

# 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



This past fall has been a particularly busy one for the Library. I'd like to share with you a few highlights of these events.

I am pleased to announce that Alyssa Fahringer has joined the staff. Alyssa holds a BA in history and BA in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University; an MLIS from the University of Pittsburg; and an MA in history from George Mason where she is currently working on her dissertation for a PhD in history.

The 2017 annual Loudoun History Awards was successful. Three Loudoun residents, Phyllis Cook-Taylor, James A. Morgan, III, and William C. Ray were honored at the 25th annual Loudoun History Awards on Sunday, November 12, for their 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. Thirty-eight people, including Mayor Kelly Burk and Deputy Town Manager Keith Markel, were in attendance. Phyllis Cook-Taylor, a native of Middleburg, Virginia, long active in historical and preservation activities is a founding member and officer of Friends of the Slave Quarters at Hutchinson Farm, founding member and officer of The Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, past board member of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, and member of the Northern Virginia Community College Historic Preservation Advisory Board. James A. Morgan, III, is a past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable, past chair of the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, past vice chair of the Thomas Balch Library Commission, member of the Mosby Heritage Area Association Advisory Board, a volunteer guide at Ball's Bluff Battlefield, and organizer of the Friends of Ball's Bluff. Among his publications is *A Little Short of Boats: the Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861*, considered the definitive account of the Battle of Ball's Bluff. William C. "Bill" Ray has conducted extensive historical research on Loudoun County properties and is a board member of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. Among his published works is *Mount Gilead History and Heritage*.



We are often asked by patrons how our manuscript collections are used. Recently a high school art class visited the library and were provided an introduction to the various ways in which our collections can be used by Curator of Manuscripts, Laura Christiansen. Art students from Stonebridge High School visited the library to learn about the history and construction of books. Assigned a project to transcribe, illustrate, and bind a book based on stories told to them by kindergarten students at Douglass Elementary School, the students found inspiration in the Charles A Johnston Collection. Using selections from books in the collection, students were introduced to a timeline of illustrated children's books and were able to explore different methods of binding books and illustration.

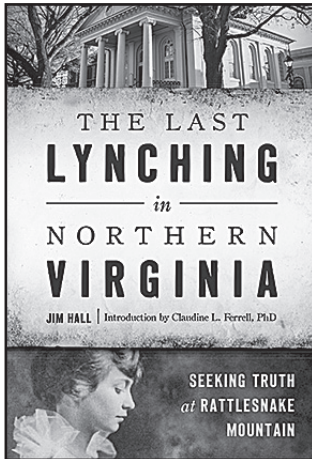


We thank the Loudoun Chapter of the UDC for providing the library with a conservation grant. As a result, a large print in the Library's collection, *The Last Meeting-Generals Lee and Jackson*, an engraving printed in 1873 after the original 1869 painting by artist E.F.D. Julio, was recently conserved. The print, conserved by Cleveland Conservation of Art on Paper, Inc., has also been archivally reframed and is once again on display in the library. To learn more about this conservation project check out our listing for a paper conservation class on 1 March 2018 at 10AM.

The library is a destination for local residents and visitors from across the country and around the globe. 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 and wish everyone the best in 2018.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

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.



## THE LAST LYNCHING IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**Jim Hall**

**Sunday, 25 February 2018, 2PM**

In this presentation, Hall will explore lynchings that occurred in Virginia, especially the last one, a 1932 incident that happened in Fauquier County. Virginia had the fewest lynchings of the 12 Southern states, yet lynch mobs in the Old Dominion were still responsible for the deaths of 87 people from 1880 to 1930. One of the most puzzling incidents was the Fauquier case, when

Shedrick Thompson, a fugitive accused of assault and rape, was captured and hanged by his neighbors on Rattlesnake Mountain. The official verdict was that Thompson committed suicide, but in his book, *The Last Lynching in Northern Virginia: Seeking Truth at Rattlesnake Mountain*, Hall builds the case for murder while exposing a complex and disturbing chapter in Virginia history.

