

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 Thomas Balch Library continues to thrive and collections grow because of the vast support it receives from the community and visitors from across the country. In June the Ketocin Chapter of the NSDAR, a longtime supporter of Thomas Balch Library, donated *New York in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians* by Eric Grundset. This is the first in a series of volumes projected to cover the original thirteen colonies.

Often the library receives collections related to families in the area. These frequently include invaluable but inadequately identified images of people. One such collection, *Cooper Fry Scott Family Papers 1816-1950* (M076), was recently processed by Lisa DeZam, a Library Associate. The photograph (vc_0047_004) entitled "Amanda Cooper Fry's Oldest Daughter, Husband, and Daughter" has alternately been



identified as "Amanda's second oldest daughter, Anna B. Fry with her husband and daughter, Evelyn." We are seeking assistance in correctly identifying these people. For a bit of context, the grandson of Nicholas Fry, William Martin Fry (b.1833), married John Cooper's daughter, Mary Amanda, 3 January 1856, in Loudoun County, VA. At the time of their marriage, William was listed in the census as a shoemaker. Together, Mary Amanda Cooper Fry (10 March 1833-22 April 1917), and William Martin Fry (b.1833), had ten children: Sarah C. (b. 1857), Anna (b. 1859), John W (1861-16 January 1922), Charles H. (b.1863), Ida (b. 1865), Rose Mary (b. 1868), Eliza L. (b. 1869), Frank (b. 1870), Mary M. (Mattie) (1871- 5 December 1937) and David T. (b. 1874). Any assistance

with positive identification of the individuals in this photograph or any other unidentified persons in the *Cooper Fry Scott Family Papers* (M 076) would be appreciated. Please contact balchlib@leesburgva.gov or call 703-797-7195 if you are able to provide positive identification on this photograph or are able to assist with identification with other images in this collection.

Library Staff join me in expressing appreciation for the support Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. continues to provide the library. From underwriting honoraria for the lectures series to covering the cost of electronic databases the Friends are always ready with a helping hand. Their annual fundraiser, held August 18 at the historic Thomas Birkby House (ca. 1779), featured author Joseph Whitehorne discussing *The Fort Erie Campaign of 1814*. It was a wonderful event, enjoyed by all who attended. If you would like to receive 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

Kiera Nolan, Library Associate, managing reference, accepted a position with the teachNOLA Teaching Fellows in New Orleans. In May, we bid adieu to Ms. Nolan, with best wishes for success in her new career. Following a search, in July we were pleased to have Alyssa Fisher join the staff. Ms. Fisher, who received both her BA and MA in History from James Madison University, is from Lovettsville, VA.

The library remains a busy destination for both local residents and visitors from across the country. Over 35,000 people visited the library in the last fiscal year to conduct research, tour our exhibits, and attend lectures. To assist visitors we provide a variety of brochures and pathfinders available in print versions or online at our website. Revised editions of the Thomas Balch Library informational brochure and the On-Site Electronic resources brochure are now available.

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 or Find Us On Facebook.

CONGO: THE MISERABLE EXPEDITIONS AND DREADFUL DEATH OF LT. EMORY TAUNT, USN

Andrew C. A. Jampoler

Sunday, 22 September 2013, 2PM

Lauded for his ability to tell compelling, true adventure stories, award-winning author Andrew C. A. Jampoler has turned his attention to a young American naval officer on a mission up the Congo River in May 1885. Lt. Emory Taunt was ordered to explore as much of the river as possible and report on opportunities for Americans in the potentially rich African marketplace. A little more than five years later, Taunt, 39, was buried near the place he had first come ashore in Africa. His personal demons and the Congo's lethal fevers had killed him. In 2011, to better understand what happened, Jampoler retraced Taunt's expedition in an outboard motorboat.



