

BALCH COLUMN

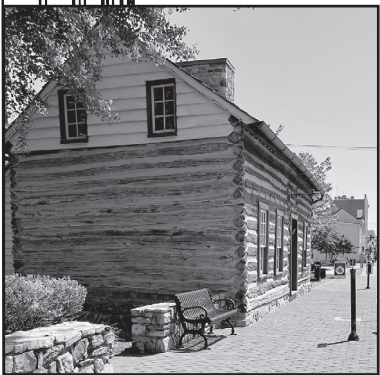
Thomas Balch Library ■ 208 W. Market Street ■ Leesburg, Virginia 20176
703-737-7195 ■ Fax: 703-737-7150 ■ Email: balchlib@leesburgva.gov



News FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

If you have had an opportunity to visit the Library or its website recently you will have noticed exciting changes. In June, after a year of hard work and the support of many volunteers Thomas Balch Library transitioned from utilizing the Loudoun County Public Library (LCPL) catalog to its own catalog, Centennial Catalog <https://thomasbalchlibrary.on.worldcat.org/discovery>. During this transition, we converted from utilizing the Dewey classification system to the Library of Congress classification system. This conversion not only necessitated relabeling but also shifting all our holdings to correlate with the new catalog.

Guides to assist you in locating materials have been created and are available onsite. There are several reasons for the Library to have its own catalog and to use the Library of Congress classification system, including the ability to distinguish Thomas Balch Library from LCPL as an independent Library owned and operated by the Town of Leesburg; enabling TBL to control how materials are described and cataloged and provide access to all its materials, regardless of the media, in one catalog accessible through WorldCat. Dewey classification system is a numerical classification system with little flexibility for special collection materials while the Library of Congress classification is a letter classification system providing greater flexibility to catalog a wide variety of media types as found in special collection libraries. In making this change we expanded our extant subscription to On-Line Computer Library Center (OCLC). Our catalog now provides access to all collection materials representing many different formats such as maps, images, artifacts, manuscripts, newspapers, microforms, and electronic resources in one portal enhancing research access while facilitating and improving library service levels to near 100% discoverability. With this development TBL joins over 107 countries on the international library stage as part of OCLC WorldCat Discovery. This new visibility for the library's collection provides opportunities for cooperation among OCLC's network of libraries worldwide as well as prospects for grants. Library holdings are visible through WorldCat.org, a freely accessible website where anyone can search the collections of thousands of libraries, as well as through WorldCat.org partner sites. This project is a testament to the perseverance of many TBL library staff through the years, members of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, board members of the newly created Foundation, members of the advisory commission and elected officials of the Town of Leesburg. The support and encouragement of colleagues, both current and past, throughout the country, has been particularly rewarding for me.



As you will see from this newsletter, Thomas Balch Library is fully back in the swing of life. Traditional program series have resumed with hybrid options offered and new opportunities, First Fridays at Donaldson Cabin, started. We hope you will take advantage of these events in person. If you miss an event we have recorded, check out our Thomas Balch Library's YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/VideoTBL> or search for "Thomas Balch Library" in the YouTube search bar. You may subscribe to our channel to access new content as it becomes available.

Since our last newsletter several long serving dedicated members of our library and history community were lost, Mike Napper (1954-2023), William Perry Epes, III (1947-2023) and the internationally acclaimed artist William Woodward (1935-2023) noted for his murals in public spaces, including Thomas Balch Library's mural, "A Loudoun County Story," and the paintings "Perseverance Through Faith and Strength" and "Meeting the Piscataway." It was a privilege to have known and worked with them. While they will be missed their legacy lives on.



We thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of the Library's mission. As always, we at the library look forward to welcoming you when next you are able to visit the Library.