Jim Hall was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Falls Church, VA. He received a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech, and a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He became interested in the 1932 hanging death of Shedrick Thompson while working on his master's thesis, which focused on lynchings that occurred in Virginia and how the state's newspapers covered those deaths. Now retired, his thirty-six-year newspaper career included serving as reporter and editor, first at the *Caroline Progress*, a weekly in Bowling Green, VA, and then at the *Free Lance-Star*, a daily in Fredericksburg, VA. *The Last Lynching in Northern Virginia* is his first book.

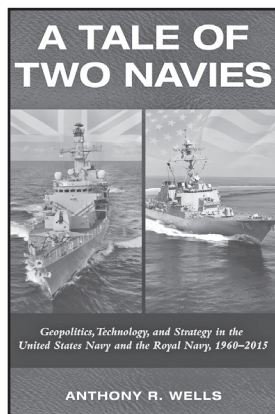
## A TALE OF TWO NAVIES

**Anthony R. Wells**

**Sunday, 4 March 2018, 2PM**

In *A Tale of Two Navies*, Wells presents a history and analysis of the unique and enduring relationship between the US Navy and the Royal Navy. Having served in both forces, Wells is ideally positioned to examine the intertwined histories, strategies, operations, technology, and intelligence activities of the two services. In particular, he highlights the special intelligence relationship between the US Navy and the Royal Navy and provides insight into the workings of US and UK intelligence. In this loosely chronological survey, Wells examines seminal events central to the naval history of both the US and the UK, including the response of each navy to the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War, the discovery of the Walker spy ring, the Falklands campaign of 1982, and the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. This penetrating look at the "special relationship" is necessary reading for anyone interested in the history or future of military cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Anthony R. Wells is currently a visiting senior research fellow at the Center for Intelligence and Cyber Security, King's College, London. He is the only living person to have worked for British intelligence and served in the Royal Navy as a British citizen and also to have worked for US intelligence and the US Navy as a citizen of the United States.



## CIVIL WAR TOUR OF LEESBURG

**Richard Treat Gillespie**

**Saturday, 17 March 2018, 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 former Director of Education for Northern Virginia's Mosby Heritage Area is a founding member of Loudoun's Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee. Before joining the Mosby Heritage Area Association in 2004, he taught US History and Economics for 30 years at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, VA. A graduate of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, he is a strong believer in melding the classroom, the community, and historic sites through heritage education. This tour will leave from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 10AM. *Note: This tour requires good walking shoes.*

## HARRIET LANE ORIGINAL FIRST LADY OF WASHINGTON

**Bob O'Connor**

**Sunday, 18 March 2018, 2PM**

*Harriet Lane Original First Lady of Washington* is a well-researched historical fiction account of the life of a very interesting but virtually unknown historical figure. Orphaned at age eleven, Lane became a ward of her mother's brother, politician James Buchanan. Buchanan sent her to the finest of schools and groomed her to be a highly educated and outspoken young lady. Lane was always the best academic student at those schools while at the same time seemed to be always in trouble. One of her teachers called her "a domestic outlaw." She always did everything she attempted well, including being really good at being mischievous. When he was elected 15th President of the US, Buchanan, who was unmarried and in his fifties, took his twenty-seven year old niece, Harriet, to serve with him. The press in Washington, DC called her the "first lady of the land," a title none of her predecessors in the President's Mansion had ever been called. Today we use the term to describe every lady who has served alongside the President of the United States.

Bob O'Connor, a native of Dicon, IL, is retired and a full time author who lives in Charles Town, WV. He has published thirteen books primarily on the American Civil War and been named finalist four times in national book awards competition. O'Connor annually presents nearly 100 programs per year across an area of about twenty states. He hosts the popular national podcast, "The Chronicles of the American Civil War," heard weekly on iTunes, Tunein, Google Play, and Stitcher. O'Connor is also known nationally for his historical impersonations of Abraham Lincoln's bodyguard, Ward Hill Lamon.



