



The Association of the 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*

*Bulletin #86
May 1, 2009*

President's Message...

Preserving the past... ensuring the future of... manuscripts, photos, pamphlets, correspondence and curiosities. Back in 1968, the AOI was confronted with a monthly storage fee exceeding \$1100 to house the myriad artifacts it and the Veterans Volunteer Firefighters had collected over the years. Many of the items were given to the Smithsonian, some to the Navy Yard Museum, others to the Historical Society, the Friendship Fire Association (DC) and the Friendship Fire Association (Alexandria). AOI retained the four pieces of fire apparatus and the two fire bells. The Issacher Hughes baby carriage, donated to the AOI in 1921 [see photos on page 3], was in turn donated to the Smithsonian in 1968.

All of this begs the question: how long do I keep something? And, what will happen to it after I'm gone? Will my descendants care? A member recently posed this question to me and I still don't know the best answer. Will my collection of photos, memoirs or organization's files be of use to anyone down the road? Where is the best place to donate them? Will that repository be around in perpetuity? What is its source of funding and is it financially stable?

Here is what I've come to believe: Don't try to place a level of importance or value on your own materials. There are folks far better qualified than most of us to determine their worth. Second, pick some place... a university library, an historical society, or an association and bequeath them. They'll know best what to do with them... keep them or pass them on. Third, who knows what institutions will be here down-the-road. We're certain the National Archives will be... the Library of Congress will be... but their collections are huge... unless you're an Audubon or Gordon Parks or Harris & Ewing or Matthew Brady it's unlikely your collection will be welcomed or get much attention. But, the most important thing is: Don't let these 'treasures' end up in an attic or basement waiting to be tossed out. Somewhere out there are records not unlike AOP's or AOI (Colored), Inc. that are looking for a permanent home.

Bill Brown

May's Luncheon Event:

Serving History: Stewardship at Blair House, The President's Guest House

With Blair House Curator Candace Shireman

Please join us for...

our Luncheon Meeting on
Friday, **May 15th**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU, Metro Bus 70 or Downtown Circulator Bus), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (\$20 per person - please have checks completed and payable to AAOI@), concurrent with our Business Meeting and followed by our Feature Presentation.

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our new voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., May 13, 2009.

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., 5/14, may result in you being charged.**

Please be prepared to leave your name, the number in your party, your guest=s names, your meal preferences (Fish, Seafood Newburg, Chicken, Beef ,Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or last-minute cancellation.

Future Meetings...

The AOI's 144th Year B Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

June 19, 2009 – Former AOI Vice-president and retired DC Police Chief Ernest Brown (1874-1966) will 'return' to reminisce about his years on the police department.

July 4, 2009 – Join AOI members and march in the annual Palisades Fourth of July Parade (10:30, Whitehaven Pkwy. at MacArthur Blvd., NW)

Sept. 18, 2009 – "They Done Killed Papa Dead!" – Author Anthony Pitch highlights his newest work on the Lincoln Assassination and Member Reminiscences (if time permits)

Oct. 16, 2009 – Historian Dr. Carroll R. Gibbs discusses the District of Columbia doughboys of World War I

Nov. 20, 2009 – Author/writer Bob Levey presents an update of his "Bob Levey's Washington" & Annual Election of the AOI's Board and Officers

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, the AOI follows the closing schedule of the Arlington County Public Schools or call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our April 2009 Meeting...

The Association met at the Channel Inn on April 17, 2009. There were 99 members and guests attending.

Minutes for the previous meeting were approved, with minor typos corrected.

President **Bill Brown** welcomed members and guests. In the absence of membership chairman John Jay Daly, Bill read the names of 5 people who had applied for membership. They are: **Mary Deleonibus** (sponsored by Agnes Hill); **Frank Stearns, Jr.** (a GWU student who had read about AOI); **Marie R. Van Wyk** (sponsored by John Jay Daly); **Clinton W. Chapman** (sponsored by Nelson Rimensnyder); and **Don Hawkins**, today's distinguished speaker. It was moved by **Lee Rogers**, seconded by **Allen Beach**, that the applicants be accepted into membership. The motion was approved with enthusiasm.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report. She noted that we had 282 members prior to today's additions. Income is ahead of last year for the corresponding period. Our investment fund has increased approximately \$11,000 since the last report.

