

# 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 spring and summer has been one of considerable activity and change. The following are highlights of some of these events.

In 2016, Thomas Balch Library received the correspondence of Dr. Armistead Randolph Mott, his wife Virginia Bentley Mott, and their friends and family. Ranging in date from 1840 to 1900, and comprising more than 500 letters, this correspondence includes detailed descriptions of life in Loudoun County prior to, during, and after the Civil War. The Motts lived at Rokeby and their network of correspondents extended throughout Loudoun County into all parts of Virginia and neighboring states. The library was honored to receive a grant of \$5,000 from Loudoun Library Foundation to assist with the processing of this collection.

In April we hosted our annual Volunteer recognition luncheon. This is always a wonderful opportunity for staff and volunteers to mingle and share information.

Four of our part time staff obtained full time positions. Barbara Hughes accepted a position in Fairfax, Christy Toms accepted a position as Digital Archivist at the Stark Center, University of Texas, Austin, Keelia McCaffrey is now a youth librarian in Ohio, and Travis Shaw has accepted the position of Public Programs Coordinator at Mosby Heritage Area. While both Christy and Keelia have moved out of the area, Travis will still be with us on Tuesday evenings. Mary Frye, retired Executive Associate for former Town Manager John Wells, has joined the library as office manager.



Thomas Balch Library hosted the Virginia Caucus meeting of Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in June. This event drew 40 archivists from across Virginia and southern Maryland who enjoyed hearing updates from regional archives, a tour of the library, and the Charles A. Johnston Collection walking tour of downtown Leesburg.

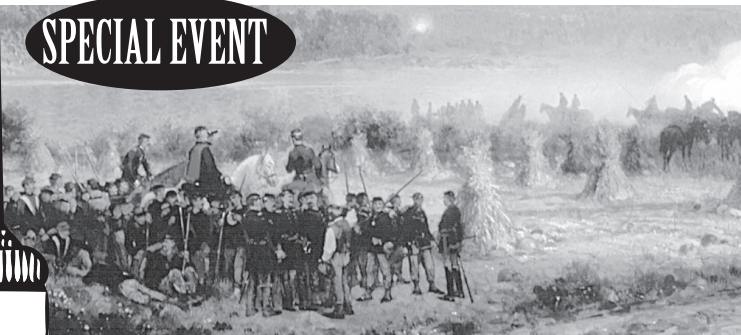
Following a relatively mild winter, we were hit with a late winter storm in March. Our spring seminar had to be postponed. Rescheduled in May, our seminar Genetic Genealogy: Understanding DNA Results with Shannon Combs-Bennett drew an enthusiastic crowd. We are planning on future spring seminars and anticipate they will be held in May to accommodate Mother Nature.

The library has become 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.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director



### SPECIAL EVENT



**Friends of the Thomas Balch Library** will hold an event "Action on the Potomac from First Manassas to Ball's Bluff" featuring James A. Morgan, III, military historian and author of *A Little Short of Boats* on Sunday, 16 September 2018 at 4PM at Murray Hill on the Potomac, Leesburg, VA. To request an invitation or reserve a place call **540/579-2825**.

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.

## REMEMBERING LUCILE: A VIRGINIA FAMILY'S RISE FROM SLAVERY AND A LEGACY FORGED A MILE HIGH

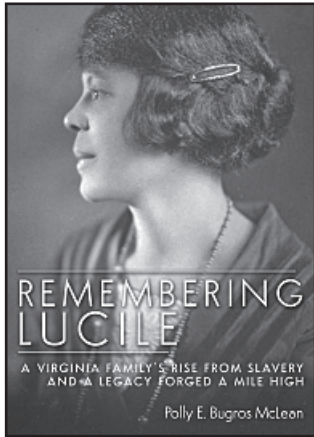
Saturday, 22 September 2018 1PM,

Oatlands Carriage House, contact 703-777-3174

Sunday, 23 September 2018, 2PM,

Thomas Balch Library, contact 703/737-7195

Polly E. Bugros McLean



Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Jones, born to freed people formerly enslaved at Oatlands and Evergreen plantations, became the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Colorado when she received her bachelor's degree in 1918.

