



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

The District's Oldest Historic Organization – Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 157th Year!

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

June 2022 / Bulletin 167

Join us for the next AOI of DC Luncheon Event!

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Speaker: Peter Sefton

“Nathan Wyeth, Architect, and the Recorder of Deeds Building”

YOU CAN ATTEND EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

11:30am

In Person for Lunch & Live Program:

Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

(One block north of Dupont Circle Metro & \$10 Validated Parking available diagonally across from club at 11 Dupont Circle - beware: steep incline)

OR

12:30pm – Join on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86973026520?pwd=eZLaGl6cU-dOdnVIWTc5TGVDWmtTQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 7302 6520
Passcode: 115609

Or join Zoom by phone:
301-715-8592 US (Washington DC)

Email RSVP to ricmarino@msn.com with your name, names of any guests, and choice of salmon, flank steak, or vegetarian meal. The 3-course lunch is \$35.00 per person.

In addition to paying by check or cash at the door, you can now pay in advance by Zelle using aioifdc@gmail.com. Please add “June Luncheon” in the comment line. Credit cards are not accepted at this time.

From Our May Luncheon ...

At its third meeting this year, held on Thursday, May 19, 2022, AOI welcomed 56 members and guests to its luncheon presentation – including two student guests from the University of Louisiana’s annual Washington Semester – plus an additional 24 members joining via Zoom. Among the attendees were four new member candidates that were voted in by acclamation: David Berg, descended from multiple long-time Washingtonians and who found AOI via the Internet; Cliftine Jones and Charlotte Kroll, brought to us via AOI member Judy Hubbard; and Bill McElrath, a life-long Washingtonian and alumnus of Archbishop Carroll High School. Welcome aboard to all our new members!

While welcoming new members to the fold, we also noted the May 2 passing of AOI member Charles Sherfy Jones. Mr. Jones grew up in DC and was a USAF veteran; he leaves behind three children and eight grandchildren.

Our featured guest, author and historian Mark Leepson (www.marcleepson.com/) spoke on his book *Desperate Engagement* (with occasional elaboration and correction from the audience – it was a tough crowd!). Focusing on a one-month period from

12 June – 13 July 1864, Leepson took us behind the scenes of the grand strategy

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Above: AOI is back live, hosting our monthly luncheon meetings and presentations in-person at the elegant dining room of the Women's National Democratic Club. Right: May luncheon speaker Marc Leepson with AOI President Tom Neale.



2022 Board of Directors

Officers:

Thomas Neale, President
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Gary Scott

The Board of Directors meets at the Women's National Democratic Club at 10 a.m. on the Monday immediately prior to a scheduled luncheon meeting.

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail:
202-342-1865

Website: www.aoidc.org

E-mail address:
aioifdc@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org, which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

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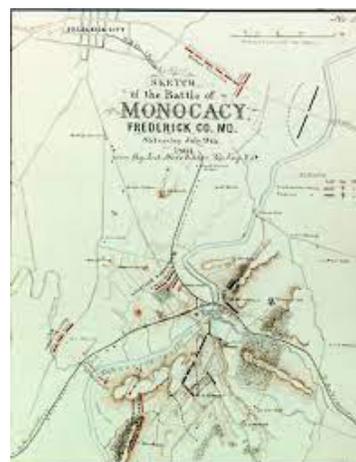
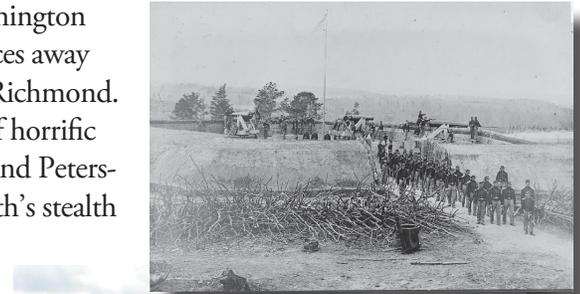


From Our May Luncheon, continued from page 1

behind Lee's gambit to raid Washington in an attempt to lure Grant's forces away from the Confederate capital at Richmond. Coming in the wake of a series of horrific battles closing in on Richmond and Petersburg, Leepson described the South's stealth campaign up the Shenandoah Valley to cross the Potomac and come down on Washington from the north, all under the command of "colorful" Gen. Jubal Early. What eventually followed, as related by Leepson, climaxed with the pivotal Battle of Monocacy, pitting Early's invasion force against Union defenders under Gen. (and later best-selling author) Lew Wallace. Though victorious at Monocacy, the engagement delayed Early's march on Washington sufficiently to allow Union troops to reinforce a capital city up to then defended largely by an invalid army, despite its ring of fortifications, only remnants of which remain extant today. Early's retreat across the Potomac after the skirmish at Fort Stevens brought an end to the threat on Washington, along with many "what ifs" to ponder on the closest our city (and its residents – including President Lincoln) came to active engagement in the war.

