

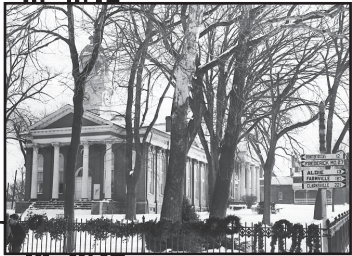
THE BALCH COLUMN

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY • 208 W. MARKET ST. • LEESBURG, VA 20176 • 703-737-7195 • FAX: 703-737-7150 • EMAIL: balchlib@leesburgva.gov

Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the downstairs 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.

CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

John Fishback
Monday, 14 September 2009, 7PM

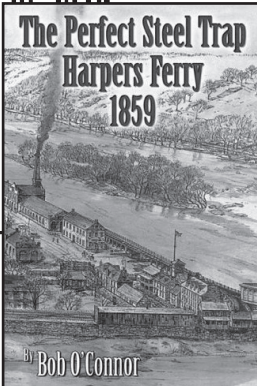


Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 6:45PM

John Fishback, Historic Records Manager for Loudoun County, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office. He will discuss the extent of Loudoun County's records holdings, where to look for records of births, deaths, marriages, and deeds, and how to use these records in research. No one is permitted to enter restricted areas of the Clerk's Office after 7:00PM, so the group will leave the library promptly at 6:45PM.

THE PERFECT STEEL TRAP: HARPERS FERRY, 1859

Bob O'Connor
Sunday, 20 September 2009, 2PM



Author Bob O'Connor will discuss his historical novel about John Brown's raid, *The Perfect Steel Trap: Harpers Ferry, 1859*. The book uses eye-witness accounts of the insurrection from a variety of people such as Robert E. Lee, John Brown's family, and ordinary citizens. The story is presented as information gathered by two of the raiders who escaped and lived to tell about it; Owen Brown, one of John Brown's sons, and Osborne Anderson, an African American man. Readers learn about the preparations, the raid, the trials, the executions and the aftermath of the event to try and decide – was John Brown a hero or a scoundrel?

While working as Director of Tourism in Washington County, MD, Bob O'Connor became interested in touring local historical sites such as Antietam Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Park. He later moved to Charles Town, WV, which inspired *The Perfect Steel Trap: Harpers Ferry, 1859*, his first book. He is also the author of two other books, *The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln* and *Catesby: Eyewitness to the Civil War*. O'Connor holds a degree in biology from Northern Illinois University, and is currently employed by Jefferson County and the City of Charles Town; he also volunteers at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Books will be available for purchase on-site.

PRESENCE AND PREJUDICE: JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN LOUDOUN COUNTY AND THE VIRGINIA PIEDMONT

Eugene Scheel
Sunday, 27 September 2009, 2PM



Eugene Scheel will explore the history of Jewish peoples in Loudoun County and the Virginia Piedmont from the 1750's to the present using personal experiences woven together with historical events. Scheel has been researching Piedmont Virginia history for well over forty years. He holds an AB in geography from Clark University, a graduate degree in planning from University of Virginia School of Architecture, and a graduate degree in American Literature from Georgetown University. He is the author of numerous books on Virginia history, has created over 50 hand-drawn historical maps, writes a history column for *The Washington Post*, and has taught local and regional history to Loudoun teachers for 37 years.

AN EVENING AT MORVEN PARK Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

Sunday, 27 September 2009, 5-8PM



Friends of the Thomas Balch Library will hold their second annual fundraising event at the recently renovated Morven Park, home of the former Governor of Virginia. The event will raise funds to support the Friends' establishment of an endowment for the Thomas Balch Library.

