

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's (TBL) mission is to collect, preserve, make available for research, and promote the history of Loudoun County and Leesburg. I would like to share with you a few of our many activities since my last letter.

As a way of addressing pressing space constraints, alternate methods of expanding our research collection have been undertaken. Descriptive information on these digital resources is on our website as well as through a rack card, available on request. Two recent additions to our digital offerings, parts of Gale Cengage Learning Corporation's *Archives Unbound* are: "*We Were Prepared for the Possibility of Death*" *Freedom Riders in the South, 1961* which contains documents from the FBI library – a fitting addition during this the 50th anniversary of the rides. *The Civil War in Words and Deeds* contains regimental histories, personal narratives, and other sources of significant historical value from the period 1860 to 1865.

This spring, in cooperation with George Mason University (GMU), we hosted a research orientation class. Wendi Manuel Scott, Chair of the African American Studies Program at GMU, selected TBL as one of several research repositories as an appropriate resource for students in the senior historical research class.

TBL has been an active participant in the Virginia Forum. The 2011 Forum, "Different Virginias" was held at Washington and Lee University and The Virginia Military Institute. Papers were presented by James H. Hershman, Jr., on the faculty at Georgetown and vice-chair of the TBL Advisory Commission and Matthew Exline, a former intern. Francis R. Fera, chair of the TBL Advisory Commission, and James P. Roberts, a TBL Advisory commissioner, both attended. This event is an outstanding venue for outreach.

In April TBL was invited to participate in the Seventh Annual Genealogy Fair, National Archives, Washington, DC. Mary Fishback and I represented the Library; James Roberts represented the TBL Advisory Commission; Mary Randolph represented the Black History Committee, and Ron Rust and Robert Patton represented the Friends. This, too, is an outstanding outreach opportunity for the Library, and we are pleased to have been invited to participate.

At Loudoun County Public Schools' 15th annual Social Science Fair in June, the TBL Advisory Commission selected Olivia Corso, a rising sophomore at Tuscarora High School, as recipient of the Commission's award for excellence in local history research. Corso's project, "Who Did the Battle of Ball's Bluff Affect, and How Did it Change the Lives of the Men Involved?" focuses on the leadership qualities of leaders on both sides of the conflict, illustrating the impact the battle had on these gentlemen. In addition to the \$100 award prize, Corso will be invited to the Loudoun History Awards in November, where she will have an opportunity to present her research.

TBL has and will continue to participate in programs related to the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. In April TBL was the site for Loudoun

County's Sesquicentennial sponsorship of the Civil War 150 Legacy Project – a program of the Virginia Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia (LVA). Loudoun County residents were invited to bring in their Civil War documents, photographs, etc. for scanning by a team from LVA. In May the Loudoun Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee sponsored a program in the Court House about John Janney. The guest speaker was Anne Rubin and TBL exhibited materials from our collections. In June TBL exhibited Civil War related materials as part of the dedication of a new Civil War Trails sign at Leesburg's Glenfiddich House.

In May TBL was the recipient of Loudoun Preservation Society's (LPS) first Katherine "Kitty" Boyd Grant. We are honored to have been so selected. The grant (\$5,000), awarded to process and digitize WAGE Radio tapes and memorabilia in our collection, enables us to start phase one of the project. Phase one will cost \$12,000 with full funding achieved by blending the LPS grant with funds from the Loudoun Laurels (INOVA) oral history grant and assistance from Friends of TBL.

After a visit in April by Errol S. Somay, Director, Virginia Newspaper Project, National Digital Newspaper Program at LVA and Kelley Ewing, also of LVA, to review our Loudoun County newspaper holdings, TBL was invited to participate in the program. A number of our titles have been selected for microfilming.

