



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



African American oral history and tradition.

Over the last year several staff members have accepted full time employment and moved out of the area and one staff member, John Berfield, retired in December. We are working on filling these vacancies and are pleased to announce the addition to our staff of two outstanding individuals. Maria Christina Mairena has her PhD in History from Catholic University, an MA in Theological Studies from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a BA in History from George Mason. Her career includes working as a civilian employee with the military in museums, collections, and research and as an adjunct instructor at George Mason. George E. Best has an MA in History from James Madison University and a BA in History from Centre College in Danville, KY. He is a seasonal employee at Harpers Ferry Park providing tours and serving as a researcher at Storer College. Please welcome them when you see them.



The Kettoctin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently presented the Library with the ninth volume in a series of state resource guides published by the NSDAR library. This volume, *Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania for the Revolutionary War along with listings of historical and genealogical studies that have been published and which supplement the original sources. The first eight volumes in this series were published as printed editions. This volume is available in digital form only. If you are interested in using the book, please ask for assistance at the reference desk.

To accommodate our ever growing collection, several bookcases were added to the library this last year. Consequently, the entire collection has been shifted to provide space throughout the library and to enable easier retrieval from the shelves.

In December Leesburg Town Council voted to pass the administration of the Thomas Balch Library Endowment Fund to the Thomas Balch Library Foundation. In 2008, long-time library volunteer, Virginia L. Bowie bequeathed over \$600,000 to Thomas Balch Library. The Town created an endowment fund from the Bowie bequest to provide grants for research using the library's collections, to support public programming on genealogy and local history, and to expand the library's internationally recognized collections in 2013. Since then a dedicated library patron, Diane Monica Lee, bequeathed almost \$150,000 to the Thomas Balch Library. The endowment fund now holds over \$900,000 dedicated to the purposes of the Thomas Balch Library. The Foundation has begun the process of seeking IRS recognition as a 501c3 tax exempt charity. In addition to the Library Director who serves as Secretary/Treasurer, the Foundation's board includes the Honorable Thomas D. Horne, President; James H. Hershman, Jr., Ron Rust, Esq; and Keith Troxell, Esq.

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

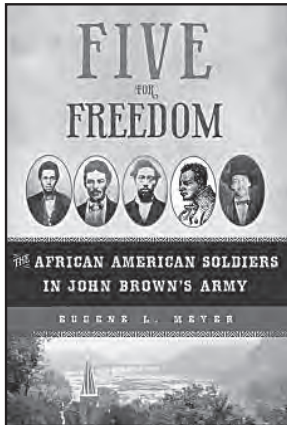
SAVE THE DATES:

**The Road to Healing:
A Civil Rights Reparations Story in Prince
Edward County, Virginia**
Ken Woodley
Sunday, 29 September 2019, 2PM

Loudoun History Awards
Sunday, 10 November 2019, 2PM

Wine Country Mystery Series Book #10
Ellen Crosby Sunday, 8 December 2019, 2PM

Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the lower level meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. Due to limited seating, we recommend registering in advance by calling 703/737-7195. For updated news on events, visit our website at: www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications or find us on Facebook. Books are available for purchase at book talks.



FIVE FOR FREEDOM

Eugene L. Meyer

Sunday, 24 February 2019, 2PM

Five for Freedom, The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army is the largely untold story of the five African American men who were with John Brown during Harpers Ferry Raid and who have long been overshadowed by their martyred commander. But it is also about the world of chattel slavery into which they were born and raised, their families, their lives and deaths, and the aftermath –

including Civil War service by their surviving siblings – down through the generations right up the current time. To understand the Civil War and its legacy requires an understanding of the forces that brought it about and the event that acted as a catalyst to disunion--and continue to haunt the land. Osborne Pery Anderson, John Anthony Copeland, Shields Green, Lewis Sheridan Leary and Dangerfield Newby are essential players in this drama, a story from the past that is relevant to the present.

