

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



Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission celebrated the thirty-first annual Loudoun History Awards on Sunday, 5 November 2023. Two individuals and a team were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the collective historical memory of Loudoun County. These are: George F. Atwell for his many community activities in government and education and his successful advocacy for the Town of Leesburg to acquire and operate Thomas Balch Library as a history and genealogy library when Loudoun County planned to close it; Leslie Wright for her efforts in preserving the historic Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Church built by persons formerly enslaved at Oatlands and for recording the history in *Gleedsville: A Place of Hopes and Dreams*; and Douglass High School Commemorative Committee, Loudoun County Public Schools and Loudoun County Parks and Recreation for the team's accomplishments in preserving and interpreting the historic Douglass High School Education and Development Campus, and segregation and integration in Loudoun County History.

Since my last letter there have been a few changes with staff. Our library assistant, Helen Fonda Vettori, moved out of the area and Senior Library Associate Echo Rue accepted a full-time position with Loudoun County Public Library administration. While Echo remains on our roster, her presence will be infrequent. A new Senior Library Associate has joined our ranks, Tamsyn Knight. Tamsyn holds a doctorate from Oxford University, a master's degree in English and an undergraduate degree in History and English from Massey University, New Zealand. You will most often see Tamsyn at the reference desk on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please be sure to welcome Tamsyn when you see her.



In December the Town announced my intent to retire by June of 2024. In bringing to a close this my last letter, I reflect back on the twenty wonderful years shared with all of you. The accomplishments have been many, including professionalization of operations and staff, development and expansion of outreach programs, creation of a Foundation, and conversion from the Dewey to Library of Congress classification system and establishment of the library's own Centennial catalog where, for the first time, we are able to index all our collection materials, regardless the media. We were able to achieve these goals and create a platform for future development because of the on-going support the local, historical, and genealogical communities have provided. My heartfelt thanks to all who been there for the Library as donors, researchers, staff, interns, and volunteers. With your continuing support, this library will be here for future generations who seek to understand their history and sense of place.

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

HUNTLAND

Marc Leepson

Sunday, 20 October 2024, 2-4PM

Huntland is a history of an historic estate in Middleburg, beginning in the 1830s, when master builder William Benton created the original house, and covering the state of the house and grounds—and its owners—into the third decade of the twenty-first century. It is a story full of intriguing and colorful characters, beginning with the self-made, multi-talented Benton and his children. The story focuses on the mercurial Gilded Age millionaire Joseph B. Thomas, who turned Huntland into one of the nation's premier fox-hunting facilities in 1913; the Brown Brothers, George and Herman of Houston, who ran the giant construction company Brown & Root, and purchased Huntland in the 1950s; and the accomplished polymath Betsee Parker, who restored the house, kennel, and stable to its nineteen-teens splendor, beginning in 2007 when she purchased the property.

Journalist and historian Marc Leepson is the author of ten books. His latest book *Huntland* was published in December 2023.

DIRT DON'T BURN

Larry Roeder

Sunday, 27 October 2024, 2-4PM

The system of educational apartheid that existed in the United States until the Brown v. Board of Education decision and its aftermath has affected every aspect of life for Black Americans. *Dirt Don't Burn* by Larry Roeder and Barry Harrelson is the narrative of an extraordinary community that overcame cultural and legal hurdles of systematic racism. It describes how Loudoun County, Virginia, which once denied educational opportunity to Black Americans, gradually increased the equality of education for all children in the area. The book includes stories of individuals and organizations that brought change to enduring habits of exclusion and prejudice toward African Americans. *Dirt Don't Burn* sheds new light on the history of segregation and inequity in American history. It provides new historical details and insights into African American experiences based on original research.

Larry Roeder is the CEO and chair of the board of the Edwin Washington Society. Barry Harrelson is an editor of the *Bulletin of Loudoun County* and the Edwin Washington Society.

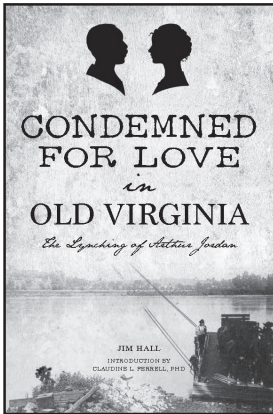
SINGLE OR SEASON TICKET PROGRAM REGISTRATION

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 for all upcoming classes and programs, 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 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.

