

# 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



During the twenty-second annual Loudoun History Awards ceremony in November, four individuals were recognized for their special contributions to preserving local history. This year's honorees were Vernon Peterson for his contributions to research, preservation, and documentation of African Americans in Loudoun County's history, and Stephen C. Price for his contributions to land conservation, historic preservation, and the history of Loudoun County. These individuals have made significant contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks and property, visual arts, writing, and long-time commitment to local history organizations. During the awards ceremony, certificates of special recognition were presented to recently retired Town Manager, John A. Wells, for his many years of personal support of history and preservation throughout Loudoun County, Leesburg, and in particular Thomas Balch Library, and the Honorable Charles L. Waddell for his many years of personal and legislative support of history and preservation including land conservation throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and in particular, Loudoun County. The occasion was remarkable for the convivial retelling of anecdotes, memories, and shared experiences in the effort to preserve the historical presence in Loudoun County.



Photo by Stephen Axeman

It is my pleasure to share exciting news on a wonderful initiative of the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library (BHC). The BHC is planning a tour of African American historic sites in Loudoun County. The tour, based on the BHC's publication, *Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide* will introduce visitors and the County's community to the shared history of Loudoun, and travel along a route of additional historical sites included in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground. Organized by project leader, Alicia Cohen, the tour aims to increase the county's cultural tourism as it relates to its African American heritage and contributions. Additional volunteers, all born and raised in the county, include Mary Randolph, Louis Jett, and Phyllis Cook-Taylor. The tour, which will include sites in Leesburg, Waterford, Purcellville, Middleburg, Oatlands, and Gleedsville will begin and end in Leesburg. A van or small bus accompanied by a volunteer route interpreter to provide historic significance of and between visited sites will be utilized. A test tour scheduled for December 20 will enable interpreters to refine the tour in preparation for the initial public offering in May 2015. The length of the tour will be approximately four hours, the fee for which has yet to be determined. Look for more information in 2015 and/or contact Alicia O. Cohen 703/606-3275.



Following a national search Laura Christiansen accepted our offer for the open position of Curator of Manuscripts and Archives. Laura holds a BA in History and a BA in Art History from Berry College, Mount Berry, GA and an MLIS and an MA in Public History from USC, Columbia, SC. She spent five months studying Museology and Intensive Painting Restoration at Scuola Lorenzo D'Medici in Florence, Italy. Her professional experience includes serving as Archivist at the South Carolina Historical Society; Head Librarian at the Jean Outland Chrysler Library, Chrysler Museum of Art; Public Relations and Development Officer, Handley Regional Library; Library Associate Thomas Balch Library and most recently as Executive Director Clarke County Historical Association, Berryville, VA. Please welcome Laura when you see her.

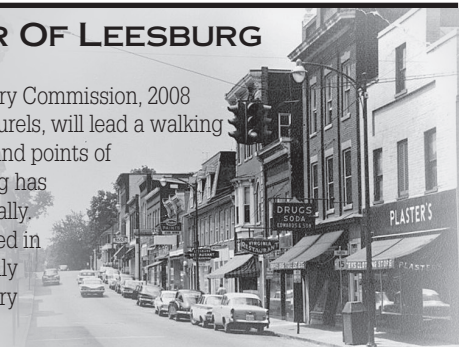
As always it will be a pleasure to welcome you when visiting the Library or when attending programs and exhibits.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

### JOIN US FOR AN INSIDER'S WALKING TOUR OF LEESBURG

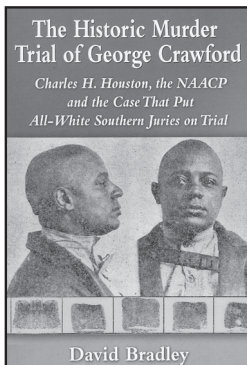
**James P. Roberts ■ Saturday, 16 May 2015, 9-12AM**

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.



Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the lower level 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.

