



1922-2008

**Friends of the
Thomas Balch
Library, Inc.**

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The Thomas Balch Chronicle

The Newsletter of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg, Virginia

208 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20176

A Library for History and Genealogy

Volume 12 Issue 3

Fall 2008

Oak Hill Event to Launch Friends' Thomas Balch Library Endowment Fund

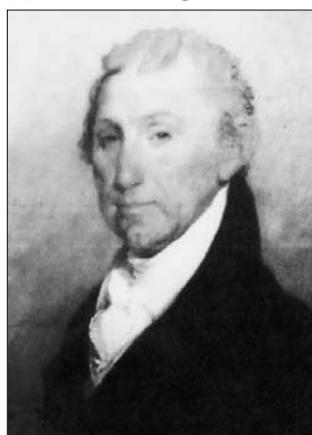
In the midst of a heavily-contested presidential election, the Friends of Thomas Balch Library have scheduled an event at Oak Hill, to celebrate the career of James Monroe (1758-1831). A Virginia native and for a time a resident of Loudoun County, Monroe served two terms as president of the United States and, in fact, ran unopposed for that office in 1820. His tenure as president is termed by historians as "the Era of Good Feelings." President Monroe is probably best known to the public for his formulation of the "Monroe Doctrine" that warned European imperial states out of the Americas. A Revolutionary War veteran, he served as a member of the United States Senate, and as Minister to France helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase.

It happens that this year marks the 250th anniversary of President James Monroe's birth in Westmoreland County. On the evening of **September 20** the owners of his estate, Oak Hill, have agreed to host this commemorative event. The property, designed by Thomas Jefferson, served as the Monroe home after he left the White House, and remains a private residence. The owners, Thomas and Gayle DeLashmutt, have graciously consented to host the event. Its purpose is to help fund and create an endowment for Thomas Balch Library.

The evening will feature an illustrated lecture by Dr. Daniel Preston, editor of the *Papers of James Monroe* and author of a new biography of the fifth president's career. Jay Harrison, an experienced and costumed interpreter of the Monroe persona, will join Preston, who is affiliated with Mary Washington University in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Professor Preston has agreed to a book signing after his presentation. A raffle of local items of value, the opportunity to stroll through the extensive gardens and taste elegant Virginia-themed refreshments, by Karen Harper-Fuog, will make it a very special occasion. Swedenburg Estate Vineyard is providing the wine.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through the Friends and are sold on a first-come basis only. No tickets will be available at the door. All proceeds will fund the endowment. Activities will begin at 5:30 p.m. and conclude by 8 p.m.

According to Brenda Douglass, president of the Friends, "We are profoundly obliged to the DeLashmutt family for sharing this treasure of American history with us and realize that we are sponsoring a public event in a private home. Their generosity is a powerful testimony to their seriousness in preserving this distinctive local piece of our common heritage."



COURTESY: NPS

President James Monroe

New Acquisitions at Thomas Balch Library

- A People at War*, by Scott Nelson
- American Resting Place*, by Marilyn Yalom
- Autograph Collector's Checklist*, by John Taylor
- Billy Pierce, Dance Master*, by Lemoine Pierce
- Caution & Cooperation*, by Phillip Myers
- Civil War in Loudoun County, Virginia*, by Stevan Meserve
- Clad in Iron*, by Howard Fuller
- Deepest South*, by Gerald Horne
- Encyclopedia of Appalachia*, by Rudy Abramson
- Forgotten Patriots*, by Eric Grundset
- Irish Americans in the Confederate Army*, by Sean O'Brien

- Kingdom of Bavaria V, VI, VII, VIII Parish Map Guide*, by Kevan Hansen
 - Old Plantations of Middleburg, Virginia*, Vol. 3, by Audrey Bergner
 - Slave Trade Debate*, by John Pinfeld
 - Slavery, Resistance, Freedom*, by Gabor Boritt
 - Stealing the General*, by Russell Bonds
 - The Record Interpreter*, by Charles Martin
 - The Underground Railroad*, 2 vol., by Mary Snodgrass
 - Washington National Mall*, by Peter Penczer
 - Women in the American Civil War*, 2 vol., by Lisa Frank
- Compiled by LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist*



Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lectures: Synopsis of the First Three in the Series

Following the success of the Thomas Balch Library Loudoun County's 250th Anniversary Lecture series, another exciting lecture series honors the Town of Leesburg's 250th Anniversary.