CONDEMNED FOR LOVE IN OLD VIRGINIA: THE LYNCHING OF ARTHUR JORDAN

Jim Hall

Sunday, 25 February 2024, 2-4PM



Arthur Jordan and Elvira Corder were young and unafraid, but their love was doomed. He was Black, she was white, and this was Virginia in 1880. When Elvira became pregnant, the couple fled Fauquier County to live in Maryland. But her father found them and recruited neighbors to help kidnap them. Four nights later, a mob dragged Arthur from the county jail in Warrenton and lynched him. Elvira, taken to a hotel in Williamsport, Maryland, was never heard from again. Stories of lynching are all too common in the postbellum South, but this one tells a unique tale

of a couple who were willing to sacrifice everything to be together—and did. Author Jim Hall tells a classic tale of forbidden love, one of hope crushed by hate.

Jim Hall is an award-winning journalist and popular speaker on lynching in Virginia. His book *The Last Lynching in Northern Virginia: Seeking Truth at Rattlesnake Mountain* was published by The History Press in 2016. His newest book, *Condemned for Love in Old Virginia: The Lynching of Arthur Jordan*, was published by History Press in July 2023. He has a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a former adjunct instructor at the University of Mary Washington. A native of Virginia, he is retired and lives now in Fredericksburg.

CAPTURED! THE FATE OF THE FOULKS

Diane Helentjaris

Sunday, 3 March 2024, 2-4PM



What happened when one of Leesburg's earliest families pulled up the stakes and moved on? Not everyone who bought one of the first plots when Leesburg was platted in the 1700s built their "forever home." The William Foulks family left for the Pennsylvania frontier; a land forbidden to American settlers at the time. They paid dearly for their decision. Diane will share the story of William and Ann Foulks and their children, including Leesburg-born George and Elizabeth.

Diane Helentjaris, a Leesburg author and photographer, writes frequently for regional publications. Her historical novel, *The Indenture of Ivy O'Neill*, published in 2022, was nominated for the National Library Association's Alex Award. She is currently completing a biography of Wild West horsewoman Lulu Bell Parr. Diane received her BA Cum Laude in interdisciplinary humanities and medical doctor degree from Michigan State University and a master's in public health from the University of Michigan. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Diane has lived in Leesburg with her family for over thirty years.

LEESBURG, LOUDOUN COUNTY, AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Richard T. Gillespie

Saturday, 16 March 2024, 10AM-12PM



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 at 10AM. A long-time history teacher in the county, Gillespie is also 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)

SAVE THE DATE

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY'S 2024 SPRING GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR

CRACKING THE CODE:

LEGAL AND GENETIC GENEALOGY

Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL

Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 1-4PM



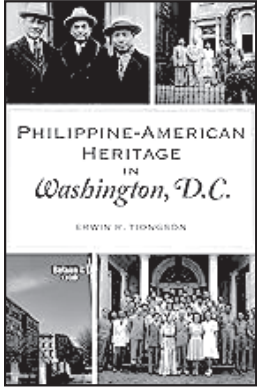
Judy G. Russell will be presenting two lectures: After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA and DNA and the Golden Rule: The Law and Ethics of Genetic Genealogy. This event is sponsored by Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. The cost per person is \$30 for members; \$40 for nonmembers; and, if seating is available, \$60 at the door. Attendance is limited, advance registration is required.

Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist®, is a genealogist with a law degree who provides expert guidance through the murky territory where law and family history intersect. An internationally known lecturer and award-winning writer, she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and Certified Genealogical Lecturer™ from the Board for Certification of Genealogists®. Her blog is at <https://www.legalgenealogist.com>.

PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN HERITAGE IN WASHINGTON, DC

Erwin R. Tiongson

Sunday, 7 April 2024, 2-4PM



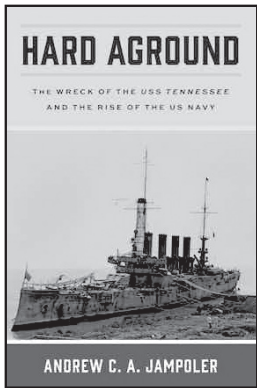
This book traces the intertwined histories of the Philippines and the United States along the streets of Washington, from the end of the Spanish American War in 1898 through Philippine independence in 1946, and the many years since. West Potomac Park was inspired by Manila's Luneta, and District streets are named after pivotal Philippine battle grounds. These landmarks are often unmentioned in guidebooks. Hidden in plain sight are the stories of the fascinating figures that once inhabited these spaces.

