



THE SUPREME COURT  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Quarterly

VOLUME XLI

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## The Investiture of Justice Kavanaugh: 102<sup>nd</sup> Associate Justice of the Court

In a special sitting of the Court, an investiture ceremony was held for Associate Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh on November 8, 2018. While the investiture ceremony is largely symbolic, it is a time-honored tradition. The new Justice, dressed in his judicial robe, was escorted into the Courtroom by the Clerk of the Court, Scott Harris. There, he was seated in the well of the Courtroom in the same chair used by Chief Justice John Marshall during the early 19th century. The chair has played a role in the investiture of every member of the Court since Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. took his Judicial Oath in 1972. Justice Kavanaugh's wife Ashley, their two daughters, Margaret and Liza, and his parents were seated in the first row of the Bar section behind the Justice.

The Marshal of the Court, Pamela Talkin, performed her customary duties with one notable exception. Just prior to calling the Court to order, she announced "All rise, the President of the United States and the First Lady." The President and First Lady were seated next to retired Justice Anthony M. Kennedy in the first row of chairs in front of the Justices' Box. Seated at counsel table that day were other participants in the ceremony; Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein, and Solicitor General Noel Francisco.

Once the members of the Court were seated at the Bench,

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., recognized the Acting Attorney General, who moved to have Justice Kavanaugh's commission read by the Clerk of the Court and entered into the permanent records. Following the reading of the commission, Deputy Clerk of the Court, Laurie Wood escorted the new Justice to the Bench and the Clerk of

the Court escorted the Justice to the center of the Bench. The other Justices stood while Chief Justice Roberts administered the Judicial Oath to Justice Kavanaugh, with the Clerk standing between them holding a Bible. Following the administration of the oath, the other members of the Court greeted the new Justice, shaking hands with him before he was directed to his seat at the Bench. Chief Justice Roberts closed the ceremony by wishing Justice



**Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh (left) and Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., were photographed on the day of Justice Kavanaugh's investiture.**

Photograph by Fred Schilling

Kavanaugh a "long and happy career in our common calling." The special sitting was then adjourned. The President and First Lady did not attend the reception, but they did have a chance to visit briefly with the members of the Court just prior to the investiture ceremony.

At the time of his nomination to the Supreme Court, Justice Kavanaugh was serving as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit where he had served since 2006. He was sworn in as the 102nd Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on October 6, 2018 in a private ceremony in the Justices' Conference

*Investiture Continued on Page 4*

## A Letter from the President



Recent months have brought both joy and sadness to the Society. In the fall we concluded a very successful lecture series centered on the Court and World War I. These programs were planned to coordinate with the Centennial of the end of that War and they provided some fascinating insight into that difficult period. In January, the Society was honored to co-sponsor a conference in

Puerto Rico which celebrated the achievements and roles of women in the law in Puerto Rico. The panel discussion included Justice Sotomayor and paid tribute to the many accomplishments of women of Puerto Rican ancestry. The next issue of this magazine will feature an article giving more details about this program. Among other successful activities, issues of the **Journal** were produced, favorable publicity for **Table 4 Nine** continued, and interesting objects were acquired for the archives collection.

Along with these positive developments, however, came the loss of several leaders and colleagues. In September, Sheldon Cohen, our Treasurer for two decades, passed away. He and his wife, Faye, who died earlier in 2018, were

both ardent supporters of the Society. Sheldon was a native Washingtonian with an impressive memory of important people and events. He was an accomplished tax attorney and served as the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. Having witnessed and participated in so much history in Washington, he was a source of fascinating stories. For example, he was a close confidante of Lyndon B. Johnson, he knew the Kennedys personally and he served as the executor for the estate of William O. Douglas. He enjoyed telling the story of being one of a number of boy scouts and leaders who lined the driveway at the White House to welcome foreign dignitaries. An ardent admirer of President Lincoln, his collection of historical items included a check signed by Lincoln. His financial acumen served the Society well, as did his congenial and winning manner. Faye donated to the Society a number of objects of historical importance. This couple were two of the Society's finest supporters.

In November Orazio Miceli, our long-time Director of Membership, lost his four-year battle with cancer. He faced his challenges with both dignity and optimism. He was an avid collector of documents of historical significance. For example, the article on page eight (8) about the *Freedom Train*, was inspired by a wonderful collection of materials Orazio accumulated and donated to the Society. We are happy to share the fruits of his passion for collecting as a tribute to him.

Another significant loss came in late January, when Ralph I. Lancaster, Jr., Chair of the Board Emeritus passed away in Portland, Maine. Ralph served as a Trustee, President, Chair of the Board, and finally as Chair Emeritus of the Board throughout his more than two decades of leadership with the Society. He was an important force for change and for good throughout his service. As an example, he was a great proponent of creating a web site that would serve as "a window to the world" for the Society, and he never ceased to advocate for improving and expanding it. After a careful reading of the Society's original goals, he became the driving force behind the special publication documenting the history of the Federal Courts.

Photo by Steve Petteway



Faye (left) and Sheldon Cohen are shown here with Society Vice President Dorothy Goldman. Sheldon served for twenty years as Treasurer of the Society. He and Faye were ardent supporters of the Society and made many contributions to the Society.

## Quarterly

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Managing Editor Kathleen Shurtleff

Advisory Editor James B. O'Hara

One of the first great services Ralph performed for the Society was his work as the National Membership Chair. In that role Ralph recruited a network of chairs throughout the country and proceeded to communicate with them via electronic messages, letters and telephone calls, encouraging, and perhaps occasionally, prodding them to complete their goals. Under his direction, membership expanded to the highest level it has ever enjoyed.