Over the last several years our internship program has blossomed. During 2011 interns have come from several universities. Sarah Wycoff, James Madison University, interned this spring and processed nine manuscript collections. Moises Yanez, William and Mary, started his internship here the end of May, and is processing collections. Charlotte Blacklock, Patrick Henry, who interned this summer, processed 12 manuscript collections. Jaclyn Peterson, UNC Chapel Hill (SILS), is interning with us while looking for employment. She is involved in a broad array of projects from inventorying rare books to developing exhibits.

The success of TBL is attributable in part to the broad based support it receives from the community - from researchers and those who attend programs, exhibits, and events, to volunteers. A wide cross section of individuals both from within Leesburg and from across Loudoun County contribute their time, skills, and knowledge to further the goals of the library. TBL recognizes with appreciation the generosity of these outstanding citizens.

Due to straightened economic times TBL, as with other departments within the Town of Leesburg, has experienced staffing reductions. In the FY2012 Budget one position was eliminated and one left unfunded. While there have been no reductions in programs, the library will now be closed for entire holiday weekends rather than just the holiday. These closures, posted on our website, are spread throughout the year, enabling the library to continue providing patron access seven days a week and two evenings.

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

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director





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 or follow us on Facebook.

VIRGINIA SILVERSMITHS, CLOCK AND WATCHMAKERS

Catherine B. Hollan

Sunday, 18 September 2011, 2PM

Virginia Silversmiths, Clock and Watchmakers, 1607-1860, Their Lives and Marks is a detailed and welcome addition to the literature on Virginia silversmiths and their trade. Since many Virginia artisans found their way to Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and elsewhere, its value extends beyond Virginia's borders. The author provides hundreds of individual biographies, offers critical information about maker's marks and for many of which there are photographs, and provides information on silversmiths' business habits during diverse economic conditions.

Hollan has been researching, writing, and lecturing on American silver for thirty years. Since the late 1980s she has been working with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Old Salem, North Carolina on an illustrated book on Virginia silversmiths. In 1994 she wrote the catalog and curated the exhibition *In the Neatest Most Fashionable Manner: Three Centuries of Alexandria Silver* at The Lyceum in Alexandria, Virginia.

Catherine Buttery Hollan graduated from Goucher College with a BA in English and math minor, and from Georgetown University with an MS in computational linguistics. She developed computerized search tools at the US Patent and Trademark Office and retired as the manager of its Public Search Rooms in 2003. Since then she has enjoyed more time to research southern silversmiths. Hollan has curated or consulted on silver and exhibitions at The Lyceum, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, and the Arlington Historical Society. Among her published works are: *In the Neatest Most Fashionable Manner, Three Centuries of Alexandria Silver*; "Baltimore Apprenticeships in Silversmithing," *Silver in Maryland*; "Of the Latest Style, Silver at MESDA," *Magazine Antiques*; and "Skippets, Diplomatic Silver Boxes," *48th Washington Antique Show Catalog*. Hollan is president of the American Silver Guild, a special interest group of collectors and curators based in the Washington, DC area. Books will be available for purchase.



THE SPECTRAL TIDE: GHOST STORIES OF THE US NAVY

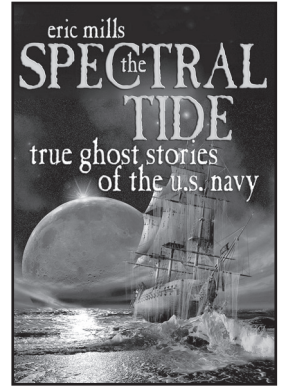
Eric Mills

Sunday, 2 October 2011, 2PM

Now, for the first time, comes a long-overdue book that presents all of the Navy's rich cargo of paranormal phenomena in one chilling volume. The list is long; a litany of ghostly occurrences down through the ages, and *The Spectral Tide: Ghost Stories of the US Navy* chronicles them all. There is the great Stephen Decatur, whose mournful apparition still stalks the halls of his famous home – said to be one of the most haunted spots in Washington, DC. Or consider the case of the *USS The Sullivans*, now a floating museum and the source of much disturbing spectral activity—poltergeists opening locks, hurling objects, and turning radar antennas that are no longer under electrical power. These ghostly apparitions prompted one employee to quit the museum, on the threshold of madness, after bearing witness to the sudden appearance of a bloody, ectoplasmic face. Then there are the repeated sightings of the handsome *USS Lexington* ghost, "polite...kind...smartly dressed in a summer white Navy uniform," described by witnesses as having memorable piercing blue eyes.

