



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 153rd Year!**

**Bulletin #147
April 2018**

President's Message...

Butchers, Bakers, Candlestick Makers and Stone Cutters...

It was strictly a coincidence and another example of serendipity when AOI member **John Cady** was contacted by a potential ancestral connection via Ancestry.com. Retired Fairfax County Public School history teacher **Patrick McCarthy** believed there was a connection and began a discussion with John on their connection which they continue to explore...



Jacob Veihmeyer's stone cutting business at the base of the Washington Monument.

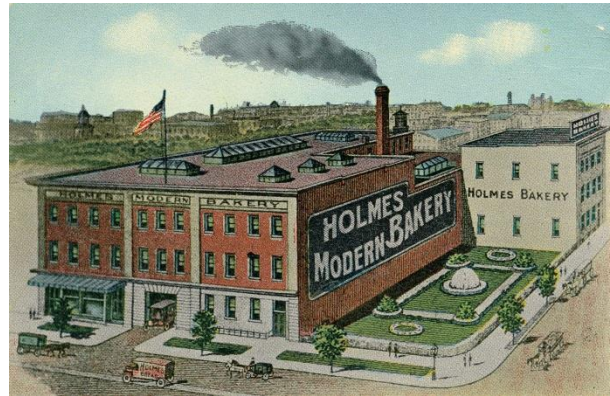
... but what an interesting discovery to learn that Patrick's g-great-grandfather **Jacob Veihmeyer** owned a stone cutting business that served the construction of the Washington Monument; and, amazingly, Jacob was a past Vice-President of the AOI! He was born in 1819 in Baltimore and died in DC in 1908.

Bill Brown

April's Luncheon Event:

"Bygone Industrial DC: With AOI Members' Reminiscences"

Kicked off by John De Ferrari



Please join us...

Friday, **April 20**, 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., April 17, 2018. **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., 4/19, 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 153rd Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- May 18, 2018 – W. Douglas Fisher & Joann H. Buckley, “African American Doctors of WWI: The Lives of 104 Volunteers”
- June 15, 2018 – Loretta Neuman Smith, “The Battle of Ft. Stevens & the Circle Fort Parks”
- Sept. 21, 2018 – Dr. Ruth Troccoli, “D.C. Archeology”
- Oct. 19, 2018 – Mitchell Yockelson, “Pershing’s Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army”



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.

If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Here are the draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the April 20, 2018 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the second luncheon meeting of its 153rd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, March 16, 2018 with 73 members and guests present. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the February meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. There being no corrections or additions, a motion made by **Patricia Clark** and seconded by **Barbara Ioanes**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: There were no new member applications for consideration.

Hulit Taylor presented the Treasurer’s Report:

Membership

- 71% of our members have renewed so far this year.
- If you have not yet renewed, we ask that you do so as soon as possible which will save us the time and money of following up

Donations

- Thanks to your generosity, we have received a little over \$3,600 for our Unrestricted Funds

Non-Routine Expense Since February Luncheon

- \$142 Early, Cassidy & Schilling for a Directors’ Fidelity Bond
- \$80 to the City for a two-year renewal of our non-profit business license

Investment Account

- So far this year, our investment account has earned \$270 in dividends and interest

February Luncheon

- 63 people attended last month’s luncheon
- Our appreciation to the two members who, at the last minute, were unable to attend the luncheon but still paid \$35

President’s Remarks: **Bill** welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members, one new member: **Wynfield Swanson (voted in last month)** and the following

guests: **Tom Buckingham** had **Lori Combis** as his guest; **Preston Huey** brought three guests: **Claudia MacLachlan, Shirley Street** and **Michael Shanley**; and guest speaker **Elizabeth Foxwell** had her sister **Margaret Foxwell** join her.

Brief Announcements: Bill stated how pleased we all were to welcome AOI Director **Gary Scott** back to the scene after a rather long absence and recuperation.

Bill also mentioned that as our go-to person on DC-centric World War I issues, **Barbara Bates** had written a booklet on “The Ten Women on the District of Columbia War Memorial or Tree Memorial” which AOI has had printed and bound. We did this to coincide with today’s presentation and our two remaining World War I luncheon topics in the future.

Nelson Rimensnyder had several history trivia questions:

Q: What was the cost of a bleacher seat at Griffith Stadium in 1925? A: 50-cents – **George Hutchinson** provided the answer.

Q: Canal Street near the Capitol was later renamed what? A: Washington Avenue – **Hayden Wetzel** knew the answer.

Q: In 1950 the AOI wrote to President Truman about what international issue? A: to send troops to Korea – **no one** provided the answer.

Q: In 1950 what future President attended AOI’s New Year’s gala? A: Gerald Ford – **Patricia Clark** knew the answer

The Day’s Speaker: Bill introduced the day’s speaker, **Elizabeth Foxwell** who is the author of, “In Their Own Words: American Women in World War I.” There were 4.7 million U.S. service members in worldwide in WWI. There were 53,402 battle-related deaths, and 63,114 other deaths (Editor’s note: these combined figures are close to the number of 118,516 from the World War I memorial plaque in Arlington National Cemetery). There were 204,000 wounded. Elizabeth explains how difficult it is to reconcile numbers especially for the women who served in private relief organizations (e.g. American Women’s War Relief in Britain, with women such as Lou Henry Hoover, Jennie Jerome Churchill, and Ruth Bryan Owen, daughter of William Jennings Bryan). As a result of Secretary of Navy Joseph Daniels, women were recruited to serve in the Navy and Marine Corps in the U.S. There were 11,275

Yeoman (female) as of November 1918 and 305 Marinettes (female Marines). The Army hired 223 "Hello Girls" (telephone/switchboard operators) to serve with the Signal Corps overseas; it took these women a long time to receive benefits. There were 23,822 Army/Navy/Red Cross nurses; 10,000 in the Red Cross Motor Corps. There were 348 who died in service (4 under combat conditions). There were 3,500 YMCA canteen workers; 350 in Ann Morgan's American Fund for French workers; 263 Red Cross workers in Italy; 250 in the Wellesly Unit for War; 100 female doctors, dentists, and nurses sent overseas by the American Women's Medical Association; and 70 female medical staff with Women's Overseas Hospitals of the National American Women's Suffrage Association. There were 21 U.S. workers with the American Friends Service Committee in France; and 19 from Smith College.