Sponsoring organizations are Thomas Balch Library, Town of Leesburg, TBL Advisory Commission, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., and the Loudoun County Historical Society, with support from community groups.

Leading off the series was a lecture presented May 25, 2008, by Dr. Elizabeth Brand Monroe, Professor of History at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

WILLIAM WIRT:

A PRESENCE IN THE HEART OF LEESBURG

Professor Monroe described U.S. Attorney General William Wirt's experiences in Leesburg in 1792. Wirt was a young law student studying in the law office of Thomas Swann, himself a young attorney practicing before the Loudoun County Court. She reported what Leesburg was like in the last decade of the eighteenth century, how law students like Wirt learned their professional skills, how the county justices of the peace upheld the laws of their state and maintained the peace, what kinds of cases they heard while Wirt attended court sessions, and what those cases can tell us about Leesburg and its citizens in the 1790s.

When Wirt arrived in Leesburg in March of 1792 he was a young man of nineteen with little more than the shirt on his back. When he left Leesburg in August he had a modest amount of legal knowledge, a copy of William Blackstone's *Commentaries*, a horse, and the contents of his saddle bags. Wirt began his practice in Culpeper County and later moved to Albemarle County where he came to the attention of Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. Later he served as Clerk of the House of Delegates and as a chancellor of the Virginia courts. He successfully defended the man who probably murdered George Wythe, the first law professor in the United States, and unsuccessfully helped prosecute Aaron Burr for treason. By 1817 when President Monroe appointed Wirt as U.S. Attorney General, the former Leesburg law student was one of the most famous lawyers in Virginia. In Washington he argued over 150 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and served in the cabinets of both Monroe and John Quincy Adams, making him the longest-seated attorney general in U.S. history.

Leesburg at the time of Wirt's studies consisted of two major thoroughfares, the Alexandria Road which continued west through town toward Clarke's Gap, and the Carolina Road from Frederick that became King Street in town and continued south to Aldie. Lesser streets formed blocks of mixed residences and commercial structures, including a group of stores and taverns that supplied both townspeople and the neighboring county. Al-

though Loudoun was one of the largest counties in Virginia in 1790, the population of Leesburg numbered only about 700. Yet on monthly court days the population swelled as citizens flocked in to conduct legal business, buy supplies, sell crops, and watch the spectacle of the courtroom.

As a law student William Wirt sat on the back bench of the lawyers' bar. In the five months he attended court sessions he heard petitions to build mills and roads, requests for administrators to settle estates, recording of land transfers, and assignments of orphans to the custody of near relatives or the overseers of the poor. He also heard the complaint of Francis Manly, a Negro, who petitioned for release from his mistress Jemimah Fields on charges of neglect and the dispute over the contract to hire a slave named Sarah, and the general terms of service for slave hire: shelter, food, clothing, and a week off at Christmas. In the summer months there were assault and battery cases when fights broke out, one involving several justices. Criminal cases included Miller Hogue's destruction of Mrs. Phillips' stacks of wheat and rye and Andrew Campbell's attempt to rape Sally Gregg. But most of the cases William Wirt heard in the spring and summer of 1792 related to debt. Some suits involved unpaid rent or unpaid bills owed storekeepers. In many instances the court ordered the sheriff to seize the defendant's property, often horses or cattle because they were easy to move and fairly valuable, to be auctioned to cover the debt owed. For example Wirt's mentor Thomas Swann asked the court to attach the property of his client's debtor. The sheriff levied the attachment on "three horses, eleven shoats, two straw beds, two sheets, two bed quilts, four flour barrels, and two pair of iron traces."