Ralph was also called upon to serve as the Chair of the Committee that worked to secure a commemorative coin for the Society. This involved hundreds of email messages, calls, and personal visits to members of Congress to secure the votes required to support the bill. With his characteristic tenacity, he persuaded, cajoled, and admonished the members of his Committee to accomplish the task. At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees following the passage of the bill, Ralph was presented with a sizeable book to commemorate this achievement. It was a very limited publication; it contained copies of every email Ralph sent over the months to the members of his committee concerning the project.

Outside his considerable service to the Society, Ralph had many other achievements, including serving as the President of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He had the honor of being appointed to serve as a Special Master for the Supreme Court on four separate cases of original jurisdiction—an unprecedented number of such appointments.

In a short obituary he wrote just prior to his death, Ralph spoke of his family, his friends, and his faith as the most treasured memories of his long life. The modesty and sincerity of his words are a wonderful reflection of an outstanding human being who made an impact on every organization and person with whom he interacted. We salute him and are committed to continuing the growth and vitality of this organization that he loved and served.

I am grateful to you, our members, for your continuing support and confidence. Plans are being made for future programs. The Annual Meeting will be held on June 3, 2019. One of the highlights will be the Annual Lecture, which this year will be a conversation between our Trustee David Rubenstein and Justice Clarence Thomas. We are honored that the Justice has agreed to take time at the end of the Term

to participate in this program. Later in June, two sessions of the Summer Institute will be conducted for teachers from across the Nation who will have the opportunity to learn from leading professionals about the Court and how it functions.



Photo by Steve Petteway

**After Ralph (left) completed three years as President of the Society, he received a custom-made bow tie created from fabric that had been part of the draperies in the Court Room. Chief Justice Roberts, Honorary Chair of the Board, presented the tie to him.**

The National Heritage Lecture given at the end of June will be hosted by the White House Historical Association.

You can take pride in the accomplishments of the Society which would not be possible without your continuing generosity and support. On behalf of the officers and trustees of the Society, I thank you for your confidence in our leadership and for your participation. We are committed to working with you to provide programs and publications of high quality, in keeping with the lofty goals outlined by the founders in 1974.

*Chilton D. Varner*

## Members of the John Marshall Circle

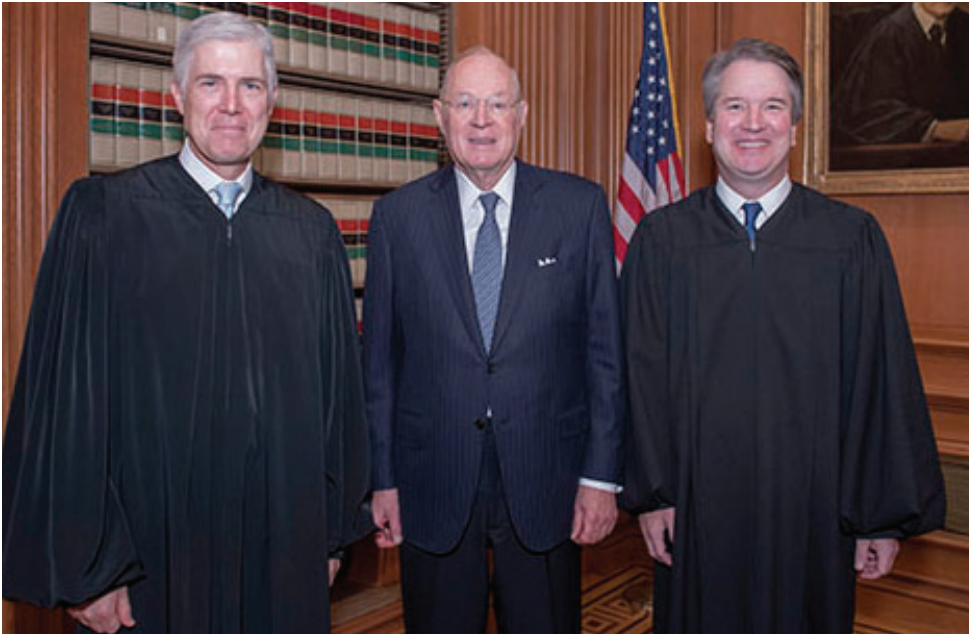
Many of you have become members of this year's John Marshall Circle and are patiently awaiting delivery of your Marshall Coin Box. We are sad to say that Pete DiBlasio, who has hand-crafted from a single oak tree that stood on the grounds of the court for many years, each and every box in painstaking detail recently, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away.

Recognizing the beauty and importance of this work, and in tribute to his dear friend, a colleague and friend of Pete's will be completing this year's John Marshall Coin Boxes.

For those of you still awaiting this treasure – thank you for your patience and for your support of the John Marshall Circle.



Photograph by Fred Schilling



**Justices Neil M. Gorsuch and Brett M. Kavanaugh (right) posed with retired Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (center) for whom they had both clerked at one time.**

Room. Chief Justice Roberts administered the Constitutional Oath and retired Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy administered the Judicial Oath.