## SPRING 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\***

Do you have DNA results and wonder what to do with them – or perhaps wonder whether it is worth the expense to take a DNA test and if so which one? This seminar, in four parts, will provide a general introduction to DNA Genealogy and include sections on understanding Autosomal DNA results, using third party tools to collect, share, and interpret results, and developing a research plan combining genetics and genealogy. Whether you are a novice or experienced, this is an opportunity to enhance your understanding of DNA genealogy and new developments in the field. There will be two breaks (morning and afternoon) and a lunch break of 1-1/2 hours on your own in historic Leesburg.

Shannon Combs-Bennett, PLCGS is an award winning author and lecturer based out of Northern Virginia. She lectures on a variety of subjects from methodology to genetics. Shannon earned her BS in biology from Indiana University and is currently working toward her MSc in genealogical, paleographic, and heraldic studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland.

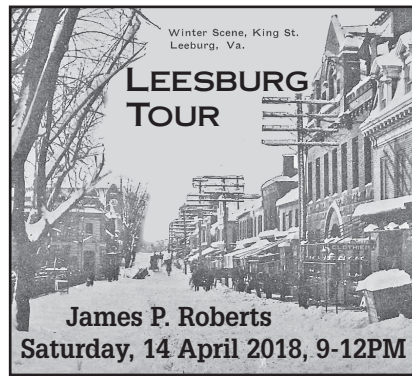
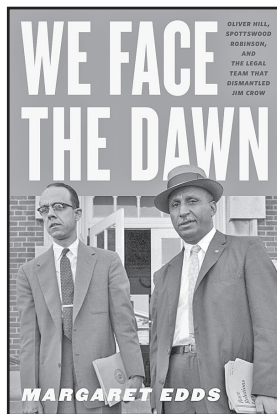
## WE FACE THE DAWN

Margaret Edds

Sunday, 8 April 2018, 2PM

The possibility of a book about Virginia's leading civil rights icons intrigued Margaret Edds for many years. It seemed a natural culmination of a thirty-four-year immersion in Virginia politics and government, first as a statehouse reporter and then as an editorial writer for the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot*. A focus on racial justice threaded her career, including book-length studies involving the nation's first popularly elected black governor, the results of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and a criminal justice system that sometimes crucified innocents. It was not until retiring in 2007, and completing a book drawn from letters to and from her mother, that opportunity and interest in Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson aligned. By then, both men were deceased, and Edds' five-year research project depended heavily on archival material; interviews with family, co-workers, and acquaintances, and her own personal glimpses of the men.

Margaret Edds' journey began with college internships at the *Nashville Tennessean* in the late 1960s. Born in Harlan County, KY, Edds grew up in a Nashville suburb and earned degrees from Tennessee Wesleyan College and the University of Richmond. Hill and Robinson's birthplace, Richmond, VA, has been her home for the last thirty-eight years.



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.*

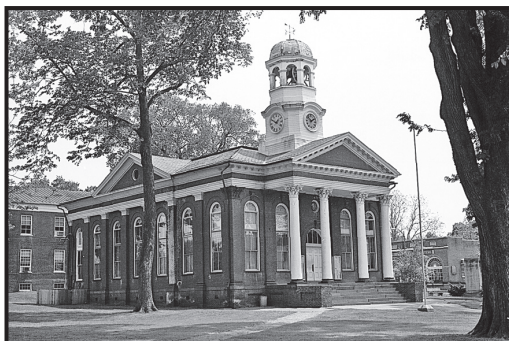
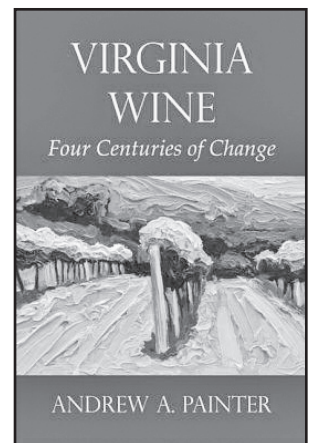
## VIRGINIA WINE: FOUR CENTURIES OF CHANGE

Andrew A. Painter

Sunday, 15 April 2018, 2PM

An essential addition to any wine lover's library, *Virginia Wine: Four Centuries of Change* presents a comprehensive and authoritative record of the Virginia wine industry from its earliest Spanish accounts in 1570 through its rebirth in the modern era. A rich and valuable source for students and scholars, the book chronicles the dynamic personalities, diverse places, and engrossing personal and political struggles that have helped establish the Old Dominion as one of the nation's preeminent wine regions. The book, with introductions by former governor Gerald Bailes, winery founder Felicia Warburg Rogan, viticulturist Lucie Morton, author and journalist Hudson Cattell, and winemaker Gabrielle Rausse, emphasizes the unique aspects of the wine industry's role in Virginia's history and culture—a history that continues to be made in an agricultural and industrial sector that is itself unique among world commerce and society.

