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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 15 Issue 4

Winter 2011

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission's Nineteenth Annual Loudoun History Awards Four



2011 Awardees, l. to r.:
John M. Souders,
Taylor M. Chamberlin,
Paul McCray,
Childs R. Burden.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM ROBERTS, THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

The annual Loudoun History Award each year honors four individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to local history research, preservation and writing. The awards were established nearly 20 years ago by the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission to honor long time historian, the late John Divine.

This year's winners are Childs R. Burden, Taylor M. Chamberlin, John M. Souders, and Paul McCray, all of whom have more than met the requirements set down by the Advisory Commission.

Childs Burden, nominated by Richard Gillespie, was cited for his continuing work to bring the history of the Civil War in Loudoun County to its citizens. He is president of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and is also a member of the Loudoun Sesquicentennial Commission. Burden has been cited as one of the most knowledgeable persons in Loudoun in the field of public history. He was recently appointed an initial member of the Loudoun Heritage Commission.

Taylor M. Chamberlin, a resident of Waterford, has been particularly instrumental in exploring the Civil War experiences of that area. While the awards are separate, sharing the same interest, the third winner is John M. Souders, long a student of the social history of the Waterford-Lovettsville area. Both men were nominated by the Lovettsville Historical Society, Inc. for their book *Between Reb and Yank: A Civil War History of Northern Loudoun County, Virginia* and for their "thorough and diligent primary source research." Also nominating the pair was Eugene M Scheel, noted historian and author.

Paul McCray, a resident of Purcellville for the past 20 years, has served as manager of the



PHOTO COURTESY JIM ROBERTS, TBL
James Hershman & Olivia Corso

An additional special element to the History Awards this year was the recognition of Olivia Corso for her winning LCPS Social Science Fair research project *Who Did the Battle of Ball's Bluff Affect and How Did It Change the Lives of the Men Involved?*

Ms. Corso also was presented with an autographed copy of James A. Morgan III's book, *A Little Short of Boats: The Civil War Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edward's Ferry*.

W&OD Regional Park, and is considered the foremost expert on the history of the railroad. His collection of railroad artifacts and historic photographs is a local treasure. He also has revised and reprinted a publication about the railroad, *Rails to the Blue Ridge*. McCray, recently retired from the NVRPA, is now serving the Town of Purcellville as its first specialist in the Parks and Recreations Department, in charge of the town's historic properties and programs.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

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***A Late Afternoon at the River* By James P. Lucier**

The Friends of the Thomas Balch Library on September 25 celebrated “A Late Afternoon at the River,” a fundraising event that took place at Riverside on the Potomac, the 18th century home of Travis and Suzi Worsham on the river, just north of Leesburg. The event raised over \$11,000 for the Friends’ endowment fund in support of the activities of the Thomas Balch Library. It was the fourth and most successful such event for the Friends. The Worshams have been working for some time to restore the old house and adjacent log cabins, developing landscaping and terraces overlooking the farm’s original pond, and rebuilding the barns.

Guests enjoyed wine and delicious hors d’oeuvres from the catering firm of Savoir Fare, of Round Hill, while strolling about the beautiful grounds of the historic farm, located on the site of Clapham’s Ferry, one of the original ferries across the Potomac.

The geographic situation of Riverside on the Potomac provided an appropriate setting for a lecture entitled “The Potomac: International Border between North and South” by Dennis E. Frye, Chief Historian and Chief of Interpretation, Education & Partnerships at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Frye noted that Union and Confederate forces faced each other across the Potomac at this very spot, and agreed to move artillery assets down the river so as to avoid destroying the 18th century farmhouse.

During Frye’s presentation, he noted that he immerses himself into the Civil War by daily reading of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*—from 150 years ago. The *Inquirer* was one of the largest circulating newspapers in America during the 1860s, and its journalists accompanied various Union armies, giving first-hand accounts from the battlefield.

Frye quoted this selection, taken from September 26, 1862—about one week following the retreat from Antietam of General Lee’s tired, hungry, and ragged army:

“The beautiful Valley of Loudon [*sic*], in Upper Virginia, is being devastated; every living thing in the shape of an eatable or useful animal, has been appropriated to Rebel uses. Boys and men, even very old men, have been forced into the [Confederate] ranks, and the terror of the people throughout the region is beyond description. . . . Should we be successful in forcing the enemy from that section, the Government will be obliged to aid hundreds of families during the coming cool weather, or they will starve.”

