

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 sixth volume in a series of state resource guides published by the NSDAR Library. This volume, *Maine 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 during the period of the Revolutionary War along with listings of historical and genealogical studies that have been published and which supplement the original sources.

The Library is pleased to announce, through the generosity of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, the recent acquisition of five digital newspaper subscriptions. These papers, *The American Israelite* (1854-2000), *The Atlanta Constitution* (1868-1984), *The Chicago Tribune* (1849-1992), *The Globe and Mail* (1936-2013), and *Norfolk Journal and Guide* (1916-2013), part of the ProQuest Historical Newspaper Collection, offer full-text and full-image articles. These newspapers are an addition to our existing collection of historical newspapers: *The Guardian and The Observer* (1791-2003), *The Baltimore Sun* (1837-1991), *The Irish Times and The Weekly Irish Times* (1859-2015), and *The Scotsman* (1817-1950).

We are privileged to be the repository of many outstanding historical collections documenting the history, life, and times of Loudoun County. These resources provide educational and informational opportunities for students, genealogists, businesses, local governments, and citizens. They are also a draw and help to enrich the experience of tourists. Over the last several years the Library has received a number of manuscript collections including The Charles A Johnston Collection, The George R. Head Collection, The Keene/Edwards Family Collection, Ashburn Hotel Collection, R.E. Russell Family Collection, and Mott/Bentley Correspondence. These collections contain papers relating to experiences of individual families in Loudoun County during the 19th and early 20th centuries and document day to day family life in the communities of Aldie, Ashburn, Leesburg, Middleburg, and Sterling. Each of these collections also includes records providing unique documentary history of business in Loudoun County. Once processed, researchers will be able to use these collections to enhance their understanding of how local families operated businesses, practiced trades, sold or acquired needed goods, lived and socialized. In our efforts to make these collections available as quickly as possible we must seek outside funding from organizations and individuals. The largest and most diverse collection donated to the Library, is the Charles A. Johnston Collection (40+ cubic feet). The Library applied for and received two grants, one in 2014 (\$6,300) and another in 2015 (\$8,500), from the Loudoun Library Foundation for processing and making available this rich tapestry of information. We are excited to be able to open this collection to the public. In October Ben Tayloe, project archivist, will host a walking tour of Leesburg highlighting sites featured in the collection and illustrated in an exhibit featured in the Library. In March of 2017, Tayloe will host an opening and lecture to introduce the collection to the community. An intern, Mary Zell Galen from Longwood University, assisted with exhibit and tour preparations. A talented graphic designer, the donor of the collection, is providing marketing images for the tour, exhibit, and lecture. Unprocessed, this collection was full of potential, but inaccessible. Processed, this collection full of everyday items and individual stories offers an unparalleled view of life in Leesburg and Loudoun County from the late 1700s through the 20th century. The Library is grateful for the Loudoun Library Foundation's generous support in helping make this remarkable resource accessible.

For local residents and visitors from across the country and around the globe this library is a destination. 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. On-site visitors, have access to an outstanding and helpful staff. For those living far away but with 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



Ketocin Chapter, NSDAR: Diane Edwards, DAR Magazine Committee Chair; the Library Director; Susannah Harding, Regent; Gail Adams, Chair of the Americanism and Constitution Week Committees

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.

CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

Eric S. Larson
Monday, 19 September 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.



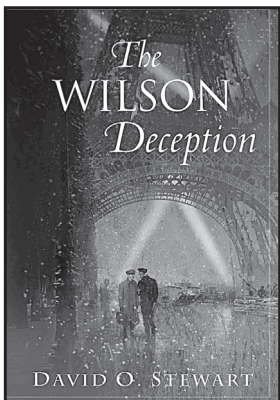
SOCIETY LINEAGE DAY

Hosted by Brock D. Bierman
Saturday, 24 September 2016, 1-4PM

Lineage societies are more than genealogy. They are involved with community service, active in philanthropy, and help share, preserve, and remember our heritage. The Friends of the Thomas Balch Library is sponsoring a "Society Day," to help those interested in joining lineage societies. To answer questions and provide guidance on joining, members from various societies, including but not limited to The National Society Sons of the American Revolution; The District of Columbia Society Sons of the American Revolution; National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; National Society Sons of the American Colonists; The Saint Andrews Society of Washington, DC; Sons of the Revolution; National Society Sons of Colonial New England and the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be present. Brock D. Bierman, board member of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, an experienced genealogist and family historian, will host the event.

