

32nd Annual Conference

on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

8:30 AM ONGOING REGISTRATION

9 AM WELCOME

9:30–11:25 AM PLENARY SESSION

1 Digging for Gold: Researching Washington History

“Since the first stone was laid, I’ve had my heart set on living in one’: Hopeful Residents’ Applications for Langston Terrace Dwellings, 1935-1938”

Kelly Quinn, Center for African American and African Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

“Trolling the Archives for *The Washington Century*”

Burt Solomon, *National Journal*

“Federal Felons, Local Heroes, and Other Subjects of Investigation”

Martha Davidson, Newseum

“Vertical Files I Have Loved”

John Kelly, *Washington Post*

Researchers working on Washington, DC history topics enjoy extraordinary access to the city’s secrets. The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., founded in 1894, and the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library, celebrating 100 years of collecting Washington history in 2005, are the two oldest established repositories. In recent years the DC Archives, the George Washington University Washingtoniana Collection, and the Sumner School Archives have added to the endlessly fascinating supply of historical resources.

This plenary session presents the trials and triumphs of searching for historic gold. Kelly Quinn speaks on her unique use of newspaper accounts, census records, city directories, photographs and maps to track the working-class residents of the New Deal housing project, Langston Terrace. Burt Solomon describes his extensive research in local newspapers, photograph collections, and archival records to prepare *Washington Century: Three Families and the Shaping of the Nation’s Capital*, on the Hobson, Boggs, and Cafritz families. Martha Davidson discusses ferreting out images for a TV documentary on the White House and an exhibition on the U.S. Capitol as well as writing profiles of DC activists, and tracing the history of a Capitol Hill house. John Kelly explains how he uses historical resources and describes the challenges he faces as a non-historian interpreting local history for a lay audience in his *Washington Post* column, “John Kelly’s Washington.”

12 NOON – 2 PM LUNCH/HISTORY NETWORK

History network: local history resources and sites, MLK lobby. Lunch is on your own in the neighborhood.

2:15-3:45 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2 The Civilian Conservation Corps

Moderator: James Jacobs, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service

“From Erosion Control to Cabin Camp Construction: CCC Activities in the National Capital Parks”

Lisa Davidson, Historic American Building Survey, National Park Service

“A New Deal for an Old Fort: The CCC at Fort Hunt, 1933-1942”

Matthew Laird, James River Institute for Archaeology, Inc.

“Opportunity for All? The Story of the CCC and the C&O”

Rod Sauter, C&O Canal National Historical Park

Between 1933 and 1942, 12 DC-area Civilian Conservation Corps camps completed an impressive array of projects for the National Park Service. While the CCC is best known for creating rustic architecture in wilderness areas, the Washington CCC undertook a mix of projects. Lisa Davidson describes the many projects that seeded parks from Prince William Forest, Virginia, to Catoctin Mountain Park, Maryland. Matthew Laird discusses the widely respected CCC camp at Fort Hunt, where the relief models, museum exhibits, and dioramas created by skilled technicians drew the attention of visiting dignitaries including King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of England. Rod Sauter describes the hard work and inequitable conditions for the more than 400 African American CCC workers who restored the C&O Canal.

3 Building the Community: Three Aspects of Development in DC’s Southwest

Moderator: Faye Haskins, Washingtoniana Division, DCPL

“Redevelopment: Recreating Southwest in the 1950s”

Bell Clement, George Washington University

“The Development and Maturity of Old Southwest”

Brian Kraft, independent researcher

“The Sanitarians: Health and Quality of Life in Southwest”

Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert, independent researcher

New research looks at the evolution of the District’s Southwest quadrant from its beginnings through current community development efforts. Bell Clement explores the place that Southwest residents held in the redevelopers’ vision of the community and the Redevelopment Land Agency’s relocation program. Brian Kraft offers a glimpse into the lost communities of Old Southwest through a visual and narrative survey of its architecture, businesses, institutions, demographics, buildings and people. Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert, a native Washingtonian and longtime Southwest resident, defines the “Sanitarians” and their importance in the history of Southwest and its development. All three presenters are grantees of the Monument Realty Mitigation Fund.

2:15-3:45 PM

WALKING TOUR

4 “The Old Jewish Neighborhood”

Meet in the MLK Library Lobby

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington offers an insider’s

view of hometown Washington. What was it like to live, work, and worship as a Jew in the historic Seventh Street neighborhood? Learn about the small Jewish community that thrived along the city's major commercial strip from the 1850s through the 1950s. Tour concludes at the MLK Library. Please note: group is limited to 25 people.