Justice Kavanaugh is the second Justice appointed to the Court who had clerked for Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

Both he and Justice Neil M. Gorsuch clerked for Justice Kennedy earlier in their careers. Justice Gorsuch had the unique experience of clerking for both Justices Byron White and Kennedy during his year of clerkship. Justice Gorsuch was appointed to the Court following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Justice Kavanaugh was appointed to fill the vacancy created upon the retirement of his previous boss, Justice Kennedy, making him the second person currently serving on the Court to fill the position vacated by the person for whom he had clerked. Chief Justice Roberts was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of his previous employer, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. Currently, five Justices serve on the Court who served as law clerks at the Court.

They are: Chief Justice Roberts (Rehnquist), Justice Breyer (Goldberg), Justice Kagan (Marshall), Justice Gorsuch (White/Kennedy) and Justice Kavanaugh (Kennedy).

Photograph by Fred Schilling



**Prior to the investiture ceremony for Justice Kavanaugh, President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump were photographed with the members of the Court. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was unable to attend as she was recovering from recent surgery. Pictured from left to right: retired Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy; Associate Justices Neil M. Gorsuch, Sonia Sotomayor, Stephen G. Breyer, Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., President Trump and Mrs. Trump, Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh and Mrs. Ashley Kavanaugh, and Associate Justices Samuel A. Alito, Jr., and Elena Kagan.**



## Esther Williams and Thurgood Marshall: The Swope Park Pool Desegregation Case

While most students of the Civil Rights Movement associate Kansas with the landmark case *Brown v. The Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954); Kansas City, Missouri,

Hollywood productions featuring synchronized swimming and showcasing Williams as the centerpiece. Hers became a household name.

The case in Kansas City involved a young woman with the same name but not the same fame. The case concerned two public pools located in Kansas City. The first was located in the large public park, Swope Park. The second was located in the much smaller Paseo Park also located in the city. The Swope Park pool was designated for “whites” only. A second pool at Paseo Park was smaller but in the heart of the area where most African-Americans lived.

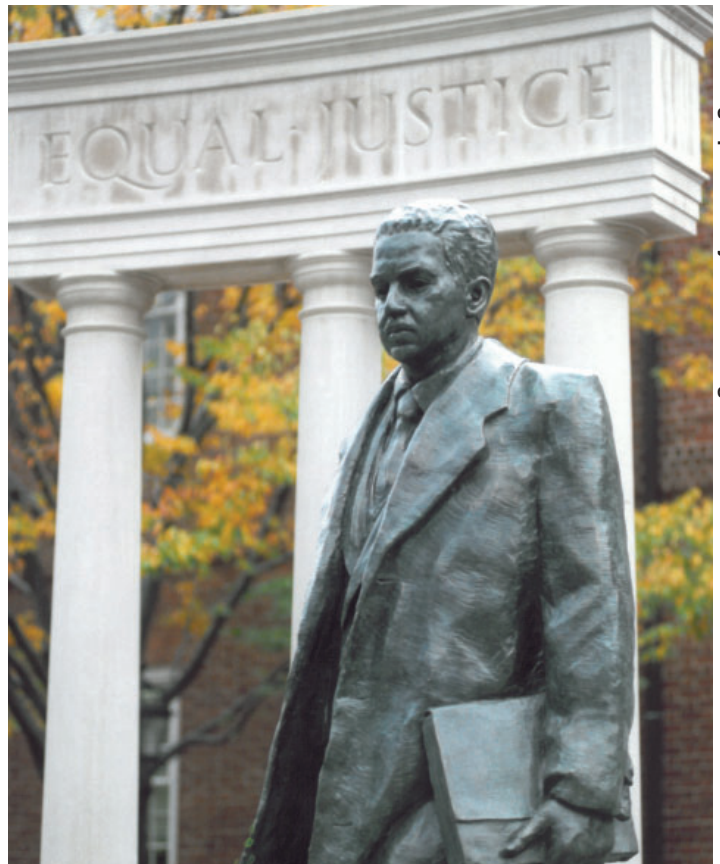
Boasting a total of 1,805 acres, Swope Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. The vast acreage now houses a zoo, a golf academy and golf course, a soccer village and sporting facility, community gardens and a public swimming pool. Named for Thomas Hunton Swope who donated more than 1300 acres to the city to create a public park, Swope Park and Paseo Park were extremely dissimilar. Built in 1941, the Swope pool cost \$525,000, and could accommodate 3,000 swimmers. The complex also included dressing rooms and refreshment stands. The Paseo Park itself was much smaller and did not include the amenities available in Swope Park. The pool there certainly could not serve 3,000 swimmers simultaneously. While African-



**“America’s Mermaid” Esther Williams, shared her name with an African-American woman who was a principal in a civil rights suit in Kansas City in 1951.**

was the location of an earlier civil rights case styled *Williams, et al. v. Kansas City, Mo.*, D.C., W.D. Mo, 1952, 104 F. Supp. 848. The case was subsequently appealed as *Kansas City Mo. v Williams*, 205 F.2d 47 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1953), *cert. denied*. The ruling against Kansas City preceded the U.S. Supreme Court judgment in *Brown v. Board of Education* by approximately three years and served as precedent toward undermining the legal standing of “separate but equal” established in, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537(1896). As in *Brown*, Thurgood Marshall was the lead attorney for the case and regarded for his substantive role in overturning the “separate but equal doctrine.”