Elizabeth then provided a comparison of the numbers who served by state and gave examples of individual women who served. She pointed out that in 1918 the DC population was 418,000; 26,000 served (6.2%) and 499 deaths (1.9%) compared to Rhode Island with population of 604,000, 30,000 in military (5%), and 612 deaths (2%). She then said that of the top ten states with women who served in the U.S. Navy, DC was second.

These women served in a variety of positions such as clerical, "finger print" girls in the naval intelligence service, cryptologists, draftsmen in radio. She mentioned "The Golden Fourteen" who were the first black women to serve with the Navy; they worked in the muster roll section keeping records. Four of these women were from DC and two are buried in Arlington National Cemetery: Anna Gertrude Smallwood Johnson (1886-1952) and Ruth William Osmond Davis (1899-1952) who was the grandmother of Ron Brown, Secretary of the Department of Commerce. Elizabeth thought it was fitting that Ron Brown Street runs by Pershing Park. She mentioned Marion Adele Garbon (later Mann) who was trained at the nursing school at Freedman's Hospital and graduated in May 1918. She was assigned to serve with the YMCA as a secretary in Marseilles. She was one of 19 staff sent overseas under the auspices of the Red Cross.

The Surgeon General decided to use Girl Scouts as messengers to replace the men for overseas service. They were under the command of Major General William C. Gorgas and took over messenger service for his office. Known as the "petite warriors," they wore their Girl Scout Uniforms. One such Scout was Eugenia Clement (1906-1971) later Brooke. She later became the first woman to take an engineering course in school and later worked on the Apollo mission; she is buried in Glenwood Cemetery. The physician to the Girls Scouts Dr. Kate Breckinridge Bogle Karpeles was a graduate of Johns Hopkins and became the first female contract surgeon with the U.S. Army. She is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Nora F. Melton (1882-1943) was trained as a nurse at Providence Hospital and was sent to France as a public health worker. She is buried in Mt. Olivet in DC. Mabel Kipp Lewis (1882-1952) was sent to France by the Red Cross as Director of Entertainment at Base Hospital 98. She served there from November 1918 to July 1919. She also served as a stenographer for a tuberculosis hospital. She is buried in Florida. Adelia "Tess" Elsworth Nelson Chiswell (1882-1955) was sent to France as a member of the Red Cross Motor Corps. She is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery. Florence Jaffray "Daisy" Harriman (1870-1967). She organized the Red Cross Motor Corps of DC and directed the Women's Motor Corps in France. She attended the Versailles Peace Conference and worked for world peace organizations; in 1922, she became a founder and first president of the Women's National Democratic Club; in 1937 she was appointed Minister to Norway. Frances Newbold Noyes Hart (1890-1943) was the daughter of Frank Brett Noyes, president of The Evening Star and

the niece of Theodore Williams Noyes, long time president of AOI from 1908 to 1946. She was a translator for the U.S. Navy and was author of "My A.E.F.; A Hail and Farewell." She is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery. Grace Duryea Coombs (1887-1919) enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Yeoman (F) in August 1918; in 1919 she committed suicide by gas; she is buried in Congressional Cemetery. Other local women in her book and blog include Gertrude Thiebaud a librarian at Walter Reed and Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore (1856-1928). Eliza through her lobbying ultimately saw the Japanese cherry trees coming to DC; she presented a plan to purchase the trees for the capital to Mrs. Taft who immediately adopted it. She is buried in the Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery in Japan.

Elizabeth said that she was influenced by British author Vera Brittain's "Testament of Youth" and sought out books by American authors on the war. Her book includes women of many faiths, different roles, and theaters in the war. She quotes a statement in The Washington Post of May 2, 1922 by General Pershing: "No matter how patriotic or brave were the men or how self-sacrificing, the women always went them one better." She recommends the following books on women in the war: American Red Cross in the Great War; The Day of Glory by Dorothy Canfield Fisher who had been a student of Pershing when he taught in Nebraska. "American Women Physicians in World War I" an on-line exhibit of the American Women Medical Association; The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers by Elizabeth Cobbs; American Women in World War I: They Also Served by Lettie Gavin; Fighting France from Dunkerque to Belfort by Edith Wharton; and referred to a book on the code breakers.

She concluded her presentation with a quote from Julia Stimson (1881-1948) who served as Chief of Nurses for the American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.). Her book was available for sale and she pointed out that more information on American Women in World War I can be found on her blog site (<http://americanwomeninwwi.wordpress.com>)

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, April 20, 2018 when John De Ferrari will kick-off a session of member reminiscences about "Bygone Industrial D.C."

Respectfully submitted by Bill Brown and Barbara Bates on behalf of John P. Richardson, Secretary

AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: aoidc.org and our email address is: aioifdc@gmail.com

Please check out our redesigned Home Page and listen to the audio of our luncheon talks by our esteemed guests at www.aoidc.org. And, follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

Address Correction Requested

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Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The Historical Society of Washington, DC and its Kiplinger Research Library, together with portions of the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library, are operating from temporary quarters in the Newseum while the Carnegie Library undergoes restoration by Apple, due for completion in Dec. For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org> or call 202-249-3955 for further information

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