

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.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, January 29, 2007, 7PM

Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library at 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. Please

meet at Thomas Balch Library at 6:45PM. 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.

AFRICANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY (UVA)

Michael F. Plunkett

Sunday, February 25, 2007, 2PM

A look at selected extraordinary books and documents by and about Africans and African Americans in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia. The selection of titles is based primarily on *A Commented Bibliography of One Hundred and One Influential Books by and about People of African Descent (1556-1982)* A Collector's Choice by Charles L. Blockson, *Sacred Fire: The OBR 100 Essential Black Books*, lists from dealers, and Plunkett's own favorites. Michael Plunkett is Harrison Institute Fellow and Emeritus Director of Special Collections at the University of Virginia Library. He holds a BA in International Studies from Ohio State University, MA in History from Old Dominion University and MLS from The Catholic University of America. Plunkett has received a number of grants and awards, including a Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Library Publication for his book *A Guide to the Collections Relating to Afro-American History, Literature, and Culture*. His professional activities range from leadership roles in Mid-Atlantic Regional Archivists Council to a variety of speaking and teaching engagements.

MAPPING OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Richard W. Stephenson

Sunday, March 18, 2007, 2PM

War, like necessity, has been called the mother of invention. The same might be said about cartography, for with every war there is a great rush to produce maps to aid in

understanding the nature of the land over which the armies will move and fight, to plan engagements and the deployment of troops, and to record the victories for posterity to study and admire. The American Civil War is a classic example of the effect that war may have on cartography. In his illustrated lecture, Stephenson will examine problems associated with providing adequate maps for armies in the field; types or varieties of maps that were made; how they were prepared or produced; their accuracy; and finally, a look at maps made to inform the general public. Richard W. Stephenson received a BA in Geography from The George Washington University and MSLS from The Catholic University of America. He retired from The Library of Congress in 1992, where he headed the Geography and Map Reading Room for 17 years and served as the Library's Specialist in American Cartographic History from 1987-1992. Stephenson has taught map librarianship and cartography history classes since 1975, and presently teaches a course for seniors at Shenandoah University. Publications include *Virginia in Maps: Four Centuries of Settlement, Growth, and Development*, which he co-edited with Marianne M. McKee.

Stephenson has been actively involved with a number of organizations such as Handley Regional Library, and has received many awards from The Library of Congress and professional organizations.

MANAGER'S MUSING



Since my last letter we welcomed a new part time library reference associate. Beth Schuster received her BA in History and German from the University of Oregon, an MA in History from the University of Montana and has recently completed her MLS/MA at the University of Maryland. While you will see her most frequently at the reference desk Wednesday evenings and alternate Sundays' she is also working with us to post our manuscript collection guides on VIVA (The Virtual Library of Virginia: <http://www.viva.lib.va.us/collect/>).

The Marketing Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Brenda Douglass and Cheryl Sadowski, co-chairs, recently created a banner for the Library. It debuted at the Dulles Town Center on October 21 and was

recently shared with the Library Advisory Commission to great acclaim. It will be on display in the Library for all to see and admire, and at the Friends Annual meeting January 7. It is an exciting marketing tool the Friends have created for the library.



Thomas Balch Library hosted the thirteenth annual Loudoun History Awards sponsored by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission on Sunday November 12, 2006. Four Loudoun County residents received the 2006 awards. Honorees are **Allen Cochran**, for his role in preserving historic landmarks in Loudoun County; **William H. Harrison**, for his longstanding commitment to Loudoun County heritage and its history of dairy farming; **Lee Daniel Kent**, for sharing with students his knowledge, enthusiasm and deep appreciation for the lessons of local history and **Reginald Simms**, for his leadership in preserving, promoting and collecting Loudoun County African American history. 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. The **Historic District Residence Association** was also recognized with a certificate of appreciation by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission for their donation and planting of two Princeton American elms on the front lawn of the library, December 2005. Accepting on behalf of the Association were **Bruce Dewar** and **Julie Overman**, who successfully managed the project.

There are two overlapping lecture series scheduled for Winter and Spring 2007: The Thomas Balch Library Lecture Series and a special series celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County. We look forward to seeing you at some or all of these exciting programs.

