

# 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



Throughout the year Thomas Balch Library hosts many events. To share all of them would be wonderful, but space permits highlighting only a few of our activities.

For those who conduct research at Thomas Balch Library, *Footnote*, a digital research product, has changed its name to *Fold 3*. We have added two new collections to our digital holdings. *Proquest Obituaries* is a resource for genealogical and historical research that enables one to search obituaries and death notices from prominent newspapers, such as *The New York Times* (dating back to 1851). The collection includes both famous and lesser-known individuals and may be searched by name or by keywords appearing in the body of the article. *Proquest African American Heritage*, a comprehensive resource for African American history, includes search options for census, military records, slave and free black registers, and Freedmen's Bank records. It provides access to the AfriGeneas social networking site and the Black Genesis resource guide, as well as a how-to guide for use of African-American reference and general research materials.

A link has been placed at the base of the left hand column on TBL's website to encourage people to find our Facebook page. Staff continues conduct research for items which are posted weekly to Facebook. If you have not yet viewed our Facebook site, please take time to do so at Facebook: Thomas Balch Library. TBL events are featured on both the wall and calendar.

In September, Thomas Balch Library announced the appointment of Elizabeth E. Preston to the position of Library Archives Specialist. Elizabeth has been working at Thomas Balch Library for one year, serving as acting head of reference. Prior to that, she was an archivist at the North Carolina State Archives with the Local Records Unit where she arranged and described county records. Elizabeth has an MA in Public History from North Carolina State University and an MSLS and a BA (History) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In November the library announced the appointment of two part time Library Reference Associates. Laura Christiansen who received a BA in History and a BA in Art History from Berry College, and an MA in Public History and an MLIS from the University of South Carolina will be assisting with reference work and managing Visual Collections. Laura has also completed a painting restoration program at the Scuola Lorenzo D'Medici, Florence, Italy. She comes to TBL from the Jean Outland Chrysler Library, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA. Shannon Fuller who holds a BA in Japanese Studies from Salem International University and an MA in History from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, will receive his MLS from SUNYU at Buffalo, August 2012. Shannon will be managing reference services and assisting with archival projects.



On November 13, Thomas Balch Library and the TBL Advisory Commission honored four individuals at the nineteenth annual Loudoun History awards ceremony. The honorees are Childs F. Burden, Taylor M. Chamberlin, Paul McCray, and John M. Souders. These individuals 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. In addition, Olivia Joy Corso, who received the 2011 TBL Advisory Commission's award for excellence in local history research in June, was recognized and presented with an autographed copy of James A. Morgan's *A Little Short of Boats*.

The library is proud to share with you recent community recognition of members of the TBL Advisory Commission, Friends of the TBL, and Black History Committee. In September, Lou Etta Watkins and Elaine Thompson, long-standing members of the Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., received Outstanding Citizenship awards at the Emancipation Day Celebrations at Carver Center. Commissioner James Roberts was one of two Loudoun residents recognized by Loudoun Laurels at a ceremony in October at Morven Park.

There are numerous American Civil War sesquicentennial activities taking place across the state. During October, there was a re-enactment of the Battle of Ball's Bluff. A memorial service for Colonel/Senator Edward Baker was held at Ball's Bluff the weekend of the reenactment. Randy Fletcher, representing the State of Oregon, presented an engrossed copy of the legislative bill by which Oregon officially declares February 24 (Baker's birthday) as Edward Baker Day to George Tabb, of NVRPA/Ball's Bluff, and Bill Wilkin, of the Loudoun County Civil War Round Table. Until such time as Ball's Bluff builds a visitor center, the library will house and display the presentation copy of the bill. It is currently on display in the Howard Clark Room of the library. During October, the Library loaned a copy of Elijah White's book on Ball's Bluff (1st edition) for a Civil War display at Morven Park.