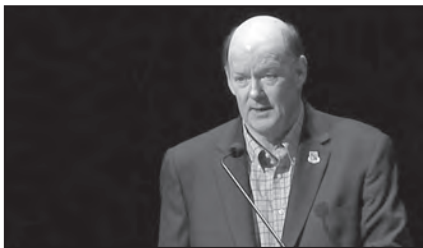
Eugene L. Meyer a longtime journalist and author who spent more than three decades at the *Washington Post* as a reporter and editor, and a fulltime freelancer since 2004. He has had more than 50 bylines in *The New York Times* and written for many other publications, including *Bethesda Magazine*, where he is a contributing editor. He is also on the board of the Washington Independent Review of Books. *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army* is his third book.

MARRIED TO A MOSBY RANGER

Eric Buckland

Sunday, 3 March 2019, 2PM

Married To A Mosby Ranger is a collection of compelling stories. The author provides entertaining anecdotes and little-known facts about some of the extraordinary women who married members of



of the famed Mosby's Rangers. Many of the women equaled, and perhaps even surpassed, the accomplishments of their noted husbands. In several cases, their legacies continue to this day.

Eric Buckland has written several books about some of the men who rode with Mosby's Rangers during the American Civil War. His writing and research about the Rangers has garnered recognition from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who have awarded him two Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medals. In 1999, Eric retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after a 22-year military career. The majority of his service was in Special Forces. Some of Buckland's awards include the Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Diver Badge and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Eric Buckland is President of The Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and a volunteer with the Mosby Heritage Area Association. He is featured in a C-Span 3 American History Program entitled "The Leadership of Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby."

A HOPE AND A FUTURE: IMAGES FROM THE LIVES OF REFUGEES

Constance de Bordenave

Sunday, 10 March 2019, 2PM



The artist will describe her response to the ongoing refugee crisis through her art. She will cover the creation of the series "Reaching Toward a Hope and a Future" which includes images from the lives of refugees as they journey toward a

better life. This series has travelled to ten libraries across Virginia during the past two years. The artist will also share information from her trip to Europe during the summer of 2018 to visit refugees and refugee agencies.

Constance de Bordenave grew up next door to Thomas Balch Library and many of her happiest childhood memories took place here. She has been a painter since childhood, inheriting her artistic abilities from her father Winslow Williams and her grandmother Pauline Winslow. Constance graduated from Sweet Briar College with a major in Art History. For twenty years she was a jewelry designer and silversmith. For the past ten years she has been painting portraits and figurative art. Her work reflects the worth and dignity of her subjects: in the case of this series, the families, children, and nations affected by the refugee crisis.

CIVIL WAR TOUR OF LEESBURG

Richard Treat Gillespie

Saturday, 16 March 2019, 10-12PM

With its key geographic location just two miles from the Potomac Frontier that divided 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, the courthouse lawn, "the best street in town," Harrison Hall where General Lee stayed, and the Episcopal cemetery.

Richard Treat Gillespie, former Executive Director 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.*

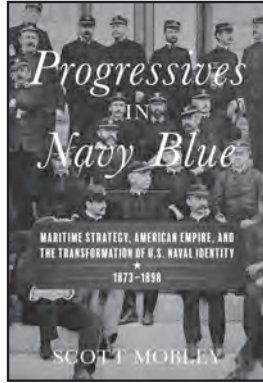
PROGRESSIVES IN NAVY BLUE: MARITIME STRATEGY, AMERICAN EMPIRE, AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF U. S. NAVAL IDENTITY, 1873 – 1898

Scott Mobley

Sunday, 17 March 2019, 2PM

This study examines how intellectual and institutional developments transformed the US Navy from 1873 to 1898. This period was a dynamic quarter-century in which Americans witnessed their Navy evolve. Cultures of progress – clusters of ideas, beliefs, values, and practices pertaining to modern warfare, technology, and progressive ideology – guided the Navy's transformation. They viewed science, technology, and expertise as the best means to effect change in a world contorted by modernizing and globalizing trends. Within the Navy's progressive movement, two new cultures, Strategy and Mechanism, influenced the course of this transformation. Although they shared progressive pedigrees, each culture embodied a distinctive vision for the Navy's future.