The Kansas City desegregation case was styled *Esther Williams et al vs. Kansas City*. The NAACP instituted the suit on behalf of three young African-Americans who resided in Kansas City. The name, “Esther Williams” was chosen as the lead name in the case. This choice capitalized on the contemporary fame of another Esther Williams—a noted competitive swimmer who later graced several



Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Thurgood Marshall

**Thurgood Marshall came to Kansas City to serve as the lead attorney in the Esther Williams case.**

*Swope Park Pool Continued on Page 6*



*Swope Park Pool Continued from Page 5*

Americans were not permitted to use the Swope Park pool and its attendant amenities, they were able to enjoy most of the other amenities in the park, including the zoo.

When the suit was brought the city maintained that the Paseo Park pool was spacious, well-maintained and serviceable. The inaccuracy of this was refuted in an interview conducted recently by a Kansas City reporter with an eyewitness. Clarence Shirley, an African-American, was interviewed for an article about the history of the civil rights movement in Kansas City. Shirley had served as a lifeguard at the Paseo Pool and later worked at the Swope Park Pool. He recounted that the Paseo pool was "packed" on most summer days. In an effort to give everyone a chance to swim, the

lifeguards enforced some unofficial policies. "If you'd been [in the water] you had to stay out for 30 minutes so other kids could have a chance to swim... We'd [the lifeguards] go through the line and check to see if your suit was still wet. If it was, you weren't allowed back in" [until half an hour later]." Long-time Kansas City resident, Rhonda Smith who was a frequent patron of the pool, remembered that she and her friends would leave for the pool around 8 a.m. to get a good place and to avoid the 25 cent admission charge that was imposed at noon each day.

The inequality in the facilities was clear to any casual observer, and the NAACP determined the discrepancy provided a perfect legal challenge to the rationale of

**Judge Albert Ridge (right) was photographed in 1935 with his friend and fellow Missourian Senator Harry S. Truman. In 1952 Judge Ridge authored the opinion finding in favor of the plaintiffs in the Esther Williams case. Photo Courtesy Truman Library**

"separate but equal." Believing that the best way to accomplish lasting change was to chip away at the legal foundation of "separate but equal", articulated in *Plessy vs. Ferguson* (1896), the NAACP oversaw a number of cases with that aim in mind. These victories paved the way to the greater goal of achieving civil rights on a broad basis.

The suit brought on behalf of three young African-Americans, Esther Williams, Joseph Moore and Lena Smith, asserted that their 14th Amendment rights to equal protection under the law were abridged when they were denied tickets to swim in the Swope Park pool. It is a reasonable guess that Thurgood Marshall, with his well-known sense of ironic humor, approved the naming of Esther Williams as lead plaintiff, even if he did not make the original suggestion. His reputation and previous victories in similar cases preceded him, and lawyers for the city filed a motion to have Thurgood Marshall removed from the case, citing a report by the House Un-American Activities Committee report which had claimed that some of his legal affiliations were connected with the Communist Party. The motion was denied and Marshall came to Kansas City to argue the case.

Attempting to justify the policy for separate facilities, the city claimed that segregating the races was not a form of discrimination, but rather a matter of promoting and preserving public safety. Riots had taken place in St. Louis



**Now retired Judge Howard Sachs clerked for Judge Ridge at the time the Swope Park pool case was raised.**

Photo Courtesy office of Honorable Howard F. Sachs



after the pool at the Fairground Park had allowed African-Americans to swim there. Kansas City's attorneys cited that incident as an example of what segregation helped to prevent. They also claimed that they were perpetuating a time-honored custom: "[t]he policy of operating separate swimming pools for the two races, is reinforced by a recognized natural aversion to physical intimacy inherent in the use of swimming pools by members of races that do not mingle socially" the brief claimed.

The case was ultimately argued before the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1951, now senior federal judge Howard

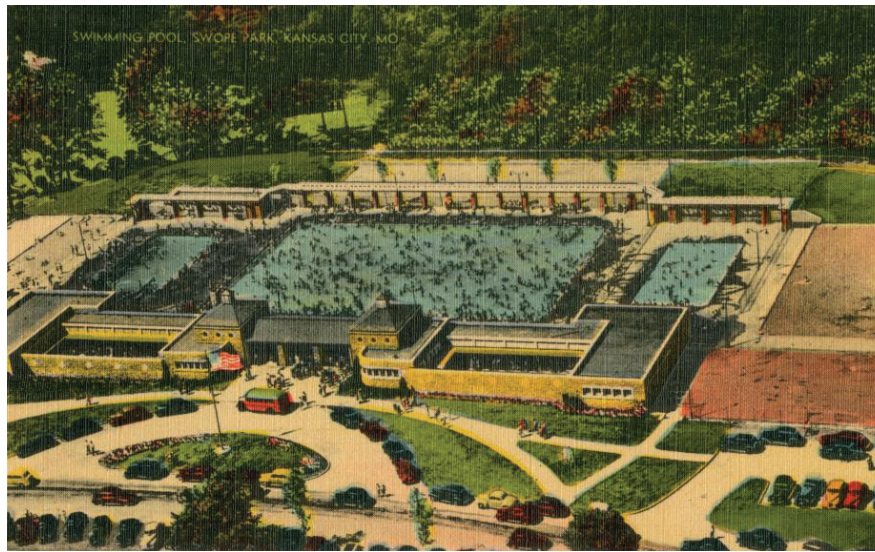
Sachs was serving as a clerk for District Judge Albert Ridge, the author of the Court's opinion. Judge Sachs has spoken about the case often and said that beyond the concerns about public safety, people were worried about interracial sex. "People were sensitive to the physical aspects of the swimming pools" he reported.