From translucent sails to phantom crews, from the flaming ghost-ship to the infamous psychic anomaly at the Naval Academy, from spirit-infested aircraft carriers to battleships where the dead still linger, *The Spectral Tide* offers a haunted history of the U.S. Navy.

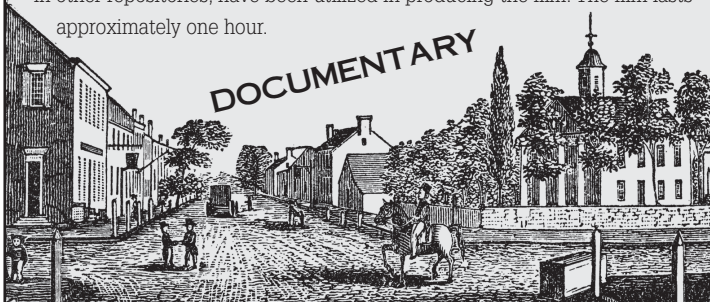
Eric Mills is the author of *Chesapeake Bay in the Civil War and Chesapeake Rumrunners of the Roaring Twenties*. His articles have appeared in *Naval History, Proceedings, Chesapeake Bay Magazine*, and other publications. A longtime devotee of both sea history and ghostly phenomena, he lives near Easton, MD. Books will be available for purchase.



LEESBURG: AN EXPLORATION THROUGH TIME

Saturday, 24 September 2011, 2PM

Thomas Balch Library presents *Leesburg: An Exploration Through Time*, a documentary about the town's 250 year history. Directed by Matthew Exline of Living Stones Productions, a recent graduate of Patrick Henry College, with production assistance from former library staff members Stephanie Adams Hunter and Beth Schuster, the film highlights both the community of Leesburg residents as well as the town infrastructure. A variety of materials from Thomas Balch Library's archival holdings and newly recorded oral history interviews, as well as materials from collections in other repositories, have been utilized in producing the film. The film lasts approximately one hour.

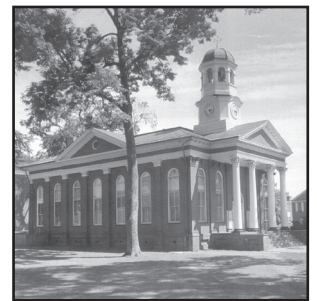


CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, 3 October, 2011, 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. No one is permitted to enter restricted areas of the Clerk's Office after 7:00PM, so the group will leave the library promptly at 6:45PM.



WALKING TOUR OF LEESBURG

James P. Roberts

Saturday, 15 October 2011, 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.



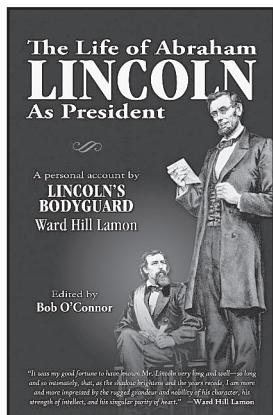
AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE CIVIL WAR: MEN, SOLDIERS, CITIZENS

Hannah N. Geffert

Sunday, 16 October 2011, 2PM

Since the first Africans arrived in Colonial America until the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution, their legal status was less than that of a citizen. Whether free or slave, Africans in America recognized that if they were to be free, it would require their assertive action. Some were convinced this could be accomplished through petitions, legal cases, convincing white America that slavery was an evil the country could not continue. Others believed it would require the shedding of blood to gain freedom and that it was necessary for Africans to take up arms if they were ever going to gain citizenship. In her presentation, Geffert will propose that there is a direct line among the willingness of Africans in America to use violence, service in the military, and the achievement of liberty and citizens rights for African-Americans.

