

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



Twice annually I find myself faced with the daunting task of selecting from a vast array of activities and events a few to share with you. Choices made are intended to provide readers an opportunity to share with us, even if only virtually, accomplishments and pride of place.

On June 23 Robert Sanabria and family presented to the library a painting by Sherry Zvares Sanabria entitled *Settle Dean Cabin*. Given as a memorial to Sherry Zvares Sanabria, longtime member of the Black History Committee and artist of national and international reputation, this work captures the very essence of Sanabria's artistry "luminous paintings of spaces that seemed to hold the spirits of those who inhabited them." The presentation ceremony was conducted by the Black History Committee and attended by some 35 people. The painting is available for viewing and hangs in the library's microfilm room.



Tovah Kasdin, Alex S. Kasten, Jessica L. Kasten, Robert Sanabria

Earlier this spring an application was submitted to the Loudoun Library Foundation (LLF) for a grant to assist in processing a large and significant collection documenting the history of and life in Leesburg and Loudoun County from the late 1700s through the 20th century. We are pleased to receive a grant of \$6,800 from LLF enabling Ben Tayloe, reference librarian, to process the Charles Johnston Papers.

Staff at Thomas Balch Library is active professionally throughout the community. This past season, Mary Fishback, Library Assistant, was one of four recipients of the annual Heritage Hero Award presented this year by the Mosby Heritage Area Association. Elizabeth E. Preston and Commissioner James H. Hershman, Jr. attended the 2014 Virginia Forum at George Mason University. Preston moderated a session on the growth and development of Loudoun County and Hershman presented a paper entitled "Leon Bazile—Jurist for Jim Crow: Equalization, Segregation, Massive Resistance."

Since the last newsletter there have been several staffing changes. Gabrielle Sanchez joined our staff and is assisting with visual collections, manuscripts, reference and other projects. Her background includes a BA in History from Bryn Mawr College with a year spent at the University of Edinburgh and an MA in History and an MLS from Indiana University. Prior experience includes serving as archivist at the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen in NY, as manuscripts librarian and archivist at The New-York Historical Society, and as project archivist at the George Washington University, DC. Her most recent experience was archivist for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress.

In June the resignation of Elizabeth E. Preston, archivist, was accepted with regret and sadness. Best wishes were extended for her future professional success and happiness as she, with her family, relocated out of state. Preston's contributions over the last four years have been outstanding, and she will be missed by all - staff and patrons alike. In recognition of her many contributions to the community, Thomas Balch Library and the Town of Leesburg, a certificate of appreciation was presented by the Town Council.

We have been pleased to host an intern this summer, Ashley Swartwout, a rising junior at Patrick Henry College. Her focus has been on processing manuscript collections.



Collections at the library continue to grow because of ongoing support from the community and the generosity of visitors from across the country. This winter and spring the Kectochn Chapter of the NSDAR, a long-time supporter of the Library, donated Georgia in the *American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians* and Rhode Island in the *American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians* by Eric G. Grundset. These are the third and fourth volumes in a series projected to cover the original thirteen colonies. Other additions of interest to our holdings include the following digital newspapers: *The Guardian and Observer*; *The Scotsman*; *The Irish Times* and the *Weekly Irish Times*; and the (historical) *Baltimore Sun*. Also, in 2013 the Library of Virginia borrowed numerous issues of the *Loudoun News* from the library for the national newspaper project. These issues were returned in March along with microfilm copies of the newspapers, now available to patrons for research use in the library.

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.