In 1952 Judge Ridge wrote the opinion in the case ruling in favor of the plaintiffs. The city appealed the decision and the Swope Park pool was closed during the appeals process, allegedly to prevent any violence similar to what had taken place in St. Louis and other cities. The case was appealed to the Circuit Court, which affirmed the ruling and then to The Supreme Court. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case, effectively upholding the original ruling in favor of plaintiffs.

Although the pool reopened to black and white swimmers after the 8th Circuit's ruling, not many black swimmers came to the pool. This was in part, because Swope Park was relatively far from the area where the majority of the black population lived, and in part because they felt unwelcome there. Another eyewitness to the events of that time was Alvin Brooks. He was originally a policeman and a civil rights advocate for many years, and later he served as the Kansas City mayor pro tempore. In the summer of 1954 he was the only African-American in his graduating class at the Kansas City Police Academy. After integration of the pool was ordered, the city detailed Brooks to patrol the Swope Park Pool. In an interview Brooks said he did not remember any incidents, but that the black and white kids did not mix.

"It was smooth, but it wasn't integrated. Blacks were not [there] in large numbers, I think that probably some didn't know they could come out. But the main reason was their parents didn't let them come."

After integration was authorized, attendance at the pool by white users dropped by 60%. This phenomenon, dubbed "white flight," was not uncommon when facilities were first integrated. Ultimately, financial problems arose and the pool was closed for a time. Now, more than 60 years later, the neighborhood adjoining the pool is largely African-American, and most of the patrons are African-American.



**The spacious swimming pool in Swope Park could accommodate 3,000 patrons and also had many amenities. The much smaller pool in Paseo Park was often overcrowded, and lacked the niceties such as a snack bar that were available at the larger pool.**

Missouri Valley Special Collections

The history of the pool as one of the early battlegrounds in the war for civil rights is largely forgotten.

The Federal Court House in Kansas City has a learning center located on the second floor open to visitors. In that area an exhibit recounts the story of the Swope Park Pool integration case. In September 2018, members of a small legal history affinity group were privileged to visit that space and hear the story of the event from Judge Howard Sachs, now 93 years of age. Judge Sachs told the story of the case and his memories of that time against a backdrop of illustrated panels detailing the events of the case.

Although most visitors to the Court House will not have the opportunity to hear the story from Judge Sachs personally, the story is told in an engaging and informative presentation. The ruling was a meaningful step in the campaign to discredit the "separate but equal" principle thereby paving the way to greater victories and laying a foundation for civil rights in a much broader sense.

*Editors' note: The editors would like to acknowledge the assistance of Judge Sachs who reviewed and contributed to the article. Two excellent source articles were used in preparing this article. The first, "Water Rights" was written by Jason Roe, a digital history specialist at the Kansas City Public Library. The second was written by Laura Ziegler, a reporter for KCUR radio in Kansas City. Her article includes personal interviews with African-Americans who were eyewitnesses to the changes.*



# The Freedom Train

## By Professor James B. O'Hara

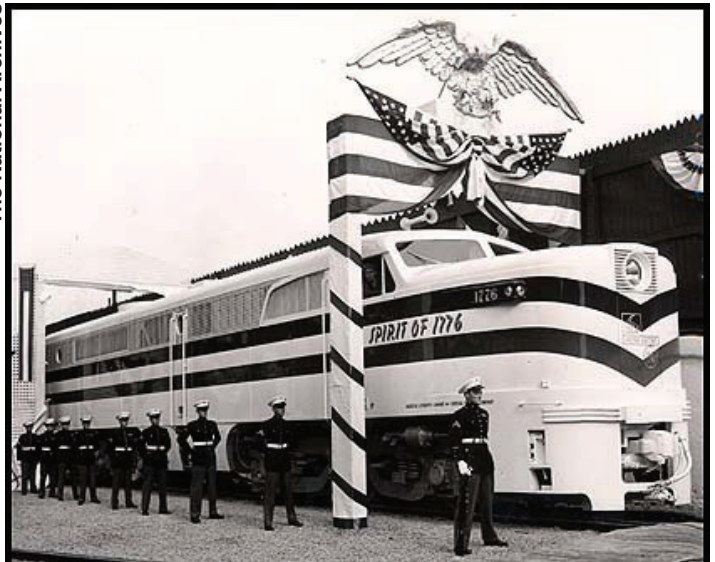
The Society has recently acquired a valuable collection of press clippings and other materials relating to the *Freedom Train*. Probably few members have heard of that now-forgotten phenomenon of the 1940s, but in its day, every American recognized the name.

The *Freedom Train* was indeed a train, consisting of a locomotive (appropriately named "The Spirit of 1776") and seven red, white, and blue passenger cars. Four of the cars were dedicated to logistical support, but the other three housed what was probably the most remarkable collection of American documents and manuscripts ever assembled in one place. It included an original of the Magna Carta, a copy of the *Bay Psalm Book*, a copy of *Common Sense*, Jefferson's draft

copy of the Declaration of Independence, Washington's personal copy of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the manuscript of the Star Spangled Banner in Francis Scott Key's own handwriting, the Emancipation Proclamation, a copy of the Gettysburg address in Lincoln's handwriting, the German and Japanese surrender documents ending World War II, and the United Nations Charter. The complete collection, gathered from public and private sources, numbered approximately 127 manuscripts and six flags, including the flag flown over the U.S.S. Missouri on the day of the Japanese surrender. The contents of the train were guarded by the U.S. Marines who provided security and a ceremonial presence

documents to be displayed. A decision was made to avoid including "sensitive" topics such as women's suffrage, collective bargaining and desegregation.

