



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 149th Year!**

**Bulletin #121
November 2014**

President's Message...

“To preserve memories and matters of historic importance....” Since welcoming the few remaining members of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association into the AOI in 1909, the AOI has been entrusted with numerous historic artifacts. In 1973, many of these DC Fire Department-related items were donated to the Historical Society by the AOI. As the mission of the HSW moved away from that of a museum envisioned in 2001, the HSW, with encouragement from the AOI, has transferred these artifacts to the Friendship Fire Association Museum where they will be cared for and viewed by the public.



HSW's Anne McDonough signs the transfer documents as (L-R) Mark Tennyson (Curator), Jim Embrey (President) and Walter Gold (Executive Director) look on.

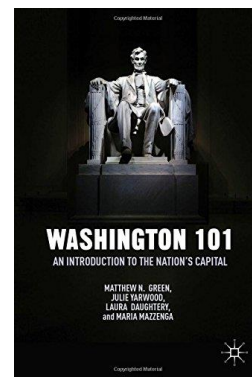


Anne unpacks a Franklin Association helmet which dates from between 1827 and 1864 when the paid fire department was begun.

November's Luncheon Event:

“The Catholic University's ‘DC 101’ Curriculum”

With Matt Green and Faculty



Please join us...

Friday, **November 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. (**\$30 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., Nov. 18, 2014 – EARLIER RSVP TIME!! **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., 11/20, 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 (***Sun Dried Tomato Pesto Crusted Flounder, 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 149th Year -- Meeting dates and tentative speakers:

New Year's Day Reception – there will be no traditional New Year's Day reception this year as the National Hockey League's 2015 Winter Classic is being held at Nat's Park on Thurs., Jan. 1st and will conflict with parking and accommodations.

Feb. 19, 2015 – Hayden Wetzel, "History of Animal Control and Dog Pounds in D.C."

March 20, 2015 – Gail Spilsbury and Donald Rothacker, "Washington Sketchbook: The DVD"

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 November 21, 2014 luncheon.]

AOI held the seventh meeting of its 149th year at the Capitol Skyline Hotel October 17, 2014, with 71 registered attendees.

The **Minutes** of the September 19, 2014 luncheon meeting were approved as distributed.

Membership Report: 5 new members were approved -- **Francine Berkowitz*** (sponsored by Shirley Cherkasky); **Dee Hill** (Ron Bitondo); **John Homer Hoffman, Jr.** (Ed Kaminski); **John Lockwood** (NPS Park Ranger often contributes pieces about the mall, from AOI's web site); and, **Mary Anne Upright*** (Chris Radziewski). Those marked *^{*} were present.

Announcements:

- 1) Fire Department Liaison **Jim Embrey** said that there will be a celebration of the sesquicentennial of the official Washington, D.C. fire department's birth Noon, Saturday, Nov. 8, at Engine Company #3, site of the Fire Museum.
- 2) The Smithsonian's National Museum of African-American History and Culture (NMAAHC) will hold a two-day program Nov. 8-9 at the Historical Society of Washington (HSW/Carnegie Building) on saving artifacts and records of America's black experience. AOI will be a partner with the museum in this event, to be attended by **Cindy Janke, Maggie Hobbs, and Jessica Hodge**. AOI's role in unearthing and publicizing the existence of records of AOI (Colored) will be featured.
- 3) AOI member **Mary Matson**, a granddaughter of Washington Evening Star columnist John Claggett Proctor ("Rambler"), has passed away. Proctor was at one time AOI President and Chronicler.

- 4) **Nelson Rimensnyder** mentioned several events in his campaign for voting rights in D.C. before asking two trivia questions:
 - a. Q: Why was there such a large bar/pub turnout in D.C. on Halloween 1917?
A: Because it immediately preceded imposition of Prohibition.
 - b. Q: Who was the U.S. Senator who offered a 1902 Senate resolution against the 1846 retrocession of the Virginia portion of the District of Columbia to the state of Virginia?
A: Senator James McMillan (R-Mich.).
- 5) **Bill Brown** described the recent, formal turnover by HSW to the D.C. Fire Museum of several fire artifacts originally held by AOI and officially deeded to HSW. Bill noted the presence of HSW's new Executive Director, **John Suau**, and introduced him to the guests.
- 6) Before introducing the day's speaker, Bill reminded the audience that the November talk topic will be about "D.C. 101," a Catholic University mandatory freshman course on D.C. history.

