



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 #106
Sept. 7, 2012*

President's Message...

Centennials... Sesqui-, Bi-, whatever...

As we emerge from our summer hiatus, it is my hope that members have taken the opportunity to take in some of the many opportunities to celebrate our period of three, significant historic events whose centennial periods overlap during the course of the next few years. Specifically, the War of 1812, the Civil War and the beginnings of the conflict in Europe that eventually became World War I (though the U.S. didn't become involved until 1917...).



War of 1812 Bicentennial Medal

Maryland's War of 1812 Bicentennial Trail is a water-, land-, bike-, driving-route that covers more than 500 miles through Maryland. Their web site is www.starspangled200.org.

Our partners at The Military Road School Preservation Trust are sponsors of this year's Lincoln-Thomas Day at Fort Stevens. The day's events begin at noon on Saturday, Sept. 22 and will include demonstrations, reenactments, exhibits and talks. Fort Stevens is located on Quackenbos Street at 13th Street (just west of Georgia Avenue, north of Military Road) and will include designating a portion of Quackenbos St. as "Elizabeth Thomas Way" in honor of "Aunt Betty" Thomas whose land was seized to build the fort.

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September's Luncheon Event:

"Union Station's First Century"

Carol Highsmith and Ted Landphair discuss Washington's iconic transportation center and its history



Please join us...

Friday, **Sept. 21**, 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., Sept. 19, 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., 9/20, 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:

Oct. 19, 2012 – Architect Davis Buckley discusses several projects including the DC War Memorial and Clara Barton's Civil War Apartment

Nov. 16, 2012 – Garrett Peck discusses his new book, "The Potomac River: A History & Guide"

Jan. 1, 2013 – AOI's Annual New Year's Day Reception, 11:30am-2:30, Pier 7/Channel Inn

Feb. 15, 2013 -- Mark Ozer discusses his latest book, "Northwest Washington, D.C."

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 June Meeting...

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

President Bill Brown opened our last meeting prior to our summer break in our 147th year. The meeting was at our beloved restaurant Pier 7 of the Channel Inn. There were 95 members and guests attending.

Bill announced that the draft minutes of the May meeting were printed in the newsletter under the heading "If you were not at our last meeting" The chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes, and hearing none, called for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve them as printed. . Kay Eckles so moved, seconded by Mary Matson. The motion was promptly approved.

There were six new applications for membership. The applicants are **Victor Hickman** (nominated by George and Dorothy Hutchinson; **Lt. Tim Jones**, (recently retired from the DC Fire Dept., nominated by Jim Embrey); **Mary Beth Shaw** (from Rehoboth DE, who learned of AOI when reading an obituary); **Jessica Hodge** (nominated by Vernon Tancil); **Gail Spilsbury** (author of "A Washington Sketchbook: Drawings by R.L. Dickenson 1917" an important contribution to the literature of the Washington natural environment, in project supported by AOI); **Stuart R. Loughborough** (from Santa Fe NM, a descendant of Stuart Loughborough of a famous Washington family which was discussed in a previous AOI talk). A motion to accept the applicants was offered by **Al Wheeler**, seconded by **Helen Tsintolas**. The motion was readily approved.

Treasurer **Hulit Taylor** reported on our membership and financial status. There are 331 members now, including those who have not yet renewed this year. Those who have not done so by the end of June will be dropped from membership. Expenses during this period

include \$71.80 to Weebly for hosting our improved web site; \$385 grant to Military Road School Preservation Trust, of which \$250 was from AOI funds and an additional \$135 was contributed by an anonymous AOI member; \$115 for the wreath for the DC War Memorial remembrance on Memorial Day; \$90 for DVD of Channel 9 Memorial Day broadcast for our archives; \$250 grant to Send a Kid to Camp; \$250 grant to Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Club for Camp Ernest W. Brown. The value of our investment account is approximately \$185K.

Bill introduced First Timers and member's guests.

Bill described the Memorial Day commemoration at the DC War Memorial, and the impressive and solemn pageantry and honors. Included were 499 rose displays and Scottish-American bagpipers from New York City in kilts marching to honor the 499 DC fallen in WWI. Good TV coverage on Channels 4, 7, and 9 took place. A DVD with Channel 9's coverage was purchased for our archives.

Historian **Nelson Rimensnyder** mentioned the possibility of the Corcoran leaving DC. He noted that W.W. Corcoran was an AOI member. Nelson queried the audience on how many felt the Corcoran should stay in DC as opposed to how many felt that they should be free to leave. The stays were dominant and Nelson felt that a letter from AOI Board of Directors should express this sentiment. Bill acknowledged that he now has a homework assignment. Nelson asked how many in the audience were Corcoran members, and the response was quite faint. Nelson encouraged us all to join. Nelson posed a trivia history question for the audience. In DC there are three statues for native DC sons. Who are they? The answer required the collective efforts of the audience for Alexander Robey Shepherd, Duke Ellington, and John Philip Sousa. Bill noted that much of Nelson's historical work is included in our AOI archives.

Our speaker for today was **Michael Lee Pope**, a reporter and award winning journalist now living in Old Town Alexandria. He is the author of "Hidden History of Alexandria, D.C." It is a fascinating history not known to

many residents of the Washington area, as well as elsewhere. Michael was born in Moultrie GA, grew up in Durham NC, went to High School in Tampa FL and then on to Florida State University to earn a master's degree in American Studies. He became fascinated with researching the history of Alexandria VA when it was included in the District of Columbia. Alexandria DC eventually was returned (retrocession was the term) to Virginia in 1846. His book is the story of those years and aftermath. He told how his publisher wanted to have many picture illustrations from that period in the book-- a time largely before photography became common. He resorted to collecting political cartoons which had been published during this period. For his talk to us today he used many of these political cartoons to carry the story in a clever, coherent, and extremely interesting narrative. His commentary illustrated much of the now forgotten wild history of the city. He closed his talk with a Q&A session that was very well received and appreciated by all.

Respectfully submitted
Seymour Selig, Secretary



We will miss Phyllis Dunan...



Long time AOI member and Nominating Committee Chair Phyllis Dunan was tragically killed in an automobile accident on July 17th. Phyllis was an Eastern High School alumna, Prince Georges County Public School Administrator and the past Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter, District of Columbia, Order of the Eastern Star. Her July 21st service at the Lee Funeral Home included cousins, friends, neighbors and former students. Her absence will be palpable at our monthly luncheons. We will miss you, Phyllis!

President's Message Continued...



Donise Stevens portrays Elizabeth Thomas at the Lincoln-Thomas Day event in 2011

Finally, there is the approaching centennial of World War I which all AOI members know has been a major issue for us during this past year with regard to the future and fate of the District of Columbia War Memorial and congressional plans to recognize and commemorate the Great War.

The "good news" is that Thomas Howell of the *Washington Times* reported in late June that through the leadership of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congressman Ted Poe (D-Tex.) has dropped the portion of his pending legislation that would have re-named the D.C. War Memorial. Unfortunately, there has been little movement on other portions of the bill (and its counterpart in the Senate) that would establish a World War I Commission and plans for a national memorial. The District Council will consider a "Sense of the Council Resolution" when it reconvenes to promote Pershing Park as a National World War I Memorial.

Bill Brown, President



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: aoidc@gmail.com

AOI is a member of Cultural Tourism DC:



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Address Correction Requested

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The Kiplinger Research Library of the Historical Society is scheduled to re-open in early October under the direction of new Library Director, Jennifer Krafchik. Check HSW's web site: www.historydc.org for Library News.

View our re-designed web site at:
www.aoidc.org



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