Scott Mobley earned a PhD in History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A former surface warfare officer, Mobley graduated from the US Naval Academy and the Naval Postgraduate School.



OSS OPERATION BLACK MAIL: ONE WOMAN'S COVERT WAR AGAINST THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

Ann Todd

Wednesday Evening, 27 March 2019, 7PM

[Rescheduled from October 2018]

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" 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 them 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 project while earning a PhD in History at the

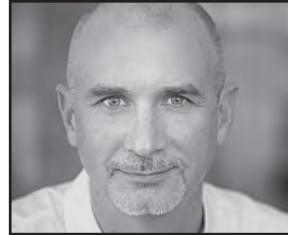


University of Texas at Austin, has been a contributing author and consultant for the National Geographic Society, given presentations in national parks about OSS operations, and worked as a historian for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. She served in the US Coast Guard, and now lives in Dripping Springs, Texas.

LEARNING WAR: THE EVOLUTION OF FIGHTING DOCTRINE IN THE U. S. NAVY, 1898 – 1945

Trent Hone

Sunday, 7 April 2019, 2PM



Learning War examines the US Navy's doctrinal development from 1898–1945 and explains why the Navy in that era was successful as an organization at fostering innovation. A revolutionary study of one of history's greatest success stories, this book draws profoundly important conclusions that give new

insight into how the Navy succeeded in becoming the best naval force in the world but also into how modern organizations can exploit today's rapid technological and social changes in pursuit of success. Trent Hone argues that the Navy created a sophisticated learning system in the early years of the twentieth century that led to repeated innovations in the development of surface warfare tactics and doctrine. Conditions that allowed these innovations to emerge are analyzed through consideration of the Navy as a complex adaptive system. *Learning War* is the first major work to apply this complex learning approach to military history, which permits a richer understanding of mechanisms that enable human organizations to evolve, innovate, and learn, and offers new insights into the history of the United States Navy.

Trent Hone is an authority on the US Navy of the early twentieth century and a leader in the application of complexity science to organizational design. He studied religion and archaeology at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. He works as a consultant helping a variety of organizations improve their processes and techniques. Hone writes and speaks about tactical doctrine, organizational learning, and complexity.

LEESBURG TOUR

James P. Roberts

Saturday, 27 April 2019, 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. *Note: This tour requires good walking shoes.*

CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

Eric S. Larson

Tuesday, 14 May 2019, 2-4PM

Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 1:45PM. Eric S. Larson, Historic Records Manager for the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office and the Historic Court building. You will need to pass through security so the group will leave the library promptly at 1:45PM.

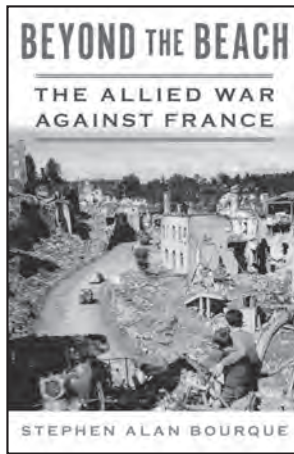
BEYOND THE BEACH: THE ALLIED WAR AGAINST FRANCE

Stephen A. Bourque

Sunday, 28 April 2019, 2PM

Beyond the Beach examines the Allied air war against France in 1944. During this period, Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower took control of all American, British, and Canadian air units and employed them for tactical and operational purposes over France. Using bombers as his long-range artillery, he directed destruction of bridges, rail centers, ports, military installations, and even French towns with the intent of preventing German reinforcements from interfering with Operation Neptune, the Allied landings on the Normandy beaches. This air offensive resulted in the death of over 60,000 French civilians and an immense amount of damage to towns, churches, buildings, and works of art. This intense bombing operation, conducted against a friendly occupied state, resulted in a swath of physical and human destruction across northwest France that is rarely discussed as part of the D-Day landings. The book explores the short and long-term effects of these operations and argues that this ignored narrative should be part of any history of the D-Day landings.

