



The Association of the 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*

*Bulletin #102
March 2, 2012*

President's Message...

The MPD's Archives

If you attended the panel I moderated at last fall's 38th Annual Washington History Conference, then you'll certainly recall the fascinating 150 year history of the Metropolitan Police Department presented by Lt. Nick Breul. Lt. Breul has been the police department's historian for 18 years. He cares for, curates, scans and shares the collection as an adjunct to his 'real' job (currently the Traffic Safety Division Commander) because he cares so much about the agency's rich history.



Brian Kraft, Susan Hormuth & Marty Baldissari listen as Lt. Breul describes some artifacts including an old, green lamp that once stood in front of a precinct house.

The collection contains flash notifications (via paper) that Lincoln had been assassinated, tapes of the Hanafi hostage negotiations from 1977 and radio traffic surrounding the attempt on President Reagan's life in 1981, call boxes, radios, badges, uniforms, logs, blotters, personnel file photos, station and squad group photos throughout the years... a truly impressive collection representing much of the department's 150 year history.

The department is working to identify space within the Daly Building (300 Indiana Avenue) to accommodate a modest museum and the archives. (Cont'd. on Page 3)

March's Luncheon Event:

"Alice Roosevelt Longworth Channels the First Ladies"

AOI member Elaine Flynn will inform and charm us about the lives of some of the First Ladies



Please join us...

Friday, **March 16**, at the Channel Inn (free Parking) 650 Water Street, SW. (Maine Avenue via Metro Rail Green to Waterfront Station/SEU or Metro Bus 74 [Circulator Bus discontinued]), Social Time (cash bar) 11:45 a.m., Luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. (\$23 per person - please make your check payable to "AOI" and have it completed prior to arrival or bring exact change). Reservations are a must! Otherwise your food preference may be unavailable. RSVP to our voice mail **202-342-1865**, no later than noon Wed., March 14, 2012.

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., 3/15, may 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 (Filet of Sole w/Scallops, Seafood Newburg, Chicken, Beef, Veggie Plate or Fruit Plate) and a telephone number where you may be contacted should we have a question or a last-minute cancellation.

Future Meetings...



The AOI's 147th Year – Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

April 20, 2012 – John DeFerrari, “Lost Washington”

May 18, 2012 – Jim Johnston, “From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow Mamout”

June 15, 2012 – Michael Lee Pope, “Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C.”

Sept. 21, 2012 – Carol Highsmith & Ted Landphair on “Historic Union Station”

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, the AOI follows the closing schedule of the Arlington County Public Schools or call AOI at 202-342-1865 for last minute information.

If You Were Not At Our Feb. Meeting...

President **Bill Brown** opened the first luncheon meeting of CY2012 at the Channel Inn, February 17. There were 90 members and guests in attendance.

The draft for the November meeting minutes were printed in the newsletter and were considered. There were no additions or corrections offered. **Kay Eckles** moved, seconded by **Dudley Brown** that the minutes be accepted as printed. The motion was approved.

Bill announced that there were seven new applicants for membership. The applicants are **Julie Blakely** (learned of us through Smithsonian friends); **Marella Colyvas** (from Boulder Colo., who found us because of a WAMU-FM broadcast); **John Jones** (through our website); **James Landolt** (from Great Falls, via website); **Bill Gray** (friend of late Lee Rogers); **Lawrence Feinberg** (via website); **Richard Lyons** (nominated by Sherwood Smith and Gary Scott). **Alan Beach** moved, seconded by **Cindy Janke**, that the applicants be accepted into membership. The motion was quickly approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** presented a brief report. She summarized our financial activity for CY2011, noting that \$5,576 was received via contributions for the Kiplinger Library, the Ogilvie Fund, the Shepherd statue, and for other purposes. At the year end the investment account amount was \$174,237.25. Attendance at our nine functions averaged 105 people. Membership as of today is 258.

Bill Brown noted personal milestones for members. He spoke further on the passing of esteemed and beloved

member **Lee Rogers**. There will be a memorial service in the spring (perhaps in March or April).

A distinguished obituary will be published. It was Lee's desire that his assets, including photographic collections and memorabilia, should be left to the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. This includes a number of special collections, including the Robert Truax collection known to AOI members and many Washingtonians. The Baltimore Streetcar Museum will retain and catalog collections according to its interests and place others appropriately according to Lee's wishes. This may take several years to accomplish.

Bill introduced first-timers and guests after which **Joe Grano** presented a summary and update on the past year's activity in regard to the DC War Memorial and the suggestion to make Pershing Park into a national World War I memorial site. Joe was instrumental in establishing a movement to achieve this, while retaining the long established DC memorial site in honor of DC residents' service and sacrifice.

Today's speaker was **Gordon S. Brown**, former diplomat and ambassador. He is the author of "Incidental Architect," the biography of William Thornton. Thornton was a multitalented person important in DC history (Thornton, trained as a physician, created the initial successful design for the US Capitol, designed the Octagon and other buildings in early DC, was a DC Commissioner and later became head of the Patent Office. Gordon Brown's Thornton bio was well received, and collaterally led to his interest in Thomas Tingey, the first Commandant of the Washington Navy Yard and thus to another biography,

this of Tingey, "The Captain Who Burned His Ships." The history of Thomas Tingey is in part the history of the Washington Navy Yard. It is a quite interesting history and Gordon Brown presented a fascinating narration. Many Washingtonians simply are not aware of this history and its significance. Gordon described the salient portion of the War of 1812 when the British invaded Washington (August 1814) and Tingey set fire to the Navy Yard to keep it from falling into British hands. It was a highly informative presentation, done in an enjoyable and very witty manner. As with his Thornton presentation a year ago, it was a joy to be in the audience.

Respectfully submitted

Seymour Selig, Secretary



Another Serendipitous Find!



In our continued quest to record and document AOI's history and that of our members, serendipity again triumphed when member John DeFerrari stumbled across this photo in the Library of Congress. While the LOC doesn't reference it, the accompanying description says the building at 1418 F Street, NW (left in photo) was demolished in 1917 but was once "...the residence of Squire Nicholas Callan and for some years the meeting place of the Oldest Inhabitants Association." Callan, who died in 1874, was one of the 31 founding members of the AOI of D.C.

President's Message (Continued from p. 1)

Like so many of the city's unique collections (the Archives, Summer School, Fire Department, Recorder of Deeds, Ddot, etc.), this collection needs a permanent, safe place to call 'home'... a commitment that won't vary from administration to administration. It is too important a part of our history and the AOI has encouraged Police Chief Cathy Lanier to provide the necessary personnel resources and funds to make that a reality.



MPD Lt. Nick Breul describes some of the artifacts, documents, yearbooks, photos and uniforms.



Please visit us at our web site at <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply "Google" Governor Shepherd and we'll pop-up!

Our e-mail address is: dchistory@aoidc.org

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:

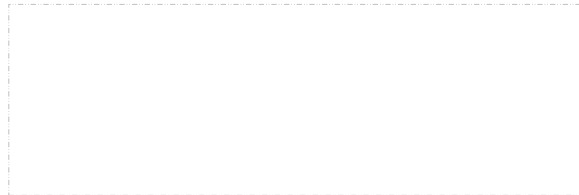


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Address Correction Requested

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- ◆ Help keep AOI alive and strong: invite friends to join and be sure to renew your membership!
 - ◆ Watch for news regarding the re-opening of the Kiplinger Research Library at the Historical Society.



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