



1922-2012

**Friends of the
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Library**

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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 4

Winter 2012

Twentieth Annual Loudoun History Awards Honor Four

Four men representing widely divergent ways of recording and preserving the county's history were honored Sunday during the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission's 20th awards ceremony at the Leesburg library that serves as the archive of Loudoun's history and genealogy.

Ken Fleming, gravestone repairer; Jim Hanna, photographer; Louis Jett, recorder of the county's African-American history; and James Lucier, historian, scholar and researcher, received the 2012 Loudoun History Awards.

The awards program also was a celebration of the Balch's stature as a major archive and repository of the county's history. Leesburg Councilwoman Katie Hammler, who serves as the liaison to the library's advisory commission, called the Balch one of our "most unique assets," while Lucier in his remarks said it was the existence of archives like the Balch Library that enabled researchers to find the documentary trail of lost evidence about artifacts and buildings.

Commission Vice Chairman Jim Hershman described the four award-winners as "a wide and interesting range of those preserving history" in the county.

Presenters Tracy and Rich Gillespie praised Fleming's meticulous work in preserving and documenting the gravestones and markers of past Loudouners as a real contribution to the history of the county, because it recorded the basic facts of the lives of those who lived here, without deference to politics or cultural habits.

In accepting the award, Fleming said, "I don't do it for recognition. I like to go out and be alone in the cemetery and do what needs to be done." And that means setting the stones not just of a Civil War soldier, but also his wife or the whole family. Fleming said when he leaves a grave plot, "I'm not happy unless it's right and will stand another 100 years."

Hanna was praised by presenter Lori Kimball for the many images he has taken of Loudoun—from historic buildings to newer representations including the county's vineyards—that record its history.

"Balch has had my admiration for so long," Hanna said, calling the library one of the few organizations "to make the connection between the visual arts and heritage preservation." Photography

is companion to curiosity, Hanna said, citing the "information one can give through photography." He recalled his surprise during an exhibit of his work at George Washington University in Ashburn when people examining his images, mostly of western Loudoun, asked, "Where is this?"

"I was taken aback, and I realized this is a tool, to capture a unique, stop-the-music moment," one that the preservation community understands well, he said.

Jett was nominated by Elaine Thompson for his years of work collecting and recording the history of black Americans in the county. A true "lost and found" researcher, Jett's work over 27 years in finding correct name spellings, mapping black cemeteries and recording the many stories of black communities all over Loudoun is lauded by professional historians.

Today a resident of Hillsboro, Jett was born in Willard, today's Dulles Airport. In 1984 Jett became interested in his family's genealogy and that of black history generally in the county. In remarks that held his audience spellbound, Jett detailed the painstaking documentary and photographic work of those years. In July 2010, he decided he needed a safe place in which to store his work before he published it. He chose the nearby Asbury Methodist Church, built in 1889, "to keep it safe," under lock and key. Weeks later, an arsonist set fire to the building and destroyed Jett's 25 years' of work.

"I didn't know what hurt meant until that happened," Jett said. But three albums were saved. "Something moved me to take them out of the church," Jett said. One recorded his son James Jett's amazing track and field achievements, culminating in a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics in the 400-metre relay and a career as a speedy receiver for the Oakland Raiders.

Lucier was nominated by former Leesburg District Supervisor Joan Rokus, who played a key role in saving Balch, a former county library, and for the Town of Leesburg to acquire it.

A former chairman of the Balch Advisory Commission and member since its formation in 1994 through 2004, Lucier was praised for his contributions to the library and involvement in its growth. Please see Page two for his expanded remarks about the value of research libraries, such as TBL, in the Google age.

Our sincere thanks to Leesburg Today editor and publisher Norman Styer for his kind permission to excerpt Margaret Morton's superb report of the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission's Loudoun History Awards.

Why Do We Need Research Libraries in a Google Age?

By James P. Lucier

(Note: the following are excerpts from remarks delivered by the author upon receiving the Loudoun History Award for 2012 on November 11, 2012.)

The question is sometimes asked why anyone would want to go to a research library and dig into dusty old books and files when you can sit down at a computer and Google any information you want. The short answer is you can't Google just any information you want; you can only Google whatever information Google has already linked to. Research libraries such as the Thomas Balch Library are the source depositories of information that has never been scanned, and probably never will be. A general library, such as the Rust Library and others in the Loudoun County library system, is a fine source of books and other materials for consumer cultural enrichment, entertainment and curiosity. The Balch is an archival depository for those who are trying to create the books and materials that will end up in the Rust Library.