The cases William Wirt heard in the courtroom in Leesburg in 1792 were typical of the new American states at the end of the eighteenth century. In addition to describing the everyday life of Loudoun, they demonstrate how the courts of the new republic provided access to the law to all citizens and helped train the second generation of great American lawyers.

For further reading, Dr. Monroe suggests,

Anya Jabour. *Marriage in the Early Republic: Elizabeth and William Wirt and the Companionate Ideal*. Gender Relations in the American Experience. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

John Pendleton Kennedy. *Memoirs of the Life of William Wirt, Attorney-General of the United States*. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1850.

Wirt, William and Peter Hoffman Cruse. *The Letters of the British Spy*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970.

Wirt, William. *Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry*. New York: M'Elrath & Bangs, 1835.

NOTE: With grant funds from the Loudoun Library Foundation and contributions by Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., the library has produced a DVD and booklet of the special lecture series honoring the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County in 2007. Printed excerpts from the lectures are accompanied by a 60 minute DVD. It is a limited edition, available for \$15, and will not be reprinted once copies are sold. We have had an increasing number of requests from patrons for recordings of our lectures. Last year, using equipment purchased for the Library by the Friends, 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 request, for \$10.

LEESBURG'S DEVELOPMENT AS REFLECTED IN ITS ARCHAEOLOGY

The second lecture in the series was a panel discussion of the town's archaeological footprint, moderated by Heidi Siebentritt, Historic Preservation Planner for Loudoun County, with speakers Michael Clem, who develops and interprets Loudoun County archaeological resources, and Dr. David T. Clark, Professor of Archaeology at Catholic University and founder of Loudoun Archaeological Foundation.

Dr. Clark told the patrons about the 'digs' conducted by his Northern Virginia Community College students and other citizens. This program is in keeping with the concept of educating a "whole community" about archaeological resources and their protection. His premise: Anywhere there is undisturbed land, even if covered with pavement, the careful excavation of such a spot will yield archival information related to the early settlement, development and industry in historic Leesburg.

His photo record of Leesburg citizens of all ages, participating in an excavation at North and King Streets was enlightening. These explorations, conducted at various times during the year, are one more opportunity to gain knowledge at a different level. For full information, go to the LAF website: info@loudounarchaeology.org.

Michael Clem was heavily involved in the search for Leesburg's first jail. His comments:

"In 2006, Lt. Chris Athey of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department came across a small plat of the original jail as it was to be laid out on Sheriff Aneas Campbell's property in 1757. The plat showed a nine-acre square designated as the prison grounds with the sheriff's house and the jail drawn in their approximate locations. Athey contacted me and Joe McDonald, a professional surveyor, to assist in finding the remains of the jail and Campbell's house. Based on coordinates on the corners of the 1757 plat, McDonald gave us some clues as to where the nine-acre lot might be within the historic bounds of Campbell's hundreds of acres.

"We began searching in the autumn of 2006 and quickly found Campbell's house. Hundreds of domestic type artifacts from the right time period and of the expected quality were recovered. The jail however was more elusive. Eventually we located it within a modern farm pond. This required construction of a coffer dam to allow us access to the specific area. The artifacts from the site date to the right time period and indicate the house was occupied by someone of means. The jail itself has yielded relatively few artifacts, as would be expected, however there is little doubt we have what we have been searching for. Further excavation is planned at the site to continue to interpret the story of Loudoun's first jail."

For further reading, the panel suggests:

Noel Hume, Ivor. *In Search of This & That: Tales from an Archaeologist's Quest: Selected Essays* from the Colonial Williamsburg Journal. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1996.

Hanna, William F. and Claude F. Petrone. *Ground Penetrating Radar, Electromagnetic, and Magnetic Gradiometry Surveys at the Domestic Site, Black Cemetery, and Walled Cemetery, Historic Mount Zion "Old School" Baptist Church, Loudoun County, Virginia.* [s.l.]: Petrone & Associates, c2001.

Balicki, Joseph, and Walton H., II Owen. *Documentation of eight Civil War forts and Earthworks in the vicinity of Leesburg, Virginia.* Alexandria, VA: John Milner Associates, Inc., 2002.

