

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.

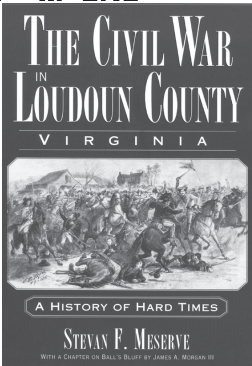
AN EVENING WITH JAMES MONROE "BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE" Saturday, 20 September 2008, 5:30-8PM

Daniel F. Preston, PhD, editor of *The Papers of James Monroe* and professor at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, will speak about President Monroe at Oak Hill, home of the fifth President of the United States. Jay Harrison, a re-enactor, will meet and greet guests as James Monroe. This event, sponsored by Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., is in support of Thomas Balch Library. Tickets are \$125 per person and seating is limited. For information contact Friends of the Thomas Balch Library at 703-737-2166.

THE CIVIL WAR IN LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA: A HISTORY OF HARD TIMES

Stevan F. Meserve
Sunday, 21 September 2008, 2PM

Author Stevan Meserve will discuss and autograph his recent publication *The Civil War in Loudoun County Virginia: A History of Hard Times* (March 2008). Meserve is a Loudoun County historian, president of the Eastern Loudoun Civil War Roundtable, and part-time tour guide at Civil War battlefields and sites for Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services. Meserve contributed to the *Library of Congress Civil War Desk Reference* and was a photo researcher for *Time-Life's The Civil War: Images of an American Tragedy*. Publications include articles which have appeared in *America's Civil War*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *Civil War Magazine*, *The Skirmish Line*, and the *Washington Times*. In *The Shadow of the Enemy: The Civil War Journal of Ida Powell Dulany of Oakley*, which Meserve edited, is due for release later this year. Books will be available for purchase.



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CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Fishback
Monday, 6 October 2008, 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. In recognition of Leesburg's 250th Anniversary, emphasis will be placed on Loudoun County records relating to the town. 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.

EXCAVATING AT THE WEROWOCOMO SITE IN 2007, GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VA

David Brown
Sunday, 12 October 2008, 2PM

The Werowocomoco research project, currently in its fifth year, is grounded in close consultation with Virginia's tribes regarding archaeology at the Contact-period political center of the Powhatan chiefdom and the setting of John Smith's often-retold account of rescue by Pocahontas. Excavations during the 2007 season continued to reveal the paths of three sets of ditches, perhaps used by Virginia Indians to separate the residential core from a ceremonial area and residential complex associated with Powhatan and his predecessors dating as far back as AD1200 and lasting through contact with Europeans. This discussion of the



Werowocomoco Research Group's current understanding of the site's cultural landscape combines a reading of documentary, cartographic, and archaeological sources.

David Brown is a founding member of the Werowocomoco Research Group (WRG). He received a BA in anthropology from the College of William and Mary, an MA in history and historical archaeology from the University of Massachusetts Boston and is currently a PhD candidate in history at the College of William and Mary. He has conducted extensive research on the history and archaeology of Gloucester County and worked as an archaeologist at the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Co-director of the Fairfield Foundation in Gloucester County since November 2000, he started the cultural resource management company DATA Investigations, LLC with Fairfield Foundation Co-Director Thane Harpole in 2003.

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT TBL

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission 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 the third Tuesday of every other month at 8:30AM. The public is always welcome. For more information call 703/737-2166 or visit www.balchfriends.org.

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.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Thomas Balch Library is hosting a series of six lectures in honor of the 250th Anniversary of Leesburg's legal establishment as a town. These lectures are sponsored by Thomas Balch Library, Town of Leesburg, TBL Advisory Commission, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., and Loudoun County Historical Society. The first three lectures were held during the spring and were well received – these included talks on William Wirt and his presence in the heart of Leesburg by Elizabeth Brand Monroe, Mapping Leesburg by Eugene Scheel, and a panel discussion by Heidi Siebentritt, Michael Clem, and David Clark on Leesburg's development through archaeology. Forthcoming lectures will discuss transportation, the African American Community, and Leesburg on the eve of the American Revolution. Details may be found elsewhere in this newsletter and online at <http://www.leesburgva.com/services/Library/Newsletter/>.