Andrew A. Painter, author, is a Virginia native and attorney who specializes in local government law and zoning. Painter has spent much of his time traveling and writing about Virginia's land development history, and nearly a decade researching the growth of its wine industry. Painter has served as an adjunct professor of political science at both the University of Richmond and the University of Mary Washington. He holds a BA in political science from Mary Washington, a Masters in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia, and a JD from the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law.

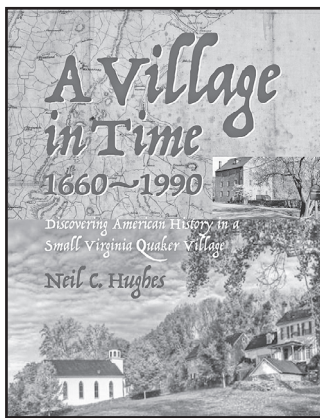


## CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

Eric S. Larson

Wednesday, 16 May 2018, 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.



## A VILLAGE IN TIME 1660-1990

Neil C. Hughes

Sunday, 29 April 2018, 2PM

*A Village in Time, 1660-1990:*

*Discovering American History in a Small Virginia Quaker Village*, grew out of Hughes' research into the people who built and lived in his own house, built by Quaker Samuel Hough in 1819, and the historic Quaker village, the Waterford National Historic Landmark. As he wrote about these people, the book

became much more than the story of a house. It grew into the story of how one ordinary Virginia town came into being and got caught up in the extraordinary events that both divided and defined America from the mid-17th to the late-20th century—300 years of American history.

Neil C. Hughes, the author of *China's Economic Challenge: Breaking the Iron Rice Bowl*, is retired from the World Bank, where he spent over 20 years helping to develop programs for the poverty-stricken in Latin America, Africa, Nepal, Bangladesh, and China. He is an expert on economic development and a freelance writer, having published in *Foreign Affairs* and the Asian edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. Hughes holds a MA in international economics and politics from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, a MA in anthropology from The George Washington University and a BA in history from the College of Wooster in Ohio. In retirement, Hughes has discovered a new passion in historic preservation having served as president of the Waterford Foundation and testified before government officials about land use and conservation.

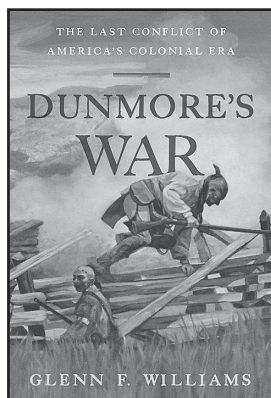
## DUNMORE'S WAR: THE LAST CONFLICT OF AMERICA'S COLONIAL ERA

Glenn F. Williams

Sunday, 6 May 2018, 2PM

Known to history as "Dunmore's War," the 1774 campaign against a Shawnee-led Indian confederacy in the Ohio Country marked the final time an American colonial militia took to the field in His Majesty's service and under royal command. Led by John Murray, the fourth Earl of Dunmore and royal governor of Virginia, a force of colonials including George Rogers Clark, Daniel Morgan, Michael Cresap, Adam Stephen, and Andrew Lewis successfully enforced the western border established by treaties in parts of present-day West Virginia and Kentucky. The campaign is often neglected in histories, despite its major influence on the conduct of the Revolutionary War that followed. Supported by extensive primary source research, the author corrects much of the folklore concerning the war and frontier fighting in general, demonstrating that the Americans did not adopt Indian tactics for wilderness fighting as is often supposed, but rather used British methods developed for fighting irregulars in the woods of Europe, while incorporating certain techniques learned from the Indians and experience gained from earlier colonial wars.

