



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 #148
May 2018**

President's Message...

***A year's effort to identify World War I
related sites, monuments, memorials and
plaques in our area...***

Since April of last year, the AOI has taken the lead to identify and promote programs, events, memorials and venues directly related to World War I during its centennial year. Everyone should know by now that the AOI has secured a permit for an event at the DC War Memorial on Sunday, November 11, 2018 to observe the centennial of the World War I Armistice that we will be holding jointly with the District of Columbia National Guard.

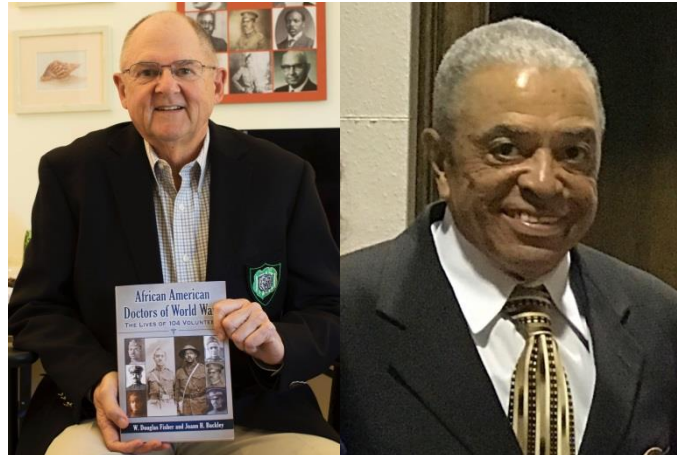
While many organizations have included World War I-related topics in their programs, the AOI has taken the lead to compile these events and promote them through a separate web page on our web site. None of this would have been possible without the diligent and persistent work of AOI Director Barbara Bates who has contributed to all of this while simultaneously writing her paper on "The Emergence of American Air Power in World War I," "The Ten Women on the District of Columbia War Memorial or 16th Street Tree Memorial," and a compendium, "Remembering the Great War in Washington, DC Through Its Memorials and Monuments."

Additionally, we try to keep our web postings current together with our "DC's World War I War Dead" spreadsheet. Finally, we have recently added a virtual tour of the DC War Memorial which includes all of the panels commemorating the 499 District of Columbia war dead... and we still have 6 months to go until the centennial of the Armistice to continue our work.

Bill Brown

May's Luncheon Event:

**"African American Doctors in World War I: The Lives of 104
Volunteers" with W. Douglas Fisher**



W. Douglas Fisher (L) and Urbane Bass (R) who will be joining Douglas is the grandson of one of those World War I Doctors who died in action in France.

Please join us...

Friday, **May 18**, 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., May 15, 2017. 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., 5/17, 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:

June 15, 2018 – Loretta Neuman Smith, “The Battle of Ft. Stevens & the Circle Fort Parks” & a Briefing on plans to reopen the Carnegie Library as the Washington History Center of the Historical Society of Washington, DC

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”

Nov. 16, 2018 – Warren Belasco, “Washington, DC Culinary History & Highlights” and AOI’s annual 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.



If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the May 18, 2018 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the Third luncheon meeting of its 153rd year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, April 20, 2018 with 71 members and guests present. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the March meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. There were several corrections which had been brought to our attention but with no further corrections or additions, a motion made by **Barbara Drechsler** and seconded by **Betty Walker**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

New Members: There were four new member applications for consideration: **Ben Curran*** (lives nearby on I Street, doesn't recall how he heard about us); **Patrick McCarthy** (retired history teacher with Fairfax County, Veihmeyer descendent, recruited by John Cady; **Fr. Joseph Doyle** (internet, St. Joseph's Seminary) and **Roger Drissel** (a walk-in at today's luncheon together with his wife Marie Drissel and is descended from a past AOI member "Honest" John Connor). **Barbara Ioanes** moved and **Patricia Clark** seconded a motion to approve the new members which was accomplished enthusiastically.

