

## Welcome to "Marching on Washington," the 40th Annual D.C. Historical Studies Conference

*This year's conference theme springs from a number of compelling anniversaries: the 50th anniversary of the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington, the 40th anniversary of the initiation of modern Home Rule in 1973, the centennial of the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession, and the sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Presenters found inspiration in these events and others to create this year's rich program.*

THURSDAY, November 14, 2013

Location: Jack Morton Auditorium, Media and Public Affairs Building,  
George Washington University, 805 21st Street, NW

6-7 pm All Conference Reception, featuring a 40th Anniversary tribute

7-9 pm Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Kate Masur, associate professor of history, Northwestern University and author, *An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C.* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

Masur presents "Black Politics in Civil War Washington: What Spielberg's *Lincoln* Didn't Tell You," based on her original research as well as the reaction to her widely published, and pointed, commentary on how Stephen Spielberg's 2012 film portrayed the African Americans who worked in Lincoln's White House.

FRIDAY, November 15, 2013

Location: Historical Society of Washington, D.C., at the Carnegie Library,  
801 K Street, NW

9-9:30 am Conference Opening

9:30-11 am

Session

1 - Practical Workshop and Panel: Alley Life in Washington, D.C.  
Moderator: Thomas Neville, Flint Hill School

Panelists:

Colby King, *Washington Post* columnist who grew up in Foggy Bottom  
Rev. Oliver "OJ" Johnson, who grew in Snow's Court, Foggy Bottom  
Bernard Demczuk, George Washington University  
Kim Williams, D.C. Historic Preservation Office

High school students demonstrate how they used crowdsourcing and new digital technology (MapStory, Wikitude, Wikipedia, Twitter) to present a "revitalized historical narrative" rather than "definitive information" on this key topic of urban and social history. Looking at how alley

life (1865-1935) serves as a microcosm of social issues faced by the nation following Reconstruction and into the Great Depression, students show how new media deepen the research experience and broaden its presentation. Architectural Historian/National Register Coordinator Kim Williams presents findings from the city's Historic Alley Buildings Survey of more than 750 alley buildings that have survived development, social reform, and other changes. She will ask the audience for information on additional alley buildings.

The panel discussion presents testimony of former alley dwellers and comment by scholars.

11-11:15 am Break

11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

2 - From Slavery to Freedom

Moderator: Jenny Masur, Network to Freedom, National Park Service

"Defending the Freedom-Seekers, 1862-63: The Last Fugitive Slave Cases in D.C."  
Sandra Schmidt, independent historian

"Doubling Down on Freedom: Men Who Fled Slavery to Join the Union Ranks"  
Mary Belcher, Walter Pierce Park Archaeology Project

"Contrabands: Camps and Lives"  
Alcione Amos, Anacostia Community Museum

A look at how enslaved African Americans achieved freedom during the Civil War by escaping to Washington where they landed in jails or contraband camps, found jobs for the Union government, or joined the U.S. Colored Troops. When slave owners followed their "property" to the District, numerous court cases ensued. Study of the Mt. Pleasant Plains Cemetery in Walter Pierce Park has revealed stories of fugitives who enlisted in the army.

3 - Warring over War Memorials

Moderator: Gary Scott

"Competing Constituencies: The Interwar Evolution of Washington's World War I Memorial Landscape"  
Mark Levitch, World War I Memorial Inventory Project

"Confederate Island Upon the Union's 'Most Hallowed Ground'"  
Michael Chornesky, Purdue University

"Between Commemoration and Decoration: U.S. Veterans and the Mall Memorial Movement"  
Lisanne Walma, Utrecht University (the Netherlands)

The reasons why memorials are (and are not) built occupy a central place in these three presentations. Panelists describe the failed effort to create a national World War I memorial, the battle to restore Arlington House as a monument to Confederate General Robert E. Lee, and a comparison of the complex processes that went into creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its successor memorials to the Korean and World War II veterans.

#### 4 - Transition to Home Rule

Moderator: Chris Myers Asch, *Washington History*

"Forms of Government Authorized or Proposed by Presidents, Congress, and Residents Since 1801"

Nelson Rimensnyder, independent historian

"Home Rule from Below: The Cooperative Movement in Washington, D.C."

