



# 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 eighth volume in a series of state resource guides published by the NSDAR Library. This volume, *Connecticut 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.



For those who frequent the library, one may notice staffing changes. Over the last year three Library Associates have left the fold, Ben Tayloe, Gabrielle Sanchez, and Pam Gottfried. Ben relocated to Pennsylvania, Gabrielle to Fairfax County, and Pam retired. We will miss them and wish them well in their new ventures.

Thomas Balch Library has been the recipient of numerous grants to assist with processing of manuscript collections. Through the generosity of the Loudoun Library Foundation the Library received grants totaling \$14,800 enabling us to process and make available the Charles A. Johnston Collection (M098) rich in several centuries of documentation of Leesburg and Loudoun County. Ben Tayloe, who processed the collection, presented a lecture and exhibit introducing the collection and its contents to researchers, and also created a self-guided walking tour of Leesburg. Copies of the tour guide are available on request. The Library applied for and received a grant of \$1,326 from the Community for Northern Virginia/Thomas G. Jewell Fund for processing, describing and making available collections documenting social, business, historical and cultural experiences of Loudoun County. In addition, the Library received a \$1,000 grant from the Dorothy M. Jewell Trust to assist with processing historically significant collections. With the ongoing support of foundations, trusts, and local cultural organizations, the library is able to make available and preserve local history for generations to come.

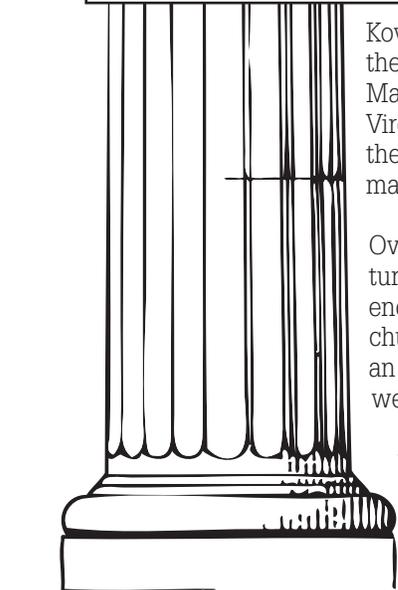
This summer under the leadership of Keith Markel, Deputy Town Manager, the Town of Leesburg created a self-guided digital history tour of downtown Leesburg. The app may be downloaded on a smartphone or tablet via Google Play or Apple Store. Viewers will be guided from site to site on the walking tour. The first tour, narrated by Brian Boucher, a history enthusiast as well as the town's Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning, was researched and created by Karleen Kovalcik, an intern at the Thomas Balch Library. This tour features highlights of historical Leesburg while the second tour features historically significant African American sites in Leesburg. Kovalcik graduated in May with an MA in Public History and a Graduate Certificate in Cultural Resource Management from West Virginia University. At the conclusion of the internship, Kovalcik began a job as Executive Site Manager of the Weems-Botts Museum in Dumfries. Additional thematic tours such as architecture and Civil War history may be added to the app in the future.

The library is a destination for local residents and visitors from across the country and around the globe. Over 32,000 people visited the library in the last fiscal year to conduct research, tour exhibits, attend lectures, and avail themselves of our many outstanding services. Staff annually responds to some 30,000 reference questions in person, by mail, email, fax, Facebook, and telephone. 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 with national and international speakers. I look forward to welcoming you when visiting the Library or when attending programs and exhibits.

Alexandra S. Gressitt,  
Library Director

The Thomas Balch Library  
presents  
**Opening Doors  
to  
Leesburg's  
History**  
The Charles A. Johnston Collection  
Walking Tour



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. **Books are available for purchase at book talks.**

## LAST CURTAIN CALL

**Linda Sittig**

**Sunday, 17 September 2017, 2PM**

Annie Charbonneau wants to escape from the small coal mining village in Western Maryland where her family lives. But in 1894 she is thrust into a personal battle fighting the ruthless coal company preying on vulnerable women in her town. Annie is afraid of endangering her own family, but she can no longer sit still and allow the coal company to continue its injustices. Set against the true 1894 Western Maryland Coal Strike, *Last Curtain Call* will draw the reader into a segment of history not known by many outsiders.