SUSTAINABLE GENEALOGY: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION IN FAMILY LEGENDS

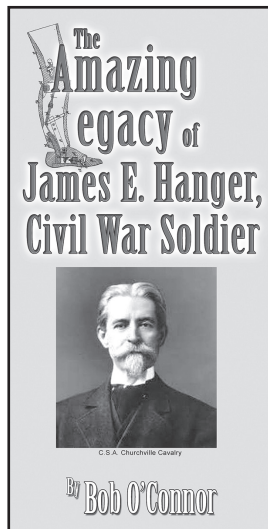


Richard Hite

Sunday, 21 September 2014, 2PM

There are many textbooks that describe how to find your ancestors; this new one by Richard Hite clarifies how not to. In short, *Sustainable Genealogy* explains how to avoid traps into which family historians often fall. Whether it's a proud family legend, a venerable publication, or claims of an Internet family tree, the unsubstantiated genealogical source is like a house of sticks before the Big Bad Wolf—it won't stand up. As Hite demonstrates in this collection of case studies, many are the "oral traditions that have fallen by the wayside under the lens of careful research in primary sources and more recently, DNA testing." Lessons from *Sustainable Genealogy* include recognizing when identical surnames conceal different nationalities; understanding when and why death certificates can be "wrong;" knowing when ancestors' middle names are not family names; respecting the role of geography in establishing ancestral ties; taking the genealogies in 19th-century "mug books" with a grain of salt; and accepting that all relationships must be chronologically plausible.

Richard Hite is State Records Coordinator of the Rhode Island State Archives and Public Records Administration. Previously he was Assistant State Archivist at the Ohio Historical Society and from 2003 until 2012 he served as President of the Hite Family Association. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island. Books will be available for purchase.



THE AMAZING LEGACY OF JAMES E. HANGER, CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

Robert O'Connor

Sunday, 28 September 2014, 2PM

James E. Hanger was wounded at Philippi, Virginia on June 3, 1861 becoming the first amputee of the American Civil War. He hated the Yankee peg leg his Union doctor gave him. So he used his ingenuity and engineering background to invent an artificial leg with a joint at the knee and a hinge at the ankle - Hanger Limb - which he patented. This invention revolutionized the prosthetic industry. The company Hanger founded still operates today as one of the world's largest providers of artificial limbs. His is a remarkable story.

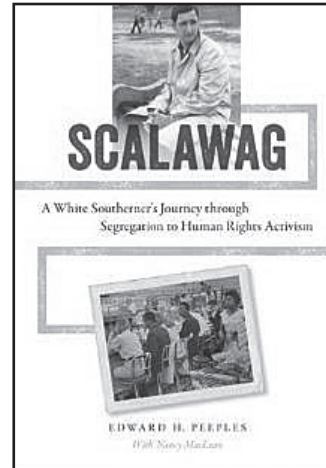
O'Connor has written numerous books of historical fiction and several non-fiction books. He holds a degree in biology from Northern Illinois University, volunteers at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and writes for several local and regional publications. Books will be available for purchase.

SCALAWAG: A WHITE SOUTHERNER'S JOURNEY THROUGH SEGREGATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM

Edward H. Peeples, Nancy MacLean, and James H. Hershman, Jr.
Sunday, 5 October 2014, 2PM

Scalawag tells the surprising story of a white working-class boy who became an unlikely civil rights activist. Born in 1935 in Richmond, where he was sent to segregated churches and schools, Ed Peeples was taught

the ethos and lore of white supremacy by every adult in his young life. That message came with an equally cruel one—that, as the child of a wage-earning single mother, he was destined for failure.



But by age nineteen Peeples became what the whites in his world called a "traitor to the race." Pushed by a lone teacher to think critically, Peeples found his way to the black freedom struggle and began a long life of activism. He challenged racism in his US Navy unit and engaged in sit-ins and community organizing. Later, as a university professor, he agitated for good jobs, health care, and decent housing for all, pushed for the creation of African American studies courses at his university, and

worked toward equal treatment for women, prison reform, and more. Peeples did most of his human rights work in his native Virginia, and his story reveals how institutional racism pervaded the Upper South as much as the Deep South.

Covering fifty years' participation in the long civil rights movement, Peeples's gripping story brings to life an unsung activist culture to which countless forgotten individuals contributed over time expanding their commitment from civil rights to other causes. This engrossing, witty tale of escape from what once seemed certain fate, invites readers to reflect on how moral courage can transform a life.

Edward H. Peeples is Associate Professor Emeritus of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at Virginia Commonwealth University. Nancy MacLean is the William H. Chafe Professor of History and Public Policy at Duke University and the author of *Freedom Is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace*. James H. Hershman Jr. is on the faculty of the Graduate Liberal Studies Program at Georgetown University. Books will be available for purchase.



CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, 6 October 2014, 7PM

Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 6:45PM.

John Fishback, former 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.



LEESBURG TOUR

James P. Roberts
Saturday, 18

October 2014, 9-12AM

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: sturdy walking shoes are recommended.

BENEFIT AND IMPROVEMENT: EVIDENCE OF ANTEBELLUM VIRGINIA SOCIAL LIBRARIES

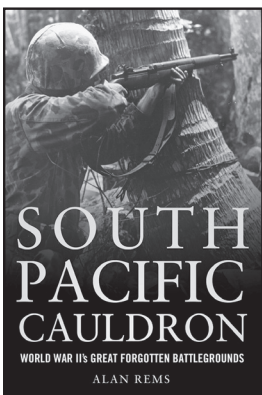
Yvonne A. Carignan

Sunday, 19 October 2014, 2PM

Yvonne Carignan has been head of George Mason University Libraries' Special Collections & Archives since 2011. Previous positions have included library director and head of collections for the Kiplinger Research Library, Historical Society of Washington, DC; head of the preservation program for the University of Maryland Libraries; and head of the Alexandria, VA, City Library's history branch at Lloyd House. Her education includes a Masters in history from George Mason University, a Masters in Library Science from University of North Carolina, and a BA in history from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Carignan's professional activities have most often been with the Mid Atlantic Archives Conference; the American Library Association and its divisions including the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section; and the Society of American Archivists. Her research and publication interests include topics in antebellum library and cultural history as well as in preservation of library and archival collections. Selected publications include: "Preserving Brittle Books: Benefits for the Digital Age;" "And a Handful of Visionaries: A History of Library Preservation;" *Preservation Manager's Guide to Cost Analysis*; *Who Wants Yesterday's Papers? Essays on the Research Value of Printed Materials in the Digital Age*; "Western Maryland Newspapers, 1820-1860: American Culture in Transition."

SOUTH PACIFIC CAULDRON: WORLD WAR II'S GREAT FORGOTTEN BATTLEFIELDS



Alan Rems

Sunday, 26 October 2014, 2PM

While the Pacific War has been widely studied by military historians and venerated in popular culture through movies and other media, the fighting in the South Pacific theatre has, with few exceptions, been remarkably neglected. Worthy of remembrance no less than Wake Island, Leyte Gulf, and Tarawa are the great unsung battlefields of Buna, Shaggy Ridge, and the Driniumor River on New Guinea, the torpedo-infested waters off New

Georgia, and the deadly skies over Rabaul and Wewak.

Authoritative, yet written in a highly readable narrative style, *South Pacific Cauldron* is the first complete history embracing all land, sea

and air operations in this critically important sector of that oceanic war. Unlike most other World War II accounts, this work covers the South Pacific operations in detail, including the little-known, final Australian campaigns that continued until the Japanese surrender.

Author Alan Rems breathes life into the major figures of the South Pacific campaigns, including brilliant and imperious Gen. Douglas MacArthur, audacious and profane Adm. William "Bull" Halsey, and bibulous and indelicate Australian Gen. Thomas Blamey. No less interesting are others that will be mostly new to readers, including many from the Japanese side, like the indomitable generals Noboru Sasaki and Hatazo Adachi. As for the fighting men, many of their stories are captured in accounts of the actions for which some were awarded the Medal of Honor, Victoria Cross, and other decorations for valor.

Alan Rems, a retired CPA, has been a regular contributor to *Naval History* magazine since his first writing effort that earned the U.S. Naval Institute's 2008 Author of the Year award. Books will be available for purchase.

