



The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia

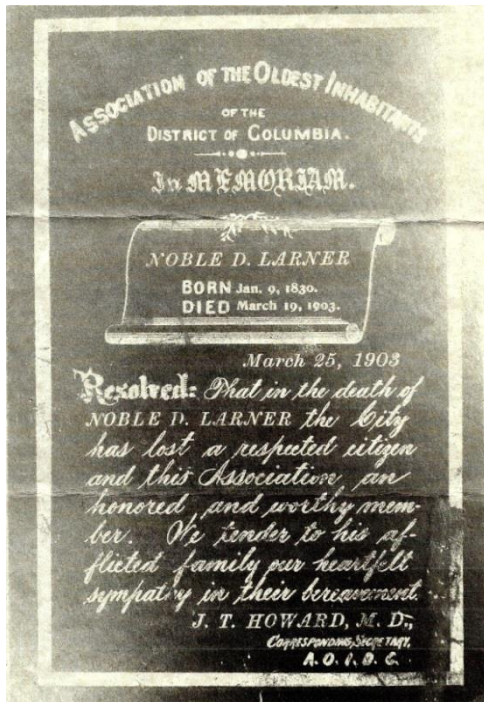
Welcoming Young & Old Alike to Join in Remembering the Past and Working for an Even Better Future

**The District's Oldest Civic Organization –
Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 152nd Year!**

**Bulletin #137
February 2017**

President's Message...

It is always sad to read the *Post's* Obituary section to find one of our members among those listed. We have lost quite a number of members during the past two years. We always respond by sending a personalized sympathy card to the member's family, often trying to include a photo of the deceased member at one of our events.

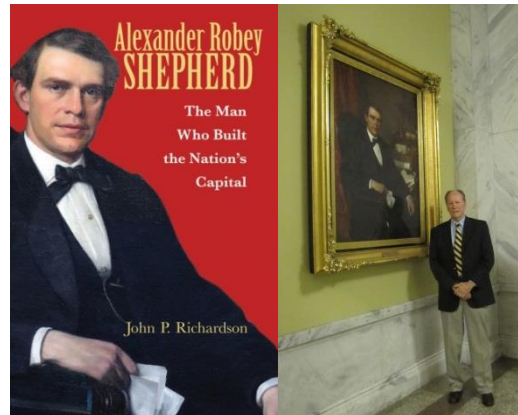


While there are many AOI members' obituaries in our archives at the Kiplinger Research Library at the Historical Society, other than a few penned reminiscences or an accounting of an expense for flowers, I cannot recall seeing any formal notice or declaration, until... new member (to be voted upon at this month's luncheon) Jane Miller McDonnell provided a copy of this Resolution from March 25, 1903 that expressed condolences for her 4x great-grandfather Noble D. Larner (1830-1903).

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February's Luncheon Event:

"Alexander Robey Shepherd: The Man Who Built the Nation's Capital" with John P. Richardson



Book jacket (left) and AOI Secretary & Author John P. Richardson with portrait of Alexander Robey Shepherd in the John A. Wilson (District) Building. [Photo by Barbara Bates]

Please join us...

Friday, Feb. 17, 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., Feb. 14, 2016. 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., 2/16, 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 152nd Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- March 17, 2017 – Panel: “Bonsai -- Stories, Inspiration, Art” with Anne McClellan, Steven Voss and Sandra Moore
- April 21, 2017 – Kathryn Allamong Jacob: “King of the Lobby – the Life & Times of Sam Ward, man about Washington in the gilded age”
- May 19, 2017 -- Skip Moskey: “Larz & Isabel Anderson: Wealth & Celebrity in the Gilded Age”
- June 16, 2017 -- Helena Wright: "The Smithsonian's First Collection"

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...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the Feb. 17, 2017 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the eighth and final luncheon meeting of its 151st year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at noon Friday, November 18, 2016. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the October 2016 meeting, which were printed in the November newsletter, with the following correction: new members **Brigid Forcey's** and **Clark Forcey, Sr.'s** names were corrected. After a motion made by **George Hutchinson** and seconded by **Anne Renshaw**, the minutes were approved with corrections and their reading was waived.

New Members: Five new members were nominated: **Carryn Kubinski** and **Gery Laue** (Arne Paulson); **Patricia Myler** (web site); **Annetta Rapp** (Dorothy & Al Brault) and **Charles Szlinka** (Patricia Clark) who were both present today! **Allen Beach** moved for acceptance of the new members, the motion was seconded by **Mary Brown** and the new members were approved.

Annual Election: The meeting was turned over to Nominating Committee Chair **Barbara Drechsler** who conducted the annual election of Officers and Directors. The slate was approved after nominations were closed upon motion and second by **Margo Lyddane** and **Patricia Daly-Lipe** and the nominations accepted by acclamation upon motion and second by **Patricia Clark** and **Wallace Rossmiller**. The Officers and Directors for 2017 are: President **William Brown**, Vice-president **Jan A. K. Evans**, Secretary **John P. Richardson**, Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** and Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder**. The Directors elected are: **Barbara Bates**, **Thomas Neale** and **Carl Cole**. **Margaret Hobbs**, **Jessica Hodge** and **Gary Scott** will continue to serve their two year terms and did

not require election.

Treasurer's Report presented by Hulit Taylor: **Membership**

A number of people have joined AOI this fall and our membership now totals 348.