## THE HISTORIC MURDER TRIAL OF GEORGE CRAWFORD



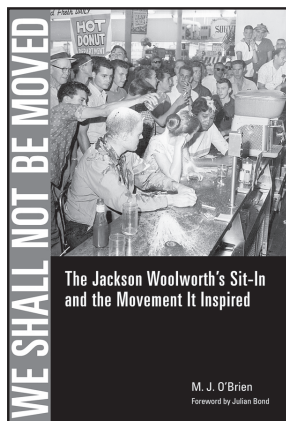
**David Bradley**  
**Sunday, 8 February 2015, 2PM**

The Depression-era murder trial of George Crawford in Northern Virginia helped end the exclusion of African Americans from juries. Nearly forgotten today, the murders, ensuing manhunt, extradition battle, and sensational trial enthralled the nation. Before it was over, the US House of Representatives threatened to impeach a federal judge, the age-old states rights debate was renewed, and a rift nearly split the fledgling NAACP. In the end, the story's hero—Howard University Law School

Dean, Charles Hamilton Houston, was the subject of public ridicule from critics who had little understanding of the inner workings of the case. This book puts the Crawford murder trial in its fullest context, side by side with relevant events of the time.

David Bradley is a journalist currently covering the US energy industry. He spent more than a decade working at newspapers in Northern Virginia, including the *Loudoun Easterner*, *Loudoun Independent*, and *Loudoun Times-Mirror*. Books will be available for purchase.

## WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED: THE JACKSON WOOLWORTH'S SIT IN AND THE MOVEMENT IT INSPIRED



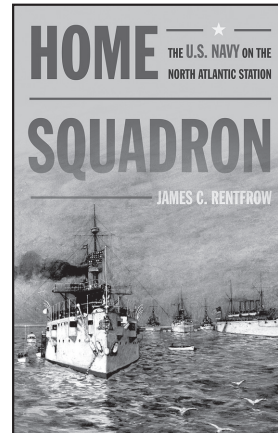
**Michael J. O'Brien**  
**Sunday, 22 February 2015, 2PM**

It was while visiting the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change in Atlanta, GA in 1991 that Michael O'Brien conceived the work that has become *We Shall Not Be Moved*. As part of its civil rights display, the King Center showed a photograph of the 1963 Jackson, MS Woolworth's sit-in—a photograph that has become the image used in history books and magazine articles to show what a sit-in was like. O'Brien was captivated by the photograph because at its center was a woman, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland,

whom he had known for a number of years. For much of that time, Mulholland had been reticent about her civil rights experiences. Seeing the photograph in such an esteemed environment made O'Brien realize there was much more of a story behind the photograph than Mulholland was letting on. O'Brien was inspired to tell the story of the nine individuals who sat-in that day—May 28, 1963—and to fully explore the grassroots civil rights movement in Jackson that the sit-in sparked to life. *We Shall Not Be Moved* puts the Jackson Woolworth's sit-in into historical context. Part multifaceted biography, part well-researched history, the narrative explores the hearts and minds of those participating in this experience. It was a demonstration without precedent in Mississippi—one that set the stage for much that would follow in the changing dynamics of the state's racial politics, particularly in its capital city. O'Brien will speak about his book and show a brief clip of the documentary *An Ordinary Hero: The True Story of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland*.

Michael J. O'Brien is an independent writer and scholar. His interest in the civil rights era first sparked as a Catholic seminarian during the late 1960s and deepened as he studied nonviolent philosophies of Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dorothy Day. He graduated in 1973

from St. Mary's Seminary & University in Catonsville, MD and went on to earn a second bachelor's degree from The American University's School of Communication in Washington, DC. A practicing corporate communications executive for more than 30 years, O'Brien recently retired from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a non-profit finance cooperative that provides private market capital to America's electric cooperative network. Books will be available for purchase as will copies of the documentary, *An Ordinary Hero: The True Story of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland* a participant in the Jackson Woolworth sit-in.