Alexandra S. Gressitt
Library Director

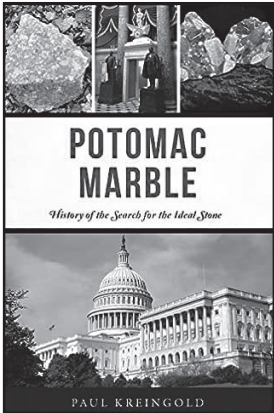
SINGLE OR SEASON TICKET PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Due to limited seating and the popularity of some programs, registration is required for all Thomas Balch Library programs whether held in person or virtually. To reserve a place, visit our event registration page <https://tinyurl.com/TBEvents>. To reserve a seat in all upcoming classes and programs at one time, sign up for a season ticket by selecting "Season Ticket" in the drop-down box. Fill out the rest of the form with your contact data. Information about each program will be sent to your inbox when it is available. Books are available for purchase at author talks. The annual *Spring Genealogical Seminar* requires separate registration. Always check the library website for the latest event information.

POTOMAC MARBLE: HISTORY OF THE SEARCH FOR THE IDEAL STONE

Sunday, 17 September 2023, 2-4PM

Paul Kreingold



The destruction of Washington in 1814 by the invading British challenged President James Monroe and architect Benjamin Latrobe with the task of rebuilding government edifices that had been destroyed. As symbols of the aspirations of the republic, these buildings had to be more than functional—they had to be beautiful. The building material they discovered and used to beautify the new Capitol was Potomac marble, which exists in abundance on both sides of the Potomac River, from Leesburg in Loudoun County, Virginia, to Montgomery and

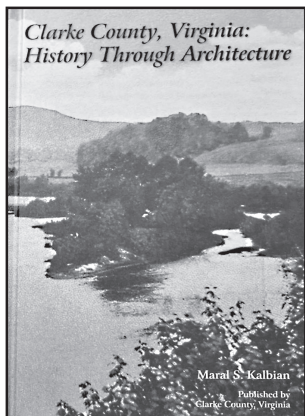
Frederick Counties in Maryland. Local historian Paul Kreingold details Latrobe's and Monroe's search for the ideal stone and their fight to use it to rebuild the chambers of the House and Senate.

Paul Kreingold is a 38 year resident of Leesburg, Virginia. He is currently president of the Banshee Reeks Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists and conservation director of Izaak Walton League, Loudoun County Chapter. His interest in geology and history dates back to his college days, so after a long career in computer system design, he now devotes his time to research and education. Besides public lectures throughout the region Kreingold regularly leads "expeditions" to the rediscovered Latrobe Potomac Marble quarry along beautiful Potomac River.

CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA: HISTORY THROUGH ARCHITECTURE

Maral S. Kalbian

Sunday, 1 October 2023, 2-4PM



In her new book *Clarke County, Virginia: History Through Architecture*, architectural historian Maral Kalbian introduces the reader to Clarke County's history from the first people known to have lived in the area through development of roads and communities, to exploring architectural styles found throughout Clarke. Organized chronologically, with illustrations and historic resources, the book traces the history of Loudoun County's neighbor from its early 18th century history as

part of Frederick County, through its establishment in 1836 and post-Civil War development including a boom in business and population growth and the establishment of Black communities built by freed slaves. Both Kalbian's research and the publication of *Clarke County, Virginia* was funded through a Certified Local Government grant from the Virginia Department of Historic

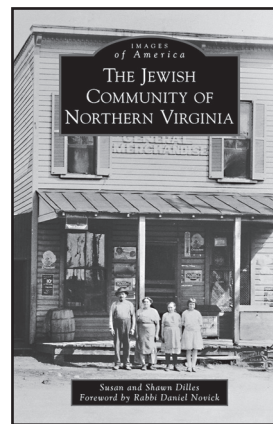
Resources, funds from the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority, Clarke County Historical Association, and the Clermont Foundation.

Kalbian, a historic preservation specialist, has practiced in the Shenandoah Valley and Piedmont areas of Virginia for 34 years. Her publications include *Clarke County, Virginia* (2011), and *Frederick County: History Through Architecture* (1999).

IMAGES OF AMERICA: THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Susan and Shawn Dilles

Sunday, 15 October 2023, 2-4PM



The authors have been Fairfax County residents and active members of the Northern Virginia Jewish Community for almost 40 years, including at Congregation Olam Tikvah, Congregation Beth Emeth, and the Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Susan supports activities of several charities in the area. Shawn is a volunteer with JewishGen <https://www.jewishgen.org/> and has coordinated the translation of Yizkor (Remembrance) books on the Jewish history of Zinkov, Ukraine and Hrubieszow, Poland.