Subsequently, Frye shared with the *Thomas Balch Chronicle* this follow-up account, written from Leesburg on October 31, 1862. Here the Union army under George McClellan had commenced its advance into Virginia, crossing at Berlin [Brunswick] into Loudoun County. This appeared on the front page of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* on November 3: “Leesburg looks much better in the distance than it does upon nearer inspection. The stores in the town are all closed, and, from appearances, might as well be closed, for all they have got to sell. The majority of the houses are small and quite mean in their looks, yet there are a number of fine houses with rather an ancient appearance. In fact, the town has an old look about it—wide and arched alley widths alongside the dwellings.

“The Court House is passable, and the Academy looks not unlike a country church. The latter building is used as a Confederate hospital, now containing about a dozen sick and convalescent soldiers. In another building, which had been used by the Confederates as a hospital, some troopers were busy in throwing out filthy-looking garments and bedding, for the purpose of hauling them away to be burned.”

Frye explained that period newspapers are perhaps the last great, untapped primary sources from the Civil War period. Few historians have used these sources, yet detailed accounts like the above abound. He presently is writing a book entitled: *September Suspense: The Union Uncertain*, that uses period newspapers to tell first-hand accounts of the initial Confederate invasion of the North, culminating in the Battle of Antietam and Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation. The book is scheduled for release next spring.

Douglass Elementary School Roundtable & Reflections Report:

The Black History Committee, Friends of the TBL and LCPS sponsored a Roundtable and Reflection Day, October 22, 2011 at Frederick Douglass High School to remember life at the original Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Leesburg. Guest speakers included the former Principal, Mr. Fred Drummond, former student, Reverend Helen L. Green and parent, Mrs. Mary Randolph who, along with the sixty plus attendees including alumni, parents, community members and school representatives, provided a window into life at the school during both segregation and integration. Each speaker experienced Frederick Douglass Elementary School from a different perspective. Mr. Drummond recalled that there were 12 classrooms along with a cafeteria/auditorium and offices which was quite different from the one room school houses the children had previously attended. Reverend Green recalled that the school provided a strong, positive, foundation that prepared the students for life and integration. Mrs. Randolph shared the painful difficulties associated with integration as well as recalling the wonderful teachers and friends her children had the pleasure of knowing.

Reverend Green stated the sentiment best when she said: “Douglass Elementary School gave us a voice, a place to call our own, a chance to gain respect from the community and the world..”

The Roundtable was captured on video and will become a part of the history preservation project.

Roberts Honored by Loudoun Laurels Medal Presentation

Oct .14, saw TBL’s own James P. Roberts, along with former Leesburg mayor Bob Sevila, receiving long deserved recognition, and an accompanying medal, from the Loudoun Laurels Foundation. The Foundation seeks to laud those who lead by example, and are committed to their community.

Jim Roberts, born and raised in Leesburg, was honored for his community service in, among other efforts, researching and preserving the history of the African American communities of Loudoun County as a writer, tour director, and as a member of the Back History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library. Roberts also is a member of the Advisory Commission for Thomas Balch Library.

The Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. extend a very special congratulations and appreciation for Roberts’ involvement with the library over the years, with his photographic skills and his general caring and concern for the Library. His Walking Tour of Leesburg is a longtime and highly popular element of the programs of Thomas Balch Library.

BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR FRIENDS’ MEMBERSHIP.

CHECK YOUR LABEL FOR YOUR RENEWAL DATE.

PLEASE USE THE FORM ON PAGE FIVE

TO ENLIST YOUR FRIENDS TO BECOME MEMBERS.

The Director's Letter

Greetings:

The reorganization of the general vertical files including biographies, church information, and general information on Loudoun County is progressing. This project provides item level description to hundreds of previously uncatalogued and virtually inaccessible research materials. Unpublished papers extracted from the vertical files have been labeled, filed, and indexed. Ephemera extracted from the vertical file is being indexed, labeled and filed. Indices providing subject, title and author access to these materials are being created and will be made available for patron searching on the library website.

For those who conduct research at Thomas Balch Library, *Footnote*, a digital research product, has changed its name to *Fold 3*.

The library is actively engaged in posting to its Facebook page. Events, and a weekly addition of historical facts with accompanying images are posted. If you have not yet viewed our Facebook site, please take time to do so and "friend" us.

Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, resigned effective 19 August. Following an internal search and interview process, Elizabeth Preston, then acting head of reference and a flexible part time staff member, was offered and accepted the position as Library Archives Specialist effective 19 September 2011. She brings a wealth of experience and has an outstanding educational background. Please welcome her when you next see her.

A revised version of the Researchers brochure has been prepared by Elizabeth Preston and is now available for distribution.

For those who might be curious, there was no visible damage from the earthquake and no leaks in the building from the hurricane or subsequent storms.