*Remembering Lucile* depicts the rise of the African American middle class through the historical journey of Lucile and her family from slavery in northern Virginia to life in the American

West. The story of the Jones family is used as a lens into the experience of middle-class Blacks in the early twentieth century. *Remembering Lucile* employs a unique blend of Black feminist historiography and larger discussions of race, gender, class, religion, politics, and education to illuminate major events in African American history and culture. The work also traces the history of the University of Colorado and the ways in which university administration and faculty treated Black students and alumni. This biography paints a vivid picture of a Black woman who lived through an extraordinary time in American history and rectifies her omission from the institutional history and memory of the University of Colorado. The book fills an important gap in the literature of the history of Blacks in the Rocky Mountain region and will be of significance to anyone interested in American history.

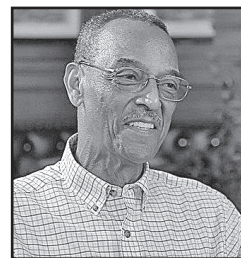
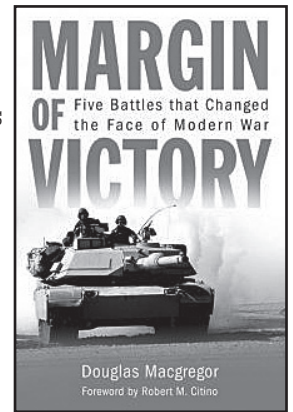
The two talks will focus on different aspects of Professor McLean's research. The presentation at Oatlands will concentrate on the Buchanan family's association with Oatlands while the presentation at Thomas Balch Library will focus on the larger picture of the rise of an African American middle class through Lucille Buchanan's life. Books will be available for purchase at both sites.

Polly E. Bugros McLean, an associate professor of Media Studies and affiliated faculty in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, received a Master's from Columbia University and a PhD from the University of Texas, Austin. Her pedagogical and research interests include Intersectionality; cultural and critical theory; issues of racialized representations; African American women's history, and globalization as it pertains to Southern Africa. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Zambia, Howard University, as well as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Namibia. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the 2007 Robert L. Stearns Award, the 2009 Edward R. Murrow Award for teaching excellence, and the 2014 Best Should Teach Gold Award.

## MARGIN OF VICTORY Sunday, 30 September 2018, 2PM Douglas Macgregor

*Margin of Victory's* riveting stories of triumph and defeat are presented against the backdrop of national policies, culture and history. Each chapter is a reminder that to be successful military action must always be congruent with national culture, geography and scientific-industrial capacity; that strategy and geopolitics inevitably trump ideology. Building effective military power takes time, resources and imagination. Unity of command, unity of effort and the integration of capabilities across service lines only happen when they are ruthlessly imposed from the top down. These are some of the enduring lessons in the five warfighting dramas that unfold in vivid detail on the tactical, operational and strategic levels of war. *Margin of Victory* concludes with a discussion of future battle and how the US can leverage the twentieth century's lessons to secure its margin of victory in the twenty first century. The final chapter argues that America's future victories depend on a major reset of US national military strategy and an overhaul of US military command structures and force design.

Douglas Macgregor is a decorated combat veteran, author of five books, and the executive VP of Burke-Macgregor Group LLC, a defense and foreign policy consulting firm in Reston, VA. He was commissioned in the Regular Army after one year at VMI and four years at West Point and retired with the rank of Colonel. He holds an MA in Comparative Politics and a PhD in International Relations from the University of Virginia. Macgregor is widely known for both his leadership in the Battle of 73 Easting, the US Army's largest tank battle since World War II, and for his ground breaking books on military transformation. His fourth book, *Warrior's Rage: The Great Tank Battle of 73 Easting*, describes the 1991 action for which he was awarded a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor.



## LEESBURG TOUR

James P. Roberts

Saturday 13 October 2018, 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. Roberts highlights the ways in which Leesburg has undergone changes in its architecture, economics, and race relations. 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.*

