

# The CHRONICLE

## Join the Friends and Speaker James A. Morgan III for the Annual Fall Event at Beautiful, Historic Murray Hill on the Potomac



### Enjoy Summer Reading in the Cool and Quiet of Thomas Balch Library

Is the beach beckoning you for an August retreat? Thinking about getting out of town and exploring western Loudoun's backroads? Then be sure to check out the Friends' virtual bookshop on page 7 and discover a great read on Loudoun's heritage or maps by Eugene Scheel.

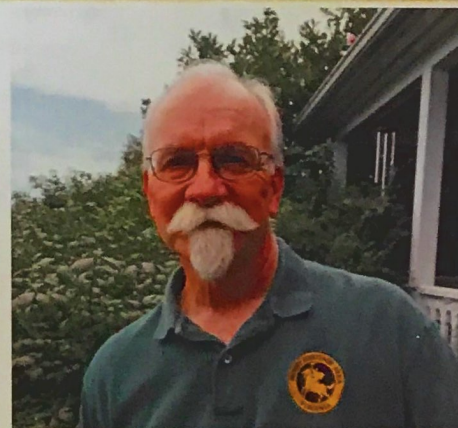
Still, could there be anything nicer than an afternoon at Thomas Balch Library, where you can curl up in a cool, quiet corner, watch the fountain splash, and catch up on the catalogued books on page 3.

To buy a Friends book or map, just copy or clip the form on page 7, and send it to Friends of Thomas Balch Library, P.O. Box 2184, Leesburg, VA 20177 with your check or credit/debit card information.



**On September 16, 2018**, the Friends of Thomas Balch Library is hosting its annual event, and it's one you won't want to miss. Plan now to join the Friends for this late afternoon gathering that will feature great food, fine wines, a compelling speaker, not to mention panoramic views of the Potomac at the historic Murray Hill estate near Leesburg.

James A. Morgan III, the leader in the fight to preserve the Ball's Bluff Battlefield, will take us through the "Action on the Potomac from First Manassas to Ball's Bluff." You are sure to come away with a much better appreciation of this small battle and its large consequences. Morgan's tactical study of the battle—*A Little Short of Boats: The Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry*—is widely considered



(continued on page 5)

**Save Sunday, October 21—Join the Black History Committee at the Library for a talk by National Museum of African American History and Culture's John W. Franklin.**

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www.balchfriends.org

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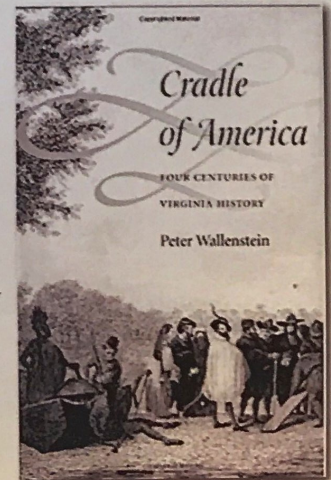
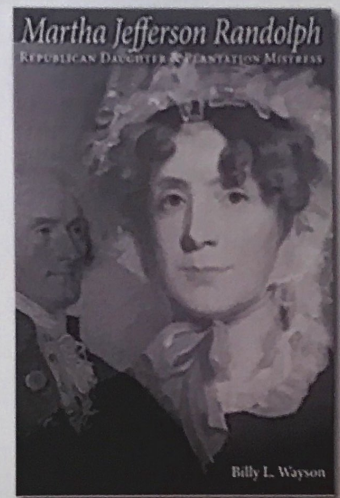
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**Thank you for supporting the work of  
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## Catch Up with Thomas Balch Library's Catalogued Books

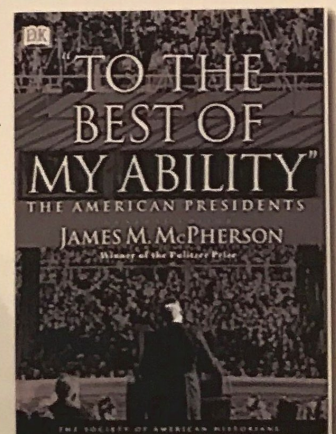
- ***Martha Jefferson Randolph: Republican Daughter & Plantation Mistress* by Billy L. Wayson**