Rust, William F., III. *Chronology of Prehistoric Habitation Sites on the Potomac River in Loudoun County, Virginia, from the Countryside Planned Community to the Catocin Creek/Potomac Confluence.* Leesburg, VA: Loudoun Archaeology Center, 1985.



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL CLEM

An ancient lock found on the Campbell property. While it cannot be verified to be part of the jail equipment, no doubt there were similar locks in use at the time the jail was located on this property.

MAPPING LEESBURG

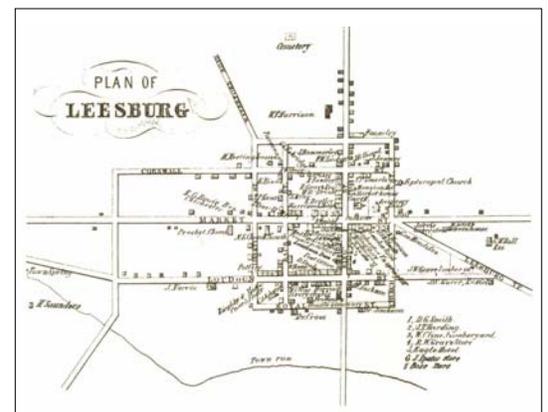
Historian and mapmaker Eugene M. Scheel presented an illustrated talk entitled "Mapping Leesburg" to those patrons attending the third Leesburg 250th Anniversary lecture, on June 22.

Scheel's focus was a series of maps representing the progress of Leesburg's history from a single long-gone building (known as Fruitlands and the home of town founder Nicholas Minor) to a modern map created just prior to the intensive development in the early 1950s.

The first map explored was the famous Virginia Survey attributed to Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson in 1755, three years before the town's founding.

Additional maps, dated 1758, 1779, 1781, 1852 and 1870, visually displayed the additions to the town and much of its growth. The final map discussed was the undated U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle, covering the area from 1943, published in 1952.

Following the lecture, a bit of serendipity for Mr. Scheel: Marilyn Bos told him her late husband, former County Supervisor Chuck Bos, had taken a photo of Fruitlands before its destruction in the 1970s and she will look for it. It's believed there is no other photo of the building extant. Stay tuned for developments!



MAP COURTESY THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

The Leesburg segment of Yardley Taylor's map of Loudoun County surveyed and drawn in 1852-53.

Living History Experience For Seventh Graders

On June 10, 2008, students with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership and Loudoun County Public Schools visited with Dr. Deborah Lee and Mary Randolph for an in-depth look at the Loudoun County segregation experience. Seventh graders from Blue Ridge Middle School were surrounded by early photos of the segregated school buildings and heard first-hand stories from Mrs. Randolph about life in a segregated school. The photographs told the story more clearly than textbooks by showing how separate, but unequal, the schools were at that time. The students read aloud actual letters written by Charles Hamilton Houston in 1940 regarding segregation in Loudoun County. Dr. Lee explained the issues that, in 1940, were before the County Wide League about either accepting the school board's offer to build a Leesburg school in the next year or pursuing larger and wider issues of inequality. The students took a mock vote and agreed with the County Wide League vote to go ahead and build the school, which led to Douglass High School. The examples set by Mrs. Randolph, and her schoolmates, of working hard and succeeding, regardless of obstacles, will not soon be forgotten by this group of seventh graders or their chaperones. Mrs. Randolph took the kids, by way of memories, to a typical day in segregated Banneker Elementary School, where all grades shared one room and one teacher, and to her prom at Douglass High School. The group felt Mrs. Randolph's pride towards her diploma, the token of her success. As she showed the students her diploma, she beamed, and the group realized how important education truly is, then and now.

History came alive for these young pupils and the jaws dropped when current day students learned that Mrs. Randolph could not have entered the very library where they were sitting. The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership wishes to thank Thomas Balch Library and Mrs. Randolph for sharing her experiences. While the students visited other sites in Loudoun that day, they learned a lifelong lesson from the real-life experiences of Mrs. Randolph on their Thomas Balch Library visit.

