



WASHINGTON STORIES

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

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Opening Day at HSW - A Big Hit!

On June 1, HSW was buzzing with activity, inside and out. HSW has now resumed building management and has exhibitions in all galleries and has opened the museum shop and café! On Sunday, three exhibitions were opened and festivities continued on the grounds of Mount Vernon Square to the delight of several hundred guests. An important baseball-themed exhibition was open to the public: "Separate and Unequaled: Black Baseball in the District of Columbia". Organized by the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum, this exhibition is accompanied by the exhibit "Discover Greatness: An Illustrated History of the Negro Baseball Leagues" which was produced by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. In the newly opened HSW museum shop, baseball related materials – books, posters, pennants and clothing – were for sale. [These exhibits will be open through October 5, 2008] The grounds offered exciting games for children – and the young at heart – a batting cage, a pitching cage where players learned how fast their fastball was, and a dunk tank where the Washington Nationals mascot Screech even dunked our willing volunteer!

Adding to the festivities, HSW opened the exhibition "Riots are the Language of the Unheard" on Sunday. This multimedia presentation investigates the underlying grievances that lead to the riots and the tremendous efforts to address them. Rounding out the 1968 theme, HSW opened an exhibit featuring the work of an early member of the group AFRICOPA (African Commune of Relevant Bad Artists) which was part of the late 1960's Black Arts Movement: "Frank Smith: 40 Years Since the Riots". [1968 exhibits will be open through November 2008]

Visit HSW: Open Tuesday – Sunday
See the exhibitions, visit the Library, the museum shop, and come to as many of the programs listed in this calendar as you can!

Great NEWS!

HSW has been awarded \$600,000 in the District's Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

HSW Exhibit Featured on PBS show "History Detectives"

During the recent HSW exhibit "Wages of War: Bonus Army to Baghdad", PBS History Detectives' fact-finder Wes Cowan, an independent appraiser and auctioneer, came to HSW to investigate the authenticity of a potential "Bonus Army Stamp". Cowan interviewed HSW collection donor and author Paul Dickson about the stamp and the Bonus Army March itself. Was it a real Bonus Army stamp? They have not told us which episode will include the Bonus Army sleuthing, so tune in to the 6th season of History Detectives which begins on June 25!

Website Enhancement Underway

HSW has begun working to improve the website. While it does deliver information, we think it could look much better, especially parts like the calendar. Researchers will not lose their ability to search our collections while we improve the site! We look forward to unveiling the greatly improved site at the end of the summer and would be happy to have your feedback!

Docents WANTED

The Docent Program is back! We are seeking Docents to assist and inform visitors to HSW's exhibits and programs. Ideal volunteers will have a love of Washington history, will enjoy public contact, and will be able to set a regular schedule. Shifts available Tuesday – Sunday, 10am-5pm. Interested? Send an e-mail to docent@historydc.org or call and leave a message at 202-383-1828 and we'll get right back to you!



Gardening at HSW

On April 25, a team of volunteers spent hours planting beautiful flowers all around the Historical Society. Led by Master Gardener and Shaw neighbor Martin Moulton, the team included Pastor Donna Claycomb and members of the congregation from neighboring Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church, a gang of energetic gardeners from Akridge including Master Gardener Teri Speight and HSW Board Member Joe Svatos, along with the Shaw Green Team, a hardworking group working through the Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative. The gorgeous flowers were purchased from a fundraiser run by the only D.C. public school rowing team - Woodrow Wilson Crew - to help them pay for scholarships and new uniforms. Come to Mount Vernon Square and enjoy the hard work of HSW's generous neighbors!