Brent Tarter, from the Library of Virginia, will speak about the life of Westmoreland Davis and his run against and victory over the powerful "Byrd machine". Tarter is founding editor of the Library of Virginia's multi-volume *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* and senior editor in the Division of Publications and Educational Services. His experience with educational programs and exhibitions promises a fascinating journey into politics of the early twentieth century as we explore the life of politician, visionary farmer, horseman, and owner of the *Southern Planter* and *Loudoun Times Mirror*, Westmoreland Davis. Morven Park mansion and grounds will be open for our guests. Tickets are limited, so please mark your calendars and make your reservations early. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Friends of Thomas Balch Library at 703-737-2166.

MOSBY'S KEYDET RANGERS – AUTHOR TALK/BOOK SIGNING

Erik W. Buckland
Sunday, 4 October 2009, 2PM

Erik Buckland will talk about his book, *Mosby's Keydet Rangers*. It uses previously unpublished material to provide insight into young men who attended Virginia Military Institute and rode with Mosby's Rangers, John Mosby's 43rd Virginia Cavalry. The book includes biographical sketches, personal letters, accounts of raids and other incidents, memorials and obituaries. The young Rangers are brought to life and new light is shed on their operations during the Civil War as well as their post-war careers.

Erik Buckland received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army after graduation from the University of Kansas in 1977. He had a 22-year career as an officer including assignments as an infantry officer and a special forces officer serving tours in El Salvador, Honduras and Panama. He has had a life-long interest in the Civil War and in keeping with his military career has always been fascinated by the irregular and unconventional aspects of the war. Buckland is currently employed as a Policy Analyst at the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Books will be available for purchase on-site.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Through the generosity of friends and donors, Thomas Balch Library continues to develop and expand its research collection. Two recent developments, new digital research products and expanded web presence, have enhanced patron access and research opportunity. We now have available nine electronic resources to assist researchers. These are available only on site and include: *Access NewspaperArchives.com*, *America: History and Life*, *America's Genealogy Bank*; *AncestryLibrary Edition*; *Digital Sanborn Maps 1867-1970* (Virginia); *Footnote.com*; *HeritageQuest Online*; *JSTOR*; and *New England Historic Genealogical Society*. For more information on these resources, request a copy of our rack card on electronic resources or visit our website at: www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary.

The Town of Leesburg went live with a new website on May 29. We are excited about new content available for public access on our web pages. Examples include access to indices for a number of our resources: Microforms; the Family File; Bible Records; Historic Property records: Lewis-Edwards files, Loudoun County historic properties supplement index, African American survey index, and Leesburg historic district index; the Map Collection; Newspaper holdings; Newspaper index (Births, Deaths and Marriages); Vertical Files (Biographical, Church and general), and *Exploring Leesburg*. We have posted other helpful resources such as Pathfinders (topical guides to research) and special research bibliographies, and provided easier access to subscription databases. A page for the Advisory Commission has been posted with information on the Loudoun History Awards and the Social Science Award. All of this new information supplements that which was already available – indices to Cemeteries and *Loudoun Discovered*, *Balch Column*, calendar of events, manuscript and visual collection guides and links to Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. web pages. If you have not yet discovered this rich resource for Loudoun history, now is the time. You will not be disappointed.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission presented its second annual award for excellence in local history research in June to Allison Balik of Sterling's Park View High School in the category "Local History" for *How did the Civil War Affect the Citizens of Loudoun County*.

Following ten years with the Town of Leesburg as Library Specialist at Thomas Balch Library, LaVonnie Markham has retired. While many patrons will miss her, we wish her well and many happy experiences to come.

The Thomas Balch Library resource brochure has been updated and is available on request. This information is also available on our website: www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary.

Collections and resource materials at Thomas Balch Library provide citizens, researchers, students and the merely curious an opportunity to study and understand the history of businesses, communities, individuals and families, local government and public leaders, and organizations in Leesburg and Northern Virginia. Our collections open doors to understanding not only the local arena but also that of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States and provide an entrée to the world. Public records and private papers in our library reveal personal and public experiences and reflect cultural, economic, political, religious and social values of the community. To visit an historical and genealogical research library enables one to put a human face on history – to bring history alive – to know the past to understand the present and to be alive for the future. Thomas Balch Library provides opportunities to experience history in action. By frequently checking our website you will be able to keep up with our activities, additions to our research collection and exciting events.