THE WILSON DECEPTION

David O. Stewart
Sunday, 25 September 2016, 2PM



Against the backdrop of the Paris Peace Conference that would remake Europe in the wake of World War I, *The Wilson Deception* reunites Dr. Jamie Fraser and Speed Cook, protagonists of the acclaimed *The Lincoln Deception*, in an intriguing presidential mystery. The Great War has ended and President Woodrow Wilson's arrival in Paris in December 1918 unites the city in celebration. At this pivotal moment in history,

with the Allied victors gathering to forge a peace treaty, the president's health could decide the fate of nations. While Fraser tries to determine the truth about Wilson's maladies, he encounters Speed Cook, a man he has not seen for nearly twenty years. Speed Cook an ex-professional ball player and advocate for Negro rights is desperate to save his son, Joshua, an army sergeant wrongly accused of desertion. Rivalries and hidden agendas abound. At stake is not only Joshua Cook's freedom, but the fragile treaty that may be the only way to stop Europe and the world from plunging into another brutal war. With a cast of vividly drawn characters that includes T.E. Lawrence, David Lloyd George, and Winston Churchill, *The Wilson Deception* provides a riveting and expertly researched blend of history and suspense.

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* best-seller 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 "the best account of this troubled episode" by Professor David Donald of Harvard. Stewart also is president of the *Washington Independent Review of Books*, an online book review. Books will be available for purchase.

LEESBURG TOUR

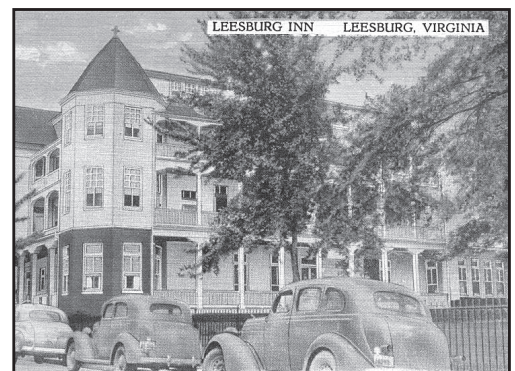
James P. Roberts
Saturday, 1 October 2016, 9-12PM



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.



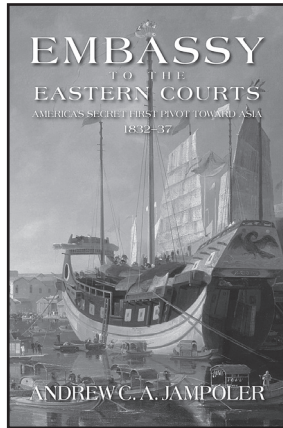
EMBASSY TO THE EASTERN COURTS

Andrew C. A. Jampoler

Sunday, 2 October 2016, 2PM

In the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, the US found its merchants and traders locked out of their traditional markets in Europe and the Caribbean. Hoping for new and profitable American trade relationships, President Andrew Jackson dispatched an unemployed ship-owner and merchant with no diplomatic experience on a secret mission to negotiate with Eastern potentates. Edmund Roberts' mission was to formalize American trade with these exotic places – Oman, Siam, Cochin China, and Japan – on a most favored nation basis, allowing for American consuls to openly advance and protect American interests and citizens in their host countries. After sailing almost 70,000 miles in five years on the ill-fated *USS Peacock*, Roberts was successful in negotiating treaties with Oman and Siam, but he failed in Cochin China, and he died before setting sail to Japan. The *USS Peacock*, first flagship of the Navy's new East Indies Squadron, forerunner of the US Seventh Fleet, outlived Roberts by only a few years.

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, Jampoler 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.



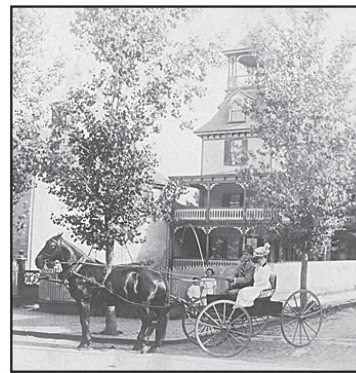
els, and warriors embarking on the voyage of their lives, defending their country as they understood it, and pursuing a difficult, dangerous mission in which they succeeded spectacularly after it no longer mattered. The *CSS Shenandoah* contributed to the diplomatic maelstrom of the Civil War and fired the last gun of the conflict. Seven months after Lee's surrender, the *CSS Shenandoah* limped into Liverpool. Captain Waddell lowered the last Confederate banner without defeat or surrender. This is, as Admiral Semmes describes, a biography of a cruise and a microcosm of the Confederate-American Experience.