Our new series of classes introducing novice and experienced researchers to the intricacies of resources at Thomas Balch Library **Maximizing your Time at Thomas Balch Library: An Introduction to the Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques**, currently scheduled through December 2008, will continue on the first Thursday of each month (except January, July and September) in 2009 with classes on such topics as research techniques in genealogy and history, using archival and visual collections and digital databases. Check our online calendar for updated information.

With grant funds from the Loudoun Library Foundation and contributions by Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., the library has produced a limited edition DVD and booklet of the special lecture series honoring the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County in 2007. Printed excerpts from the lectures accompanied by a 60 minute DVD are available for \$15. We have had numerous requests from patrons for recordings of our lectures. Last year we recorded James R. Sweeney's presentation on his book *Politics and Culture in the Twentieth Century South: Race, Reason, and Massive Resistance*. It is available as a DVD on demand for \$10. New gift merchandise includes a mouse pad with an image of Thomas Balch Library for \$5. To showcase our visual collections and to commemorate Leesburg's 250th Anniversary, we are creating a postcard that we hope to have available this fall.

Among the new additions to the library research collection: the eight volume set, *The African American National Biography*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., 2008, donated by the Black History Committee and Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.; five books by the president of Harvard and native of Shenandoah Valley, Drew Gilpin Faust, including her latest *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War, 2008*; *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, edited by Rudy Abramson, 2006, and the two volume set, *Women in the American Civil War*, edited by Lisa Tendrich Frank. These new additions to our collection and other book and periodical holdings may be found in the Loudoun County Public Library online catalogue. Recently processed manuscript and visual collections include: Leesburg Municipal Currency ("Dog Money") 1861 (SC 0034), small denominations printed by the Town of Leesburg during the Civil War; the Martin L. Cook Collection (VC 0021), photographs of a local African American pilot from the 1930's and 1940's; Westmoreland Davis Memorabilia (SC 0036), a collection of election items; Loudoun Sketch Club (M 040), records and scrapbooks from the local artists' organization; and Chichester Family Collection (M 038), framed 19th century diplomas from Margaret Mercer's girls school and a book with family bookplate. Guides to these other processed collections may be found on our website <http://www.leesburgva.com/services/library/online/specialcollections/>. We have added access to several digital collections during this last year: Access Newspaper Archive, Footnote, and Virginia Sanborn Maps. Access to America: History and Life is now available due to generous donations from the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable and Loudoun County Historical Society.

During its meeting in July, Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission elected Francis R. Fera, Chair and James H. Hershman, Jr., Vice Chair. Members of the Commission are James A. Morgan, III, James P. Roberts, Joan G. Rokus, Martha Schonberger and Lou Etta Watkins; Councilmanic, Thomas S. Dunn, II, and Board of Supervisors representative, Kelly Burk. In June the Commission participated in the Twelfth Annual Loudoun County Public Schools Social Science Fair and presented an anniversary award in recognition of Leesburg's 250th anniversary to Alexander I. Bailey for his exhibit "Historical Sites in Leesburg" in the Geography and Mapping category. The Commission also sponsors the annual Loudoun History Awards held in November, with nominations accepted in October. For information please see the History Awards brochure online at: <http://www.leesburgva.gov/Services/Library/Loudoun-History-Awards-Brochure.pdf>

A revised and updated brochure on the library is now available on request. These updates and revisions will soon be reflected in our web presence. The library is very active – by frequently checking our website, you will be able to keep up with our activities, research collection additions and events.