As always it will be my pleasure to welcome you when visiting Thomas Balch Library or when attending our programs and exhibits.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENT

Loudoun County Civil War Round Table
Saturday, 17 October 2009, 9AM-4:30PM

Thomas Balch Library joins the Loudoun County Civil War Round Table in recognition of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. The event will include author book signings, lectures, re-enactors, raffles, exhibits related to the Civil War. Sons of Confederate Veterans, Sons of Union Veterans, and United Daughters of the Confederacy will present their Color Guards to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. Also on display, courtesy of the Archives of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Loudoun County, will be reproductions of Loudoun County Civil War era records.

WALKING TOUR OF LEESBURG

James Roberts
Saturday, 24 October 2009, 9-12AM

James Roberts, a native of Leesburg, member of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, and 2008 recipient of a Loudoun History Award, 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.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY EXHIBITS 2009-2010

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

September	Postal History of Leesburg - Lewis Leigh
October	Revolutionary War & War of 1812 - Harriet Condon
November	Loudoun History Awards - Stephanie Adams Hunter and Virginia Native American Heritage - Beth Schuster
December	New Collections at Thomas Balch Library
January	Mementos, Monograms and Keepsakes of Loudoun County Families - Loudoun Museum
February	Black History Committee
March	Mt Zion Church (Aldie)
April	Civil War Artifacts - UDC/SCV
May	Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.
June	Women in Loudoun County's History - Thomas Balch Library

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

July-September	"The Natural World that is Northern Virginia" – featuring images of the natural resources and beauty of the land that has endured throughout the transformation of Northern Virginia from rural to urban - Gary Mester
October-December	Historic Loudoun: Towns and their Architecture - Sandra Kane
January-March	Virginia's Flora and Landscapes - Susan Potter
April-June	Historic Selma Mansion - Jim Hanna

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVES ON THE ORIGINS AND SPREAD OF PLANT DOMESTICATION BY HUMANS

Jeffrey Alvey ■ Saturday, 24 October 2009, 2PM



Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES) in northwest Loudoun has planned several events in October to celebrate Virginia Archaeology Month. Thomas Balch Library is pleased to participate by hosting one of these events. This lecture will present a discussion on recent archaeological research into the origins and dispersion of plant domestication, with special emphasis on the history of these events in North America. The nature of the mutualistic relationship that has existed between humans and plants for millennia will be explored, along with consequences resulting from this relationship.

Jeffrey Alvey began work with the BRCES as director of the Center's Cultural Studies Program in June 2009. He is working with other BRCES staff to promote research and develop outreach programs related to the cultural heritage of the region, with special emphasis placed on the region's agricultural heritage and the history of interaction between plants and humans. Since receiving his MA in Anthropology from

Mississippi State University in 2003, Alvey has been employed by MSU where he continues to serve as a Research Associate with the Cobb Institute of Archaeology. Alvey's research interests include archaeology of the mid-Holocene southeast, evolutionary archaeology, origins and spread of plant domestication, and the application of geophysical methods in archaeology.

ADVOCATES FOR DESTRUCTION: THE INCONVENIENCE AND DEFORMITY OF THE GREEN SPRING MANSION IN THE LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Virginia Price ■ Sunday, 25 October 2009, 2PM

In August 1796 architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe visited historic Green Spring plantation at its young owner's request. William Ludwell Lee coming into his inheritance quickly sought advice about his antiquated house with origins in the seventeenth century. It had been home to Governor Sir William Berkeley and, after 1677, to his widow Dame Frances. Through her re-marriage to Philip Ludwell the property came into the possession of Lee's ancestors. Latrobe argued for the old building's preservation, yet conceded its "inconvenience and deformity were powerful advocates for [its] destruction." It was demolished in 1797. In her paper, Virginia Price will look at the house through the vantage point of an inventory taken in 1767 and through the architectural drawings done by Latrobe to suggest room use and the redistribution of domestic space once William Ludwell Lee came of age. Price will show that Lee's perception of historic Green Spring condemned it, and that its professed shortcomings shaped the dwelling constructed in its place.