Erwin R. Tiongson is a professor at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service. He teaches economics and writes about Philippine history. His essays have appeared in the Smithsonian's *Air and Space Magazine*, *New York Times*, *Positively Filipino*, *Slate*, *Washington Post*, *Washingtonian*, and *White House History Quarterly*. He is cofounder of the Philippines on the Potomac (POPDC) Project.

HARD AGROUND: THE WRECK OF THE USS TENNESSEE AND THE RISE OF THE US NAVY

Andrew C. A. Jampoler

Sunday, 5 May 2024, 2-4PM



Hard Aground brings together three intertwined stories documenting the US Navy's strategic and matériel evolution from the end of the Civil War through the First World War. These incidents had lasting consequences for how the Navy modernized itself throughout the twentieth century. The first story focuses on the reconstruction of the US Navy following the swift and near-total dismantling of the Union Navy after the Civil War. The second story relates the short, tragic life of the *USS Tennessee* (later renamed *Memphis*), one of the steel-hulled

ships of the new Armored Cruiser Squadron, a centerpiece of the Navy's modernization effort. The *USS Tennessee* was ordered on two unusual missions in the early months of WWI, long before the United States formally entered the war. These little-known missions and the ship's shocking destruction in a storm surge in the Caribbean serve as the centerpiece of the story. Threaded through the narrative are biographical sketches of principal players in the drama that unfolded following the ship's demise. Jampoler rounds out this account with the story of how the *USS Tennessee's* destruction prompted fierce deliberations about the US Navy's operations and chains of command for the remainder of WWI and the high-level political wrangling inside the Department of the Navy immediately after the war as civilian appointees and senior officers wrestled to reshape the department in their image.

Andrew Jampoler, who has been writing full time for more than twenty years, is an amazing storyteller who has given illustrated presentations on his books and magazine articles, and expeditions and adventures at sea, to audiences at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, in museums and embassies, at libraries and bookstores, aboard cruise ships around the world. He is an alumnus of Columbia College, the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, and of the US State Department Foreign Service Institute's School of Language Study. During more than twenty years on active duty with the US Navy, Jampoler,

a naval aviator who flew Lockheed P-3 airplanes in search of submarines, also commanded a land-based maritime patrol aircraft squadron and an air station. Later, he was a senior sales and marketing executive in the international aerospace industry.

CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

Eric S. Larson

Wednesday, 15 May 2024, 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 TOUR

James P. Roberts

Saturday, 18 May 2024, 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.

Exhibits 2024

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

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

January – March 2024:

From the Time of Kings by Diane Helentjaris

April – June 2024:

Goose Creek Ruggers Hook Rugs

July – September 2024:

Artwork by Caitlin Keefe

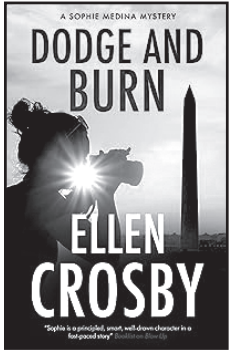
October – December 2024:

Friends of Leesburg Public Arts

DODGE AND BURN

Ellen Crosby

Sunday 19 May 2024, 2-4PM



Washington, DC-based photojournalist Sophie Medina is not a murderer, but someone is determined to make sure she goes down for a crime she did not commit. When billionaire philanthropist and art collector Robson Blake hires Sophie Medina to take photographs for him, she doesn't expect to show up and find her client dead. It seems he was the victim of a burglary gone wrong. But why

was his state-of-the-art security system turned off and why, in a house full of priceless Old Masters, is the only thing missing a beautiful but insignificant Ukrainian religious icon? Before long, Sophie finds herself in the crosshairs of a DC homicide detective who she suspects knows more than she is saying about Blake's murder. To Sophie's mixed delight and horror, she's recently learned she has a half-brother who might also be an international art thief, with eyes on Blake's collection. As the police get closer to finding Blake's killer, Sophie is certain someone is trying to frame her for his murder. Can she find the real killer in time even if it means turning in her own brother to prove her innocence?

Ellen Crosby, the author of the Sophie Medina mysteries, will be talking about *Dodge and Burn*, the third book in the series. She has also written 12 books in the Virginia Wine Country mysteries and *Moscow Nights*, a standalone mystery. Previously Crosby was a freelance reporter for *The Washington Post*, *Moscow* correspondent for ABC Radio News, and an economist at the US Senate. She and her husband live in the Washington, DC suburbs of northern Virginia.