Hannah N. Geffert received her BA in History and her MA in American History from Temple University in Philadelphia. She worked for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and for Antioch Law School in Washington, DC. Her specialization in civil rights took her to Florida where she worked on civil litigation in support of minorities, and assisted migrant farm workers, writing *Voices From the Fields* to document their stories. She moved to West Virginia in 1980 where she has been on the faculty at Shepherd University in the Political Science Department for over 23 years. Geffert is the author of numerous articles on John Brown, the African-American community in West Virginia, and women and the military pension system. She is also a radio talk show host on WRNR 740AM.



LINCOLN'S BODYGUARD WARD HILL LAMON

Robert O'Connor

Sunday, 23 October 2011, 2PM

Imagine yourself in the early 21st century finding an unpublished book written by a friend of Abraham Lincoln. That is exactly what happened to nationally recognized author, Robert O'Connor, a member of the Berkeley County Historical Society. O'Connor, who lives in Charles Town, WV, came upon this book in the *Ward H. Lamon Papers, 1848-1894*, at The Huntington Library in

California in 2008. O'Connor transcribed the document and appended footnotes to identify characters and define 19th century legal terms used by Lamon, an attorney. Ward Hill Lamon was born in Summit Point, VA (today WV) and grew up in Mill Creek, VA (now Bunker Hill, WV). He moved to Illinois in 1846 and became an attorney on the 8th Judicial Circuit of Illinois. No one had as much access to Abraham Lincoln during his presidency than Lamon. He spent many a night sleeping on the floor outside the Lincoln bedroom to protect his friend from harm. But when the war ended, Abraham Lincoln sent Lamon on assignment and went to Ford's Theater against his bodyguard's advice. The rest is history.

Following Lincoln's death, two books were published listing Lamon as author. The first, published in 1872, was called *The Life of Abraham Lincoln: From his birth to his Inauguration as President*. An original copy of that book resides in the collection of the Berkeley County Historical Society. The second, originally published in 1895, was called *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln*. Neither of those publications was actually written by Lamon. The first book was written by a ghost writer, Chauncey Black, who was paid by Lamon to write a book based on Lamon's papers and papers Lamon purchased from William Herndon, another of Lincoln's law partners. The second book was put together after Lamon's death by his daughter, Dollie, from her father's papers. Lamon, who died in 1893, is buried near where he grew up in the Gerrardstown (WV) Presbyterian Church cemetery. *Lincoln's Bodyguard Ward Hill Lamon*, in fact, is the only book ever written by Lincoln's bodyguard.

O'Connor has also written a historical fiction account of the life of Lamon, the only account ever written. It is called *The Virginian Who Might Have Saved Lincoln* and was published in 2007 by Infinity Publishing. 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 by this author will be available for purchase.

NICHOLS: THE LAST HARDWARE STORE

A Documentary Film by the Lincoln Studios, Purcellville, VA

Sunday, 30 October 2011, 2PM

The Last Hardware Store, three years in the making, is a cinematic valentine to a retail establishment in Purcellville, Virginia, an hour west of Washington, DC. Not all that much has changed at Nichols Hardware since it opened in December of 1914, and this film opens a lens of this time warp of a place, with its hundreds of oak drawers chockablock with everything, its sliding ladders, its creaky floors and tin ceiling, and its hundreds of loyal, loving customers who wouldn't be caught dead in a big box store. Included in that following are such Nichols regulars as Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State; Colonel Oliver North; and Chris Cooley of the Washington Redskins. The list of what the film does not show includes computers, scanners, automated inventory and angry, disgruntled customers! To be sure, this film celebrates the uniqueness of Nichols, but more poignantly, pays tribute to its almost 100 years of survival in the same family despite severe fires, tragic deaths, and an almost total modernization of the retail industry: a modernization at which Nichols proudly and stubbornly disregards.

