

# BALCH COLUMN

Thomas Balch Library ■ 208 W. Market Street ■ Leesburg, Virginia 20176  
703-737-7195 ■ Fax: 703-737-7150 ■ Email: balchlib@leesburgva.gov

## News FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



The Ketocin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) recently presented Thomas Balch Library (TBL) with a new reference work, *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography* by Eric Grundset with Briana L. Diaz and Hollis L. Gentry. The three volume set highlights resources and scholarship from the 18th century to the most recent publications that document and analyze the lives of women and girls during the American Revolution. The massive work is divided into two parts. The first two volumes are a subject bibliography. The third volume lists work by author and contains a chronology. *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography* has been catalogued and is available at TBL for researchers to use.



The twentieth annual Loudoun History Awards were presented Sunday, November 11 at Thomas Balch Library. The 2012 recipients are Kenneth Fleming, Louis Jett, James Hanna, and James P. Lucier, Sr. Each of these gentlemen, so deserving of recognition, received awards for their contributions to research, documentation, preservation, and advocacy for Loudoun County history.

Although I have mentioned this before, a link has been placed at the base of the left hand column on TBL's website to encourage people to visit the library Facebook page. Staff works hard to find interesting historical tidbits to share with the public and to illustrate our holdings. If you have not visited Facebook: Thomas Balch Library, do so soon. You may be surprised at how interesting Loudoun's history is.

The winter/spring lecture series has been set and promises an interesting array of topics – from *A Musical Odyssey: Appalachia to Himalaya* to the escapades of Aaron Burr, through the life of Orra White Hitchcock (1796-1863) scientist and artist to Abraham Lincoln, and Loudoun Chancery Court County records to the Zimmerman Telegram, there will be something for everyone. Tours, exhibits, and classes fill out our educational offerings.

The Library continues to receive and process outstanding collections documenting the life and times of Leesburg and Loudoun County. One such recently processed collection is the *Nancy Graham Rogers Collection, 1910-1975* (M 058, VC 0044). Rogers was born in Loudoun 14 October 1912 and lived in Leesburg for most of her life. She graduated from Leesburg High School, after which she attended Agnes Scott College in Georgia, graduating in 1934. Rogers became a virologist working in medical research for the United States government at Walter Reed Medical Center. The US War Department awarded her the Exceptional Civilian Service Medal in 1946 for her wartime work developing a typhus vaccine. In addition to her work in virology, Rogers was an award-winning photographer and had an interest in botany, speleology, and the study of bats. *Life Magazine* published a photograph of her working with bats in a Virginia cave in their 10 September 1956 issue. Her love of photography and botany produced an extensive slide collection of wildflower photographs from all over the world. Rogers was a member of the Leesburg Garden Club and left her collection of daffodils to the club. She was also an active member of St. James Episcopal Church. Nancy Graham Rogers died 27 January 2000 in Leesburg and is buried in Union Cemetery in Leesburg. Her collection of personal correspondence, wildflower slides, and family photographs came to TBL through her cousin, the late Elizabeth Claggett Welbourn (Betty) Seccombe.



After nine years of effort one of the original desks and four Windsor chairs have been returned from storage to the library for public display. There will need to be some restoration work on the chairs with more extensive repairs and restoration of the desk. Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. will be assisting with restoration costs. In the meantime I am searching for early pictures of the interior of the library to see how these items were used and where they were located in the building.

Library Staff join me in expressing appreciation for the support Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. provides the library. From underwriting the honoraria for the lectures series to covering the cost of electronic databases the Friends are always ready with a helping hand.

If you would enjoy receiving more frequent news about the library, its programs and collections, join Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and receive its quarterly newsletter *The Thomas Balch Chronicle*. Membership information is available at [www.balchfriends.org](http://www.balchfriends.org).

As always it will be a pleasure to welcome you when visiting the Library or when attending programs and exhibits.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director



Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. Due to limited seating we recommend registering in advance by calling 703/737-7195. For updated news on events visit our website at: [www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications](http://www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications) or Find Us On Facebook.



