

# BALCH COLUMN

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

## News FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



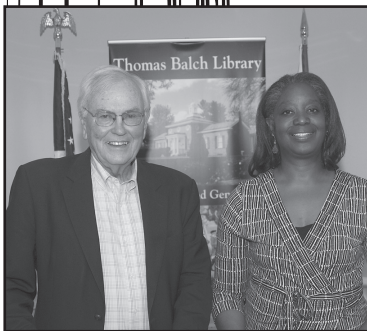
The Ketocin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently presented the Library with the fifth volume in a series of state resource guides published by the NSDAR Library. This volume, *Virginia in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, provides detailed information on the availability of manuscript and archival material that exists for the state for the period of the Revolutionary War along with listings of historical and genealogical studies that have been published and which supplement the original sources.



Donna Bohannon and Alfred Van Huyck were honored at the twenty third annual Loudoun History Awards in November for their contributions to preserving Loudoun's past. Donna Bohannon has been a member of the Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library since 2000 when it was founded. Over the years, Bohannon has made many contributions to documenting, preserving and promoting Loudoun County's African American history. She worked with Loudoun County Public Schools on the remembrance event for the former Douglass Elementary School prior to its demolition and the permanent exhibit on school desegregation in the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School. She has represented Loudoun County and the Black History Committee at numerous conference and seminars, most recently speaking on the topic of "Activating Interest in African American History" at the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's annual conference last year. Through her efforts, Loudoun County's African American history is a recognized and celebrated part of the County's heritage. Al Van Huyck, long-time historic preservation activist, served on the Loudoun County Planning Commission from 1996 to 2003, as Board Member and Vice President of the Preservation Society of Loudoun County, and was a co-founder of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition. Over the years, he helped create the policy framework that exists today in Loudoun County that protects Loudoun's historic places. Through the Coalition, Van Huyck was instrumental in creating the County's Heritage Commission and amending the County's Heritage Preservation Plan to preserve and protect Loudoun's network of rural roads. As a member of the Coalition's Rural Roads Committee, he has worked to increase public and official appreciation of Loudoun's extensive network of historic roads and old bridges, and encourage better care of the old roads. In 2013, Loudoun Preservation Society named Van Huyck Preservationist of the Year.

The library is a destination for local residents and visitors from across the country and around the globe. Over 33,000 people visited the library in the last fiscal year to conduct research, tour exhibits, attend lectures, and avail themselves of our many outstanding services. To assist visitors a variety of brochures and pathfinders are available in print or online at our website. For those living far away but having an interest in Leesburg and Loudoun County history interesting and entertaining historical facts are posted weekly on our Facebook page. 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



### LEESBURG TOUR

**James P. Roberts**

**Saturday, 7 May 2016, 9-12PM**

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

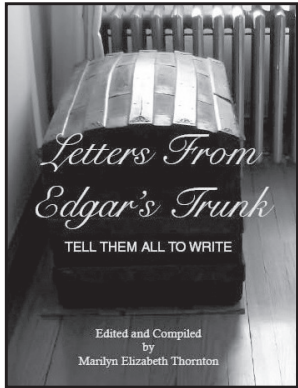
the years architecturally, economically, and racially. Factual, historical, and anecdotal information is intertwined and presented in storytelling fashion as only someone who lived through it and thoughtfully observed it, can do. This unique tour will leave from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 9AM; 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.

## LETTERS FROM EDGAR'S TRUNK: TELL THEM ALL TO WRITE

Sunday, 21 February 2016, 2PM

Marilyn Elizabeth Thornton



As the world commemorates the 100th Anniversary of World War I, Edgar Thornton's granddaughter, Marilyn Thornton, will share an epistolary trove of family history while providing well-documented context for events referenced in her book, *Letters from Edgar's Trunk*. This account of civilian life in Loudoun County is reflected in a collection of over one hundred letters, dated between 1916 and 1919, which capture vibrations of everyday life during the wartime, and discloses the continuing reality of

civilian existence in America. James Edgar Thornton was a member of the legendary 369th American Expeditionary Forces all Colored Infantry Regiment that fought on the front lines in the Argonne Forest under French command. Conscription connected the entire family with the armed forces as when Edgar was drafted his brother and his brother-in-law were also called into military service. Throughout his tour of duty, Edgar's wife, his mother and father, brothers and sisters, other family members, neighbors, and friends wrote to him, and Edgar wrote back. The letters, recollections of an African American World War I soldier from Loudoun County, provide a personal narrative of Edgar's life. Thornton will discuss the book and talk about what she learned through research.