4:00-5:30 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

5 The Commercial Success of Early Immigrants to Washington

Moderator: John Olinger, Rainbow History Project

“Henry Foxall of Georgetown, DC: A Representative of Generational Change”

Jane Donovan, West Virginia University

“A Capital Waterfront: Maritime Washington, D.C., 1790-1880”

John R. Wennersten, University of Maryland, emeritus

“Coming to the City of Opportunity: Leaving Post-Civil War Delmarva”

Jacque-Lynne Schulman, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Early Washington welcomed immigrant entrepreneurs as well as skilled manufacturers to support the modest federal government. Jane Donovan discusses the life and career of Henry Foxall. In 1800 the iron founder relocated to Georgetown, armed with substantial U.S. Navy contracts for cannon and shot manufacturing. John Wennersten charts the development of Washington's waterfront economy and workforce during the capital's first century. Jacque-Lynne Schulman presents a case study of one planter family that left post-Civil War Delmarva to build a string of interconnected Southwest waterfront businesses based on steamboats, coal, finished lumber and banking.

6 Art, Culture, and Entertainment for All: Seasons and Tastes in the Nation's Capital

Moderator: Jerry McCoy, Washingtoniana Division, DCPL

“Presidential Theatregoing in Washington”

Thomas Bogar, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia

“Mitchell Jamieson and the Franz Bader Gallery”

Crystal Polis, U.S. Navy Art Collection, The Navy Historical Center

“Meet Me on the Dance Floor: Swing, Bop and Hand Dancing”

Joy Jones, author and dancer

Over the last two centuries, Washingtonians have pursued a wide range of amusements. This session samples places and activities where city

dwellers found culture and entertainment. Thomas Bogar describes the evolution of theater culture in Washington during the capital's first half century, from traveling troupes in Georgetown to major hits imported from New York. Crystal Polis discusses how Franz Bader, owner of the city's first gallery devoted to local artists, supported the career of U.S. Navy combat artist Mitchell Jamieson, creator of more than 500 works during World War II. Joy Jones, a dancer, presents the origins and history – and demonstrates – hand dancing, DC's homegrown dance form.

6 PM **RECEPTION**

Great Hall, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 801 K Street, NW

7:30 PM **LETITIA WOODS BROWN
MEMORIAL LECTURE**

Theater, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
801 K Street, NW

“Local History — Love It or Lose It”

Roxanna Deane, speaker

Deane, former Chief of the D.C. Public Library's Washingtoniana Division, charts the Division's growth and development from its beginnings in 1905. As a lover of Washington's local history and strong supporter of public libraries, she will discuss the importance of collecting local history materials and the ramifications of a business model approach that concentrates on demand and use.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9 AM **ONGOING REGISTRATION**
9:30-11AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

7 Leaders and Their Legacies in Two Washington Universities

Moderator: Gail McCormick, Goucher College

“Lucy Diggs Slowe, the First Dean of Women of Howard University, 1922-1937”

Tameka Dunlap, Howard University

“The Marvin Doctrine and Its Discontents: Dr. Cloyd Heck Marvin and the Shaping of George Washington University (1927-1959)”

Andrew Novak, George Washington University

As two developers of DC's academic life, Lucy Diggs Stowe and Cloyd Heck Marvin could not have been more different, yet their influences are felt even today. Tameka Dunlap presents Dean Stowe's efforts to establish model programs for the education of African American college women. In her 15 years as dean, Stowe struggled to overcome gender discrimination, Jim Crow, and the constraints of limited financial resources. Andrew Novak discusses George Washington University President Marvin's administration, the longest and most controversial in the institution's history. He describes Marvin's suppression of liberal activism, disregard for tenure and academic freedom, and support for racial segregation as well as his tremendous success in enlarging the university and its endowment.

32nd Annual Washington D.C. Historical Studies Conference November 4-5, 2005

SPONSORS

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Center for Washington Area Studies, The George Washington University, Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library

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Cultural Tourism DC

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8 A Complex Relationship: City Politics and the Federal Government

Moderator: Jennifer King, George Washington University

“Black Community Efforts to Strengthen Police-Community Relations”

Jay Stewart, Howard University

“I Am a Capitol Hillite. What Is My future? The ‘East Capitol Mall’ Controversy and the Rise of Community after World War II”

Lindsay Silver, Brandeis University

“Looking for Common Ground: Washington DC, Public Health and the United States Public Health Service”

Alexandra Lord, United States Public Health Service

Presenters explore Washington’s unique status as a local community and federal enclave. Jay Stewart considers the conditions faced by the black middle class during the Civil Rights era. In examining the District Court’s role in enforcing civil rights laws, he also illuminates the court’s influence on national civil rights history. Lindsay Silver explores the contest between the federal government and the Capitol Hill neighborhood over a proposal to expand the federal presence into residential space. In the process, Silver describes Capitol Hill’s activism in the context of the re-emergence of localism in modern America. Alexandra Lord’s discussion of the 1906 typhoid epidemic, which struck shortly after the completion of a new and improved sanitation plant, offers insights into the DC-federal relationship.