Hulit Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report:

Membership

- 82 % of our members have renewed so far this year.

Donations

- We have received a little over \$4,000 for our Unrestricted Fund

Non-Routine Expenses Since March Luncheon

- \$343 to GRC for printing booklet about 10 Women on DC WWI Memorial

Luncheon Report

- 73 Attended our March luncheon
- Once again, our appreciation to those who, at the last minute, were unable to attend the luncheon, but still paid the \$35.

Investment Account

- Our investment account is holding its own
- So far this year, we have earned \$893 in interest and dividends.

President's Remarks: **Bill** welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members: **Tom Buckingham** had with him **Louise Oertly**; **Linda Ingram** had with her **Susie Vanpool**; and, **Stephen Strack** had two guests: **Linda Stolba** and **Ed Stolba**. **Bill** also took the opportunity to recognize long-time members **Molly** and **Raymond Rupert** whose family was the recipient of the Historical Society's 2017 Making DC History Legacy Families of Washington award.

Brief Announcements: **Bill** stated how we were saddened to learn since our last luncheon that long-time member **Bill Pennington** passed away, he was 97 years old; **Dana Dalrymple** was also a long-time member... he was 85 and, while not a member **Paul Pascal**, husband of member **Brenda Pascal**, passed away...both had participated enthusiastically at past member meetings when the topic was vintage automobiles. Then, **Bill** went on to notify everyone of the death of **C. Dudley Brown** just two days prior to the luncheon. **Dudley** was a long time, loyal AOI member, lived nearby at Harbor Square, was known for the design center he owned in South West, his participation in the Victorian, the Arts of Club of Washington and many other organizations in the District. **Dudley** once gave a talk to the AOI on "Who Slept Where and For How Much? Housing DC in World War II." **Bill** has sent AOI sympathy notes to the families of everyone and has posted their information to our In Memoriam page on our web site.

Bill spoke briefly to remind everyone of the annual Historical Society's membership meeting on Sat., 4/21 at 10 am at the Building Museum and to again call attention to AOI Director **Maggie Hobbs'** persistent efforts to obtain VA headstones for 3 DC women who perished in World War I. In 'battling' with the VA over the 'right' to request VA markers in the absence of next-of-kin, **Maggie** tracked down officials at the American Legion and convinced them to be co-applicants as a recognized Veteran Service Organization which is one way of circumventing some of the VA's arcane

requirements. So our hats are off to Maggie!

Nelson Rimensnyder challenged everyone with several history trivia questions:

Q: Stuart Udall lead an effort to remove any statue from DC whose honoree hadn't been dead for 100 years before being recognized. What was the only statue removed under his plan? A: William Jennings Bryant – **Tom Buckingham** provided the answer.

Q: In the 1970s as part of the reimagining of PA Avenue and Freedom Plaza, what object was removed from in front of the District Building? A: a replica of the Liberty Bell – **John Herron** knew the answer. There is still a \$500 reward being offered to anyone who can locate that bell today! (Hint: it is NOT the one in front of Union Station!)

The Day's Speaker: Bill introduced AOI member and author **John DeFerrari** who agreed to pull together some images of "Bygone Industrial DC" to kick off a program of member reminiscences which AOI has not done in quite some time. He led with images of factories, bakeries, bottlers and dairies in Georgetown, Foggy Bottom, Eckington, Ivy City and Brookland.

At first, one would think AOI members were obsessed with bakeries, as the smell of rising yeast and baking bread must have a profound imprint on one's memory. Many people recalled their 'olfactory' memory of the Haupfenmaier rendering plant on K Street/Whitehurst Freeway and the huge, painted sign from Washington Flour that read: "The objectionable odors you notice in this Area are not from Washington Flour!"

