

1922-2012

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

P.O. Box 2184 Leesburg, VA 20177

E-Mail: info@balchfriends.org Website: www.balchfriends.org Phil Lo Presti

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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 16 Issue 3 Fall 2012

Friends of Thomas Balch Library's Fifth Annual Fundraiser a Huge Success, Despite the Rain!

Although the weather didn't cooperate—it rained heavily—everything else went smoothly on Sunday, August 19 at the fifth annual Friends of the Thomas Balch Library fundraising event at the Thomas Birkby House in the Leesburg historic district. A full house gathered, sheltered by the huge air-conditioned tent, and were treated to an engaging and edifying talk by the noted author Anthony S. Pitch on the British invasion of Washington in the summer of 1814. Mr. Pitch is the author of *The Burning of Washington*, among other

books and is considered an expert on the War of 1812.

A precis of his remarks: "In 1814 British forces captured Washington and set fire to the White House, the U. S. Capitol and other public buildings, marking the lowest point in American history, with President James Madi-



Anthony S. Pitch

son fleeing to Virginia. But just three weeks later, the enemy was repulsed at Fort McHenry, which refused to surrender during a naval bombardment by day and by night. An eyewitness, Francis Scott Key, recorded his ecstasy in a poem, *The Star Spangled Banner* that became the words to our national anthem."

The event also included a sumptuous spread of *bors d'oeuves* from Savoir Fare catering, fine Virginia wines, and a raffle with exciting and valuable prizes. Event sponsors included Donald Cooper; Engle, Paxson & Hawthorne Services, LLC; Sarah Huntington Photography; Rosalie and Lewis Leigh, Jr.; PRESTI Engineering/Mr. and Mrs. Phil Lo Presti, Jr.; Fred and Betty Morefield; Presidential Bank; Silverbrook Farm B & B, Dorothy F. Shetterly, Proprietor; Toth Financial Advisory Corp.; Susan and George Webber; Riverside on the Potomac–Suzanne and Travis Worsham; Ron Rust and Judy Kozacik.

"The fundraiser was a success in every way, including the bottom line," said Ron Rust, the Friends president who graciously donated the use of Thomas Birkby House for the occasion.

All proceeds go to the endowment funds supporting activities of the Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg.

Nominations Sought for Twentieth Annual Advisory Commission Loudoun History Awards

The Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission seeks nominations for its twentieth annual Loudoun History Awards. This event honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing and long-term involvement in local history organizations.

Letters of nomination should include a statement elaborating the nominees' accomplishments. Newspaper articles, program announcements, publications, or other supporting information that provides evidence of the nominee's accomplishments may be included. Contact information for the nominee and nominator must accompany the nomination. Contact Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, Thomas Balch Library. **Deadline for nominations is October 8, 2012.**

The annual awards, were established to recognize contributions of local historian, John Elbert Divine (1911-1996), in preserving Loudoun County history. Divine was recognized nationally for his knowledge and understanding of the Civil War and regionally for his willingness to share historical information with others. He authored two books in the *Virginia Regimental Series* on the Civil War: *The 8th Virginia Infantry* and *The 35th Battalion Virginia Cavalry*.

He also edited *To Talk is Treason*, an account of Waterford during the Civil War, and co-authored *Loudoun County in the Civil War*. In addition, he cofounded Loudoun County Historical Society.

The Loudoun History Awards ceremony will be held at Thomas Balch Library at 2 pm, on November 11, 2012 in the lower level meeting room. Please join us in honoring these men and women who preserve our heritage.

Be sure to renew your Friends' membership. Check your lable for renewal date.

Please use the form on page four to enlist your friends to become members.

Now, Where is the Declaration of Independence?



Rokeby, near Leesburg, Virginia

PHOTO: THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

The **Declaration of Independence** has been stored in many places over the years. For its first few years of existence, it was quickly gathered up by the **Continental Congress** as they fled from town to town to escape the British army. The Declaration probably received some pretty rough treatment in those days. In later years it was stored in the offices of different government agencies. Today the original of this important document is held by the **National Archives** in Washington, D.C.