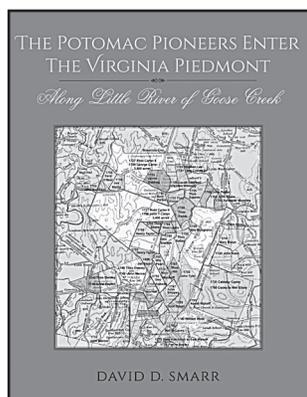


Born in New York City, and raised in northern New Jersey, Linda Sittig's love of history and a commitment to family and literacy led her to a three decade career in Fairfax County Schools. On the side, she began writing articles, newspaper columns, and books on how to instill the love of reading in children of all ages. Selected as the Greater Washington Reading Council's Teacher of the Year in 1982, she was then chosen as Teacher of the Year by the Virginia State Reading Association in 1983 and the International Reading Association in 1994. After retiring, she combined her passion for history, stories, and women of extraordinary achievement, by writing full time and blogging at [www.strongwomeninhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.strongwomeninhistory.wordpress.com). Twice recognized by the Virginia Press Association, Sittig's articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, the *Loudoun Times-Mirror*, and the *Reston Connection*, as well as in numerous professional journals and short story anthologies.

## FROM THE WILDERNESS OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA TO CIVIL WAR IN THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND: A SERIES OF FRONTIERS

**David Smarr**

**Sunday, 24 September 2017, 2PM**



This work describes how a closely knit group of English pioneers who lived along the Potomac from 1680 to 1740 traveled up Ox Road in the early 1740s to become the first settlers of the Virginia Piedmont's forested foothills near the junction of Indian paths later known as Colchester and Carolina Roads. There Hall, Owsley, and West began to clear and till land creating homesteads. West established

an ordinary, visited in 1748 by Potomac River residents George Washington and George William Fairfax. Robert Carter III leased an 11,375 acre Goose Creek Tract adjoining the Hall, Owsley and West grants to Smarr, Pearl, Stephens, Tyler, Kelley, Taylor, Roberts, Shore, Squires, and others. West aided George Washington's regiment in the English fight against French

and Indians and by the 1760s the settlers were rolling their hogsheads of tobacco down Colchester Road to Colchester on the Occoquan in exchange for Scottish merchant John Glassford's finished goods. They aided the colonial military in the Revolutionary War, supporting the emergence of the new American nation. Historic homes and businesses recall the rich historical heritage near Gilbert's Corner - William West's Ordinary, Jacob Ish's Tanyard, Joseph Lacey's Tavern, George Carter's Oatlands, President James Monroe's Oak Hill, Charles Fenton Mercer's Aldie Mill and William Ellzey's Fleetwood Farm. An in-depth study of the early history, leases, and subsequent ownership of Robert Carter III's Goose Creek Tract along Little River and Goose Creek are mapped to provide a visualization of the network of settlers who lived in what is today south-central Loudoun County.

David Smarr, MS, CPA worked for 35 years in higher education administration at the University of Missouri and is currently completing the remaining three volumes of this series *From the Wilderness of Colonial Virginia to Civil War in the American Heartland: A Series of Frontiers*.

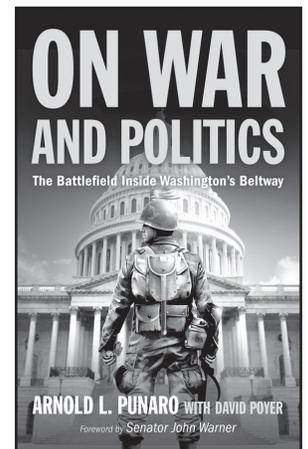
## ON WAR AND POLITICS: THE BATTLEFIELD INSIDE WASHINGTON'S BELTWAY

**Arnold L. Punaro with David Poyer**

**Sunday, 1 October 2017, 2PM**

In his new book *On War and Politics: The Battlefield Inside Washington's Beltway*, Arnold Punaro writes about the importance of strong, ethical, moral leadership in all aspects of our lives and how politicians in Washington are failing this critical test. Punaro opens the book in Vietnam—and the ultimate sacrifice made by Marine Cpl. Hammonds, who was killed when he left a safe position to help a wounded Punaro. This example of selflessness has influenced Punaro's entire career, from causes he championed to leaders he has chosen to work with. After leaving active service, Punaro entered Washington politics. *On War and Politics* includes stories about political luminaries such as John McCain, the Clintons, the Presidents Bush, Colin Powell, Robert Gates, Sam Nunn (under whom Punaro worked as national security advisor), and Ash Carter.