Glenn F. Williams, a senior historian at the US Army Center of Military History, Fort McNair, Washington, DC, has served as historian of the National Museum of the US Army Project, the Army Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, and the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. He is the author of a number of books and articles, including the award-winning *Year of the Hangman: George Washington's Campaign against the Iroquois*. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Maryland.



## FOXTROT IN KANDAHAR

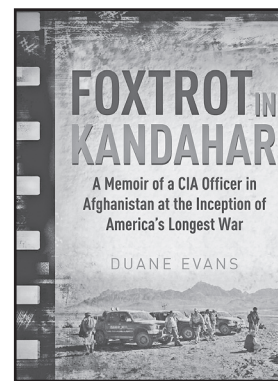
Duane Evans

Sunday, 20 May 2018, 2PM

*Foxtrot in Kandahar: A Memoir of a CIA Officer in Afghanistan at the Inception of America's Longest War* is the true story of Veteran CIA officer Duane Evans's unexpected journey from the pristine halls of Langley to the badlands of southern Afghanistan. Within hours after he watched the horrors of 9/11 unfold during a chance visit to FBI Headquarters, Evans began a personal quest to become

part of the US response against al-Qa'ida. This memoir tracks his efforts to join one of CIA's elite teams bound for Afghanistan, a journey that eventually took him to the front lines in Pakistan, first as part of the advanced element of CIA's Echo team supporting Hamid Karzai and finally as leader of the under-resourced and often overlooked Foxtrot team. Evans's very personal adventure unfolds within the pages of *Foxtrot in Kandahar* at the inception of America's longest war and concludes with an analysis of opportunities lost in the years since his time in Afghanistan.

Duane Evans, a retired operations officer with service in the US Army as a Special Forces and Military Intelligence officer, is an author/novelist and an intelligence and security consultant. He has a BS in political science from New Mexico State University.



## THIS PAST FALL WE LOST TWO LONG ACTIVE AND COMMITTED SUPPORTERS



Many people join together to make Thomas Balch Library the great research center that it is. Community leaders and volunteers have contributed years – decades – to supporting the Library and in so doing become an integral part of the library itself. **Francis Rockie Fera**, who served seventeen years on the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission for the Town of Leesburg, was one of our most dedicated and cherished members of the Commission. Several times during his seventeen consecutive years on the commission Rockie held the position of chairman or vice-chairman. He simultaneously served on the Board of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library filling the role of recording secretary for several years. Thomas Balch Library, the Advisory Commission, and the Friends greatly benefited from his service and his leadership. His presence will be missed by all. **Teckla Cox** who volunteered at the library for seventeen years processed numerous collections including Architectural Surveys for Loudoun County and Leesburg; African American Architectural Surveys in Loudoun County; Francis T. A. Junkin Collection; Friends of the Stone House at Harper Park Papers; Preservation Society of Loudoun County Collection; Nancy Graham Rogers Collection; Anna Snowden Wildman Dyer Collection; Leesburg Garden Club Collection; and the Elizabeth Welbourn Seccombe Collection. Tekkie was an interesting individual who gave so much to the library. All of us who had the opportunity to work with and know Tekkie will certainly miss her.

# THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

## 2018 Classes

### RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

#### 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 in Lansing, MI.

#### 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.

#### INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES

**Thursday, 4 October 2018, 10AM**

#### PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

**Thursday, 1 November 2018, 10AM**

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Tuesday, 4 December 2018, 7PM**