**Tara Linhardt**

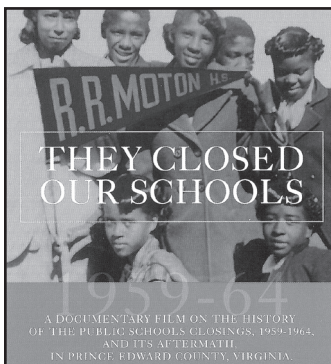
**Sunday, 10 February 2013, 2PM**

*The Mountain Music Project: A Musical Odyssey from Appalachia to Himalaya* is an award winning film that follows the journey of two traditional musicians from the hills of Virginia to the mountains of rural Nepal. They explore the extraordinary similarities between the Appalachian music that is now known as Bluegrass and Old-Time and the Nepali Himalayan folk music and culture, particularly focusing on the traditional musicians of the *Gandharba* caste. The film, shot in both Nepal and Virginia, has fascinating interviews, scenes, and music with influential musicians who have grown up in the mountain music cultures. It weaves an enlightening and touching story of the evolution and realities of the music, culture, and the people who live it. Tara Linhardt, one of the creators of the project, will present the film and answer questions. DVDs and CDs from the project will also be available. Running time 57 minutes.

## THEY CLOSED OUR SCHOOLS

**Brian Grogan**

**Sunday, 24 February 2013, 2PM**



In 1959, local officials closed the public school system of Prince Edward County, VA, in defiance of the desegregation ruling of the US Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, 1954*. For a period of five years, 1959-1964, public education was denied to more than 2,000 African-American children and a number of poor white children who, with only a few exceptions, remained unschooled. No other political

jurisdiction in the US had taken the extreme step of closing its entire public school system to avoid desegregation. The human legacy of these tragic events was a crippled generation of uneducated and under-educated children who were denied their right to education and, thus, their right to full participation in American society. It is fair to say that in no other community in the country did the *Brown* ruling have such a significant effect. The African-American community of Prince Edward was one of five plaintiffs in the historic *Brown* case. The closing of the public schools there was the climactic event of a decades-long struggle for educational opportunity by the African-American community of this rural, agricultural region of southside Virginia.

*They Closed Our Schools* is a documentary film of a history unique in the American experience. This story of a community in crisis is a cautionary tale that starkly illustrates the pain and damage inflicted by the denial of education and asks us to consider that similar issues can still threaten public education today. Mercy Seat Films, a documentary

film company, was formed for the express purpose of producing *They Closed Our Schools*. The director/cinematographer, film editor and producers bring to this project a wealth of experience in documentary film production and historic research. Brian Grogan, Producer, is the Director of Photography+Preservation Associates, a firm specializing in the photographic documentation of cultural history. Grogan, a professional photographer of more than twenty years experience, is a graduate in history of Hampden-Sydney College which is located in Prince Edward County. Grogan has done extensive archive and primary research on the history of the Prince Edward County schools' crisis. Advisory Staff includes James H. Hershman, who held the position of senior fellow at Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute from 1997 to 2010 and continues to teach in Georgetown University's Graduate Liberal Studies Program.

## ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK (1796-1863): AN ILLUSTRATED LIFE

**Daria D'Arienzo**

**Sunday, 3 March 2013, 2PM**



Orra White Hitchcock is one of America's first women artists. But few people even know her name. If she is recognized, it is for illustrating the scientific work of her husband, geologist and Amherst College professor Edward Hitchcock. She was also a scientist in her own right—a botanist, a geologist, a conchologist—as well as a teacher of botany and art and the mother of six children. As one

of the country's first women artists Orra White Hitchcock is the earliest and most often published artist of the Massachusetts Connecticut River Valley. Hitchcock's first drawing of the valley was published in 1818.

Daria D'Arienzo, a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, worked with the Hitchcock family papers at Amherst College as Archivist and Head of Archives and Special Collections from 1984 until her retirement in 2007. She is co-curator and co-author of the Mead Art Museum exhibition and related catalogue, *Orra White Hitchcock: An Amherst Woman of Art and Science* (2011) and author of "Orra White Hitchcock's Classroom Drawings" in the Deerfield Academy exhibition catalogue *Orra White Hitchcock* (1991) and "The 'Union of the Beautiful with the Useful': Through the Eyes of Orra White Hitchcock" in the *Massachusetts Review* (2010). She worked with the Northeast Document Conservation Center, on the conservation of Hitchcock art and family materials. D'Arienzo now works with small public libraries, historical societies, and other underserved groups to preserve local history so all communities may tell their stories.