Marilyn Thornton holds a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Catholic University of America. She was Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Adjunct Professor of Art at the University of the District of Columbia, Executive Director of Arts DC, and Art Consultant for Binney and Smith. Her interest in family history and discovery of Edgar's letters motivated her to compile *Letters from Edgar's Trunk*, her first book. **Books will be available for purchase.**

## JANE AUSTEN, EDWARD KNIGHT, & CHAWTON: COMMERCE & COMMUNITY

Sunday, 6 March 2016, 2PM

Linda Slothouber



When Jane Austen's brother, Edward, inherited the estate of wealthy relatives, he took their surname, Knight, and control of property scattered across five English counties. Jane spent her most productive years as a novelist living in a cottage Edward owned in the village of Chawton in Hampshire.

From this vantage point, Jane observed Edward's approach to managing his estates and learned about the concerns and activities of wealthy landowners, knowledge that is reflected in her novels. In *Jane Austen, Edward Knight, & Chawton*, gleanings from original estate books, bank records, letters, and other sources, inform the most detailed portrait to date of Jane Austen's brother. His life story illustrates how landed gentry made their money, tried to ensure the prosperity of their heirs, and interacted with workers on their estates. The English village of the early 19th century was a system of interdependencies, in which farmers, tenants, laborers, estate servants, and clergymen, along with the landowner, all had a role. At the same time, it was the scene of class conflict

and social change. Fiction, including Austen's, tends to focus on life within the great houses of the gentry, but underpinning those splendid settings was the active world of farmhouses, cottages, and workshops. The estate-owner, though at the top of the social order, was often judged according to the well-being of those at the bottom. The author introduces people Jane Austen knew and wrote about during her years in Chawton, and discusses how the facts of village life intersect with fiction. During her presentation, she will describe approaches used to research the lives of individuals who left few personal records.

Linda Slothouber is a Board Member of the Jane Austen Society of North America and the 2013 recipient of the society's International Visitor grant, which enabled her to live in Chawton, Hampshire and conduct research into its social and commercial history. Having completed a career as a management and technology consultant, she writes about work and business in the early 19th century and about the artifacts and buildings that survive from that time. **Books will be available for purchase.**

## SAVE THE DATE - ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION LECTURE TOUR

Wednesday, 9 March 2016 9-4PM  
Fintan Mullen and Gillian Hunt



Join experts Fintan Mullen and Gillian Hunt from the Ulster Historical Foundation to learn how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, gain strategies for breaking down brick walls, and grasp important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research. Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss this workshop! Contact the library for details and registration information: 703/737-7195



## A WALKING TOUR OF CIVIL WAR LEESBURG

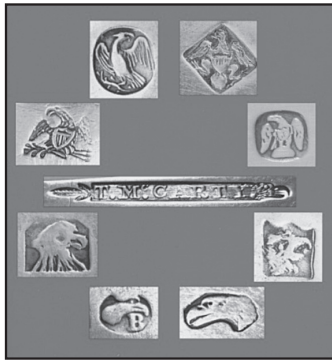
Richard Treat Gillespie

Saturday, 19 March 2016, 10-12PM

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 Executive Director of 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. Tour leaves from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 10AM. *Note: Tour requires good walking shoes.*