Below, a sampling of the document's travels, long before its legendary trip to safety in 1814 to Rokeby where it was protected in a basement vault, thanks to Stephen Pleasonton, a State Department clerk. He later became Fifth Auditor of the Treasury of the United States.

Philadelphia: August-December 1776
Baltimore: December 1776-March 1777
Philadelphia: March-September 1777
Lancaster,PA: September27 1777

York,PA: September 30,1777-June 1778

Philadelphia: July 1778-June 1783 Princeton,NJ: June-November 1783

Annapolis,MD: November 1783-October 1784

Trenton,NJ: November-December 1784 NewYork: 1785-1790

NewYork: 1785-1790 Philadelphia: 1790-1800

Washington,D.C. Three locations: 1800-1814
Leesburg,VA: August-September 1814
Washington,D.C. Three location): 1814-1841
Washington, D.C. Patent Office Building: 1841-1876

Philadelphia: May-November 1876

Washington, D.C. State, War, and Navy Building: 1877-

1921

Washington, D.C. Library of Congress: 1921-1941

Fort Knox*: 1941-1944

Washington, D.C. Library of Congress: 1944-1952 Washington, D.C. National Archives: 1952-present

An Eyewitness Report:

It's true, some people have credited President Madison's wife Dolley (her preferred spelling) with the rescue of the Declaration of Independence and other priceless government papers, at the time of the burning of Washington in 1814. Not true.

However, she did save a priceless full-size portrait of George Washington, painted by Gilbert Stuart. along with other precious items belonging to the White House.

Perhaps, she left us an equally valuable 'artifact': her letter to her sister Lucy, giving us a first hand view of that wild day in August, 1814.

Tuesday, August 23, 1814.

Dear Sister, My husband left me yesterday morning to join General Winder. He inquired anxiously whether I had courage or firmness to remain in the President's house until his return on the morrow, or succeeding day, and on my assurance that I had no fear but for him, and the success of our army, he left, beseeching me to take care of myself, and of the Cabinet papers, public and private. I have since received two despatches from him, written with a pencil. The last is alarming, because he desires I should be ready at a moments warning to enter my carriage, and leave the city; that the enemy seemed stronger than had at first been reported, and it might happen that they would reach the city with the intention of destroying it. I am accordingly ready; I have pressed as many Cabinet papers into trunks as to fill one carriage; our private property must be sacrificed, as it is impossible to procure wagons for its transportation. I am determined not to go myself until I see Mr. Madison safe, so that he can accompany me, as I hear of much hostility towards him. My friends and acquaintances are all gone, even Colonel C. with his hundred, who were stationed as a guard in this inclosure.

Wednesday Morning, twelve o clock.

Since sunrise I have been turning my spy-glass in every direction, and watching with unwearied anxiety, hoping to discover the approach of my dear husband and his friends; but, alas! I can descry only groups of military, wandering in all directions, as if there was a lack of arms, or of spirit to fight for their own fireside.

Three o'clock. Will you believe it, my sister? we have had a battle, or skirmish, near Bladensburg, and here I am still, within sound of the cannon! Mr. Madison comes not. May God protect us! Two messengers, come to bid me fly; but here I mean to wait for him. At this late hour a wagon has been procured, and I have had it filled with plate and the most valuable portable articles, belonging to the house. Whether it will reach its destination, the "Bank of Maryland," or fall into the hands of British soldiery, events must determine. Our kind friend, Mr. Carroll, has come to hasten my departure, and in a very bad humor with me, because I insist on waiting until the large picture of General Washington is secured, and it requires to be unscrewed from the wall. This process was found too tedious for these perilous moments; I have ordered the frame to be broken, and the canvas taken out. It is done! and the precious portrait placed in the hands of two gentlemen of New York, for safe keeping. And now, dear sister, I must leave this house, or the retreating army will make me a prisoner in it by filling up the road I am directed to take. When I shall again write to you, or where I shall be tomorrow, I cannot tell! Dolley