Jennifer Moore

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY CLASSES

Maximizing Your Time at Thomas Balch Library:

An Introduction to the Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques

A series of classes introducing novice and experienced researchers to the intricacies of resources at Thomas Balch Library will be offered throughout the year. This series will include a tour of the facility; subject specific training by experienced staff, handouts, and an opportunity to ask questions. These classes will be limited in size, registration is required, and classes will repeat as demand suggests.

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 non-government organization 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 one might use them to aid in the research of historic properties. Included will be a brief overview of the library's Lewis/Edwards and Historic Leesburg files, Tax Records, and Maps available to also assist in the research of historic properties and early Loudoun settlers. Mary A. Pender, a part-time librarian and cataloger at Thomas Balch Library 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. She is currently part of a development team working on the County's first online permitting system. 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.

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

EMANCIPATION DAY CELEBRATION - 10 - 4 - Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. ALL ARE WELCOME!

A daylong celebration of Emancipation Day will be held at Carver Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville, Virginia. The festivities will begin with an opening ceremony presenting the history of the Loudoun County Emancipation Association in word, music and reenactment, followed by the unveiling of the Association's Presidents' Plaque by Charles P. Clark, the only surviving officer of the LCEA, and Purcellville's oldest citizen. Clark will be assisted by Jim Brownell, president of the Purcellville Preservation Association, the sponsoring organization.

Other activities will include Black history exhibits, art show, appearances by members of the Negro Baseball League from Harrisburg, PA, a Buffalo soldier reenactor, children's choirs, gospel, rap and other music, fair-type amusements for children and adults, crafts and refreshments, and a special presentation, "Sojourner Truth Speaks" by Alice McGill.

For more information and/or to volunteer/ support our work contact Emancipation Co-Chairs Elaine E. Thompson (540-338-4062) and Jeffery Jackson (hotcakesjj34@aol.com) or the coordinator of volunteers, Reginald Simms (540-338-2370)

LEESBURG'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES

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. See pages 2-3 for synopses of the first three.

Sunday, 14 September 2008, 2 p.m. – "Leesburg as Transportation Hub," a panel presentation chaired by Paul McCray of the Northern Virginia Park Authority, with 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, 2 p.m. – "Leesburg's African-American Community: An Exceptional Experience," a discussion of unique African-American experiences, social relations, and the vital role of church and schools. Deborah A. Lee, public historian, Elaine E. Thompson, author, and the Rev. Harold Stinger of the First Mount Olivet Baptist Church.

Sunday, 2 November 2008, 2 p.m. – "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.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

Saturday, 20 September 2008, 5:30-8 p.m. - An Evening with James Monroe "Bringing History Alive" - 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 full information see page 1.

Sunday, 21 September 2008, 2 p.m. - *The Civil War in Loudoun County Virginia: A History of Hard Times* - Author Stevan F. 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 Round Table, and part-time tour guide at Civil War battlefields and sites. *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.

Monday, 6 October 2008, 7 p.m. - Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historical Records - 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. The group will leave the library promptly at 6:45PM.

Sunday, 12 October 2008, 2 p.m. - Excavating at the Werowocomoco Site in 2007, Gloucester County, Virginia - David Brown, a founding member of the Werowocomoco Research Group (WRG) will discuss the Werowocomoco Research Group's current understanding of the site's cultural landscape through a reading of documentary, cartographic, and archaeological sources. The project, now in its fifth year in consultation with Virginia's tribes, explores the political center of the Powhatan chiefdom and John Smith's rescue by Pocahontas.

Sunday, 19 October 2008, 2 p.m. - James Monroe, First Citizen of Loudoun - 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 a Senior Fellow of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation.

Sunday, 26 October 2008, 2 p.m. - The Country Squire Who Changed Washington - David Finley, Quiet Force for America's Arts . David A. Doheny 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 from the Trust 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. Copies of the book will be available for purchase on-site through the Oatland's Historic House and Gardens Gift Shop.

