



BALCH UPDATE

2024

Thomas Balch Library | Leesburg, VA

Fall/Winter

Events on the Horizon!



WALKING TOURS WITH LOCAL HISTORIANS:

Leesburg Tour

James P. Roberts

Saturday, 12 October 2024, 9AM-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.*



**WALKING TOURS
CONTINUED:**

**Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun
County Courthouse Historic
Records**

Eric S. Larson

Tuesday 29 October 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, Loudoun County and the
American Revolution**

Richard T. Gillespie

**Saturday, 2 November 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)

OCTOBER 1ST-31ST



PUMPKIN SCAVENGER HUNT



FIND ALL THE PUMPKINS IN
THE LIBRARY FOR A PRIZE



FILL A BINGO CARD AND
RETURN IT TO A LIBRARIAN

CLASSES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY:

**A Revolutionary War Case Study:
Enoch Furr of Loudoun County
Thursday, 7 November 2024,
10AM-12PM
Virtual Presentation - registration
required**

During and after the Revolutionary War, many records were created for soldiers. Most researchers are familiar with compiled military

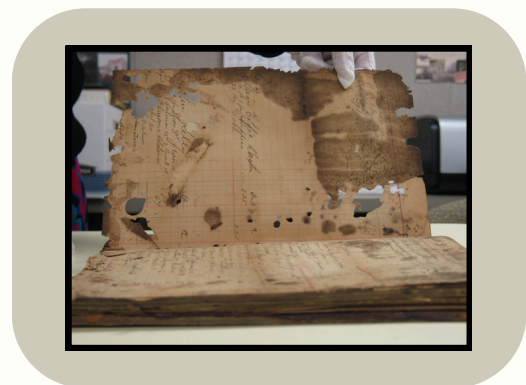


service records (not all soldiers have them) and military pensions (not all soldiers have them). But there is more.

This lecture defines a reasonably exhaustive search for the Revolutionary War soldier, Enoch Furr, a Loudoun County resident. Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG, FUGA is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty years, he specializes in the records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military. Former IGHR, SLIG, and GRIP Military Course Coordinator.

**Using Archival Collections in your
Research
Thursday, 5 December 2024,
10AM -12PM**

Laura Christiansen, Director of Thomas Balch Library, introduces techniques and tools for locating, understanding, and using archival materials in your research. This program will focus on finding and using letters, diaries, photographs, and other records as evidence in both historical and genealogical research. Examples from Thomas Balch Library's Rust Archives will be featured.

**SUNDAY BOOK TALKS
& LECTURES:**

**Huntland
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,

SUNDAY BOOK TALKS & LECTURES CONTINUED:

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, *Huntland: The Historic Virginia Country House, the Property, and Its Owners, 1741-2022*, was published in December 2023.

**A Path Through Willisville
Sunday, 27 October 2024, 2-4PM**

Carol Lee and Lori Kimball, authors of *A Path Through Willisville*, talk about the story of Willisville, VA.

A story of strength and perseverance, of a community working together to make a better place for all. It is about the people and the land.

In 2019, residents of the village and broader Willisville community came together to form the Willisville Preservation Foundation and nominate the village to the National Register of Historic Places. This book continues the Foundation's mission of honoring and preserving the community. The reader "walks" through the village, parcel by parcel, learning about the original property owners, their immediate descendants, and how the land evolved over time.

**Dirt Don't Burn: A Black
Community's Struggle for
Educational Equality Under
Segregation
Sunday, 17 November 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.

SUNDAY BOOK TALKS & LECTURES CONTINUED:

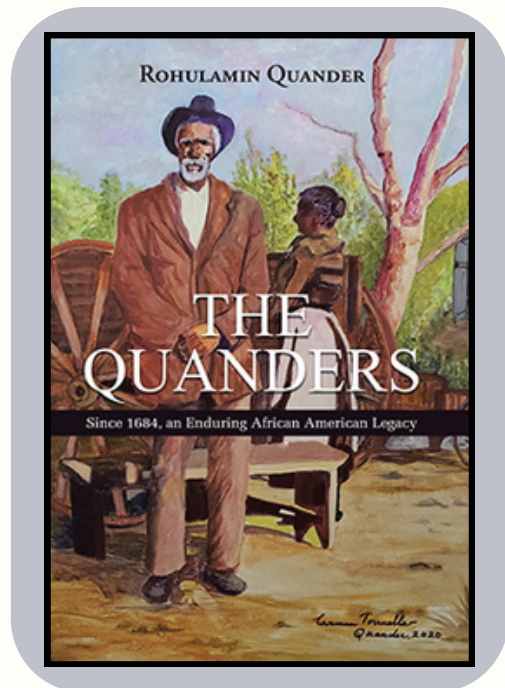
Dirt Don't Burn by Larry Roeder and Barry Harrelson is the narrative of an extraordinary community that overcame cultural and legal hurdles of systematic racism. It describes how Loudoun County, Virginia, which once denied educational opportunity to Black Americans, gradually increased the equality of education for all children in the area. The book includes stories of largely unknown 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 through thousands of records, archival NAACP files, and records of educational philanthropies.

Larry Roeder is the chief executive officer 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*.

Missed a Past Event?

Thomas Balch Library holds many events through out the year. Don't fret! Some events are recorded and posted to our YouTube page, including our recent event: *The Quanders: Since 1684, an Enduring African American Legacy* by Rohulamin Quander.