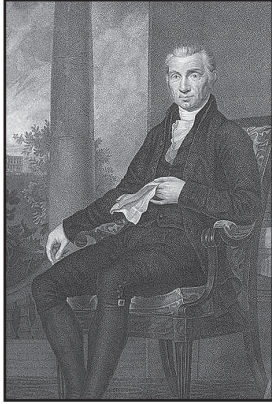
In October, Town Council issued two library related proclamations: one for American Archives Month and one for Friends of Libraries week. In November, TBL hosted a Holdings Protection & Risk Assessment Training by NARA for members of the Heritage Consortium, staff, TBL Advisory Commission and Friends of TBL leadership, and through the Library of Virginia, NOVA region county clerks.

As always it will be my pleasure to welcome you.  
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 Find Us On Facebook.

## THE ENSLAVED COMMUNITY OF PRESIDENT JAMES MONROE WITH A FOCUS ON LOUDOUN COUNTY



**Lori Kimball and Wynne Saffer**  
**Sunday, 12 February 2012, 2PM**

Research into Thomas Jefferson's and James Madison's slave ownership has been conducted for years but little has been publicized about James Monroe's. He owned both land and slaves in several Virginia locales, including Loudoun County. In 1830 he was the owner of 1,828 acres in Loudoun and 66 slaves, making him the largest slave owner in the county. Lori Hinterleiter Kimball and Wynne Saffer have spent several years locating and analyzing documents related to Monroe's slaves,

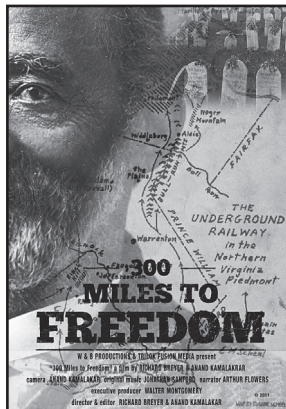
primarily the enslaved community in Loudoun County. Their work has resulted in a database of references, now available online to researchers and genealogists. Kimball has lived in Northern Virginia for 25 years and has done research on various local topics, including the Paxton family of Carlheim/Paxton in Leesburg; the historic Selma mansion and property; and freedom seekers Peyton Lucas and Frank Wanzer. She is president of the Loudoun Preservation Society; a member of the Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library; and a member of the County's Heritage Commission. Wynne Saffer is a life-long Loudoun resident. He has completed numerous research projects, mapped the county by land ownership in 1860; and written several books about Loudoun's history, including *Loudoun Votes 1867-1966*, *A Civil War Legacy* and *Mount Zion Cemetery, Aldie, Virginia*. He is a former member of the Black History Committee and a founding member of the Friends of the Arcola Slave Quarters. Wynne currently serves on the Boards of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library; the Loudoun Historical Society; the Patriot Project; and the Sesquicentennial Committee of the American Civil War. Both Kimball and Saffer are recipients of Thomas Balch Library's Loudoun History Award.

## 300 MILES TO FREEDOM

**A Documentary by Richard L. Breyer and Anand Kamalaker**

**Sunday, 26 February 2012, 2PM**

On June 4, 1844, John W. Jones and four of his companions headed north. They were fugitive slaves who escaped bondage in Leesburg, Virginia. *300 Miles to Freedom* chronicles John W Jones' journey to freedom on the Underground Railroad and his remarkable life as a free man in Elmira, New York. When John arrived in Elmira, he was a twenty-seven-year-old illiterate with \$1.46 in his pocket. He died in 1900, a wealthy, literate, respected member of the community. The filmmakers traveled Jones' route to freedom, and tell his story through the voices they meet along the way — historians, ferryboat captains, ministers, farmers and gas station owners. *300 Miles to Freedom* celebrates the courage and tenacity of fugitive slaves like John W. Jones. The film also celebrates those who quietly stood up to injustice by helping slaves escape on the Underground Railroad and by fighting for their freedom through the Abolitionist Movement. Richard Breyer is an award winning filmmaker and twice a Fulbright scholar. He is Co-director of Syracuse University's Documentary Film and History Department and a