The National Archives



**The engine of the Freedom Train bore the title "Spirit of 1776" and was guarded by Marines throughout its journey across the United States.**

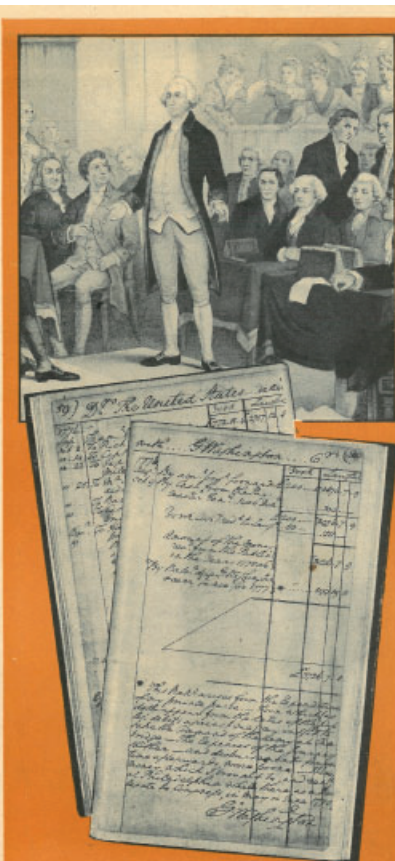
The train began a year-and-a-half long journey through the United States, embarking on Constitution Day, September 17, 1947, from Philadelphia. It visited more than 300 cities in all 48 states (Alaska and Hawaii were still territories.) It traveled 37,000 miles and approximately 3.5 million people boarded the train to view the exhibits. Each town where the train stopped conducted a week of civic events. A

The National Archives



**The one millionth visitor to the Freedom Train (second from left) was photographed to mark that milestone.**

Library of Congress



ACCOUNT BOOK. George Washington's totaled more than \$76,000. As commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary army, he turned down salary, let Congress pay only expenses.

**One exhibit on the train included a lithograph of Washington when he was appointed Commander in Chief by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The ledger sheets shown below detailed his expenses as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.**

when citizens visited the train.

Workers from the National Archives assembled the documents and prepared the exhibit. At the outset of the project, there was some tension about the selection of





Comic books also touted the Freedom Train. This issue of Captain Marvel boasted a four-part action account of his visit to the train.

massive national media campaign advertised the Train and its contents. Promotional materials included subway posters, newsreels, comic strips, advertising on buses, and other materials. The publicity wave included comic books as well, with at least one entire issue of Captain Marvel dedicated to the Freedom Train. A one-frame Ripley's Believe It or Not cartoon noted that King John could not have signed the Magna Carta because he could neither read nor write. Many encyclopedia entries note that King John "sealed" the document, correcting that prior misstatement.

The Train returned to Philadelphia in January 1949, but ended its tour in Washington. On the day of its arrival in Washington, President Truman was presented a "Freedom Scroll" containing the names of some 3 million citizens who had visited the Train during its travels.

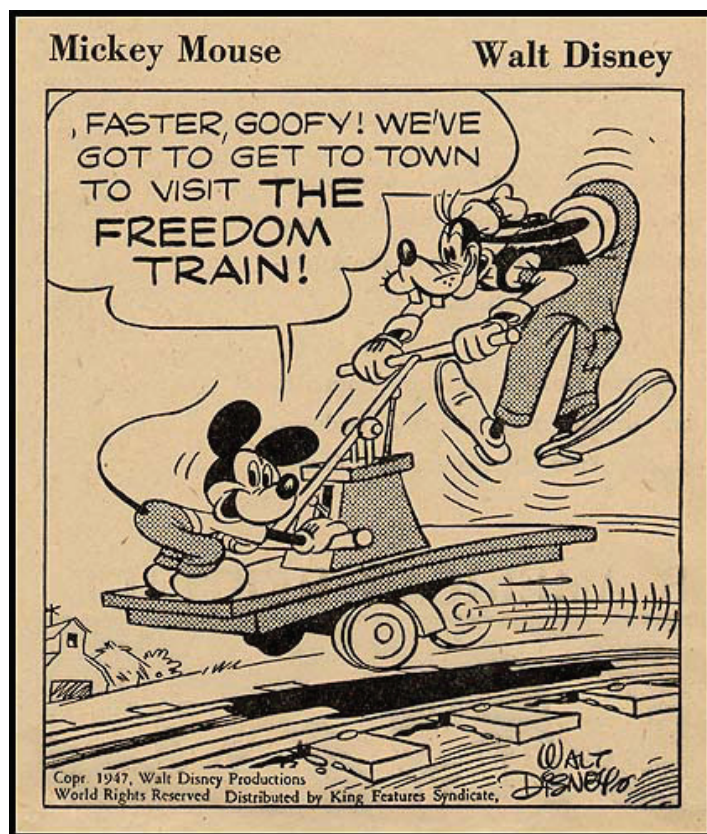
The Train's goals were to promote a sense of pride and unity in the country, and to celebrate "the development of American democracy as the fullest expression of individual freedom, human rights and the dignity of man." But the display also raised questions about the nature and limits of freedom in a still-segregated country. People questioned whether the exhibit, dedicated to freedom should allow segregated visitation. Langston Hughes, the celebrated

