

28th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies

October 18-20, 2001

Thursday, October 18, 2001

The George Washington University
Dorothy Betts Marvin Center Theater
Corner of 21st and H Street, NW

7:30 p.m.

25th Annual Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture

"Ulysses S. Grant and Washington, D.C."

John Simons, editor of the Grant papers will present his perspective on President Grant's relationship to the capital city.

Friday, October 19, 2001

Media and Public Affairs Building
The George Washington University
805 21st St., NW; Washington, DC 20052

9:00 AM **REGISTRATION**

10:00 AM **WELCOME AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

Francine I. Henderson, Head, Special Collections, The George Washington University, and La Nina M. Clayton, Public Services/Collection Development Librarian, The George Washington University, *Conference Co-Chairs*

Alexander M. Padro, D.C. Preservation League, and Philip Ogilvie, The George Washington University, *Program Committee Co-Chairs*

10:30 AM **20TH CENTURY VERNACULAR MUSIC IN D.C.**

Kip Lornell, Africana Studies, The George Washington University, *Moderator*

When most people think of music in Washington, D.C., such august institutions as the Kennedy Center, the Washington Opera or the National Symphony Orchestra come most readily to mind. Though not usually thought of as a center for vernacular culture, the District of Columbia played an important role in 20th-century music. Native son Duke Ellington's early years in Washington greatly influenced his development as one of the leading figures in jazz history. Recordings and videotapes help to illustrate three popular genres of American music (go go, bluegrass, and punk) as performed and recorded in D.C.

Representing for D.C.: Go Go Music in Our Nation's Capitol

Kip Lornell, Africana Studies, The George Washington University

District Bluegrass

Christopher Flores

D.C. Punk

Mark Andersen and Mark Jenkins, Freelance Writers

Washington's Ellington

John E. Hasse, Curator of American Music, National Museum of American History

12:00 PM

LUNCH (on your own)

HISTORY NETWORK

FILM: Home: The Langston Terrace Dwellings, Barr Weissman, 1991

1:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session A

AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDMARKS: OUR ENDANGERED HERITAGE

Alexander M. Padro, Co-chair, Endangered African American Landmarks Task Force, DC Preservation League, *Moderator*

School buildings that were part of the black school system that existed in the city until 1955, the homes and offices of important figures in the Black Renaissance, theaters where African American stars appeared and even office buildings occupied by city agencies primarily staffed by Blacks, are among the irreplaceable buildings being lost at an alarming rate. Three significant Black history sites that are currently endangered will be examined by individuals working on their preservation.

The District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds Building: Washington's African American History Shrine

Alexander M. Padro, Co-chair, Endangered African American Landmarks Task Force, D.C. Preservation League

The Carter G. Woodson House: The Heart of Shaw and the Father of Black History

Gary Scott, National Park Service

Remembering the Glory: Langston Terrace Dwellings

Jerry Maronek, D.C. Preservation League

Session B

D.C. ARTS

Donald Roe, Motion Picture Division, National Archives, *Moderator*

The arts are an integral part of Washington, D.C.'s culture and play an important role in documenting and honoring the past. Shaw photographer Addison Scurlock was the preeminent recorder of the faces and events that defined Black Washington in the early 20th century. The growth of interest in African heritage has led many D.C. residents to explore dance traditions as a means of connecting to their ancestors.

The Scurlock Studio

Jeff Fearing, Photographer, Biomedical School, Howard University

Dancing to Their Own Drum: African American Dance and Dancers in Washington, D.C.

Tamara Brown, Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution

3:00 PM **BREAK**

3:15 PM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session A

LIVING IN DC: PHOTODOCUMENTARIES OF LIFE IN THE CAPITAL CITY

Donna M. Wells, Prints & Photographs Librarian, Howard University, *Moderator*

Photographers are natural historians, determining who or what should be permanently recorded on film and why. Four nationally recognized local African American photographers present and discuss how their photo documentation of Washington, D.C., neighborhoods and communities brings to life the unique history and culture of Washington, D.C.

Georgia Avenue on My Mind

Jason Miccolo Johnson

The Brookland Community

Bonita Bing

Moments in Time: Images of Washington

Milton Williams

Mount Pleasant in Focus: 10 Years Documenting the Mount Pleasant Community

Nestor Hernandez

Session B

WOMEN LAWYERS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Robert Ellis, Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, *Moderator*

Belva Lockwood, the first woman to be admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court and twice a candidate for president of the United States, and Charlotte E. Ray, the first African-American woman to be admitted to the Bar of any court in the United States, were among the pioneering female lawyers who practiced in the District of Columbia.