Robert Barbuto recalled his summer job at Standard Marble & Tile Arts Co. located near where GU's Law School now stands; **John Herron** recalled stories of the workers at the Bureau of Printing & Engraving being so skilled at knowing the 'feel' of a bale of bills that they would have competitions to determine how accurate they were at predicting the 'heft' of the bales; **Raymond Ruppert** recalled Ace Junk Yard on Georgia Avenue near where Howard University Hospital stands today; **Paula Smith-Vanderslice**



AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: aoidc.org and our email address is: aoiofdc@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.aoiofdc.org which may contain more timely events and calls-to-action than our web site.

recalled her mother, Lynn, worked at Stone Straws and used to bring home samples of flexible, accordion and other novelty items; **Ruth Sando** recalled that Standard Oil had a delivery truck loading facility at 3rd and Constitution Avenue...that it was a quite 'striking' building and they used to sit in front of it for inaugural parades; **Francine Berkowitz** recalled Cushwa Brick Yards; new member **Roger Drissel** recalled 'scientific' Washington such as the Harry Diamond Laboratories and the National Bureau of Standards. **Robert Vogel** who is retired from the Smithsonian's division of Arts and Industries reflected on the gun factories at the Navy Yard, a pipe organ builder/repair shop on Capitol Hill and a small hydro-electric generating facility on K Street powered by water from the C&O Canal. This is just a sample of the reminiscences... more can be heard/viewed on our web site. Overall, the day's program seemed both informative and appreciated by those who attended.

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, May 18, 2018 when Douglas Fischer will speak on "African American Doctors in World War I"... the third in our series of four luncheon talks dedicated to WWI during this, it's centennial year.

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

Membership (non-) Renewals...

Each year we send out our annual membership renewals in January with a personal appeal and return envelope. If members haven't renewed by June (our summer hiatus) then these members are removed from our rolls and no longer receive mailings. If you are listed below, we haven't received your 2018 renewal. If you still wish to remain a member in good standing, please mail your \$20 renewal to our address on the outside of the newsletter. We hope you will continue with us.

Laura Cohen Apelbaum
Ms. Fay Armstrong
Edward Asher
Ms. Pamela J. Barton
Ms. Virginia Ann Baxter
Mr. C. Larry Beaver
Arsene Boucher
Mr. Cornelius Brown
Mr. Linwood C. Brown
Mr. William Brown
Mr. Clinton W. Chapman
Mr. Paul I. Chestnut
Ms. Melanie Choukas-Bradley
Alan K. Cole, Sr.
Mr. Bryant Cole
Ms. Lydia Conrad
Mr. Todd Andrew Curran
Mr. Cornelius Davies
Mr. Lawrence DJoseph III
Mr. Jesse T. Dowling III
Mr. John K. Edwards
Douglas E. Evelyn
Mr. Lawrence W. Feinberg
Dr. Judy Scott Feldman
Marilyn J. Feldman
Ms. Pamela Fielding
Ms. Alison Fortier
Ms. Patricia Arnold Fowler
Mr. William Gray
Edwin Grosvenor

Ms. Dorothy Hartland
Ms. Paula Hirschhoff
Mr. John E. Hurley
Mr. Charles Iversen
Ms. Shannon K. Lawrence
Ms. Joan Connor Lee
David Levy
Mr. Chuck Ludlam
Capt. & Mrs. South Lynn
Ms. Anne Martin
David M. Maxfield
Ms. Jane Miller McDonnell
Mr. Damon Miller
Ms. Patricia W. Myler
Mr. Andrew Parker, Jr.
Susan Perry
Rohulamin Quander
Ms. Laurice G. Redhead
Mrs. Laurana Reed
Ms. Juliet G. Six
Larry B. Slagle
Ms. Daisy Mullett Smith
Ms. Carol Swain
Frank Tremel
Mr. Thomas W. Walter
Ms. Abigail B. Wiebenson
Mr. Calvin G. Zon

Address Correction Requested

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Jim Embrey 571-436-7774

Past President:

A.L. Wheeler

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

The Historical Society of Washington, DC and its Kiplinger Research Library, together with portions of the Washingtonian 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. The facilities will close in late summer to relocate. 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.