LEESBURG TOUR

James P. Roberts

Saturday, 21 October 2023, 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. Tour limited to 30 people.

Save the Date

FOR THE 2024 SPRING GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR:
Cracking the Code: Legal and Genetic Genealogy
Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 1-4PM,
Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

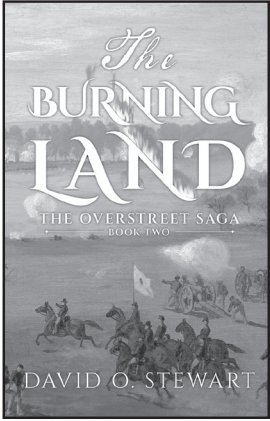
will present two lectures: *After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA* and *DNA and the Golden Rule: The Law and Ethics of Genetic Genealogy*.

This event is sponsored by Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. Cost per person is \$30 for members; \$40 for nonmembers; and, if seating is available \$60 at the door.

THE BURNING LAND! *(Rescheduled from Spring 2023)*

David O. Stewart

Sunday, 22 October 2023, 2-4PM



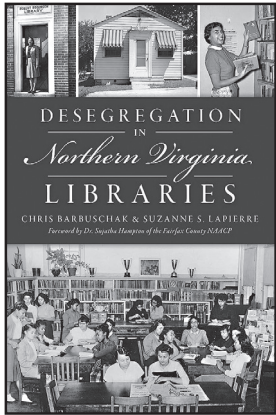
The Burning Land! is book two in Stewart's fictional Overstreet Saga which takes the reader back in time to tell uniquely American stories—full of adventure, excitement, heartbreak, and a tapestry of richly developed characters. This book follows the love of Henry Overstreet of the Twentieth Maine Regiment through Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the battles of 1864 and of Katie Nash of Maine whom Overstreet's marries on the Fourth of July 1864 while on a two-week leave. Their lives are upended by the tragedies of the American Civil War and then of their westward migration to Chicago, both inflict excruciating trials and loss.

After many years as a trial and appellate lawyer, David O. Stewart became a bestselling writer of history and historical fiction. His first novel, *The Lincoln Deception*, about the John Wilkes Booth conspiracy, was called the best historical novel of 2013 by *Bloomberg View*. Sequels include *The Paris Deception*, set at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, and *The Babe Ruth Deception*, which follows Babe's first two years with the Yankees. Stewart's histories explore the writing of the Constitution, the gifts of James Madison, the western expedition and treason trial of Aaron Burr, and the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. In February 2021, Dutton published Stewart's *George Washington: The Political Rise of America's Founding Father*.

DESEGREGATION IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne LaPierre

Sunday, 29 October 2023, 2-4PM



Public libraries play a fundamental role in communities providing free educational resources, boosting literacy and knowledge, and serving as a place of refuge. Despite this, many libraries were inaccessible during the Jim Crow era to Black residents, as some libraries continued to resist integration even after the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*. Discover the truth about barriers imposed on the Black community and learn about citizens turned activists who used protests and lawsuits to achieve more equitable library services. Their legacy resonates today, as libraries continue to evolve and embrace more inclusive practices. Join Fairfax County librarians as they investigate the overlooked and little-known history of segregated library services in Northern Virginia and discuss their book.

Chris Barbuschak, a Fairfax County native, is an archivist/librarian at Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room. A graduate in history from Loyola University Chicago, he received his MLIS from Dominican University. Suzanne S. LaPierre is a Virginiana Specialist Librarian for Fairfax County Public Library in Virginia. Her writing has been published in national and international journals. In addition to a MLIS from University of South Carolina, she holds an MA in Museum Studies from The George Washington University and a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design.

CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

Eric S. Larson

Tuesday, 31 October 2023, 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. 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. You will need to pass through security so the group will leave the library promptly at 1:45PM. **Reminder:** Cell phones and cameras are not allowed in the Court House.