Readers join Taunt in his exploration of some 1,400 miles of river and follow him on two additional assignments. A commercial venture to collect elephant ivory in the river's great basin and an appointment as the US State Department's first resident diplomat in Boma, capital of King Leopold II's Congo Free State, are filled with promise. But instead of becoming rich and famous, he died alone, bankrupt, and disgraced. Jampoler's account of what went so dreadfully wrong is both thrilling and tragic. He provides a fascinating look at Taunt's brief and extraordinary life, and a glimpse of the role the United States played in the birth of the Congo nation, and the increasingly awkward position Washington found itself when stories of atrocities against the natives began to leak out. The author is especially pleased by the generous endorsement of his book by Adam Hochschild, whose *King Leopold's Ghost* shaped modern understanding of Congo history between 1885 and 1908.

Andrew C. A. Jampoler spent twenty-four years as a naval aviator before his retirement from the US Navy in 1986. A resident of Loudoun County, VA, he has been writing history books and magazine articles for more than a dozen years, winning the Naval Institute Press's Author of the Year in 2003 for *Adak* and Naval History magazine's Author of the Year in 2006. Books will be available for purchase.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL: CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY AND THE MEMORY OF THE NATION

Abby A. Johnson and Ronald M. Johnson

Sunday, 29 September 2013, 2PM



In the Shadow of the United States Capitol:
Congressional Cemetery and the Memory of the Nation

The authors explore multiple ways in which Congressional Cemetery has been positioned for some two hundred years in "the shadow" of the US Capitol. The burial ground is described during three periods: a) the antebellum years; b) the years from the end of the Civil War to approximately 1970, when the site progressively deteriorated; c) the period from the early 1970s to 2007, when both public and private organizations worked to preserve the physical site and the memory

of what it has been and continues to represent. The focus of the book is on the dominant narrative associated with the site - its legacy as the first national burial ground in the United States. Given this emphasis, the text presents a political and cultural analysis of the cemetery, with particular focus on the participation of the US Congress.

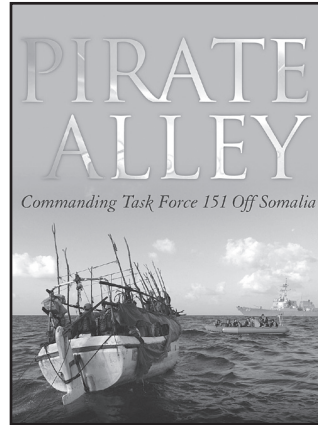
Abby Arthur Johnson and Ronald Mabery Johnson have long been partners in the research of historical and cultural topics. Prior to their study of Congressional Cemetery, they wrote *Propaganda and Aesthetics: The Literary Politics of African-American Magazines in the Twentieth Century* (rev. ed., 1991). They have also published essays and presented scholarly papers on African-American literary and historical topics. In 1992, Abby contributed a photographic essay focused on the burial ground to *Washington History*, journal of The Historical Society of Washington, DC. Over the following years, that initial effort evolved into a book-length study of the cemetery authored by both Johnsons. Abby Johnson is an Adjunct Professor of Liberal Studies at Georgetown University. Ronald Johnson is a Professor Emeritus of American History at Georgetown University. Books will be available for purchase.



PIRATE ALLEY: COMMANDING TASK FORCE 151 OFF SOMALI

RADM Terry McKnight, USN (Ret.)

Sunday, 6 October 2013, 2PM



In 2009, with piracy on the rise and fast becoming a serious global security issue, Rear Adm. Terry McKnight took command of CTF 151, the multinational task force on patrol in the Gulf of Aden. As task force commander, he directed operations that disrupted several hijackings and resulted in the capture of sixteen Somali pirates. Despite his successes, McKnight realized there was more to fighting piracy than merely catching khat-fueled youngsters armed with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades.

Following his retirement from the Navy, McKnight turned his full attention toward developing a comprehensive strategy to combat the threat and expansion of piracy. This book, co-written with journalist Michael Hirsh, is a very readable yet authoritative introduction to the subject. The authors explore every aspect of Somali piracy, from their operational methods to their impact on the world economy. Together, McKnight and Hirsh offer potential solutions to the problem and highlight the best ways to outfit ships for travel through high-risk areas. But they also warn that one consequence of successfully protecting targets like container ships and crude oil carriers may be that pirates will turn to crime on land, adding an entirely new dimension to their seaborne activities.