## EAGLE MARKS ON AMERICAN SILVER



**Catherine B. Hollan**

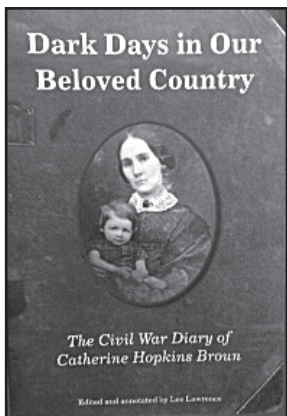
**Sunday, 3 April 2016, 2PM**

When the American Eagle was chosen as a symbol for America, its figure was a compact, stiff heraldic version. Artisans quickly reinterpreted the bird in various stances, wings spread up or down, and as graceful curving bodies, some with widely spread wings that would fill a pediment over a door. Tradesmen's parades often showed the eagle holding a ribbon

proclaiming personal mottos and dates, such as "Home Brewed" for the Brewers' banner. Silversmiths also made free with their eagle designs, adding an eagle symbol by their name to emphasize an item was American-made. An early variation was to use just the eagle head as a mark. Many of the eagle marks were used by individual silversmiths. Some were manufacturer marks from Philadelphia and New York placed on silver that was retailed by others. There were some regional characteristics and preferences. The eagle stood for strength, for diversity come together as the new nation, the United States of America. In this book the changing image of the eagle as the national figure in the early federal period is seen in the marks of American silversmiths.

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

## DARK DAYS IN OUR BELOVED COUNTRY: THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF CATHERINE HOPKINS BROWN



**Sunday, 17 April 2016, 2PM**

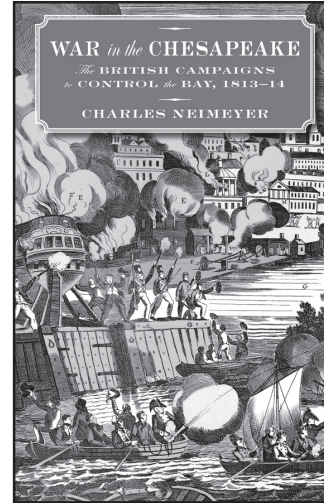
**Lee Lawrence**

For years Lee Lawrence had seen references to a Civil War diary written by Middleburg resident Catherine Hopkins Brown. "Quotes from the diary were always insightful and revealing about this area's war history. I decided it would be a fun project to edit and annotate Catherine's diary for modern readers," says Lee Lawrence. Catherine Brown lived with her family on Middleburg's main street, as well as on a farm they owned a few miles east of town. Edwin, Catherine's husband,

was Middleburg's postmaster and the town's most prominent merchant. The couple had three young children whose war experiences and antics supply warmth and humor to their mother's diary. But the aftermath of Virginia's vote to join the Confederate states quickly fills the pages of Catherine's journal, as war tightens its grip on Northern Virginia. Catherine visited battlefields, worked in area war hospitals, supplied soldiers, and even smuggled goods across the Potomac River from the United States into the Confederacy. She interacts with 43rd Battalion commander John Mosby, as well as countless Union officers. Her courage and wit never fail her, even in the midst of suffering. She

writes her experiences in a modern, straight forward style. "That is part of the appeal of Catherine's diary," Lee Lawrence explains. We understand Catherine and can easily imagine being in her tumultuous world." Lee Lawrence is an avid researcher and member of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library Board of Directors. **Books will be available for purchase.**

## WAR IN THE CHESAPEAKE: THE BRITISH CAMPAIGNS TO CONTROL THE BAY, 1813-14



**Sunday, 24 April 2016, 2PM**

**Charles Neimeyer**

When President James Madison declared war against Britain in the summer of 1812, the United States of America was far from united. Despite Britain's trouble with Napoleon, the decision to go to war with a superior military power was bold, and it could have been disastrous. *War in the Chesapeake* tells the story of the British campaigns of 1813 and 1814 and provides valuable insights into the courage and incompetence from both of the warring parties. By the summer campaign of 1814, the British had trounced the Americans

at Bladensburg and burned Washington, DC. British leaders, Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane and Major General Robert Ross, did not expect any other strong resistance after these quick victories. However, the Americans shocked the British with a stalwart defense at Fort Mchenry and achieved a historic American victory. *War in the Chesapeake* tells the stories of naval leaders like John Rodgers, Stephen Decatur, and Major General Samuel Smith, whose leadership at Baltimore was decisive and masterful. It provides a look back at the operations leading to one of the most famous nights in American history, the defense of Fort Mchenry. Charles Neimeyer's work shows the significance and power of American courage in the face of adversity, and *War in the Chesapeake* is a comprehensive study of the young U.S. Navy's performance during the War of 1812.