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

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

THE COUNTRY SQUIRE WHO CHANGED WASHINGTON DAVID FINLEY, QUIET FORCE FOR AMERICA'S ARTS

David Doheny
Sunday, 26 October 2008, 2PM

One small, quiet, part-time resident of Loudoun County had an enormous influence on the cultural growth of America during the middle third of the 20th century. David E. Finley, "lawyer by profession, connoisseur and cosmopolite by taste" and Andrew Mellon's right-hand man in creating the National Gallery of Art, married Margaret Eustis at her family's Oatlands House in June 1931. For the next 45 years, they spent their weekends and vacations at Little Oatlands where they entertained such guests as Andrew Mellon, Ailsa Mellon Bruce, Lady Nancy Astor, Lord Kenneth Clark and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

To all local appearances, David Finley was a modest country squire. But back in Washington, he carried on a monumental career on the cutting edge of the cultural growth of the nation. In 1927, Andrew Mellon tapped him from the legal staff of the Treasury Department to create the National Gallery, serving as its founding Director 1938-1956. During the Second World War, Finley led one of America's finest hours - the rescue of the artworks of Europe by the Roberts Commission. After the war, Finley founded the National Trust for Historic Preservation, serving as Chairman 1949 -1962. After her mother Edith Morton Eustis died in 1964, Margaret Finley and her sister



Irving Penn Photo, courtesy Conde Nast

Anne Emmett gave Oatlands to the National Trust for perpetual protection.

It is easy to forget the institutions that advance, support, and protect our cultural heritage would not exist today if not for the hard work and personal influence of individuals like David E. Finley. For the first time, his achievements have been chronicled in a comprehensive biography by David Doheny, a former vice president and general counsel of the National Trust. Based on archival sources, enlivened by Finley's recently-discovered journals, and richly illustrated, the author brings to life Finley's role in fostering America's cultural maturity, and details the National Trust's early struggles and accomplishments.

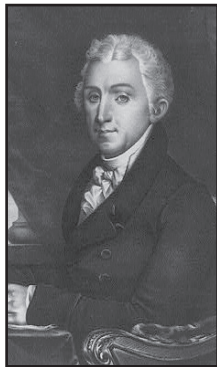
David A. Doheny was born in Canada, grew up in Illinois and studied art history at Williams College and law at Harvard, wrapped around a stint with the U.S. Army in Korea and Japan. After practicing corporate law in Chicago and Miami and as a state and federal prosecutor, he came to Washington in 1985 as general counsel for the National Trust, where he became interested in the life and work of David Finley. After his retirement in 1996, he spent most of the next decade researching and writing Finley's story. Doheny will share his insights into this fascinating chapter in national and local history. The book will be available for purchase on-site through the Oatland's Historic House and Gardens Gift Shop.

JAMES MONROE, FIRST CITIZEN OF LOUDOUN

James P. Lucier

Sunday, 19 October 2008 2PM

James P. Lucier is commentator and editor of "The Political Writings of James Monroe," the first major compilation of President Monroe's writings in 100 years. He was a member of the staff of the U.S. Senate for 25 years, and is holder of the James Monroe Medal for distinguished civic accomplishment. He is also Senior Fellow of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation. He has lived in Loudoun County for 40 years, and is a member of the Board of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. He was Chair of Thomas Balch Library Commission during restoration and expansion of the library. He has a PhD from the University of Michigan. This lecture coincides with the 250th anniversary of Monroe's birth. James Monroe wrote the Monroe Doctrine in Loudoun County, his permanent residence during his presidency.



LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission

Sunday, 9 November 2008, 2PM

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the sixteenth 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.



PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1908-2008: A CENTENNIAL ANTHOLOGY

Deborah Lee

Sunday, 7 December 2008, 2PM

In the hundred years since its incorporation, Purcellville has been the business and social hub of the beautiful and historic Loudoun Valley. To honor this special place, Purcellville historian Deborah Lee and members of the town's Centennial Committee assembled a collection of memoirs, historical essays, poetry, photographs, and artwork that illuminate life and change in the town and foster a keener awareness and a deeper appreciation for both. In their own words, residents and visitors, past and present, share recollections of life here. Lee's engaging narrative weaves together memoir, histories, and tributes, all richly illustrated with photographs old and new and paintings by talented local artists. Deborah A. Lee is an independent scholar and consulting public historian with an MA in history and a PhD in cultural studies from George Mason University. She is the author of two heritage trail guidebooks for the Black History Committee, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., and the Loudoun Museum. She currently produces historical content for websites with The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and Virginia Center for Digital History. Lee will share stories from the book and about its making, accompanied by slides of illustrations. She will sign copies of the book, which will be available for purchase.

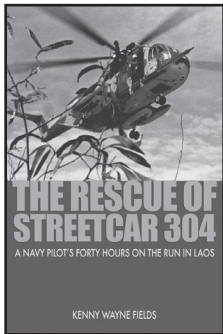
THE RESCUE OF STREETCAR 304: A NAVY PILOT'S FORTY HOURS ON THE RUN IN LAOS

Kenny Wayne Fields

Sunday, 14 December 2008 2PM

On 31 May 1968, Lt. Kenny Fields catapulted off *USS America* in his A-7 for his first combat mission. His target was in Laos, which at the time was "officially" off-limits for U.S. attacks. What the planners did not know was that Fields and his wingman were en route to a massive concentration of AAA gun sites amidst an entire North Vietnamese division. Fields—call sign Streetcar 304—was the first to roll in, and destroyed the target with a direct hit. Three AAA guns began to fire, but, following his wingman, he rolled in again. This time many more AAA guns opened up and Fields was shot down. *The Rescue of Streetcar 304* is Fields' exhilarating narrative of the 40-hour ordeal that followed; one of the largest air rescues of the Vietnam War.

Fields recounts close encounters with Pathet Lao guerillas and nearly being killed time and again by friendly bombs. He describes in riveting detail the radio chatter between participants and the stress effects of coping with fear, no food, the jungle heat, wild animals, and sleep deprivation. Before it was over, the U.S. Air Force had flown 189 sorties to rescue Fields, and in the process four pilots had ejected, seven planes were lost or heavily damaged, and one pilot became a POW for five years. Fields draws on Air Force radio logs, after-action reports, and extensive interviews with all participants including wives at home to tell the story from all perspectives. The result is a gripping tale of courage and brotherhood on both battlefield and home front. Kenny Fields was a Bombardier/Navigator in the A-3B for several years and then piloted A-4C and A-7A "attack" jets. During two combat tours to Vietnam he flew 139 combat missions in the A-7 over Laos, Cambodia, South Vietnam, and North Vietnam. He later served as a jet flight instructor. He retired after 22 years, 3,350 flight hours, and 475 carrier landings. Fields will be making this presentation two weeks after returning from Laos and the site where events transpired. His book (best seller at the National Air & Space Museums since 2007) will be available.



250TH LEESBURG LECTURES

A series of lectures is being presented in 2008 in recognition of the 250th Anniversary of Leesburg's legal establishment as a town. This special series includes individual lectures and panel discussions about distinctive features of this historic community. For detailed information contact the library, check out our website or request the brochure "Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture Series."

Sunday, 14 September 2008, 2PM – "Leesburg as Transportation Hub," a panel presentation chaired by Paul McCray of the Northern Virginia Park Authority and including Tim Deike of the Leesburg Executive Airport and Noel Grove, a former writer for National Geographic and co-author of a recently-published volume on Loudoun history.

Sunday, 28 September 2008, 2PM – "Leesburg's African-American Community: An Exceptional Experience," a discussion of unique African-American experiences, social relations, and the vital role of church and school. Speakers will include Deborah A. Lee, public historian, and Elaine E. Thompson, author, and the Rev. Harold Stinger of the First Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

Sunday, 2 November 2008, 2PM – "'Advantageously Situated, Indifferently Built': Leesburg on the Eve of the American Revolution," a joint presentation by Richard Gillespie, Director of Education at Mosby Heritage Area, and Tracy Gillespie, Director of Historical Operations for Morven Park.