Alexandra S. Gressitt
Library Manager
12/21/2006

DONATIONS AND GIFTS IN KIND

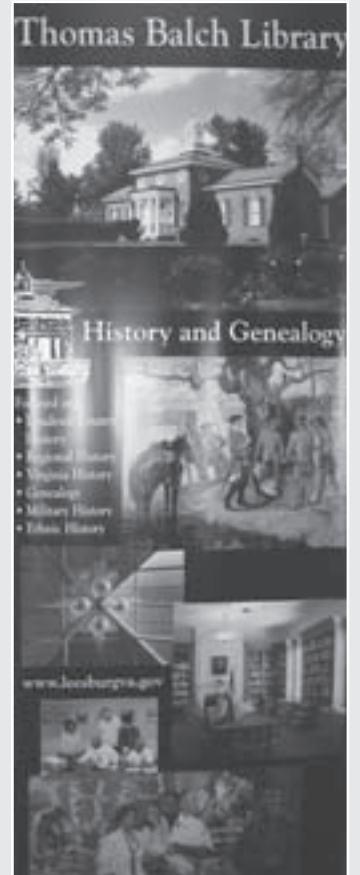
Heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, organizations and volunteers who donate materials and services. It is with the addition of generous gifts that our collection continues to grow.

RECENTLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

Two recently processed collections are available for research. "The Woman's Club of Loudoun, Inc. 1944-2002" documents the activities of a woman's organization. "Mediterranean Pass for Rising Sun 1819-1824" is an early ship passport.

SANABRIA SLAVE QUARTER PAINTINGS ON EXHIBIT

Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. Black History Committee member and artist Sherry Zvares Sanabria's work "Slave Quarters and Other African American Sites" will be on exhibition at The Athenaeum in Alexandria from February 2, 2007 through March 4, 2007. In April the exhibit will move to Waddell Gallery at Northern Virginia Community College, Sterling. This moving exhibition consists of some of the artists recent work exploring and recording sites throughout Virginia and Maryland that played significant roles in the lives of African Americans during and after slavery. One viewer's comment: "You take hard subjects, in the literal and figurative sense, and render them in a soft and mystical, yet true-to-life form. . . . Somehow, your architectural portraits verily glow with the spirits of the oppressed people that once inhabited them." Take time to visit this remarkable exhibit.



250TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES LOUDOUN 1757: ON THE BORDER OF MAYHEM



In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun County Historical Society, Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society, and Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. have joined together to present a series of lectures by distinguished historians, "Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem." This five-part lecture series will recapture the moment of global conflict in which Loudoun County was created 250 years ago and why the Williamsburg legislature chose to name this jurisdiction after a Scottish chief-tain who never set foot in Virginia. This special lecture series is funded in part by a Chairman's Grant from The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy.

THE FRENCH CHALLENGE TO BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

Carl J. Ekberg
Sunday, April 15, 2007, 2PM

It happens that the French monarchy established a presence at Quebec at almost the exact time that the English arrived in Virginia. The two colonial empires expanded thereafter until they came into conflict in 1755 at the instigation of Colonel George Washington of the Virginia militia. Carl J. Ekberg received a BA and MA from University of Minnesota and PhD from Rutgers University. He is Professor of History Emeritus at Illinois State University. Ekberg's research emphasis is on Bourbon France, Colonial Mississippi Valley, and Historical Archeology and Local History.

THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR AND CHANGING BRITISH IMPERIAL OBJECTIVES

Paul W. Mapp
Sunday, May 6, 2007, 2PM

Until the infamous British military defeats at Oswego and Fort William Henry, the government in London devoted little attention to events on the North American frontier. William Pitt then dismissed Lord Loudoun as British commander in 1757 and invested enormous resources into an effort to deny Louis XIV's France an empire that would have encompassed territories from Louisburg, Nova Scotia to New Orleans. Paul W. Mapp has an AB in History from Princeton University and PhD in History from Harvard University. He is currently an assistant professor at the College of William and Mary, and has written extensively about early American history.

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: THE INDIGENOUS RESPONSE TO FOREIGN IMPERIAL DESIGNS

Timothy J. Shannon
Sunday, June 17, 2007, 2PM

Recent historians have noted the pivotal role played by Native Americans in the outcome of European competition in North America. Shannon will explain the vital part played by these indigenous people in the eventual British victory. Timothy J. Shannon holds BA's in History and Economics from Brown University and a PhD in American History from Northwestern University. He is an associate professor of history at Gettysburg College, and frequently publishes and presents about Native American history.

WHEN A WORLD WAR IS THE HOME FRONT: THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR ON VIRGINIA FRONTIERS

Warren Hofstra
Sunday, September 16, 2007, 2PM

The Seven Years' War (which we call the French and Indian War) was played out across the planet. Hofstra with his noteworthy scholarship on "backwoods" people will describe how this global conflict impacted Virginia's earliest European and African settlers. Warren R. Hofstra earned a BA in History at Washington University, MA in History from Boston University, and PhD from University of Virginia. He is the Stewart Bell Professor of American History at Shenandoah University, and has written numerous articles and books about the history of Virginia.