Another reason why Google is not enough is that the principles of historical research require a level of accuracy and truth-seeking that cannot be tested on Google. For example, it is well-known that eye-witnesses giving testimony in a court room may give startlingly different accounts of what they saw. One may have been in a different location than the other, and as a result saw different details. Another may have a weaker memory. Still another may be intimidated by fear of retribution, and so on. It is up to the jury to put together the true picture.

Similarly, the historical researcher wants to get to the source materials, rather than to a second-hand account by another author. Even a source document has to be evaluated on the strength of its witness. To begin with, a document has to be physically evaluated for things that would not show up in an electronic scan. Could the document be forged? Could anything have been erased? Is it a legal document such as a will (stronger), or a letter (weaker)? Does flowery or careless handwriting make it impossible to decipher the spelling? Is the age of death reported in the document the same as that engraved on a local tombstone? Are there clues in the Balch collections that can be expanded upon by visiting another archive which may lead to yet a third institution? The search for historical truth is like a Sherlock Holmes case where the cigar stub at the crime scene leads to a particular tobacconist who remembers making that unique blend for a customer who had a limp in his left foot, and so forth. Gradually the whole puzzle is assembled from original evidence here and original evidence there.

A Google search might provide some clues, but until the researcher puts some boots on the ground, sifts through original documents and gradually puts the pieces together, the historical truth cannot be discovered. That's why the Thomas Balch Library exists, and that is why it is so valuable to our community.



Civil War 150 Legacy Project Scanning Event

Plan Ahead Now to Take Advantage of This Very Special Opportunity

**Saturday, 13 April 2013 at
Thomas Balch Library**

The Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, in partnership with Thomas Balch Library, is offering an event on Saturday, 13 April 2013, at which county residents may have their family manuscripts from the Civil War era scanned for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

The scanning event is part of the *Civil War 150 Legacy Project: Document Digitization and Access*, created by the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia. Civil War 150 Legacy Project staff will be visiting Loudoun County on Saturday, April 13, 2013. The event will take place from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Thomas Balch Library, 208 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA. Appointments are strongly recommended, as only a limited number of walk-ins may be accommodated, and may be scheduled by contacting Tracy Gillespie at 703-327-9777 or by e-mail at tgillespie@nvrpa.org.

Friends of Thomas Balch Library Annual Membership Meeting and Elections of Directors

Please mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 2 pm, in the downstairs meeting room at the Library. The occasion will be the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. and the election of directors for 2013.

As well as tending to the business of the organization, and hearing about the 'State of the Friends' you will be treated to the keynote address by noted journalist, historian and author Marc Leepson. Mr. Leepson is a lively and interesting speaker, in addition to being known for his seven books, most recently, *Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General*. His previous books are *Desperate Engagement*, the story of the Civil War Battle of Monocacy and Confederate General Jubal Early's subsequent march on Washington; *Flag: An American Biography*, the history of the Stars and Stripes from the beginnings to today; and *Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built*. He edited *The Webster's New World Dictionary of the Vietnam War*, and wrote two books on health topics in the 1980s. And yes, he is now in the throes of researching and writing a new one.

This event gives the Friends' members an opportunity to learn about what their organizations is doing to foster and support what has been cited as the finest genealogic, archival and history library in Northern Virginia. The refreshments tend to be the best around, as well. Please join us.

Virginia Forum

The eighth annual Virginia Forum will be held March 21–23, 2013 at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. The theme this year: "Writing Virginia". Contact: www.virginiaforum.org.

At left: 2012 Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission's Loudoun History Award winners: l. to r.: Ken Fleming, Louis Jett, James Lucier, Jim Hanna. Photo courtesy James P. Roberts

BHC/LCPS Welcome Community to Frederick Douglass Elementary School With Open House and Ice Cream Social

The Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library (BHC) and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) hosted a community open house and ice cream social at the Frederick Douglass Elementary School on Saturday, October 27, 2012. Approximately 125 members of the community attended to view the new permanent exhibit which features a timeline of the local African-American community's struggle for equal education and the history of the original Frederick Douglass Elementary School.

Tim Martino, Principal, welcomed everyone and invited participation of alumni in the new school community. Donna Bohanon, Events Coordinator for the Black History Committee, presented a lively game of "Did You Know?" and "True or False", sharing information about the Committee, including its mission and examples of past and future endeavors, and the Thomas Balch Library.