The Lincoln Studios production company is comprised of a trio of filmmakers: Peter Buck, who directed *Nichols: The Last Hardware Store* and is a videographer; Sarah Huntington who produced the film and is an award-winning portrait photographer; and Drew Babb, writer, who has an advertising creative boutique. All are from the Purcellville area. The documentary will be available for purchase.



LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 13 November 2011, 2PM

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the nineteenth annual Loudoun History Awards. 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.



SAVE THE DATE

Documentary, Sunday, 26 February 2012, 2PM: "300 Miles to Freedom" co-produced by Richard Bryer, a Syracuse University Professor and Anand Kamalaker, a Brooklyn based film director, producer, and editor, traces the story of John W. Jones, who escaped bondage in Leesburg, VA in 1844 and traveled the Underground Railroad to Elmira, NY.

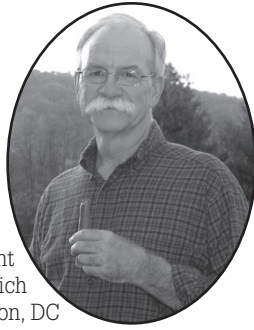
Walking Tour, Saturday, 28 April 2012, 9-12: Annie McDonald, Preservation Planner for the Town of Leesburg and author of *Leesburg Then & Now*, will lead a walking tour of downtown Leesburg based on information presented in the book.



BALL'S BLUFF WALKING TOUR***

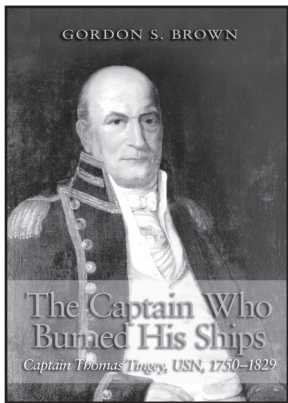
James A. Morgan, III

Saturday, 5 November 2011, 9-1PM



In the grand scheme of Civil War studies, Ball's Bluff plays a very small role. It was a small skirmish involving only some 3400 men. It took place only six months into the war. It was soon overshadowed by larger, bloodier, more significant battles. But, in the fall of 1861, this little fight which took place some 35 miles northwest of Washington, DC captured the imagination of the northern and southern public and had political consequences far greater than anyone would have imagined. Despite the long-held and often-repeated belief that the battle resulted from a deliberate and pre-planned Union attempt to take Leesburg, it was, in fact, an accident. A small Union raiding party on a very limited mission encountered and engaged a few Confederate pickets. From this unintended skirmish, a battle evolved. It had nothing whatsoever to do with an attempt on Leesburg, though expectations and appearances contributed to that mistaken historical impression. The speaker will review the traditional story, and the evidence against it, as well as outlining the battle itself and its outcome.

James A. Morgan, III is a past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable, a member of the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, a member of the advisory board of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and a volunteer guide at Ball's Bluff for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Among his publications are an artillery unit history *Always Ready, Always Willing: A History of Battery M, Second United States Artillery, From Its Organization Through the Civil War* and a tactical study of Ball's Bluff, *A Little Short of Boats: the Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861*, first published in 2004; revised and reissued in 2011 and considered "the definitive account of Ball's Bluff." Morgan holds an MA in Political Science from the University of West Florida and a Master's in Library Science from Florida State University. He is the Acquisitions Librarian for the State Department's Office of International Information Programs in Washington, DC. Please register at 703-737-7195. Copies of the author's book on Ball's Bluff are available for purchase at Thomas Balch Library.