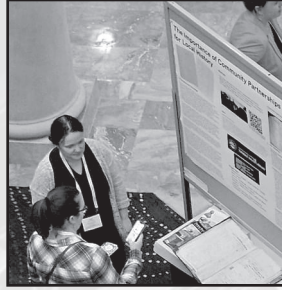
THE ROAD TO HERE, GROWING UP AND GROWING OLD IN INTERESTING TIMES

Andrew C. A. Jampoler

Sunday, 9 June 2024, 2-4PM

The Road to Here is a combination of Andrew Jampoler's personal memories and history of the past eight decades all recounted in his usual illustrated book talk format. The point of departure is a quick scamper through German interwar history and the attack on Poland. Jampoler was born in German-occupied Eastern Poland on 15 January 1942, just five days before "the final solution" of the Jewish question was presented to Hitler. He spent the war years in Lublin, cared for by a couple who found him abandoned on the steps of a church in Warsaw where his desperate mother had left him. Improbably, Jampoler, his mother and paternal grandmother, survived the war, the only family members along with a young cousin to survive. All other family members died in the Holocaust. The three family members arrived in NYC in July 1946 as quota immigrants. Since then, his biography has mirrored American history. Twenty-four years in the Navy (one in Vietnam) flying, a dozen years in industry, and another twenty writing books... eight have been published. Such is the gift of citizenship that his family moved in a generation from the west side piers of NYC to the House of Representatives, where his daughter sits as a Member.

News about Collections, Exhibits & Special Events from the Pen of Laura Christiansen



On 22 October 2023, Alyssa T. Fahringer, Digital Scholarship Consultant, George Mason University Libraries and Laura Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, Thomas Balch Library presented a joint poster presentation at the 2023 Annual Conference of the Virginia Library Association in Chantilly, VA. The presentation titled "The Importance of Community Partnerships for Local History," described the active and collaborative partnership between the Thomas Balch Library and George Mason University's Center for Mason Legacies and creation of the TBL Digital Collections website: <https://research.centerformasonlegacies.com/s/tbl/page/mott>. The Digital Collections website was created using OMEKA S by the Center for Mason Legacies and combines digital images from both the Ethel Littlejohn Adams Collection 1847-1941 (M 091) and the recently processed Mott-Bentley Correspondence Collection, 1835-1900 (M 0116).

Donaldson Cabin

Have you visited the Donaldson Log Cabin yet? The 18th century cabin, located at 14 Loudoun St. SW., is open as a venue for sharing Leesburg's history. Thomas Balch Library (TBL) staff and volunteers use the space for processing archival collections and hosting pop-up exhibits during Leesburg's popular First Friday events. Pop-up exhibits held in 2023 featured highlights from TBL's collections, including oral histories, cemetery records, and rare books. Exhibits and events will begin again at the cabin in March and continue throughout 2024 – mark your calendar and stop by for these Friday evening, 5 -7PM, events:

1 March, Handwriting - The eccentricities of historical handwriting can be a roadblock to historical and genealogical research. Explore the many styles and significance of handwriting in American history and try your hand at transcribing records from different eras.

5 April, Power and Water - Can you imagine Leesburg without electric lights and running water? Access to public utilities has shaped life in Leesburg. Discover some of the unique stories connected with the establishment and evolution of utilities in Leesburg. Learn what downtown was like by gaslight, when the first electric lights were installed and where, and the hard work to keep the water system running.

3 May, Three Decades in Downtown Leesburg - Come travel in time with us! Learn about the history of buildings in downtown Leesburg and explore changes over time in images and archival items from the 1770s, 1870s, and 1970s.

7 June, Student Work Showcase - This school year, students at all educational levels, from elementary to graduate school, have visited and used Thomas Balch Library's collections. This pop-up exhibit will share some of the projects on which they have been working.

5 July, Leesburg's Revolutionary War Veterans - Who were the Leesburg residents who fought in the American Revolution, and how did the war effect their lives? This pop-up exhibit will explore the records available to research Revolutionary War Veterans before, during, and after the war.

2 August, Cats of Leesburg - In August 2023, the Donaldson Log Cabin hosted a pop-up exhibit about the history of Dogs in Leesburg. By popular demand, this August we will feature the history of Leesburg's feline residents. Documents and photographs from Thomas Balch Library's archival collections will reveal the history of pet keeping in Leesburg. Visitors will discover how cats have shaped life and laws in Leesburg and try their hand at activities that will help them explore these interesting records.