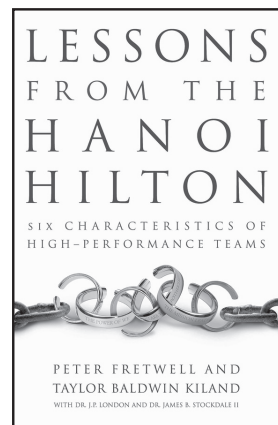
**HOME SQUADRON**  
**James "Chris" Rentfrow**  
**Sunday, 1 March 2015, 2PM**

This study examines the transformation of the US Navy as a fighting organization that took place on the North Atlantic Station between 1874 and 1897. At the beginning of this period, warships assigned to this station were collectively administered by a rear-admiral, but were operationally deployed as individual units, each of whose actions were directed by their captains. By 1897 the North Atlantic, or "Home" Squadron as it was known, was a group of warships constituting a protean battle fleet—an organized body moving and fighting in close-order, which meant the actions of the captains were directed by a commanding admiral. Based on the record of the North Atlantic Squadron, it is argued that imperial aspirations, in the sense of possessing a capability to restrict actions of other great powers in the Caribbean region, existed prior to the War of 1898. However, the process of change often resulted in the appearance of capability without the rigorous exercise necessary to possess it.

Upon graduation from the US Naval Academy, Commander James C. "Chris" Rentfrow completed flight school and was designated a naval flight officer. After a career flying the EA-6B Prowler, Commander Rentfrow was selected to participate in the Permanent Military Professor program. He did his doctoral work at the University of Maryland, College Park, and currently teaches US and naval history at the Naval Academy. Books will be available for purchase.

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## LESSONS FROM THE HANOI HILTON



**Taylor Baldwin Kiland**  
**Sunday, 8 March 2015, 2PM (DST)**

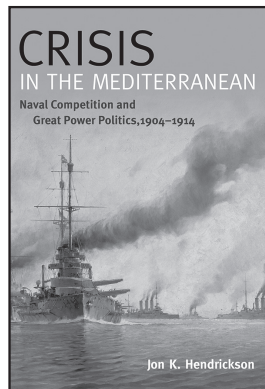
Why were American POWs imprisoned at the "Hanoi Hilton" so resilient in captivity and so successful in their subsequent careers? *Lessons From the Hanoi Hilton*, co-authored by Peter Fretwell and Taylor Baldwin Kiland with Dr. J. P. London and Dr. James B. Stockdale, II, seeks to answer this question by presenting six principles practiced within the POW culture that can be used to develop high-performance teams for any organization. The authors offer examples from both the POWs' time in captivity and their later professional lives that illustrate, in real-life

situations, the characteristics necessary for sustainable, high-performance teamwork. The book takes readers inside the mind of James Stockdale, a Navy fighter pilot with a degree in philosophy, who was the senior ranking officer at the Hanoi prison. To deal with the challenges of captivity, he created a mission-centric organization, not a leader-centric one, with the understanding that a truly sustainable culture must not be

dependent on a single individual. Drawing parallels between Stockdale's guiding philosophies from the Stoic Epictetus, and the principles of modern sports psychology, including training methods used by Navy SEALs and Olympic athletes, Peter Fretwell and Taylor Baldwin Kiland show readers how to apply these principles to their own organizations in order to create a collaborative culture with the resilience and capability of handling any situation. *Lessons From the Hanoi Hilton* takes a look at how and why these men thrived while in captivity when other POW populations from other wars did not.

Taylor Baldwin Kiland, a former naval officer, is a management consultant with a large technology and strategy consulting firm. She is the author or co-author of three books, including *Open Doors: Vietnam POWs Thirty Years Later*. She holds a master's degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California. Books will be available for purchase.

## CRISIS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



**Jon Hendrickson**

**Sunday, 15 March 2015, 2PM**

The geopolitical situation in the Mediterranean before the First World War has been generally ignored by historians. However, in the years before the War, the fact that the Mediterranean was shifting from British control to a wide open, anarchic state occupied the minds of many leaders in Austria-Hungary, Italy, France, and Great Britain. This change was driven by three largely understudied events: the weakening of the British Mediterranean Fleet to provide more ships for the North Sea, Austria-

Hungary's decision to build a navy capable of operating in the Mediterranean, and Italy's decision to seek naval security in the Triple Alliance after the Italo-Turkish War (1911-1912). These three factors radically altered the Mediterranean situation in the years leading up to the First World War, forcing Britain and France to seek accommodation with each other and France to begin rapidly building ships to defend both British and French interests. However, all of this activity has been largely obscured by the July Crisis of 1914 and the ensuing World War. Traditional history has looked backward from these events, and, in so doing, ignored the turbulent seas building in the Mediterranean. Conversely, this book seeks to understand these events as they unfolded, to understand how policymakers understood the changing Mediterranean world. Ultimately, it seeks to redress the imbalance between historians, who have viewed the history of the Mediterranean in the early 20th century as a largely stable one, and policymakers in the Great Powers, who viewed the Mediterranean as a highly unstable region and struggled to come to terms with that instability.

