



# 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 153<sup>rd</sup> Year!**

**Bulletin #150  
September 2018**

## **President's Message...**

*Could treasures lurk below our streets?*



***D.C.'s own "Indiana Jones" will find out!***



Dr. Ruth Troccoli is the Archeologist for the city's Historic Preservation Office, part of the Office of Planning. When construction uncovers something of historic value or a neighbor trips over what may be a historical artifact, Dr. Troccoli and her team leap into action to determine the provenance of the object and its potential historical significance to those Native Americans, explorers, pioneers and residents who preceded us. Come hear about some of their discoveries.

*Bill Brown*

## **September's Luncheon Event:**

**"Washington Underground: The District Seen Through the Eyes of Its Archeologist" Dr. Ruth Troccoli**



Excavation of Yarrow Mamout site in Georgetown  
(Photo: DC Historic Preservation Office)

## ***Please join us...***

Friday, **Sept. 21**, 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., Sept. 18, 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., 9/20, 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 153<sup>rd</sup> Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

- 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
- Jan. 1, 2019 – AOI’s Annual New Year’s Day Buffet Brunch at the Capitol Skyline Hotel
- Feb. 15, 2019 -- TBA

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.

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## If You Were Not At Our Last Meeting...

[Draft minutes of our last meeting for approval at the September 21, 2018 luncheon.]

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI) held the fifth luncheon meeting of its 153<sup>rd</sup> year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at Noon Friday, June 15, 2018 with 79 members and guests present. This was the final meeting before our summer break with meetings resuming in September. President Bill Brown welcomed the attendees and called for approval of the notes of the May meeting, which were printed in the current newsletter. With no further corrections or additions, a motion made by **Ginny Daly** and seconded by **Tim Gorman**, the notes were approved and their reading waived.

**New Members:** There were two new member applications for consideration: **William Lewis, Sr.** (who is a past guest); and, **Gary Shorter** (Tom Neale’s guest at last month’s luncheon and associate at the LOC’s Congressional Research Service) who was present today. **W. Earl Williams** moved and **Betty Walker** seconded a motion to approve the new members which was accomplished enthusiastically.

**Treasurer’s Report:** **Hulit Taylor** presented the Treasurer’s Report:

### Membership

- This year our budget is based on 330 members. So far, we have reached 91% of that figure.

**Non-Routine Expenses Since the April Luncheon: None for this period**

### Luncheon Report

- 59 attended our May luncheon
- Once again, our thanks to those who, at the last minute, were unable to attend the luncheon, but

still paid the \$35. This is greatly appreciated.

### Investment Account

- We have earned \$900 in dividends and interest so far this year.
- The total value of our investments has steadily increased and is now \$155,000.

**President’s Remarks:** **Bill** welcomed everyone and in addition to spouses and family members: **Tom Buckingham** had with him today **Louise Oertly**; **Candace and Monica Cole** were there as **Alan Cole’s** guests; **Larry Feineberg’s** guest was **Steve Anderson**; **Walter Springman** was **Richard Marino’s** guest; **Loretta Neumann’s** husband **Dan Smith** was her guest; **Brenda Pascal’s** guest was **Gwen Zuares**; **Bill Wilbrett** was **Mary Pett’s** guest; **Jean Williams** was **Eleanor Purnia’s** guest; and, **W. Earl Williams** had with him **Nathan Queen** as his guest.

Brief Announcements: **Bill** called to everyone’s attention **Dwane Starlin’s** planned walking tour of the Burleith Community scheduled for the next day, Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. **Bill** also mentioned the up-coming celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> thru 21<sup>st</sup>. Go to: [www.afroamcivilwar.org](http://www.afroamcivilwar.org) for more details.

**Nelson Rimensnyder** challenged everyone with four history trivia questions:

Q: What 20<sup>th</sup> century US president wrote to a rather racist letter to wife offering advice? A: Harry Truman – **Mary Lee Giblon-Sheahan** provided the answer.