professor at the Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University. He has directed several documentaries on Civil Rights and India, and written essays and articles for NPR, *Hemisphere*, *Marsala*, *Alimentum*, and *Global Perspectives*. Breyer's recent production, *3-D Piano*, is an award winning educational series about the classical piano. His film *The Decision* is about responsible behavior in middle school. Anand Kamalaker is a Brooklyn based film director, producer and editor. He has worked as an editor for Primetime (ABC), Dateline (NBC) and 20/20 (ABC), and taught as an adjunct professor at Syracuse University, School of Visual Arts, and a guest faculty at the Tisch Film School, New York University and Parsons School of Design. Kamalaker edited the Emmy nominated ABC special on the Iraq war *Brothers in Arms* and was creative consultant on the Academy Award-winning documentary *Born Into Brothels*. Recently he edited *Heart of Stone*, about black educators and urban school renewal which has been screened at schools around the U.S. Copies of the documentary will be available for purchase.

## BURNING OF WASHINGTON: THE BRITISH INVASION OF 1814

**Anthony S. Pitch**

**Sunday, 4 March 2012, 2PM**

With all the immediacy of an eyewitness account, Anthony S. Pitch tells the dramatic story of the British invasion of Washington in the summer of 1814, an episode many call a defining moment in the coming-of-age of the United States. The British torched the Capitol, the White House, and many other public buildings, setting off an inferno that illuminated the countryside for miles and sending President James Madison scurrying out of town while his wife Dolley rescued a life-sized portrait of George Washington from the flames. The author's gripping narrative—hailed by a White House curator, a Senate historian, and the chairman of the National Geographic Society, among others—is filled with vivid details of the attack. Not confining his story to Washington, Pitch also describes the brave, resourceful defense of nearby Fort McHenry and tells how Francis Scott Key, a British hostage on a ship near the Baltimore harbor during the fort's bombardment, wrote a poem that became the national anthem. Anthony S. Pitch is the author of a number of books ranging from biography to travel guides to anecdotes about Congress. A former journalist in England, Africa, and Israel, Pitch was also Associated Press broadcast editor for Pennsylvania and a senior writer in the books division of *U.S. News and World Report* in Washington, D.C. In addition to writing, he gives anecdotal history tours for, among others, the Smithsonian Institution Resident Associates, which sponsored a tour of his based upon the manuscript of *The Burning of Washington*. Books will be available for purchase.

## 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.

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
3/13	John Quarstein	ET: CSS Virginia vs. USS Monitor
4/10	Ed Bearss	WT: The Battle of Shiloh and Corinth
5/8	Jon Guttman	ET: The Battle of Drewry's Bluff - 1862
6/12	Greg Biggs	WT: The Twin Rivers Campaign

**NOTE:** ET = Eastern Theatre; WT = Western Theatre



## A WALKING TOUR: CIVIL WAR LEESBURG

Richard Treat Gillespie

Saturday, 10 March 2012, 10-12AM

With its key geographic location just two miles from the Potomac Frontier dividing the Confederate and United States, Leesburg was bound to see a good deal of the Civil War. *A Walking Tour of Civil*

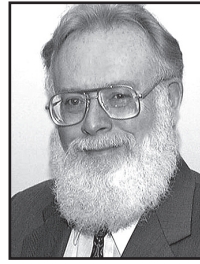
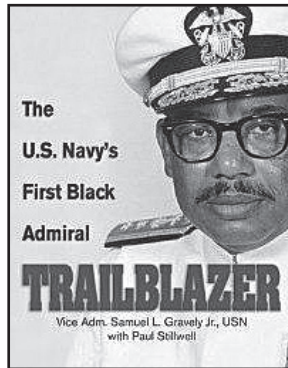
*War Leesburg* with Rich Gillespie will examine the surviving Civil War townscape and chronologically watch the War develop and engulf the county seat of Loudoun. In a circuit of the historic district, the emphasis will be on what the 1,500 residents of town would have seen at various places, and what they would have experienced during 1861-65. The two-hour chronological tour will provide ample spots to sit for the weary, but will picture paint some vibrant historic portraits to keep people enthralled. Included in the tour will be three skirmish sites, outside stops at two churches soldiers knew well, the courthouse lawn, "the best street in town," Harrison Hall where General Lee stayed, and the Episcopal cemetery. Richard Treat Gillespie is the Director of Education for Northern Virginia's Mosby Heritage Area. He is a founding member of Loudoun's Civil War Sesquicentennial Steering Committee. Before joining the Mosby Heritage Area Association in 2004, he taught U.S. History and Economics for 30 years at Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville, Virginia. A graduate of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, he is a strong believer in melding the classroom, the community, and historic sites through heritage education. This tour will leave from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 10AM.

