



1922-2014

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 18 Issue 2

Summer 2014

Balch Friends Join with Inova Loudoun Hospital Foundation in Fundraiser at Rokeby, on August 24

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library will join with the Inova Loudoun Hospital Foundation in a joint gala fundraiser on August 24, 2014. The event, which will take place at historic Rokeby House, just south of Leesburg, will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the 1814 rescue of the U.S. National Archives, including the original documents of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, from the burning of Washington by British troops.

Brought out by ox-wagon even as the British were entering the capital city, the documents were taken to Leesburg, and, according to tradition, stashed for safekeeping in the brick vaults of Rokeby's cellar.

A large tent will be erected on the beautiful grounds where guests will hear a panel discussion on the event by three notable scholars of the period. Jessie Kratz, Historian of the National Archives, will report on her findings in her recent publication, *The Rescue of the State Papers during the Burning of Washington.* Steve Vogel, military historian and a reporter for the national staff of the Washington Post, will bring perspectives from his book entitled *Through the Perilous Fight*, a history of the British invasion of the Chesapeake in 1814. Richard Gillespie, director of Education for the Mosby Heritage Area Association, will speak from his encyclopedic knowledge of Loudoun County in that period.



PHOTO COURTESY: MHAA

Historian & author Richard Gillespie visits the brick vault beneath Rokeby.



PHOTO: THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Rokeby, built by Charles Binns, circa 1760

All guests will also enjoy a light buffet prepared by Grandale Farm, a noted Loudoun County restaurant and caterer. Special VIP tickets, available for a larger contribution, will allow ticket-holders to tour the exquisitely furnished period mansion and the historic cellars.

This event brings together as partners two of Loudoun County's most distinguished community organizations. Proceeds will be equally divided between the two.

The Thomas Balch Library of History and Genealogy was founded in 1928 by a group of Loudoun private citizens and is now owned by the Town of Leesburg. Friends of the Thomas Balch Library is a 501 (c) (3) charitable membership foundation that supports the needs, programs and lectures of the Library.

Similarly, Inova Loudoun Hospital was founded in 1912 by community members concerned about the health and well-being of Loudoun County residents. Inova Loudoun Hospital has always been a not-for-profit hospital and is part of Inova Health, the largest not-for-profit healthcare system in Northern Virginia. Today, the Inova Loudoun Hospital Foundation, through its donors, supports everything from life-saving equipment to state-of-the-art facilities to education for its experienced clinical staff.

For more information, request to be a sponsor, or for invitations to attend, please contact 703-858-8800 or ILHFoundation@inova.org.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

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Items of Interest

Sanabria Family Gift to Town of Leesburg

Sherry Zvares Sanabria, artist and Black History Committee member, passed away on March 3, 2014. A painting, entitled, "Settle-Dean Cabin," from her "Slave Quarters and Other African American Sites Series," will be presented to the Town of Leesburg in her memory. A dedication ceremony will be held on Monday, June 23, 2014 at 11 AM at the Thomas Balch Library where the painting will be on display.

John Fishback Retires

Loudoun County is one of perhaps five municipalities in the Commonwealth of Virginia with a complete set of records going back to its founding in 1757. That priceless asset is primarily due to the efforts of John Fishback, historic records manager for the Circuit Court.

Fishback, who retires this month, is credited with indexing, preserving and repairing, and digitalizing the massive collection – and making them accessible to the public. He has been a valuable member of the TBL team, conducting tours of the County Archives, as part of the TBL programs. We wish him well in his retirement.

New Slate for Black History Committee

The Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library recently installed a slate of new officers and committee chairpersons. Replacing Herbert DuVall, chair for the past nine years is Donna Bohannon. Assisting her will be Secretary Louis Jett and Treasurer Susan P. Webber.

The induction ceremony was dedicated to historian Carter J. Woodson, founder of the Black History Week (now Month).

Civil War Trails Sign Program and BHC

The Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, the Black History Committee, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and the Mount Zion Cemetery Board of Directors are working together to plan a Sign Dedication/Memorial Ceremony to be held on September 6, 2014, at the Mount Zion Community Cemetery in Leesburg, Virginia. A Civil War Trails sign that recognizes the black Union military veterans who served during the Civil War and are buried in the cemetery will be installed near the cemetery's entrance. The program will also honor all of the black veterans (over 300 men) from Loudoun County who served in the U.S. Army and Navy during the Civil War and will highlight the service of the four veterans who are buried at Mount Zion.

It's Out!