LEESBURG, LOUDOUN COUNTY AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Saturday, 4 November 2023, 10AM

Richard T. Gillespie

Leesburg, Loudoun, and the American Revolution, a leisurely two-hour history exploration of Leesburg and Loudoun's past, led by local historian Rich Gillespie, will begin at Thomas Balch Library. A long-time history teacher in the county, Gillespie is also

Exhibits 2023-2024

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

September 2023:

Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association Exhibit

October 2023:

Loudoun County Public Schools Student Artwork

November - December 2023:

Thomas Balch Library, Selections from the Rust Archives

January - February 2024:

African American Architectural Survey, Black History Committee

March 2024:

W&OD Railroad Exhibit by Paul McCray

April 2024:

Loudoun County Public Schools Student Artwork

May 2024:

From the Vault: Treasures from the Loudoun Museum

June 2024:

George C. Marshall International Center

July - August 2024:

Loudoun County Civil War by John Creamer

September 2024:

Thomas Balch Library, Highlights from the Rust Archives

October 2024:

The Faces of Balls Bluff by Ken Fleming

November - December 2024:

Islamic Arts in the Morven Park Collection

LOWER-LEVEL MEETING ROOM

July - September 2023:

Wanderings by Mike Chirieleison

October - December 2023:

Art by Sabina Puppò

January - March 2024:

Photography by Diane Helentjaris

April - June 2024:

Goose Creek Ruggers Hook Rugs

July - September 2024:

Artwork by Caitlin Keefe

October - December 2024:

Friends of Leesburg Public Arts

Historian Emeritus for the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area. In the decade that brought on the American Revolution—the 1770s—Loudoun was a new county, created by the House of Burgesses in 1757, and was what modern historians refer to as the “Southern Back Country.” West of the “fall line” European settlers arrived here as much from Pennsylvania as from long-settled Tidewater Virginia. This tour will both introduce you to the American Revolution and how it played locally against the backdrop of the historic landscape that remains from that time. Registration is required. Good walking shoes, warm clothes, and a bottle of water are recommended as you will be outside for the morning. The tour leaves from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 10AM. Tour limited to 50 people.

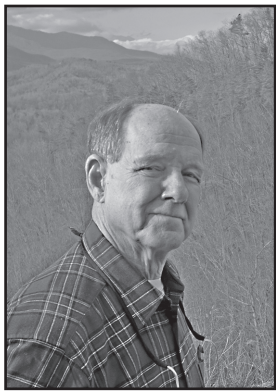
LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the thirty-first annual Loudoun History Awards on **Sunday, 5 November 2023, 2PM**. 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.

TRAVELING THROUGH TIME

John Ross

Sunday, 3 December 2023, 2-4PM



In *Traveling through Time*, author John E. Ross will discuss how we can travel back to the earliest European discovery of America and settling of Virginia through readily available historic maps. He'll show examples from extensive portfolios of online maps dating back to Diego Ribero's 1529 sketch of coast of the western hemisphere. We will see how colonial Virginians were certain that seas of China and the Indies lay just beyond the Blue Ridge. Ross marvels at the accuracy of Louis Michel's 1707 map of the Shenandoah Valley and the 1751 Jefferson-Fry map of Virginia that were with achieved instruments no more sophisticated than compass and pen. “Old maps allow us to see history where it happened,” Ross says, “We are extremely fortunate to have Eugene Scheel's maps and books to help us understand how Northern Virginia came to be the place we appreciate so much today.”

Ross is the author of the bestselling natural and cultural history from the University of Tennessee Press: *Through the Mountains: The French Broad River and Time*. He is currently at work on a similar book: *Beyond the Blue Horizon: Virginia's Great Valley and Ridges* to be published in late 2024 by the University of Virginia Press. He and his partner, Meredith Whiting, live in Middleburg, VA and are deeply involved in a number of preservation and conservation initiatives.