Stephen A. Bourque is Professor Emeritus of military history at the School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He left the US Army in 1992 after twenty years enlisted and commissioned service and obtained his PhD at Georgia State University. Bourque has taught history at several colleges and universities. His publications include *Jayhawk! The VII Corps in the 1991 Persian Gulf War*, *The Road to Safwan*, and *Soldiers' Lives: The Post-Cold War Era*. His most recent book *Beyond the Beach, the Allied War Against France* will be published in France in 2019. Currently, he is writing a biography of Richard G. McKee, concentrating on his role as VII Corps Chief of Staff and Commander of the 8th Infantry Regiment in Europe during World War II.



NO FORGOTTEN FRONTS: FROM CLASSROOM TO COMBAT

Lisa K. Shapiro

Wednesday Evening, 10 July 2019, 7PM

At the beginning of World War II, Professor Lauren Post of San Diego State College asked his students entering military service to write to him. Thousands of letters arrived from places like Pearl Harbor, North Africa, and Normandy, beginning with the salutation, "Dear Doc," and describing vivid accounts of training, combat, and camaraderie. Pilots wrote about seeing planes shot down. Men in POW camps sent word about the location of other prisoners and Post passed information on to frantic families. These intimate, first-person accounts capture honest, in-the-moment reactions to war that resound with heartache and gratitude. Each month, Post excerpted the letters and mailed the *Aztec News Letter* around the world. Fraternities, typing classes, and families donated time and money for printing and postage. When the latest issue arrived, servicemen and women read it cover-to-cover, and then passed it to another Aztec in service. He sent pilots Aztec stickers to put on their planes. Soldiers sent him Nazi flags and sand from Iwo Jima. He tallied up the medals they earned and took time to call their mothers. He could not rest until he knew that every student who had been taken prisoner was released. For years afterward, men and women dropped by his small campus office to thank him for helping them make it through the war. This is the story of the devotion of a remarkable college professor who held his students, their campus, and an entire community together during World War II.

Lisa K. Shapiro began teaching in 2003, and her community college classrooms have always been filled with veterans. As a creative writing instructor, she encouraged the soldiers, sailors, and Marines who were transitioning back to student life to put their stories on paper. Shapiro is an Associate Professor of Business at San Diego Mesa College and holds degrees in Management and Literature and has taught composition and creative writing in San Diego. In addition to *No Forgotten Fronts*, Shapiro has written an adventure book for children entitled *The Tiger and the Wind*, co-authored a contemporary thriller with Deborah K. Reed, *The Chamber and the Cross*, and was recently keynote speaker at the SDSU War Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony.



SPRING SEMINAR: GERMAN GENEALOGY

James Beidler

Wednesday, 22 May 2019, 9-4PM

Fee: Pre-registration \$20 members of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library;

\$25 non-members; \$35 at door; Lunch on your own

Seating is limited; pre-registration and pre-payment will guarantee a place.

Handouts for all presentations will be available.

The seminar will consist of four sessions:

- **Contrasting German Migrations: 18th Century vs. 19th Century Waves:** 1700s Pennsylvania Germans were a different from the Germans who immigrated in the 1800s. This presentation shows the differences in geography, economic class, religion, and aspirations of – as well as sources about – the two great waves of German immigration.

- **Zigzagging Through German Church Records** will explain the methodology of using baptismal, confirmation, marriage and burial records from German church registers most effectively. By utilizing different bits of information found in each, researchers can zigzag their way to adding centuries to a pedigree.

- **German for Genealogists** a skills course going over the basic vocabulary and formats to enable the participants to read tombstones, church records and simple documents of German-speaking people.

- **What's a Palatine Anyway?** So many immigrants hailed from the Palatinate area of southwest Germany in the 1700s that Palatine became a nickname for all Germans coming to America. Learn about the origin of this name, the history of the area, its people and records as well as why it was an emigrant hotbed for three centuries.