- *Philadelphia City & County, Pennsylvania Taxpayers 1779*, T.L.C. Genealogy
- *Early California Settlers, Morrison, Scott, and Watson* by Ruth M. Hutchinson
- *Windows of Time: Confederate Veterans* by Linda B. Nezbeth
- *The Fight for Fairfax: A Struggle for a Great American County* by Russ Banham
- *History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania* by J. Simpson Africa
- *The Racial Origins of the Founders of America* by Madison Grant & Aleš Hrdlička
- *Yesterday in Woodstock* by Fred Painter & Joseph P. Clower
- *British Origins of American Colonists, 1629-1775* by William Dollarhide
- ***Cradle of America: Four Centuries of Virginia History* by Peter Wallenstein**
- *Fredericksville Parish Vestry Book, 1742-1787* by Rosalie Edith Davis
- *The Neal and Wilma Schooley Family* by Lynn Schooley Kennemer
- "Very impudent when drunk or sober": *Delaware Runaways, 1720-1783* by Joseph Lee Boyle
- *Away, I'm Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement* by David Hackett Fischer & James C. Kelly
- *Descendants of John Champe of Truro Parish and Loudoun County, Virginia: Three Generations* by Robert Jadwin Ballantyne
- *Our Family History: Otken Family Reunion 2000* by Melanie Otken Torrence
- *Jamestown Rediscovery, 1994-2004*, William M. Kelso & Beverly A. Straube
- *Scots-Irish Genealogy Research and Derry-Londonderry: Gateway to a New World* by Brian Mitchell



- **"To the best of my ability": *The American Presidents* by James M. McPherson & David Rubel**

- *James Shore of Loudoun County, Virginia: An Ongoing Research Project* by Marshall Shore
- *George Washington's Relations and Relationships in Fredericksburg, Virginia* by Paula S. Felder
- *Verdun: The Lost History of the Most Important Battle of World War I, 1914-1918* by John Mosier
- *Loudoun County Marriages after 1850, Volume II: 1881-1900* by Patricia Duncan & Elizabeth Frain
- *Free Blacks on the Personal Property Tax Lists of Clarke County, Virginia, 1836-1862* by Joy MacDonald
- *Quaker Women: Personal Life, Memory and Radicalism in the Lives of Women Friends, 1780-1930* by Sandra Stanley Holton
- *Scalawag: A White Southerner's Journey through Segregation to Human Rights Activism*, Edward H. Peebles & Nancy MacLean



## A Pre-Annual Event Primer on What Happened Where Action on the Potomac from First Manassas to Ball's Bluff



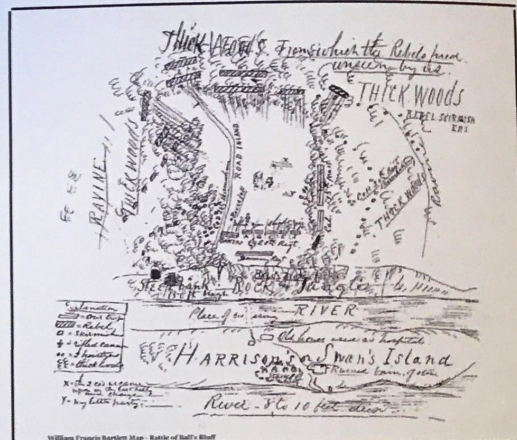
**The Big Picture:** The "Seat of War" map above shows the close proximity of Washington, D.C., the First Manassas battlefield southwest of the Federal capital and, directly north of that, Leesburg and Ball's Bluff battlefield on the Virginia side of the river.