McKnight is a thirty-one-year Navy veteran who rose to command the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge and served as the first commander of Combined Task Force 151. Michael Hirsh, an Army combat correspondent during the Vietnam War, is an award-winning journalist who has produced documentaries and specials for PBS, CBS, ABC, and HBO. Books will be available for purchase.



CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

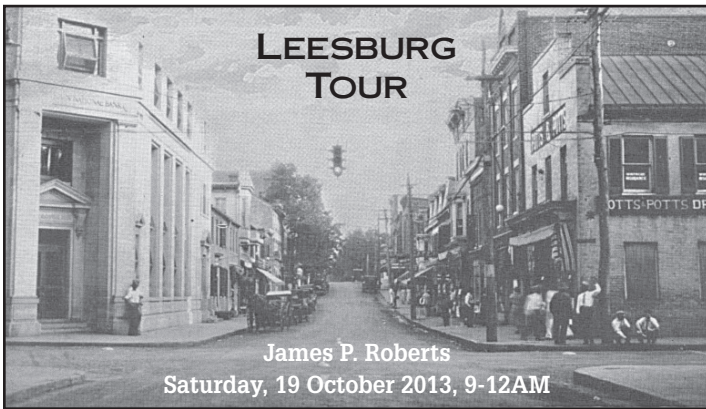


John Fishback

Monday, 7 October 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.



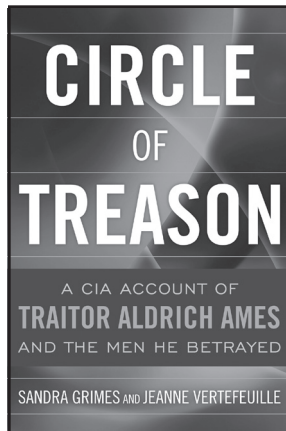
James Roberts, a native of Leesburg, member of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, 2008 recipient of a Loudoun History Award, and recognized in 2011 by Loudoun Laurels, will lead a walking tour of Leesburg. The tour is an insider's commentary of local people, places, and points of interest both in and around Leesburg. Particular detail is paid to how Leesburg has grown and evolved through the years architecturally, economically, and racially. Factual, historical, and anecdotal information is intertwined and presented in storytelling fashion as only someone who lived through it and thoughtfully observed it, can do. This unique tour will leave from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 9AM; walking shoes are recommended.

CIRCLE OF TREASON: A CIA ACCOUNT OF TRAITOR ALDRICH AMES AND THE MEN HE BETRAYED

Sandra Grimes

Sunday, 20 October 2013, 2PM

From May through December 1985 the CIA experienced the unparalleled loss of its stable of Soviet assets. There was no indication of the impending disaster, which all but wiped out human source reporting on the Soviet Union. Whatever the nature of the problem, something was seriously wrong. *Circle of Treason* is the story of Sandra Grimes' and Jeanne Vertefeuille's personal involvement in the CIA's effort to identify the reason for the losses and to protect future Soviet assets from a similar fate of execution or imprisonment. In 1991 the quest led to