James M. Beidler, author of *The Family Tree German Genealogy Book* also writes for several genealogical publications. He wrote the chapter on genealogy for *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth*, published jointly by Penn State Press and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. He is an instructor for online Family Tree University. As a lecturer, he was a part of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's acclaimed Commonwealth Speakers program from 2002 to 2009, and has been a presenter at numerous conferences. He has been a member and officer of numerous genealogical and historical societies. Beidler was born in Reading, PA, and raised in nearby Berks County, where he currently resides. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hofstra University in Long Island, NY, with a BA in Political Science.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

2019 Classes

RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

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 the grants 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.

FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE 1940 CENSUS: WEATHER AND FAMILY HISTORY

(with a nod to natural disasters)

Constance Potter

Thursday, 2 May 2019, 10AM



Sometimes it can be difficult to understand why a family moved. Could the weather or a natural disaster have played a part? In this lecture you may get clues

from hurricanes, floods, and volcanoes. Constance Potter, a reference archivist at the National Archives prior to her retirement in 2014, has lectured on a number of topics including the federal census, World War I, Laura Ingalls Wilder, women in the American Revolution, and weather and family history.

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. She is a recipient of the Thomas Balch Library's Loudoun History Award.

Information Seeking Strategies

Laura E. Christiansen

Thursday, 3 October 2019, 10AM

Preservation for Home Archives

Gabrielle Sanchez

Thursday, 7 November 2019, 10AM

Historic Preservation

Lauren Murphy, Preservation Planner,

Town of Leesburg

Thursday, 5 December 2019, 10AM

Exhibits 2019

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

JANUARY – Sons of the American Revolution Collections by Jeff Thomas

FEBRUARY – Spotlight on Collections from the Thomas Balch Library by Shane Keenan

MARCH – Barefoot Weaver Presents Handwoven Items by Beth Wilson

APRIL – World War II Letters of an Army Doctor by Laura Zellman

MAY – Money, Money, Money – Cash Notes and Debts in Loudoun County by Loudoun County Clerk's Office

JUNE - JULY – Loudoun County Civil War Artifacts by John Creamer

AUGUST – Marshalls at Home: Leesburg Life of George and Katherine Marshall by Cody Youngblood

SEPTEMBER – The Elegant Muse Presents Handmade Up-Cycled Jewelry

OCTOBER – Edwin Washington Project: Loudoun County School's Record Project presented by Larry Roeder

NOVEMBER – Illustrated Letters from the Rust Archives by Laura Christiansen

DECEMBER – David Norton Pottery

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

JANUARY-MARCH – A Hope and A Future: Images from the Lives of Refugees by Constance de Bordenave

APRIL - JUNE – Seascapes, Landscapes and Still Life by Gertrude Evans

JULY - SEPTEMBER – Loudoun in Transition and Exhibit by Jim Hanna

OCTOBER - DECEMBER – Art Works by Friends of Leesburg Arts by Mary Pender

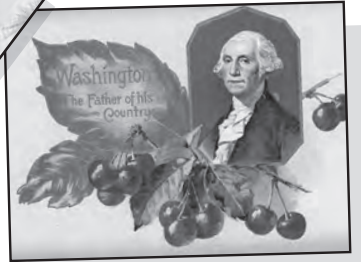


THE BALCH COLUMN

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WINTER SPRING 2019 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 2013. 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 or call 540/579-2825.

Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., meets at the library the first Saturday of every month at 10AM. The public is always welcome. For more information, visit www.balchfriends.org or call 540/579-2825.

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 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 the literal and figurative crossroads. Near the geographical heart of the state, located on the Appomattox River, Farmville is where both the Civil War wound down and the Civil Rights Movement sprang to life. Direct further inquiries to: VAForum2019@gmail.com.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library will hold its 23rd Annual Meeting and Election of Directors on the snow date Sunday, 27 January 2019, at Thomas Balch Library from 2-4PM.

The program will be from the Oral History Series: Interview with James P. Lucier, Sr.