

“New Lives, New Freedoms”
The 42nd Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies
featuring the Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation Lecture
and the
Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture
November 12-15, 2015

Conference Program*

Thursday, November 12

6-9 pm

Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation Lecture

6-7:30 pm “Reconstruction and the Fragility of Democracy,” by Eric Foner

7:30-9 pm Reception

William G. McGowan Theater, National Archives

enter from Constitution Avenue, NW, between Seventh and Ninth Streets

The lecture is free; however, seating is limited and reservations are required.

Reconstruction (1863-1877) is perhaps the most striking example in American history of the fragility of democracy. The era witnessed a remarkable expansion of political participation, with the advent, for the first time in our history, of large numbers of black men as voters and officeholders. Yet it also witnessed a violent counter-revolution that, by the turn of the century, had wiped out the possibilities of interracial democracy for more than a half century to follow. Professor Foner’s talk will discuss the causes of both the expansion of democracy and its overthrow, and what this tells us about the history of democracy in the United States.

Eric Foner, the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University, is a leading historian of the post-Civil War Reconstruction period and has written more than 10 books on the topic. In 2011 his *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* (2010) won the Pulitzer Prize for History, the Lincoln Prize, and the Bancroft Prize.

Friday, November 13

9-9:30 am

Conference Registration

Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Carnegie Library Building, 801 K Street, NW

9:30-11 am

Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Lecture

“Scholarship, Leadership, and Incomparable Strength: Letitia Woods Brown, a Centennial Reflection” by Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, with introduction by Ida Jones

* As of 10/19/15

Professor Elizabeth Clark-Lewis will discuss Dr. Letitia Woods Brown's distinguished career as a historian and the responsibility of intellectuals to advance the field of history toward greater levels of analysis, inclusion and intellectual rigor as well as the free concourse of ideas. In the centennial year of Dr. Brown's birth, Dr. Clark-Lewis will also reflect on the impact of her rich vision, scholarly achievements, and research legacy, particularly in the fields of oral and local history.

Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, Professor of History and Director, Public History Program, Howard University, is a historian of the United States. Her *Living In, Living Out: African American Domesticity in Washington, D.C.* (1994) received the Letitia Woods Brown Prize in Women's History, and her 1991 documentary film *Freedom Bags* won the Oscar Micheaux Award.

11:15 AM-12:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

(Red session numbers indicate the conference theme of "New Lives New Freedoms.")

1 *Making Home Here: Formation of Latino Communities in and around the Nation's Capital*

Moderator: Ranald Woodaman, Smithsonian Latino Center

"The Patterns of Civic Life among Latinos in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area," Enrique Pumar, Catholic University

"Avocado Dreams: Salvadorans in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area," Ana Patricia Rodriguez, University of Maryland, College Park

"Living in and Constructing New Places in Latino Washington, D.C.," Maria Sprehn, Montgomery College

"This Is My D.C.: Place and Belonging in Urban Latino Identity Construction," Amelia Tseng, American University

Panelists from the disciplines of anthropology, sociolinguistics, literary analysis, and demography explore the many Latino migrations to Washington that have yielded an array of Latino civic organizations and communities. The speakers will discuss the resulting challenges of gentrification, place, and especially the formation of Latino identities as "ethnic Washingtonians."

2 *A Multi-Cultural History of Washington: Perspectives through the DC Community Heritage Project*

Moderator: Louis Hicks, Humanities DC

"D.C. Women Eco-Leaders," Ada Vilageliu Diaz, Ecohermanas

"Komorebi Project," Jenny Chen, Komorebi

"Documenting 20 Years of KhushDC," Kingston Kodan, KhushDC

Panelists offer several perspectives on the District's multi-faceted, multicultural and ethnic heritage. Diaz discusses the "Near the River Project," to document women of color who live, worship, and heal the Anacostia River along with women working for environmental justice for the rapidly changing river environs. Chen's Komorebi Project illuminates the Asian diasporic experience for mixed-race and multi-ethnic Asian

Americans. Kodan discusses the history of the formation and work of KhushDC, a Washington-area South Asian LGBTQ social and advocacy group.