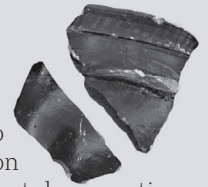
News about Collections, Exhibits and Special Events

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS FROM SYCOLIN POTTERY - SECOND CROWDSOURCING EVENT



In July 2021, Thomas Balch Library received a collection of between 350-500 ceramic fragments collected the Sycolin Pottery site located just outside of Leesburg. Archeologists recommended creating a photographic catalog of the collection for research use to enable ease of access and to preserve the original fragments. Once created and made available to researchers, the catalog will also enable the library to offer programing

centered on preservation of archeological remains in Loudoun and to expand our growing collection of resources related to decorative arts and craftsmen in 18th and 19th century Loudoun. In March 2023 a successful crowdsourcing event was held to catalog and photograph the collection led by archeologist **Kelly Arford-Horne**. Fifty percent of the artefacts were documented. This fall, you can help too! Join us in Thomas Balch Library's meeting room on **Saturday, 30 September 2023 at 11AM** to learn about documenting artefacts from archaeological excavations and try your hand at helping us complete cataloging of this unique piece of Loudoun County's history.



DONALDSON CABIN



Beginning in Spring 2023, Thomas Balch Library has a new venue for sharing Leesburg's history, the Donaldson Log Cabin, located at 14 Loudoun St. SW. Under the direction of Laura E. Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts, staff and volunteers are using the space for processing archival collections and hosting pop-up exhibits during Leesburg's popular First Friday events. Pop-up exhibits already held in 2023 featured highlights from TBL's collections, 18th century documents from Leesburg's past, and an exhibit documenting the

history of dogs in Leesburg. Exhibits and events will be scheduled at the cabin throughout the year – mark your calendar and stop by for these Friday evening, 5-7PM, events:

1 September 2023 – Thomas Balch Library's Oral History Collections, Partnerships in History Learn about TBL's new Oral History platform and about some of the collaborative history projects recently completed or underway in using the library's oral history collections.

6 October 2023 – Celebrating American Archives Month Kick off American Archives month! Learn about what archives are and what archivists do. Pop-up exhibit will feature handmade publications from TBL's collections. Visitors will have the opportunity to “Ask an Archivist”.

3 November 2023 – Exploring Leesburg's Cemeteries Stop by and learn about the history of cemeteries in Leesburg. Learn about the iconography of burial markers and the importance of cemeteries for historical and genealogical research.

1 December 2023 – History of the Book Calling all book lovers to join us for a pop-up exhibit of beautiful bindings from TBL collections and learn about the history book binding and illustration.

2023-2024

*Researching History and Genealogy at Thomas Balch Library***GENEALOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: USING DNA TO AID YOUR PAPER RESEARCH****Thursday, 7 September 2023, 10AM**

Using DNA testing for genealogical research has become as common as using a census record. Like a census record, it can tell the researcher some information, lead to further questions, or even leave you completely confused by the results. If you are considering taking a DNA test for genealogy or have already taken one, this presentation is for you!

Shannon Combs-Bennett (QG, MSc, PLCGS) is an award-winning author and genealogical researcher based in Northern Virginia. She lectures and writes on various topics, from genealogical methodology to genetic genealogy. Shannon holds a BS in Biology with an emphasis in genetics and an MSc in Genealogical, Heraldic, and Paleographic Studies. She also earned her Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. Currently, Shannon is a doctoral student in History and Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde.

PRESERVATION OF HOME ARCHIVES**Thursday, 5 October 2023, 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.

HISTORICAL FINANCES**Thursday, 2 November 2023, 10AM**

Have you come across accounting or financial records in your research? Are you tempted to skip them? Don't! **Alison Herring**, a former Audit Senior Manager in a global accounting firm, will discuss historic financial records and how you can use them to shed light on genealogy and other research projects. These records, while often tedious, can be a marvelous source of information on the lives of the people you study, the economic conditions they lived in, and the decisions they made. Alison will

demonstrate practical ways to approach these documents and share examples of the insights you can learn. Alison is currently researching the Powell Family Papers, held at Swem Library at William & Mary.

LOCATING PLACES**Thursday, 7 December 2023, 10AM**

Wynne Saffer, author of *Loudoun County Virginia 1860 Land Tax Map*, who has previously presented classes on deed research and Northern Neck Land Grants, will show how to convert a metes and bounds survey to a plat of the property. He will show examples of plats and how to identify their location by using roads, streams, and other landmarks and will demonstrate use of current parcel maps to locate ancient property lines.