**Zooming in on Yardley Taylor's 1854 map of Loudoun:** Leesburg is at lower left. Potomac River sites of action on October 21 are Edwards Ferry—location of Murray Hill—northeast of Leesburg, and the bluff on G.W. Ball's land opposite H.T. Harrison's Island, occupied by Union forces.

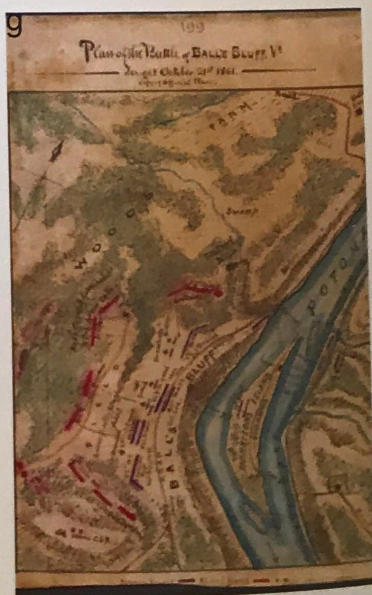
Trust Ball's Bluff expert James Morgan to tell you the story of this obscure battle with more clarity and compelling detail than any other historian. But if you'll be attending the Friends event at Murray Hill on Sunday, September 16, with limited prior knowledge of what happened where, you owe it to yourself to conduct a little armchair reconnaissance beforehand. So here we're sharing a few maps to help you get your bearings and get full benefit of what promises to be a great talk.

**"This is what the battlefield looked like."  
—James Morgan**



The map above is the one historians believe gives the definitive picture of the action at Ball's Bluff. It was drawn the day of the battle by Capt. William Francis Bartlett, a Harvard student who left school to command the 20th Massachusetts Co.

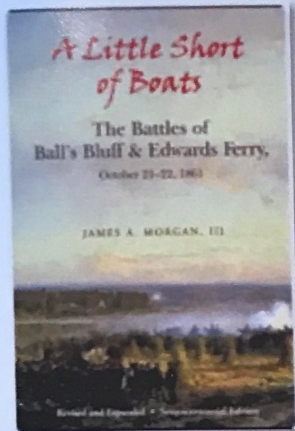
I. He enclosed it in a letter he posted to his mother. At right is a map by artist Robert Knox Sneden who served with the Union Army until his capture by Mosby's rangers in 1863. He was imprisoned at Andersonville and released in an exchange late in 1864.



## Learn About the Battle in Our Own Backyard

### A Few Good Men Who Lost Their Lives at Ball's Bluff

James A. Morgan III, Friends Event Speaker



(continued from page 1) to be the definitive work on that fight. Jim Morgan was a key advisor for the two-year effort to increase the Ball's Bluff Battlefield National Historic Landmark, which the U.S. Department of the Interior expanded from 76 acres to 3,300 acres in 2016. Mitch Diamond, a member of the Loudoun County Heritage Commission who worked on

the expansion project, said Morgan is probably the nation's leading scholar on the battle, noting that *A Little Short of Boats* had altered established views of the battle that took place along the border between the Union and the Confederacy. The book provided a new understanding of the misunderstandings and blunders that led to the tragic engagement and to the Congressional inquiry that followed. He has written on various Civil War topics for *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *Blue & Gray*, and other periodicals. He has also contributed a chapter on the Joint Committee of the Conduct of the War for *Turning Points of the Civil War*, which Southern Illinois University Press will publish in September.

Morgan is a native of New Orleans, where his family eventually settled after "Morganza," the family plantation upriver from Baton Rouge, was destroyed during the Civil War. His Civil War ancestors served in the Pointe Coupee Artillery, the 6th Louisiana Battery, and the 41st Mississippi Infantry.

He grew up in Pensacola, Florida, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1969–1971, and earned master's degrees in political science from the University of West Florida and library science from Florida State University. He is a past president of the Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable and co-founder and past chairman of the Friends of Ball's Bluff Battlefield. From 2009–2015, he served on the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and the board of the Mosby Heritage Area Association. In November 2017 he received a Loudoun History Award from the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission.