Johanna Bockman, George Mason University

"Walter Washington: The Transition Mayor"

Toni-Michelle C. Travis, George Mason University

This year marks the 40th anniversary of modern Home Rule in the District of Columbia. Panelists survey the District's often unique forms of government over time and consider specifically how in the 1960s communities established cooperatives to supply what the government would not. Mayor Washington's success as the administrator who became the politician who led the city into its modern Home Rule era is examined.

12:30 - 2 pm

#### History Network and Lunch

Conference attendees are invited to explore the 18<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of history-related organizations and vendors who will display and discuss their activities and services.

Location: Carnegie Library Great Hall

Lunch is on your own in the neighborhood. Brown-baggers are welcome in the Map Room.

2:15 - 3:30 pm

#### Concurrent Sessions

##### 5 - African American Architects March on Washington

Moderator: Thomas Brokaw, National Organization of Minority Architects

Charles I. Cassell, FAIA

Melvin Mitchell, FAIA

Michelle A. Jones, filmmaker

Brenda Devroux, filmmaker

Excerpts from the 2012 film *Master Builders: A Documentary Featuring African American Architects in the Nation's Capital* begin this discussion of Washington's influential and prolific African American architects. The impact of the successful 1974 effort to convince the D.C.

Council to create set-asides to promote the work of African American architects on city design and building projects is considered.

##### 6 - Anticipation, Shock, and Aftermath of Washington's Civil War

Moderator: TBD

"Marching on Washington: The Threat that Never Was"

Susan Rosenvold, Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office Museum

"The Confederate Invasion of the District of Columbia, July 1864: A Study of the Defense of the Capital by Military, Political, and Social Leaders"

John A. O'Brien, independent historian

"From the District to Despair: The Moral Collapse of the 1st D.C. Cavalry during the Civil War"

Andrew Kaiser, George Washington University

New research considers how the perceived, and then real, Confederate threat to the capital influenced Union strategy and daily life in the context of how the government and Washingtonians responded to these threats.

##### 7 - Considering Race and Class among African American Women

Moderator: Ida Jones, Howard University

"'I'm a Woman Who Knows Her Own Mind': Narratives of Black Interiority, Washington, D.C. 1919-1942"

Paula C. Austin, City University of New York

"Make Me Over: New Negro Beauty Culture, 1900-1940"

Treva B. Lindsey, Ohio State University

"Marie A. D. Madre Marshall: Entrepreneur (?) and Club Woman Extraordinaire"

Patsy M. Fletcher, independent historian

Presenters expand our understanding of everyday life among the black poor and working classes of the early 20th century, and examine the agency of the affluent and middle class where aesthetics and business opportunities are concerned.

3:30 - 3:45 pm Break

3:45 - 5:30 pm

#### Concurrent Sessions

##### 8 - Gentrification and Its Discontents: Displacement and Mitigation Efforts, 1970-2013

Moderator: George Derek Musgrove, University of Maryland - Baltimore Campus

"The Ones that Got Away: The Failure of Radical Housing Policies"

Katie Wells, Syracuse University

"Changing Neighborhoods, Transforming Communities"  
Kathryn Howell, University of Texas at Austin

"Gentrification, Displacement, and Right-to-Buy Schemes in Washington, D.C."  
Carolyn Gallaher, American University

With so much experience with gentrification, D.C. has been a national leader in efforts to mitigate its effects. Panelists describe and evaluate recent gentrification in Columbia Heights, the level of displacement citywide, and the legislative responses to these developments (including the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act) by local activists and elected officials.

**9 - 1814 and 1864: Game-Changers for Metropolis, Region, and Nation**  
Moderator: TBA

"The British Attack on Public Facilities during the War of 1812"  
Benjamin Franklin Cooling, National Defense University

"The Confederate Near-Capture of Washington during the Civil War"  
Loretta Neumann, Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington

"A Partial Directory of Washington and Nearby Maryland during the Civil War"  
Timothy Dennée, D.C. Historic Preservation Office

Panelists describe the British invasion and destruction of public buildings in Washington in 1814 and its legacies for the subsequent near-failure to defend the city during the Confederate assault in 50 years later. The decisions to keep the capital here are considered, as are today's physical reminders of the Civil War's defenses and the challenge of preserving historical and park/recreational landmarks to serve today's communities. Recent research into Civil War army intelligence records reveals the fabric of life in Washington County (outside old Washington City and Georgetown).

