

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

In July 1994 the Town of Leesburg took over ownership and operation of Thomas Balch Library. After review and community input the Town initiated long overdue reconstruction of the facility with sympathetic additions making the library a much admired focal point for the community. In addition to award winning work on the building, the grounds were completely redone and a garden with fountain and park benches, dedicated to Agnes M. (1918-2013) and B. Powell Harrison (1911-2000), local community leaders, was installed. Even with ongoing maintenance by the Town of Leesburg, with over 30,000 visitors annually, we have now reached a point where the building and grounds need attention beyond the routine.

The Agnes and B. Powell Harrison Garden, a much loved and oft used niche in the historic district, is in need of upgrading and rehabilitation. Many of the plants have outlived their natural life cycle. The fountain, replaced five years ago, needs replacing. The brick patio area surrounding the fountain has settled, resulting in an uneven and dangerous walking surface. The handicapped parking slot is inconvenient and hard to maneuver, and the brick lights along the back property line are always an accident waiting to happen. Windows in the new addition are single pane, and storm windows are under consideration for the bay windows for energy efficiency.

The Town has commenced refurbishment of the grounds, updating the parking lot, installing of audio equipment in the meeting room and storm windows for the Janney Room to assist with energy efficiency at a cost of \$25,000. The fountain head has been replaced. The handicapped parking slot has been reconfigured for ease of use and parking slots repainted. Over the years brick light fixtures along the back of the parking lot have been periodically tipped and broken by vehicles and the snow plow. While the Town has always fixed them, their life span has come to an end and replacements with an eye to offsetting them from the parking lot are under review. Several years back pine trees aligning the western corner of the lot became a hazard. These were removed by the Town, the ground graded, and three crepe myrtles and other bushes planted. Plans are in motion to level and reset the brick patio. This is the most costly portion of the proposed work and one for which we are soliciting donations. A plaque with donor names will be installed in the garden. Additionally, the Town has invested in a permanent solution to the audio issues in the meeting room. Equipment has been ordered and will be installed providing appropriate amplification levels and meeting ADA requirements. Over the years the electric bill has always been a budgetary challenge. Working with Buildings staff, all but two of the HVAC units have been replaced, achieving considerable savings. Various windows in the building, for instance the window in the kitchen and the bay windows in the Janney Room, are single pane. While awaiting final Board of Architectural Review approval, funds for storm windows have been set aside. Tables utilized in the meeting room are beautiful but extraordinarily heavy. Constant moving of the tables has taken a toll on their condition. These need to be refinished and eventually replaced with lighter weight more mobile tables. To sustain the quality of TBL's assets and insure ongoing usability of the facility we look to you and the community for continuing support. Please consider supporting the library in this project.

Programs for this upcoming season offer a variety of exciting opportunities. I look forward to welcoming you when visiting the Library or when attending programs and exhibits.

Alexandra S. Gressitt,
Library Director

BUS TOUR: LOUDOUN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY –

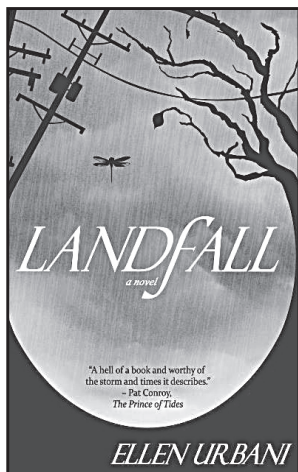
An American Story: Historical African American Communities and Contributions in Loudoun, VA. Participate in the first public tour offered by the Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. As introduced in the previous *Balch Column*, our bus tour of African American historic sites and contributions in Loudoun County will make history come alive! The tour, based on the BHC's publication, *Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide*, will provide an opportunity to share Loudoun's history while travelling along a route that also includes historical sites of the *Journey Through Hallowed Ground*.

Organized by project leader and Cultural Tourism Ambassador, Alicia Cohen, the tour aims to increase the county's cultural tourism as it relates to its African American citizens, heritage, and communities. The bus tour will begin and end at Thomas Balch Library. It will include sites such as Leesburg, Waterford, Middleburg, Oatlands, and Gleedsville, and last approximately five hours. Volunteer interpreters will provide information on the historic significance of the sites. A donation will be requested. Look for more details during September – October or contact Alicia Cohen, 703-606-3275 or aaheritagelocova@gmail.com.

Saturday,
14 November
2015



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 or find us on Facebook.



