



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 #89
November 5, 2009*

President's Message...

This has been a very successful year for the AOI, its partners and friends. We began our 144th year with our annual New Year's Day reception followed shortly thereafter with the lighting of the Governor Shepherd Statue just in time for Inauguration Day. With the dogged persistence of AOI Dir. John Richardson, we facilitated the commitment by the M.C. Dean Co. to provide lighting for the statue and, of course, AOI coordinated the project with the Secretary of the Council, Cynthia Brock-Smith. We are currently calling upon Secretary Brock-Smith, again, to obtain backing to place a biographical, commemorative plaque at the statue on Shepherd's 175th birthday, January 31, 2010.

Continuing to support our partners and friends through various activities, we were proud to provide a 'seed' grant to the Rhodes Tavern Historical Society to restore four downtown call boxes.



Joe Grano unveils one of four police/fire call boxes commemorating events near the site of the old Rhode's Tavern

The Heurich House Museum, the Kiplinger Library of the Historical Society, the annual Washington History Conference, the 1st US Colored Troop Cadet Academy and, of course, the annual Philip W. Ogilvie Award were all our beneficiaries. We look forward to an even more robust 2010.

Bill Brown

November's Luncheon Event:

Bob Levey

For 23 years, "Bob Levey's Washington" was a favorite of *Washington Post* readers. Join us as Bob up-dates us on his perspectives.



Washington Post Photo

Please join us...

Friday, **November 20th**, 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@).

Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., Nov. 18, 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., 11/19, may 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 (Filet of Sole w/Scallops, 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:

- Jan. 1, 2010 – AOI's annual New Year's Day reception. 11:30 – 2pm at the Pier 7
- Jan. 31, 2010 – Dedication of AOI's memorial plaque at the Governor Shepherd statue (details to follow)
- Feb. 19, 2010 – AOI Members Reminisce kicked-off by the *Washington Post's* John Kelly
- March 19, 2010 – Anne McClellan: The History of the Cherry Blossom Festival
- April 16, 2010 – Dr. Mark Ozer: "Washington DC – Politics and Place"
- May 21, 2010 – Female Re-enactors of Distinction (FREED) with Patricia Tyson, Theresa Saxton & Friends
- June 18, 2010 – Dr. Joseph Browne and William Gilcher: Adolf Cluss and the Washington Barracks (Ft. McNair)

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 Oct. 2009 Meeting...

President Bill Brown opened the 7th meeting of AOI's 144th year at the Channel Inn, with 68 members and guests present for the luncheon.

The draft of the minutes for the September 18th meeting was printed in the newsletter. There were no additions or corrections noted for the minutes. **Bob Proudley** moved, seconded by **Sherwood Smith**, that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter. The motion was approved. President Brown, who also writes, edits and prepares the newsletter then fessed up and accepted responsibility for multiple misspellings of the name "Douglass" in the newsletter. His explanation was entertaining and redeeming, if not convincing.

There were five applicants for membership since the last meeting. They are **John H. Damewood**, who found us via the web; **Elizabeth C. Punsalan** (nominated by Sally MacDonald); **Richard Stamm** (nominated by Amy Ballard and James Goode); **Huguette Auerswald**; and **Emily C. Donahue**. **Lee Rogers** moved, seconded by **Paul Pascal**, that the applicants be accepted into membership. The motion was approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report. There are currently 334 members, which is the most in our recent history. Income is ahead of last year in both dues and contributions. Major disbursement since our last meeting was a check for \$1,000 (which included a contribution of \$500 from an anonymous AOI member) in support of the annual Washington Historic Studies Conference. Our investment account is now approximately \$1,000 higher than last year. Hulit notes that we continue to be "on budget."

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** reported on his continuing research regarding the Association of Oldest Inhabitants (Colored) Inc., an organization that held its inaugural meeting in 1914, when Washington was segregated. That organization continued until the 1970's. Its objectives and activities paralleled those of AOI. Nelson reported on the achievements of Winfield Scott Montgomery, who spoke at the inaugural meeting. A copy of the speech was given to Nelson by a member of the Montgomery family. At the time of the first meeting Mr. Montgomery was the Chief Administrator of the DC Colored School System.

Today's speaker was **Carroll R. Gibbs**, a distinguished expert on African American history. Last year he gave us an outstanding history of black explorers, some of whom had ties to Washington. For his talk today he focused on the not fully realized history of DC black soldiers in World War I. This history took place when racial segregation was a standard aspect of life in Washington and in military units. The speaker gave us an extremely stimulating, well illustrated talk which brought many aspects of this overlooked story to attention: the men; the task; the obstacles; the political pressures. It was pointed out that when the war was over and troops returned home, there were welcoming celebrations in major cities which had African American populations -- but not in Washington DC. The speaker also mentioned wartime contributions of African American women, not to be omitted. Carroll Gibbs gave us a very worthwhile presentation.