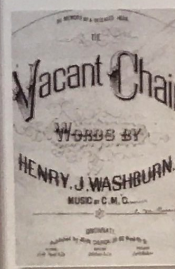
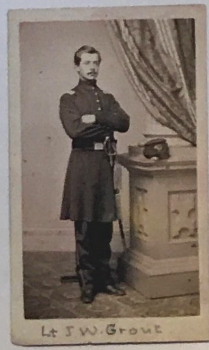
Among the Fallen at the "Accidental" Battle



The death of Colonel Baker at Ball's Bluff, Currier and Ives

**Oregon Senator Edward D. Baker** A close friend of President Lincoln who'd just spent the day before at the White House with the Lincolns, Senator Baker died leading his troops at Ball's Bluff, becoming the only member of Congress to die in the war.

**John William ("Willie") Grout** The 18-year-old second lieutenant of Co. D, 15th Massachusetts Infantry, was killed at Ball's Bluff. The battered body of the Phillips Academy, Andover, graduate washed up 35 miles southeast at Haines



Point, Washington, D.C. His remains were found two weeks later by a congressman. His death inspired the popular Civil War song "The Vacant Chair," which describes the pain suffered by the families

of those killed in war when sitting at the Thanksgiving table. Visit [balchfriends.org/calendar](http://balchfriends.org/calendar) and hear it sung by two-time Grammy winner Kathy Mattea.

**Loudoun's Sgt. Thomas Clinton Lovett Hatcher,**

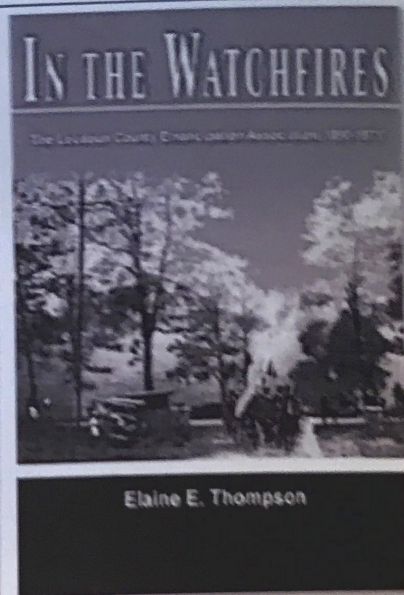


a 6-foot-4-inch, 21-year-old redheaded college graduate from nearby Hamilton, was the flag-bearer of the 8th Virginia Infantry and an easy target for a Union sharpshooter. There is a curious story behind his marker (left), the only commemorative marker at Ball's Bluff. Historian Rich Gillespie tells it in a video you'll find at [balchfriends.org/calendar](http://balchfriends.org/calendar).

## Explore Loudoun's Rich Black Heritage in Friends Books

### **LOUDOUN COUNTY'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES: A Tour Map and Guide**

This full-color, illustrated, 24-page booklet with map takes you on a trip through Loudoun County's black history. Beginning largely in the post-emancipation period, African Americans built homes, schools, churches, fraternal lodges, and businesses throughout the county. Some communities have died out while others have remained vital; many buildings survive despite changes in the landscape. A narrative introduction and brief descriptions of 44 settlements and neighborhoods are enhanced by 32 illustrations and a fold-out map marked with communities, churches and schools. Published May 2004. \$5



### **IN THE WATCHFIRES: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971**

The late Elaine E. Thompson presents a well-documented and informed interpretation of the Loudoun County Emancipation Association that contributes not only to local history but also to African American and U.S. history. Emancipation Day celebrations come to life in its pages and illuminate the community that created them. The celebrations chapter and the epilogue, written in the first person, are authoritative and evocative. The biographical directory pays tribute to many men and women whose civic contributions might otherwise go unrecognized. Illustrations, maps, and photographs enhance the book. Published June 2005. \$20.