3 Making Visible the Family Histories of Early Washington, D.C.

Moderator and Discussant: Christopher E. Haley, Maryland State Archives

“Place, Time and Family,” Lauret Savoy, Mount Holyoke College

“Recovering Family Networks in Early Washington, D.C.,” William G. Thomas III, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“New Freedom: Taking Research into the 21st Century,” Karen Needles, Lincoln Archives Digital Project

The intersection of personal family history with traditional sources, such as court records of freedom petitions, underpins this discussion of the recovery of family history as a scholarly endeavor. Participants present the results of their search for evidence of the complex social, legal, and religious networks among multiple generations of D.C. area mixed race, enslaved, and free families.

12:45-1:45 PM LUNCH AND HISTORY NETWORK

Expand your horizons at the History Network! A variety of organizations working to document, preserve and share local area history will be on hand in the Great Hall to share information about their activities. Lunch (sit-down or take-out) is available nearby in the neighborhood. Brown-baggers are welcome to eat in the Map Room.

2-3:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4 Agents of Change in Post-World War II D.C.

Moderator: Sandra Schmidt, independent historian

“Fighting for New Lives: Veterans and the Struggle for Housing in Postwar D.C.,” Ludivine Gilli, independent historian

“Police, Community and the War on Poverty in the District of Columbia,” James Blondell, George Mason University

“Mayday 1971: The Art of Protest in Washington, D.C.,” Stephen F. Lorenz, George Washington University

Social change and upheaval marked the second half of the 20th century. Gilli explores how World War II veterans coped with the post-war housing crisis. Blondell looks at a late-1960s experiment in community policing, when the majority African American city had a largely white, non-resident police force. Lorenz describes how the vernacular culture of civil disobedience against the Vietnam War in 1971 became a transformative American art form.

5 Documenting the District

Moderator: Sylvia Augusteijn, Assistant Librarian, Norwood School and independent archivist

“Documenting the District: Issues, Strategies and Models,” Jennifer King, George Washington University Libraries

“Documenting the District: The District of Columbia Africana Archives Project,” Alexandra Krensky, George Washington University Libraries

“The Oral History Project—Mayoral Campaign 1978,” Diane Lewis, The Oral History Project—Mayoral Campaign 1978

Archivists, as gatekeepers to the historical record, play a large role in shaping the field of history. These three panelists consider how collecting decisions are made, and explore how two important current collaborative initiatives to collect and enable access to recent history are proceeding.

6 Power and Water: The Foundations of a Better Life in D.C.

Moderator: Bill Rice, writer/columnist, collector, and DC history advocate

“Pure Water and the Red Oak Spring Company,” Kim Williams, D.C. Historic Preservation Office, and Andrea Mones, Building-Knowledge

“Streetcars, Electricity and the Transformation of Washington,” John DeFerrari, author, *Capital Streetcars*

“Electrifying the Suburbs,” Kent Boese, independent historian

This panel considers several turn-of-the-20th-century innovations in power and water technology and their impact on D.C. development. Williams and Mones discuss the city’s water supply and the role played by the Red Oak Spring Company in bottling and selling spring water. DeFerrari focuses on the late-19th-century transition to electric power for streetcars and its role in enhancing living conditions for Washingtonians. Boese traces the development of Pepco substations as elements of new urban communities.

7 Constructing New Lives and Institutions in Antebellum Washington

Moderator: Kenneth R. Bowling, First Federal Congress Project

“Institutionalizing Knowledge in Washington’s Early Republic,” George D. Oberle III, George Mason University

The Politics of Knowledge in Antebellum Washington: Proposals versus Practice in the Creation of the Smithsonian Institution,” Robert Adcock, American University

“Varieties of Freedom and Unfreedom in the New National Capital,” Lynn Price, George Mason University

Panelists consider how the dynamic interplay among personal, political, and social identities in the early republic helped define the direction and meaning of the city and the new nation. Efforts to promote education and learning, as well as the transition from slavery to freedom in a slave-holding city, all had far-reaching impacts.