their hunt for a Soviet spy in the CIA and to their identification of the "mole" as case officer Aldrich "Rick" Ames, a long-time acquaintance and co-worker in the Soviet-East European Division and Counterintelligence Center of CIA. That identification allowed the FBI to take the necessary law enforcement steps that led to Ames' arrest in February 1994 and, two months later, a conviction and life sentence. One of the most destructive traitors in American history, Ames provided information to the Soviet Union that led to the deaths of at least eight Soviet intelligence officers who spied for the United States. Not only is this the first book to be written by two of the CIA principals involved in identifying Ames as the mole, but it is also the first to provide details of the operational contact with the agents Ames betrayed, as well as similar cases with which the authors also had personal involvement—a total of sixteen operational histories in all. Of particular note is the Russian intelligence agent, General Dmitriy Fedorovich Polyakov, the highest-ranking spy run by the US government during the Cold War. Described as the "Crown Jewel," Polyakov provided the United States with a trove of information during his twenty-plus-year history of cooperation. The book also covers the aftermath of Ames' arrest, including the congressional wrath for not identifying him sooner, the FBI/CIA debriefings following Ames' plea bargain, and a retrospective of Ames, the person and Ames, the spy. Now retired from the CIA, Grimes and Vertefeuille are finally able to tell this inside story of the CIA's most notorious traitor and the men he betrayed. *Circle of Treason* has received coverage in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The London Independent*, and countless other publications. *Newsweek's* Tina Brown recommended the story for her "Word of Mouth" segment on NPR's "Morning Edition" and Sandy Grimes was featured on the Fox News Channel for a 35-minute segment of "Fox Files." Naval Institute Press recently announced the sale of television rights for *Circle of Treason* to Lincoln Square Productions – a division of ABC News. "The Assets," a limited series is slated to air in 2014. It will look inside the true, personal stories of the conclusion of the Cold War as told by the keepers of the nation's secrets: the CIA.

Sandra Grimes is a twenty-six year veteran of CIA's Clandestine Service and spent the majority of her career working against the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Jeanne Vertefeuille was a CIA officer during the Cold War from 1954-1992 and led the small task force which uncovered CIA mole Aldrich Ames. Jeanne Vertefeuille died a few weeks after publication of *Circle of Treason*. Books will be available for purchase.

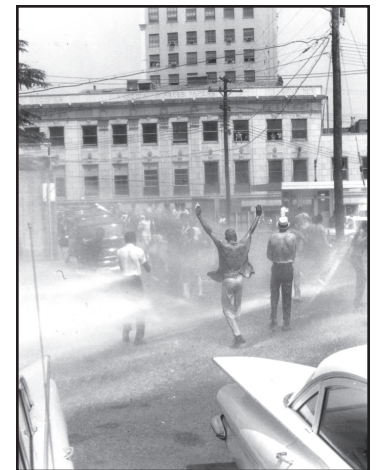
THE SUMMER OF '63 THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN DANVILLE, VA

Emma C. Edmunds and

James Hershman, Jr.

Sunday, 27 October 2013, 2PM

In the summer of 1963, civil rights protests, violence, and a protracted legal struggle gripped Danville, Virginia, and challenged the social and political contracts that black and white residents assumed to govern their community. The violent police reaction to a peaceful prayer vigil was unusual in the Upper South, and in its aftermath fractures and fissures developed in the social foundation of Danville and in the relationships between white and black residents. The local black leaders, who often represented the black community in negotiations with the white community, aligned behind the protesters, and property owners in the black community stepped





forward to help finance the bonding and legal costs of more than 300 demonstrators arrested in the months of June and July.

This presentation by historian James H. Hershman, Jr., professor of history in Georgetown University's Graduate Liberal Studies Program, and Emma C. Edmunds, project director for Mapping Local Knowledge: Danville, VA, 1945-75, will examine this little known struggle that occurred a half-century ago in Virginia. Their presentation will look at the importance of the Danville civil rights movement and an examination of the almost unknown events that occurred in the fall of 1963, including the role of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Danville.

Emma C. Edmunds is the principal researcher for Mapping Local Knowledge: Danville, VA, 1945-75. She is a journalist by training, having worked as a reporter at the *Atlanta Constitution* and as a writer and editor at *Atlanta Magazine*. Since 1998, she has conducted more than thirty oral histories and collected dozens of documents related to the African-American history of the Danville region; she also has developed and displayed two exhibits on the civil rights movement in Danville and developed a website at www.vcdh.virginia.edu/csik/danville/

James H. Hershman, Jr., writer and scholar, has taught courses in American History at the University of Virginia, Wake Forest University, and Georgetown University. His articles and reviews have appeared in the *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of Negro Education*, *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, and *The Moderates' Dilemma*. Currently, he is co-editing a book, *Massive Resistance and Civil Rights in the Old Dominion* for the University Press of Virginia. Hershman holds a PhD in Southern History from the University of Virginia.