EXHIBITS 2008 - 2009 – MARGARET MERCER ROOM

September: 250th Anniversary Celebration Town of Leesburg

October: Loudoun County Kitchens – Loudoun Farm Museum

November: Loudoun History Awards and Virginia Native American Heritage

December: New collections at Thomas Balch Library

January: History of Education in Loudoun – Beth Schuster and Stephanie Adams Hunter

February: African Americans and their role in Loudoun's history - Black History Committee

March: Civil War Relics and history on J.E.B. Stuart and Robert E. Lee - John Wyrick

April: Restoration of Governor Westmoreland Davis' mansion, and his life at Morven Park - Morven Park

May: Local artists - sketches, paintings, and drawings - Loudoun Sketch Club

June: African American involvement in rice plantations of South Carolina through history and art - Kathie O'Keefe

July-August: Civil War Artifacts – John Creamer

September: Postal History of Leesburg – Lewis Leigh, Jr.

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM EXHIBITS 2008-2009

August through October: Essence of Loudoun - featuring scenes of historic homes, buildings, and the more rural areas of the county, photographs of Loudoun County by Fran Poston.

November through December will feature photography of Sarah Huntington highlighting photographs from her book *In their own Words, Recollections of an Earlier Loudoun*.

January-March will feature photographic images of nature in Northern Virginia by photographer Neal Steinberg.



MAXIMIZING YOUR TIME AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY:

An Introduction to the Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques

A series of classes introducing researchers to resources at Thomas Balch Library are offered throughout the year. Classes will include a tour of the facility, subject specific training by experienced staff, hand-outs, and an opportunity to ask questions. Classes will be limited in size, registration is required, and will repeat periodically.

Research Using Visual Collections at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 4 September 2008 10-11:30AM Beth Schuster, Library Reference Specialist, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library. Types of images available, how they may be accessed, and their use in historical and genealogical research will be discussed.

Manuscript and Archives Research at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 2 October 2008 10-11:30AM 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.

Leesburg's Historic District Files and Sanborn Maps

Thursday, 6 November 2008 10-11:30AM Annie McDonald, Preservation Planner and staff liaison to the Leesburg Board of Architectural Review, will delve into using primary and secondary resources available at Thomas Balch Library for researching a property's history. She will explain the purpose behind the architectural surveys of the late 1990s and how to use architectural survey files, Sanborn fire insurance maps, and historic photographs to identify how a building changes over time. Previously employed by a DC-based preservation consulting firm and by a regional NGO based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she has been with the Town of Leesburg since September 2005. Tour of the facility to follow, conducted by John Berfield, Library Assistant.

Loudoun County Historic Building Files, Assessment and Parcel Database

Thursday, 4 December 2008 10-11:30AM This class will demonstrate various Loudoun County land records and mapping systems available to the public and how to use them to aid in the research of historic properties. Included will be a brief overview of the library's resources to assist in research of historic properties and early Loudoun settlers. Mary A. Pender, a part-time librarian and cataloger, has an undergraduate degree from the College of William & Mary and an MLIS from University of Texas at Austin. A Project Manager for Loudoun County's Land Records System, she has been employed with the Building and Development Department since 1998. John Berfield, a Library Assistant, earned his BA in Geography, with concentrations in Cartography and Urban Planning, and a minor in History, from Virginia Tech. He retired from a Planner position with the Loudoun County Department of Building and Development in 2005. His work at the county included contributing toward the addition of several historic structure files, including chain of title information, in the Lewis/Edwards Files.

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Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Leesburg and President James Monroe. (See lectures & events inside.)

FALL 2008 LECTURES AND EVENTS