Former Friends' Board member Marc Leepson's latest book, *What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life*, will be published June 24 by Palgrave Macmillan. The book, the first biography of the author of "The Star-Spangled Banner" in more than seventy-five years, is being published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Key's writing what would become the National Anthem during the September 13-14, 1814, British bombardment of Ft. McHenry in the Battle of Baltimore. Look for a review in the next *Chronicle*

It's Fifty Years for Leesburg's Old and Historic District!

In 1963, three years before the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was passed, a number of well known local historians, preservationists and community leaders had the foresight to envision what might happen to change the landscape – and with it, the historic value of Leesburg. Spearheaded by the late B. Powell Harrison, Stanley Caulkins and the late John S. Lewis, establishment of the Board of Architectural Review and adoption of new rules gave the town oversight of matters that have kept Leesburg pretty well preserved.



PHOTO: THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

North King Street, Leesburg, Virginia

Founders Online

Last year, the University of Virginia launched a website, entitled *Founders Online*. The site makes accessible more than 149,000 searchable documents. These include correspondence and other writings of six major shapers of the United States: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams (and his family), Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison, fully annotated, from the authoritative Founding Fathers' Papers Project of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a part of the National Archives. Through its grants programs, the NHPC supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish and encourage the use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States, and research and development projects to bring historical records to the public.

The Civil War Comes Home to Roost

By Rich Gillespie

As we look over the landscape that was Civil War Loudoun we often find microcosms of that world of the 1860s and the experience they underwent. Purcellville, today a burgeoning western Loudoun town of 8,000, was but a flyspeck village along the Leesburg-Snickers Gap Turnpike at the outbreak of War. With its turnpike location, it was functional, if tiny, housing Purcell's Store with its post office, a "wagon stand" (think road house or wagons' tavern), a hotel, livery stable, and a blacksmith and wheelwright shop. It was served regularly by stage-coach which connected the new Alexandria & Loudoun Railroad terminus at Leesburg with Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley.

With the April 1861 firing on Fort Sumter by forces of the new Confederacy, President Lincoln demanded troops from all states to put down the rebellion. Virginia was not willing, so the Governor called up the militia. Purcellville, Hamilton, and Hillsboro boys were the first in Loudoun to respond to the war emergency, marching with the Hillsboro Border Guards on April 19th to the Loudoun County Fair Grounds west of the new Union Cemetery at Leesburg to establish Camp George Mason and prepare for war.

On May 23rd, the people of the Commonwealth got to vote on this hugely important issue. At Purcell's Store—still standing at Hatcher and Main in Purcellville today—the precinct vote tallied 82-31. Blacksmith Asa Janney (whose house even today is east of the Purcellville Library) and his old friend storekeeper Rodney Purcell compared notes on the election; both voted with the majority *for* secession. Asa's son Joe had already signed up, joining the catchy-sounding Blue Mountain Boys, Company F, 8th Virginia Volunteer Infantry. Minutes after the statewide vote was announced—6 to 1 for secession—federal troops invaded Virginia. Joe Janney marched off to war with the other local boys. He would lose his left leg in the first great fight of the War at First Manassas, July 21st.

By 1862, Purcellville saw federal troops a number of times. Six weeks after Antietam, General George B. McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, commandeered Rodney Purcell's home next to the store as headquarters as the federals returned to Virginia. More came through in July 1863 after Gettysburg.

But in July of 1864 the War came home to roost in tiny Purcellville. On Saturday July 16th, General Jubal Early's Confederate army began to pass through Purcellville heading west on the turnpike to Snicker's Gap. After a daring attack down through Maryland on the northwestern defenses of Washington, Early's force had retired across the Potomac at White's Ford on July 14th. Resting in camp just north of Leesburg

until dawn of the 16th, they now were moving again, retiring to the Shenandoah Valley, and, they hoped, to relative safety. Two Union corps had crossed the Potomac early that Saturday morning, shelled Early as he departed Leesburg, and now followed behind. A Union force was also sent from Harpers Ferry. General George Crook took command of that force

at Hillsboro shortly before noon. Crook sent out a reconnaissance-in-force towards Purcellville. The First Brigade of General A. N. Duffié's Cavalry Division, a force of about 300 men under Colonel William B. Tibbetts of the 21st New York Cavalry, reached the Leesburg-Snickers Gap Turnpike via the Berlin Grade Road (now Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville) by mid-afternoon. Tibbetts found Early's wagon train passing by just then, filled in part with plunder from the invasion of Maryland.