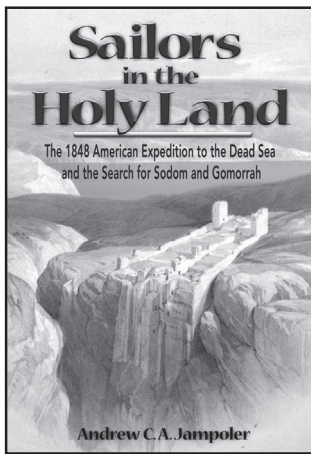
Charles P. Neimeyer is currently the director of Marine Corps history and the Gray Research Center at Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia. Prior to coming to Quantico, Neimeyer served as dean of academics at the Naval War College and the Forrest Sherman Chair of Public Diplomacy in Newport, Rhode Island, as well as vice president of academic affairs at Valley Forge Military Academy and College. He also served as a history professor at the US Naval Academy and the University of Central Oklahoma. He is the author of *America Goes to War: A Social History of the Continental Army, 1775-1783*, and *The Revolutionary War*. **Books will be available for purchase.**

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

**Andrew C. A. Jampoler**

**Sunday, 1 May 2016, 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

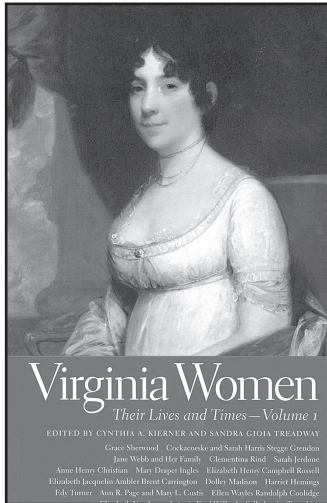


important information on the Jordan River and its associated lakes. The explorers were all volunteers who had taken an oath of abstinence from alcohol and traveled in boats which were made of copper and zinc to make them durable enough for the rapids of the Jordan River and to withstand the corrosive 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.**

## VIRGINIA WOMEN THEIR LIVES AND TIMES



**Sunday, 15 May 2016, 2PM**  
**Cynthia A. Kierner and Sandra Gioia Treadway, editors**

*Virginia Women* is the first of two volumes exploring the history of Virginia women through the lives of exemplary and remarkable individuals. This collection of essays, written by established and emerging scholars, recovers stories and voices of a diverse group of women, from the seventeenth century through the Civil War era. Placing their subjects in their larger historical contexts, the authors show how experiences of Virginia women varied by race, class, age, and

marital status, and also across both space and time. Some essays examine the lives of well-known women—such as First Lady Dolley Madison—from a new perspective. Others introduce readers to relatively obscure historical figures: the convicted witch Grace Sherwood; the colonial printer Clementina Rind; Harriet Hemings, the enslaved daughter of Thomas Jefferson. Essays on the frontier heroine Mary Draper Ingles, and Civil War spy, Elizabeth Van Lew, examine the real women behind the legends. Altogether, the essays in this collection offer readers an engaging and personal window onto the experiences of women in the Old Dominion.

**Cindy Kierner**, who received her PhD from the University of Virginia, joined George Mason University's department of history in 2008 and became Director of the PhD Program in August 2010. A specialist in the fields of early America, women and gender, and early southern history, she is the author or editor of seven books and many articles. Kierner is an OAH Distinguished Lecturer, a past president of the Southern Association for Women Historians, and has served on several editorial boards. Her current research is on disasters in American history through the Civil War era. **Sandra Gioia Treadway** who received her PhD in history from the University of Virginia and a MS in Information Science from the University of Tennessee has been State Librarian of Virginia and director of the Library of Virginia since 2007.

She is the author or editor of numerous books and articles. Treadway has served on numerous boards, been active in many professional organizations, and is a past president of Southern Association for Women Historians.

