

BALCH COLUMN

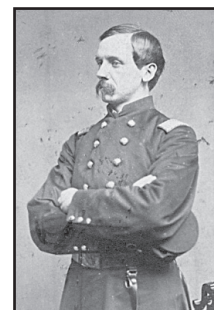
Thomas Balch Library ■ 208 W. Market Street ■ Leesburg, Virginia 20176
703-737-7195 ■ Fax: 703-737-7150 ■ Email: balchlib@leesburgva.gov

News FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



This spring the Library received a grant of \$10,000 from the Loudoun Library Foundation to complete digitizing WAGE Radio tapes, a project begun in 2011 with a \$5000 Catherine Boyd Grant from Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society. Over 500 tapes have been digitized, many needing conservation work to preserve the audio data. An example of issues Cutting Edge faced in converting the WAGE Radio tapes was the "sticky shed syndrome" affecting some tapes. Sticky shed is a condition created by deterioration of binders used in magnetic tapes, causing bits of plastic in the tape to shed away, rendering the tape unusable. Manipulating humidity conditions is one way of treating the syndrome and extracting the data from the tapes. Cutting Edge completed digitization of all the tapes and the data was transferred to a terabyte drive. Shannon Fuller, a staff member, is processing the collection to make it available for research use.

Thomas Balch Library (TBL) has acquired and made available an important manuscript collection that focuses on Leesburg during the American Civil War. The Leesburg Civil War Collection, 1861-1865 (M 075) consists of nine manuscript letters and seven *cartes de visite* brought together by Ben Byrnes, a former resident of Leesburg. All of the manuscripts and photographs relate to Leesburg in some way. For instance, six of the letters were written by soldiers who were present at the Battle of Ball's Bluff and six of the *cartes de visite* are of soldiers present at that battle. *Cartes de visite* are photographs the size of calling cards, usually 2.5 inches x 4 inches, that were very popular in the 19th century. Images include Paul Joseph Revere, the grandson of Paul Revere; Charles Pomeroy Stone, the officer in charge of Union forces at Ball's Bluff; and Milton M. Rogers, the only Confederate soldier represented in this collection.



Throughout the year TBL hosts many events, engages in a variety of activities, and implements improvements to assist researcher access to holdings. To share with you all of the libraries achievements would be ideal, but space only permits highlighting a few. New indices providing subject, title and author access to the vertical files were created by staff and volunteers and are available for searching on the library website. This project spanning several years, provides item level description to hundreds of previously uncatalogued and virtually inaccessible research materials held by the library in its vertical files. In April the library participated, by invitation, in the 8th annual Genealogy Fair sponsored by NARA. Two library related proclamations, one for Library Week in April and one for the 90th Anniversary of TBL in May, were issued by the Leesburg Town Council. This spring the library was able to replace its four microfilm reader printers.

A link has been placed at the base of the left hand column on TBL's website to encourage people to visit the library Facebook page. If you have not yet viewed the Facebook site, please take time to do so at Facebook: Thomas Balch Library. Events held at TBL are also featured on the wall and the calendar.

If you would enjoy receiving more frequent news about the library, its programs and collections, join Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and receive its quarterly newsletter *The Thomas Balch Chronicle*. Membership information is available at www.balchfriends.org.

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

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY 2012-2013 EXHIBITS

Margaret Mercer Room

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

January – Mount Zion Church and Its History – Tracy Gillespie

February – Black History Month – Mary Randolph

March – From Thomas Balch Library Collections: Women's Athletics in Loudoun County – Elizabeth E. Preston

April – 4-H Through the Decades – Anne Ludwig

May – Pottery Exhibit – David Norton

June – June is Dairy Month – Loudoun Farm Museum

July-August – Local and Regional Civil War Era Artifacts – John Creamer

Lower Level Meeting Room

August-September

The Dream Realized - A Challenge for Tomorrow - Dodona Manor

October-December

Friends Who Photograph - Loudoun Photography Club

January-March

Landscaping - Amy Orr

April-June

Old Churches in Loudoun County - Jim Baker

July-September

Vanished Egypt, 1922-1952 - W. Brown Morton, III



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.