Dwight Hughes graduated from the US Naval Academy and served twenty years as a Navy surface warfare officer on many oceans in ships ranging from destroyer to aircraft carrier and with river forces in Vietnam (Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart). Building on a lifetime of study in naval history, he lives and writes in Nokesville, Virginia. Books will be available for purchase.

OPENING DOORS TO LEESBURG'S HISTORY: THE CHARLES A. JOHNSTON COLLECTION TOUR

Ben Tayloe

Sunday, 23 October 2016, 2PM



The Charles A. Johnston Collection contains family papers and artifacts of the Johnston family of Leesburg and many of their closest personal and business acquaintances. It is the most diverse collection held by the Library incorporating archives, manuscript materials, rare books, photographs and film. This

collection, full of everyday items and individual stories, offers a view of life in Leesburg and Loudoun County from the late 1700s through the 20th century.

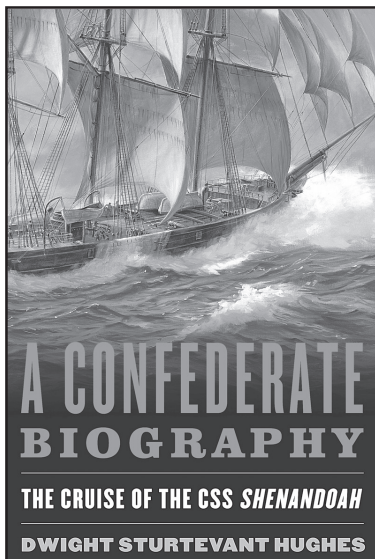
Ben Tayloe, Project Archivist of The Charles A. Johnston Collection and Library Associate at Thomas Balch Library, has historic preservation experience in both the private and public sectors. He will lead this tour focusing on local homes and businesses in historic Leesburg associated with the Johnston family. An exhibit of artifacts and manuscript material from the collection will also be on display at Thomas Balch Library throughout October. This unique tour will leave from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 2PM; sturdy walking shoes are recommended. *Save the date for a presentation highlighting the Charles A. Johnston collection on Sunday 19 March 2017 at 2PM.*



A CONFEDERATE BIOGRAPHY: THE CRUISE OF THE CSS SHENANDOAH

Dwight Sturtevant Hughes

Sunday, 16 October 2016, 2PM



From October 1864 to November 1865, the *CSS Shenandoah* carried the Civil War around the globe to the ends of the earth through every extreme of sea and storm. Her officers represented a cross section of the Confederacy from Old Dominion first families through the Deep South aristocracy to a middle-class Missourian: a nephew of Robert E. Lee; a grandnephew of George Mason; a son-in-

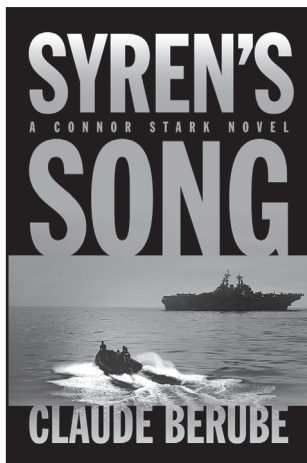
law to Raphael Semmes; grandsons of men who fought at George Washington's side; an uncle of Theodore Roosevelt. They considered themselves Americans, Southerners, reb-

Loudoun County Public Library recently implemented a new electronic catalogue for accessing its materials. Our materials are included in this catalog. During the roll-out of the system we are working with LCPL to insure our records are easily accessible to all.

SYREN'S SONG: A CONNOR STARK NOVEL

Claude Berube

Sunday, 30 October 2016, 2PM



Syren's Song is the second novel featuring Connor Stark. This geopolitical thriller begins when the Sri Lankan navy is unexpectedly attacked by a resurgent and separatist Tamil Tiger organization. The government issues a letter of marque to former US Navy officer Connor Stark, now the head of the private security company, Highland Maritime Defense. Stark and his eclectic compatriots accept the challenge only to learn that the

Sea Tigers, who crippled the Sri Lankan navy, are no ordinary terrorists. With new allies and new enemies, Stark and company face terrorism, war, conspiracy, and murder.

