

# THE BALCH COLUMN

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY • 208 W. MARKET ST. • LEESBURG, VA 20176 • 703-737-7195 • FAX: 703-737-7150 • EMAIL: balchlib@leesburgva.gov

Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. Due to limited seating we recommend registering in advance by calling 703/737-7195. For updated news on events visit our website at: [www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications](http://www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications).

## EMERGENCE OF AIR-TO-AIR COMBAT IN WORLD WAR I: THE ORIGIN OF THE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

Jon Guttman

Sunday, 14 February 2010, 2PM



When World War I began in August 1914, the airplane had already proven its worth as an intelligence gathering "eye-in-the-sky." These scouting aircraft became indispensable to armies on both sides, and attempts to drive enemy planes away began in earnest. Local air superiority was incorporated into battlefield strategy, and use of aircraft to conduct offensive operations changed warfare as dramatically as the first firearms 300 years before. In *The Origin of the Fighter Aircraft*, historian Jon Guttman tells the engrossing story of how one of the most amazing inventions became an integral component of warfare. Balancing technical description, personalities, and battle accounts, the author demonstrates that by the end of World War I most of the fundamentals for modern aerial combat had been established.

Jon Guttman, who received his Master's Degree in European History from the State University of New York at Albany, is a leading expert in the history of aviation, has authored numerous publications, including *SPA124 Lafayette Escadrille*, *Spad VII Aces of World War I*, and *Groupe de Combat 12, "Les Cigognes."* Since July 1988, he has lived and worked in Leesburg, as senior editor, research director, and contributing writer for Primedia Special Interest Publications. Books will be available for purchase.

## THE US COLORED TROOPS AT ANDERSONVILLE PRISON

Robert J. O'Connor

Sunday, 28 February 2010, 2PM



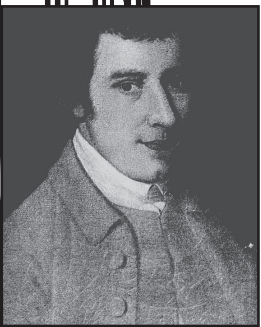
Although there is much known about the 180,000 US Colored Troops (USCT) who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War, there is not much known about the 767 USCT incarcerated in Confederate prisons during the conflict. Author Robert O'Connor has focused on the biographies of the 104 USCT, mostly from the 8th Pennsylvania and the 54th Massachusetts, who spent time in Andersonville Prison in Georgia. O'Connor's data includes information on all 104 soldiers, with demographic information and army records of each one. He

has photographs of grave markers of those who died in Andersonville prison. While working as Director of Tourism in Washington County, MD, O'Connor became interested in touring local historical sites such as Antietam Battlefield and Harpers Ferry National Park. He later moved to Charles Town, WV, which inspired *The Perfect Steel Trap: Harpers Ferry, 1859*, his first book. He is also the author of two other books, *The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln* and *Catesby: Eyewitness to the Civil War*. His non-fiction book *The US Colored Troops at Andersonville Prison* is expected to be published before the end of 2009. O'Connor holds a degree in biology from Northern Illinois University, and is currently employed by Jefferson County and the City of Charles Town; he also volunteers at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Books will be available for purchase.

## MAN OF MANY PARTS: NICHOLAS CRESSWELL

Kathy O. McGill

Sunday, 7 March 2010, 2PM



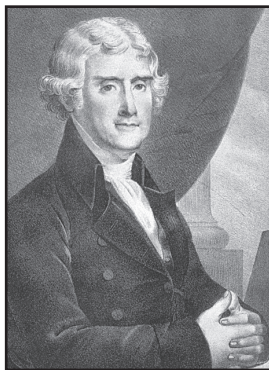
Nicholas Cresswell (1751-1804), of Derbyshire, England, came to America hoping to acquire land and settle permanently, but personal difficulties, the uncertain state of affairs, and the Revolutionary War, caused him to return to England. During his travels he kept a journal (1774-77) in which he recorded his observations of people and places and customs. Among the places he lived and visited was Virginia, including Loudoun County and Leesburg. Kathy O. McGill will discuss her research on Cresswell. McGill received her BA from Westminster College, an MA from American University, and her PhD from George Mason University. She teaches history at GMU and takes a particular interest in travel and migration in the eighteenth century. Her current research project concerns British national identity and America.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON AND BANKING

Declan Gerard King

Sunday, 21 March 2010, 2PM

Gerry King, a resident of Loudoun County, will give a dramatic reading of "The Founding Father of American Financial Disaster" by John Steele Gordon, an article published in the April 2009 edition of *American History*. The topic of Thomas Jefferson and early United States financial institutions is particularly timely in the current economic climate.