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN VIRGINIA



Bruce A. Vlk
Sunday, 16 September
2012, 2PM

Over 120 years ago Czech and Slovak immigrants began settling in rural counties around Petersburg, VA. The southern agricultural system collapsed after the Civil War creating a labor shortage. These

industrious immigrants provided the transition to a new era of farming and eventually through hard work and perseverance, became a part of the local community. Oral history interviews were conducted in Prince George County, VA, to record experiences of fifty individuals aged 76 to 98 years-old. While preceding generations have been documented, this transitional generation has not been studied extensively. With one foot in their parents' native culture and one foot in mainstream American culture, the generation interviewed is possibly the last one to understand their ancestors' language, let alone speak it. As a third generation native of the Virginia Czech community, Vlk is working to document the population's musical and culinary traditions. In 1998, he studied Czech politics and history at Charles University in Prague. Recently his research on the Prince George, Virginia Czech and Slovak immigrant population was published in *Kosmas, the Czechoslovak and Central European Journal*.

Bruce A. Vlk is a researcher at the UVA Darden School of Business. In 2009, while at the UVA Center for Politics, he served as a co-producer for the award-winning PBS documentary "Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance" and has published articles on American public policy, political science and Virginia history. He received his MA in public administration from James Madison University and his BA in political science from George Mason University. Vlk is a board member of the Virginia Social Science Association, a member of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences, and an active participant with the Virginia Czech/Slovak Heritage Society, an organization seeking to preserve cultural traditions.

A PLAIN SAILORMAN IN CHINA

The Life and Times of Cdr. I. V. Gillis, USN 1875-1948

by Bruce Swanson,
with Vance H. Morrison,
Don H. McDowell, and
Nancy Norton Tomasko
Vance H. Morrison

Sunday, 23 September 2012, 2PM

This biography recounts the extraordinary life of I. V. Gillis, both as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1894 to 1919 and as a collector of rare Chinese books. It captures the colorful, multi-faceted life of the man known as an innovative thinker, tactical practitioner, spy, and successful



diplomat. Gillis, a second-generation Naval Academy graduate and the son of an admiral, was hailed a hero while serving aboard a warship in the Spanish-American War and in 1907 became the first U.S. Naval Attaché to China. He remained in China until his death, marrying a Chinese princess and collecting books now housed at Princeton University. Bruce Swanson, who died in 2007, was a well-known authority on Chinese maritime affairs. Fluent in Mandarin, he served as a naval officer in Asia and later as a civilian analyst. Vance H. Morrison is the former U.S. Naval and Acting U. S. Defense Attaché to the People's Republic of China. Don H. McDowell, is former Commander, Naval Security Group Command, and Nancy Norton Tomasko is the former editor of the *East Asian Library Journal*, Princeton University.

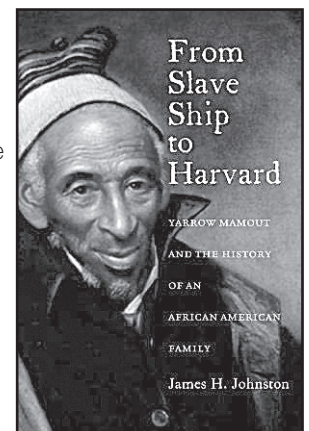
Vance H. Morrison graduated from the UVA in 1962 with a commission in the U.S. Navy. As part of his lengthy naval career, he served on many ships and commanded an ASW Frigate and a Guided Missile Cruiser. He served as U.S. Naval Attaché to Beijing, China, from 1987 to 1989. His final Navy assignment was as Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Joint Matters from 1989 to 1992. Morrison retired from the Navy in 1992 and accepted a position providing systems engineering and technical assistance to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and the National Reconnaissance Office as a member of the Technical Staff of AT&T. He retired from that position in 2008. He holds an MS in Systems Management from the University of Southern California and a BA in Physics from the University of Virginia. Books will be available for purchase.