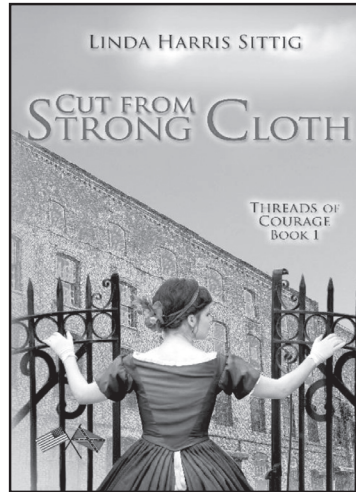


## CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

**Eric S. Larson**  
**Monday, 16 May 2016, 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.

## CUT FROM STRONG CLOTH



**Linda Harris Sittig**  
**Tuesday, 17 May 2016, 7PM**

*Cut From Strong Cloth*, Linda Sittig's debut novel was inspired by a real woman, Ellen Canavan, a young Irish immigrant who struggled to establish herself as a businesswoman in the cut-throat textile industry of 1861 Philadelphia. As she fights to establish her credentials for the design of a superior cloth for soldiers' uniforms, the Civil War erupts, and a malicious arsonist sets out to destroy her. Ellen's design incorporated

Pennsylvania wool and Georgia cotton to produce a strong cloth comfortable for soldiers to wear, yet sturdy enough to survive a battle. She travels from the factory floors of Philadelphia to the cotton wharves of Savannah with her business mentor, James Nolan; then Fort Sumter is fired upon as their love for each other starts to blossom. On the perilous journey back north, the pair stop in Manassas, Virginia and Ellen is forced to draw upon her fiery strength to guide her through a divided nation. Just when her safety finally seems to be a reality, she finds herself alone and trapped in a factory with the fire-setter. As the arsonist ignites a flame, Ellen is confronted with the choice of abandoning her dream in order to save her life. Sittig says of the novel, "I was so impressed with the tenacity and courage of the real Ellen Canavan and her heritage as the daughter of an Irish weaver, that I had to write a story that would showcase her as the strong woman she had to be."

*Cut From Strong Cloth* has received praise from the textile industry itself. Jeanne M. Cumiskey, Director of Fabric Research & Development at Abercrombie and Fitch says of the novel, "Sittig has brought the past to life with a fascinating look into the textile industry of pre-Civil War Philadelphia and the unshakeable spirit of a young woman who fought to change the status quo. Superbly researched, this is a story that you will not forget and will leave you longing for a sequel."

# THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

## 2016 Classes

### RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

#### 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.

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

**Thursday, 5 May 2016, 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. 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.

#### CROWDSOURCED TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT

**Thursday, 4 August 2016, 10AM**

**Sonya Coleman** has worked in Digital Collections at the Library of Virginia for four years. She studied art history and psychology at Hollins University. After working in museums and galleries, she discovered her niche at the intersection of special collections libraries and new technology while at Historical Collections at UVA Health Sciences Library. Her primary interests are accessibility, innovation, and preservation.

#### DIGITAL HISTORY

**Thursday, 6 October 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.

#### PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

**Thursday, 3 November 2016, 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.

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Tuesday, 6 December 2016, 7PM**

**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.



# THE BALCH COLUMN

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## WINTER/SPRING LECTURES AND EVENTS

### *Exhibits 2016*

#### **MARGARET MERCER ROOM**

- 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 - Carolyn Lineberry
- May** 4-H Fair Projects - Loudoun County 4-H Club
- June** Liberia: A Cultural Experience - Greg Paxton
- July-Aug** Local Relics of the American Civil War  
John Creamer
- September** Military Weapons - Gary Heath
- October** Highlights of the Johnston Collection  
Ben Tayloe
- November** Century Farms - Loudoun Farm Museum-
- December** Baseball in Loudoun - Jack Barrett

#### **LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM**

- Jan-March** Olden Times by Dora E. Ramirez
- April-June** An exhibit by noted photographer  
Frank Ruggles
- July-Sept** Photos of South Korea by Gerry D'Onofrio
- Oct-Dec** Photographs by 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.

**Thomas Balch Library Endowment Foundation** established in 2015 the Foundations' mission is to support programs and outreach services of the Thomas Balch Library.

**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 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](http://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. Guests are welcome to attend two meetings without charge. Annual family dues are \$25. Meetings are held at Thomas Balch Library unless otherwise noted. For further information visit: <http://lccwrt.wordpress.com>

**The 2016 Virginia Forum**, hosted by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will be held at Jamestown Settlement, Williamsburg, Virginia, March 3-5, 2016. 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. For additional information visit: [www.virginiaforum.org](http://www.virginiaforum.org).