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW
OUR YOUTUBE PAGE**

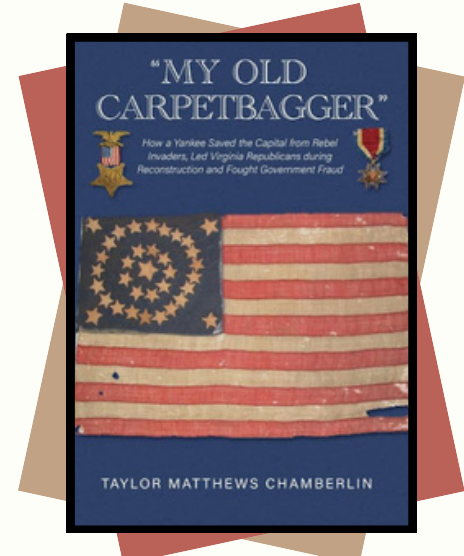
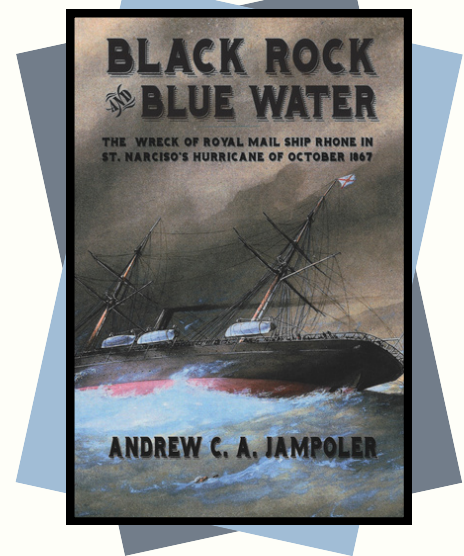
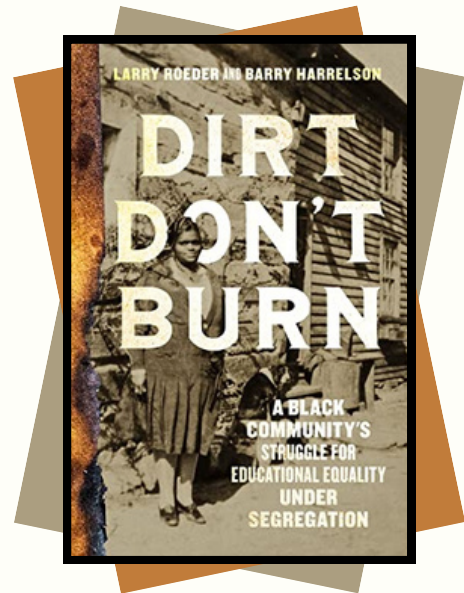


DIRT DON'T BURN & OTHER BOOKS FOR SALE AT THE LIBRARY:

Looking for a way to support the library? Ask about our books for sale at the reference desk. Many are about local history written by local authors. Including *Dirt Don't Burn!*

There are limited copies and not all books will be restocked, so come while supplies last. Or enjoy reading the Library's copy in our comfortable Janney Room.

At this time the Thomas Balch Library can only accept cash or check as payment.



Janney Room

FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE DONALDSON CABIN:

All Donaldson Cabin Pop-up exhibits will be at 14 SW Loudoun St., right next to Town Hall Parking Garage. Drop in at any time during the event. No registration required.

**TBL's Oral History Collections, Partnerships in History
1 November 2024, 5-7PM**

Learn about TBL's Oral History collections and some of the collaborative history projects recently completed or underway in using the library's oral history collections.

**Newspapers in Leesburg
6 December 2024, 5-7PM**

Read all about it! Pop-up Exhibit will feature historical newspapers from Leesburg's past. Often called History's first draft, newspapers offer insight into how people experienced events and their immediate reactions to them. Visitors will have the opportunity to view original Loudoun newspapers from the 19th and 20th centuries and learn about the history of newspaper trade in Leesburg.

TBL ON THE ROAD:**Shenandoah Archives Fair
9 October, 11AM-1PM**

Massanutten Regional Library, in Harrisonburg, is hosting the Shenandoah Valley Archives Fair. Free and open to the public, visitors get to meet the many institutions that collect archival materials about the Region's history.

If you are attending, please say "Hello!" to our Curator Tammy and Cataloger Maddie who will be representing Thomas Balch Library at the event.

Happy Archives Month!



EXHIBITS:

Margaret Mercer Room:

October 2024:

The Faces of Balls Bluff by Ken Fleming

November – December 2024:

Asian Arts in the Morven Park Collection



Lower-Level Meeting Room:

November – December 2024:

Newspapers from the Rust Archives

January – March 2025:

Loudoun Sketch Club

LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS:

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 contact the Library at 703/737-7195.

REGULAR LIBRARY MEETINGS:**Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission**

The Commission 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. 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.

Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

The Committee 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

They meet 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>

SHOUTOUT:

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 2025 the event will be hosted, March 13-15, by Sweet Briar College.

Single or Season Ticket Program Registration

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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. 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. Always check the library website for the latest event information.

HOURS & HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Regular Hours:

Monday and Friday- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday- 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday-2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday-11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday- 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Holiday Closings:

Columbus Day

October 13-14, 2024

Veterans Day

November 9-11, 2024

Thanksgiving

November 28-30, 2024

Christmas

December 24-26, 2023

New Year

December 30, 2024-January 2, 2025



Join Thomas Balch Library in celebrating American Archives Month. Come in to see our collections, view our exhibit, or explore our archives!

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A RESEARCH APPOINTMENT](#)