FROM SLAVE SHIP TO HARVARD

James H. Johnston

Sunday, 30 September 2012, 2PM

From Slave Ship to Harvard is the story of an African American family in Maryland covering six generations. The author has reconstructed a narrative of black struggle and achievement from paintings, photographs, books, diaries, court records, legal documents, and oral histories. *From Slave Ship to Harvard* traces the family from the colonial period and the American Revolution through the Civil War to Harvard and today. Yarrow Mamout, the first of his family in America,

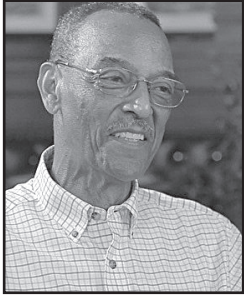


was an educated Muslim from Guinea. He was brought to Maryland on the slave ship *Elijah* and gained his freedom forty-four years later. By then, Yarrow had become so well known in the Georgetown section of Washington, DC, that he attracted the attention of the eminent American portrait painter Charles Wilson Peale, who captured Yarrow's visage in the painting that appears on the cover of the book. Other family members were notable in their own right, and a descendant, Robert Turner Ford, graduated from Harvard University in 1927. Just as Peale painted the portrait of Yarrow, James H. Johnston's new book puts a face on slavery as he paints the history of race in Maryland.

James H. Johnston, an attorney and journalist, has published extensively on national affairs, law, telecommunications, history, and the arts. His contributions include papers on local Washington, DC, history, Yarrow Mamout, and an edition of *The Recollections of Margaret Cabell Brown Loughborough*. Books will be available for purchase.



WALKING TOUR OF LEESBURG



James P. Roberts

Saturday, 13 October 2012, 9-12AM

James Roberts, a native of Leesburg, member of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, 2008 recipient of a Loudoun History Award, and recognized in 2011 by Loudoun Laurels, 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.

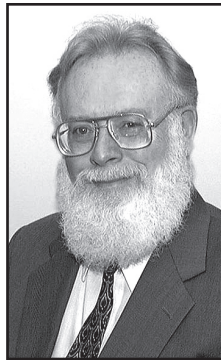
USING THE INTERNET FOR SCOTTISH RESEARCH

Robert Douglas McLaren

Sunday, 14 October 2012, 2PM

McLaren will present a number of websites that can be useful in one's quest for Scottish ancestors. While some of the sites are well known, others are not. He will show what information and records these sites contain by using examples. Since some of the sites are free and others are pay-for-view or require a subscription, he will show how to best use these sites with an eye toward keeping down research costs.

McLaren has been doing genealogical research for over 35 years. He is Clan Genealogist for Clan MacLaren Society (based in Scotland) as well as for Clan MacLaren Society of North America. He is also Project Administrator for the Clan MacLaren Surname DNA Project and assists Clan members in their genealogical pursuits. He has conducted research in numerous state archives and libraries across the United States, plus some in Canada and Ireland. He frequently uses internet resources for Scottish research. McLaren is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speakers Guild.



CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC RECORDS



John Fishback

Monday, 15 October 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, 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.

DOCUMENTARY: REGION DIVIDED: CIVIL WAR IN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK

Sunday, 21 October 2012, 2PM

The American Civil War remains the deadliest war in our history, and roughly 60 percent of the fighting took place in Virginia. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has acquired a variety of Civil War sites in Northern Virginia over the years. *Region Divided: Civil War in the Northern Virginia Regional Parks* takes a look at the role these sites played over the last 150 years. Co-written and narrated by Roger Mudd, it features: Upton Hill, Blackburn's Ford, Vienna and the W&OD Railroad, Ball's Bluff, Aldie Mill, Herndon, and Mt. Zion Church. It also highlights the central role Northern Virginia played in the American Civil War with compelling stories and helps to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Following the showing a panel of Civil War and local historians, including Paul Gilbert, James Morgan, Stevan Meserve, and Paul McCray will be present for discussion and to answer questions.

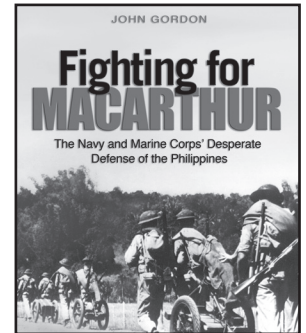
FIGHTING FOR MACARTHUR The Navy and Marine Corps' Desperate Defense of the Philippines