The day's speaker was **Garrett Peck**, whose subject was his research on the Washington Brewery at Navy Yard. Garrett, a well-known local author of books on/about Washington topics (beer, the Potomac River, Seneca sandstone quarry, prohibition), has previously presented entertaining talks to AOI on some of these topics. The brewery, under more than one name, operated at the site next to the Navy Yard from 1805-1836 in a building originally built as a sugar refinery. From the brewery's origin, dredged material was added to the immediate vicinity of the brewery to create land so that the original site is now more than two blocks from the Anacostia River, then known as Eastern Branch. The earliest visual record of the brewery is an 1830 painting showing the eight-story building immediately adjacent to the Navy Yard. An early advertisement for the brewery identifies Daniel Rapine, second mayor of Washington, as sales agent for the beer.

Congressional Cemetery is the resting-place of choice for Washington’s brewers; at least 19 have markers there, including John Collet, the principal brewer. After the brewery closed, the building was torn down and the bricks sold for new construction. The brewery site is now covered by asphalt for a Nationals parking lot and scheduled for large-scale development in the near future. D.C. law requires excavations that uncover historical relics to write a “mitigation report” that describes what is found. Because the site was left largely undeveloped after destruction of the brewery, it is likely that relics might relate to Washington’s oldest brewery. Garrett closed with a tribute to **AOI Vice-President Jan Evans Houser**, a grand-daughter of Washington’s best-known brewer, Christian Heurich, to whom Garrett dedicated his book, “Capital Beer,” in appreciation for her generous assistance in his research.

Respectfully Submitted,
John P. Richardson, Secretary

2014 Nominating Committee Report

October 1, 2014

Dear President Brown:

The Nominating Committee has proposed Officers for the coming year and the Directors for 2015-2016. The nominees have agreed to serve if elected:

Officers:	
President	William N. Brown (incumbent)
Vice-president	Jan A.K. Evans (incumbent)
Treasurer	Hulit Taylor (incumbent)
Secretary	John P. Richardson (incumbent)
Historian	Nelson Rimensnyder (incumbent)

Directors:	
Carl Cole	2015-2016
Damon Cordon	2015-2016
Lucinda (Cindy) Janke	2015-2016

The following Directors do not require re-election as they have not yet completed their two-year terms:

Jessica Hodge	2014-2015
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs	2014-2015
Gary Scott	2014-2015

The members of Nominating Committee hope this slate of nominees will meet with the approval of the membership.

Sincerely yours,
Barbara Drechsler, M. Jean Lockard & Richard Drechsler

Shepherd Statue Conservation Gift...

When we learned in 2012 that the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities had contracted with ARTEX Fire Art Services to clean, repair and conserve the statue of Governor Shepherd, we wanted to ensure a maintenance schedule was established to avoid long periods of neglect which would ultimately result in more costly repairs. AOI member **Edith Johnson** stepped forward and has made a substantial donation that will ensure the statue is inspected, cleaned and touched-up every 3 years, commencing in 2015. Edith’s generous gift, together with the proceeds of other directed donations by AOI members, will safeguard the USG Dunbar statue beyond 2030. This gift from Edith Johnson is the most substantial donation to the AOI since a bequest of Theodore Noyes, Editor-in-Chief of the *Evening Star*, upon his death in 1946.

“Thank you, Edith!” for ensuring the statue of the District’s last Territorial Governor will be preserved for years to come.



Our e-mail address is: aioifdc@gmail.com

Our web site is <http://www.aoidc.org> or simply “Google” ‘Governor Shepherd’ and we’ll pop-up!

AOI’s newsletters and publications are produced by:



Address Correction Requested

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Past President:

A. L. Wheeler 202-337-0030

Luncheon RSVP Voice-mail: 202-342-1865

Forty-first Annual Historic Studies Conference is being held Thurs. 11/20 thru Sun., 11/23 at the Historical Society's Carnegie Building. For further information, check: www.dchistory.org. (Explore HSW's new website)

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, December 5, 2015 – AOI's 150th Anniversary Gala. Mid-day event, elegant luncheon, reception, entertainment, awards and more. **Mark your calendars now!**

Directors:

Carl Cole 202-889-8813
Damon Cordon 301-215-7022
Margaret (Maggie) Hobbs 202-547-0964
Jessica Hodge 301-704-5133
Lucinda (Cindy) P. Janke 202-425-6614
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.