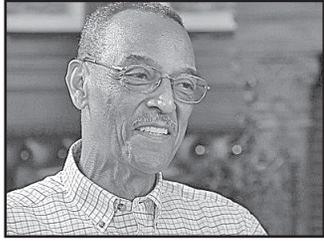
Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro, USMCR (RET), served thirty-five years in uniform, both active and reserve. He spent twenty-four years in the US Senate, becoming Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Currently CEO of a small business, he was a top industry executive and continues to serve on numerous boards and commissions on national security. He is a sought-after speaker at national security and defense conferences and is frequently quoted in national trade, business publications, and televised media.



## LEESBURG TOUR

James P. Roberts

Saturday, 14 October 2017, 9-12PM



James Roberts, a native of Leesburg, former 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.*

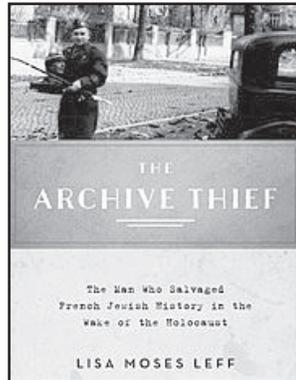
## THE ARCHIVE THIEF: THE MAN WHO SALVAGED FRENCH JEWISH HISTORY IN THE WAKE OF THE HOLOCAUST

Lisa Moses Leff

Sunday, 15 October 2017, 2PM

Lisa Moses Leff joins us to talk about her recent book, *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust*. The book tells the story of Zosa Szajkowski, a Polish-born Jewish historian who took tens of thousands of Jewish documents from Europe in the 1940s and 50s and moved them, illicitly, to New York, and eventually sold them to Jewish research libraries in the United States and Israel. Was this a heroic act of salvage or simply theft? In exploring this question, Leff raises questions about where the material remnants of the Jewish past are best kept.

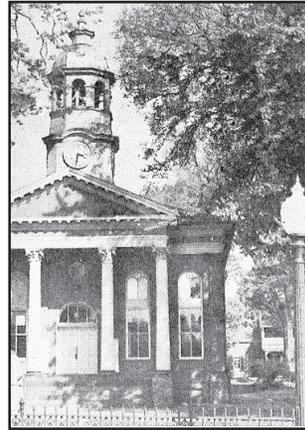
Lisa Moses Leff, a historian of 19th and 20th century Europe, whose research focuses on Jews in France, is Professor of History at American University, where she is also affiliated with the Jewish Studies program. She is the author of *Sacred Bonds of Solidarity: The Rise of Jewish Internationalism in Nineteenth Century France*; *Colonialism and the Jews*; and *The Archive Thief* which was awarded the 2016 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish literature and was a finalist for a 2015 National Jewish Book Award. Leff received her BA from Oberlin College and her MA and PhD from the University of Chicago.



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

Eric S. Larson

Monday, 16 October 2017, 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.

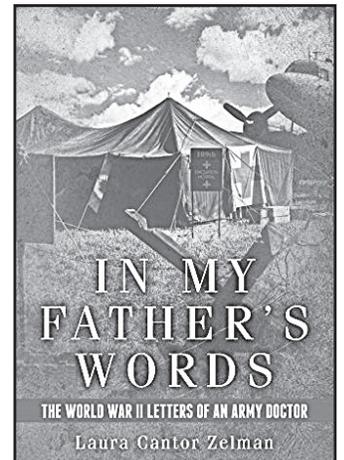
## IN MY FATHER'S WORDS – THE WORLD WAR II LETTERS OF AN ARMY DOCTOR

Laura Cantor Zelman

Sunday, 22 October 2017, 2PM

This collection of over five hundred letters, covering the years 1941-45, details the daily life of a Jewish American, fluent in German, who served as a doctor in the US Army. The letters shed light on the condition of soldiers' medical care, censorship, Nazis, German POWs, and army life. These letters are a testament to the work of military doctors in war time and the many sacrifices they make for their country.

Laura Cantor Zelman is a graduate of Vassar College where she majored in sociology and minored in English. Following graduation, she moved to the Washington, DC area eventually settling in Virginia. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, she is the eldest of four Cantor sisters. Having grown up in a vibrant ethnic household, Zelman has never shied away from lively political discussions. She has been a writer for and editor of various volunteer organizations' publications and enjoys writing songs, poems, and skits for family celebrations. This passion is the basis for Zelman's organization and excerpting of letters *In My Father's Words*.