## VIRGINIA FORUM 2010 Virginia Forum

The fifth annual Virginia Forum will meet at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, located in Hampton Roads, VA, on April 15-17, 2010. It will include a visit to the Mariners' Museum, adjacent to the campus. The Virginia Forum offers an opportunity for exchanges of ideas among scholars, archivists, librarians, museum curators, K-12 teachers, and all those interested in Virginia history and culture. Additional information is available online at [www.virginiaforum.org](http://www.virginiaforum.org).

## News FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

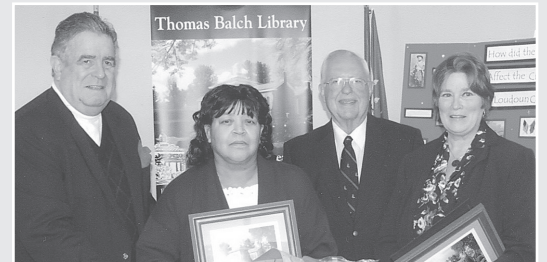


In reviewing the many exciting activities and developments that have transpired since my last letter, I realize that in the space allotted I shall be able to share only a small portion with you. For the whole experience, I encourage you to visit the library in person or virtually on-line.

October is American Archives Month and it is generally recognized as Family History Month. We were pleased to have Town Council issue two proclamations: one recognizing Family History Month and the other in recognition of American Archives Month. Joan Whitener (Regent for Ketchikan Chapter DAR) was present to accept the Family History Month Proclamation and James Lucier (board member of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.; past chair and former member of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission) to accept the American Archives Month Proclamation. Six members of the commission, one member of the Friends, two representatives from the DAR, and the library director were present for the presentation.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission presented the seventeenth annual Loudoun History Awards on Sunday, November 8. Present, representing the Town of Leesburg were Mayor Kristen Umstattd, Councilmember Marty Martinez, and Town Manager John Wells. The following outstanding members

of the community were selected for recognition this year: Anne Donovan Larson for her work as an advocate for preservation of historic sites and local history research; W. Brown Morton III for his work in architectural preservation and historical research and writing; Henry G. Plaster for his advocacy of and preservation of local history, and Mary E. Randolph for her



Left to Right: W. Brown Morton, III, Mary E. Randolph, Henry G. Plaster, and Anne Donovan Larson

contributions in historic preservation of Loudoun's African American heritage.

Many people and organizations contribute to the collections at Thomas Balch Library. During December an exhibit in the Margaret Mercer Room featured recently processed collections, many of which were donations. These included Ball's Bluff National Cemetery Plat, 1871 (OM 013); Runaway Slave Advertisement, Leesburg, Virginia, August 1860 (OM 012); Leesburg Opera House Handbill, 1894 (SC 0012); Lincoln High School Collection, 1911-1941 (SC 0015); Loudoun Valley Academy Collection, 1872-1874; 1914 (SC 0037); Leesburg May Pole Dance, 1932 (VC 0012); Waterford Elementary School, 1959-1960 [Grades 2 and 3] (VC 0026); Fielding Walker Photograph, n.d. (VC 0030); and Jim Hanna Photograph Collection, 2008-2009 (VC 0032). In addition to manuscript material, the library also acquires current and out of print publications to enhance its research collection. Among newly acquired books are: *The Baylors of Newmarket* by Thomas Katheder; *George Washington & the Virginia Backcountry* by Warren Hofstra; *From Colonial to Provincials* by Ned Landsman; *My Family Story* by Sophie Nichols; *Papers of James Monroe* (vols. 1-3) by Daniel Preston; *Bodies of Belief: Baptist Community in Early America* by Janet Lindman; *The Jett Family of Virginia* by Jeter Jett; *Lillard: A Family of Colonial Virginia* (2 vols.) by David Lillard; *People of the Underground Railroad: A Biographical Dictionary* by Tom Calarco; *Take Care of the Living: Reconstructing Confederate Veteran Families in Virginia (A Nation Divided)* by Jeffrey W. McClurken; *Honoring their Paths: African American Contributions along the Journey through Hallowed Ground* by Deborah Lee; *"He Loves a Good Deal of Rum:" Military Desertions During the American Revolution, 1775-1783* (2 Vols.) Joseph Lee Boyle; *Real Patriots and Heroic Soldiers: Gen. Joel Leftwich and the Virginia Brigade in the War of 1812* by Stuart Butler; *History for Genealogists: Using Chronological Time Lines to Find and Understand Your Ancestors* by Judy Jacobson, and *Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors* by Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom.

For many years Thomas Balch Library contracted with Loudoun County Public Library to handle interlibrary loans. This fall the library commenced handling its own interlibrary loans. There is a charge of \$5 per request.

The following brochures have been updated and are now available - an informational brochure listing new digital product offerings and new web addresses, professional researchers brochure, and the Loudoun History Awards brochure revised to reflect the 2009 awards. Information contained in these brochures is also available on our website <http://www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary>.