LANDFALL

Ellen Urbani

Tuesday, 15 September 2015, 7PM

Ten years after Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans comes *Landfall*, a novel by Ellen Urbani, whose roots are in Leesburg. The novel tells the story of two mothers and their teenage daughters whose lives collide in a fatal car crash in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In a car laden with supplies intended for hurricane victims, Rose and her mother catapult off the road onto the shoals of the Black Warrior River in Alabama, killing an unidentified storm survivor. To escape the scene,

Rose, orphaned by the crash, laces the dead girl's sneakers onto her own feet and cannot bring herself to take them off. When she learns she shares not only shoes but a name and birth year with the Jane Doe, Rose embarks upon a guilt-assuaging odyssey to retrace the girl's last steps and carry home the news of her death to her unsuspecting kin. Told from the alternating perspectives of these two teenagers, Rose and Rosebud, one white, one black, *Landfall* demonstrates how what we think we know can make us blind to what matters most.

Ellen Urbani, a 1987 graduate of Loudoun County High School, worked her first job waitressing at the Colonial Inn in Leesburg and later married at Festival Lakes in Leesburg. She is the author of *When I Was Elena*, a memoir published in 2006, which relates her experiences with the Peace Corps in Guatemala. Her works have been praised by authors Alice Walker, Cheryl Strayed, Pat Conroy, Fannie Flagg, and others. Books will be available for purchase.



FIGHTER AIRCRAFT COMBAT DEBUTS, 1915-45

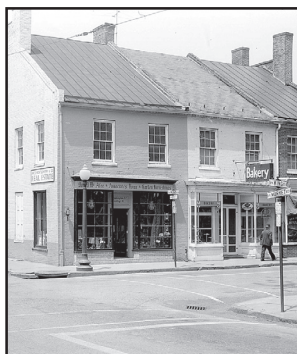
Jon Guttman

Sunday, 20 September 2015, 2PM

Fighter Aircraft Combat Debuts 1915-45 is an authoritative history of the most enduring and fascinating subject in military aviation. It is an international history of the development, competition, and first military deployment of fighter aircraft during the era of the World Wars.

Originally from Rockland County, New York, Jon Guttman has lived and worked in Leesburg since 1988 and is

currently research director for the World History Group and for publications such as *Military History*, *Aviation History*, and *Civil War Times*. Best-known for his research and writing in the field of World War I aviation, Guttman has also written numerous articles on military and naval history. His first book, *Defiance at Sea*, was published in 1995, followed by *Fighting Firsts: Fighter Aircraft Combat Debuts From 1914-1944*, *The Origin of the Fighter Aircraft*, *World War II in Color*, and *Pacific War in Color*. In 2014 following extensive revisions, *Fighting Firsts* was reissued as *Fighter Aircraft Combat Debuts, 1915-45*. Guttman has made appearances on The History Channel and played a comic role as a Civil War re-enactor on *The Daily Show*. Books will be available for purchase.

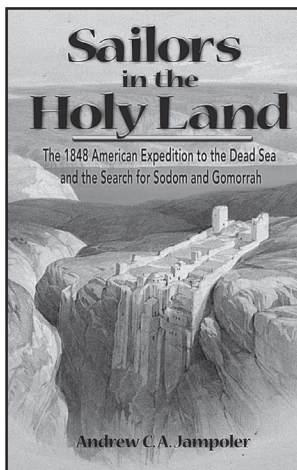


LEESBURG TOUR

James P. Roberts, **DATE CHANGE: Saturday, 10 October 2015, 9-12**

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.



SAILORS IN THE HOLY LAND: THE 1848 AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO THE DEAD SEA AND THE SEARCH FOR SODOM

AND GOMORRAH

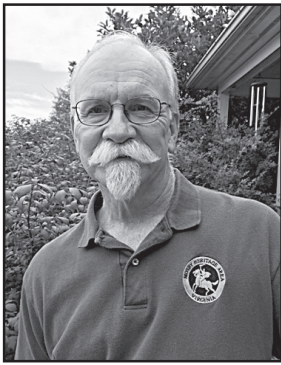
Andrew C. A. Jampoler

CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER SuN, 4 Oct 2015, 2PM

Sailors in the Holy Land focuses on one of the more obscure, but significant, voyages in US naval history. The Lynch Expedition a multi-month expedition undertaken by the US Navy to the Holy Land and