## A WALKING TOUR CIVIL WAR LEESBURG

**Richard Treat Gillespie**

**Saturday, 9 March 2013, 10-12AM**

With its key geographic location just two miles from the Potomac Frontier dividing the Confederate and United States, Leesburg was bound to see a good deal of the Civil War. A *Walking Tour of Civil War Leesburg* with Rich Gillespie will examine the surviving Civil War townscape and chronologically watch the War develop and engulf the county seat of Loudoun. In a circuit of the historic district, the emphasis will be on what the 1,500 residents of the town would have seen at various places, and what they would have experienced during 1861-65. The two-hour chronological tour will provide ample spots to sit for the weary, and will paint some vibrant historic portraits to keep





people enthralled. Included in the tour will be three skirmish sites, outside stops at two churches soldiers knew well, the courthouse lawn, "the best street in town," Harrison Hall where General Lee stayed, and the Episcopal cemetery.

Richard Treat Gillespie is the Director of Education for Northern Virginia's Mosby Heritage Area and a founding member of Loudoun's Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee. Before joining the Mosby Heritage Area Association in 2004, he taught US History and Economics for 30 years at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, VA. A graduate of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, he is a strong believer in melding the classroom, the community, and historic sites through heritage education. This tour will leave from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 10AM.

## SUSSEX COUNTY'S GREATEST GENERATION - LESSONS FROM PERSONAL AND FAMILY HISTORY

Deborah L. Parker

Sunday, 10 March 2013, 2PM



One's own history can be the greatest educator. A passion for understanding what each generation brings can lead to greatly helping others through writing, teaching, and inspiring.

This is Leesburg resident and author Deborah L. Parker's story. Join her as she maps her family and personal chronicles beginning with her pre-civil rights era upbringing in

Waverly, Virginia, located in Sussex County. Raised by a determined single mother in the home of wise maternal grandparents and surrounded by encouraging extended family that instilled in her a strong belief system, Parker dubbed them part of that "greatest generation". From her rural home with no indoor plumbing to careers as an army reserve officer, corporate manager, and now owner of The DPJ Training Group, Parker continually builds on that generation's lessons of pushing through adversity. She has authored four nonfiction books, to include her signature autobiography, *Navigating Life's Roadways* along with an inspirational leadership biography on her late uncle, entitled *Hardcore Leadership*. He was a retired Command Sergeant Major, Vietnam Veteran, Airborne Ranger Hall of Fame inductee, and community advocate who served as Chair of the Board of Supervisors for Sussex County and was honored with a resolution from the Virginia House of Delegates for his visionary leadership.

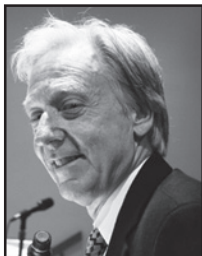
Parker, through her company, The DPJ Training Group, provides motivational speaking, leadership and personal development, coaching, and seminars for a variety of clients. She holds a BA in Sociology from the College of William and Mary, an MA in Human Resource Development from George Mason University and completed the US Army Command and General Staff College. She is a member of the Military Officers Association of America, Loudoun County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Metro DC chapter of the American Society for Training and Development.

## AMERICAN EMPEROR, AARON BURR'S CHALLENGE TO JEFFERSON'S AMERICA

David O. Stewart

Sunday, 17 March 2013, 2PM

*American Emperor* traces Aaron Burr – a vice president like no other -- from the threshold of the presidency in the contested election of 1800, through his duel with Alexander Hamilton, and then across the American West. A daring and



perhaps deluded figure whose political career was in tatters following his indictment for Hamilton's murder, Burr conceived and plotted an insurrection in New Orleans and an invasion of the Spanish colonies of Mexico and Florida. Thomas Jefferson finally had Burr arrested and charged him with treason. Burr led his own legal defense in a historic treason trial before Chief Justice John Marshall, winning an acquittal and freedom.

After practicing law for more than 25 years, David O. Stewart turned to writing history (though he still practices law). His first book, *The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution*, was a *Washington Post* bestseller and won the Washington Writing Award as Best Book of 2007. Two years later, *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy*, was a Davis-Kidd Bestseller and was called "by all means the best account of this troubled episode" by Professor David Donald of Harvard. Stewart's latest work is *American Emperor, Aaron Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America*, an examination of Burr's remarkable Western expedition, an undertaking that shook the nation's foundations at a time when those foundations were none too solid. Stewart also is president of the Washington Independent Review of Books, an online book review. Books will be available for purchase.