PHILADELPHIA SILVERSMITHS AND RELATED ARTISANS TO 1862



Catherine B. Hollan

Sunday, 3 November 2013, 2PM

Philadelphia Silversmiths is an in-depth resource for identifying and differentiating Philadelphia silversmiths and their marks. Philadelphia was the largest silver market in America from 1760 to the 1820s and a center for silver manufacturing throughout the nineteenth century. Philadelphia silversmiths made large quantities of the silver collected

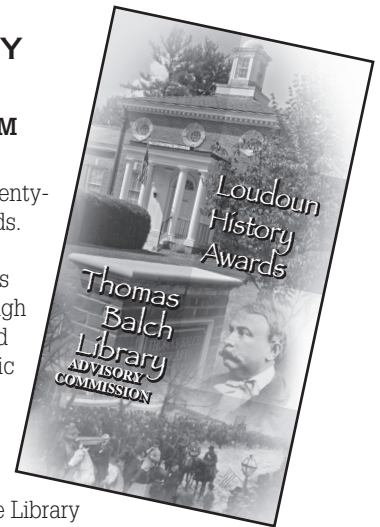
today and supplied silver spoons, cups, and tea wares to numbers of silversmiths beyond her borders. Names and marks of large manufacturers are included, as well as a special section on the odd marks used in Philadelphia. Sections on pattern handles before 1850 and picturebacks (swagged designs on back of spoon bowls) are also included. The book details silversmiths who worked before 1861; who they were, where they went, who they partnered with, their birth and death dates if available, and what marks they used.

Catherine B. Hollan has been researching, writing, and lecturing on American silver for thirty years. Since the late 1980s she has been working with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Old Salem, NC, on the illustrated *Virginia Silversmiths, the Branching of the Trade* - forthcoming. In 1994 she wrote the catalog and curated the exhibition *In the Neatest Most Fashionable Manner: Three Centuries of Alexandria Silver* at The Lyceum in Alexandria, VA. She published *Virginia Silversmiths - Lives and Marks* in 2010 and *Philadelphia Silversmiths to 1861* in 2013. Hollan holds a BA in English and math minor from Goucher College and an MS in computational linguistics from Georgetown University. She developed computerized search tools at the US Patent and Trademark Office and retired as the manager of their Public Search Rooms in 2003. Hollan is president of the American Silver Guild, a special interest group of collectors and curators based in the Washington, DC area. Books will be available for purchase.

LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 10 November 2013, 2PM

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the twenty-first annual Loudoun History Awards. This event honors individuals who have made significant contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing, and long-time commitment to local history organizations. For a brochure or information on nominating individuals, contact the Library Director at 703-737-7195.

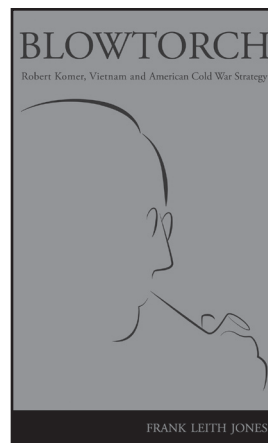


BLOWTORCH: ROBERT KOMER, VIETNAM AND AMERICAN COLD WAR STRATEGY

Frank Leith Jones

Sunday, 8 December 2013, 2PM

History has not been kind to Robert Komer, a casualty of bad historical analysis and inaccurate information. A Cold War national security policy and strategy adviser to three presidents, Komer was one of the most influential national security professionals of the era. The book begins with a review of his early life that helped shape his worldview. It then examines Komer's influence as a National Security Council staff member during the Kennedy administration, where he helped set its activist course regarding the Third World.



Upon Kennedy's death, Lyndon Johnson named Komer his "point man" for Vietnam pacification policy, and later General Westmoreland's operational deputy in Vietnam.