John Gordon

Sunday, 28 October 2012, 2PM

Based on a rich collection of U.S. and newly discovered Japanese sources, *Fighting for MacArthur* is filled with original details about the early fighting in the Philippines, including a revealing discussion of escalating tensions between General Douglas MacArthur and the Navy that festered for the remainder of the war. John Gordon employs his training as an Army officer and defense scholar to analyze in detail the unusual missions undertaken by the Navy and Marine Corps in the Army's campaign of defense, where sailors fought as infantrymen alongside Marines at Bataan and Corregidor. Crews of Navy ships manned the Army's heavy coastal artillery weapons, and Navy submarines desperately tried to supply the men with food and ammunition. The last stand of the Navy's China gunboats at Manila Bay is likewise portrayed in a light due these colorful and often unheralded regulars. Gordon offers the most detailed account available of the Japanese bombing of the Cavite Navy Yard outside Manila on the third day of the war, when concentrated air attacks inflicted the worst damage on a U.S. Navy installation since the British burned the Washington Navy Yard in 1814. The book also closely examines the surrender of the 4th Marines at Corregidor—the only time in its history that the U.S. Marine Corps lost a regiment in combat—by making full use of the unit's war diary, which was evacuated shortly before the U.S. forces surrendered. To provide readers with a Japanese perspective of the fighting, Gordon draws on the recently discovered diary of an officer in the Japanese amphibious assault force that fought against the Navy's provisional infantry battalion on southern Bataan. The result is the most complete account of the dramatic effort by elements of the Navy and Marine Corps to support the U.S. Army's ill-fated defense of the Philippine Islands during the early months of World War II in the Pacific.

John Gordon, PhD, is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and a senior defense analyst based in Washington, DC. He has written widely on subjects related to defense and public policy and also serves as an adjunct professor at George Mason and Georgetown Universities. Books will be available for purchase.



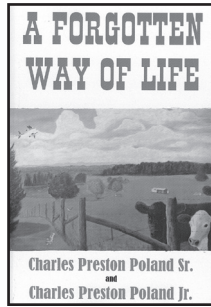


OUR FORGOTTEN PAST

Charles P. Poland, Jr.

Sunday, 4 November 2012, 2PM

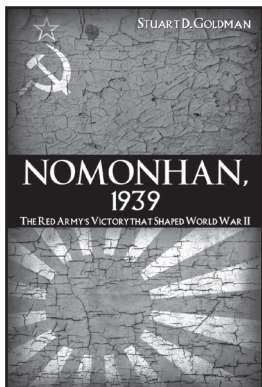
Charles P. Poland Jr, professor of history at Northern Virginia Community and author of seven books, is the founder and director of the Northern Virginia Community College Civil War Museum. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on the history of Virginia and the American Civil War for more than half a century. Poland is a lifetime resident of Loudoun and author of *From Frontier to Suburbia: Loudoun County Virginia, One of America's Fastest Growing Counties*. He received the 2012 Outstanding Faculty Award, the highest honor bestowed upon faculty of Virginia's public and private colleges and universities. *Our Forgotten Past* relates the rural past of Northern Virginia. It is the story of the shift from farm to city as seen through the eyes of the Poland family. Books will be available for purchase.



LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 11 November 2012, 2PM

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the twentieth 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.



NOMONHAN, 1939 The Red Army's Victory that Shaped World War II

Stuart D. Goldman

Sunday, 2 December 2012, 2PM

On the eve of global war in 1939, armies from the Soviet Union and Japan engaged in an intense, undeclared war along the border of Manchuria and Mongolia. In response to Japanese aggression, the Soviet Union launched a decisive offensive

that culminated in the defeat of the Japanese near the village of Nomonhan in late August 1939. Drawing on Japanese, Soviet, and Western sources, Stuart Goldman puts this seemingly obscure conflict into its proper global geo-strategic perspective. He demonstrates convincingly how the Soviet's victory in this little-known conflict ultimately shaped the course of World War II. While the Red Army clashed with imperial Japanese forces in virtual obscurity, Stalin concluded negotiations for a German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact. Timing of these military and diplomatic strikes, according to the author, was not coincidental. Stalin's alliance with Hitler left Tokyo diplomatically isolated, paved the way for German invasion of Poland, and ensured that the Soviets would not become involved in a two front war in 1939. For Stalin, the pact with the Nazis was a way to pit Germany against Britain and France, leaving the Soviet Union on the sidelines to eventually pick up spoils from the European conflict, while at the same time giving him a free hand to deal with the Japanese at Nomonhan. Goldman demonstrates the linkage between the Nomonhan conflict, the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact, and the outbreak of World War II, and also