Dividing his force into several detachments and using two artillery pieces, Tibbetts attacked furiously all along the wagon train. In a matter of minutes, the Union cavalry had captured some 200 wagons and 150 prisoners. But hearing this firefight, dusty Confederate infantry under Generals Robert E. Rodes and Stephen Ramseur marched on the double-quick to the rear. With cavalry and some artillery, they counterattacked. After intense fighting, the Confederates reclaimed some 118 of their wagons and all but 54 prisoners. They destroyed one of the two federal cannon engaged. Still, the Union force was able to bring off 37 wagons of reclaimed Maryland booty, which they brought back to Harpers Ferry along with Confederate prisoners, horses and mules.

Once Purcellville citizens saw the last of Early's force pass through, they no doubt came out on the turnpike to survey the damage. Here some 43 destroyed Confederate wagons lined the road, still smoldering, evidence of a war come home to roost. In more than three years of civil war, this was the first combat in their town. It must have been both terrifying and exciting.

Elisha Hunt Rhodes, the Rhode Island soldier featured in Ken Burns's television documentary *The Civil War*, passed through Purcellville two days later. In his journal he wrote, "[At] Purcellville . . . we found in the road many broken down and burned wagons which the Rebels had abandoned in their retreat when hard pressed by our cavalry."

In the end, who cleaned up the detritus and damage left behind? Who took care of the dead and wounded? What impressions were left in the minds of Purcellville's war-weary civilians?



PHOTO: RICH GILLESPIE

Purcell's Store, Post Office and Polling Place

Mount Gilead by Bill Ray

Mount Gilead is an unincorporated village in Loudoun County Virginia, located eight miles southwest of Leesburg on a ridge of the Catoctin Mountains.

Conrad Lickey, a British deserter during the Revolutionary War, built the first known stone home at what became Mount Gilead circa 1790. This home, now known as Stony Lonesome, is the showplace of Mount Gilead. Conrad and his wife Margaret sold property to Dr. Isaac Eaton, who established the "Settlement of Mount Gilead" in 1823 and sold ½-acre lots for \$33 each. There were three parallel streets more than one-half mile long with eight perpendicular streets. Dr. Eaton was a physician, one of the county's early real estate developers, owner of a nearby health spa, inventor, and the first postmaster of Mount Gilead in 1824. Dr. Eaton advertised "The scite of this town is thought by competent judges to possess great advantages. In point of healthiness, it is superior to most situations in this country."

By 1826, four public roads led to Mount Gilead, including "The Great Road," the shortest route between Leesburg and Middleburg. Mount Gilead is described as a growing and prosperous village in the 1835 "Gazetteer of Virginia," and the site of the village is "a beautiful eminence, which rises to a moderate height, in a wide gap, or opening in the mountain." In 1835, the village contained "1 mercantile store, 1 handsome school house built expressly for the purpose, and the Methodist society hold their meeting for worship therein: an infirmary, which is an infant institution for the restoration of persons laboring under chronic diseases, and which has been attended with unusual success – 2 boot and shoe factories, 1 cooper's shop, 2 cabinet makers, and there is in the vicinity [at North Fork] a large and spacious house of worship [Baptist]."



Stony Lonesome, the showplace of Mount Gilead

The Eaton era ended in 1860 when the Eatons lost their brick home and all their property to foreclosure. Their dreams for a thriving residential and commercial center began to fade into history. The Civil War devastated the area. The post office closed in 1905. Ten historic homes built before 1886 have survived.

Confederate Captain William Edwin Garrett purchased the Eaton home in 1870 and operated a dry goods business on the property. By 1900 Garrett moved to Leesburg where he served as Clerk of the Loudoun County Court, practiced law, was elected Mayor of Leesburg and served two consecutive terms from 1907 to 1909.

During the period from the 1860's to the 1950's, farming and dairies dominated. Towards the end of that era many of the homes were later used only as weekend retreats by Washingtonians to escape the oppressive summer heat. Commencing in the 1950's, artists purchased and renovated several old dwellings. By the 1970's, Mount Gilead became known as an artists' community and had more full-time residents. Many well-known artists lived and painted at Mount Gilead including Robert Sivard, Alfred and June McAdams, Dagmar Wilson and Eugen Weisz.

Greater than half of the 26 existing dwellings along Mount Gilead Road from today's Willowcroft Farm Vineyards to Coe's Mill (a distance of two miles) were built after 1970. The population in 1835 was 62; and today, 179 years later, remains 62 along the two miles. However, in 1835, the population was concentrated around Dr. Eaton's home near the center of the "Town."