^{*}Except when the document was displayed on April 23, 1943, at the dedication of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Black History Committee Should be Proud! Frederick Douglass Elementary School Wall of History Installed

The collaborative work of the Black History Committee (BHC), George Mason University, Department of African American Studies (GMU-AAS), and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) has been installed at the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School located at 510 Principal Drummond Way in Leesburg. Over the past two years, the BHC, GMU-AAS, and LCPS have worked on the creation of a permanent exhibit to document the history of the school along with the struggles of the African American community for equal education.

Frederick Douglass Elementary School was constructed as a segregated school in 1958 and remained segregated until 1968 when Loudoun Schools were integrated under court order. It continued as an elementary school until 1982 and thereafter was used for a variety of LCPS programs and administration offices. The building was removed last year and the new school built in its place.

The exhibit traces the African-American community efforts from the 1930's through the 1960's in an informative timeline display located in the main lobby of the new school. The exhibit includes a series of wall panels that capture the primary local events and leaders of this period. It is complemented by touch screen computers that include related state and national timelines. The electronic component will allow for continued documentation and the availability of these educational resources throughout LCPS. There is also a case to display and preserve school honors and artifacts.

BHC and LCPS Community Open House and Ice Cream Social

The Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and Loudoun County Public Schools are hosting an Open House and Ice Cream Social at the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School (510 Principal Drummond Way, SE, Leesburg) on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at 2 o'clock. The community is invited to view the permanent exhibit memorializing the history of the original school that once occupied this site. In 1958, the original Frederick Douglass Elementary School opened as a segregated school for African-American students. It was integrated in 1968 in accordance with a U.S. District Court order.

The Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., is seeking new members to join this active and valuable group. We welcome all people interested in furthering the scope of Black History throughout our county, and beyond.



Above: A view of the exhibit wall that deliniates the story of Frederick Douglass and the history of the Frederick Douglass Elementary School, from a segregated school until 1968, to the present.

At right, a view of the artifacts and photos loaned by Douglass alumni, giving a scense of the schools past.

These cabinets will hold future honors and awards, as well.



 $Photos\,courtesy\,of\,Herb\,DuVall\\$

Tickets for BHC Fundraiser Now Available

It's A Murder Mysteryl and showtime is 6:30 pm on October 13, 2012. The mayhem takes place at Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling, Virginia. Guests are encouraged to arrive in costume for this show; it's almost Hallowee, you know.

Ticket price includes a Barbecue buffet, iced tea or lemonade, the Murder Mystery performance of "Murder in the News.", and tax is included.

Produced by StageCoach Theater Company, written and directed by Terry Smith, the dinner theater will benefit the Black History Committee in its work to expand the knowledge of the experiences of African-American citizens of Loudoun County.

For tickets, contact: Stagecoach Theater Company, info@stagecoachtc.com or (571) 477-9444.

Generous DAR Donation

The Ketoctin Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) presented Thomas Balch Library with America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography, by Eric Grundset with Briana L. Diaz and Hollis L. Gentry. Published in 2011 by the NSDAR, the three volume set highlights resources and scholarship from the 18th century to the most recent publications that document and analyze lives of women during the American Revolution. The massive work is divided into two parts: The first two volumes are a subject bibliography, the third volume lists work by author and contains a chronology. Presenting America's Women in the Revolutionary Era were Terri A. Coleman, Regent of the Ketoctin Chapter, and Carri Casserino, 1st Vice Regent. Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, accepted the donation on behalf of the Town of Leesburg and Thomas Balch Library. The Ketoctin Chapter of the NSDAR is headquartered in Bluemont. It was organized in 1950 and has remained an active heritage organization. America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography will be available to researchers as soon as it is catalogued.