**10 - News You Can Use: Updates on Collections in D.C. Repositories**  
Moderator: TBD

Mark Greek, Special Collections, D.C. Public Library  
Jennifer Krafchik, Kiplinger Research Library, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.  
Jennifer King, Gelman Library, George Washington University

Panelists representing the city's dominant local history collections discuss newly processed and/or donated collections. They will also present "hidden gems" that the research community tends to overlook.

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Film

*Chinatown, a portrait of contemporary life in D.C. Chinatown; a film by Yi Chen*

Set in the historic Chinatown neighborhood in Washington, D.C., this observational documentary provides an insight into the impact of gentrification on the daily lives of its residents. The film intimately follows three residents over the course of a year. Their stories give voice to the community's attempt to preserve the culture and heritage they value.

**SATURDAY, November 16, 2013**

**Location: Historical Society of Washington, D.C., at the Carnegie Library,  
801 K Street, NW**

9 – 9:30 am Opening

9:30 – 11 am

**Concurrent Sessions**

**11 - A Century of Federal Workers**  
Moderator: Kate Masur, Northwestern University

"The Picked Prostitutes of the Land": National Perceptions and Local Realities"  
I. Jessica Ziparo, Salem State University

"Public Work, Social Mobility, and Racism: Swan Marshall Kendrick and Black Federal Employment in Woodrow Wilson's Washington"  
Eric S. Yellin, University of Richmond

"The American Dream Deferred: Black Federal Workers in Washington, D.C., 1940-1980"  
Frederick Gooding, Jr., Georgetown University

This panel explores the lives of the District's federal workers from the Civil War to the Wilsonian era leading into the Civil Rights movement. While the federal government provided unprecedented employment opportunities to women and African Americans, it stumbled as it added women to the workforce in the 1860s and faltered in providing an opportunity structure to its African American workers until World War II. In the postwar workplace, though, pressure from black public sector employees led to the federal government becoming an innovator in workplace protections for all.

**12 - Campus and Complex in the Nation's Capital**

Sponsored by the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians  
Moderator: Kim Hoagland, Michigan Technological University, emerita

"Ministering to a Mind Diseased: Landscape, Architecture, and Moral Treatment at St. Elizabeths Hospital"  
Frances McMillen, D.C. Office of Historic Preservation

"The New Deal's 'Human Crop': Organized Camping for D.C.'s Underprivileged Youths at Chopawamsic RDA"

Lisa Pfueller Davidson, National Park Service

"Freedoms Lost and Gained: Entwining Prison History in the Future of Lorton Arts Foundation"  
Christine Henry, University of Maryland

Papers discuss three collections of buildings developed as centers to serve an overall purpose; in these cases, three segments of the D.C. population: the mentally ill, black and white children, and prisoners. The landscape and architectural design of each site is examined in the context of contemporary ideas about the treatment of, or care for, these vulnerable populations.

This panel is an encore presentation from the Latrobe Chapter's Tenth Biennial Symposium on the Historic Development of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., in March 2013.

### 13 - Public Facilities and Racial Equity

Moderator: Kimberly Springle, Charles Sumner School and Archives

"'Central for Cardozo!': School Transfers and the Fight for Educational Equity in D.C. in the pre-Brown Era"

Tikia K. Hamilton, Princeton University

"Exercising One's Civil Rights: The Struggle over Racial Segregation and Public Recreation in Washington, D.C., 1945-1950"

Martha H. Verbrugge, Bucknell University

Drew Yingling, Bucknell University

"Park View Playground: A Case Study in Desegregating D.C. Playgrounds, 1947-1952"

Kent Boese, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 1A, SMD 1A08

Panelists bring new insights to the familiar stories of battles to desegregate Washington schools and recreational facilities, examining how the rapid demographic changes of the post-World War II era sparked heated battles over pool desegregation and playground access and why integration was not universally embraced in the black communities.