### **Friends of Thomas Balch Library Black History Committee Announces Update of Definitive Guide to Events Impacting African Americans in Loudoun County**

*The Journey Through Time: Events Affecting African Americans in Loudoun County, Virginia* by the Friends' Black History Committee is the definitive guide to African American events in Loudoun. When it was published in 2006, the publication was envisioned as a work in progress to be updated periodically. An update is now on the horizon; the Black History Committee is proud to announce an addendum to the *Journey* that will be available soon. The new material will cover the years 2007 to 2017.

From the beginning, America has been a multicultural and evolving society as reflected in all aspects of life in Loudoun County. But at the time the committee was originally preparing this publication, the contributions of African Americans in Loudoun had not been fully documented. Therefore, the editors included many events that happened outside the county and, in some instances, before the county was formed as people living here were, and are, affected by these events. To make clear which events occurred in or outside the county, Loudoun events are printed in bold type, as are all dates; state laws are italicized. In the future the committee plans to launch efforts to get community suggestions, comments, additional names, and events to include in this living document and resource for our community of citizens and scholars. Stay tuned! \$5

### **Journey Through Time**

Events Affecting African Americans  
In Loudoun County, Virginia

A publication of the  
Black History Committee  
of  
Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.  
Leesburg, Virginia  
November 2006

## Friends Publications Order Form

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**Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads** by Eugene Scheel

- 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
- All 5 volumes plus Eugene Scheel's Historical Map of Loudoun County      \$ 100
  - Individual copies of the Historical Map      \$ 10
  - The Essence of A People: Portraits of African Americans Who Made a Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia*      \$ 15
  - The Essence of A People II: African Americans Who Made Their World Anew in Loudoun County, Virginia, and Beyond*      \$ 15
  - Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide      \$ 5
  - In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971* by Elaine E. Thompson      \$ 20
  - George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist, Musician* by Lemoine D. Pierce      \$ 10
  - Journey Through Time by Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library*      \$ 5
  - Billy Pierce: Dance Master, Son of Purcellville* by Lemoine D. Pierce      \$ 15
  - Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem—Loudoun County 250th Anniversary Lecture Series      \$ 15
  - Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture Series (2008) hosted by Thomas Balch Library, includes booklet plus 2 DVDs      \$ 15

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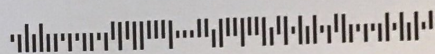
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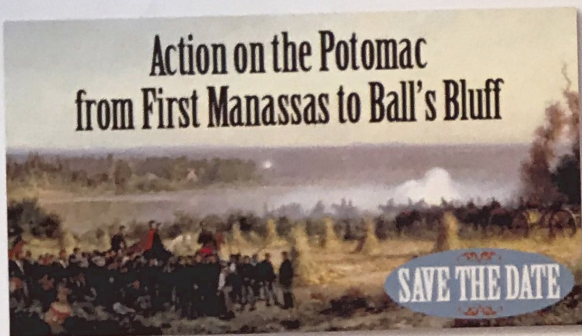
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## Summer 2018 Programs & Exhibits

### Special Events



Panoramic Vistas, Great Food, Fine Wine,  
and an Engaging Speaker

**James A. Morgan III**

*Military Historian & Author of "A Little Short of Boats:  
The Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry"*

*Murray Hill on the Potomac, Leesburg  
Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 4 o'clock*

*For sponsorship opportunities and to request an invitation if you  
have not received one by mail, please call 540-579-2825.*

### Exhibits

**Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits**  
**Civil War Artifacts** curated by John Creamer –  
through July 31

**Oatlands** curated by Lori Kimball, Oatlands  
Plantation Director of Programming and  
Education – August 1 - 31

**John Hall's New Technology Rifle vs.  
Regular US Rifles** curated by Gary Heath –  
September 1 - 30

**Lower Level Meeting Room Exhibit**  
**Nature's Kingdom** by Loudoun Photography  
Club through September 30

*Programs are held in the downstairs meeting  
room and are free unless otherwise noted.  
For updated information, please visit the  
Friends' website at balchfriends.org!*