MARTHA JEFFERSON RANDOLPH: REPUBLICAN DAUGHTER AND PLANTATION MISTRESS

Billy Wayson

Sunday, 2 November 2014, 2PM



For almost his entire life, Thomas Jefferson served in positions of leadership at the local, state, and federal levels. His gifted pen was known in Europe, even before The Declaration, but it was Jefferson's private writing that revealed the most intimate emotional dynamics of a life in government service. Nowhere are the personal challenges associated with public service more poignantly expressed than in Jefferson's letters to daughter Martha ("Patsy"). This book

drew on some 900 family letters and used qualitative analysis software to trace the evolution of this intense daughter-father relationship alongside rapidly unfolding political, economic, and social events. Their deep, abiding affection for each other was the foundation-stone of Jefferson's public service in Congress as Minister to France, Secretary of State, Vice President, and Chief Executive. Martha Jefferson Randolph was the emotional "First Lady" of her Father's administration.

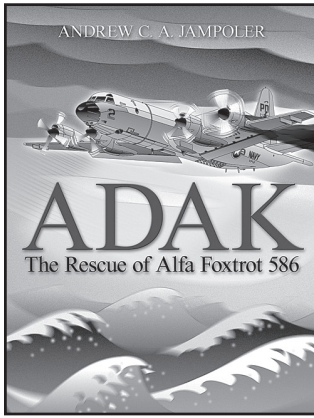
Billy Wayson holds a PhD from the University of Virginia, studied Economics at George Washington University, and at the University of Iowa earned a BA in Philosophy. His research interests are cultural, social, economic, and political history from mid-eighteenth century to the late antebellum period with specific curiosity for the subjects of family, gender, household, and community. As the recipient of two fellowships at the International Center for Jefferson Studies and his book manuscript, *Martha Jefferson Randolph: Republican Daughter and Plantation Mistress*, he was the first to address the unique relationship between Jefferson, his daughter, and their images of family and culture. Using computer analysis methodologies not practiced in the history profession, his extensive research has resulted in a deep knowledge, categorization, and accessibility of the correspondence of Thomas Jefferson. Books will be available for purchase.

LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 9 November 2014, 2PM

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the twenty-second 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.

ADAK: THE RESCUE OF ALFA FOXTROT 586



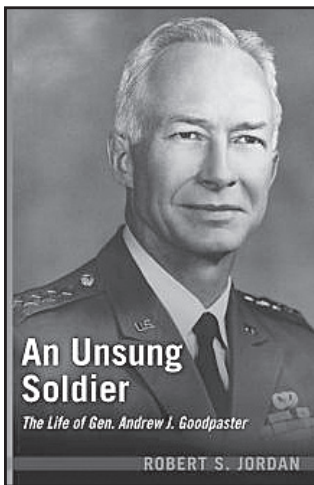
Andrew C. A. Jampoler
Sunday, 16 November 2014, 2PM

In the tradition of great tales of men against the sea, this story offers a compelling look at courage and commitment in the face of certain tragedy. It is a powerful blend of human drama and real-life naval operations, but unlike most books in the genre, its heroes are airmen not seamen, and most survived their ordeal. Published on the 33rd anniversary of Alfa Foxtrot 586's fatal mission as a tribute to those lost, the account was written by a naval

aviator who has flown the same aircraft on the same mission from the same air base. The aircraft is a P-3 Orion on station during a sensitive mission off the Kamchatka Peninsula in the north Pacific. The time is mid-day on 26 October 1978. Jampoler takes readers into the cockpit of the turboprop as a propeller malfunction turns into an engine fire, eventually forcing Jerry Grigsby to ditch his patrol plane into the empty, mountainous seas west of the Aleutian Islands. His fourteen crewmembers, strapped in their seats, expect the worst—and get it. The aircraft goes down in just ninety seconds, taking one of the three rafts with it. A second raft, terribly overcrowded, soon begins to leak. The flight crew's desperate battle to survive is told with the authority, drama, and sensitivity that only someone with the author's background could provide. He draws on interviews with survivors, searchers, and even the master of the Soviet fishing trawler that saved the living and recovered the bodies of the dead. He also draws on recordings of radio communications, messages in the files of the state and defense departments, and the patrol squadron's own investigation of the ditching.

Andrew C. A. Jampoler, a former commanding officer of Patrol Squadron 19 and of Naval Air Station Moffett Field in California, spent twenty-four years as a naval aviator before his retirement from the US Navy in 1986. His last flight as a P-3 Orion patrol plane commander from Naval Station Adak, Alaska, took place just twenty-one months before Alfa Foxtrot 586 went down. He won 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.