3:45-5:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

8 Gentrification Gone Wild: Race, Class and Politics in Washington, D.C.

Moderator: Gregory Squires, George Washington University

“Making the Gilded Ghetto: The Redevelopment of D.C.’s Shaw/U Street Neighborhood,” Derek Hyra, American University

“We Are Headed for Some Bad Trouble: Gentrification and Displacement in Washington, D.C., 1920-2014,” Chris Myers Asch, Colby College, and George Derek Musgrove, University of Maryland- Baltimore County

“Peeling Back the Layers: Contextualizing African American Responses to Gentrification in D.C.,” Sabiyha Prince, Anacostia Community Museum

“H Street, Main Street, and the Neoliberal Aesthetics of Cool,” Brandi Thompson Summers, Virginia Commonwealth University

Panelists assess how historical patterns of race- and class-based inequality shape today’s urban status quo. New economic and political forces, including emerging racial tolerance and preferences for urban living, are seen in the context of the historical gentrifications that took place in Georgetown, Shaw/U Street, and H Street, NE. These trends can be taken as texts for understanding how race, class, and politics intersect to influence, or fail to influence, redevelopment.

9 Leadership Legacy of the Civil War

Moderator: Mark Greek, DC Public Library

“Finding God’s Purpose for the Civil War: Lincoln’s Relationship with His Pastor, Rev. Dr. Phineas D. Gurley of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church,” John O’Brien, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

“New Veterans, Timeless Concerns: The Civil War’s Aftermath in Washington, D.C.,” James Deutsch, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

“From Pea Ridge to the Potomac: Lemon G. Hine and Civil War Washington, D.C.,” Ryan P. Semmes, Mississippi State University Libraries

Panelists report on three original perspectives on the Civil War-era city: the beliefs and background of Lincoln’s influential pastor, a soldier’s eye-witness account of the Civil War city, and a study of Civil War veterans’ issues. Together they yield insights into the everyday impact of the national tragedy.

10 Historical Archeology of Special Places

Moderator: Ruth Troccoli, DC Historic Preservation Office

“Urban Archaeology: Making Sense of Archeological Objects With and Without Provenience,” Jerry L. Foust, Dumbarton House

“Cemetery Archaeology in DC,” Chardé Reid, D.C. Historic Preservation Office

“Prayer for Relief: Archeological Excavations within a Portion of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery (Site 51NE049), Washington, D.C.,” Boyd Sipe, Thunderbird Archeology/WSSI

“The Bioarchaeology of the Columbian Harmony Cemetery Series (51NE049), Washington, D.C.,” Dana D. Kollmann, Towson University

Burial grounds were once considered permanent, but within the D.C. city limits, many been transformed or disturbed by development. Panelists describe how invisible former cemeteries are identified, the sensitive process of excavating and interpreting remains from former cemeteries, and how artifacts excavated from Dumbarton House grounds over the years contribute to our knowledge of the past.

6:30-8 PM FILM DOCUMENTARIES AND DISCUSSION

11 Back in the Day (Part I)

Moderator: Dan Silverman, PoPville.com

“The Pride and Promise of Petworth,” a film by Lois Cooper, District of Columbia African American Legacy Foundation (23 min.)

Petworth is a diverse community that has experienced many changes over the past century. This video gives a thorough history of this charming neighborhood and all that it has to offer.

“The Campaigns of Molly Hundley,” a film by Marvin Jones (33 min.)

From 1921 to 1955, Mrs. Mary Gibson Hundley was an exacting teacher of French and Latin at Dunbar High School. This film tells of her efforts to move students to excellent levels of education and mission while broadening their choices of colleges during the Jim Crow era, and her own battles against mediocrity and racism.