led by Lt. William F. Lynch in 1848, rates as one of the most exotic the service has ever undertaken. At a time when the navy consisted of only eleven thousand officers and men and in general stayed on well-worn routes, setting off to the Dead Sea, not for any military purpose but in search of Sodom and Gomorrah, ranks as a folly. But the mission had serious scientific purposes, was professionally executed, and provides to this day important information on the Jordan River and its associated lakes. The explorers were all volunteers who had taken an oath of abstinence from alcohol and traveled in boats made of copper and zinc to make them durable enough for the rapids of the Jordan River and to be able to withstand the corrosive effects of the Dead Sea. This is an account with interesting aspects involving science vs. religion, the turmoil in revolutionary Europe, the transition from sail to steam, the legends and truths about Sodom and Gomorrah, and a cholera epidemic. Lynch himself was a fascinating character - naval officer, devout Christian, opponent of slavery, and, ultimately, a Confederate admiral. It is an absorbing tale that will appeal to a variety of audiences.

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. The author of numerous books and articles, 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.



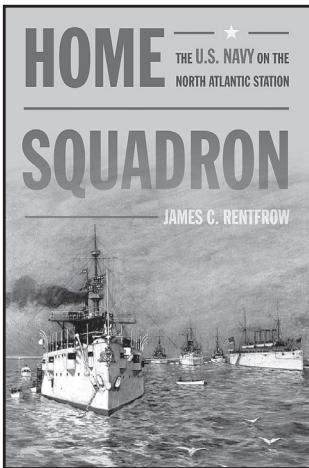
BALL'S BLUFF WALKING TOUR

James A. Morgan, III
Saturday, 17 October 2015, 9-11AM

Meet in the main parking lot at Ball's Bluff Battlefield

In the grand scheme of Civil War studies, Ball's Bluff plays a very small role. It was a small skirmish involving only some 3400 men, took place only six months into the war, and was soon overshadowed by larger more significant battles. But, in the fall of 1861, this little fight which took place some 35 miles north-west of Washington, DC captured the imagination of the northern and southern public and had political consequences far greater than anyone would have imagined. Despite the long-held and often-repeated belief that the battle resulted from a deliberate and pre-planned Union attempt to take Leesburg, it was, in fact, an accident. A small Union raiding party on a very limited mission encountered and engaged a few Confederate pickets. From this unintended skirmish, a battle evolved. The speaker will review the traditional story, and the evidence against it, as well as outlining the battle itself and its outcome. The tour will cover the battlefield of Ball's Bluff and will include going down to the river, hiking the length of the floodplain, then back up the bluff and along the top roughly to where the tour started. The tour will require good walking shoes.

James A. Morgan, III, past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable, is a member of the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, the advisory board of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and a volunteer guide at Ball's Bluff for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Among his publications are an artillery unit history *Always Ready, Always Willing: A History of Battery M, Second United States Artillery, From Its Organization Through the Civil War* and a tactical study of Ball's Bluff, *A Little Short of Boats: the Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861*, first published in 2004; revised in 2011 and considered "the definitive account of Ball's Bluff." Morgan holds an MA in Political Science from the University of West Florida and a Master's in Library Science from Florida State University. Copies of the author's book on Ball's Bluff are available for purchase at Thomas Balch Library.



HOME SQUADRON

James "Chris" Rentfrow
Sunday, 18 October 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.



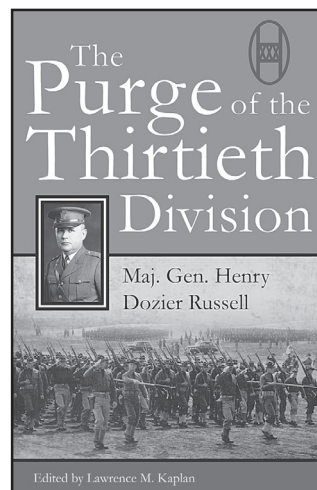
CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

Eric S. Larson
Monday, 19 October 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.



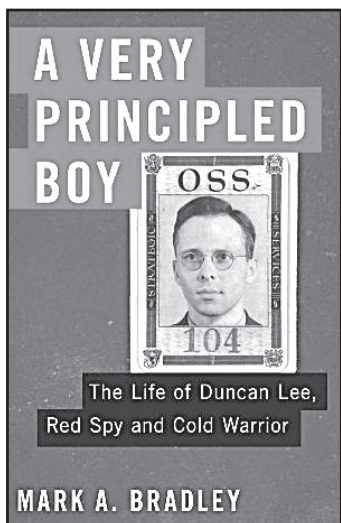
THE PURGE OF THE THIRTIETH DIVISION BY MAJ. GEN. HENRY DOZIER RUSSELL

Lawrence M. Kaplan, editor
Sunday, 25 October 2015, 2PM

In the critical months leading up to the US entry into World War II, the nation turned to eighteen National Guard division commanders to train and lead more than three hundred thousand men who would soon be fighting in Europe and the Pacific. By the end of the war, all but one National Guard division commander