shows how Nomonhan influenced Japan's decision to go to war with the United States and thus change the course of history. The book details General Georgy Zhukov's victory at Nomonhan that led to his command of the Red Army in 1941 and his success in stopping the Germans at Moscow with reinforcements from the Soviet Far East. Such a strategy was possible, the author contends, only because of Japan's decision not to attack the Soviet Far East but to seize oil-rich Dutch East Indies and attack Pearl Harbor instead. Goldman credits Tsuji Masanobu, an influential Japanese officer who instigated the Nomonhan conflict and survived the debacle, with urging his superiors not to take on the Soviets again in 1941, but instead to go to war with the United States.

Mr. Goldman is a scholar in residence at the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research in Washington, DC. From 1979 to 2009 he was the senior specialist in Russian and Eurasian political and military affairs at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. A resident of Rockville, MD, he holds a PhD from Georgetown University. Books will be available for purchase.

PERILOUS FIGHT

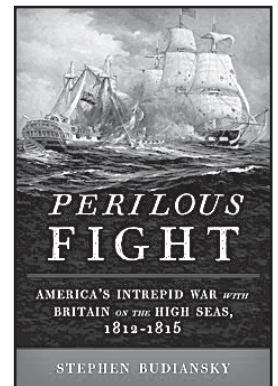
America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1815

Stephen Budiansky

Sunday, 9 December 2012, 2PM

Stephen Budiansky's newest book is a stirring account of an underdog coterie of American seamen and their visionary secretary of the navy — who combined bravery and strategic innovation to hold off the legendary Royal Navy in the fight for honor, freedom, and survival in the War of 1812. In sea battles that ranged across half the globe, America's untested navy and rough privateers rewrote the rules of naval warfare as they employed brilliant hit-and-run tactics that kept their far mightier foe constantly off balance. In the end, they would secure America's place in the world as a rising power whose sovereignty and independence would never again be challenged. Drawing extensively on diaries, letters, and personal accounts from both sides, *Perilous Fight* re-creates the riveting encounters at sea in bloody clashes of cannon fire and swordplay; the intimate hopes and fears of vainglorious captains and young seamen in search of adventure; and the behind-the-scenes maneuvering and political intrigue in Washington and London.

Stephen Budiansky is the author of fourteen books about military history, intelligence and espionage, science, and the natural world. Budiansky received a BS in chemistry from Yale University in 1978 and an MS in applied mathematics from Harvard in 1979. In the years following graduation he was a magazine editor and radio producer at the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC, a Washington correspondent and editor of the scientific journal *Nature*, and a Congressional Fellow at the U.S. Congress's Office of Technology Assessment where he co-authored a study of advanced conventional weapons technology. In 1986 he joined the staff of *U.S. News & World Report* where he worked in a variety of writing and editing positions, including national security correspondent, foreign editor, and deputy editor. He is a member of the editorial board of *Cryptologia*, the scholarly journal of cryptology and intelligence history and is on the *American Heritage Dictionary's* Usage Panel. In 2011, Budiansky was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship as a writer of general non-fiction. Books will be available for purchase.



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

2012-13 Classes

RESEARCHING HISTORY AND GENEALOGY AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

The library offers classes introducing researchers to research techniques and resources at Thomas Balch Library. Classes will include subject-specific training by experienced staff or guest speakers. The classes, limited in size, with registration required, will be held the first Thursday of each month.

PRESERVATION FOR HOME ARCHIVES

Thursday, 4 October 2012, 10-12AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist, 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 conservation 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,

soldiers documented locations of battles, and training camps in Northern Virginia for the Spanish-American war are marked on maps. 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 one can use and explore the stories behind those maps.

Charlie Grymes teaches "Geography of Virginia" at George Mason University (see www.virginiaplaces.org). He retired from the US 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 AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

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.

INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Thursday, 7 February 2013, 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*, *Chronicle America: Historic American Newspapers*, and *Fold3*.

DEED RESEARCH

Thursday, 7 March 2013, 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.