HSW Annual Meeting

HSW members gathered on Thursday, May 29th for their Annual Meeting. Members were happy to visit with old friends and to hear all about HSW's tremendous progress and upcoming exhibitions and programs. For many members, this was their first opportunity to meet Sandy Bellamy, the new Executive Director, and to hear her great enthusiasm for the bright future of HSW. Also at the meeting, the membership elected five members who were seeking reelection to a third term as a member of the Board of Trustees; and four individuals seeking election for the first time. All beginning third terms, the reelected Trustees are: Robert Barbuto, Bert Edwards, Thornell Page, Dan Rezneck and Ed Swails. The new trustees are Allison Bickers, Mary Beth Corrigan, Don Hawkins and Scott Segal. Annual membership is offered at three levels: Individual (\$50), Family (\$100) and Benefactor (\$500). To become a member of HSW, please visit the website at www.historydc.org and click on "Join Now" or contact Leslie White at 202-383-1837.

HSW is a Membership Organization!

Quite simply, members are the backbone of HSW. Their financial support in the form of annual dues are a tremendously important funding source which helps to enable us to operate the stellar Kiplinger Research Library, and to offer a wide variety of public programs and exhibitions. Washington, D.C. is known worldwide as the seat of power and a monumental federal city; what is so often overlooked is Washington as the hometown of hundreds of thousands of people, the vibrant city behind the national spotlight. The mission of HSW is to preserve and share that history – we cannot do this without our members' support.

Join us!

Visit www.historydc.org
and click JOIN NOW
or call 202-383-1837
for more information.

A Special Thank You

HSW wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to outgoing Trustee Nora Hohenlohe. Nora began her service on the Board of Trustees in 1999 and completed three full terms, ending her service in April 2008.

When asked about Nora's contributions to HSW, fellow Trustee Thor Halvorson said, "There was no one more important than Nora -- there may have been others equally important -- in the successful completion of the Carnegie restoration project. That is because she served, diligently and effectively, as the Board's principal liaison with our consultants and the contractor (Clark Construction) on the restoration project in the years 2001 to 2003. It was her almost daily assignment to make sure that the work was being done on time, within budget, and in accordance with the specifications of our contract with Clark, not to mention city regulations, etc., and, in addition, to keep the board fully informed on a regular basis. It was a huge responsibility, and she discharged it admirably and cheerfully.

On top of that, of course, she was an officer (secretary) and therefore a member of the Executive Committee for many years, and a generous financial supporter of HSW. She was among the most collegial and thoughtful members of the Board. She earned, and continues to have, everyone's respect.

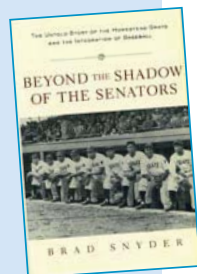
She was, in short, one of HSW's most loyal and dependable supporters, unwavering, through both good times and bad."

Thank you to Nora for her tremendous work on behalf of HSW and we all look forward to her continued participation in HSW programs and activities!

KIPLINGER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Book Shelf



Beyond the Shadow of the Senators: The Untold Story of the Homestead Grays and the Integration of Baseball by Brad Snyder (*Chicago: Contemporary Books, 2003*).

In *Beyond the Shadow of the Senators*, Brad Snyder describes the fight to make Washington, D.C., the home of the first integrated baseball team. In the process, Snyder leads the reader through the local African American scene during much of early to mid Twentieth Century and introduces the people who shaped baseball in DC during those years. In the chapter on “Sam, Buck, and Griffith Stadium”, for example, Snyder provides a biography of journalist Samuel Harold (Sam) Lacy, a picture of African-American life surrounding Griffith Stadium, and the segregation and discrimination that dominated the 1920s. An history of the Homestead Grays, Washington’s own Negro League baseball team, is also found here, along with those involved with the Grays, including manager/player Vic Harris, owner Cum Posey, and players Josh Gibson, Buck Leonard, and Satchel Paige. Although native son Sam Lacy’s leadership among African-American journalists fail to prod Clark Griffith into integrating the Washington Senators baseball team, *Beyond the Shadow of the Senators*, makes the case for the importance of the effort as well as for the greatness of the Homestead Grays baseball team.