## TRAILBLAZER: THE U.S. NAVY'S FIRST BLACK ADMIRAL

Paul Stillwell

Sunday, 18 March 2012, 2PM

A Navy pioneer, Vice Admiral. Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr., was the first African American to be commissioned a flag officer in the U.S. Navy, the first to command a Navy ship in the twentieth century, and the first to command a U.S. numbered fleet. In this memoir, co-authored by the noted naval historian Paul Stillwell, Gravelly describes his life from his boyhood in Richmond, Virginia, through his officer service on board a World War II submarine chaser, to later tours of duty at sea and ashore. Denied housing and even jailed for impersonating an officer, he recounts efforts to overcome both cultural and institutional obstacles posed by racism as he rose through the ranks. In 2009, the Navy named the guided missile destroyer *Gravelly* in his honor. Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravelly Jr., USN (Ret.), was commissioned as an ensign in 1944, served on board U.S. Navy combatant ships in three wars, and was promoted to rear admiral in 1971. He retired in 1980 and died in 2004. Paul Stillwell served on the staff of the U.S. Naval Institute from 1974 to 2004. At various times he was an editor with *Proceedings*, editor in chief of *The Naval Review*, first editor in chief of *Naval History*, and director of the organization's oral history program. He served in the Naval Reserve from 1962 until his retirement in 1992. Among his notable active-duty tours were the Tank Landing Ship LST1165 *Washoe County* during the Vietnam War, the battleship *New Jersey*, the Second Fleet staff, and as a historian in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq War. He is the author or editor of numerous books, including *Air Raid: Pearl Harbor!* (1981), *Battleship New Jersey: An Illustrated History* (1986), *Battleship Arizona: An Illustrated History* (1991), *Sharks of Steel* (1993), with Vice Admiral R.Y. Kaufman, *The Golden Thirteen: Recollections of the First Black Naval Officers* (1993), and *Submarine Stories: Recollections from the Diesel Boats* (2007). Books will be available for purchase.



## GENETIC GENEALOGY: FROM DNA BASICS TO USING DNA RESULTS IN YOUR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Robert Douglas McLaren

Sunday, 25 March 2012, 2PM

Robert McLaren will present the basics and terminology of DNA and discuss different types of DNA tests; some which are useful for genealogy and some to avoid. In addition he will demonstrate how DNA can show that certain people are related and conclude his presentation by showing case studies of how DNA results were used to answer genealogical questions and resolve genealogical brick walls.

McLaren is Clan Genealogist for Clan MacLaren Society (based in Scotland) as well as for Clan MacLaren Society of North America. He is Project Administrator for Clan MacLaren Surname DNA Project which he established in 2004. It is now one of the largest surname DNA projects in the world with about 600 participants. In addition he serves as Project Administrator for two smaller surname DNA projects (Lindo and Braham) plus Co-Administrator for the Silva Surname DNA Project. He has presented numerous talks on DNA and genealogy, including at four National Genealogical Society's Annual Conferences and an international conference on genetic genealogy. McLaren is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speakers Guild.