## SAVE THE DATE: SPRING 2018 SEMINAR: GENETIC GENEALOGY: UNDERSTANDING DNA RESULTS

Shannon Combs-Bennett

Wednesday, 21 March 2018, 9-4PM

**Fee:** \$15 members of Friends of Thomas Balch Library; \$20 non-members; \$30 at door;

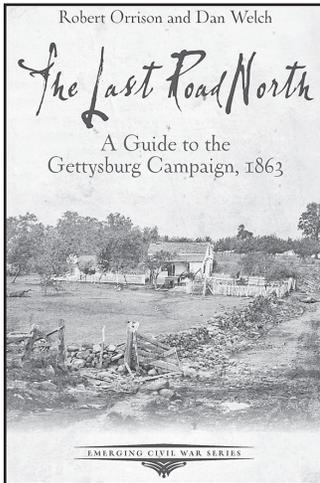
Lunch on your own

**\*Seating is limited: Pre-registration and pre-payment will guarantee a place\***

## THE LAST ROAD NORTH: A GUIDE TO THE GETTYSBURG CAMPAIGN, 1863

Robert Orrison and Dan Welch

Sunday, 29 October 2017, 2PM



*The Last Road North*, a tour book in the *Emerging Civil War Series*, follows routes of the Army of Northern Virginia and Army of the Potomac to Gettysburg and the subsequent Confederate retreat. While the route is connected using Civil War Trails network interpretive signs the book provides additional context for the campaign which represented the last foray of any Confederate army north of the Mason-Dixon line.

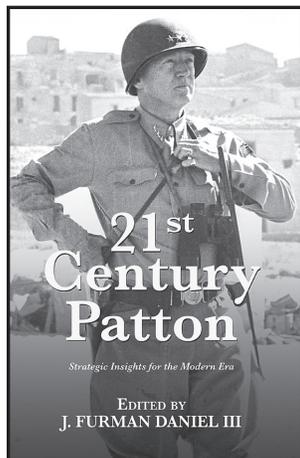
Dan Welch, co-author, is currently an educator in a public school district in northeast Ohio. Previously, Welch was education programs coordinator for Gettysburg Foundation, non-profit partner of Gettysburg National Military Park, as well as a seasonal Park Ranger at Gettysburg National Military Park. Welch received his BA in Instrumental Music Education from Youngstown State University and is currently working on an MA in Military History with a concentration on the Civil War Era at American Military University. Rob Orrison, the speaker and co-author, has been working in the history field for more than 20 years. He has a wide range of interests and has worked in museums and historic sites covering eras from Colonial times to the early 20th Century. Born and raised in Loudoun County, Virginia, Orrison received his Bachelor's Degree in Historic Preservation at Longwood College and received his Master's Degree in Public History from George Mason University. He has worked at Petersburg National Battlefield, Sully Plantation and, since 2006, with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division as a historic site manager. His published works include *A Want of Vigilance: The Bristoe Station Campaign* and *War on the Potomac, 1861-1862*. He is currently working on a book about the battles of Lexington and Concord with Philip Greenwalt as part of the new series, *Emerging Revolutionary War*.

## TWENTY FIRST CENTURY PATTON

J. Furman Daniel, III

Sunday, 5 November 2017, 2PM

While General George S. Patton Jr. remains an iconic figure seventy years after his death, few fully appreciate him as a strategic thinker. Indeed, his flamboyant personality often obscures the fact that he was a true visionary. This short volume introduces readers to a more complete and nuanced Patton. Linking Patton's success as a warfighter to his efforts as a thinker, the editor hopes to kindle debate on managing human capital within the military. This collection



demonstrates that the seeds of military success can be planted throughout a lifetime of formal and self-directed study of the military arts.

J. Furman Daniel, III is an assistant professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, Arizona. He holds a BA from the University of Chicago and a PhD from Georgetown University.

## LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 12 November 2017, 2PM

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



## THE VINEYARD VICTIMS: A WINE COUNTRY MYSTERY

Ellen Crosby

Sunday, 3 December 2017, 2PM



When Jamison Vaughn, billionaire real estate mogul, Virginia vineyard owner, and unsuccessful US presidential candidate, drives his gold SUV into a stone pillar at the entrance to Montgomery Estate Vineyard, Lucie Montgomery is certain the crash was deliberate. But everyone else in Atoka, Virginia is equally sure that Jamie must have lost control of his car on a rain-slicked country road. In spite of being saddled with massive campaign debts from the recent election, Jamie is seemingly the man with the perfect life. What possible reason could he have for committing suicide...or was it murder? Before long Lucie uncovers a connection between Jamie and some of his old friends, an elite group of academics, and the brutal murder thirty years ago of a brilliant PhD student. Although a handyman is on death row for the crime, Lucie soon suspects someone else is guilty. But the investigation into the two deaths throws Lucie a curve ball when someone from her own past becomes involved, forcing her to confront old demons. Now the race to solve the mystery behind the two deaths becomes intensely personal as Lucie realizes someone wants her silenced for good. The death of a former presidential candidate in a fiery car crash at her Virginia vineyard has ties to a thirty year-old murder as well as to Lucie Montgomery's own near fatal accident ten years before as she searches for a killer who now may be stalking her.

Ellen Crosby is the author of the Virginia wine country mysteries, including *The Vineyard Victims*, featuring vineyard owner Lucie Montgomery, as well as *Multiple Exposure* and *Ghost Image*, which feature international photojournalist Sophie Medina, and *Moscow Nights*, a stand-alone mystery. Previously she worked as a freelance reporter for *The Washington Post*, Moscow correspondent for ABC News Radio, and as an economist at the US Senate.

# THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

## 2017-18 Classes

### RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

#### LOUDOUN COUNTY LAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION TOOLS

**Thursday, 5 October 2017, 10AM**

Loudoun County staff **Mary Pender** and **Kristin Brown** will demonstrate several of the County's Land Management and Mapping Information tools with an emphasis on their possible value for land and historical research. Participants will learn about online systems available to them such as WebLogis (Loudoun's flagship online web tool), LOLA (Loudoun Online Land Applications), as well as see examples of other interactive maps and useful datasets, including historic imagery and the County's original land grants. Some of the discussion will cover resources available for research on-site at the Government Center in Leesburg. Laptops will be made available for participants' use should anyone like hands-on experience. **Brown** is the manager of the Development and Analysis group from the Loudoun County Office of Mapping and Geographic Information. **Pender** is the Building & Development Administrator for the County's Land Management Information System (LMIS) as well as a part-time Reference Associate at Thomas Balch Library.

#### Exhibits 2017-18

##### Margaret Mercer Room

**SEPTEMBER** - St. Louis, Virginia Revisited  
by Lois Connolly

**OCTOBER** - New Collections  
by Thomas Balch Library

**NOVEMBER** - Loudoun Court House  
by Sarah Markel and Alyssa Fisher

**DECEMBER** - Between the Hills: White, Mosby, Moberley, and their influence on the Civil War  
by Greg and Patti Paxton

**JANUARY** - The Mexican War-Connection to VA  
by Gregg and Patti Paxton

**FEBRUARY** - Frederick Douglass Elementary presents its Art Projects

**MARCH** - Highlights of Loudoun County African American Bus Tours – Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library

**APRIL** - General George C. Marshall: 20th Century American Hero  
by George C. Marshall International Center

**MAY** - Civil War Collectibles by John Wyrick

**JUNE - JULY** - Civil War Artifacts  
by John Creamer

**AUGUST** - Oatlands by Lori Kimball

**SEPTEMBER** - John Hall's New Technology Rifle vs Regular US Rifles by Gary Heath

##### Lower Level Meeting Room

**July-September** - Remembering Moments in Ashburn Virginia by Luvenia Taylor

**October-December** - Loudoun Harvest: Agro-Tourism in Loudoun by Loudoun Sketch Club

**January-March** - Grace through the Ages by Gertrude Evans

**April - June** - Portraits from Viet Nam and Cambodia by Jim Hanna

**July - September** - Nature's Kingdom by Loudoun Photography Club

#### PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

**Thursday, 2 November 2017, 10AM**

**Gabrielle Sanchez**, Contract Archivist and former Library Reference Associate at Thomas Balch Library, 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, 5 December 2017, 7PM**

**Tom 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.

#### IDENTIFICATION AND CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

**Thursday, 1 February 2018, 10AM**

**Laura E. Christiansen**, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives will guide participants through a practical approach to the identification and preservation of photographs from the daguerreotype to the inkjet print. The workshop will include an overview of the history and technology of photographic materials, identification and dating techniques, and best practices to care for and preserve your photograph collections.