> Pictured at left: Library Dirctor Alexandra S. Gressitt (center) accepts the three volume gift from DAR Ketoctin Chapter Regent Terri A. Coleman (left) and 1st Vice Regent Carri Casserino, far right.



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		
Adress		
City		
StateZip		
Phone	_	
Senior/Student	\$ 15.00	
Family	\$ 25.00	
Patron	\$ 50.00	
Sustaining/		
Business	\$ 100.00	
Benefactor	\$ 250.00	
Legacy Society	\$ 500.00+	

FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC

PO Box 2184 Leesburg, VA 20177

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. is tax exempt undere 501(c) 3

Exhibits – Fall 2012 to Spring 2013 Margaret Mercer Room

October – Virginia's Apple Industry – Loudoun Farm Museum

November - New Collections - TBL

December – Civil War Memorabilia – John Wynck

January – Mount Zion Church and It's History – Tracy Gillespie

Lower Level Meeting Room

October-

December: Friends Who Photograph

Loudoun Photography Club

January-

March: Landscaping

Amy Orr

April-

June Old Churches in Loudoun County

Jim Baker

Check your mailing label for your renewal date! Keep your membership current!

Please use this form to enlist your friends to become members.

The Director's Letter

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. Cutting Edge completed digitization of all the tapes and transferred the data to a terabyte drive. Shannon Fuller, a staff member, is processing the collection to mak it available for research use.

The library 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.

Among some of our other activities over the course of the last three months includes the replacement of our 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.

The twentieth annual Loudoun History Awards will be presented Sunday, November 11 at Thomas Balch Library. Letters of nomination will be accepted by the Library Director on behalf of the Advisory Commission. For guidelines on nominating, please visit the library website at

http://www.leesburgva.gov/index.aspx?page=84#Loudoun History Awards or call the library at 703/737-7195.

For all of us who attended the recent Friends fundraiser for Thomas Balch Library, the event was a delightful way to close the summer. Anthony Pitch held the audience captive with his presentation on the War of 1812. The support provided the library by the Friends through events such as these is appreciated by all who work in the facility and all who use it. Your support helps sustain and outstanding service to the community.

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 in a Nutshell:

A recent edition of *The Leesburg Patch* included this quote from remarks by Library Director Alexandra S. Gressitt, which without a doubt, is a succinct and crystal-clear description of the value of Thomas Balch Library to the community:

"Thomas Balch Library provides researchers, students and the purely curious an opportunity to study and understand the history of Leesburg, Loudoun County, and Northern Virginia," Library Director Alexandra Gressitt said.

"Our collections open doors to understanding not only the local arena but also that of the greater Commonwealth and the United States and provide an entrée to the world. Public records and private papers, including oral histories, in our library reveal personal and public experiences and reflect cultural, economic, political, religious, and social values of the community," Gressitt added.

An example: Research performed by Lisa DeZarn, while serving as an intern at TBL this summer. We are happy to announce she has joined the Thomas Balch Library staff as an Library Associate.

Thomas Balch Library recently made available for research the Cooper Fry Scott Family Papers, 1816-1950. (M076), a manuscript and visual collection. The collection focuses primarily on three families: Cooper, Fry, and Scott. Other related families connected by marriage are represented in the collection as well: these include Grubb, Smoot, Morrison, McDaniel, Baker, Brown, Virts, Haynes, and Sanbower. The three primary families originate from an area previously known as the "German Settlement" in the northwest corner of Loudoun County, Virginia known today as Lovettsville. The manuscript collection contains receipts and correspondence [1816-1859] from the estate of George Cooper (14 February 1770-18 August 1846). Of particular interest are letters and court documents related to two legal cases regarding property disputes following the death of George Cooper. Those researching local history and genealogy may take interest in the

receipt for the purchase of a slave dated 27 December 1858 and a slave pass dated 12 November 1859. Industry and transportation researchers may find the stock receipts for the Loudoun and Berlin Turnpike useful.