As part of the 158th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens, the National Park Service and the Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington are hosting a free public event at Fort Stevens on Saturday, July 16, featuring "Women and the Defense of the Capital" – see www.apcwdw.com and www.nps.gov/cwdw/index.htm for more information.

Building on the theme of the day's presentation, AOI Historian Nelson Rimensnyder wrapped up the meeting with some trivia on the agency charged with protecting the president at the time of the Lincoln assassination – no, not yet the Secret Service, but the DC Police – along with the story of John Parker, the unfortunate (and absent) officer on duty that fateful night of April 14, 1865.



Check out the full video of the presentation and the rest of our May lunch meeting at www.aoidc.org/aioi-luncheon-recordings.html.

Above: Fort Stevens, then and now.

Left: Vintage battle map of the Battle of Monocacy, precursor to Jubal Early's raid on Washington.

Other News ...

AOI presided over the unveiling of the new centennial marker for the DC World War I 16th Street Tree Memorial on Memorial Day last month. With a glorious sunny day, and despite the heat (hottest so far this year), representatives from the DC DAR and the Embassy of France joined AOI President Tom Neale, Past-President Bill Brown, AOI members and family of commemorated DC soldiers to rededicate the memorial, which originally consisted of 520 Norway maples and plaques lining 20 blocks of upper 16th St. NW. Check out coverage in the Washington Post [here](#) (scroll down), as well as the history of the memorial and AOI’s efforts to re-dedicate it – on the AOI website www.aoidc.org/world-war-i-16th-street-tree-memorial.html.



AOI President Tom Neale unveils the 16th St. Tree Memorial plaque, flanked by representatives of the DC DAR, the Embassy of France and DC WWI veterans’ families.



Coming soon to the AOI website – a *Members Only* portal, through which AOI members in good standing will be able to RSVP to our monthly luncheons, access secure on-line payment information, and read our most recent newsletter. In addition, we are in the process of setting up a Square account to accept credit/debit card transactions for future lunch meetings and other payments. Stay tuned for more details, and remember to renew your membership (www.aoidc.org/members-renewal.html) to remain active on our mailing list for updates!

This May AOI board members Ric Marino, Carolyn Michell and Ned Rich visited the historic Heurich House and Museum, the restoration of which AOI has donated generously over the years. The museum honestly explores the American Dream through the legacy of German immigrant Christian Heurich and his Washington, DC brewery, and creates an equitable path to success for local small-scale businesses. Located just south of Dupont Circle, visitors can explore the turn-of-the-century Heurich home and carriage house during public tours Thursday–Saturday (pre-registration required), enjoy the garden during public hours Monday–Friday 10am–5pm, or grab historic revival Senate Beer in the biergarten Thursday (4pm–8pm), Friday (4pm–8pm), and Saturday (1pm–8pm). For more information about the tour and biergarten hours please visit: heurichhouse.org/visithhm.



Anderson House, home of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, is looking for volunteer docents to join their ranks – a great opportunity for lovers of U.S. history. Training begins the first week in July – see www.americanrevolution-institute.org/join-our-museum-docent-team/ for more information.



The Women’s National Democratic Club Educational Foundation has created a walking tour app highlighting eight national women’s activist organizations that have made their home in Dupont Circle – “a *homebase for civic engagement*” – including our monthly luncheon venue, the WNDC’s historic Whittemore House. Check out the tour and related resources here: DCWomenOrganize.stqry.app.



Address Correction Requested

**The Association of Oldest Inhabitants
of the District of Columbia**

c/o 815 Woodside Parkway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mark Your Calendar...

Upcoming AOI meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- Thurs., June 16 – Peter Sefton, “Nathan Wyeth,
Architect, and the Recorder of
Deeds Building”
- Thurs., Sept. 15 – TBD
- Thurs., Oct. 20 – Adam Bernstein, Obituaries Editor
at the Washington Post
- Thurs., Nov. 17 – Derek Gray, “NAACP in
Washington, DC: from Jim Crow
to Home Rule”
- Sun., Jan. 1 – New Years Day Brunch

Remember: No luncheon meetings July/August nor
December/January. Be sure to check our [website](#) for
speaker updates and/or last-minute changes.

NOTE: All meeting subjects and speakers have been
invited to appear, but nevertheless are tentative.

BE ADVISED: In case of inclement weather call AOI at
202-342-1865 for last minute recorded information.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE!
DC PRIMARY – JUNE 21**

*All registered DC voters have also been mailed an
official absentee ballot – check your mailbox and
vote by mail or ballot drop-box!*



The Whittemore House (1892-94), home of the Women's National Democratic Club, hosts the AOI's monthly luncheon meetings. The National Register property was originally built for Sarah Adams Whittemore, and was purchased by the WNDC in 1927.