Jon Hendrickson was born in Slidell, Louisiana. After attending Williams College, he earned his PhD in military history from The Ohio State University in 2012. He was the first Class of 1957 Fellow in Naval History at the US Naval Academy. Books will be available for purchase.



## A WALKING TOUR OF CIVIL WAR LEESBURG

**Richard Treat Gillespie**  
**Saturday, 21 March 2015, 10-12AM**

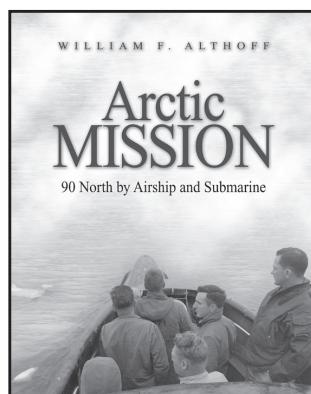
With its key geographic location just two miles from the Potomac Frontier dividing the Confederate and United States, Leesburg was bound to see a good deal of the Civil War. *A Walking Tour of Civil War Leesburg* with Rich Gillespie will

examine the surviving Civil War townscape and 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. *Note: This tour requires good walking shoes.*

## ARCTIC MISSION: 90 NORTH BY AIRSHIP AND SUBMARINE

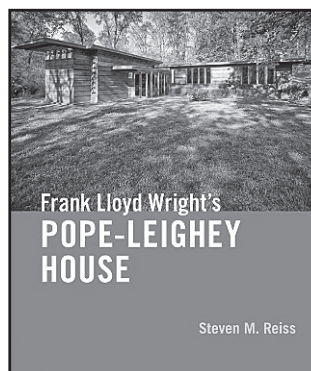


**William F. Althoff**

**Sunday, 22 March 2015, 2PM**

To help salve the sting of orbiting Sputniks, the United States needed a dramatic demonstration of technological prowess; early in 1958, the White House ordered a top secret under-ice transit of the Arctic Ocean—Pacific to Atlantic—via the North Pole. And that spring, the Office of Naval Research initiated a unique project: to assess whether non-military ships (blimps) could support field parties deployed in the Arctic. This book recounts two successful missions. In August, the nuclear submarine *Nautilus* (SSN 571) reached 90 North and, continuing under-ice, logged the first deep-ocean transit of the basin. William Robert Anderson was selected by Admiral Hyman G. Rickover to be the second skipper of the first working nuclear submarine to be placed into service, the USS *Nautilus*, and was its commander from 1955 to 1959. Anderson and his crew received international notice when the *Nautilus* became the first submarine to sail successfully under the North Pole. He died 25 February 2007, after living in Leesburg, Virginia during the final years of his life. En route to rendezvous with an IGY drifting station on T-3, an ice island, US Navy airship BUNO 126719 became the sole military airship to cross the Arctic Circle. This work is based on first-hand accounts, including journal excerpts from Dr. Waldo Lyon—a force behind US under-ice submarine development. William F. Althoff, an environmental geologist and former Ramsey Fellow at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, is the author of five books of naval history. Books will be available for purchase.

## FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S POPE-LEIGHEY HOUSE



**Steven M. Reiss**

**Sunday, 12 April 2015, 2PM**

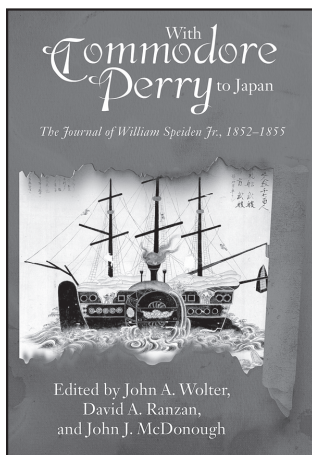
Frank Lloyd Wright designed and realized over 500 buildings between 1886 and 1959 for a wide range of clients. In *Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House*, architect Steven M. Reiss presents the updated and detailed story of one of Wright's few Virginia commissions. Designed and built for Loren and Charlotte Pope and later purchased by Marjorie and Robert Leighey, the Pope-Leighey House