The author highlights Komer's activities during the three years he strove to fulfill the president's vision that Communism could be repelled from Southeast Asia by economic and social development along with military force. Known as "Blowtorch" for his abrasive personality and disdain for bureaucratic foot dragging, Komer came to be seen as the right person for managing that effort, and in 1968 was rewarded with an ambassadorship to Turkey. The book analyzes Komer's work during the Carter administration as special adviser to Secretary of Defense Harold Brown and Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and credits him for re-energizing the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's conventional capability and forging the military instrument that implemented the Carter Doctrine in the Persian Gulf - the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force. It also explores his final role as a defense intellectual and critic of the Reagan administration's defense policies. The book concludes with a summary of Komer's impact on American policy and strategy and his contributions to counterinsurgency practices, a legacy now recognized for its importance in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Frank Leith Jones is professor of security studies at the US Army War College in Carlisle, PA, where he holds the General Dwight D. Eisenhower Chair of National Security. A retired member of the Senior Executive Service, he served in several high-level policy and strategy positions in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and is the recipient of several civilian awards. Books will be available for purchase.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

2013-24 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.

A PATTERN ALL ITS OWN: LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN VIRGINIA

Thursday, 5 September 2013, 10AM

This talk will focus on the development of local government in Virginia during the twentieth century. The Old Dominion produced one form, the Independent city, which remains virtually unique among the states while another, the council-manager, has been widely emulated. Shaping it all was the state's distinctive political culture and political history. Evolution of local government form and structure is the subject, with discussion of its merits and shortcomings.

James H. Hershman, Jr. researches and writes Virginia history. He has served in the federal government, on the senior staff at the Brookings Institution, and as a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute. He holds a PhD in Southern History from the University of Virginia.

INTRODUCTION TO ON-LINE GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thursday, 3 October 2013, 10AM

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, will provide a general overview of on-line resources available at Thomas Balch Library to conduct genealogical research. Particular attention will be paid to subscription databases such as *AncestryLibrary*, *HeritageQuest*, *GenealogyBank* and non-subscription databases such as newspaper archives.

PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

Thursday, 7 November 2013, 10AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Archivist, will introduce participants to the basics of preservation and discuss the best ways to house and protect personal archives. Topics will include proper ways to handle letters, books, photographs, and other media; common conservation needs; threats to paper and electronic media; and the dangers of non-archival storage products.

TRADITIONAL GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thursday, 5 December 2013, 10AM

Mary Fishback, Library Assistant, will introduce participants to basic genealogical research utilizing materials in the collections of Thomas Balch Library and how to organize their research.

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 6 February 2014, 10AM

Under the direction of Elizabeth E. Preston, Archivist, 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*.

BURNED COUNTY RECORDS IN THE SOUTH

Thursday, 6 March 2014, 10AM

This lecture will discuss the effective use of surviving county records and then focus on federal and state records that provide genealogical information such as military, pensions, Southern Claims, Serial Set and state land grants that help fill in research gaps. Non-Government sources such as church records, manuscripts, cemetery records and local histories are also reviewed. Victor S. "Vic" Dunn is a board-certified genealogist and a full-time professional researcher.

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Thursday, 3 April 2014, 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. 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.

HISTORY OF VIRGINIA AS TOLD BY LEGISLATIVE PETITIONS

Thursday, 1 May 2014, 10AM

Petitions to the General Assembly were the primary catalyst for legislation in the Commonwealth from 1776 until 1865. Public improvements, military claims, divorce, manumission of slaves, division of counties, incorporation of towns, religious freedom, and taxation were just some of the concerns expressed in these petitions. The petitions often contain signatures and are a useful tool in genealogical and historical research. Frequently, the petitions contain supplementary support documents useful in research. Greg Crawford, Local Records Services Program Manager, of the Library of Virginia, will discuss how one can access these documents online through the Library of Virginia's Legislative Petitions database (<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/petitions>)

LOCATING REAL PROPERTY

Thursday, 5 June 2014, 10AM

Wynne Saffer, author of *Loudoun County, Virginia 1860 Land Tax Map*, who previously presented a class on deed research, will show how to convert a metes and bounds survey to a plat of the property. He will show some examples of plats and how to identify their location by using roads, streams, and other landmarks. He will demonstrate the use of current parcel maps to locate ancient property lines.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Thursday, 7 August 2014, 10AM

Kim Del Rance, Preservation Planner, Town of Leesburg, previously served as the Historic Preservation Planner for St. Augustine, FL. This presentation will be about researching a home in the historic district and what it means to be "historic" and "contributing" to the National Register of Historic Places.

PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

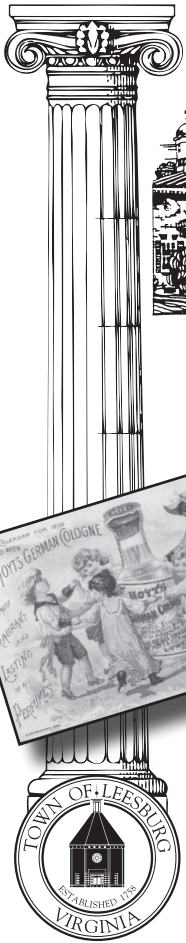
Thursday, 2 October 2014, 10AM

CHRONICLING AMERICA AND THE VIRGINIA NEWSPAPER PROJECT

Thursday, 6 November 2014, 10AM

USING THE VISUAL COLLECTIONS

Thursday, 4 December 2014, 10AM



THE BALCH COLUMN

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FALL 2013 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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Exhibits 2013-14

Margaret Mercer Room

- 2013**
- September** W&OD RR from Northern VA Park Authority Archives - Tracy Gillespie
 - October** Friends of Ball's Bluff - Ken Fleming
 - November** Loudoun County Scenes - Loudoun Photography Club
 - December** Loudoun Symphony - Kathy Zeigler
- 2014**
- January** World War II Memorabilia - John Wyrick
 - February** Frederick Douglass Elementary School - More than a School, It's a Community - Sarah Howard-O'Brien
 - March** Civic Service Projects of SCV/UDC - Ken & Becky Fleming
 - April** Generations of Oatlands Historic Houses and Gardens - Lori Kimball
 - May** 30 Years of the Loudoun Preservation Society - Lori Kimball
 - June** Antique Arms of the War of 1812 Era - Gary Heath
 - July-Aug.** Local Civil War Relics - John Creamer
 - September** Projects and History of 4-H in Loudoun - Ann Ludwig
 - October** New Collections at TBL - Elizabeth E. Preston
 - November** Native Americans in Loudoun County - Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum
 - December** Paintings and Photographs - Cathy Payne

Lower Level Meeting Room

- 2013**
- July-Sept.** Images of Loudoun County - Gary Mester
 - Oct.-Dec.** Loudoun Contours: Aerial Views of Our Heritage - Jim Hanna
- 2014**
- Jan.-March** Scenes from Northern Virginia - Ofelia Knapp
 - April-June** Art in Cross Stitch Scenes Along the Back Roads of Loudoun - Cathy Payne
 - July-Sept.** Photographs of Historical Figures - Bachrach Photography
 - Oct.-Dec.** The Grist Mill in Northern Virginia - Jim Stewart

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 or call 703-737-2166.

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 or call 703-737-2166.

Art Showing - Neo Realist Sherry Zvares Sanabria will be showing paintings at the Lee Hansley Gallery in Raleigh, NC, from September 5 through October 9 and will have an exhibition of her series, "The Corrections: Prisons and Mental Hospitals," at Hillyer Art Place in Washington, DC from December 6 to December 21.

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.

Virginia Forum - The eighth annual Virginia Forum will be held 13-15 March 2014 on the campus of George Mason University, Fairfax, 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 is "Traffic." From familiar modern concerns with transportation to more general processes of commerce, both licit and illicit, to historic modes of exchange and interaction between people, issues of "Traffic" have pervaded Virginia's history. For additional information please see www.virginiaforum.org Direct further inquiries to: VaForum@rmc.edu