had been relieved—sacked, allegedly, in favor of regulars who were intent on expanding the nation's standing army after the war. Such is the contention of Maj. Gen. Henry D. Russell, whose command of the 30th Division came to an abrupt end in May 1942. This book offers valuable historical insight into the training of one of World War II's most celebrated units and perspective on the transformation of citizens into soldiers. Detailing the mobilization process during the critical period of the War Department's Protective Mobilization Plan in 1940 and 1941, Russell's account details struggles associated with building a fighting force from the ground up, and gives the reader a new appreciation for the challenges posed in equipping men and preparing for a world conflict. Henry Russell Dozier (1889–1972) commanded the Thirtieth Infantry Division from 1932 until he was relieved of the unit's command in 1942. He later commanded the newly created Forty-Eighth Infantry Division (National Guard) until his retirement in 1951.

Lawrence M. Kaplan has served as an historian with the US Army Field Artillery Center and Fort Sill, the US Army Center of Military History, the US Missile Defense Agency and is currently command historian for US Army Cyber Command and the author of *Homer Lea: American Soldier of Fortune* and editor of *The Artillery Service in the War of the Rebellion*. Books will be available for purchase.



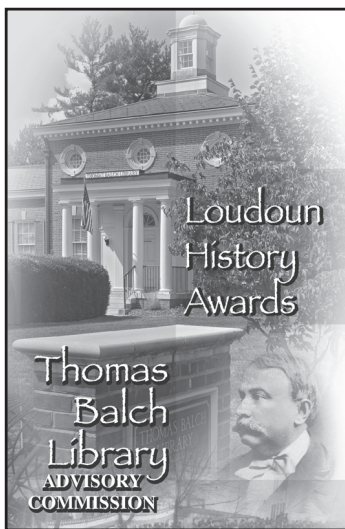
A VERY PRINCIPLED BOY: THE LIFE OF DUNCAN LEE, RED SPY AND COLD WARRIOR

Mark A. Bradley
Sunday, 1 November 2015, 2PM

One of the best placed spies the Soviets ever had inside any American intelligence service was a man named Duncan Chaplin Lee. A descendant of the Lees of Virginia and John and Priscilla Alden of the *Mayflower*, Lee was the son of missionaries, a Rhodes Scholar, and a husband and father who spent three years fighting

Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan in the cause of democracy and freedom. During WWII, he also passed highly classified information to the Soviets, placing him alongside Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs as Americans who worked for Joseph Stalin's intelligence services. Yet unlike them, he was never caught or convicted of his crimes. In a *Very Principled Boy*, Bradley unfolds the story of Lee's life, examining why he spied, how he eluded his pursuers, and the personal and national consequences of his actions.

Mark A. Bradley, a former CIA intelligence officer, currently serves as an attorney in the US Department of Justice's National Security Division. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington & Lee University, he holds an MA in Modern History from Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar and a JD from the University of Virginia. He is a member of the federal government's Senior Executive Service and a recipient of the CIA's Exceptional Performance Award, an Attorney General's Award from the Department of Justice, and the James Madison Prize from The Society in History for the Federal Government. Before joining the Justice Department, Bradley served as Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's legislative assistant for foreign affairs and intelligence matters and as his legislative director. Books will be available for purchase.



LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

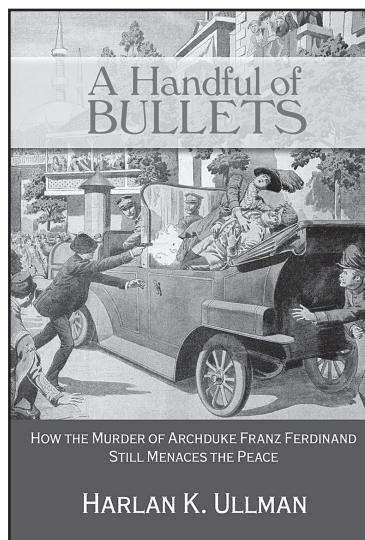
Sunday, 8 November 2015, 2PM

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

A HANDFUL OF BULLETS: HOW THE MURDER OF ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND STILL MENACES THE PEACE

Harlan K. Ullman
Sunday, 15 November 2015, 2PM

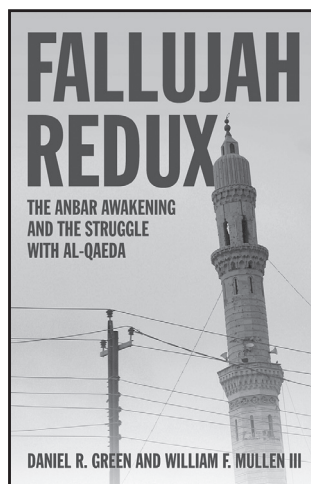
The assassination of Austro-Hungarian archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie in the streets of Sarajevo 28 June 1914 precipitated