stands as a stunning example of an innovative form of shelter—which Wright called Usonian—for families beset by the Great Depression. Here, and elsewhere, Wright offered a unique and unprecedented approach for homes that would be small yet architecturally significant, carefully sited, and constructed of readily available local materials. He believed that anyone with an acre of land should have the opportunity to own a Usonian home. Set in Northern Virginia, the Pope-Leighey House has an unusual history

in that it has been moved twice, first to the grounds of the National Trust's Woodlawn to rescue it from the path of Route 66 in Falls Church, then to re-site it to better correspond to its original orientation. Wright's mission was to remind us that "we need to see life in simpler terms." In this amply illustrated book, Reiss echoes Wright's reminder that small, carefully built structures should be the starting point of sustainable and environmentally responsible house design.

Steven M. Reiss, is a nationally recognized expert on Frank Lloyd Wright and his Usonian house designs. For the past ten years Mr. Reiss has worked at Frank Lloyd Wright's 1941 Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria, VA. As resident architect his responsibilities include preservation, research and documentation services for the house, coordinating and leading monthly technical tours of the house, and special university-level tours and presentations. Reiss also writes articles on residential and commercial design for local, regional, and national architectural magazines including *INFORM* for the VSAIA. Additionally he has provided architectural consulting services to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Reiss is a member of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy which provides services to owners of Frank Lloyd Wright houses and a member of the Historic Resources Committee of the American Institute of Architects. Books will be available for purchase.

## WITH COMMODORE PERRY TO JAPAN: THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM SPEIDEN JR., 1852-1855



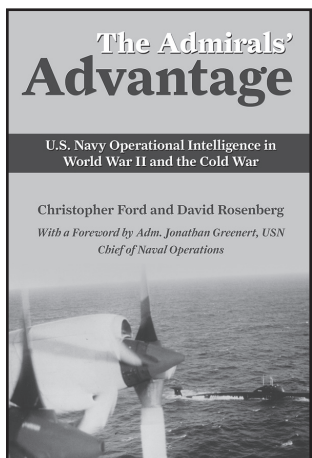
**David A. Ranzan, Co-Editor**  
**Sunday, 19 April 2015, 2PM**

*With Commodore Perry to Japan* offers a personal account of Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry's expedition to Japan through the eyes of a sixteen-year-old purser's clerk of the USS Mississippi. The documentary edition, endorsed by the National Historic Publications & Records Commission, provides excellent coverage of both the political mission of the Perry expedition, the opening of relations with Japan, and of the social history of a naval warship as well. Also included are fifty-five illustrations ranging from hand drawn,

pen-and-ink scenes of everyday life sketched by Speiden and other members of the crew to exquisitely detailed pith paintings by Chinese artists.

This book was co-edited by John A. Wolter, David A. Ranzan and John J. McDonough. Wolter is a former chief of the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division; Ranzan is the University Archivist at Salisbury University; and the late McDonough was a manuscript historian at the Library of Congress from 1961 to 1998. Books will be available for purchase.

## THE ADMIRALS' ADVANTAGE



**David A. Rosenberg**  
**Sunday, 26 April 2015, 2PM**

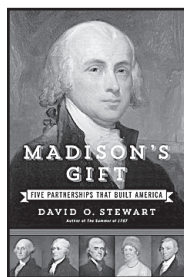
This analytic and historical study provides a revealing look at naval operational intelligence by embracing the fundamental question of what OPINTEL is and how it answers the fundamental question "Where is the enemy, in what strength, and disposition, and what is he doing right now?" It is primarily the result of an Operational Intelligence Lessons-Learned Symposium held at the National Maritime Intelligence Training Center in Dam Neck, Virginia, 12-13 September 1998. The participants included senior intel-

ligence professionals whose mandate was to explore the ramifications of the evolution of naval operational intelligence since World War II. Current

practices were also explored with inputs from current practitioners as represented by various fleet and shore commands. Additional sources for the study were oral interviews and correspondence with senior members of the intelligence community. The authors have scrupulously taken the work as close to the edge of security classification as is possible to enhance its value without being damaging to national security.