Sunday, 7 December 2008, 2 p.m. - Purcellville, Virginia, 1908-2008: A Centennial Anthology - Purcellville historian Deborah Lee and members of the town's Centennial Committee assembled a collection that in Lee's engaging narrative, weaves together memoir, histories, and tributes, all richly illustrated with photographs, old and new, and paintings by talented local artists. Lee will share stories from the book and about its making, accompanied by slides. She will sign copies of the book, which will be available for purchase.

Sunday, 14 December 2008 2 p.m. - *The Rescue of Streetcar 304: A Navy Pilot's Forty Hours on the Run in Laos* - Kenny Wayne Fields. 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, and Fields was shot down. *The Rescue of Streetcar 304* is Fields' exhilarating narrative of the 40-hour ordeal that followed, and what turned out to be one of the largest air rescues of the Vietnam War. Copies of his best-selling book, at the Air & Space Museums since 2007, will be available for purchase.

New and Renewing Members

Daria D'Arienzo & John Lancaster
Jinsie S. Bingham
Francis & Margaret Fera
Christine M. Lanphere
G. Shirley Myers
Jane G. Packard
Brian & Barbara Petrov
Joseph & Juanita Pierson
Mary Ann Polacek
Tom & Sandy Smart
Alice Jean Stine
Marguerite Teska
Patricia G. Ward
Karen Washburn
Mary Smalley Wood

A Reminder

Be sure to renew your Friends' membership. Check your label for your own renewal date, and use the form below to enlist your friends, now.

Help preserve Leesburg's most valuable asset: Thomas Balch Library and join us for the launch of The Thomas Balch Library Endowment Fund
September 20, 2008

Friends of the

Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

invite you to join us!

Yes! I wish to join the Friends and play an important part in supporting the collections and programs of Thomas Balch Library.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Individual	\$ 20.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Student/Senior	\$ 15.00
Corporate	\$ 35.00
Patron	\$ 50.00
Sustaining	\$100.00
Benefactor	\$250.00

Please forward with your check to:

**Friends of the
Thomas Balch Library, Inc
PO Box 2184 Leesburg, VA 20177**

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation

The Library Director's Letter

Commencing in September, a variety of exhibits, programs, including continuation of a special series reflecting on Leesburg's 250 year history, and classes are being offered. For these and other events at Thomas Balch Library see the fall edition of the *Balch Column* on line at <http://www.leesburgva.com/services/Library/Newsletter/> - click on either the newsletter or calendar of events. See also the calendar on page 5 of this newsletter.

With grant funds from the Loudoun Library Foundation and contributions by Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., the library has produced a DVD and booklet of the special lecture series honoring the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County in 2007. Printed excerpts from the lectures are accompanied by a 60 minute DVD. It is a limited edition, available for \$15, and will not be reprinted once copies are sold. We have had an increasing number of requests from patrons for recordings of our lectures. Last year, using equipment purchased for the Library by the Friends, 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 request, for \$10. For computer users we also have available a mouse pad with an image of Thomas Balch Library for \$5. As a way to showcase our visual collections and to commemorate Leesburg's 250th Anniversary, we are creating a postcard we hope to have available this fall.

Our collection continues to grow through donation and purchase. Of special interest to members of the Friends are the following additions to our professional collection: *The Essential Friends of Libraries: Fast facts, Forms, and Tips* (2005) Sandy Dolnick; *The Successful Library Trustee Handbook* (2005) Mary Y. Moore; *Raising Funds with Friends Groups* (2004) Mark Herring and *Fundraising for Libraries* (2002) James Swann. Researchers may be interested in some of our recently processed manuscript and visual collections which include: Dulles Airport Dedication (SC 0035), memorabilia from the dedication ceremony in 1962; Henry G. Plaster Collection (SC 0038), local histories about Bluemont and Snickersville; Catoctin Mountain Alliance Records (M 031), papers from a citizen's organization formed during the development of Beacon Hill; and Fran Poston Photograph Collection (VC 0007), pictures from a local photographer. Guides to these and other processed collections may be found on our website <http://www.leesburgva.com/services/library/online/specialcollections/>. Access to several digital research collections has been provided this year. These included: Access Newspaper Archive, Footnote, and Virginia Sanborn Maps. In September, *America: History and Life* will also be accessible. A list of recently acquired books may be found on page 1 of this newsletter.