RESEARCHING COURT RECORDS

Thursday, 4 April 2013, 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.

RESEARCHING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN VIRGINIA

Thursday, 2 May 2013, 10-12AM

Eric Grundset, Library Director, Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington, DC

WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

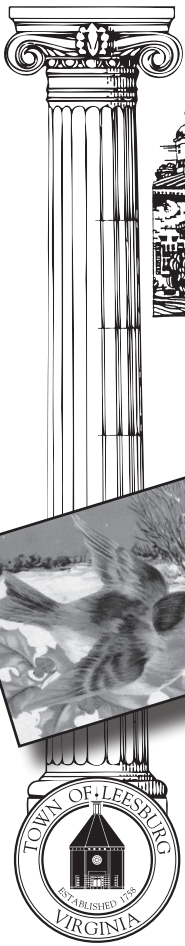
Thursday, 6 June 2013, 10-12AM

Have you collected lots of genealogical data? Are you looking for ways to organize it so you can share it with family members? Freelance writer, **Jim Barnes**, will lead this interactive workshop in which participants will explore ways of finding themes in their family histories and create interesting narratives their family members will enjoy reading. A regular contributor to the *Washington Post* and *Leesburg Patch*, Barnes has been researching his genealogy for over 25 years and has recently started writing narratives to share with his family.

GOLD STAR MOTHERS IN VIRGINIA

Thursday, 1 August, 2013, 10-12AM

Constance Potter, Reference Archivist, Research Services, National Archives and Records Administration, will describe the World War I graves registration and Gold Star Mother pilgrimage of the early 1930s.



THE BALCH COLUMN

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FALL 2012 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 and sponsors an annual fundraiser. The public is always welcome. For more information, visit www.balchfriends.org or call 703/737-2166.

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.

Murder Mystery Fund Raiser for the BHC: 13 October 2012, 6:30PM Cascades Senior Center; dinner theatre with audience participation. Tickets (\$40) may be purchased at www.stagecoachtheatrecompany.com.

The Black History Committee and Loudoun County Public Schools are hosting an **Open House at the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School, 510 Principal Drummond Way, SE, Leesburg, Saturday, 27 October, 2012**. The community is invited to view the permanent exhibit memorializing the history of the original school once occupying the site. In 1958 the original Frederick Douglass Elementary School opened as a segregated school for African-American students. In 1968 it was integrated in accordance with a U.S. District Court order. The time of the event and additional details are forthcoming. Please feel free to contact Sara Howard-O'Brien at 571-252-1156 or sara.howardobrien@lcps.org.

Rust Library Exhibit: Sherry Sanabria, artist and member of the Black History Committee, will be showing a series of paintings "The Magic of Light" at Rust Library, 380 Old Waterford Rd., NW, Leesburg, VA, November-December 2012

Virginia Forum

The eighth annual 2013 Virginia Forum will be held March 21-23 on the campus of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. The Virginia Forum brings together historians, teachers, writers, archivists, museum curators, historic site interpreters, librarians, and others engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history to share their knowledge, research, and experiences. The Virginia Forum is interdisciplinary and welcomes proposals from scholars, teachers, students, and professionals in all fields. This year's theme, "Writing Virginia," particularly encourages submissions that analyze the ways in which Virginia has been represented, constructed, and recorded in non-fiction, fiction, other literary and historical forms, the visual arts, and historic and monumental sites. For information about sessions, workshops, and submitting proposals, please see www.virginiaforum.org. Direct further inquiries to: VaForum@rmc.edu.

SPECIAL *Events*

Learn How to Navigate Loudoun County's On-Line Mapping System ~ WebLogis Workshop, Wednesday, 17 October 2012, 10-12AM

Loudoun County's Office of Mapping and Geographic Information is offering training for the County's WebLogis Online Mapping System.

Digitizing Audio Media Wednesday, 24 October, 2012 from 12-2PM.

Come join the Thomas Balch Library for a special presentation on digitization. Details of this event will be posted on our web calendar.

Civil War 150 Legacy Project Scanning Event Saturday, 13 April 2013 at Thomas Balch Library

Contact Tracy Gillespie at 703-327-9777 or by e-mail at tgillespie@nvrpa.org.