World War I. From those ashes a second world war and a cold war would arise. Now, a century later, that murder has ironically put in place powerful forces that menace today's peace. Unfortunately, leaders are largely unaware of the dangers emanating from these forces and prefer instead to deal with their symptoms and not the causes, making solutions very difficult. *A Handful of Bullets* tells the story of how this dangerous and highly volatile state of affairs has occurred. Most importantly,

Ullman offers prescriptive recommendations ranging from revising the American national security structure to establishing a vitally needed national infrastructure bank and reforming the electoral process, including mandating universal voting and allowing successful presidents to seek a third term. In the telling, Ullman argues that America desperately needs a new strategic mindset for the twenty-first century.

Harlan K. Ullman is a strategic thinker and innovator whose career spans the worlds of business and government. He serves on the advisory boards for Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Business Executives for National Security (Washington, DC) and is senior advisor at the Atlantic Council. A distinguished graduate of the US Naval Academy, he skippered a swift boat in Vietnam and a destroyer in the Persian Gulf. He holds a PhD from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts and Harvard. Books will be available for purchase.



FALLUJAH REDUX: THE ANBAR AWAKENING AND THE STRUGGLE WITH AL-QAEDA

Daniel R. Green and
 William F. Mullen, III
Sunday, 6 December 2015, 2PM

The city of Fallujah will long be associated with some of the worst violence and brutality of the Iraq War. *Fallujah Redux* is the first book about the Fallujah Awakening written by Operation Iraqi Freedom military veterans who served there, providing a comprehensive account of the

turning of Fallujah away from the Al-Qaeda insurgency in 2007. This book describes the campaign that turned Fallujah from a perennial insurgent hotspot to an example of what can be achieved with the right combination of leadership and perseverance. Many books have told of the major battles in Fallujah—this book tells the rest of the story that never made the news.

Daniel R. Green is a defense fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy in Washington DC. He served in Fallujah, Iraq in 2007 as a tribal and technology engagement officer and is a lieutenant commander in the US Navy Reserve. He received his PhD in political science from George Washington University. Brig. Gen. William F Mullen III, USMC is a marine infantry officer based in Quantico, VA, whose experience with Fallujah began when he served in the city as the operations officer for a Marine regimental combat team from 2005-6, then as an infantry battalion commander in charge of the city for most of 2007. Books will be available for purchase.

T H O M A S B A L C H L I B R A R Y

2015-2016 Classes

RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

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, a lifelong genealogist and, until her retirement a few years ago, Library Specialist at Thomas Balch Library, will lead a discussion on researching genealogy using electronic resources. Learn the ins and outs of *Family Search* and ways to make the most of its ever expanding database. Currently a volunteer at the LDS Family History Center helping others with their genealogy, her interest in genealogy was first sparked by a course at age 13 followed through the years with many seminars and classes. While working at the Library, Markham taught genealogical research and how-to classes on census records and various electronic resources. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree and taught string music in schools.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Thursday, 3 December 2015, 10AM

Thomas W. Scofield, Preservation Planner, Town of Leesburg, has worked over 25 years as a local government planner and historic preservation consultant. Come hear about the latest historical discoveries in Leesburg's Old and Historic District and learn all about current research projects.

MARYLAND DEED RESEARCH

Thursday, 4 February 2016, 10AM

Under the direction of **Travis Shaw**, learn how to research historic properties in Maryland. Participants will be introduced to a number of online resources available at home or here at the Thomas Balch Library. Particular attention will be paid to tracing chains of title through Maryland Records online, accessing historic building surveys through the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, and using Maryland's geographic

information system software to locate historic properties. Travis is a library associate at the Thomas Balch Library and has over a decade of historic preservation and archaeological experience in both the public and private sector.