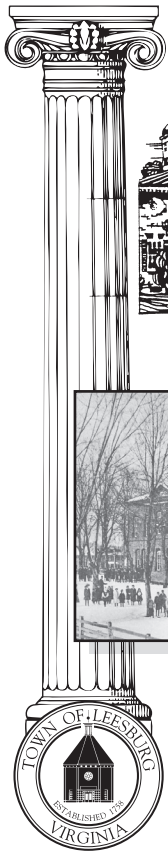
### Exhibits 2018

#### MARGARET MERCER ROOM

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|------------------|---|
| <b>January</b>   | The Mexican War-Connection to VA by Gregg and Patti Paxton  |
| <b>February</b>  | Frederick Douglass Elementary presents its Art Projects - Cheryl Mortreux   |
| <b>March</b>     | Highlights of Loudoun County African American Bus Tours - Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library (Alicia Cohen) |
| <b>April</b>     | General George C. Marshall: 20th Century American Hero by George C. Marshall International Center                                   |
| <b>May</b>       | Civil War Collectibles by John Wyrick   |
| <b>June-July</b> | Loudoun County Civil War Artifacts by John Creamer  |
| <b>August</b>    | From the Front Lines to the Home Front: Oatlands and WWII by Lori Kimball   |
| <b>September</b> | John Hall: His New Technology Rifle vs Regular US Rifles by Gary Heath  |
| <b>October</b>   | Morven Park's Equestrian Heritage   |
| <b>November</b>  | Seasonal Greetings Cards from Thomas Balch Library Collections - Laura Christiansen   |
| <b>December</b>  | Loudoun/Leesburg Memorabilia - Billy Fisher   |

#### LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>January - March</b>    | Grace through the Ages by Gertie Evans            |
| <b>April - June</b>       | Portraits from Viet Nam and Cambodia by Jim Hanna |
| <b>July - September</b>   | Nature's Kingdom by Loudoun Photography Club      |
| <b>October - December</b> | The Ashburn I Remember - Luvenia Bowles Taylor    |

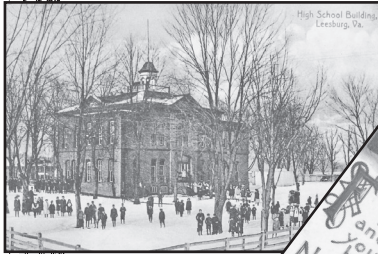


# THE BALCH COLUMN

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## WINTER/SPRING 2018 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** was 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.

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 (*snow date: Sunday, 28 January, 2018.*) This year's program will be "Oral History Series: Interview with Bill Harrison," Loudoun County Extension Agent and founder 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.

Open House, **Saturday, 24 February 2018, 10AM-2:30PM:** To learn more about African Americans in times of war and African American Genealogy join us for a tour of Thomas Balch Library, lunch, and dynamic discussions on African American History. Speakers include Kevin Grigsby who will speak on the role of African Americans in wartime. Lunch will be followed by a roundtable discussion on how to conduct genealogy research with Donna Bohanon, Alicia Cohen, Gertrude Evans, and Larry Roeder.

**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 2018 Virginia Forum, 15-17 March 2018, Local History and Regional Identity**, will be hosted by Emory & Henry College and held on its campus in Washington County, Virginia. Direct further inquiries about this meeting, including registration for the event, 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).

# GENETIC GENEALOGY: UNDERSTANDING DNA RESULTS



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

9:00 AM-4:00 PM

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

SHANNON COMBS-BENNETT

T2 FAMILY HISTORY

Do you have DNA results and wonder what to do with them – or perhaps wonder whether it is worth the expense to take a DNA test and if so which one? This seminar, in four parts, will provide a general introduction to DNA Genealogy and include sections on understanding Autosomal DNA results, using third party tools to collect, share, and interpret your results, and developing a research plan combining genetics and genealogy. Whether you are a novice or experienced, this is an opportunity to enhance your understanding of DNA genealogy and new developments in the field. There will be two breaks (morning and afternoon) and a lunch break of 1-1/2 hours on your own in historic Leesburg.

Advance Registration \$15 members of Friends of Thomas Balch Library; \$20 non-members; \$30 at door [if space is available]; Lunch on your own. Registration is non-refundable. For more information, call 703-737-7195 or visit [www.leesburgva.gov/library](http://www.leesburgva.gov/library)

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

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee payment:  Check payable to Friends of the Thomas Balch Library

Credit card [Visa or Mastercard *only*] fill out information below:

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ [Day/Month/Year]

CVV Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include mailing address and phone number of card holder above.

Mail or deliver your registration to: **Thomas Balch Library, 208 West Market St. Leesburg, VA 20176**