Claude Berube has taught at the US Naval Academy, worked at the Office of Naval Intelligence and the US Senate, and as an officer in the Navy Reserve deployed overseas. He has been a fellow with both the Brookings Institution and Heritage Foundation, and is the author of three non-fiction books and *The Aden Effect*, the first book in the Connor Stark series. Books will be available for purchase.

PRACTISE TO DECEIVE: LEARNING CURVES OF MILITARY DECEPTION PLANNERS BY BARTON WHALEY

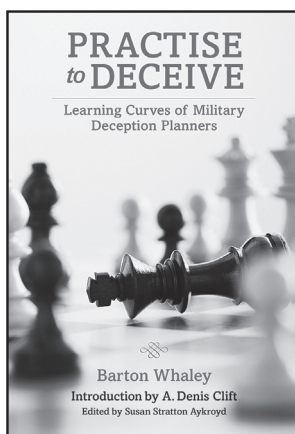
A. Denis Clift

Sunday, 6 November 2016, 2PM

Written by the undisputed dean of US denial and deception experts, *Practise to Deceive* is the most in-depth look at deception as a military strategy. Barton Whaley knew the history of denial and deception across time, disciplines, and culture. He was the foremost authority on the intricacies of denial and deception strategy and tactics. For Whaley, deception was a mind-game, requiring imagination, deep critical thought, a profound understanding of the

enemy as well as one's self (a variation of Sun Tzu), and patience and fortitude. This book presents 88 vividly descriptive case studies to serve as a handbook for intelligence and military professionals. In Whaley's analysis, variations in guilefulness between opposing individuals or groups can be crucial in deciding who achieves victory in combat.

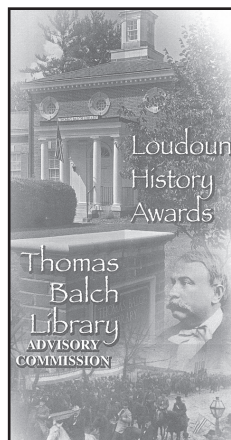
Barton Whaley, who passed away in 2013, received his BA in Chinese studies from the University of California, Berkeley before serving with the intelligence section of US Army Psychological Warfare headquartered in Tokyo during the Korean War. Following the war, he attended London University School of Oriental and African Studies before



receiving his PhD at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A. Denis Clift, a graduate of Stanford University and the London School of Economics and Political Science, is Vice President for Planning and Operations of the United States Naval Institute. Clift is a former naval officer, President Emeritus of the National Defense Intelligence College and has served in military and civilian capacities in the administrations of 11 successive presidents. He is the author of several books, both fiction and non-fiction, and is co-author of *The Oxford Handbook of National Security Intelligence*. Books will be available for purchase.

LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 13 November 2016, 2PM



Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the 24th 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.

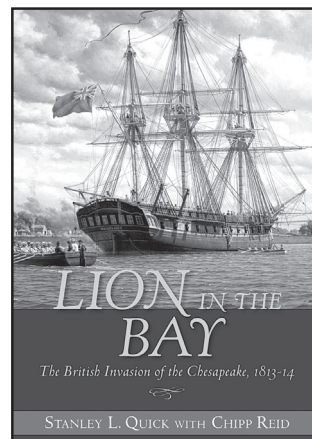
LION IN THE BAY: THE BRITISH INVASION OF THE CHESAPEAKE, 1813-14

Sunday, 4 December 2016, 2PM

Chipp Reid, editor

The story of Fort McHenry's defense during the War of 1812 is well known, but *Lion in the Bay* by Stanley L. Quick with Chipp Reid takes an intimate and thorough look at the events preceding the battle that inspired our national anthem. Despite a massive bombardment at Fort McHenry, Baltimore's defenses held, forcing the British to abandon their campaign to close the Chesapeake. *Lion in the Bay* retells this story of American resilience and triumph in the wake of catastrophe with amazing detail and great skill.

The late Stanley Quick, who died in 2008, served on active duty in the US Navy from 1944-47 before working for many years as a naval architect and civilian engineer. He received his PhD from Brooklyn Polytechnic in 1963 and began a long career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Chipp Reid is an award-winning reporter and editor, a licensed ship captain, historian, and Cold War veteran. He has covered wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as baseball, international soccer, and international piracy. His book *Intrepid Sailors: The Legacy of Preble's Boys and the Tripoli Campaign* was named a "Notable Naval Book of 2012" by *Proceedings* magazine. Books will be available for purchase.



THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

2016-17 Classes

RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

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 E. 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.

RESEARCHING AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Thursday, 2 February 2017, 10AM

Cara Griggs will discuss methods and resources for African American genealogy prior to the end of the Civil War. Attendees will learn about ways of determining whether an individual was enslaved or free and what types of records will be useful for further research. The lecture will focus on the Library of Virginia's collections including cohabitation registers, free Negro registers and lists, wills, deeds, and tax records as well as selected federal records that can be accessed through its databases. Griggs has been a reference archivist at the Library of Virginia since 2006. She earned a BA in history from Westhampton College of the University of Richmond, an MA in social sciences from the University of Chicago, and an MSLIS with an archival studies concentration from Drexel University. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Thursday, 2 March 2017, 10AM

Under the direction of **Laura E. 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 digital resources, including Thomas Balch Library's new sound and moving image kiosk. Participants will leave the workshop with new skills for smarter, faster, and more wide-reaching searches.

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Thursday, 6 April 2017, 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. 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 past Regent. Irby currently serves as secretary of District VI of the Virginia DAR Chapters. She holds a BS from Central Michigan University and a JD from Thomas Cooley Law School.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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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.

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Thursday, 1 June 2017, 10AM

IDENTIFICATION & CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Thursday, 3 August 2017, 10AM

Exhibits 2016-17

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

2016

- September** Military Weapons by Gary Heath
October Opening Doors to Leesburg's History: The Charles A. Johnston Collection Exhibit by Ben Tayloe
November Century Farms by Loudoun Farm Museum
December Baseball in Loudoun by Jack Barrett

2017

- January** Frederick Douglass School Art Show
February Artifacts & Photos Union Civil War by Jack Craig
March WWII Artifacts by John Wyrick
April Loudoun County During World War I by Lori Kimball
May Leesburg/Loudoun: Remembering the Past through Artifacts by Billy Fisher
June Liberian Artifacts by Greg & Patti Paxson

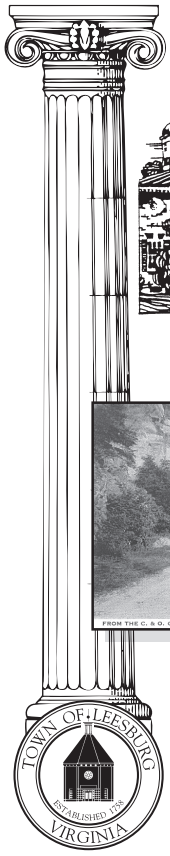
LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

2016

- July-Sept** South Korea Through the Lens of Miguk by Gerry D'Onofrio
Oct-Dec Loudoun Heritage Leaders by Jim Hanna

2017

- Jan-March** Loudoun Photo Club
April-June Waterford's Civil War by John Souders



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FALL 2016 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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 Foundation's 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 or call 540/579-2825.

The ninth annual celebration of Loudoun County history, "Loudoun in the Great War," with guest speaker Dr. Terry Sharrer, will be held at 4PM on Sunday, 2 October 2016, at The Marshall House, 312 East Market Street, Leesburg, VA. To attend the event, please email EVENT@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.

If you've missed prior opportunities, are just hearing about it for the first time, or wish to take the tour again, the ever popular Heritage Bus Tour of African American Communities and Sites in Loudoun County coordinated by the Black History Committee will be offered again in June 2017.

For information contact Alicia Cohen, Coordinator, at aaheritagelocova@gmail.com or 703/606-3275.

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>

CALL FOR PAPERS: The 2017 Virginia Forum

will be hosted by Norfolk State University on its campus, 2-4 March 2017. The Virginia Forum is an interdisciplinary conference and welcomes proposals on all aspects of Virginia history and culture from scholars, teachers, students, and professionals in all fields. This year's theme "Who Are We?: Identity and Memory in Virginia" reflects the broader context of questions of race, ethnicity, and identity which began in 1619 at Point Comfort in the Virginia Colony and continue today through the LGBT rights and Black Lives Matter movements. 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 or contact Dr. Charles H. Ford chford@nsu.edu. Proposals are due 1 October 2016.