



# 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 #112  
June 7, 2013*

## *President's Message...*

Since 2005, the AOI has sought to call attention to the 'plight' of the District's historic records (DC Archives, HSW, Recorder of Deeds, Washingtoniana Division & Sumner School). The condition of most of these repositories has improved and recently we've learned that Mayor Vincent Gray has included over \$44 mil. in his budget requests over the next few years to assess, design and build/acquire a new home for the D.C. Archives. D.C. Secretary of State Cynthia Brock-Smith is enthusiastic about the progress and scope of this initiative and wants to ensure there is plenty of support behind it. AOI and other groups are thoroughly behind the effort.

AOI has a unique 'connection' to the D.C. Archives in that Past-President Phil Ogilvie was the DC Archivist when the repository was established at its present location on Naylor Court. For his roles as



Old stables at 1300 Naylor Court serve as the District's Archives.

## June's Luncheon Event:

**"The Watergate Break-in and Other Memories of the MPDC"**

**With Sgt. Paul Leeper, MPDC (Ret.)**

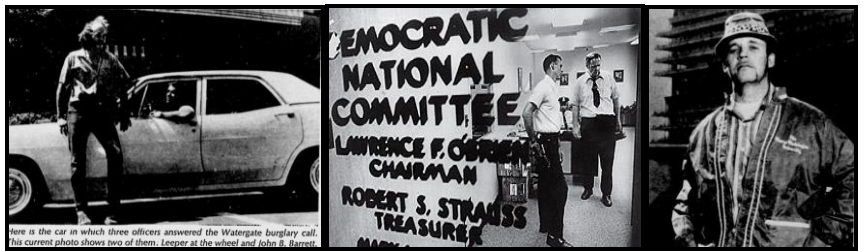


Photo: Parade Magazine

**Undercover DC Officers John Barrett and Sgt. Paul Leeper (behind wheel), the crime scene at the Watergate and Sergeant Leeper incognito.**

## *Please join us...*

Friday, **June 21st**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU or Metro Bus 74 [Circulator Bus discontinued]), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (\$24 per person - please make your check payable to "AOI" and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact change). Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., June 19, 2013.

**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., 6/20, 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 a last-minute cancellation.

## Future Meetings...



The AOI's 148<sup>th</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

July 4, 2013 – Annual Palisades Fourth of July Parade

Sept. 20, 2013 – “Washington Streets & Statues” with Mark Ozer

Oct. 18, 2013 – Cindy Janke discusses her book “A Guide to Civil War Washington”

Nov. 15, 2013 – “Historic Congressional Cemetery” with Paul Williams; Annual AOI Elections

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 May Meeting...*

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the June 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 luncheon.]

The May luncheon meeting of AOI was held at the Pier 7 restaurant of the Channel Inn on March 17, 2013.

**President Bill Brown** presided and warmly welcomed the 106 members and guests attending. He subsequently introduced the guests to all.

The first order of business is the approval of the minutes for the previous meeting. Bill called for additions or corrections to the minutes, the draft of which were printed in the newsletter. There were no additions or corrections. A motion to accept the minutes was offered by **Arrington Dixon**, seconded by both **Bob Proudley and Mark Ozer**. The motion was carried and the minutes approved.

There was one new application for membership since the last meeting. The applicant is **Nathan Flemming**. Bill called for a vote and the application was approved by the group.

Bill made announcements of possible interest.

**Treasurer Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report on membership and finances. There are 323 members currently, with 40 not yet renewed. Those who have not renewed by the end of June will be dropped from membership. Hulit mentioned that we now have changed the printer for the newsletter. The new vendor is GRC. They are taking care of more of the tasks involved in preparing and mailing the newsletters. This has increased the cost slightly, but we were getting by previously because of the labor of Bill and Mrs. Brown in picking up the printed matter, attaching labels, affixing stamps, taking it to the Post Office, waiting in lines, etc. These tasks were all done previously without complaint by the Browns but at a considerable cost to them in personal time. Hulit pointed out that the increase in cost has been offset by our investment account performance.

**AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder** had two trivia questions concerning Anacostia that he presented in brief discussion. The first question dealt with a group that saved Cedar Hill (the Frederick Douglass home) when it seemed threatened. That group was called the Frederick

Douglass Memorial and Historical Association. It preserved the house for many years prior to its transfer to the Park Service. Nelson played an important role in getting recognition for this group. The second question Nelson posed was where were the two Civil War Cemeteries in Anacostia? The answer is that they are at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Our speaker for today is Dianne Dale. She is the author of "Anacostia, The Village that Shaped Us." She spent nine years in researching and writing her book. It is a history of Anacostia and also an exposition of some of her own family history which played an important role in Anacostia's progress since the Civil War. It is very well illustrated, thanks to Dianne's research. She began her talk by showing a slide of an artist's rendition of what Marcus Dale might have looked like. He was Dianne's great great-grandfather and was from Detroit. He was a member of the 102nd Michigan Colored Troops, having enlisted in 1863 and was mustered out in 1865. He was in battle at Honey Hill, Georgia, and lost his blanket. He and his fellow soldiers had to sleep without blankets, resulting in his contracting rheumatoid arthritis according to pension records. Dianne spoke of the creation of the Freedmen's Bureau which was established after the war, to provide assistance to former slaves who had been displaced. The assistance was focused on housing, education, and employment. One of the first things that they did was the building of schools. Marcus Dale and his son John Henry Dale (Sr.) went to New Orleans where Marcus built a school and he and John Henry taught. They lived in nearby Mississippi. While there, John Henry took a civil service exam and was called to Washington where he was offered a clerk's job (called a "messenger") at the Pension Bureau. He accepted, moved to Anacostia and walked to work. His family arrived in 1892 from Mississippi, and became important Anacostia residents. The interweaving of Anacostia history and family genealogy was interesting, and we learned of the many important roles that were played by the six generations of Dale members, spouses and kin. They contributed greatly to the development of Anacostia and its social and cultural growth. The format of Dianne's presentation then shifted to warm scrapbook-type photo album family and community

recollections. This appealed to several people in the audience, generating informal interjected questions and spontaneous recollections. Dianne spoke of the growth of Howard University and the five generations of her family that were Howard graduates. The Anacostia Museum (post WWII) benefited from her father's role in organizing community support. Discussion of family involvement with Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) included writing to Eleanor Roosevelt, thus contributing to the training of black pilots during the WWII effort. There was also a Q&A session for non-interjectors. Dianne did well, and interest was maintained throughout. Another unique program.

Respectfully submitted  
*Seymour Selig*, Secretary

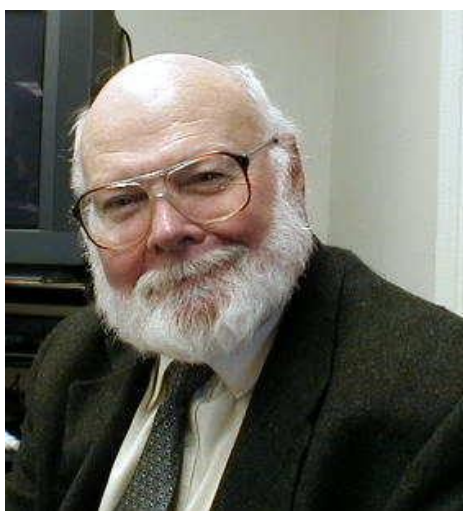


AMTA Program Coordinator Antonio Beckley, Bill Brown and Ogilvie Award recipient Tiffany Curtis.

### ***President's Message Continued...***

Archivist to that of AOI President and Professor of Tourism Studies at George Washington University, AOI honors Phil's accomplishments and memory each year with our Philip W. Ogilvie Award for Academic Achievement in the Masters of Tourism Administration program at GWU. This year's ceremony was held May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Melrose Hotel where graduate Tiffany Curtis received the \$750 award. Congratulations to all of the AMTA graduates!

*Bill Brown*



**Dr. Philip Ogilvie** past AOI President, DC Archivist and Professor of Tourism Studies at George Washington University.



2013 Ogilvie Award Recipient Tiffany Leigh Curtis is a destination product designer from St. Louis, Missouri.

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

Our e-mail address is: [aoifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aoifdc@gmail.com)

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:



AOI's newsletters are printed and assembled by the staff of:



On the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream speech" at the March on Washington, in 1963 there will be a commemoration and recognition of those people who attended on August 28, 2013 at the Maryland State Capitol. Organizers are looking for folks who participated in the March in 1963. For further info, please contact Carl Snowden 443-871-5656 (Cell) or email: [carl\\_snowden@hotmail.com](mailto:carl_snowden@hotmail.com).

*Address Correction Requested*

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants  
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**Important Note: D.C. Department of Transportation** advises that **Maine Avenue, between Ohio Drive and the fish markets, will be under repair through June. Allow extra time for your drive to the June AOI luncheon.**

View AOI's web site at:  
[www.aoidc.org](http://www.aoidc.org) or email us at: [aoidfc@gmail.com](mailto:aoidfc@gmail.com)



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