Thomas Balch Library loaned a copy of Elijah White's book on Ball's Bluff (1st edition) for a Civil War display at Morven Park. On Tuesday October 11, Town Council issued a proclamation for American Archives Month and on Tuesday October 25, Town Council issued a proclamation for Friends of Libraries week.

On November 16, TBL hosted a Holdings Protection & Risk Assessment Training by Richard Dine of NARA. Invitations were extended to members of the Heritage Consortium, staff, leadership of the Friends, TBL Commission leadership and through the Library of Virginia, NOVA region county clerks.

The library is proud to share with you recent community recognition of members of the Friends and Black History Committee: Commissioner Lou Etta Watkins received an Outstanding Citizenship award at the Emancipation Day Celebrations at Carver Center September 17. Elaine Thompson, longstanding member of the Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., also received an Outstanding Citizenship award. Commissioner James Roberts was one of two recognized by Loudoun Laurels at a ceremony 14 October 2011 at Morven Park.

There are numerous American Civil War sesquicentennial activities taking place across the state. Closer to home, and during October, there was a re-enactment of the Battle of Ball's Bluff. A memorial service for Colonel/Senator Edward Baker was held at Ball's Bluff the weekend of the reenactment. Randy Fletcher, representing the State of Oregon, presented an engrossed copy of the legislative bill by which Oregon has officially declared every February 24 (Baker's birthday) as Edward Baker Day, to George Tabb, representing NVRPA/Ball's Bluff, and Bill Wilkin, representing the Loudoun County CWRT. The framed document will eventually go into a Ball's Bluff visitor center. Until such time that a visitor center is built at Ball's Bluff, Thomas Balch Library will house and display the actual copy of the bill. It is on display in the Howard Clark Room of the library.

Mark your calendars for the 8th annual NARA Genealogy Fair. It will be held April 18 & 19, 2012, at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

It will be my pleasure to welcome you when visiting Thomas Balch Library or when attending our programs, tours, and exhibits.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

Upcoming TBL Sponsored Classes

Deed Research—Thursday, 1 Dec., 2011, 10AM-Noon.

Wynne Saffer, author of *Loudoun County, Virginia 1860 Land Tax Map*, will use a case study to demonstrate how to establish chain of title using deed indexes and other types of land ownership changes such as wills, marriages, old advertisements, and chancery cases.

Introduction to On-Line Genealogical Resources at Thomas Balch Library—Thursday, 2 Feb. 2012, 10AM-Noon.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, will provide a general overview of on-line resources available at Thomas Balch Library to conduct genealogical research. Particular attention will be paid to subscription databases such as *AncestryLibrary*, *HeritageQuest*, *GenealogyBank* and non-subscription databases such as *Quaker Meetings*.

Information Seeking Strategies for Historical Research—Thurs., 1 March 2012, 10AM-Noon.

Under the direction of Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist, participants will learn techniques for developing and implementing effective search techniques. While the techniques discussed are applicable in a wide variety of environments, specific attention will be paid to Thomas Balch Library's subscription databases, including *America: History and Life*, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, and *Footnote*.

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 22, 2012 AT 2 PM

FRIENDS OF THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

COME TO MEET OLD FRIENDS,

AND TO

LEARN THE STATE OF THE CORPORATION.

OUR SPEAKER:

**JAMES A. MORGAN III, AUTHOR OF
A LITTLE SHORT OF BOATS: THE CIVIL WAR
BATTLES OF BALL'S BLUFF AND
EDWARD'S FERRY**

LOWER MEETING ROOM AT

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

SNOW DATE: JANUARY 29, 2012

RECENTLY CATALOGUED BOOKS 05/11& 07/11):

Revolutionary War Pensions Awarded by State Governments 1775-1874, the General and Federal Governments Prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905,
by Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck

A Guide to Loudoun and the Civil War Upon the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, revised edition,
by the Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee

Federal Records Relating to Civil Rights in the Post-World War II Era, by Walter B. Hill

Bluemont: A Supplement to Historic District Guidelines,
by the Loudoun County Department of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development

Essex County, Virginia Cemeteries, Vol. 1 - County Church Cemeteries, by Wesley Pippenger

Essex County, Virginia Marriage Records, vol. 1, 1850-1872, by Wesley Pippenger

Rappahannock County Cemeteries (CD-ROM), by the Rappahannock Historical Society

Reluctant Confederates: Upper South Unionists in the Secession Crisis, by Daniel W. Crofts

Pennsylvania Clocks and Clockmakers,
by George H. Eckhardt

The Civil War and Northwestern Virginia,
by David L. McKain

A Little Short of Boats: The Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry, (revised edition)
by James A. Morgan

Constables and Tobacco Planters in Orange County, Virginia, 1735-1769,
by Elizabeth Ward Papageorgiou

Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835
by John C. Allen, Jr.