11:15 AM– 2:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9 A Closer Look at the Public and Private Spaces of 19th-Century Washingtonians

Moderator: Matthew Gilmore

“Finding a Place in Early Washington: Jerry Holland and Three Commissioners”

Bob Arnebeck, independent scholar

“George Hadfield and His Architectural Legacy”

Julia King, independent scholar

“A Snapshot of Ethnic and Racial Divides in an 1880 DC neighborhood”

M. Marie Maxwell, National Archives and Records Admin.

Bob Arnebeck contrasts the rise of Jerry Holland, a free black man whose talents were noted by the Ellicott brothers’ surveying team, with the efforts of three commissioners to build their influence and reputations in early Washington. Julia King discusses the influence of George Hadfield, Washington’s first professionally trained architect. Hadfield designed the Old City Hall and Arlington House, among others, and in 1801 established his architectural academy. M. Marie Maxwell’s house-by-house study of Washington neighborhoods using the 1880 census reveals details about ethnic and racial divisions that are not apparent in data that only looks at block-by-block percentages.

Program Committee

Peggy Appleman, Karen Blackman-Mills, Carl Cole, Matthew Gilmore, Margaret Goodbody, Faye Haskins, Jennifer King, Jane Freundel Levey, Gail McCormick, John Olinger, Gary Scott, Alain Touwaide, Donna Wells

10 Walt Whitman in Washington

Moderator: Martin Murray, independent historian

“Walt Whitman’s Soldiers”

Jeffrey Reznick, National Museum of Health and Medicine

“Whitman and Wartime Washington: ‘The real war will never get in the books.’”

David Ward, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

“Traces of Walt Whitman in Washington: Art and Architectural Commemorations”

Kim Roberts, poet, independent scholar

Drawing on the National Museum of Health and Medicine’s photographs and anatomical specimens of soldiers whom Whitman nursed in Washington (1863-1873), Jeffrey Reznick aligns Whitman’s prose and poetry with images, individuals, and objects described by Whitman himself. David Ward examines Civil War Washington as a place of confrontation between the poet and a confluence of physical, intellectual, and moral forces that were forged during the war. Ward also links the sites of wartime Washington to changes in Whitman’s writing style and intellectual outlook. Kim Roberts surveys Washington public art projects large and small that remember Walt Whitman, from Siah Armajani’s sculptural installation on a balustrade at National Airport to the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

1:30 PM–3:30 PM

WALKING TOUR

11 “Adolf Cluss and the Red Brick City”

Meet at the Eastern Market’s Seventh St. entrance (Seventh and C sts., SE)

William Gilcher of the Goethe Institute, Washington, leads a tour of the remaining buildings designed by the German American architect,

Adolf Cluss (1825-1905). We suggest that you have lunch at the Eastern Market, then gather at 1:30 to learn about this special market before continuing by Metro to Downtown for more Cluss architecture. The tour ends at the Cluss-designed Charles Sumner School Museum (Red line, Farragut North), site of the exhibition, *Adolf Cluss: From Germany to America — Shaping a Capital City Worthy of a Republic*.



Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

1:30-3 PM

OPEN DISCUSSION FORUM

12 The Future of DC’s Historical Record

Moderator: Trudy Peterson, consulting archivist

We are at a crucial crossroads in the history of the institutional repositories collecting DC history. Come share your concerns, hopes and creative ideas about the future direction of these institutions and of the collections they preserve. Distinguished archivist Trudy Peterson, past Acting Archivist of the United States, moderates.

Reservation Form

All conference sessions take place on November 4 and 5, 2005, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. The Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture and reception will be held at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

This conference is free and open to the public.

Space is limited.

Please reserve your spot by Monday, October 31.

Fax this form to 202 727-1129

OR mail this form to:

Historical Studies Conference
Washingtoniana Division
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW, Room 307
Washington, DC 20001

Number

attending: _____

Please indicate which sessions you will attend so planners can choose appropriately sized rooms.

I plan to attend:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture | | |

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*Questions?
Interested in volunteering?
Please call 202-383-1850.*

Washingtoniana Division
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW, Room 307
Washington, DC 20001

32nd Annual Conference on
Washington, D.C., Historical Studies
November 4-5, 2005
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

Your are cordially invited to join historians, preservationists, neighborhood researchers, and students at this exciting annual two-day conference.



Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library