Today most of the old frame dwellings on half-acre lots dating from the Eaton Era have disappeared; and Mount Gilead is a small, secluded, large-lot residential community with one means of access along a ridgeline road shaded by a canopy of trees still enjoying the panoramic views of Loudoun Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountains that attracted early settlers 250 years ago. A one-mile portion of Mount Gilead Road was finally paved in 2005.

Thomas Balch Library sells a book entitled *Mount Gilead History and Heritage* that provides more fascinating details and photographs of this unique community.

***Be sure to renew your Friends' membership.
Check your label for your date for renewal and you can use the form on
Page Seven to enlist your friendsto become members.***

The Director's Letter

Last year The Library of Virginia borrowed Thomas Balch Library's issues of the *Loudoun News*. They returned these issues in March along with microfilm copies of the newspapers; now available to patrons in the library.

Recently the *Loudoun Times-Mirror* moved its offices from downtown Leesburg to the Village at Leesburg. During this process they gave the library copies of newspapers to fill in gaps in our holdings. Additional materials were also donated and will be made available for research use following processing.

In April the Ketocin Chapter of the DAR presented the library with the most recent volume in a revolutionary war resource guide series: *Rhode Island in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, by Eric G. Grundset for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Earlier this spring we received a grant from the Loudoun Library Foundation in the amount of \$6,800 for processing the Charles A. Johnston Collection. Ben Tayloe, Library Associate, is scheduled to start processing the collection in June. The collection, to which materials are still being added, contains family materials from the Johnston family, a well-established family in Leesburg. It is however of such size and the contents of such significance that commencing to process the collection at this stage is of paramount importance to enable patrons to access these rich research resources. The collection provides a view of life in Leesburg and Loudoun County from the late 1700s through the 20th century. It contains a variety of materials such as school books, published material, family photographs, letters, diaries, and artifacts. The artifacts include tools, cooking utensils, jewelry, and other personal objects. Although the collection gives the modern researcher a glimpse into how life was lived in Leesburg, it is also an intensely personal collection, full of everyday items and individual stories.



**TBL Director Alexandra S. Gressitt &
Carri N. Casserino, DAR Ketocin Regent**

The library is pleased to announce that the following digital newspapers have been added to our digital offerings: *The Guardian and Observer*, *The Scotsman*, *The Irish Times* and the *Weekly Irish Times*; and the (historical) *Baltimore Sun*. They are accessible on-site along with our other digital subscriptions. Brochures are available describing each of the available digital resources.

A visit to our Facebook pages will introduce you to interesting historical facts on Leesburg, Loudoun County and Virginia. Please also take a few moments to explore our website for information about our collections and upcoming events.

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

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

Exhibits

Margaret Mercer Room

**June - Antique Arms of the War of 1812 Era
Gary Heath**

**July-Aug. Local Civil War Relics -
John Creamer**

Lower Level Meeting Room

**June - Art in Cross Stitch Scenes along
the Back Roads of Loudoun -
Cathy Payne**

**July-Aug - Photographs of Historical Figures -
Bachrach Photography**

Don't Miss These Upcoming Free Classes at TBL

5 June - Locating Real Property –
Wynne Saffer

7 Aug. – Historic Preservation –
Tom Scofield

2 Oct. – Preservation for
Home Archives –
Elizabeth Preston

6 Nov. – Chronicling America and the
Virginia Newspaper Project –
Jim Stewart

And be sure check the Fall issue of *Balch Column* for more listings of classes and the highly esteemed Thomas Balch Library sponsored lectures.

New at Thomas Balch Library

Newly Processed Manuscript Collections,
February through April 2014:

The Loudoun County Oral History Project (M 014), 1975-1998

Additions were made to the
Leesburg Garden Club Collection (M 044)
Additions were made to the St. Peter's Episcopal Church Collection (M 033)

The Wilbur C. Hall Papers, 1831-1970, 1981
(M 005)

Additions to the Loudoun Laurels Collection,
2008- 2014 (M 042)

George W. Janney Collection, 1804-1884
(M 093)

Newly Catalogued Books,

February through April 2014:

The Oxford Guide to Heraldry, Thomas
Woodcock & John Martin Robinson
***The Democratic Party Primary in Virginia:
Tantamount to Election No Longer,***
Larry Sabato