\*RESCHEDULED\* NEW DATE\*

## OSS OPERATION BLACK MAIL

Wednesday, 27 March 2019, 7 PM

Ann Todd

*OSS Operation Black Mail: One Woman's Covert War Against the Imperial Japanese Army* is the story of a remarkable woman who fought World War II on the front lines of psychological warfare. Elizabeth "Betty" P. McIntosh (1915- 2015) spent eighteen months serving in the Office of Strategic Services in what has been called the "forgotten theater," China-Burma-India. There she met and worked with characters as varied as Julia Child and Ho Chi Minh. Her craft was black propaganda, and her mission was to demoralize the enemy through prevarication and deceit, and ultimately, convince him to surrender. Betty and her crew ingeniously obtained and altered personal correspondence between Japanese soldiers and their families on the home islands of Japan. By the time Betty flew the Hump from Calcutta to China, she was acting head of the Morale Operations branch for the entire theater, overseeing the production of thousands of pamphlets and radio scripts, the generation of fiendishly clever rumors, and the printing of a variety of faked Japanese, Burmese, and Chinese newspapers. Her strategy involved targeting not merely the Japanese soldier but the man within: the son, the husband, the father. She knew her work could ultimately save lives, but she never lost sight of the fact that her propaganda was a weapon and her intended target was the enemy. This is not a typical war story in that the only beaches stormed are the minds of an invisible enemy. For Betty and her friends, time on the "front lines" of psychological warfare in China-Burma-India rushed by in a cascade of creativity and innovation, played out on a stage where a colonial world was ending and chaos awaited.

Ann Todd, who completed her research into Betty's service as part of her dissertation while earning a PhD in History at the University of Texas at Austin, has been a contributing author and consultant for the National Geographic Society, given presentations in national parks about OSS operations, and worked as a historian for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. She served in the US Coast Guard, and now lives in Dripping Springs, Texas.

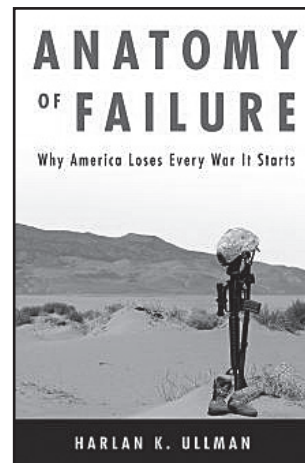


served as researcher and French language interpreter for the Smithsonian's African Diaspora program of the 1976 Bicentennial Folklife Festival while living and teaching English in Dakar, Senegal. Franklin developed symposia and seminars for the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies from 1987-1992. At the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage he curated Smithsonian Folklife Festival programs on the Bahamas (1994), Cape Verdean Culture (1995), Washington, D.C. (2000) and Mali (2003). Franklin served on the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture from 1998-2008 and the board of the Reginald Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture from 2000-2009. From 2005-2011, Franklin served on the Board of Governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and from 2010-2013 he served on the Washington, DC Commission on African American Affairs. Together with his father he edited *My Life and an Era: The Autobiography of Buck Colbert Franklin*.

## ANATOMY OF FAILURE: WHY AMERICA LOSES EVERY WAR IT STARTS

Sunday, 28 October 2018, 2PM

Harlan K. Ullman



Why has the United States lost every war it began or failed in every military intervention since the end of World War II? This record of failure was largely hidden in plain sight until Harlan Ullman sought to answer it with his new book. Ullman analyzes presidential records of Kennedy to Trump and finds that presidents and their administrations have consistently failed to use strategic thinking and lacked sufficient knowledge or understanding of the

circumstances prior to deciding whether to employ force. To combat military inexperience of presidents, Ullman recommends using a "brains-based" approach and strategic thinking. Ullman reinforces his argument through the use of autobiographical vignettes that provide a human dimension and insight into the reasons for failure, in some cases making public previously unknown history.

Harlan K. Ullman is a strategic thinker and innovator whose career spans the worlds of business and government. He is chairman of two companies: CNIGuard Ltd, a high technology infrastructure protection firm based in London and The Killowen Group that advises leaders of business and government at the highest levels. He also sits on several boards of public and private corporations. His analyses and assessments of national and international events and issues are highly sought. A distinguished graduate of the US Naval Academy, he skippered a swift boat in Vietnam and a destroyer in the Persian Gulf. He holds a PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy administered by Tufts and Harvard University in International Politics and Finance. He has authored numerous books and was been appointed the first Distinguished Senior Fellow and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Guest Speaker

## JOHN W. FRANKLIN, OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

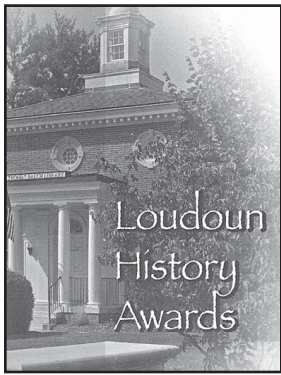
Sunday, 21 October 2018, 2PM



The Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library joins Thomas Balch Library in welcoming John W. Franklin as guest speaker. John W. Franklin is currently Senior Manager in the Office of External Affairs at the National Museum of African American History and Culture and previously worked for the Smithsonian on African American, African and African Diaspora Programs. Initially, he

## LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 11 November 2018, 2PM



Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the twenty-sixth 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

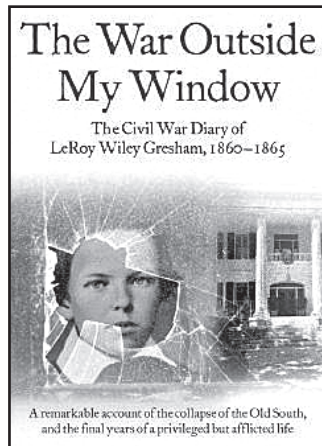
or information on nominating individuals, contact the Library Director at 703/737-7195.

## THE WAR OUTSIDE MY WINDOW THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF LEROY WILEY GRESHAM, 1860-1865

Sunday, 2 December 2018, 2PM

Janet E. Croon

LeRoy Wiley Gresham was born in 1847 to an affluent slaveholding family in Macon, Georgia. As a young child he suffered a horrific leg injury that left him an invalid. Educated, inquisitive, perceptive, and exceptionally witty, the 12-year-old began keeping a diary in 1860 just as secession and Civil War began tearing the country and his world apart. He wrote daily for five years, putting pen to paper with a vim and tongue-in-cheek vigor that continues to impress more than 150 years later. His practical, philosophical, and occasionally Twain-like observations cover politics, the secession movement, the destructive Civil War, family pets, and a wide variety of hobbies. His writing sheds light on life for a member of a socially prominent and wealthy family in Macon, an important manufacturing center for the Confederacy. Gresham's own slow and painful death mirrored that of the demise of the Confederacy. Edited and annotated by Croon, *The War Outside My Window*



captures the spirit and the character of a young, privileged, white teenager who witnessed the dissolution of slavery in America and the end of the reign of white slaveholders.

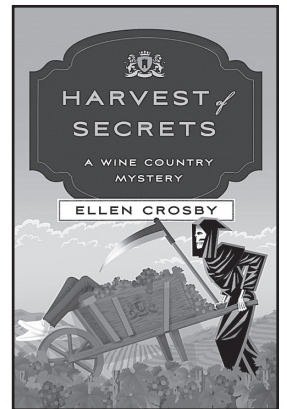
Janet E. Croon recently retired from teaching advanced high school history in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Modern European History, and Russian Language and Area Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Dayton. She taught International Baccalaureate History for nearly two decades and developed a deep interest in the Civil War by living in northern Virginia. This is her first book.

## HARVEST OF SECRETS: A WINE COUNTRY MYSTERY

Sunday, 9 December 2018, 2PM

Ellen Crosby

The Virginia wine country mysteries are set about fifty miles from Washington, DC in the heart of affluent horse and hunt country – a region of rolling hills, winding country lanes lined by Civil War-era stone walls, and pretty villages that can legitimately claim George Washington slept there. But among the peace and tranquility, vineyard owner Lucie Montgomery uncovers long-buried secrets that lead to murder – often family and life-long friends are suspects. Over the years, the books have been nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark Award and the Library of Virginia People's Choice Award. *The Riesling Retribution* won the 2009 Gourmand World Cookbook Award for Best US Wine Literature Book.



Ellen Crosby is the author of the Virginia wine country mysteries, featuring vineyard owner Lucie Montgomery; *Multiple Exposure* and *Ghost Image*, featuring international photojournalist Sophie Medina; and the stand-alone mystery *Moscow Nights*. 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. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, and serves on the advisory committee of the Virginia Book Festival.

## Exhibits 2018-2019

### MARGARET MERCER ROOM

- September** John Hall: His New Technology Rifle vs Regular US Rifles - Gary Heath
- October** Morven Park's Equestrian Heritage
- November** Seasonal Greetings Cards from Thomas Balch Library Collections - Laura Christiansen
- December** Loudoun/Leesburg Memorabilia - Billy Fisher
- January** Sons of the American Revolution Collections - Jeff Thomas
- February** Frederick Douglass Elementary Art Projects - Cheryl Mortreux
- March** Barefoot Weaver Presents Handwoven Items - Beth Wilson
- April** World War II Letters of an Army Doctor - Laura Zellman
- May** Money, Money, Money - Cash Notes & Debts in Loudoun Loudoun County Clerk's Office
- June - July** Loudoun County Civil War Artifacts - John Creamer
- August** Marshall's at Home: Leesburg Life of George & Katherine Marshall - Cody Youngblood

### LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

- July - September** Nature's Kingdom by Loudoun Photography Club
- October - December** Loudoun Interiors by The Loudoun Sketch Club
- January - March** A Hope & A Future: Images from the Lives of Refugees by Constance de Bordenave
- April - June** Seascapes, Landscapes & Still Life by Gertrude Evans

# THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

## 2018-2019 Classes

### RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

#### INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES

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

Under the direction of **Laura E. Christiansen**, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, participants will learn techniques for developing and implementing effective search techniques. While the techniques discussed are applicable in a wide variety of environments, specific attention will be paid to digital resources, including Thomas Balch Library's new sound and moving image kiosk. Participants will leave the workshop with new skills for smarter, faster, and more wide-reaching searches.

#### PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

**Thursday, 1 November 2018, 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.

#### RESEARCHING USING DEEDS

**Thursday, 6 December 2018, 10AM**

**Wynne Saffer**, author of *Loudoun County, Virginia 1860 Land Tax Map*, will use a case study to demonstrate how to establish chain of title using deed indexes and other types of land ownership changes such as wills, marriages, old advertisements, and chancery cases.

#### IDENTIFICATION AND CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHS

**Thursday, 7 February 2019, 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.

#### RESEARCHING USING NORTHERN NECK LAND GRANTS

**Thursday, 7 March 2019, 10AM**

Life-long Loudoun resident **Wynne Saffer** will discuss the history of land grants of the Northern Neck Proprietary and how to locate them using resources available at Thomas Balch Library. Saffer has completed numerous local research projects, mapped the county by land ownership in 1860, and written several books about Loudoun's history, including *Loudoun Votes 1867-1966*, *A Civil War Legacy* and *Mount Zion Cemetery, Aldie, Virginia*. Saffer is a recipient of the Thomas Balch Library's Loudoun History Award.

#### RESEARCHING USING COURT RECORDS

**Thursday, 4 April 2019, 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.

#### GENEALOGY LECTURE

**Thursday,  
2 May 2019, 10AM  
Constance Potter**



#### DIGITAL HISTORY

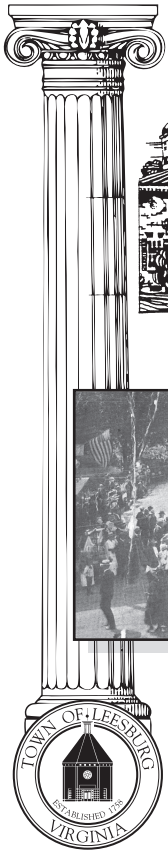
**Thursday, 6 June 2019, 10AM**

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 are a "digital native" or technology-wary, this workshop will explore different digital humanities methodologies that are accessible and friendly to all users. Come and learn how to get started with digital history.

#### RESEARCHING AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

**Thursday, 1 August 2019, 10AM**

Under the direction of **Lori Kimball**, learn how to conduct historical or genealogical research using the resources available at Thomas Balch Library and the Loudoun County Courthouse. 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 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.

**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.

**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>.

**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.

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

**The Virginia Forum** will hold its fourteenth annual conference March 14-16, 2019, at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia. The Virginia Forum offers an opportunity for scholars, teachers, writers, museum curators, historic site interpreters, archivists, librarians and all those interested in Virginia history and culture to share their knowledge, research, and experiences.

This year's theme is "Crossroads." Farmville is both a literal and figurative crossroads. Near the geographical heart of the state, located on the Appomattox River, Farmville is where both the Civil War ended and the Civil Rights Movement began. In 2019, Virginia will mark the sixtieth year since the collapse of statewide Massive Resistance as well as the closure of the Prince Edward County public schools in defiance of court-ordered school integration. Similar anniversaries include the first documented arrival of Africans to Virginia in 1619; the 1919 ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution instituting prohibition of alcoholic beverages; and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women suffrage. Deadline for submissions is October 1, 2018. Acceptances should be forthcoming by late December 2018, with a tentative schedule being announced in January 2019. Direct further inquiries about this meeting to: [VAForum2019@gmail.com](mailto:VAForum2019@gmail.com).