RESEARCHING WORLD WAR I RECORDS

Thursday, 3 March 2016, 10AM

A fire in St. Louis at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973 destroyed approximately 80% of the personnel records of Army officers and enlisted personnel discharged from November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1960. This lecture, led by **Constance Potter**, describes selected records from the National Archives in Washington, DC and College Park that provide information on individual soldiers, as well as other online resources. Constance Potter retired from the National Archives in 2014 after working for 30 years in reference having specialized in federal records of interest to genealogists. She is currently working on a project for the National Archives to describe records of participation in World War I.

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Thursday, 7 April 2016, 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.

GENEALOGY

Thursday, 5 May 2016, 10AM

Lori Kimball

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. Kimball is a recipient of the Thomas Balch Library's Loudoun History Award.

RESEARCHING USING NORTHERN NECK LAND GRANTS

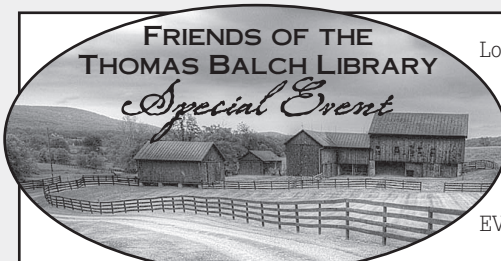
Thursday, 2 June 2016, 10AM

Wynne Saffer, a life-long Loudoun resident, will discuss the history of and how to locate land grants of the Northern Neck Proprietary and how to use the resources available in the library. Saffer has completed numerous research projects, mapped the county by land ownership in 1860 and written several books about Loudoun's history, including *Loudoun Votes 1867-1966*, *A Civil War Legacy* and *Mount Zion Cemetery, Aldie, Virginia*. Saffer is a recipient of the Thomas Balch Library's Loudoun History Award.

DIGITAL HISTORY

Thursday, 4 August 2016, 10AM

What new digital tools are available to help access and understand historic documents and data? Library Associate, **Stephanie Seal**, and Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, **Laura Christiansen**, introduce the digital side of historical research, including how to create basic visualizations, use GIS based mapping tools, and the benefits of crowdsourcing. Whether you consider yourself a "digital native" or unsure of technology, this workshop will explore different forms of digitization that are friendly to every level user. Come and learn how to get started with digital history.



Local historians Tracy Gillespie, Donald Cooper, PhD, and Gary Clemens, Clerk of Circuit Court relate stories of Loudoun County's Role During the American Revolution Sunday, 13 September 2015 at 4PM. To request an invitation email: EVENTS@balchfriends.org or call 540/579-2825.



THE BALCH COLUMN

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208 W. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

703-737-7195
Fax: 703-737-7150

Email: balchlib@leesburgva.gov



FALL 2015 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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Exhibits 2015-16

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

- September** The Village of Aldie – Aldie Preservation Society
- October** Ball's Bluff – Ken Fleming
- November** New Collections at Thomas Balch Library
- December** US Military Artifacts – John Wyrick
- January** History of Lincoln (VA) – Lincoln Community League
- February** Frederick Douglass Elementary School Art Class Projects
- March** Frederick Shafer Pottery Exhibit – William Whitmore
- April** Handmade Rugs by Carolyn Lineberry
- May** 4-H Fair Projects – Loudoun County 4-H Club
- June** Liberia: A Cultural Experience – Greg Paxton
- July/August** Local Relics of the American Civil War – John Creamer
- September** Military Weapons – Gary Heath

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

- July-Sept.** Celebrating Virginia's Heritage – Morven Park
- Oct.-Dec.** A Celebration of Small Villages and Cross Roads of Loudoun County – Jim Hanna
- Jan.-March** Olden Times – Dora E. Ramirez
- April-June** An exhibit by noted photographer Frank Ruggles

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 540/579-2825.

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 540/579-2825.

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 2016 Virginia Forum, will be hosted by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and held at Jamestown Settlement, Williamsburg, Virginia, March 3-5. The Virginia Forum is interdisciplinary and welcomes proposals on all aspects of Virginia history and culture from scholars, teachers, students, and professionals in all fields. This year's theme, "Convergences and Disjunctures" reflects the mission of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation to study and teach Virginia history through the convergence of American Indian, European, and African cultures and the legacies of those interactions in the development of the nation. Our theme is meant to inspire proposals, but it is not exclusive. Proposals on all topics related to the history and culture of Virginia are welcome, as are proposals for creative presentation formats such as poster sessions, roundtables, workshops, demonstrations, etc. To submit proposals or for additional information visit: www.virginiaforum.org. Proposal deadline is 30 September 2015.