The visual portion of the collection contains 133 items, including tintypes, cabinet cards, photographic postcards, and photographs of family members. The first telephone installation in Morrisonville, Virginia, is represented by four photographs in the collection displaying the workers, their truck and equipment. Those conducting genealogical research may find the visual images of interest. During processing of this collection, I was able to identify many individuals; however, the identities of some remain a mystery. Any additional assistance in identification of individuals in the photographs will be welcomed.

Lisa DeZarn, Library Associate

Check Out These Enlightening (and Free!) Classes at TBL

Introducing researchers to techniques and resources available at Thomas Balch Library, and exploring other topics of interest, may open a totally new field of knowledge and enjoyment to you. Please see the *Thomas Balch Column* for complete 2012-2013 schedule and full descriptions of the offerings.

An example: Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012, 10 am to noon: Using Maps in Historical Research. Conducted by Charlie Grymes.

And on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, 10 am to noon: Opening the Albums: Highlights from the Visual Collections at Thomas Balch Library.

Recently Processed Manuscript Collections (05/12-07/12)

Charles, 3rd Earl of Tankerville Will, 1762 (1814 copy) (SC 0103)

Waterford Town Council Minute Book, 1891-1911 (OMB 014)

Additions to: Jim Hanna Photograph Collection, 2008-2009, 2011 (VC 0032)

Additions to: The Map Collection - 6 new maps

Additions to: Eugene Scheel Research Collection, ca. 1900-1990 (M 074) Lillian Warner Lawson Photograph, (VC 0045) Leesburg Civil War Collection, 1861-1865 (M 075)

Recently Catalogued Books (05/12-07/12)

Peden, Jr., Henry C. and John Pitts Launey, Early Church Records of Delaware County Pennsylvania, Volume 2

Launey, John Pts, Early Church Records of Delaware County Pennsylvania, Volume 3 Pitch, Anthony S., The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814

O'Laughlin, Michael C., Families of County Cork, Ireland: From the Earliest Times to the 20th Century

Jampoler, Andrew C. A., Horrible Shipwreck! Titus, Jill Ogline, Brown's Battleground: Students, Segregationists, & the Struggle for Justice in Prince Edward County, Virginia

Bonastia, Christopher, Southern Stalemate: Five years Without Public Education in Prince Edward County, Virginia

Marquis Who's Who's Who of American Women, 1972-1973

Ritchey, Glenn A., The Origins of the Judge Glenn A. Ritchey Family of Modesto, California: a Ritchey Family Ancestral Study

Reese, George, Proceedings in the Court of Vice-Admiralty of Virginia,1698-1775

Horst, Samuel L., The Fire of Liberty in Their Hearts: The Diary of Jacob E. Yoder of the Freedmen's Bureau School, Lynchburg, VA

Marble, Allan E., The Archibald Family of Nova Scotia: No Reward Without Effort

Church, Randolph W., Virginia Legislative Petitions: Biography, Calendar, and Abstracts from Original Sources, 6 May, 1776-21 Jun, 1782

Foreman, Amanda, A World On Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War;

Dymond, Robert Herschel, Genealogy of the Dymond, Williams, and Related Families

Armstrong, Donald G., Ancestry of William Walter Armstrong of Columbiana County, Ohio, v. 1 and Ancestry of William Walter Armstrong of Columbiana County, Ohio, v. 2.

Matt, Susan J., Homesickness : An American History

Powell, Katrina M., The Anguish of Displacement: The Politics of Literacy: The Letters of Mountain Families in Shenandoah National Park

Rhodes, James Ford, History of the Civil War, 1865-1865

Potter, Claire Bond & Renee C. Romano, Doing Recent History: On Privacy, Copyright, Video Games, Institutional Review Boards, Activist Scholarship, and History That Talks Back

Litwack, Leon F., How Free is Free?: the Long Death of Jim Crow

Good, Rebecca H. & Rebecca A. Ebert, Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Val ley of Virginia: a Genealogical Guide

Goose Creek Herb Guild, Cooking With Herbs Curry, Dennis C., Feast of the Dead: Aboriginal Ossuaries in Maryland