THE IMPERIOUS LAIRD: JOHN CAMPBELL, LOUDOUN'S NAMESAKE

Douglas W. Foard
Sunday, October 21, 2007, 2PM

Douglas Foard's presentation will reflect his current research and new interpretations on the life and activities of John Campbell (1705-1782), fourth earl of Loudoun. Douglas W. Foard is a retired history professor and former Executive Secretary of Phi Beta Kappa, (1989-2001), the nation's oldest academic honor society. He taught at Ferrum Junior College and later Ferrum College for twenty years. Foard is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Randolph-Macon College and holds his PhD in history from Washington University in St. Louis. The author of *The Revolt of the Aesthetes: A Study in Spanish Cultural Nationalism*, he has devoted his research career to studies of the experience of the Iberian peoples.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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

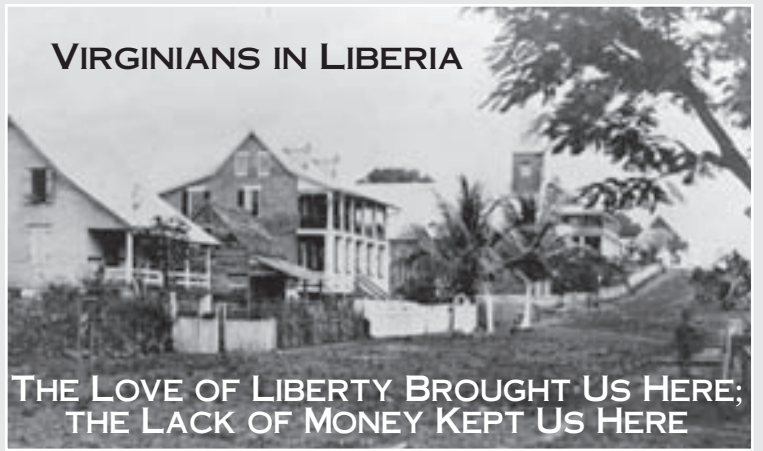


January 9, Michael Miller - Marines in the Civil War
February 13, Members' Meeting
March 13, Carroll Gibbs - The Hidden Black Presence at Gettysburg
April 10, Jim Morgan - Civil War Veterans in Egypt
May 8, Patrick Schroeder - Zouaves during the war
June 12, Teej Smith - Flora Stuart Life After JEB

PLANNING A RESEARCH TRIP?

For information on our holdings, visit our website
<http://www.leesburgva.gov/library/>
or request copies of our new and revised informational brochures by contacting the library at
balchlib@leesburgva.gov

VIRGINIANS IN LIBERIA



THE LOVE OF LIBERTY BROUGHT US HERE;
THE LACK OF MONEY KEPT US HERE

Marie Tyler-McGraw and Deborah A. Lee
Sunday, April 29, 2007, 2PM

In the decades between 1820 and 1865, nearly 3700 emancipated and free Virginia African Americans emigrated to Liberia, a colony founded by the American Colonization Society in 1816. Several hundred were from the northern Virginia counties of Loudoun, Jefferson, and Clark, as well as from Arlington and Alexandria. For emancipated persons who never appeared in the census, the ships' lists and related documents reveal vital information about their lives. Early in 2006, historians Deborah A. Lee and Marie Tyler-McGraw began creating a database of all Virginia emigrants, adding as much supplemental information about them as could be found. The project is nearly complete and a website for this information is being created. It will be of value to researchers interested in genealogy, Virginia's African Americans before the Civil War, and transatlantic history of the nineteenth century. Tyler-McGraw and Lee will talk about the database and website and explore compelling family stories that emerged on both sides of the Atlantic from this research. Deborah Lee is an independent scholar and consulting public historian. She holds an MA and PhD in Cultural Studies from George Mason University. In 2005, she was a resident scholar at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. She directed an oral history project for the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library Inc., collecting more than fifty interviews over five years. Publications include *Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide* and *African American Heritage Trail, Leesburg, Virginia*. She is currently working on two African American history projects funded by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Marie Tyler-McGraw received a PhD in American Studies from George Washington University in 1980, specializing in public history, African American history, and the antebellum American South. She has been an independent historian and public history consultant since 2000, working on local projects with the Town of Waterford, Loudoun County Museum, and Thomas Balch Library. Tyler-McGraw's publications include a book manuscript, *Crossing Over: The African Colonization Movement in Virginia*, currently in review. She speaks regularly at professional conferences and is involved with a number of organizations such as Organization of American Historians and National Council on Public History.

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