Discussants: Linda Crichlow-White, D.C. Public Schools, retired; James Pittman, Dunbar Alumni Association

Grab supper from D.C.’s finest food trucks parked outside and bring it back into the Carnegie Library to enjoy while you watch two short films and talk with the filmmakers.

Saturday, November 14

9-9:30 am

Conference Registration

Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Carnegie Library Building, 801 K Street, NW

9:30-11 AM PLENARY SESSION

12 The State of D.C. Historical Studies

Moderator: Martin Austermuhle, WAMU

Panelists; Christopher Klemek, George Washington University; Bill Stevens, Seed School; John DeFerrari, StreetsofWashington.com; Alcione Amos, Anacostia Community Museum; Kerry Sylvia, School Without Walls.

Join your friends and colleagues to consider the state of the field, focusing on university, secondary school, blogosphere, and public history activities.

11:15 AM-12 NOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS

13 *Antebellum Insights*

Moderator: Alison T. Mann, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

“Henry Foxhall: Confederate Cannon Founder?” Jane Donovan, West Virginia University

Donovan describes how an accident of geography meant that Washington industrialist Henry Foxhall posthumously armed the Confederacy.

14 *The Wages of War*

Moderator: Brian Rohal, Thurgood Marshall Academy

“Enemies in our Midst?: The Heurich Family and Rumors in World War I,” Mark E. Benbow, Marymount University

“Healing the Past: The Civil War Legacy of W. W. Corcoran,” Mark Goldstein, independent historian

The disruptions of the Civil War and World War I inspired two powerful Washington families to acts of patriotism even though Washingtonians treated them with suspicion. For the Heurich family, rumors questioning their loyalty haunted them throughout the war. For W.W. Corcoran, who sat out the Civil War in Europe, his underlying nationalism led him to support the rebuilding of southern institutions destroyed by the war, including in his native Washington.

15 *Reconstruction Sites and Stories in Washington, DC*

Moderator: Jane Freundel Levey, managing editor, *Washington History*, and consulting curator, George Washington University Museum

“Reconstruction in Washington, DC,” Lauren Hughes, National Park Service

“The Freedmen’s Bureau and Education in Washington, DC,” Dean Herrin, National Park Service

The National Park Service has begun identifying historic sites, people, and events associated with Reconstruction in the Washington, D.C., area. This session considers these sites, particularly those associated with the Freedmen’s Bureau, the government agency established in 1865 to care for the needs of the newly freed four million enslaved in the South.

12 NOON-1:30 PM LUNCH

12:30-1:15 PM *Six Authors in the Map Room with a Pen*

Moderator: Mark E. Benbow, Marymount University

DC Sports, ed., Chris Elzey and David Wiggins

Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, by Diane Kiesel

Gay Is Good: The Life & Letters of Gay Rights Pioneer Frank Kameny, ed., Michael G. Long

Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C., by Garrett Peck
The Peace That Almost Was, by Mark Tooley
Four Generations of Washingtonians, by Jennifer Yacovissi

In a twist on speed dating, join six authors for six individual quick talks on their newly published D.C. history books. Copies are available for purchase.

1:30 – 3 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

16 *Laying Foundations for Civil Rights Victories*

Moderator: Brian Rohal, Thurgood Marshall Academy

“The Influence of Booker T. Washington in Our Nation’s Capital,” Nancy Murray, National Park Service

“ ‘Jim Crow Must Go’: African American Women and the Struggle for Civil Rights in the 1930s and 1940s,” Mary-Elizabeth B. Murphy, Eastern Michigan University

“Printing Equality and Justice for All: Gender and Race in the Wartime Bureau of Engraving and Printing,” Margaret C. Rung, Roosevelt University

On the centennial of the death of Booker T. Washington, Murray looks at his time working and studying in D.C. and the impact he had on Mary McLeod Bethune and Carter G. Woodson. Murphy and Rung examine how African American women, both in the workplace and in the community, pressed for civil rights in the 1930s and ‘40s, setting the stage for the desegregation victories of the 1950s and the restoration of voting rights in the 1960s.