The National Archives

African American poet, penned a poem "Freedom Train" in favor of desegregation. In some cities, lines of black and white citizens alternated for admission to the exhibit. Eventually, a policy of desegregated visitation to the Train was implemented. Some southern cities, however, refused to adhere to that decision, and the stops scheduled for Memphis and Birmingham were cancelled.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, the overall effect of the train was positive. When the visit to Memphis was cancelled, many people chartered buses and rode to Nashville to view the exhibit. A reporter for the *New York Times* was dispatched to report on the situation there. He found a peaceful scene, describing long lines of blacks and whites intermingled, waiting "reverentially" to see the exhibit. His story recounted that one elderly African-American woman was so touched that she fainted when she first viewed the Emancipation Proclamation.

While the history of the train is interesting in and of itself, there is a direct Supreme Court connection in this story. The original idea for the train began when William Coblentz, an employee of the Department of Justice, viewed an exhibit of Nazi documents during his lunch hour in Washington. It seemed to him that an exhibit of American documents celebrating democracy and the many positive things about the country might be useful for the country's morale. Many had returned from the War to face widespread housing shortages and continuing racial tensions (tragically,



The National Archives

Even cartoon strips advertised and endorsed the train and helped to generate interest in and enthusiasm for it. In this frame Mickey Mouse and Goofy are shown rushing to visit the train.





The cover of the Pathfinder magazine pictured Attorney General Tom C. Clark reviewing a mockup of the Freedom Train. Clark played a major part in the creation of the train. Clark was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States in 1949.

at least six lynchings of African American men took place in 1946). All of these factors contributed to frustration that the sacrifices made by those who served abroad in a war to promote democracy had not seemed to achieve that end in America.

Coblentz took his idea to Attorney General Tom C. Clark, who was his boss at the time. Clark was quite excited about the idea, and after reflection and refinement within the department, decided to sponsor the train. Private funding and support was sought and enlisted. The American Heritage Foundation embraced the project and large companies, including Paramount Pictures, U.S. Steel, DuPont, General Electric and Standard Oil, provided financial support.

Attorney General Clark, of course, later became Justice Clark. Many prominent political figures of the era visited the train, either in their home states, or in Washington, DC, including President Truman. When the train was in

Washington, Clark, Chief Justice Fred Vinson and President Truman visited the exhibit together.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Train's departure was in 2017, and several articles were written at that time. The Society's interest in the Train and this collection was engendered by then-Membership Director Orazio Miceli, who had been a neighbor of Mr. Coblentz. Mr. Miceli obtained the collection following Mr. Coblentz's death. The materials include an original magazine from 1947 *Pathfinder*, contemporary newspaper cuttings, and a handwritten note from Tom Clark to Mr. Coblentz thanking him for his hard work on the project. Mr. Miceli donated the material to the Society to become part of the permanent collection.

Photo by Steve Petteway



Orazio served faithfully as membership chair for 18 years. He was a welcoming and friendly voice for many members.

*Mr. Miceli lost his battle with cancer in November 2018. He had served as the Society's Director of Membership for 18 years and was the "voice" of the Society to many when contacting the office. We dedicate this article to his devotion to the Society and his love of history.*



# NEW SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

## Arizona

Madeleine Wanslee, Phoenix

## California

Marc Alexander, Irvine  
Kevin R. Boyle, Los Angeles  
Tom Freeman, Los Angeles  
Al Lopez, San Francisco  
Sky Rosenzweig, Beverly Hills  
Dvaid Sizemore, San Diego  
Peter Stris, Los Angeles

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David Casazza  
Stephen Dixon  
Beth Heifetz  
Elizabeth Jones  
Amanda Lyons-Archambault  
Devra Martus  
Stacey Mitchell  
Samuel Moore  
Victoria Nourse  
Adrian Plesha  
Stephanie Schlatter  
Michael Shenkman  
Edward Tang  
Abigail Willie  
Mark Zelden

## Delaware

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## Florida

Ceci Culpeper Berman, Tampa  
William J. Blechman, Miami  
Jennifer Jokerst, Jacksonville  
Gary Lee Printy, Tallahassee  
David Ramsey, Pensacola

## Georgia

Jordan Cohn, Snellville  
Lynn Garson, Atlanta  
George O. Lawson, Atlanta

Lindsey Macon, Atlanta  
Fred L. Somers, Dunwoody  
Jay Strongwater, Atlanta

## Illinois

Kathleen Krochok, Wheaton  
Gary Wentz, Wheaton

## Indiana

R. Scott Hayes, New Castle  
Franklin Julian, South Bend

## Kentucky

Erica Balnkenship, Florence  
N. Jeffrey Blankenship, Florence  
Collier Philip, Louisville

## Maryland

Marshall Ackerman, Potomac  
Lilia Alvarez, Brandywine  
Barry Chasen, Chevy Chase  
Henry Cohen, Columbia  
Mark Fitzpatrick, Timonium  
Martha Jones, Baltimore  
Martha Meehan-Cohen, Phoenix  
Geoffrey Platt, Bethesda  
L. Raymond Sun, Hyattsville  
Chris Taney, Monrovia  
Debra Vodenos, Bethesda  
Jack Zemil, Timonium