Virginia Price received her MA in architectural history from the University of Virginia and an MA in American Studies from the College of William and Mary. She is an historian with the Historic American Buildings Survey, part of the Heritage Documentation Programs division of the National Park Service. She was a principal investigator in the HABS study of Quaker Meetinghouses in the Delaware Valley, a study that won the Paul Buchanan Award from the Vernacular Architecture Forum in 2003. She recently completed a study of the Holt House in Washington, D.C., and is currently working on a research project in Baltimore.

LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 8 November 2009, 2PM

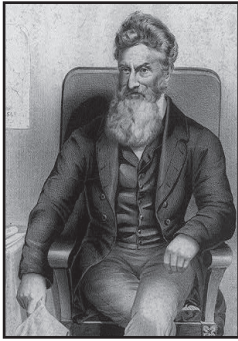
Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the seventeenth annual Loudoun History Awards. This event honors individuals who have made significant contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual 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.

REVISITING JOHN BROWN IN THE AGE OF OBAMA

Hannah Giffert ■ Sunday, 6 December 2009, 2PM

Hannah Giffert will discuss *John Brown Mysteries*, a book on which she and a select group of educators and community activists collaborated to present the events of the raid on Harpers Ferry from an African American perspective. Essays in the book show that contrary to popular belief African Americans supported Brown and participated in the events around the raid, and that large numbers of slaves were liberated as a consequence.

Hannah Giffert grew up in LaMott, PA, a town named for Lucretia Mott, the abolitionist who operated a stop on the Underground Railroad and hosted Mary Ann Brown as she went to visit her husband in Virginia prior to his execution. Giffert received her BA in History and her MA in American History from Temple University in Philadelphia. She worked for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and for Antioch Law School in Washington, D.C. Her specialization in civil rights took her to Florida, where she worked on civil litigation in support of minorities, and assisted migrant farm workers, writing *Voices From the Fields* to document their stories. She moved to West Virginia in 1980 where she has been on the faculty of Shepherd University in the Political Science Department for over 23 years. She is the author of numerous articles on John Brown, the African-American community in West Virginia, and women and the military pension system. She is also a radio talk show host on WRNR 740AM.



2010 VIRGINIA FORUM

The fifth annual Virginia Forum will meet at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, located in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on April 15-17, 2010. It will include a visit to the Mariners' Museum, adjacent to the campus. The Virginia Forum offers an opportunity for exchanges of ideas among scholars, archivists, librarians, museum curators, K-12 teachers, and all those interested in Virginia history and culture. Additional information is available online at www.virginiaforum.org.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission meets at the library the second Wednesday of each month at 7PM. The public is always welcome.

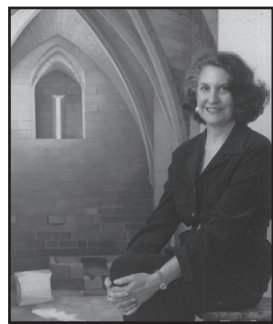
Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organized to provide support for Thomas Balch Library, meets at the library every other month. The public is always welcome. For more information call 703/737-2166 or visit www.balchfriends.org.

Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., meets at the library the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7PM. The public is always welcome. For information visit: www.balchfriends.org.