Q: In 1991, which US President’s body was exhumed to determine if was poisoned? A: Zachary Taylor – **John Herron** knew the answer.

Q: What First Lady is credited with being the first to hold press conferences? A: Florence Harding – **Loretta Neumann** provided the answer.

Q: When the Tomb of the Unknown was dedicated, how many DC area Civil War Forts fired their cannon in honor of the event? A: 21 – **Richard Marino** knew the answer.

**HSW Report:** Immediately preceding the speaker of the day, Historical Society of Washington (HSW) Executive Director **John Suau** presented a short, visually supported status report on the Carnegie Building's reworking as a Flagship store for Apple, with enhanced facilities for HSW on the second floor. The building is to reopen in December 2018. Structurally, the north side of the building has been reworked to change the entrance staircase; the Kiplinger Library has been shifted to the east wing of the building, and original skylights have been again brought into use. The effects will be dramatic. With Apple predicting ca. 20,000 visitors per week, HSW stands to benefit significantly from walk-in traffic.

**The Day's Speaker:** Bill introduced the day's speaker by recalling that the preservation and promotion of our Civil War Circle Fort Parks have been of long-standing concern to the AOI and in particular to our late, Past President Phil Ogilvie. During the last 19 years AOI has had no less than four talks on either the history of or threats to our circle of forts. Since our field trip in June 2002 led by Phil, increased attention to the plight of the forts by several organizations and neighborhoods generated pressure on the Park Service to designate a separate Superintendent to oversee the forts, which stretch across several park jurisdictions. AOI member **Loretta Neumann**, President of the Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington, shared some history and provided an update on the state of our Civil War Forts.

Ms. Neumann, tireless champion of the Civil War forts around Washington, gave a historical summary of the fates of the 68 original forts, most of which have long since been developed commercially and are neither accessible nor recognizable as such. Senator James McMillan, as part of the McMillan Plan to rework monumental Washington in 1902-03, called for creation of "Fort Drive" to link all the forts with a scenic route. By the 1930's the drive's maximum development was reached, but by then many of the forts were no longer available for protection. One major exception is Fort Stevens, from which President Lincoln viewed the arrival of Confederate General Jubal Early's attacking

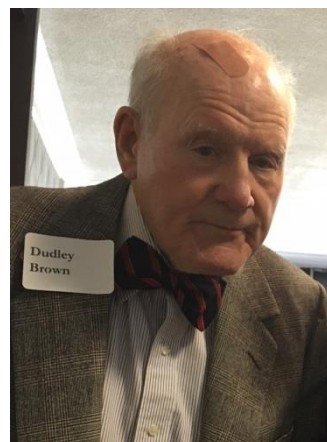
troops in July 1864. Union troops were able to delay Early's advance by a day at the battle of Monocacy/Frederick, permitting Union reinforcements to reach Fort Stevens by steamboat from Petersburg and save Washington from invasion. Legend has it that an enemy sharpshooter almost hit the President, who was standing on the parapet. Fort Stevens was rebuilt in the 1930's by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Loretta encouraged the audience to attend reenactment ceremonies at Fort Stevens in July.

The next AOI luncheon program will be Friday, September 21 District of Columbia's Archaeologist Ruth Troccoli will reveal some of the amazing discoveries which have been unearthed right under our feet.

*Respectfully submitted by John P. Richardson, Secretary*

### ***C. Dudley Brown Memorial Service & Reception...***

The memorial service and reception for our long-time member C. Dudley Brown are scheduled for Saturday, September 22, 2018. The service will be held at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 201 Independence Avenue, S.E. at 1 p.m. The reception will be held at the Arts Club of Washington, 2017 I Street, N.W. at 2:30 p.m.



AOI's Newsletters are printed and distributed by:



AOI's web address is: [aoidc.org](http://aoidc.org) and our email address is: [aioifdc@gmail.com](mailto:aioifdc@gmail.com)

You may also follow us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/www.aioifdc.org](http://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 now closed 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.**