King, Ruth Cropp, The Cropp Family in America United States Geological Survey, Geology of the Waterford Quadrangle, Virginia and Mary land, and the Virginia Part of the Point of Rocks Quadrangle

Davis, William C. & James I. Robertson, Virginia at War, 1862; Virginia at War, 1863; Virginia at War, 1864; and Virginia at War, 1865

Aldie High School, *The Whip, 1954*Beckerdite, Luke, *American Furniture;*Cheek, Richard & Favretti, Rudy J., *Gardens & Landscapes of Virginia*

Farrell, Andrew J. & Farrell, Eugene H,

The Ferrells of Middle Tennessee: A Ferrell
Family History

Fleming, Walter M., The McGaha Family & Descendants of Loudoun County, Virginia

Hanson, Kevan M. Map Guide to German Parish Registers: Kingdom of Prussia, Province of Westphalia II, vol. 40

McAllister, J. Gray. Family Records: Compiled for the Descendants of Abraham Addams McAllister and His Wife Julia Ellen (Stratton) McAllister, of Covington, Virginia

Lincoln, Abraham, Fehrenbacher, Don E. & Fehrenbacher, Virginia, Recollected Words of Abraham Lincoln

Federal Highway Administration & Virginia Department of Transportation, Environmental

Assessment: Route 7 and Route 659 Inter
change Project, Loudoun County, Virginia;

Ray, William C., Mount Gilead, History & Heritage

Boothe, F. Norton, Great Generals of the Civil War and Their Battles

Evans, Robert G., The 16th Mississippi Infantry: Civil War Letters and Reminiscences

Gates, Betsey, The Colton Letters: Ccivil War Period 1861-1865

Harwell, Richard B.; *The Civil War Reader: The Union Reader, The Confederate Reader.*

New & Renewing Members

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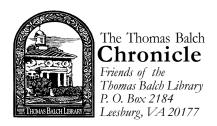
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Loudoun History Awards 2 PM, November 11, 2012

Calendar of Events at Thomas Balch Library

Please see the Fall Issue of The Balch Column for schedule and description of TBL Sponsored Programs

Saturday, 13 Oct., 9-12 noon-Walking Tour of Leesburg-James Roberts.

Saturday, 13 Oct., 6:30 pm-BHC Fundraiser Dinner Theater-Cascade Senior Center, Sterling, VA.

Sunday, 14 Oct., 2 pm—Using the Internet for Scottish Research—Robert Douglas McLaren.

Monday, 15 Oct., 7 pm-Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historic Records-John Fishback.

Sunday, 21 Oct., 2 pm-Documentary: Region Divided: Civil War in the Northern Virginia Regional Park.

Saturday, 27 Oct., 2 pm-BHC and LCPS Open House-Frederick Douglass Elementary School, Leesburg.

Sunday, 28 Oct., 2 pm-Fighting for MacArthur: The Navy & Marine Corps Desperate Defense of the Philippines-John Gordon.

Sunday, 4 Nov., 2 pm-Our Forgotten Past-Chales P. Poland, Jr..

Sunday, 11 Nov., 2 pm-Loudoun History Awards-TBL Advisory Commission's Annual Award Ceremony.

Sunday, 2 Dec., 2 pm-Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army's Victory that Shaped World War II-Stuart D. Goldman.

Other Activities at Thomas Balch Library

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 7 PM. The public is always welcome.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., a 501(c)3 corporation organized to provide support for Thomas Balch Library, meets at the Library every other month. The public is always welcome. For more information call 703/737-2166 or visit www.balchfriends.org.

Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., meets at the Library the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. The public is always welcome. For information visit: www.balchfriends.org.

Loudoun County Civil War Round Table meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM except January and February. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Loudou County's history during the American Civil War. Meetings are held at TBL unless otherwise noted.

rPrograms 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 follow us on Facebook. Thomas Balch Library is located at 208 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176.