Non-Routine Expenses

\$500 grant to the Historical Society of Washington for the 2016 Historical Studies Conference

\$500 grant to the Heurich House Foundation

Donations

This year we have received \$5,000 in donations – a record. This money is used to further our programs such as those just mentioned

Our thanks - the Board would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and for making 2016 another outstanding year for AOI!

Bill introduced today's guests, who included: **Allen & Martha Beach** had with them **Jane Carroll**; **Pauline Hazel** was **Mary Brown's** guest; **Patricia Clarke** had with her **Charles Szlenka** who was voted in as a member; **Chuck Ludlam** and **Paula Hirschhoff** were new to the AOI and attended to hear the day's speaker; **Martin Murray** had with him **Judy Waxman**; **Mary Pett** had with her **Bill Wildprett**. Bill brought to everyone's attention the sad news of the passing of member **Vincent Scalco** a Tech High School alumni and brother of departed member **Josie Beagle**.

The AOI continues to provide comments on Pershing Park, the FBI Building site, electronic signage and other issues. The Committee of 100 paid a nice tribute to the AOI for our \$25,000 sesquicentennial grant in their 2016 Annual Report.

Bill reminded everyone of the New Year's Day breakfast/brunch Sunday, January 1, 2017 at 11 AM at the

Capitol Skyline Hotel with a plated breakfast of eggs, French toast, bacon, home fries, muffins, breads, fresh fruit, juices and a cash bar. The price will be \$30 per person and an invitation will be mailed in mid-December.

Anne McDonough the Collections Manager and Library Director of the Kiplinger Research Library at the Historical Society gave a 10-minute up-date and PowerPoint presentation on how the library has used a portion of its \$25,000 sesquicentennial grant from the AOI. Anne summarized the programs "Third Grade Historians" and "Who's a Washingtonian?" that are supported by AOI's donation. The members were very impressed and greatly appreciated Anne's up-date.

Bill Brown then introduced **Melanie Choukas-Bradley** who has written several books about DC's Rock Creek Park. Today she is speaking about *A Year In Rock Creek Park: The Wild Wooded Heart Of Washington D.C.* Both the book and her talk are illustrated with photographs by Susan Austin Roth.

Rock Creek Park is a National Park, one of the oldest. The main part of Rock Creek Park is 1754 acres, twice as large as New York City's Central Park at 843 acres. Rock Creek Park covers 33 miles in Washington DC and Montgomery County Maryland. It has 30 species of mammals and 53 kinds of birds. Rock Creek Park is excellent for hiking, cross country skiing and practicing for long distance running.

The Four Seasons:

Winter is lovely in the Park. The Park is in a flood plain, so visitors need to climb higher on the trails which allows them to see aspects of the Park that are not visible to warmer weather visitors. From the higher trails, American Beech trees, box elder and tulip magnolias are visible. Snow on the bushes and trees make them look like all sorts of interesting things. The sycamore trees show their primary bark when the upper layer peels off.

Spring brings many kinds of flowers to the Park: violets, yellow trillium, wild ginger, anemones, and wind flowers. There are carpets of Virginia Blue Bells which are beautiful but spread wildly and force out other plants.

In **summer** it is wonderfully cool under the lush tree cover. Wisely the trees have been left to grow naturally since 1890 and so are full and healthy. Fruit on the trees ripens and wildflowers bloom attracting humming birds.

In **autumn**, along with the rest of Washington, Rock Creek Park is spectacularly beautiful. The colors are not as vibrant as they are in New England, but the waves of color go on for weeks and weeks here. There are even variations in the color of the acorns that drop from different kinds of oak trees Witch Hazel blooms and shrubs have fruits which attract migrating birds. The Wood Thrush, Washington's official bird is also present.

The next regular luncheon here at the Capitol Skyline Hotel is Friday, February 17th when **John Richardson** will share his biography on Governor Shepherd. Bill wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season prior to adjourning the last meeting of 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Brown & Maggie Hobbs on behalf of John P. Richardson, Secretary

President's Message (Cont'd.)...

The Resolution reads, "Resolved: That in the death of Noble D. Lerner the City has lost a respected citizen and this Association an honored and worthy member. We tender to his afflicted family our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement."

I want to use this opportunity to remind all of our members and readers to please ensure that your "final wishes" are written down and placed somewhere easily found by or already in the possession of family members or friends. One of the saddest instances in recent memory was the passing of long time member Mary Matson. Mary's grandfather was the *Evening Star's* "Rambler" and an AOI Past-president John Clagett Proctor (President 1946-1952). Mary and her best friend Josie Beagle were **big** AOI fans and attended almost every event since they both joined in 2005. Mary passed away in 2014 and Josie, until she too died in 2016, never knew the circumstances of her friend's death or final arrangements. Inquiries to Mary's landlord, condo association, etc., went unanswered as Josie "wasn't next of kin." I always felt very sad for both Josie and her recently departed brother Vince Scalco that they never learned the fate of their friend. So, please, when planning your final arrangements and disposition think about all of those people whose lives you have touched who would like to know what happened to you.

Bill Brown

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 2016 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

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants
of the District of Columbia
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Nelson Rimensnyder, Historian 202-546-4668
Jim Embrey, F.D. Liaison 571-436-7774

Past President:

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-0030

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Activities and programs at the **Historical Society's Carnegie Library** have resumed after some unexpected maintenance was performed.

For information about programs and exhibits, check: <http://www.dchistory.org>
or call 202-249-3955 for further information

Directors:

Barbara Bates 202-244-2090
Carl Cole 202-889-8813
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133
Thomas Neale 202-333-6946
Gary Scott 202-544-4862



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