



# 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 Historic Organization –  
Founded December 7, 1865 – Our 155<sup>th</sup> Year!***

***Bulletin #164  
Oct/Nov 2020***



## THE NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> LUNCHEON AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

### *Letter from the President*

Dear AOI Members,

Since our last AOI newsletter, Washington continues to be under the shadow of the Corona Virus pandemic. We can be grateful that the metropolitan area has managed to avoid the high levels of infection that are prevalent in other parts of the country, but we all need to continue preventive measures, both as individuals, and as a community. Once again, there is precedent in our history. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Washington suffered from recurring waves of typhoid fever, contracted mostly from contaminated Potomac River water, which was piped untreated into the city by the Washington Aqueduct. The MacMillan Reservoir treatment plant, rushed to completion in 1905, brought cleaner water into the homes of Washingtonians, but occasional outbreaks continued until other sources of typhoid – private wells, contaminated milk, and poor personal hygiene – were remedied. And when the Army Corps of Engineers began adding chlorine to drinking water in 1923, typhoid fever was finally eradicated in the nation's capital.

With the expected development of a vaccine, Covid-19 will eventually be eradicated from Washington, but for now, like our forebears, we need to take precautions to keep safe and healthy. And we will need to be patient until we can meet again. On October 8, the Board learned that Mayor Bowser's emergency order will remain in effect through 2020, and that the DC Department of Health has extended its contract at the Capitol Skyline Hotel through December. This means that our November 9 meeting must be canceled, and our future programs will be contingent on action by the District Government to begin Phase 3 of the reopening process. The Board also decided to extend all members' 2020 memberships through 2021 but asks that folks who have yet to renew their 2020 membership to please do so. The Board will meet on November 9 to consider next steps, and we promise to keep in touch with all our members until, as individuals and as a community, we emerge from the pandemic's shadow, and walk again in the bright sunlight and open air.

The board members thank you for your patience and loyalty to the AOI of DC, and we extend cordial wishes to you and your families for Thanksgiving and the Holidays to come.

Thomas H. Neale, President  
November 1, 2020

*Address Correction Requested*

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants  
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**See Important  
Announcement Inside!**



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