Culpeper: A Pictorial History by William L. Elder

Guide to the Battle of Shiloh by Jay Luvaas

Clarke County [Images of America series]
by Maral S. Kalbian

Sounding the Shallows: A Confederate Companion for the Maryland Campaign of 1862 by Joseph L. Harsh

The Heritage of Charlotte County, Virginia, 1765-2011, Vol. 2 by the Charlotte County Heritage Book Committee

Prelude to Gettysburg: Encounter at Hanover
by the Hanover Chamber of Commerce (Pa.), Historical Publication Committee

RECENTLY PROCESSED MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Poll Book, Guilford Precinct, Broad Run Magisterial District of Loudoun County, VA 1877 (SC0078)

Loudoun County School District Boundary Memorandum (SC0072)

Paeonian Springs Council Records (M067)

Ladies Board of INOVA Loudoun Hospital (M049)

Leesburg Garden Club Collection (M044)

Our Virginia Past and Present Collection (SC0076)

Eight teacher's registers from the Broad Run and Mercer Magisterial Districts, including the Kavanaugh and Broad Run Colored Schools (SC0052-SC0058)

Sterling Park Woman's Club Library Committee Collection, 1966-1973 (SC0091)

Leesburg Hospital Collection (SC 0094)

Civil War Research Collection (SC 0095).

Monthly Exhibits Enhance Your Thomas Balch Library Experience

MERCER ROOM EXHIBITS, WINTER & SPRING

December: Works by Contemporary Loudoun Potters
Loudoun Arts Council

January: Jenkins Collection of Arrow Heads & Artifacts
Loudoun Farm Museum

February: Black History Month
I Have A Dream Committee, BHC

March: Loudoun County Cemeteries
Wynne Saffer

April: The Marshall's Remembered
Dodona Manor

May: 100th Jubilee of The Ladies Board & INOVA
Loudoun Hospital - The Ladies Board

June: Charles Fenton Mercer and the Aldie Mill
Tracy Gillespie

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM EXHIBITS

December: Butterflies, Dragon Flies, and Bugs - Gary Mester

January-March: Sustaining Rural Culture:
Loudoun Wines and Vines - Jim Hanna

April-June: Local Civil War Battlefields - Gary Mester

Save The Date: January 22, 2012
Annual Membership Meeting
Friends of Thomas Balch Library
2:00 pm
lower level meeting room, TBL
(snow date Jan. 29, 2012)

BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP. CHECK YOUR LABEL FOR YOUR RENEWAL DATE.
PLEASE USE THE FORM ON PAGE FIVE TO ENLIST YOUR FRIENDS TO BECOME MEMBERS.

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 - 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

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The Thomas Balch
Chronicle

Friends of the
Thomas Balch Library
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Notice:
Friends of TBL
Annual Meeting
January 22, 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

For full descriptions of the following programs and others, to be held at Thomas Balch Library during the coming months, please consult your Winter-Spring issue of *Balch Column*. These outstanding presentations provide an opportunity to hear directly from the authors and presenters who have researched and studied a vast array of topics. These programs never fail to enrich one's knowledge and appreciation of this area's and this nation's history. What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon, or join one of the walks and hear from the leaders and scholars the 'real story' that lies beneath the surface.

Sunday, 4 Dec., 2pm—*The Captain Who Burned His Ships: Captain Thomas Tingey, USN, 1750-1829*—Gordon S. Brown, author and biographer of Capt. Tingey, explores his role in the early development of the United States Navy and the building of the Washington Navy Yard, and his burning of that yard to prevent its capture by the British in 1814. Books will be available for purchase.

Sunday, 11 Dec., 2pm—*Leesburg Then and Now*: Author talk and book signing—Annie McDonald, Preservation Planner and liaison to the Town of Leesburg's Board of Architectural Review will cover highlights from her book, a photographic essay comparing historic photographs with current images of the town. Books will be available for purchase.

Sunday, 22 Jan., 2012, 2pm—Annual Membership Meeting: Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. Speaker: James A. Morgan, III, author of *A Little Short of Boats: The Civil War Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edward's Ferry*.

Sunday, 26 Feb., 2012, 2pm—Documentary: "300 Miles to Freedom," co-produced by Richard Bryer and Anand Kamalaker traces the story of John W. Jones, who escaped bondage in Leesburg, Virginia in 1844 and traveled the Underground Railroad to Elmira, New York.

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 501c3 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.

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. Thomas Balch Library is located at 208 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176.