THE CAPTAIN WHO BURNED HIS SHIPS: CAPTAIN THOMAS TINGEY, USN, 1750-1829

Gordon S. Brown

Sunday, 4 December 2011, 2PM

The Captain Who Burned His Ships is the first biography of Captain Thomas Tingey, who was an important figure in the early development of the US Navy. It is also a history of the first quarter century of the Washington Navy Yard and the story

of the transition of the navy from an object of partisan discord to a vital defender of a growing and increasingly self-confident nation.

Tingey, born in England in 1750, the son of a clergyman of the Church of England, who made significant contributions to the success of the American navy in the War of 1812, came to the New World after a short

service in the Royal Navy. Upon arriving in Washington in 1800, one of his early tasks in the young federal city was to build a shipyard from scratch. The Washington Navy Yard was the result of his hard labor and organization, and it became the principal facility of the nation's navy; in it, the ships that would soon earn sterling reputations were prepared and supplied for war. Brown looks at the development of the navy through its construction and logistical components, in which the Washington yard and Tingey played a vital role. He also examines Tingey's contributions to the development of yard procedures and practices, his civic role in the budding city of Washington, and the tragic events of 1814 when he was forced to burn his own creation to save it from falling into British hands.

By recounting the role of Tingey in the development of the nineteenth-century American navy, *The Captain Who Burned His Ships* provides a more complete portrait of those times than the biographies that have more narrowly focused on the exploits of the heroes of the Barbary Campaigns and the War of 1812.

Gordon S. Brown is an author and retired diplomat whose books include *Incidental Architect: William Thornton and the Cultural Life of Early Washington, D.C., 1794-1828*, *Toussaint's Clause: The Founding Fathers and the Haitian Revolution*, and *The Norman Conquest of Southern Italy and Sicily*. During a 35-year career in the US Foreign Service he was ambassador to Mauritania 1991-94, political adviser to General Norman Schwarzkopf during the first Gulf War, and director of Arab Gulf affairs in the State Department. He lives in Washington, DC. Books will be available for purchase.

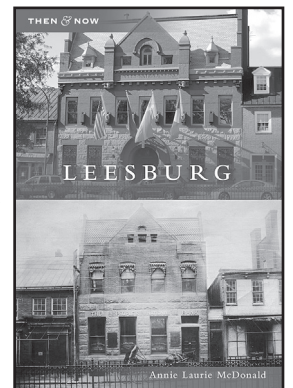
LEESBURG THEN AND NOW: AUTHOR TALK AND SIGNING

Annie McDonald

Sunday, 11 December 2011, 2PM

Since 2005, Annie McDonald has served as Preservation Planner and liaison to the Board of Architectural Review for the Town of Leesburg. Her experience in this capacity provided valuable insight into the historical development and evolution of the community. Her interest in architectural history is further enhanced by her enthusiasm as a collector of early- to mid-nineteenth-century American country furniture and decorative arts.

McDonald holds a BA in Art History from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and an MA in History with a Certificate in Historic Preservation from Youngstown State University. She previously worked for the Southeast Tennessee Development District, where she provided technical assistance in historic preservation in a 13-county region and served on the boards of the local and statewide preservation non-profit organizations, and for the Washington DC-based consulting firm E.H.T. Traceries, where she had her first introduction to Leesburg while working on the Phase III historic architectural survey for the town. In her presentation McDonald will cover highlights from her publication *Leesburg Then & Now*. The book, a photographic essay comparing historic views of the town from Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg Planning Department, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, and Loudoun Museum with current images of the town, documents changes to Leesburg's built environment over the past 100 years. Her presentation will expand on information covered in the book and will focus on the impact of socioeconomic trends on Leesburg's development over the past seventy years. Books will be available for purchase.