***Why Confederates Fought: Family &
Nation in Civil War Virginia,***
Aaron Sheehan-Dean

***United States Submarine Operations in
World War II,***
Theodore Roscoe & R. G. Voge

***The Virginia Conservatives, 1867-1879: A
Study in Reconstruction Politics,***
Jack P. Maddex, Jr.

***William Mahone of Virginia: Soldier and
Political Insurgent,***
Nelson Morehouse Blake

The History of American Sailing Ships,
Howard L. Chapelle

***Bill Tuck: A Political Life in Harry Byrd's
Virginia,***
William Bryan Crawley

***Mr. Polk's Army: the American Military
Experience in the Mexican War,***
Richard Bruce Winders

***My Dearest Angel: a Virginia Family
Chronicle, 1895-1947,*** Katie Letcher Lyle
In Search of Our Nepali Roots,
Durga N. Rimal

***War Letters of Morton Eustis to His
Mother, February 6, 1941 to August 10, 1944,***
Morton Eustis

Magna Carta: Text and Commentary, A. E.
Dick Howard

***After Runnymede: Magna Carta in the
Middle Ages,***
Doris M. Stenton

***7 Leadership Lessons from the American
Revolution: the Founding Fathers,
Liberty, and the Struggle for Inde
pendence,*** John F. Antal

***In Small Things Forgotten: The Archaeology
of Early American Life,***
James Deetz

***Folk Housing in Middle Virginia: A Struc
tural Analysis of Historic Artifacts,***
Henry Glassie

***Colonial Delaware Soldiers and Sailors,
1638-1776,***
Henry C. Peden

***Guide to Family History Sources in the
New Jersey State Archives,*** New Jersey
Department of State

Inhabitants of Baltimore County, 1692-1763,
F. Edward Wright

***Plantations: Locations, Plantations,
Surnames and Collections,***
Jean L. Cooper

***Royalty for Commoners: The Complete
Known Lineage of John of Gaunt, son of
Edward III, King of England, and
Queen Philippa,***

Roderick W. Stuart

***Officers of the Senate of Virginia, 1776-
1996,***

Louis H. Manarin

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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 and Between the Hills**

each volume: \$ 20.00

- Set of all 5 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** \$ 15.00
- 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 \$ 20.00
- George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist, & Musician** by Lemoine D. Pierce \$ 10.00
- Journey Through Time** by 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 \$ 15.00
- Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem Loudoun County 250th Anniversary Lecture Series** \$ 15.00
- Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture Series (2008)** Hosted by Thomas Balch Library, includes booklet & 2 DVDs \$ 15.00

Thank You

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 We also accept Visa and MasterCard

New & Renewing Members

Alice Calhoun
 Stephen Carroll
 Denise Johnston & J. Ford
 Elizabeth McNair
 Daniel Mock
 Richard & Deborah Turner
 Suzi Worsham

About Us:

Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., was organized in 1995, as a 501(c)3 nonprofit educational corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to preserve, enhance, and promote Loudoun and Virginia heritage. Our continuing efforts support Thomas Balch Library as a premier regional center of historical and genealogical research. A primary objective is to make Loudoun County the most well-documented county in the United States.

Join us today and become a Friend of Thomas Balch Library. To make it easy, use the membership form below. We look forward to welcoming you to the Friends.

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 _____
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Senior/Student	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Patron	\$ 50.00
Sustaining/ Business	\$ 100.00
Benefactor	\$ 250.00
Legacy Society	\$ 500.00+

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The Thomas Balch
Chronicle
Friends of the
Thomas Balch Library
P. O. Box 2184
Leesburg, VA 20177

Save the Date
Aug. 24, 2014
FTBL & ILHF
Joint Fundraiser

Calendar of Events at Thomas Balch Library

Look for the Fall Edition of Balch Column for a complete listing of exciting and educational lectures, classes and tours.
Enrich your life with these exceptionally fine events.

Sunday, August 24, 2014

Balch Friends and Inova Loudoun Hospital Foundation Joint Fundraiser

This year, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library will join with the Inova Loudoun Hospital Foundation in a joint gala fundraiser on August 24. The event, which will take place at historic Rokeby House, just south of Leesburg, will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the 1814 rescue of the U.S. National Archives, including the original documents of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, from the burning of Washington by British troops.

For more information, request to be a sponsor, or for invitations to attend, please contact 703-858-8800 or ILHFoundation@inova.org.

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 Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 AM. 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 Loudoun County's history during the American Civil War.

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 follow us on Facebook.