## HORRIBLE SHIPWRECK

Andrew C. A. Jampoler

Sunday, 15 April 2012, 2PM

On August 25, 1833, the British convict transport *Amphitrite*, filled with more than one hundred women prisoners and their children, together with a crew of sixteen, left London for the convict colony in New South Wales. Less than a week later, all but three died when a savage storm battered their ship to pieces on a French beach—in full sight of hundreds of horrified onlookers. Inexplicably, the captain, John Hunter, had refused offers of aid from the shore. Sensational news coverage of the calamity prompted an Admiralty investigation to find out who was responsible. The suspicion was that Hunter and the surgeon on board rejected assistance because they feared the women would escape custody. Some blamed the doctor's wife because she had refused to go ashore in the same boat with the convicts, so no boat was launched. Others accused the British consul ashore of criminal negligence on the night of the wreck. Colorfully set in the political and social context of early nineteenth-century Great Britain, this account of the shipwreck is peopled with a fascinating cast of characters that includes John Wilks, the Paris correspondent of a London newspaper whose reporting inflamed public emotions; Lord Palmerston, the British foreign secretary; Captain Henry Chads, RN, the Admiralty's investigator; Consul William Hamilton, who was the chief subject of the investigation; Sarah Austin, a British expatriate whose extraordinary heroism the night of the wreck merited an award; and her secret love, a fortune-hunting Prussian prince. Drawing from government records in England, Scotland, and France, and from contemporary newspaper reporting, Andrew Jampoler spins an authentic sea story that rivals the best fiction and cements his reputation as a master storyteller. Andrew C. A. Jampoler is the award-winning author of *The Last Lincoln Conspirator: John Surratt's Flight from the Gallows*; *Adak: The Rescue of Alfa Fox Trot 586*, and *Sailors in the Holy Land: The 1848 American Expedition to the Dead Sea and the Search for Sodom and Gomorrah*. He is an alumnus of Columbia College and the School of International and Public Affairs, both of Columbia University, and the U.S. State Department Foreign Service Institute's School of Language Study. A resident of Loudoun County, Virginia, he spent more than twenty years in the U.S. Navy and later was a marketing executive in the international aerospace industry. Books will be available for purchase.



## NICHOLS: THE LAST HARDWARE STORE

A Documentary Film by the  
Lincoln Studios, Purcellville, VA  
Sunday, 6 May 2012, 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, Ret. USMC; 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 which Nichols proudly and stubbornly disregards.

The Lincoln Studios production company is comprised of a trio of film-makers: 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.

## WALKING TOUR OF LEESBURG

James P. Roberts

Saturday, 12 May 2012,  
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.



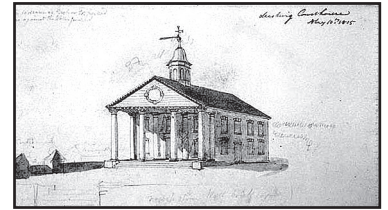
## CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, 14 May 2012, 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.



## NAVAL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND ACES OF WORLD WAR I

Jon Guttman

Sunday, 20 May 2012, 2PM

In today's presentation, Jon Guttman will discuss his newest book, *Naval Fighter Aircraft and Aces of World War I*. While most people are familiar with the first air battles over the Western Front, less well-known is the activity over the coasts of Flanders, northern Russia, the Adriatic Sea, and the Eastern Mediterranean as navies of both sides struggled for control of the air. Many WWI pilots who achieved ace status flew for navies, including a future secretary of the Navy and the first U.S. serviceman to die in American uniform. Guttman will discuss some forgotten naval aces and their aircraft.

A native of New York, Guttman earned his Master's degree in European history from the State University of New York at Albany and served more than 20 years in the Army National Guard, retiring as a Master Sergeant in the 29th Infantry Division (Light). Since July 1988 he has lived in Leesburg working as senior editor, research director, and contributing writer for the Weider History Group. He has served as editor of both *Modern Warfare* and *Military History* magazines. Best known for his research and writing in the field of World War I aviation, Guttman has also written numerous articles on naval history and World War II aviation. He has published several books, including *Fighting Firsts* (2000), *Defiance at Sea* (1995), *World War II in Color* (2010), and *The Origin of the Fighter Aircraft* (2009). Books by Guttman, including *Naval Fighter Aircraft and Aces of World War I* and *The Origin of the Fighter Aircraft*, will be available for purchase.