11- 11:15 am          Break

11:15 am – 12:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

### 14 - Prince Hall Freemasonry

*This session honors the memory of Howard University librarian Donna M. Wells, 1953-2009.*

"The Origins of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the District of Columbia"

Alton G. Roundtree, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia

"Prince Hall Freemasonry in the District of Columbia and the Battle for Human Rights"  
Tehuti Evans, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia

"'For the Good of the Order': The Afternoon Tea Tradition among Prince Hall Women's Organizations in the District of Columbia 1933-1993"  
Sibyl E. Moses, Library of Congress

The three papers, by current or former editors of Prince Hall publications, explore African American fraternal life in the District through this venerable order founded in 1822 and also offer insights into civil rights and culinary history.

### 15 - Washington Food Matters

Moderator: Garrett Peck

"Why Isn't Washington a Culinary Capital? Inventing Food Traditions for D.C."

Warren Belasco, Boston University

"Historic Restaurants of Washington"

John deFerrari, Independent Historian

"The First Beery Renaissance"

Michael V.M. Stein, D.C. Beer, <http://www.dcbeer.com/>

What does D.C. mean by "local food"? Panelists examine how Washington has – or has not – developed a distinctive culinary identity, with a close look at how the current popularity of locally brewed beers compares to its immigrant-infused forebears (forebeers?). The panelists take you to the streets to see how D.C. dining styles differed from those in other cities.

### 16 - Alexandrian Retrocession and Regional Progress

Moderator: John Richardson, Arlington Historical Society

"New Perspectives on the Alexandrian Retrocession of 1846"

Richard A. Balas, College of Charleston and the Citadel

"A Little R&R: How Retrocession and the Railroad Determined the Future of Washington, D.C."

Jason Tercha, George Washington University

"In Pursuit of a National Art: 'The Peculiar Advantages' of Antebellum Washington"

Lisa Strong, Corcoran Gallery of Art

The causes of Alexandria's retrocession to Virginia are examined in light of contemporary economic, agrarian and human rights issues. How retrocession inadvertently improved the region's economy is examined, and new research suggests that, for a brief moment, the thriving, pre-Civil War capital developed into a hospitable proving ground for art and artists.

*Saturday*

12:30 – 2 pm  
Concurrent Sessions and Lunch

**17 - HGIS: Digitally Mapping History in D.C. and Beyond**  
Bring your lunch and learn how Historical Geographic Information Systems create interactive online maps of historical data that show geographic patterns that otherwise might not be detectable and lead to fresh interpretations of the past.  
Brian D. Kraft, JMT Technology Group

**18 - "A Crying Need": 100 Years of Regulating Washington's Public Utilities**  
Moderator: Betty Ann Kane, Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia

"A Photographic History of the D.C. Public Service Commission's First Century"  
Mara Cherkasky and Bill Rice, RCR Associates

"Bringing the Public to the Table: Citizen Involvement with the D.C. Public Service Commission"  
Marie Johns, L&L Consulting

In 1913 the notion that the huge corporations that provided electric, gas, streetcar, and telephone services should benefit consumers rather than investors was relatively new. Congress balked but, long before Home Rule, D.C. citizens pushed until a Public Service Commission was established here. President Taft sided with the citizens, calling regulation "a crying need." Ever since, the public has played a major role in shaping the issues before the commission, including affordability of rates, reliability, and quality of service.

2 – 2:15 pm            Break

2:15 – 3:30 pm  
Concurrent Sessions

**19 - Extraordinary Success**  
Moderator: TBD

"Slaves to Fashion: Elizabeth Keckly and Washington, D.C.'s African American Dressmakers"  
Virginia Reynolds, Detroit Institute of Arts

"A District of Columbia Family's March for Civil Rights 150 Years Ago"  
Donet D. Graves, Esq.

"The Happy Am I Preacher" Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux's Church of God and the Birth of Radio Evangelism"  
Suzanne E. Smith  
George Mason University

Three papers chart how African Americans in Washington followed singular pathways to extraordinary success, influence, and even power. Elizabeth Keckly, dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln, and her peers, not only shaped upper-class white female identity, they also found empowerment for human rights. The Wormley family, which dominated D.C. hospitality in their day, strove for human rights. Elder Michaux, the first African American radio evangelist, became one of the most successful religious leaders and media celebrities of any race in his time.