17 *Housing Policies and Gentrification: Urban Homesteading to HOPE VI*

Moderator: Michael Diamond, Georgetown University Law Center

“Urban Homesteading on the Capitol’s Doorstep,” David Rotenstein, independent historian

“The Ellen Wilson Dwellings, HOPE VI, and Gentrification on Capitol Hill,” Johanna Bockman, George Mason University

“A Housing Crisis, a Failed Law, and a Property Conflict: The D.C. Urban Speculation Tax,” Katie Wells, Virginia Tech

Looking at some of the policy origins of gentrification, the panelists consider the intentions and outcomes of experimental D.C. programs designed after 1974 to preserve and/or upgrade neighborhoods and create alternative housing forms for low-income and middle-class residents while respecting the rights of tenants.

18 *Washington Revolutions: Students Engaged in Research*

Moderator: Patrick Cronin, co-director, The Humanities And Technology (THAT) summer program

“Charting the Course of the 1968 Riots,” Caleb Aryee, Aaron Brooks, Brian Davis, Diego Esparza, and James Mitchell, THAT program participants

“Beyond the Boss: Alexander Shepherd and the ‘Boss’ Charge,” Zach Klitzman, Curt C. and Else Silberman Fellow

“Home Rule,” VonCedric Kelley, Curt C. and Else Silberman Fellow

In the summer of 2015, five high school students created an original digital humanities project on the 1968 riots in Washington, D.C. Working from the DC Public Library's Special Collections, students also looked at primary sources in the National Archives, the Metropolitan Police Department Archives (which are closed to the public), the D.C. Fire/EMS Museum Archives, and other repositories and learned to represent data visually using ArcGIS and ESRI StoryMaps. Students will reflect on the pilot project, its partnerships, and use of archival materials as a learning tool. Completing the panel are presentations from an undergraduate from the University of Maryland and an American University graduate student who considered the question of how the fragility of American democracy influenced the activities of Alexander “Boss” Shepherd and advocates of Home Rule.

19 Donna M. Wells Memorial Session

Presenting . . . the D.C. Sound!

Moderator: Ida Jones, independent historian

“It Don’t Mean a Thing, If It Ain’t Got that Swing: U Street Memories from Duke Ellington to Marvin Gaye: an Oral History Project,” Kelly Elaine Navies, DC Public Library

“D.C. Rhythm & Blues Music, An Overlooked Legacy,” Sandra Butler-Truesdale, DC Legendary Musicians

“Airing the Living Sound: Jazz Radio,” Rusty Hassan

“The Legacy of Felix Grant—Washington, D.C.’s Voice of Jazz,” Judith Korey, University of the District of Columbia

From the 1930s to the 1960s, a distinctive “D.C. Sound” developed that influenced Washington’s music, culture, and fashion. Presenters look at defining, expressing, and documenting the DC Sound. Navies and Hassan consider expressions of jazz while Judith Korey of the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives and Sandra Butler-Truesdale of DC Legendary Musicians discuss the current state of the preservation of the D.C. Sound and of the social supports provided to older musicians in need.

3:15- 4:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

20 Segregation, Desegregation, and Re-segregation Remake D.C. Neighborhoods and Schools

Moderator: Charlene Drew Jarvis, former research scientist, D.C. Councilmember and university president

“Mapping Segregated Schools in Washington, D.C.,” Sarah Shoenfeld and Mara Cherkasky, Prologue DC

“Leading the Way: The Establishment of Archbishop Carroll High School and the Quest for Racial Integration of Education in Washington,” Roger A. Fairfax, Jr., George Washington University School of Law

“Building Community After Upheaval: DC Public Schools in the 1960s,” Joyce Jamison, DC Public Schools, retired

“Brown v. Board of Education and Its Effect in Brookland: A Personal Story,” Margaret A. Chambers, former DC Public Schools student

After a map-based survey of DC’s segregated schools, panelists consider the groundbreaking role of the Archdiocese of Washington in desegregating its schools a full three years before *Brown*. Then two eyewitnesses to the impact of desegregation in public schools, a former student and a former principal, relate their experiences and their efforts to build community in an era of urban renewal displacements.