## MARGARET MERCER ROOM

### Exhibits

- JANUARY** - Jenkins Collection of Arrow Heads & Artifacts a Local Collection from Lucketts, VA - Loudoun Farm Museum
- FEBRUARY** - Black History Month - I Have A Dream Committee
- MARCH** - Cemeteries in Loudoun County - Wynne Saffer
- APRIL** - The Marshalls Remembered - Dodona Manor
- MAY** - 100th Jubilee of The Ladies Board & INOVA Loudoun Hospital
- JUNE** - Charles Fenton Mercer & Aldie Mill - Tracy Gillespie
- JULY-AUG.** - Local & Regional Civil War Era Artifacts - John Creamer
- SEPTEMBER** - Westmoreland Davis: The Farmer's Governor - Abby Pfisterer
- OCTOBER** - Virginia's Apple Industry - Loudoun Farm Museum
- NOVEMBER** - New Collections - Thomas Balch Library
- DECEMBER** - Civil War Memorabilia - John Wyrick

## LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

### Exhibits

- JANUARY - MARCH** - Sustaining Rural Culture: Loudoun Wines and Vines - Jim Hanna
- APRIL - JUNE** - American Civil War Moments through a Day in the Life of a Soldier: Camp Life and Battles - Gary Mester
- JULY - SEPTEMBER** - The Dream Realized, A Challenge for Tomorrow - Dodona Manor
- OCTOBER - DECEMBER** - Friends Who Photograph - Loudoun Photography Club

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

## 2012 Classes

### MAXIMIZING ONE'S TIME

#### Introducing the Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques

The library offers a series of classes introducing researchers to resources at Thomas Balch Library. Classes will include a tour of the facility, subject-specific training by experienced staff and guest speakers, 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 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 Archives 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*, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, and *Fold3*.

### 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.

### USING VISUAL COLLECTIONS

#### Thursday, 3 May 2012, 10-12AM

Laura E. Christiansen, Library Reference Associate, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library. Types of images available and how they may be accessed and used in research will be discussed.

### RESEARCHING WITH ON-LINE NEWSPAPERS

#### Thursday, 7 June 2012, 10-12AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist 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.

### TRADITIONAL GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

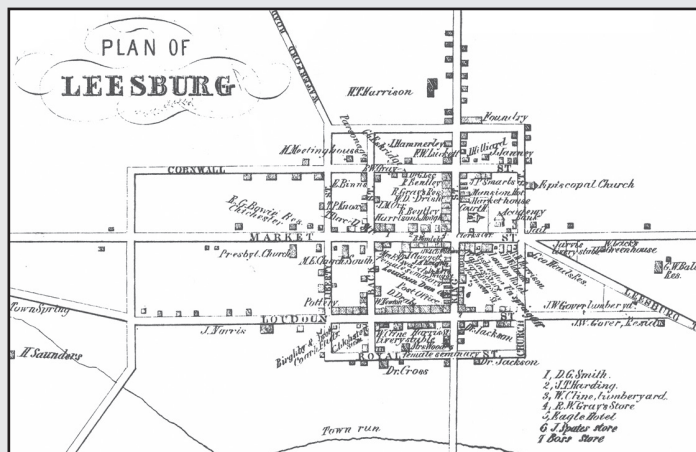
#### Thursday, 2 August 2012, 10-12AM

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.

### PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

#### Thursday, 4 October 2012, 10-12AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist, and Laura E. Christiansen, Library Reference Associate, will introduce participants to the basics of preservation and discuss the best ways to house and protect personal archives. Topics will include proper ways to handle letters, books, photographs, and other media; common conservations needs; threats to paper and electronic media; and the dangers of non-archival storage products.