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** reported further on research

he has been doing on the organization AOI (Colored), Incorporated which was established in 1912 for African Americans when social organizations were segregated in Washington. It was modeled on lines similar to the established AOI, and there were common interests. AOI (Colored) Inc. apparently ceased to be active in the early 70's. Nelson is continuing to try to find out more about this organization.

Our speaker for today is Architect/urban planner/historian **Don Hawkins**. His is a foremost authority on the development of Washington. His talk today presented dazzling insights into how P.C. L'Enfant might have created the plan for the development of Washington as the national capital city. Part of this unique approach to Washington scholarship is due to Don's ability to research, analyze and generate maps of the topography of this area as it existed at the time of the federal city's establishment. His keen mind may have developed unique insight into how L'Enfant might have envisioned his plan for the city, and how not also. Hawkins pointed out that George Washington provided some input, noting that Washington had never seen a city more than 2/3 the size of Rockville. Don believes that L'Enfant envisioned specific architectural needs for a government with legislative as well as administrative functions, and that the tie to the citizens would be through commerce. It was an extremely interesting and provocatively original presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Seymour Selig

Please visit us at our web site at <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply AGoogle@ Governor Shepherd and we'll pop-up!

Our e-mail address is: aoi_of_dc@verizon.net

AOI is a member organization of:



Our newsletters and publications are reproduced and assembled in Georgetown by the staff of:



Web site queries lead to photos...

From time to time, inquiries we receive via our web site produce interesting responses and sometimes photos. While all inquiries may not be directly related to AOI, this one resulted from AOI's gift and donation of the Issacher Hughes Baby Buggy to the Smithsonian Institution in 1968.



Wilt Heinard, a grocer at the old NE Market, was blinded when a robber threw lye in his face (c. 1900). Subsequently his wife, Christabella, supported the family by painting china and oils. Wilt's g-granddaughter -- Susan Baden McCoy -- contacted AOI about some family research and provided this photo.



The whereabouts of the Issacher Hughes baby buggy lead to the McCoy's inquiry to AOI. Issacher Hughes was Christabella Hughes Heinard's g-grandfather and built the buggy in Richmond, VA in 1808. James Whilden Hughes donated the Issacher Hughes buggy to AOI in 1921 which, in turn, donated it to the Smithsonian in 1968.



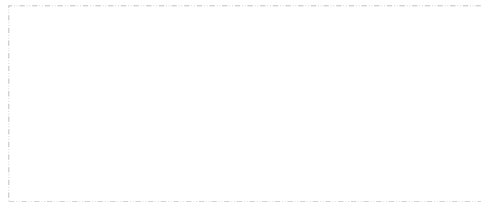
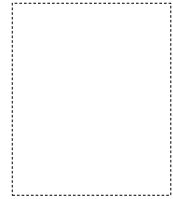
Oliver Flynn Miller is pictured in front of his harness shop at 41/2 Street, SW. This was among the photos the McCoy's forwarded to AOI...Oliver was Susan's great uncle.

Membership Renewals...

...a big 'thank you' to members who have renewed their membership in the AOI for 2009. If you haven't sent your renewal to us, please do so, as your June newsletter will be your last.

Address Correction Requested

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007-2010



Officers:

William Brown, President 202-342-1638
4425 Greenwich Parkway, NW, Wash., DC 20007
John Gill, Sr., Vice-president 202-338-5001
Seymour M. Selig, Secretary 301-292-1054
Hulit Pressley Taylor, Treasurer 202-625-0203
Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668
John Breen, F.D. Liaison 301-586-8866

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Past Presidents:

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-3177

Directors:

Carl Cole 202-889-8813
John Jay Daly 301-951-9110
James Gaffney 202-363-6688
Jan Evans Houser 301-968-4749
John P. Richardson 703-534-3577
Sherwood Smith 202-686-4107

-- Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite a friend to join and be sure to renew your membership!
-- The free exhibits, book shop and café at the Historical Society are now open Tuesday thru Sunday, 10am-5pm! Check HSW's calendar at: www.historydc.org



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