6 September, History of the Donaldson Log Cabin - One of Leesburg's oldest structures, the Donaldson Log Cabin has an interesting story of its own to tell. September's pop-up exhibit will focus on the history of the structure, from its beginning as an 18th century silversmiths shop to efforts to preserve the structure in the 1960s and beyond. Visitors will learn about the records and tools available for researching historic buildings like the Cabin and how to get started researching their own properties.

4 October, Celebrating American Archives Month

1 November, Thomas Balch Library's Oral History Collections, Partnerships in History

6 December, Newspapers in Leesburg

T H O M A S B A L C H L I B R A R Y C L A S S E S

2024

Researching History and Genealogy at Thomas Balch Library

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 an 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. CML is an interdisciplinary and collaborative research center established by the University Libraries and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Center’s mission is to preserve and examine the legacy of George Mason IV (1725-1792), his ancestors and heirs, and the people he enslaved.

Manuel-Scott and Oberle co-teach courses and lead collaborative research projects with undergraduate and graduate students to explore how the ongoing logics and structures of slavery continue to produce inequality in and around George Mason University. With their students, via CML, they produce original research in an Omeka S site after scouring local archival repositories and connecting with local knowledge keepers and elders. Manuel-Scott, Oberle, and their students will discuss their prior successes on digital public history projects such as the 2017 project Enslaved Children of George Mason, their 2021 project Black Lives Next Door, a co-taught course also titled Black Lives Next Door, and ongoing spatial and oral history research efforts. They will also discuss how they empower students to engage anti-racist research methodologies and complete fieldwork based on original research questions that center Black life.

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

Join **Betsy Arnett** for an illustrated journey through nearly three centuries of

Leesburg history. Currently a Senior Management Analyst with the Town Manager’s Office, Betsy has worked for the Town of Leesburg for more than 20 years and holds a master’s degree in public history from the University of South Carolina.

USING MAPS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 5 September 2024, 10AM

If pictures are worth 1,000 words, maps are worth a million – and Virginia is rich in mapping resources. From John Smith in 1607, through the Census in 2010, people have crafted maps to show the places where history happened. There are maps showing locations of Native American villages, shifting boundaries of counties, and the location of coal, gold, and other mineral resources in Virginia. Speculators planned railroad lines, soldiers documented locations of battles, and training camps in Northern Virginia for the Spanish-American War are marked on maps. Large-scale migrations of groups and an individual family’s past can be tracked through place names, and Geographic Information System (GIS) products document visions for the next 20 years of land use in Loudoun. Come discover the wide range of maps one can use and explore the stories behind those maps. **Charlie Grymes** taught “Geography of Virginia” at George Mason University (see www.virginiaplaces.org). He retired from the US Department of the Interior after over 30 years in a variety of jobs, including park ranger, scenic easement administrator, and information technology manager. He now serves on the boards of local non-government organizations and pesters his local officials regularly.

PRESERVATION OF HOME ARCHIVES

Gabrielle Sanchez

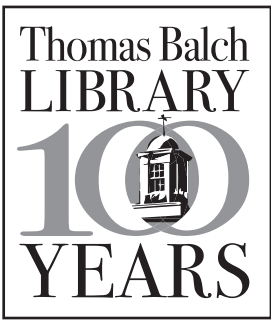
Thursday, 3 October 2024, 10AM

A REVOLUTIONARY WAR CASE STUDY: ENOCH FURR OF LOUDOUN COUNTY Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG, FUGA Thursday, 7 November 2024, Virtual Presentation – registration required

USING ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS IN YOUR RESEARCH

Laura Christiansen

Thursday, 5 December 2024, 10AM -12

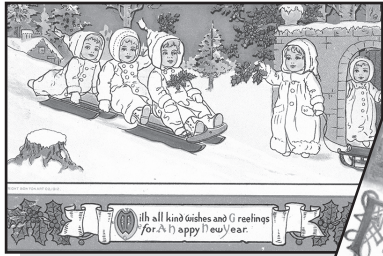


THE BALCH COLUMN

Thomas Balch Library
208 W. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

703-737-7195
Fax: 703-737-7150

Email: balchlib@leesburgva.gov



Winter/Spring 2024 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>

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.

The 28th annual meeting and election of directors was held Sunday, 7 January 2024 from 2-4PM at Thomas Balch Library. The Oral History Series program was a Conversation with Betty and Robert Lowenbach.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday 3, November 2024, 2-4PM

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the thirty-second annual Loudoun History Awards on Sunday, 3 November 2024. 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 at 703/737-7195.