**20 - Stage for National Protests**  
Moderator: Gary Scott

"The Other March on Washington: Local Activism and Governance in the 1960 Poor People's Campaign"  
Lauren Pearlman, Yale University

"Changes to Our America: Lesser-Known Protests on the National Mall"  
M. Lindsey Bestebreurtje and Megan R. Brett  
George Mason University

Researchers describe the modern era of dramatic and forceful public protest staged on the National Mall, from the Ku Klux Klan rally of 1925 through the 1968 Poor People's Campaign and Tractorcade in 1979.

**21 - DC Community History Project: Discovering Hidden Communities**  
Moderator: Joy Austin, Humanities Council of Washington, DC

"When Was the War of 1812?" A Quiz Show — The Community of Dumbarton House during the War of 1812"  
Diane Williams, independent writer/photographer

"The Opportune Time: Through the Lens of the Community at Kairos" — The Community of Homeless Men in the Adams Morgan Neighborhood  
Matthew Jordan, Kairos House (Christ House)

"The Beauty of H Street" — The History of the Beauty and Barbershop Business on H Street, NE  
Pamela Johnson, producer

Since 2005, the DC Community Heritage Project has been supporting the documentation by residents of the history of their communities. The result has been more than 90 projects that contribute to the rich local history of Washington. This panel is a third in a series of community histories showcases as developed by those who are part of the communities. The projects speak to the diversity of neighborhoods and what is defined as community.

3:30 – 3:45 pm Break

3:45 – 5:30 pm  
Concurrent Sessions

**22 - The Archaeology of D.C. Parks**

Moderator: Ruth Troccoli

Panelists:

Chardé Reid, Jarrod Burks, TBA.

The city's Play D.C. initiative to renovate city parks has spurred widespread archaeological investigations on recreational land. This panel describes artifacts found at sites that once were cemeteries, contraband camps, Civil War defenses, and prehistoric Native American camps, and how technology was used to find them.

**23 - Citizens on the Front Lines of Place Making**

Moderator: Matthew Gilmore, H-DC [www.h-net.org/~dclist](http://www.h-net.org/~dclist)

"Life Inside a Monument and Monuments to Real Life: The Making of a Historic Landscape in Inner City Washington, D.C.

Cameron Logan, University of Melbourne

"Hope and Fear at 14th & U: The Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center and a Washington, D.C. Neighborhood Under Pressure"

Andrew Sherlock, George Washington University

"Envisioning 'Greener' Futures: Ecology, Localism, and Urban Place Making in 1970s Washington, D.C."

Jason Morris, George Mason University

Papers look at how D.C. citizens have created everyday monuments in residential neighborhoods, mitigated the displacement of gentrification in Shaw, and planted the seeds of the green urbanism movement in the 1970s.

**24 - War of 1812**

Moderator: Aaron Marcavitch, Maryland Milestones/ATHA Inc.

Panelists:

Christopher T. George, independent historian

Patrick O'Neil, independent archaeologist and historian

Christine Hughes, Naval History and Heritage Command

In anticipation of the guided bus tour "Bladensburg and the War of 1812" (Sunday, November 17), the panelists, all published authorities on the War of 1812, will provide insight into the marches on, and from, Washington in August and September of 1814 that resulted in the burning

of D.C.'s public buildings and the surrender of Alexandria. The battles' impact on slavery and the surrounding communities is also addressed.

**SUNDAY, November 17, 2013**

**Various Locations**

**Guided Tour 1: Bladensburg and the War of 1812**

Travel the route that U.S. Commodore Joshua Barney took to meet with troops at Bladensburg, then follow the route the British took to their ships in the Patuxent River. The tour will stop at the Washington Navy Yard, the Bladensburg "battlefield," Riversdale House Museum, where box lunches will be available, and Darnall's Chance/Dr. Beane's Grave before returning to Washington. Tour begins at TBA.

**Guided Tour 2: Downtown**

**Guided Tour 3: Lafayette Square**

**Guided Tour 4: The National Mall**

The 40th Annual Conference on D.C. Historical Studies is co-sponsored by Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.; Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives; Cultural Tourism D.C.; George Washington University; H-DC, Washington, DC History ([www.h-net.org/~D.C.list](http://www.h-net.org/~D.C.list)), the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Humanities Council of Washington, D.C.; Rainbow History Project; Special Collections/D.C. Public Library (Washingtoniana Division).