21 The Latino GLBT History Project

Moderator: Eric Palladini, consultant, World Bank

“LHP Activists and Activism,” Jose Plaza, Latino GLBT History Project

“Creating a Queer Archive,” Esther Hidalgo, DC Public Library

“Breaking the Silence: The AIDS Epidemic in the D.C. GLBT Community,” Jose Gutierrez, Latino GLBT History Project

“Documenting Narratives of Activism,” Letitia Gomez, co-editor, *Queer Brown Voices*

Members of this 15-year-old project to preserve and document the Latino GLBT community have also made history by participating in Latino GLBT activism. The project’s collection especially focuses on the stories of Central American refugees from the region’s violence and civil wars. Panelists examine the community’s response to the AIDS epidemic, Latino leadership in broader GLBT efforts, and the project’s work collecting today for tomorrow and mobilizing for rights.

22 D.C.’s Home Rule Decade: Context, Policy and Politics in the Campaign for Local Autonomy

Moderator: Zachary Schrag, George Mason University

“Local Democracy versus the Nation-State in Washington and Paris,” Christopher Klemek, George Washington University

“From Great Society to Law-and-Order: Evolution of National Policy for the Federal City,” Bell Julian Clement, George Washington University

“Guerilla War, the Circus, and Protest: Interpretations of the 1968 Washington, D.C. Riots and Boilerplate Solutions,” Kyla Sommers, George Washington University

In this look at D.C.’s tumultuous decade of 1965-1975, Klemek begins by tracing parallels between home rule struggles in Washington and Paris. Clement describes the policy transition from measures designed to spur citizen participation to restrictions aimed at holding down civil disorders. Sommers considers three distinct interpretations of the 1968 riots and how they bolstered each group’s already established political agenda.

5:30 – 7 PM DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION

23 Back in the Day (Part II)

Moderator: Jane Freundel Levey

“F Street: The Place on the Ridge” a film by Phil Portlock (50 min.)

This video portrait of downtown D.C.'s historic Main Street looks at the history of F Street, NW, from Third to 15th Street. The filmmaker examines how F Street has held its own for nearly 200 years as the tide of commerce has ebbed and flowed, often leaving in its wake empty streets and vacant buildings. In addition to historic views, the filmmaker photographed a year in the life of F Street from 1990 to 1991.

Sunday, November 15

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Walking Tours

Please note: there is an additional fee to register for walking tours: \$5

All tours begin at 12:30 pm and last for approximately 90 minutes. Non-conference attendees are welcome; advance registration is required.

1 Bloomingdale, Its Architecture and Integration History

Sarah Shoenfeld, lead historian for the LeDroit Park/Bloomingdale Heritage Trail and principal, Prologue DC, LLC

Tucked between North Capitol and Second Streets, NW, is a tree-lined enclave of early 20th-century brick rowhouses, many built by the era's dominant developers. Bloomingdale, named for an estate divided and sold in 1889, and only two miles north of the U.S. Capitol, developed as the North Capitol streetcar line was extended. The location and housing stock made it an easy commute. It especially attracted African Americans, many of whom were employed at nearby Howard University. The tour introduces many prominent former residents including the attorney who helped abolish racially restricted housing nationwide based on a case in Bloomingdale. Discover the architects who gave these blocks their distinctive character and the location of a "secret" park. Meet at the triangle park at First and R Streets, NW; end at Second and T.

2 Dupont Circle: Home to Elegance and Diversity

Carolyn Crouch, Washington Walks

Named for a scion of the prominent Delaware family, Dupont Circle evolved from a hardscrabble wilderness to become Washington's most fashionable late 19th-century address. Mansions and elegant row houses from the period remain as single-family residences, museums, bed-and-breakfasts, embassies, or non-profit organizations. The lively neighborhood remains the heart of Washington's LGBT community. The tour takes a look at a "brewmaster's castle," then it's on to Dupont Circle itself, center for people watching and chess matches. See the former headquarters of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a church that rose from the ashes to become a beacon of social activism. Throughout are stunning rowhouses. Begin the walk outside the south exit of the Dupont Circle Metro station (Dupont Circle and 19th Street, NW). The walk will conclude near 17th and Q Streets, NW.