As always it will be my pleasure to welcome you when visiting Thomas Balch Library or when attending our programs and exhibits.

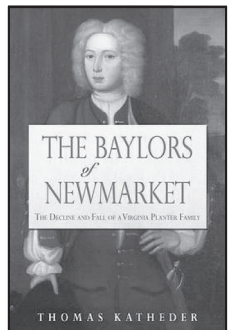
Alexandra S. Gressitt, *Library Director*

## THE BAYLORS OF NEWMARKET: THE DECLINE AND FALL OF A VIRGINIA PLANTER FAMILY

Thomas Katheder

Sunday, 11 April 2010, 2PM

Scholars and arm-chair historians of eighteenth-century America will take great pleasure in reading this exceptionally well-researched slice of colonial history. In *The Baylors of Newmarket*, author Thomas Katheder has meticulously researched one of the wealthiest and most socially prominent - yet least known - families in colonial Virginia. Drawing on mostly unpublished sources, including British and French archives and Virginia court documents, *The Baylors of Newmarket* is the fascinating and tragic story of Col. John Baylor III (1705-1772) and his son, John IV (1750-1808), including Col. Baylor's relentless pursuit of equine perfection and his son's delusional quest for the perfect Virginia mansion. *The Baylors of Newmarket* places the family in the larger context of a pre-Revolutionary Anglo-Virginian elite that sought to emulate the British gentry in culture, education, books and reading, dress, furnishings, and behavior. Thomas Katheder is a lawyer, writer, and colonial Virginia historian. He lives in Windermere, Florida. Books will be available for purchase.



## LOUDOUN COUNTY CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

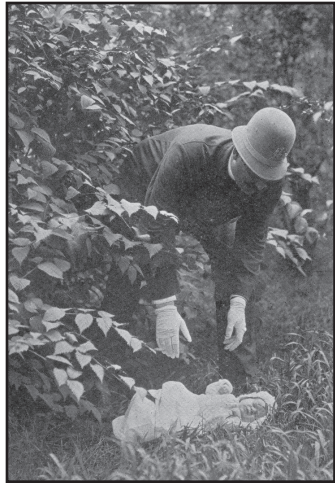
The Roundtable meets second Tuesday of the month, 7:30PM, Lower Level Meeting Room, Thomas Balch Library, unless otherwise noted. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Loudoun County history during the Civil War period. For information: 540/822-4480.



## OLIVER TWIST AND JANE BROADWAY: NAMING FOUNDLINGS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY NEW YORK CITY

Julie Miller

Sunday, 25 April 2010, 2PM



Police officer finds a baby under a bush, Central Park, July 1901. Photo courtesy of New York State Library

In the nineteenth century officials of New York City's almshouse were in charge of caring for abandoned babies (foundlings) picked up off the city's stoops and streets. One of its responsibilities toward these unwanted infants, most of whom were the children of poor, unmarried mothers, was to name them. The names chosen represent the belief that as the children of unmarried mothers, foundlings ought to be named by a special system that marked them, in some cases inconspicuously (as with Elizabeth Houston, found at the corner of Elizabeth and Houston streets) in other cases all too obviously (Henry Foundling, William Unknown) as members of an outcast group. After the turn of the twentieth century the city changed its practice, requiring that foundlings receive inconspicuous names. What do the methods these city officials chose to name foundlings say about their evolving interpretation of the social status of these unwanted children? Julie Miller is the author of *Abandoned: Foundlings in Nineteenth-Century New York City* (New York University Press, 2008). She is the Specialist in Early American History in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Books will be available for purchase.

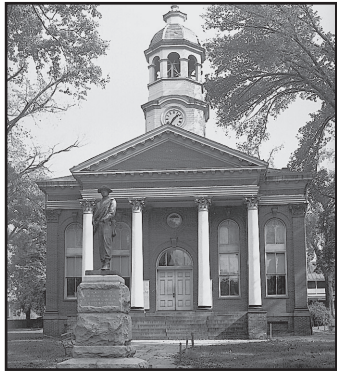
## CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, 10 May 2010, 7PM

Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 6:45PM.

John Fishback, Historic Records Manager for Loudoun County, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office. 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. As no one is permitted to enter restricted areas of the Clerk's Office after 7:00PM, the group will leave the library promptly at 6:45PM.



## WALKING TOUR OF LEESBURG

James Roberts

Saturday, 15 May 2010, 9-12AM



James Roberts, a native of Leesburg, member of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, and 2008 recipient of a Loudoun History Award, 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.

## THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY CLASSES 2010

Maximizing your Time at Thomas Balch Library:  
An Introduction to the Library, Its Resources, and Research Techniques

A series of classes offered throughout the year will introduce novice and experienced researchers to the intricacies of resources at Thomas Balch Library. Classes will include a tour of the facility, subject-specific training by experienced staff, handouts, and an opportunity to ask questions. These classes, held the first Thursday of each month, will be limited in size, registration is required, and classes will be repeated periodically.

### Introduction to On-Line Genealogical Resources at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 4 February 2010, 10-12AM

In this session, Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, will provide a general overview of on-line resources available at Thomas Balch Library to conduct genealogical research. Particular attention will be paid to subscription databases such as *AncestryLibrary* and *Footnote* and non-subscription databases such as The Library of Congress: *Chronicling America* (newspapers.)

### Information Seeking Strategies

Thursday, 4 March 2010, 10-12AM

In this session, under the direction of Beth Schuster, Library Reference Specialist, participants will learn techniques for developing and implementing effective search techniques. While the techniques discussed are applicable in a wide variety of environments, specific attention will be paid to Thomas Balch Library's subscription databases, including *America: History and Life* and *Access Newspaper Archive*.

### Researching Court Records

Thursday, 1 April 2010, 10-12AM

In this session, Jeanette Irby, Town Attorney, Town of Leesburg, will discuss using 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, previously employed by Fauquier County, 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 a member. She holds a BS from Central Michigan University and a JD from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI.

### Manuscript and Archives Research at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 6 May 2010, 10-12AM

Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, will introduce users to manuscript and archives holdings at Thomas Balch Library. The kinds of materials available, how they may be accessed, and their use in historical and genealogical research will be discussed.

### Using Visual Collections at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 3 June 2010, 10-12AM

Beth Schuster, Library Reference Specialist, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library. Types of images available and how they may be accessed will be discussed.

### Traditional Genealogical Resources at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 5 August 2010, 10-12AM

Mary Fishback, Library Assistant, will introduce participants to basic genealogical research utilizing materials in the collections of Thomas Balch Library and how to organize their research.

### Introduction to Digital Resources at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 7 October 2010, 10-12AM

### Loudoun County Historic Building Files, Assessment and Parcel Database

Thursday, 4 November 2010, 10-12AM

### Leesburg's Historic District Files and Sanborn Maps

Thursday, 2 December 2010, 10-12AM

## THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY EXHIBITS 2010

### Margaret Mercer Room

January	Picturing the Past Through Postcards - Thomas Balch Library
February	Tribute to James Jett: Olympic Gold Medalist - Black History Committee
March	Mt Zion Church (Aldie) History - Chester Ramey/Harriet Condon
April	Civil War Artifacts - UDC/SCV
May	History of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. - Friends of TBL
June	Women in Loudoun County's History - Thomas Balch Library
July-August	Civil War Relics - John Creamer
September	George C. Marshall - Dodona Manor
October	American Archives Month - Thomas Balch Library
November	Loudoun History Awards - Thomas Balch Library
December	Loudoun Arts Council

### Lower Level Meeting Room

January-March	Susan Potter - Virginia's Flora and Landscapes
April-June	Jim Hannah - Historic Selma Mansion
July-September	Gary Mester - Virginia Flowers in Bloom
October-December	Fran Poston - Morven Park: A unique look at the Old Mansion

## OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

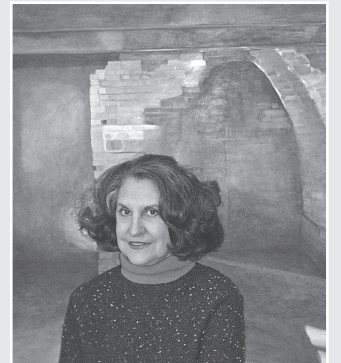
**Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission** sponsors the annual Loudoun History Awards and an award for excellence in historical research at the annual Loudoun County Public School Social Science Fair. It meets at the Library the second Wednesday of each month at 7PM. The public is always welcome.

**Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**, a 501c3 organized to provide support for Thomas Balch Library, meets at the Library every other month. The public is always welcome. For more information call 703/737-2166 or visit [www.balchfriends.org](http://www.balchfriends.org). The 2010 annual meeting will be held at 2PM, Sunday, 24 January (snow date Sunday, 7 February) at Thomas Balch Library; guest speaker, David Y. Boyce, Executive Director, Oatlands Plantation.

**Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**, meets at the Library the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7PM. The public is always welcome. For information visit: [www.balchfriends.org](http://www.balchfriends.org).

### Art in the Afternoon with Artist Sherry Sanabria during Black History Month

Sherry Sanabria, member of the Black History Committee, will present a slide show/talk on the series "Slave Quarters and other African American Sites" and discuss her approach to various themes: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2PM at Middleburg Library, 101 Reed Street, Middleburg, VA. For more information call 540/687-5730.



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