Belva Lockwood, First Woman to be Admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court and a Woman Lawyer in the District of Columbia

Jill Norgren, Department of Government, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York

Charlotte E. Ray, First African American Woman to be Admitted to Any Bar of a Judicial Court, and Other Early African American Women Lawyers in the District of Columbia

J. Clay Smith, Jr., Professor, Howard University School of Law

Saturday, October 20, 2001

Media and Public Affairs Building
The George Washington University

805 21st St., NW; Washington, DC 20052

9:00 AM **REGISTRATION**

10:00 AM **OUR URBAN LANDSCAPE**

Philip Ogilvie, The George Washington University, *Moderator*

Many influences have contributed to shaping the Washington, D.C., we know today. The city's namesake, who chose its site and helped to secure the property from private landowners, was himself a mapmaker. The forty stone markers that were placed in 1791 to delimit the District continue to serve their purpose. And transportation revolutions continue to play a critical role in defining this world-class city's evolving character.

George Washington: Cartographer in Chief?

Edward J. Redmond, Reference Specialist, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress

The District of Columbia Boundary Stones

Maurice J. Terman, Chairman, Nation's Capital Boundary Stone Committee

Transportation Revolutions and Their Effects on Washington, D.C.

Joseph Passonneau, Joseph Passonneau & Partners

11:30 AM **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Session A

D.C. ACTIVISM

Charles Brewer, *Moderator*

For two centuries, Washingtonians have striven to build communities and fight for equality and justice. The city's faith communities have long been centers of activism, helping to shape the physical, social, religious, and political landscape of Washington, D.C. Consumers likewise played a critical role in the struggle for civil rights in the nation's capital.

Prism of the Spirit: Church, Congregation and Community

Ida E. Jones, Manuscript Librarian, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

Competing Narratives: Consumers, Civil Rights Organizations, and the Racial Landscape of 1940s Washington

Marya Annette McQuirter, Researcher

'Both a Place and a Program': Church of the Brethren and Urban Renewal in Washington, D.C.

Jessica Elfenbein, Assistant Professor, History Department, University of Baltimore

Session B

FOGGY BOTTOM REMEMBERED

G. David Anderson, Archivist, The George Washington University, *Moderator*

Like many Washington neighborhoods, Foggy Bottom has a long and proud history, and has experienced dramatic change in the past several decades. Learn about one street's

evolution and the people who lived there over a 150-year period, and hear long-time residents' recollections about what life was like in the neighborhood in the early to mid -20th century.

Alley Life in Washington: Snow's Court, 1850-2001

William Crane

Foggy Bottom Memories: Oral History

G. David Anderson, Archivist, The George Washington University

12:30 PM

LUNCH on your own

FILM: If These Walls Could Talk: A Story of a Denomination, a Church and a People

(Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church), Sherri Ellerbe, 2000

1:30 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session A

WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC FOGGY BOTTOM

G. David Anderson, Archivist, The George Washington University

Explore the history, geography, and folklore of one of D.C.'s best-known neighborhoods. Find out how Foggy Bottom developed, who lived in the neighborhood at different periods, and what the neighborhood looked like in the past.

Session B

RESEARCHING NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY WORKSHOP

Gail Redmann, Library Director, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., and Matthew Gilmore, GIS Project Manager, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

This abridged version of a popular workshop on exploring D.C. neighborhood history through historical resources, including maps, city directories, census information, photographs, and published materials, highlights and illuminates the history of Foggy Bottom.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Alexander M. Padro, DC Preservation League, and Philip Ogilvie, The George Washington University, *Co-Chairs*; G. David Anderson, The George Washington University; Marianna Blagburn, The George Washington University; Carl C. Cole; Olga Corey; Barbara Franco, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Matthew Gilmore, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.; Lucinda Janke, Kiplinger/Washington Editors; Jane Freundel Levey; Sheri Levinsky, Decatur House Museum; Susan Malbin, Washingtoniana Collection, District of Columbia Public Library; Mary Faith Pankin, The George Washington University; Gail Redmann, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Gary Scott, National Park Service; Susan Schreiber, The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Donna M. Wells, Howard University.

The 28th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies is sponsored by the Center for Washington Area Studies, The George Washington University; The Historical

Society of Washington, D.C.; and the Washingtoniana Division of the District of Columbia Public Library.

28th Annual Conference on Washington, D.C., Historical Studies

You are cordially invited to participate in a three-day public forum on the diverse urban history of Washington, D.C. Join other historians, preservationists, neighborhood researchers, students and history buffs in this annual learning fest.

The conference is free and open to the public. Registration is at the door.

For more information call 202-785-2068x107.

Return address:

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1307 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-1507
www.hswdc.org