3 Lafayette Square During the Civil War

John O'Brien, independent researcher on Lincoln in Civil War Washington

Lincoln's election in November 1860 profoundly affected the residential stability of our young nation's already historic city park: Lafayette Square. Once secession began, the (mostly southern) Democrats who dominated the area since President Andrew Jackson's time gave way entirely to Lincoln Republicans. The neighborhood retained its attraction as home to the powerful in Congress, military, and the cabinet. This tour discusses the houses on the square and near the White House and their occupants, from the Buchanan Administration through Lincoln's. Stories relate President Lincoln's connections to events in the park, and his relationships with well-known local figures who helped him successfully manage a war and the "new birth of freedom," slavery's abolition. The tour will begin and end at the Jackson statue, the park's centerpiece.

4 Seventh Street in the 19th Century

Mary Alexander, interpretive consultant, Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office

This walk in today's Penn Quarter begins on the south steps of the National Portrait Gallery/American Art Museum, F Street at Eighth Street, NW, and discusses the old Patent Office as you make your way along Seventh Street to #437, where you will learn of the role of Clara Barton in assisting families of missing Civil War soldiers in uncovering the fates of their loved ones. Discover how Clara Barton worked as a public servant, how the Missing Soldiers Office fit into other activities of Seventh Street, how historic preservation has been practiced in the neighborhood, and how the Missing Soldiers Office museum is enlivening its site interpretation with 21st-century parallels. Your walk will end on Seventh Street at E Street.

5: Walt Whitman in Washington

Garrett Peck, author

Join the author of *Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C.*, on a tour of sites related to Whitman's decade in D.C. (1862-1873). Begin at the Patent Office (National Portrait Gallery/Smithsonian American Art Museum), where Whitman volunteered and worked, and site of Lincoln's second inauguration ball in 1865. The tour continues down Seventh Street to Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office, then to Ford's Theatre, where Whitman's lover Peter Doyle witnessed the Lincoln assassination. We visit Freedom Plaza to see two Whitman quotes carved in granite. End at the Treasury, where Whitman worked for much of his federal career. The tour begins at Eighth and F Streets, NW, under the "Walt Whitman Way" sign (National Portrait Gallery/American Art Museum's south entrance).

The 42nd Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies is co-sponsored by the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.; Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives; D.C. Historic Preservation Office, Office of Planning; George Washington University; the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; Humanities DC; and Special Collections, DC Public Library.

The lecture “Reconstruction and the Fragility of Democracy” with Eric Foner and reception is sponsored by the Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation. The foundation honors Curt C. Silberman (1908-2002) a jurist, educator, community leader, and organizer of numerous Jewish organizations and social agencies in Germany and the United States. As a young lawyer in Germany, Curt witnessed the disintegration of that country’s fragile democratic institutions and the suffering of his generation that ensued. He was determined that the memory of that suffering not paralyze, but educate future generations. He devoted his life to fighting for the rights of the victims of Nazi persecution, and to assuring that the roots of prejudice and the Holocaust, and the lessons thereof, are understood, so as to serve for the betterment of society. It is this legacy that guides the work of the Curt C. and Else Silberman Foundation.

Conference Committee: Brett Abrams, Mark Benbow, Johanna Bockman, John DeFerrari, Mark Greek, Karen Harris, Lucinda P. Janke, Ida Jones, Jennifer King, Chris Klemek, Jane Freundel Levey, Adam Lewis, Jenny Masur, John O’Brien, Brian Rohal, Sandra Schmidt, Ruth Trocolli, Gary Scott, Kimberley Springle, John Suau, Mary Ternes, Ranald Woodaman