Bill Brown had indicated that plans are being made to improve the DC World War Memorial, which is in need of work. This is a memorial honoring those from DC who served in World War I. It is the first memorial on the Mall to list the names of African Americans and women as well as white men. Thus the speaker's talk is particularly timely.

In closing his remarks, Carroll Gibbs asked if there were any history detectives present who might tell him about a portion of 16th Street serving as a war memorial, with trees dedicated to mark this. Lee Rogers rose to the occasion, telling in detail how there were 507 trees dedicated to commemorate those who died in World War I. He noted that in a survey in 1970 six trees still survived.

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's newsletters and publications are printed and assembled by the staff of FedEx Office of Georgetown.



AOI is a proud member of Cultural Tourism DC:



Report of the Nominating Committee...

October 7, 2009

Dear President Brown:

This is the report of the Nominating Committee indicating the proposed Officers for the coming year and the Directors for 2010-2011. The nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

Officers:

- President William N. Brown (incumbent)
- Vice-president John W. Gill, Sr. (incumbent)
- Secretary Seymour Selig (incumbent)
- Treasurer Hulit Taylor (incumbent)
- Historian Nelson Rimensnyder (incumbent)

Directors:

- Jan A. K. Evans (Houser) 2010-2011
- Sherwood Smith 2010-2011
- Leslie B. White 2010-2011

The following do not require re-election as they have not completed their two-year terms:

- Carl Cole 2009-2010 (incumbent)
- James C. Gaffney 2009-2010 (incumbent)
- John P. Richardson 2009-2010 (incumbent)

The members of Nominating Committee hope this slate of nominees will meet with your approval and that of the membership.

Sincerely yours,

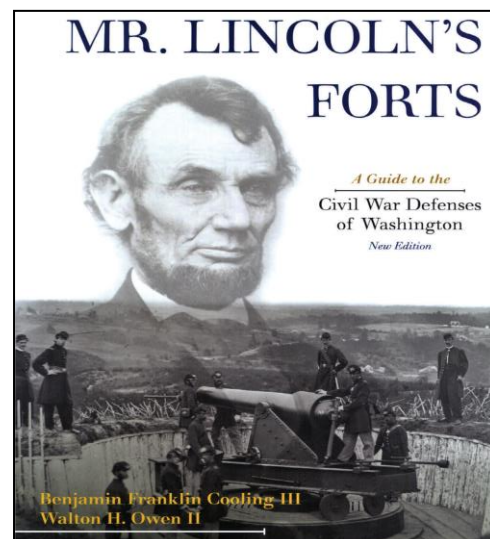
Phyllis Dunan, Barbara Drechsler and Dorothea Zeis

“Mr. Lincoln’s Forts” Revised Edition Released...

We are pleased to announce that this fascinating book on the Civil War Defenses of Washington has been updated and re-released after being out of print for a number of years. Authors Benjamin Franklin Cooling III and Walton H. Owen II have shared their expert research at past AOI luncheons and, together with Loretta Newman Smith, brought to our attention not only the strategic and engineering significance of the Circle Forts but the plight they face and efforts to preserve, and in some cases restore, them for future generations.

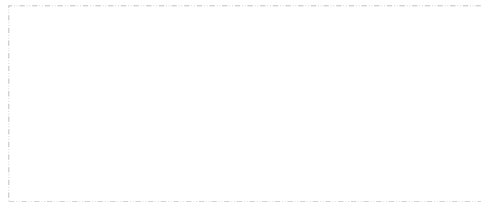
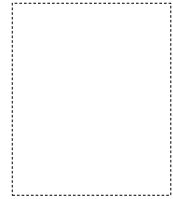
A book signing is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 14, 6-8pm at the Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA, 22304. To RSVP, please call 703-838-4848.

Additionally, copies of the book may be ordered (hardback, \$70; soft cover, \$40) by mailing a check made payable to: Fort Ward Museum and sending it to the above address. This price is good until Dec. 1st.



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 202-337-0030

Directors:

Carl Cole 202-889-8813
James Gaffney 202-363-6688
Jan A. K. Evans 301-968-4749
John P. Richardson 703-534-3577
Sherwood Smith 202-686-4107

-- Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite friends to join and be sure to renew your membership!
-- Free exhibits, book shop and café at the Historical Society are now open Tues. thru Sun., 10am-5pm! (Kiplinger Library, Tue-Sat) Check HSW's calendar at: www.historydc.org
-- Federation of Citizens' Association's Centennial year. Be sure your community associations are involved. Call 202-797-8467 for more information.



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