after the war. Many owners sold their farms and invested the money in more remunerative ventures. Increasing suburbanization of the area led to substantial destruction of the original farms and buildings. Ms. Williams took questions after her talk, with questioners citing places of special interest such as a carriage house that is the last remaining structure from Gov. Alexander Shepherd's "Bleak House" in today's Shepherd Park neighborhood north of Walter Reed Hospital.

*Recounted by AOI Secretary John Richardson*



**Thank you!** to everyone who has already returned their 2019 membership renewal form. As this newsletter went to press, 274 members had already mailed in their renewals. Please don't let your renewal form sit around and become forgotten. We don't want to lose you when we up-date our membership rolls in June. "Thank You!" to everyone who made additional donations in support of our causes. We will provide a list of everyone who still need to renew in the June newsletter.

AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: [aoidc.org](http://aoidc.org) and our email address is: [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com). You may also follow us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org](http://www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org) which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

*Address Correction Requested*

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants  
of the District of Columbia  
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District of Columbia 20007-2010

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**Officers:**

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William Brown, Vice-President 202-342-1638  
John P. Richardson, Secretary 703-534-3577  
Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer 202-625-0203  
Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668

**Fire Department Liaison:**

Jim Embrey 571-436-7774

**Past President:**

A.L. Wheeler

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The Historical Society of Washington, DC and its Kiplinger Research Library are about to reopen at Carnegie Library's Washington History Center after restoration by Apple. Stay alert for opening details. For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-249-3955 for further information.

**Directors:**

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Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133  
Thomas Neale 202-333-6946  
Gary Scott 202-544-4862



The Heurich House Museum is the former home of the Historical Society of Washington and served as AOI's headquarters from 1956 until 2003.