David Rosenberg and Christopher Ford led a team of US Navy Reserve intelligence officers who compiled OPINTEL lessons learned in 1994-2004. In their civilian careers, Rosenberg is an internationally recognized historian of twentieth-century naval and nuclear history and a staff member at the Institute for Defense Analyses. Ford is Republican Chief Counsel to the Senate Appropriations Committee and a former senior State Department official. Books will be available for purchase.

## MADISON'S GIFT: FIVE PARTNERSHIPS THAT BUILT AMERICA



**David O. Stewart**  
**Sunday, 3 May 2015, 2PM**

Author David O. Stewart restores James Madison, sometimes overshadowed by his fellow Founders, to his proper place as the most significant framer of the new nation. Short, plain, balding, neither soldier nor orator, low on charisma and high on intelligence, Madison cared more about achieving results than taking the credit. To reach his lifelong goal of a self-governing constitutional republic, he blended his

talents with those of key partners. It was Madison who led the drive for the Constitutional Convention and pressed for an effective new government as his patron George Washington lent the effort legitimacy; Madison who wrote the Federalist Papers with Alexander Hamilton to secure the Constitution's ratification; Madison who corrected the greatest blunder of the Constitution by drafting and securing passage of the Bill of Rights with Washington's support; Madison who joined Thomas Jefferson to found the nation's first political party and move the nation toward broad democratic principles; Madison, with James Monroe, who guided the new nation through its first war in 1812, really its Second War of Independence; and it was Madison who handed the reins of government to the last of the Founders, his old friend and sometime rival, Monroe. These were the main characters in his life. But it was his final partnership that allowed Madison to escape his natural shyness and reach the greatest heights. Dolley was the woman he married in middle age and who presided over both him and an enlivened White House. This partnership was a love story, a unique one that sustained Madison through his political rise, his presidency, and a fruitful retirement.

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 next work was *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.

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

**Eric S. Larson**  
**Monday, 18 May 2015, 7PM**

Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 6:45PM. Eric S. Larson, 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.



# THE BALCH COLUMN

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208 W. Market Street  
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Email: balchlib@leesburgva.gov



## WINTER/SPRING 2015 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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### 2015 Exhibits

#### MARGARET MERCER ROOM

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

#### LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

- January-March** Photography from Around the World – Loudoun Photography Group
- April-June** A Look Around Loudoun – What Will You Discover? – Jennifer Lamberton
- July-September** Celebrating Virginia's Heritage – Morven Park
- October-December** 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](http://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](http://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. The forum will showcase 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. For registration information visit [virginiaforum.org/](http://virginiaforum.org/).

# THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

## 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, 5 February 2015, 10AM

Under the direction of Laura Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, 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

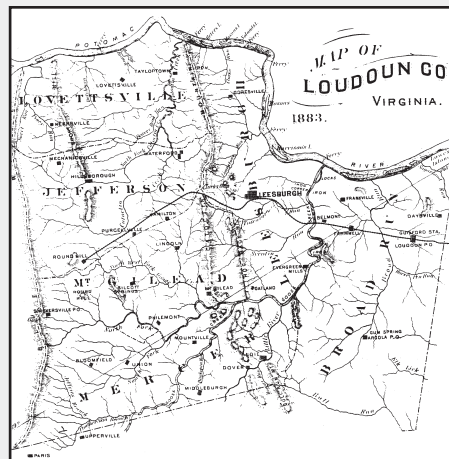
Jeanette Irby, Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge, and former Leesburg Town Attorney, will discuss how to use court records and other resources for data that are frequently overlooked in genealogical and historical research. Irby will demonstrate how to mine court records for clues that can be used to collect information for genealogical research. Examples of these records include real estate records, chancery suits, estates, and indexes. Jeanette Irby 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](http://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

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, photographs, and other media; common conservation needs; threats to paper and electronic media; and the dangers of non-archival storage products.

### RESEARCHING GENEALOGY USING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES Thursday, 5 November 2015, 10AM

LaVonne Markham

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION Thursday, 3 December 2015, 10AM

Thomas W. Scofield