#### PAPER CONSERVATION

**Thursday, 1 March 2018, 10AM**

Conservator **Rachel-Ray Cleveland's** presentation will feature a step-wise overview of the conservation treatment process carried out on the print, *The Last Meeting*, a 19th century print owned by the Library and conserved recently at Cleveland Conservation of Art on Paper, Inc. The print, now fully conserved, is archivally reframed and on display in the library. The talk will also include an overview of various types of damage (chemical and physical) that can be incurred by all paper-based items - such as documents, fine art on paper and three dimensional paper objects. In addition, a number of other conservation treatments will be presented and discussed to include "before" and "after images" that show visual improvement when chemical and physical stabilization is achieved. Cleveland is owner and principal conservator at Cleveland Conservation of Art on Paper, Inc. located near Laurel, MD. She holds three degrees including a MA in Art Conservation from the State University of New York at Buffalo, a Graduate Certificate in Collection Management from the Chicago Art Institute, and a BFA in intaglio printmaking from the University of Iowa. She is a member of the American Institute of Conservation, International Institute for Conservation, Institute of Paper Conservation, and Washington Conservation Guild. Over the years she has conducted work for the Smithsonian, the White House, and the Library of Congress.

#### RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

**Thursday, 5 April 2018, 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 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/ ARCHITECTURE

**Thursday, 3 May 2018, 10AM**

**Christy Toms**, Library Associate at Thomas Balch Library and Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections at Scarborough Library, Shepherd University, joins **Tom Scofield**, Preservation Planner, Town of Leesburg, who has worked over 25 years as a local government planner and historic preservation consultant, in presenting an interactive class on historic preservation.

#### DIGITAL HISTORY

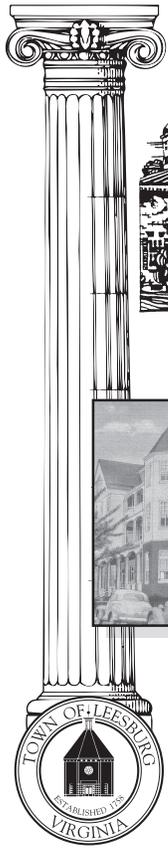
**Thursday, 7 June 2018, 10AM**

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.

#### RESEARCHING AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

**Thursday, 2 August 2018, 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. 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.



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## FALL 2017 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 Advisory Commission seeks nominations for the twenty-fifth annual Loudoun History Awards. This event honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing and long-term involvement in local history organizations. Letters of nomination, due by **Monday, 9 October 2017**, must include a statement elaborating the nominees' accomplishments. Newspaper articles, program announcements, publications, or other supporting information providing evidence of the nominee's accomplishments may be included. Contact information for the nominee and nominator must accompany the nomination and be directed to:

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director,  
Thomas Balch Library, 208 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176.

**The 2018 Virginia Forum, 15-17 March 2018**, will be hosted by Emory & Henry College and held on its campus in Washington County, Virginia. As this meeting will be the first Forum held in southwestern Virginia, the organizers see it as an opportunity to explore the regional differences long seen in the state, as well as the roots of each region's social and cultural distinctiveness. Hence, papers and panels with a focus on the relationship between local history and regional identity in Virginia are particularly invited, not just for subjects concerning the Appalachian region where we shall be meeting. The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2017. Acceptances should be forthcoming by late December 2017, with a tentative schedule being announced in January 2018. Direct further inquiries about this meeting to: [VAForum2018@gmail.com](mailto:VAForum2018@gmail.com). Additional information, including previous conference programs, is available online at [www.virginiaforum.org](http://www.virginiaforum.org).

**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.

Please join Friends of the Thomas Balch Library for their eighth annual fall event "A Late Afternoon At The River," **Sunday, 24 September 2017 at 4PM** at Riverside on the Potomac. Enjoy panoramic vistas, great food, fine wine, and engaging conversation. Eugene Scheel will be speaking on "Little Known Facts About Loudoun County." To request an invitation call 540/579-2825.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library will hold its 23rd Annual meeting and Election of Directors on **Sunday, 21 January 2018**, at Thomas Balch Library from 2-4PM. The snow date will be Sunday, 28 January, 2018. This year's main program will be "Oral History Series: Interview with Bill Harrison," Loudoun County Extension Agent and founders of Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum.

**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>