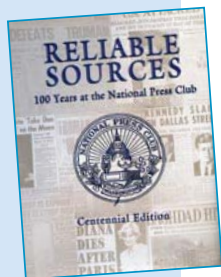
The 1968 Washington Riots in History and Memory by Dana Lanier

Schaffer in Washington History vol. 15, no 2 (*Fall/Winter 2003-2004*): 5-33, http://www.historydc.org/pdf/DC_Riot.pdf (accessed April 21, 2008).

In “The 1968 Washington Riots in History and Memory,” Dana Lanier Schaffer brings the published history of this event up to date using eyewitness interviews. Schaffer notes that residents of riot torn D.C. neighborhoods “dealt with the consequences” of the riots and “attempted to make sense of what happened before, during, and after April 1968.” If residents yearned for context, then Schaffer’s account fills that gap. Schaffer uses interviews to demonstrate how “Washington’s African-American community was actually a mix of interrelated communities.” With its exploration the local community’s response to national events, and in turn, the continuing impact of those events on Washington communities, this article is key reading during this fortieth anniversary year of the riots.

Reliable Sources: 100 Years at the National Press Club Centennial Edition (*Nashville: Turner Publishing Company, 2008*).

A gift of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia (AOI), this book was autographed by National Press Club presidents and others at an AOI luncheon celebrating the National Press Club’s Centennial. Text and photographs tell the story of the National Press Club’s history, and “how the original white, male bastion accepted at first grudgingly and then with enthusiasm African Americans, women, broadcast journalists and Internet bloggers and turned into a professional organization with international outreach.” Documenting not only the Club, but the buildings it has occupied through one hundred years, this book provides an entertaining look at a locally-based organization with an international profile.



Featured Objects from the Kiplinger Research Library

Object #1: baseball park at North Capital and Massachusetts Avenue

Photograph of the baseball park at North Capital and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, circa 1888. Note the Capitol in the background and the advertisements lining the walls of the outfield.



Object #2: D.C. National Guard Association

The 260th Coast Artillery, District of Columbia, National Guard Association Collection is a recent gift on behalf of the Association from E. Wayne Brizendine, secretary treasurer and past president. Although the 260th Coast Artillery was a 1924 reconstitution of batteries started in 1915, early in WWI, the history of the DC National Guard has roots older than the District itself. Georgetown residents, for instance, were members of the Maryland militia years before the District was created by Congress in 1790. Acts of Congress concerning the militia of the District date to 1802, and D.C. militia units served throughout the Nineteenth Century. DC batteries served overseas in WWI, then under the new regimental name of the

260th Coast Artillery, trained throughout the 1930s. After Pearl Harbor, the regiment shipped out west, to places like Fort Bliss, Texas, and to McChord Field, Washington State, where one finds a group of them enjoying R&R in this 1942 photograph showing Frank Stallone, Albert Mitchell, Nick Dell’Erba, and James (?). The unit was deactivated in 1958 after the Korean War, but members of the regiment continue to meet for Association events. The collection includes histories of the regiment, photographs especially from mid 19th to the present, and memorabilia of the regiment’s service.



Object #3: Chinatown Collection

This photograph from the Chinatown Collection was taken Easter 1936 in front of the Chinese Community Church, which held services at the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church at 9th and K Streets, NW. This group, photographed across 9th Street from the Church on Mt. Vernon Square with the Carnegie Library building behind them at the upper right, was part of the nearly two hundred members of the Chinese Community Church. From the Chinatown Photograph Collection, donated by Wendy Lim in 2007. Besides photographs, the collection includes exhibit materials such as posters and signs, audio tapes, and documentation with papers and books relating to research about DC’s Chinatown and the exhibit that featured the photographs in this collection.



To learn more about these and other collections visit the Kiplinger Research Library in person Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., or online at www.historydc.org and click “Search our library catalogue” Have Fun!