*****NOTE:** Ball's Bluff tour will require the use of a car and good walking shoes. It will cover the battlefield of Ball's Bluff as well as the morning skirmish site around the Jackson house, and nearby Fort Evans. REHAU North America, owner of the Ft. Evans property, has graciously given permission for this tour group to visit the site. Please meet at the REHAU entrance, 1501 Edwards Ferry Road, NE at 9:00AM. A representative of REHAU will be there to open the gate and collect a release form which each person must sign before going in. Once the releases are signed, the group will drive to the visitors' parking lot and walk to the fort. This portion of the tour will take approximately 30 minutes. From Fort Evans the group will caravan to the cul-de-sac at the entrance to Ball's Bluff, parking the cars and then walking to the area of the Jackson house. This portion of the tour should also take approximately 30 minutes. From here the group will drive the short distance to the main Ball's Bluff parking lot for the tour of the battlefield. This will include going down to the river, hiking the length of the floodplain, back up the bluff, and then along the top roughly to where the tour started. This portion of the tour will take approximately two hours.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

CLASSES

MAXIMIZING ONE'S TIME AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

An Introduction to the Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques

A series of classes offered introducing researchers to 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 will be required, and will repeat periodically.

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

Thursday, 6 October 2011, 10-12AM

Participants in the session will learn about digital resources available at Thomas Balch Library. Bryan D. Fisher, Library Research Associate, will demonstrate databases and other online tools available for researchers, showing types of information to be found and suggesting research strategies. Resources to be demonstrated include *JSTOR*, *America's GenealogyBank*, and *America's Newspapers*.

USING VISUAL COLLECTIONS

Thursday, 3 November 2011, 10-12AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Reference Associate, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library. Types of images available and how they may be accessed will be discussed.

DEED RESEARCH

Thursday, 1 December 2011, 10-12AM

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.

INTRODUCTION TO ON-LINE GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

Thursday, 2 February 2012, 10-12AM

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*, *HeritageQuest*, *GenealogyBank* and non-subscription databases such as *Quaker Meetings*.

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 1 March 2012, 10-12AM

Under the direction of Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Reference Associate, 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*, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, and *Footnote*.

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Thursday, 5 April 2012, 10-12AM

Jeanette Irby, 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, 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 First Vice Regent. She holds a BS from Central Michigan University and a JD from Thomas Cooley Law School.

MANUSCRIPT AND ARCHIVES RESEARCH

Thursday, 3 May 2012, 10-12AM

A Library staff member 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.

RESEARCHING WITH ON-LINE NEWSPAPERS

Thursday, 7 June 2012, 10-12AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Reference Associate and Robert Goldberg, Library Reference Associate will introduce participants to both free and Thomas Balch Library subscription databases of online newspapers. Participants will explore the different methods of accessing information in these important historical resources.

EXHIBITS

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

2011

SEPTEMBER -

Records of the Land by Local Artists - Loudoun Academy of Arts

OCTOBER -

American Archives Month/New Collections - Thomas Balch Library

NOVEMBER -

Loudoun Preservation Society: Past, Present, and Future - Lori Kimball

DECEMBER -

Works by Contemporary Loudoun Potters - Loudoun Arts Council

2012

JANUARY -

Jenkins Collection of Arrow Heads & Artifacts - Loudoun Farm Museum

FEBRUARY -

Black History Month - I Have A Dream Committee

MARCH -

Loudoun County Cemeteries - Wynne Saffer

APRIL -

The Marshall's Remembered - Dodona Manor

MAY -

100th Jubilee of The Ladies Board and INOVA Loudoun Hospital - The Ladies Board

JUNE -

Charles Fenton Mercer and the Aldie Mill - Tracy Gillespie

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

2011

JULY - SEPTEMBER

Leesburg: Now and Then - K D Kidder and Neil Steinberg

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Butterflies, Dragon Flies, and Bugs - Gary Mester