### USING MAPS IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH

#### Thursday, 1 November 2012, 10-12AM

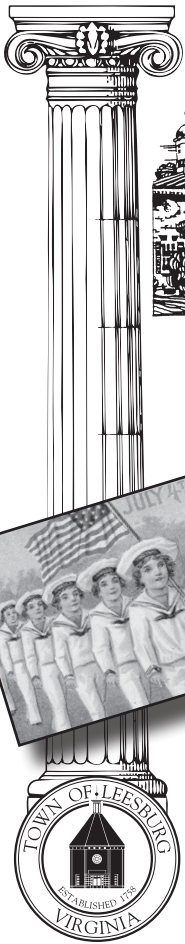
#### Charlie Grymes

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 from hither to yon, soldiers documented locations of battles and even training camps in Northern Virginia for the Spanish-American war are marked on maps. Maps look in both directions. Sometimes a family's past can be found through place names on paper, 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 you can use, and explore the stories behind those maps. Charlie Grymes teaches "Geography of Virginia" at George Mason University (see [www.virginiaplaces.org](http://www.virginiaplaces.org)). He retired from the U.S. 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, including chair of the Prince William Conservation Alliance. As a 10th generation Virginian (Leesylvania State Park is an old family plantation), he often wonders why earlier generations kept buying land at high prices and selling it after values dropped.

### OPENING THE ALBUMS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VISUAL COLLECTIONS

#### Thursday, 6 December 2012, 10-12AM

Thomas Balch Library holds a sizable collection of photographs and other visual materials that document Loudoun County's past. Join Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist, as she presents a slide show of some of the more interesting images in our collection. Some you have no doubt seen: iconic photographs of downtown Leesburg. Some, however, may be new to you.



## THE BALCH COLUMN

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

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

Email: [balchlib@leesburgva.gov](mailto:balchlib@leesburgva.gov)



## WINTER/SPRING 2012 LECTURES AND EVENTS

1122500

### 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](http://www.balchfriends.org) or call 703/737-2166.

On Sunday, 22 January 2012 at 2PM (*snow date: Sunday 29 January 2012 at 2PM*) the annual membership meeting will be held at Thomas Balch Library. Guest speaker will be James A. Morgan III who will be speaking about Civil War Veterans in Egypt. During the 1870's, some 50 former Union and Confederate officers found their way into the service of the Khedive of Egypt. Their reasons for doing this were as varied as their personalities and some were more successful than others. Led by former Union Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone who remained in Egypt the longest, these American soldiers of fortune had an impact on Egypt's military, on its education system, and on the exploration of the Nile. The speaker will discuss these men and their unusual adventures in the Middle East. Morgan is the author of *A Little Short of Boats: The Civil War Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edward's Ferry*. Copies of the revised edition of the book are available for purchase at Thomas Balch Library.

**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](http://www.balchfriends.org) or call 703/737-2166.

#### **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. Additional information, including registration information is available online at [www.virginiaforum.org](http://www.virginiaforum.org).

**National Archives eighth annual Genealogical Fair, Wednesday and Thursday April 18 & 19, 2012** - a two day program showcasing Federal records located at the National Archives as resources for family history research. The fair provides information and guidance for experiences genealogy professionals and novices alike. The fair is free and open to the public, and will be held at the National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. For details visit the National Archives at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and search on Genealogy Fair.

#### **Leesburg Flower and Garden Show 2012**

Historic Leesburg will once again be in full bloom as lush landscapes and gorgeous gardens fill the streets. On April 21 and 22, 2012 over 150 vendors will be on display featuring landscape designs, gardening supplies, outdoor living items, plants, flowers, herbs and so much more! Stroll through the streets and take in the sights and sounds of spring-time. Whether its gathering ideas for your new outdoor patio, stocking up on gardening supplies, or searching for a perfect gift for the avid gardener in your life- this event will have something for everyone! The event runs from 10:00am - 6:00pm on Saturday and 10:00am - 5:00pm on Sunday.