MARYLAND PROPERTY RECORDS**Thursday, 1 February 2024, 10AM**

Property research can be a powerful tool for exploring your family tree. Library Associate **Travis Shaw** will give a step-by-step introduction to a series of online tools that allow the user to access property records in the state of Maryland. Using these resources you can research deeds, plats, and other records from the 17th century to today from the comfort of the Thomas Balch Library or your own home. Shaw is a public history professional with nearly two decades of experience in historic preservation, archaeology, and museum education. He joined the staff at the Thomas Balch Library in 2015, and also serves as the Director of Education at the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association.

LEESBURG ARCHITECTURE**Thursday, 7 March 2024, 10AM**

Do you know how to spot the difference between a Georgian house and a Federal house? Or why "haunted houses" are always shown as Victorian style homes? In this engaging class, Morven Park's Director of Preservation & History, **Jana Shafagoj**, will teach participants how to identify the various historic architectural styles found in Leesburg and the cultural movements that lead to common architectural trends. Jana Shafagoj has over twenty-five years' experience in researching, documenting, and restoring historic buildings in Virginia and abroad. She holds a MA in Archaeology of Historic Buildings from the University of York,

UK and a BA in Historic Preservation from Mary Washington College.

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS**Thursday, 4 April 2024, 10AM**

Jeanette Irby, retired 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.

RESEARCH USING DEEDS**Thursday, 2 May 2024, 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.

COLLABORATING WITH STUDENTS TO UNCOVER THE HIDDEN HISTORIES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**Thursday, 6 June 2024, 10AM**

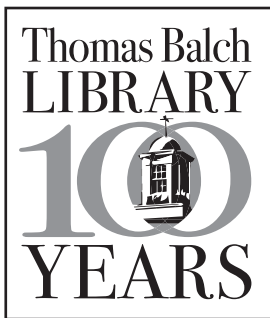
Wendi Manuel-Scott and **George Oberle** are George Mason University faculty and co-directors of the Center for Mason Legacies.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEESBURG**Thursday, 1 August 2024, 10AM**

Betsy Arnett a Senior Management Analyst with the Town Manager's Office.

USING MAPS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH**Thursday, 5 September 2024, 10AM**

Charlie Grymes taught "Geography of Virginia" at George Mason University see www.virginiaplaces.org.



THE BALCH COLUMN

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Fall 2023 Lectures and Events

Other Activities

AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thomas Balch Library Advisory

Commission sponsors the annual Loudoun History Awards. It meets at the library the second Wednesday of each month at 7PM. The public is always welcome. Visit their webpage at: <https://tinyurl.com/e9vac4pf>

Thomas Balch Library

Endowment Foundation a 501c3 established in 2015 to receive, maintain, and administer assets in perpetuity to support programs and outreach services of the Thomas Balch Library. It meets the third Tuesday of alternate months commencing January. Visit their webpage at: <https://tinyurl.com/xu55dx6w>

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 6:30PM 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. For further information visit: <http://lccwrt.wordpress.com>

The Virginia Forum

welcomes those interested in history, economics, politics, geography, law, literature, education, politics, environmental studies, archaeology, and anthropology related to Virginia. The signature event of the Virginia Forum is an annual meeting and conference held annually in the spring at a different host institution throughout Virginia and West Virginia. In 2024 the event will be hosted, April 4-6, by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture in Richmond VA.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.,

a 501c3 organized to provide support for Thomas Balch Library, meets at the library every other month, sponsors an annual fundraiser, and publishes a quarterly newsletter *The Chronicle*. For more information, visit www.balchfriends.org or call 540/579-2825.

Sunday 10 September 2023, 4-7PM they will host their annual fundraising event at Dodona Manor. The program is "Change Begets Change-1940s Loudoun County. Cost \$100 per person.

The 28th annual meeting and election of directors will be held, **Sunday, 7 January 2024 from 2-4PM** (Snow date: January 21) at Thomas Balch Library. The program is Oral History Series: a Conversation with Betty and Robert Lowenbach.