## "THEY HAVE KILLED PAPA DEAD!"- THE ROAD TO FORD'S THEATRE, ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S MURDER, AND THE RAGE FOR VENGEANCE

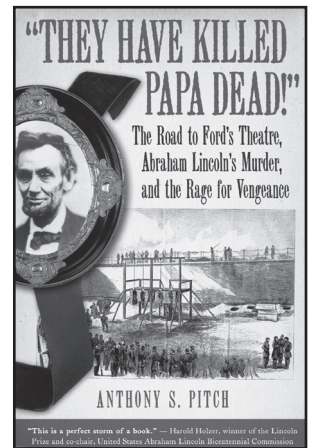
Anthony S. Pitch

Sunday, 7 April 2013, 2PM

Anthony S. Pitch is the author of a number of books including "*They Have Killed Papa Dead!*" - *The Road to Ford's Theatre, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance*, described by Harold Holzer, co-chairman of the US Commission on Lincoln's Bicentennial, as "a perfect storm of a book." *Publisher's Weekly* hailed it as "a real page-turner... No reader will come away unmoved." The book received the Arline Custer Memorial Prize for best book of 2009 from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference.

Until recently, the most riveting and best researched account of Booth's murderous crime was *Manhunt*, by James L. Swanson. But even stronger in terms of its exhaustive scholarship, dramatic and compelling language, and insightful analysis of the politics, the social settings, and the sights, sounds, and even smells of the relevant locales is "*They Have Killed Papa Dead!*" - *The Road to Ford's Theatre, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, and the Rage for Vengeance*.

Author Anthony S. Pitch is a former broadcast editor for the Associated Press, and he brings a journalist's urgent rhythm and eye for small but revealing observations, along with the serious and extensively annotated scholarship of a great historian. (Among earlier works is *The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814*.) This winning combination is evidenced right in the title, which comes from the heartbreaking lament of Lincoln's young son Tad upon learning his father was shot. After nine years of work that included the unearthing of numerous new letters and first-hand eyewitness accounts, Pitch has given us, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, if not the definitive story of the assassination and the events before and after, then the one that readers should turn to first." A former journalist in England, Africa, and Israel, Pitch is a former Associated Press Broadcast Editor in Philadelphia, and a senior writer in the books division of US News & World Report in Washington, DC. Books will be available for purchase.





## JOE ROCHEFORT'S WAR: THE ODYSSEY OF THE CODEBREAKER WHO OUTWITTED YAMAMOTO AT MIDWAY

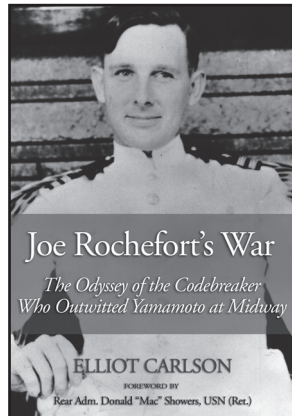
Elliot Carlson

Sunday, 14 April 2013, 2PM

Elliot Carlson's biography of Capt. Joe Rochefort is the first to be written about the officer who headed Station Hypo, the US Navy's signals monitoring and cryptographic intelligence unit at Pearl Harbor, and who broke the Japanese navy's code before the Battle of Midway. The book brings Rochefort to life as the irreverent, fiercely independent, and consequential officer that he was. Readers share his frustrations as he searches in vain for Yamamoto's fleet prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, but share his joy when he succeeds in tracking the fleet in early 1942 and breaks the code that leads Rochefort to believe Yamamoto's invasion target is Midway. His conclusions, bitterly opposed by some top Navy brass, are credited with making the US victory possible and helping to change the course of the war. The author tells the story of how opponents in Washington forced Rochefort's removal from Station Hypo and denied him the Distinguished Service Medal recommended by Admiral Nimitz. In capturing the interplay of policy and personality and the role played by politics at the highest levels of the Navy, Carlson reveals a side of the intelligence community seldom seen by outsiders.