## Michigan

William Clark, Howell

## Minnesota

Jade Rosenfeldt, Moorhead

## New York

Dalton Carty, Brooklyn  
Nicole Cassidy, New York  
Thomas Halpern, New York

## Ohio

Trent P. Stechschulte, Columbus

## Oklahoma

Michael King, Tulsa

## Pennsylvania

John A. Adams, Bedford  
Laura Becker, Chadds Ford  
Luke Halinski, Lansdale  
John Krill, Lititz  
Justin Romeo, Philadelphia  
Derek Webb, Wyncote

## Tennessee

Gilbert S. Merritt, Nashville

## Texas

Brantly Harris, Houston

## Virginia

Mark Allen, Alexandria  
Mitzyn De La Rosa Pierce, Arlington  
Thomas Dillickrath, Ashburn  
Martin Frost, Alexandria  
Adriaen Morse, Falls Church  
Cole Reynolds, Purcellville  
Alissa Rodriguez, Arlington  
Mr. Rosen, Alexandria  
Cecelia Tabois, McLean

## Washington

Shari Conditt, Woodland

## Wisconsin

Linda S. Balisle, Madison  
Beth Hanan, Milwaukee

## Puerto Rico

M Molinelli, San Juan

## WANTED

In the interest of preserving the valuable history of the highest court, The Supreme Court Historical Society would like to locate persons who might be able to assist the Society's Acquisitions Committee. The Society is endeavoring to acquire artifacts, memorabilia, literature and any other materials related to the history of the Court and its members. These items are often used in exhibits by the Court Curator's Office. If any of our members, or others, have anything they would care to share with us, please contact the Acquisitions Committee at the Society's headquarters, 224 East Capitol Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20003 or call (202)543-0400. Donations to the Acquisitions fund would be welcome. You may reach the Society through its website at [www.supremecourthistory.org](http://www.supremecourthistory.org)

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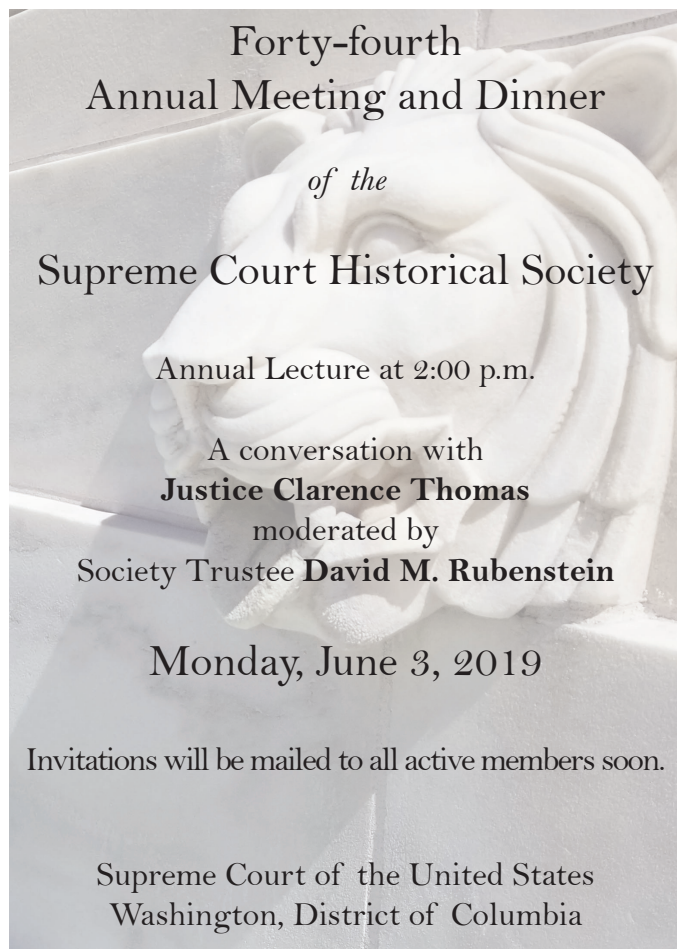
## Your Contributions at Work

According to national statistics, calendar year 2018 was by almost all measures bleak in the world of giving and charitable contributions. While there were several headline grabbing mega-gifts, new gifts to charities and non-profits dropped by 7.3%; second year gifts – a sign of donor retention and satisfaction - dropped by 15%; gifts of \$250 to \$1000 fell by 4% and gifts under \$250 fell by 4.4%.

Your annual membership dues support the creation, publication and mailing of both this publication and the award-winning *Journal of Supreme Court History* with a little left over to support general purposes.

We rely on your annual fund contributions to support the many other activities and initiatives of the Society, such as The Supreme Court Fellows Program; the acquisition of documents, artworks, and historical texts; the Library Digitization Project (the first 200 + volumes now available exclusively to members); and the creation of new publications such as *Table for 9*.

Your annual fund contributions, of any size, make a BIG difference. To make a contribution to our Annual Fund you can go to our web site, [www.supremecourtgifts.org/makeadonation.aspx](http://www.supremecourtgifts.org/makeadonation.aspx), or call the society during business hours at 202-543-0400 and ask for Martha Meehan. We are grateful for your continuing support as we work to accomplish the goals of the society.



Forty-fourth  
Annual Meeting and Dinner  
*of the*  
Supreme Court Historical Society

Annual Lecture at 2:00 p.m.

A conversation with  
**Justice Clarence Thomas**  
moderated by  
Society Trustee **David M. Rubenstein**

Monday, June 3, 2019

Invitations will be mailed to all active members soon.

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, District of Columbia