In addition to our regularly scheduled programs and classes we also offer tours and exhibits. In June 165 7th graders from the Blue Ridge Middle School visited the library. This tour, divided into four groups, was under the auspices of Journey Through Hallowed Ground. Deborah Lee and Mary Randolph, members of the Black History Committee, were presenters for the program. See a full report, on page 4 of this newsletter. Our new exhibit program has provided an opportunity for local and regional photographers and artists to showcase their work in the lower level meeting room at TBL. This has been successful – our first exhibitor was Jim Hanna followed by Judith Lillas. Currently Fran Poston is exhibiting images of Loudoun County and in November Sarah Huntington will feature photographs from her book *In their own Words, Recollections of an Earlier Loudoun*.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission elected Francis R. Fera Chair and James H. Hershman, Jr. Vice Chair during its meeting in July. 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. The Commission participated in the Twelfth Annual Loudoun County Public Schools Social Science Fair in June and presented an award in recognition of Leesburg's 250th anniversary to Alexander I. Bailey for his exhibit in the Geography and Mapping category "Historical Sites in Leesburg". The annual Loudoun History Awards also sponsored by the Commission will be held in November. Nominations are accepted in October. Guidelines for submission may be found on the library website or you may request a copy of our brochure by contacting the library.

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

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM
FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC.
P.O. Box 2184 Leesburg, VA 20177

Telephone: 703-737-2166

Fax: 703-737-7150

www.balchfriends.org

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Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads

Volume 1 **Eastern Loudoun: Goin' Down the Country**

Volume 2 **Leesburg and the Old Carolina Road**

Volume 3 **The Hunt Country and Middleburg**

Volume 4 **Quaker Country and the Loudoun Valley**

Volume 5 **Waterford, the German Settlement & Between the Hills**

\$ 20.00 each vol.

Set of all five volumes plus Eugene Scheel's

New Historical Map of Loudoun County

\$100.00

Individual copies of the **Historical Map**

\$ 10.00

**The Essence of A People: Portraits of African Americans Who
Made a Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia**

\$ 15.00

The Essence of A People II:

**African Americans Who Made Their World Anew in
Loudoun County, Virginia, and Beyond**

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**Loudoun County's African American Communities:
A Tour Map and Guide**

\$ 5.00

**A Taste of Loudoun County: Our Favorite Recipes 1903-1951
Home Interest Club Cookbook - Centennial Edition**

\$ 10.00

A Story of Round Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia

by Ann W. Thomas

\$ 20.00

**In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation
Association, 1890-1971** by Elaine E. Thompson

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George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist & Musician

by Lemoine D. Pierce/by the Black History Committee of
Friends of the Thomas Balch Library

\$ 10.00

**Journey Through Time: Events Affecting African Americans In
Loudoun County Virginia** by the Black History Committee
of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library

\$ 5.00

"The Imperious Laird": John Campbell, Fourth Earl of Loudoun

by Douglas W. Foard, Ph.D.

\$ 15.00

Billy Pierce: Dance Master, Son of Purcellville

by Lemoine D. Pierce/by the Black History Committee of FTBL

\$ 15.00

Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem-

Loudoun County 250th Anniversary Lecture Series Synopses & DVD

\$ 15.00

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Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**

We also accept Visa and MasterCard



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Get your tickets now!
Thomas Balch Library
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September 20, 2008

Other Activities at Thomas Balch Library

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.

Your nominations for worthy individuals is welcome now. For a brochure or information on nominating individuals, contact the Library Director at 703/737-7195.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission meets at the Library, at 7 PM, the second Wednesday of every month. The public is always welcome.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., a 501c3 corporation organized to provide support for Thomas Balch Library, meets at the Library the third Tuesday of every other month at 8:30 AM. 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 7 PM. The public is always welcome. For more information visit www.balchfriends.org

Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. Because of limited seating, we recommend registering in advance by calling 703-737-7195.