For a full understanding of the man, Carlson examines Rochefort's love-hate relationship with cryptanalysis, his adventure-filled years in the 1930s as the right-hand man to the Commander in Chief of the US Fleet, and his return to code breaking in mid-1941 as the officer in charge of Station Hypo. He traces Rochefort's career from his enlistment in 1918 to his posting in Washington as head of the Navy's code breaking desk at age twenty-five, and beyond. In many ways a reinterpretation of Rochefort, the book makes clear the key role his code breaking played in the outcome of Midway and the legacy he left of reporting actionable intelligence directly to the fleet. An epilogue describes efforts waged by Rochefort's colleagues to obtain the medal denied him in 1942—a drive that finally paid off in 1986 when the medal was awarded posthumously.

Elliot Carlson is a longtime journalist who has worked for such newspapers and magazines as the *Honolulu Advertiser*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, and, most recently, the *AARP Bulletin*. He holds degrees from Stanford University and the University of Oregon. Carlson is the 2012 recipient of the "Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Naval History Prize" for *Joe Rochefort's War* as awarded by the New York Council of the Navy League in conjunction with the Roosevelt Institute and the Theodore Roosevelt Association. Books will be available for purchase.



1750; the division of a local church over sectional differences that continued into the 20th century; slaves suing for their freedom; marriage and divorce in the late 1800's; and a dispute over a steam powered merry-go-round. Crawford will discuss how one can access these stories using the Library of Virginia's Chancery Records Index (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/>) and other research resources.

## THE ZIMMERMANN TELEGRAM: INTELLIGENCE, DIPLOMACY, AND AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I

Thomas Boghardt

Sunday, 5 May 2013, 2PM

By the winter of 1916–17, World War I had reached a deadlock. The Allies commanded greater resources and fielded more soldiers than the Central Powers, but German armies had advanced deep into Russia and France and tenaciously held on to their conquered territories. Hoping to break the military stalemate on the western front, the Allies sought to bring the neutral United States into the war.

A golden opportunity to force US intervention seemed at hand in January 1917 when British naval intelligence intercepted a secret telegram detailing a German alliance offer to Mexico. In the message, Berlin's foreign secretary, Arthur Zimmermann, offered his country's support to Mexico for reconquering "the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona" in exchange for a Mexican attack on the United States, should the latter enter the war on the side of the Allies. The British handed a copy of the telegram to the US government, which in turn leaked it to the press. On 1 March 1917 the telegram made headline news across the United States, and five weeks later America entered World War I.

Based on an examination of a vast array of German, British, and US government records, this remarkable study provides a definitive account of the origins and impact of the German alliance scheme. The telegram has often been described as the final step in a carefully planned German strategy to gain a foothold in the Western Hemisphere, but this book argues that the project was a spontaneous initiative by a minor German foreign office official, and gained traction because of a lack of supervision and coordination at the top echelon of the German government. The author also reveals that American and British secret services had collaborated closely for several years to bring the United States into the war, and that the telegram's interception and disclosure represented the crowning achievement of this clandestine Anglo-American intelligence alliance. The book explicitly challenges the widely accepted notion that the telegram's publication in the US press rallied Americans for war. Instead, it contends that the telegram divided the public by poisoning the debate over intervention and by failing to persuade skeptical Americans of the wisdom of going to war. The book also examines the telegram's effect on the memory of World War I.

Thomas Boghardt is a senior historian at the US Army Center of Military History in Washington, DC. Books will be available for purchase.



## LOUDOUN COUNTY CHANCERY RECORDS

Gregg Crawford

Sunday, 28 April 2013, 2PM

Every bundle of old documents an archivist opens is full of stories, and the time worn court records of Loudoun County are good examples. Greg Crawford, Local Records Archivist at the Library of Virginia, will share the wealth of historical and genealogical information about Loudoun County's past going back to the mid-1770's that the archivists at the Library of Virginia have discovered. Stories will be told about a doctor's visit to a patient in



## CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, 13 May 2013, 7PM

Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 6:45PM. John Fishback, Historic Records Manager for Loudoun County, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office. He will discuss the extent of Loudoun County's records holdings, where to look for records of births, deaths, marriages, and deeds, and how to use these records in research. No one is permitted to enter restricted areas of the Clerk's Office after 7:00PM, so the group will leave the library promptly at 6:45PM.

# THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

## 2013 Classes

### RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

The library offers classes introducing researchers to research techniques and resources at Thomas Balch Library. Classes will include subject-specific training by experienced staff or guest speakers. The classes, limited in size, with registration required, will be held the first Thursday of each month.

### INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 7 February 2013, 10AM

Under the direction of **Elizabeth E. Preston**, Library Archives Specialist, participants will learn techniques for developing and implementing effective search techniques. While the techniques discussed are applicable in a wide variety of environments, specific attention will be paid to Thomas Balch Library's subscription databases, including *America: History and Life*, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, and *Fold3*.

### DEED RESEARCH

Thursday, 7 March 2013, 10AM

**Wynne Saffer**, author of *Loudoun County, Virginia 1860 Land Tax Map*, will use a case study to demonstrate how to establish chain of title using deed indexes and other types of land ownership changes such as wills, marriages, old advertisements, and chancery cases.

### RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Thursday, 4 April 2013, 10AM

**Jeanette Irby**, Leesburg Town Attorney, will discuss how to use court records and other resources for data that are frequently overlooked in genealogical and historical research. Irby will demonstrate how to mine court records for clues that can be used to collect information for genealogical research. Examples of these records include real estate records, chancery suits, estates, and indexes. Jeanette Irby, previously employed by Fauquier County, has researched land records dating from the 1700s and participated in genealogical seminars sponsored by the Warrenton Court House Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of which she is First Vice Regent. She holds a BS from Central Michigan University and a JD from Thomas Cooley Law School.

### RESEARCHING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN VIRGINIA

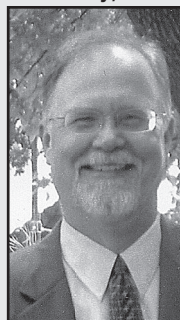
Thursday, 2 May 2013, 10AM

In the fall of 2012, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began a series of new source guides for researching the American Revolution in each of the original states. Virginia is one of the first in the set, and the speaker will discuss the identification of materials for inclusion, how they reflect Virginia's involvement in the war effort, and the primary goal of helping researchers discover their Virginia Revolutionary War ancestors.

**Eric G. Grundset** has been Library Director for the DAR in Washington, DC since 1983. He is co-author of the DAR's successful 2004 publication *American Genealogical Research at the DAR, Washington, DC* and editor of their 2008 book *Forgotten Patriots: African Americans and American Indians in the Revolutionary War*. In 2011, the DAR published a new set of books titled *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790*, with Grundset as the primary author. He is currently working on a new series of books on researching ancestors during the American Revolution. Grundset holds a BA in History from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA and an MLS from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC.

### WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Thursday, 6 June 2013, 10AM



Have you collected lots of genealogical data? Are you looking for ways to organize it so you can share it with family members? Freelance writer, **Jim Barnes**, will lead this interactive workshop in which participants will explore ways of finding themes in their family histories and create interesting narratives their family members will enjoy reading. A regular contributor to the *Washington Post* and *Leesburg Patch*, Barnes has been researching his genealogy for over 25 years and has recently started writing narratives to share with his family.

### GOLD STAR MOTHERS IN VIRGINIA

Thursday, 1 August 2013, 10AM

**Constance Potter**, reference archivist, Research Services, National Archives and Records Administration, will describe the World War I graves registration and Gold Star Mother pilgrimage of the early 1930s.



### UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN VIRGINIA

Thursday, 5 September 2013, 10AM

**James H. Hershman, PhD**

### INTRODUCTION TO ON-LINE GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thursday, 3 October 2013, 10AM

**Alexandra S. Gressitt**, Library Director

### PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

Thursday, 7 November 2013, 10AM

**Elizabeth E. Preston**, Library Archives Specialist

### TRADITIONAL GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

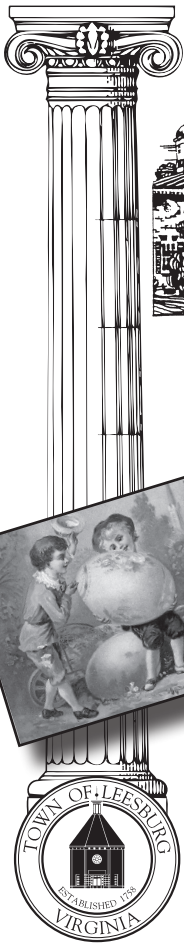
Thursday, 5 December 2013, 10AM

**Mary Fishback**, Library Assistant

### CIVIL WAR 150 LEGACY PROJECT SCANNING EVENT

Saturday, 13 April 2013, 10AM-4PM, at Thomas Balch

The Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, in partnership with Thomas Balch Library, is offering an event on Saturday, 13 April 2013, at which county residents may have their family manuscripts from the Civil War era scanned for future generations to learn from and enjoy. The scanning event is part of the *Civil War 150 Legacy Project: Document Digitization and Access*, created by the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia. Civil War 150 Legacy Project staff will be visiting Loudoun County on Saturday, April 13, 2013. The event will take place from 10AM - 4PM at Thomas Balch Library, 208 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Appointments are recommended, as only a limited number of walk-ins can be accommodated, and may be scheduled by contacting Tracy Gillespie at 703-327-9777 or by e-mail at tgillespie@nvrpa.org.



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## WINTER/SPRING 2013 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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### *Exhibits 2013*

#### Margaret Mercer Room

- January** Mount Zion Church and Its History  
Tracy Gillespie
- February** Black History Month  
Mary Randolph
- March** From Thomas Balch Library  
Collections: Women's Athletics in Loudoun County – Elizabeth E. Preston
- April** 4-H Through the Decades  
Anne Ludwig
- May** Pottery Exhibit - David Norton
- June-June** Dairy Month – Loudoun Farm Museum
- July-Aug.** Local and Regional Civil War Era Artifacts  
John Creamer
- September** The Washington & Old Dominion Railroad from the Northern Virginia Park Authority Archives - Tracy Gillespie
- October** Friends of Ball's Bluff  
Ken Fleming
- November** Loudoun Photography Club
- December** Loudoun Symphony  
Kathy Zeigler

#### Lower Level Meeting Room

- Jan.-March** Landscaping  
Amy Orr
- April-June** Old Churches in Loudoun County  
Jim Baker
- July-Sept.** Vanished Egypt, 1922-1952  
W. Brown Morton, III
- Oct.-Dec.** Loudoun Contours-Aerial Views of Our Heritage – Jim Hanna

### *Other Activities* AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

**Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission** sponsors the annual Loudoun History Awards and an award for excellence in historical research at the annual Loudoun County Public School Social Science Fair. It meets at the library the second Wednesday of each month at 7PM. The public is always welcome.

**Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**, a 501c3 organized to provide support for Thomas Balch Library, meets at the library every other month and sponsors an annual fundraiser. The public is always welcome. For more information, visit [www.balchfriends.org](http://www.balchfriends.org) or call 703/737-2166. The Friends will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, 27 January 2013, 2PM (Snow date: Sunday, 3 February 2013, 2PM). Guest speaker, Marc Leepson, will present a talk on "Notes on Researching the Life of Francis Scott Key."

**Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**, meets at the library the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7PM. The public is always welcome. For more information, visit [www.balchfriends.org](http://www.balchfriends.org) or call 703/737-2166. Neorealist painter Sherry Zvares Sanabria and sculptor Robert Sanabria will exhibit their work January through May, 2013 at The Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008. Telephone: (202) 387-7783. Open daily to the public.

**Loudoun County Civil War Round Table** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM except January and February. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Loudoun County's history during the American Civil War. Meetings are held at Thomas Balch Library unless otherwise noted.

The eighth annual **Virginia Forum** will be held 21-23 March 2013 on the campus of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. The Virginia Forum is interdisciplinary, bringing together historians, teachers, writers, archivists, museum curators, historic site interpreters, librarians, and others engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history to share their knowledge, research, and experiences. This year's theme, "Writing Virginia," will have papers analyzing the ways in which Virginia has been represented, constructed, and recorded in non-fiction, fiction, other literary and historical forms, the visual arts, and historic and monumental sites. For information about sessions, and workshops please see [www.virginiaforum.org](http://www.virginiaforum.org). Direct further inquiries to: [VaForum@rmc.edu](mailto:VaForum@rmc.edu).

**National Archives Ninth Annual Genealogical Fair, Thursday and Friday, 18 & 19 April 2013** - a two day program showcasing Federal records located at the National Archives as resources for family history research. The fair provides information and guidance for experienced genealogy professionals and novices alike. The fair is free and open to the public, and will be held at the National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. For detailed information visit the National Archives at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and search on Genealogy Fair.