On August 8 The Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County hosted the Black History Committee's event, "Dear Husband," commemorating the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry. Vocalist Jasmine Muhammad, accompanied by Robert Stratham, performed the aria "Dear Husband," from John Brown, an opera by Kirke Mechem, based on letters Harriet Newby wrote her husband, Dangerfield Newby, the first man to die in John Brown's raid. Muhammad also sang the spiritual, "Steal Away." As part of the event, Sherrie Carter, using family documents, photographs and original drawings, recounted her journey researching family ties with the Newbys. Deborah Lee, scholar and historian, spoke on "Communications on the Underground Railroad." A question and answer period conducted by event co-chairs Donna Bohanon and Phyllis Cook-Taylor concluded the program.

The event was sponsored by the Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., The Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County and The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, with added financial support by the Fauquier County Department of Economic Development and the Prince William County/Manassas Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Sherry Sanabria, a long-standing member of the Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., has received the Arts and Humanities award given by the Phenomenal Women's Alliance at the annual Leadership Awards Luncheon, April 25, 2009. The award honors and recognizes her achievements in her painting career and in making a difference in the lives of others.



THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY CLASSES ■ 2009-2010

Maximizing your Time at Thomas Balch Library:

An Introduction to the Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques

A series of classes offered throughout the year will introduce novice and experienced researchers to the intricacies of resources at Thomas Balch Library (TBL). These classes, held the first Thursday of each month, will be limited in size; registration is required.

Introduction to Digital Resources at TBL ■ Thursday, 1 October 2009, 10-11:30AM

In this session, participants will learn about digital resources available at TBL. Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, and Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, will demonstrate databases and other online tools available for researchers, showing types of information to be found and suggesting research strategies. Resources to be demonstrated include *JSTOR*, *America's GenealogyBank*, *HeritageQuest*, and *America: History and Life*.

Loudoun County Historic Building Files, Assessment and Parcel Database

Thursday, 5 November 2009, 10-11:30AM

This class, recommended as a companion to the Leesburg Historic District presentation, will demonstrate various Loudoun County land records and mapping systems available to the public and how to use them in researching historic properties. Included will be a brief overview of the library's Lewis/Edwards and Historic Leesburg files, tax records, and maps. Mary A. Pender, a part-time librarian and cataloger at Thomas Balch Library received her BA from the College of William & Mary and MLIS from University of Texas at Austin. A Project Manager for Loudoun County's Land Records System, she has been employed with the Building and Development Department since 1998. John Berfield, a Library Assistant, earned his BA in Geography from Virginia Tech. He retired from Loudoun County Department of Building and Development in 2005. His work, as a planner, included contributing toward the addition of several historic structure files, including chain of title information, to the Lewis/Edwards Files.

Leesburg's Historic District Files and Sanborn Maps

Thursday, 3 December 2009, 10-11:30AM

Annie McDonald, Leesburg Preservation Planner, will delve into using resources available at Thomas Balch Library for researching a property's history. She will explain the purpose behind the architectural surveys of the late 1990s and how to use architectural survey files, Sanborn fire insurance maps, and historic photographs to identify how a building changes over time. The talk focuses only on the Leesburg historic district, and this session is recommended as a companion to the county records presentation. Previously employed by a DC-based preservation consulting firm and by a regional NGO based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she has been with the Town of Leesburg since September 2005.

General Introduction to TBL ■ Thursday, 4 February 2010, 10-11:30AM

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, will provide a general overview of the library, its history, organization, collections with emphasis on digital collections, services, programs, and volunteer and intern opportunities.

Information Seeking Strategies ■ Thursday, 4 March 2010, 10-11:30

In this session, under the direction of Beth Schuster, Library Reference Specialist, 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 Thomas Balch Library's subscription databases, including *America: History and Life* and *Access Newspaper Archive*.

Researching Court Records **NEW ■ Thursday, 1 April 2010, 10-11:30AM**

Jeanette Irby, Town Attorney, Town of Leesburg, will discuss using court records and other resources for data that are frequently overlooked in genealogical and historical research.

Manuscript and Archives Research at TBL ■ Thursday, 6 May 2010, 10-11:30AM

Traditional Genealogical Resources at TBL ■ Thursday, 3 June 2010, 10-11:30AM

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FALL 2009 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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