AN UNSUNG SOLDIER: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GEN. ANDREW J. GOODPASTER



Robert S. Jordan
Sunday, 7 December 2014, 2PM

An Unsung Soldier places Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster as one of the leading soldier-scholars of his time. A key figure among the American military and political personalities that dominated the early years of the Cold War, Goodpaster served on Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's staff and established the international military component of NATO. He then followed Eisenhower to the White House, where he served as staff secretary and defense liaison officer for the president. Goodpaster achieved the highest international

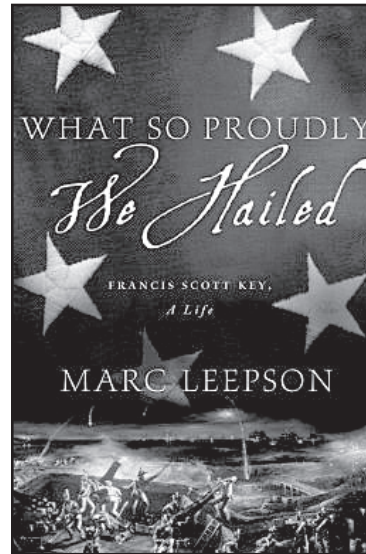
military command assignment possible when, after serving in Vietnam as deputy commander, he became NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. After his initial retirement, Goodpaster (USMA class of 1939) was called back to duty to restore the integrity of West Point after a major ethical scandal. Upon his final retirement and for over a quarter-

century thereafter, he was actively involved in both the formal and informal world of Washington policy making. Consequently, few military men of his generation have been both "warriors" and "thinkers," yet General Goodpaster qualifies to be among that select company. He was a dedicated cold warrior throughout his nearly forty-year active-duty military career, and was a sophisticated observer and commentator on the foreign policy and national security scene thereafter.

Robert S. Jordan holds doctorates from Princeton University and Oxford University, where he was a member of St. Antony's College. He served as director of research for the UN Institute for Training and Research and was a distinguished professor of strategy and policy at the US Naval War College. He has published widely on Cold War alliance policy, coalition maritime affairs, international administration, and military biography. Books will be available for purchase.

WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAILED: FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, A LIFE

Marc Leepson
Sunday, 14 December 2014, 2PM



What So Proudly We Hailed is the first full-length biography of Francis Scott Key in more than 75 years. In this fascinating look at early America, historian Marc Leepson explores the life and legacy of Francis Scott Key. Standing alongside Betsy Ross, Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, Paul Revere, and John Hancock in history, Key made his mark as an American icon by one single and unforgettable act, writing *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of *The Star Spangled Banner* in 2014, *What So Proudly We Hailed* reveals unexplored details of the life of an American patriot whose

legacy has been largely unknown until now. Among other things, Leepson reveals: How the young Washington lawyer found himself in Baltimore Harbor on the night of September 13-14, 1814; the mysterious circumstances surrounding how the poem he wrote, first titled "The Defense of Ft. M'Henry," morphed into the National Anthem; Key's role in forming the American Colonization Society, and his decades-long fervent support for that controversial endeavor that sent free blacks to Africa; his adamant opposition to slave trafficking and his willingness to represent slaves and freed men and women for free in Washington's courts; Key's role as a confidant of President Andrew Jackson and his work in Jackson's "kitchen cabinet," and Key's controversial actions as US Attorney during the first race riot in Washington, DC, in 1835.

Marc Leepson graduated from George Washington University in 1967. After serving in the US Army from 1967-69 he went on to earn a Master's Degree in History from George Washington University in 1971. He is a journalist, historian, and the author of seven books: *Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General* (2011), a concise biography of the famed Marquis de Lafayette; *Desperate Engagement* (2007), the story of the Civil War Battle of Monocacy and Confederate General Jubal Early's Subsequent March on Washington; *Flag: An American Biography* (2005), the history of the Stars and Stripes from the beginnings to today; and *Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built* (2001). He edited *The Webster's New World Dictionary of the Vietnam War* (1998) and wrote two books on health topics in the 1980s. A former staff writer for *Congressional Quarterly* in Washington, DC, he has been a free-lance writer since 1986. He teaches US history at Lord Fairfax Community College in Warrenton, VA. Books will be available for purchase.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

2014-2015 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.

PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

Thursday, 2 October 2014, 10AM

Gabrielle Sanchez, Library Reference Associate, 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, and photographs; common conservation needs; threats to paper; and the dangers of non-archival storage products.

CHRONICLING AMERICA AND THE VIRGINIA NEWSPAPER PROJECT

Thursday, 6 November 2014, 10AM

Errol S. Somay, Director, Virginia Newspaper Project, Library of Virginia, will discuss Chronicling America and the Virginia Newspaper Project, their significance for researchers, and how to best utilize these resources.

USING THE VISUAL COLLECTIONS

Thursday, 4 December 2014, 10AM

Lisa DeZam, Library Reference Associate, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library. Types of images available and how they may be accessed will be discussed.

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 5 February 2015, 10AM

Under the direction of Gabrielle Sanchez, Library Reference Associate, 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*.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 5 March 2015, 10AM

Under the direction of Lori Kimball, learn how to conduct historical or genealogical research using the resources available at Thomas Balch Library. Discussion will also touch on resources available at the Loudoun County Courthouse in Leesburg. Lori Kimball is a member of the Black History Committee of

the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and co-researcher of the Enslaved Community of President James Monroe.

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Thursday, 2 April 2015, 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 Regent. She holds a BS from Central Michigan University and a JD from Thomas Cooley Law School.

USING MAPS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 7 May 2015, 10AM

If pictures are worth 1,000 words, maps are worth a million - and Virginia is rich in mapping resources. From John Smith in 1607, through the Census in 2010, people have crafted maps to show the places where history happened. There are maps showing locations of Native American villages, shifting boundaries of counties, and the location of coal, gold, and other mineral resources in Virginia. Speculators planned railroad lines, soldiers documented locations of battles, and training camps in Northern Virginia for the Spanish-American war are marked on maps. Large-scale migrations of groups and an individual family's past can be tracked through place names, and Geographic Information System (GIS) products document visions for the next 20 years of land use in Loudoun. Come discover the wide range of maps one can use and explore the stories behind those maps.

Charlie Grymes teaches "Geography of Virginia" at George Mason University (see www.virginiaplaces.org). He retired from the US Department of the Interior after over 30 years in a variety of jobs, including park ranger, scenic easement administrator, and information technology manager. He now

serves on the boards of local non-government organizations, including chair of the Prince William Conservation Alliance. As a 10th generation Virginian (Leesylvania State Park is an old family plantation,) he often wonders why earlier generations kept buying land at high prices and selling it after values dropped.

DEED RESEARCH

Thursday, 4 June 2015, 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.

HISTORY OF VIRGINIA AS TOLD BY LEGISLATIVE PETITIONS

Thursday, 6 August 2015, 10AM

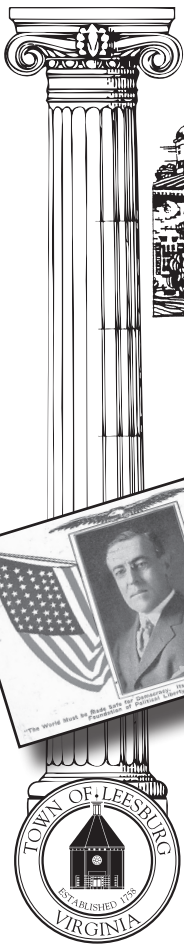
Petitions to the General Assembly were the primary catalyst for legislation in the Commonwealth from 1776 until 1865. Public improvements, military claims, divorce, manumission of slaves, division of counties, incorporation of towns, religious freedom, and taxation were just some of the concerns expressed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

Greg Crawford, who received a BA and MA in History from Auburn University, was hired in 1999 as Local Records Archivist at the Library of Virginia and is currently the Local Records Services Program Manager.

PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

Thursday, 1 October 2015, 10AM

A member of the Thomas Balch Library staff will introduce participants to the basics of preservation and discuss the best ways to house and protect personal archives.

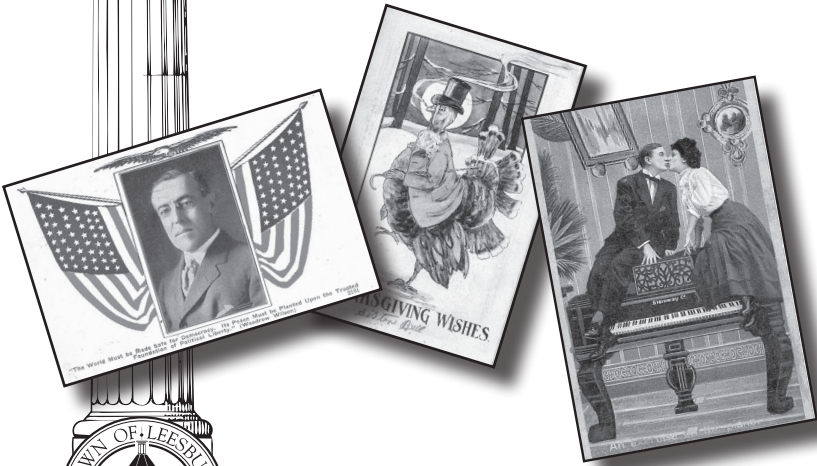


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FALL 2014 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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Exhibits 2014-15

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

- September, 2014** – Projects and History of 4-H in Loudoun - Ann Ludwig
- October, 2014** – New Collections at Thomas Balch Library - Gabrielle Sanchez
- November, 2014** – Native Americans in Loudoun County - Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum
- December, 2014** – Pottery - David Norton
- January, 2015** – Northern Virginia Regional Parks in Loudoun County - NVRPA
- February, 2015** – Faith Ringgold Quilt Stories - 1st Grade Students, Frederick Douglass Elementary School
- March, 2015** – Tending the farm: Remembering the Farm Hands of Morven Park - Morven Park
- April, 2015** – Civil War Artifacts of Maine Soldiers - Jack Craig
- May, 2015** – History of Engraving and Photography - Harold Brown
- June, 2015** – Weapons from 1860-1900 - Gary Heath
- July, 2015** – American Colonization Movement - Greg Paxton
- August, 2015** – Local Civil War Relics - John Creamer
- September, 2015** – The Village of Aldie - Aldie Preservation Society
- October, 2015** – Ball's Bluff - Ken Fleming & Jim Morgan
- November, 2015** – New Collections at Thomas Balch Library
- December, 2015** – US Military Artifacts - John Wyrick

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

- July - Sept., 2014** – Photographs of Historical Figures - Bachrach Photography
- Oct. - Dec., 2014** – The Grist Mill in Northern Virginia - Jim Stewart
- Jan. - March, 2015** – Photography from Around the World - Loudoun Photography Group
- April - June, 2015** – A Look Around Loudoun - What Will You Discover? - Jennifer Lamberton
- July - Sept., 2015** – Celebrating Virginia's Heritage - Morven Park
- Oct. - Dec., 2015** – A Celebration of Small Villages and Cross Roads of Loudoun County - 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 or call 703/737-2166.

Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., meets at the library the first Saturday of every month at 10AM. The public is always welcome. For more information, visit www.balchfriends.org or call 703/737-2166.

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 2015 Virginia Forum will be held on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. This year's theme, "Anniversaries" recognizes that the year 2015 marks specific anniversaries – the 350th of the chattel slave system; the 250th of the road to the American Revolution; 200th of the end of the War of 1812; the 150th of the end of the Civil War; the 100th of World War I, and the 50th of the Voting Rights Act. This year's forum invites papers on how anniversaries in Virginia have been created, observed, recorded, and contested in non-fiction, fiction, other literary and historical forms, the visual arts, and historic and monumental sites. Please submit a one-page paper proposal and a one-page curriculum vitae in a single Word/pdf document to virginiaforum@vcu.edu by 15 September 2015. Please be sure to include your email address and other contact information.