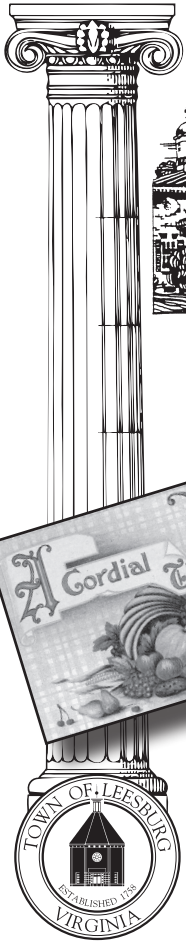
2012

JANUARY - MARCH

Sustaining Rural Culture Loudoun Wines and Vines - Jim Hanna

APRIL - JUNE

Local Civil War Battlefields - Gary Mester



THE BALCH COLUMN

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FALL 2011 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

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, visit www.balchfriends.org or call 703/737-2166.

"A Late Afternoon at the River"
at Riverside on the Potomac (circa 1750)
Sunday, 25 September 2011, 4-7PM

Dennis E. Frye, Chief Historian, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will be speaking on The Potomac: International Border Between North and South.

Riverside on the Potomac, also referred to as Clapham's Ferry, has been the site of a Potomac River crossing since 1757 when the General Assembly granted Josias Clapham permission to operate a ferry to join Virginia to Maryland. The owners, Travis and Suzanne Worsham, invite you to step back in time to enjoy their part of The Lost Corner area of Loudoun County for the benefit of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. The event will feature a presentation on "The Potomac: International Border Between North and South" by Dennis E. Frye, Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. All proceeds from these events go to the Friends' endowment fund to support Thomas Balch Library.

Exhibits of Note

Sherry Sanabria will exhibit paintings at Middleburg Library, 101 Reed Street, Middleburg, VA, November 1 - December 31, 2011. A native of Washington, DC, Sanabria's work has been exhibited at

public and private spaces across the United States and internationally. Her art has been featured in many publications, including *American Artist* and *The Washington Post* and featured in the books, *Fixing the Worlds* and the *Ashen Rainbow* by Ori Soltes. Sanabria is an active member of the Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

Loudoun County Civil War Round Table

This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM except January and February. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Loudoun County's history during the American Civil War. Meetings are held at Thomas Balch Library unless otherwise noted.

Sept. 13, Ed Bearss – Wilson's Creek-meeting at the Old Court House, 18 Market Street, Leesburg, VA

Oct. 11, Jim Anderson – Intel Operations in the Civil War

Nov. 8, Jim Morgan – Fort Pickens and the Battle of Santa Rosa Island

Dec. 13, Christmas dinner/members - meeting at the Presbyterian Church, 207 W Market Street, Leesburg, VA

Virginia Forum

Seventh Annual Virginia Forum, "Greater Virginias" will be held at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, March 29-31, 2012. The Virginia Forum is interdisciplinary and welcomes proposals from scholars, teachers, and professionals in all fields. The theme, "Greater Virginias," emphasizes Virginia's relationship across political and geographical boundaries to broader ideas, patterns, and adjoining regions. The theme is comparative and invites scholars to submit papers about all aspects of Virginia life, geography, environment, history, and culture.

Additional information on sessions, workshops and proposals is available online at www.virginiaforum.org or for further information direct inquiries to: vaforum@jmu.edu.

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 more information, visit www.balchfriends.org or call 703/737-2166.

Frederick Douglass Elementary School Roundtable and Reflection Day
Saturday, October 22, 2011, 1-3PM
Main Lobby of Douglas High School 407 East Market Street, Leesburg, VA

This event is sponsored by the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. and Loudoun County Public Schools. Come participate in the roundtable discussion on Frederick Douglass Elementary School, constructed in 1958 as a segregated school for African Americans. Whether you are interested in history, attended this school or know someone who did, it promises to be an afternoon of reflection as well as an opportunity to share perspectives and memories. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP is requested by Friday, October 14, 2011 so that we may prepare accordingly. For more information contact us at Sara.HowardOBrien@lcpss.org or 571/252-1156.