Sara Howard-O'Brien, LCPS, provided an overview of the creation of the exhibit and the joint efforts of the BHC, LCPS, George Mason University (GMU) and the greater community for the planning and implementation of this project. The school's wonderful dedication video, compiled by Javier Pierrend, LCPS, from the oral histories conducted by Wendi Manuel-Scott, Director of African and African American Studies at George Mason University was also viewed. At the end of the presentation, make-your-own ice cream sundaes were enjoyed, as tours of the new school were led by Student Ambassadors. Members of the Black History Committee were available to answer questions.



Former Douglass Principal Fred Drummond with attendees and below, enjoying the ice cream line.



BHC members Sherry Sanabria and Elaine Thompson enjoy a chat, with former student Carla Wiley and former teacher Amy Anderson in the background..

PHOTOS COURTESY: LAURA WEN, LCPS; HERR DUVAL AND JOMES RPBERSD



Donna Bohanon, BHC Events chair, and Timothy Martino, Principal, FDES.

The main attraction was the permanent exhibit, developed and installed by the Black History Committee and LCPS.



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. We meet every third Tuesday at 7 pm at the Library. Interested in knowing more? Contact: Thomas Balch Library

Out of the Past

From Volume 3 Issue 4 of *The Thomas Balch Chronicle*, and in turn, from Balch's newspaper archives, the following report of President U.S. Grant's visit to Leesburg in 1873. The article was written by Edward Hale Brush (for Va. State Chamber of Commerce) and appeared in the *Loudoun Times Mirror*, Nov. 19, 1931.

Headlined "**President Grant's Visit to Leesburg in 1873 Had National Significance**", we reproduce the article here for your interest and enjoyment:

"An incident of the Fall of 1873 of national significance on account of its bearing on restored friendship between North and South was the visit of President U.S. Grant and his Cabinet to the Loudoun County Fair at the county seat, Leesburg. *The Loudoun Mirror*, in its account of the visit, said:

"It was a great day in Loudoun. At eleven o'clock the train from Washington arrived bearing a special car containing President Grant, Secretary of War Belknap, Secretary of State Fish, Secretary of Navy Robeson, Secretary of Treasury Richardson, Attorney General Williams, Assistant Secretary of Interior Cowan, General Babcock, Commodore Ammen, General Pitcher and Colonel Casey, brother-in-law of the President. This was the first time that General Grant had been attended by so full a Cabinet in his jaunts of pleasure.

"The party was met at the depot by Colonel J. W. Fairfax, president of the Agricultural Society, and a delegation of citizens, deputation of the committee of receptions, and conveyed at once to the fairgrounds, the President riding in an open carriage drawn by four horses.

"The cavalcade was escorted through town by a number of citizens on horseback and the Tankersville Band. When the President reached the judge's stand he was greeted by three long, loud cheers. He was met by Thomas W. Edwards, Esq., who received him in an appropriate speech. The President bowed his thanks and shook hands with the hundreds who pressed forward around him."

Exhibits – Winter to Spring 2013

Margaret Mercer Room

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

First Deeds for Leesburg Lots Placed on Record in Year 1758

(Another article prepared by Edward Hale Brush for distribution by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, and published, verbatim, in the Loudoun Times Mirror, March 12, 1931)

On March 14, 1758 and on several other dates in close proximity, some of the first deeds for lots in the present town of Leesburg were recorded in the clerk's office of Loudoun County. This county had been set off from Fairfax the year before and named in compliment to Lord Loudoun, then Governor of Virginia and commander-in-chief of the British Forces in America.

From the first, Leesburg seems to have been considered the logical location for the county seat on account of its central position in the new county. The settlement did not bear that name at first however, but for a time was called Georgetown, in compliment to the reigning monarch. Those were times when the settlers on the frontier had to be on the watch for attacks by the Indians incited by the French, for the French and Indian War was then in progress.

At one time the small settlement here was stockaded for defense and for a gathering place for settlers in its vicinity in case they were compelled to flee their homes and seek refuge from possible assault. Nicholas Minor, who was a captain of militia in the French and Indian War, is regarded in some respects the founder of the town and was a leading spirit in making it the county seat and some time previous to or during 1757, when Loudoun County was created, he had some 60 acres of land which he owned there laid out and divided into half acre lots for a town. He owned a plantation about a mile east of Leesburg and a division of Braddock's army spend a night there on its way to Fort Duquesne in 1755. Later he gave the lots upon which the court house and other county buildings were erected.

**Don't Miss This:
Artist and BHC member
Sherry Zvares Sanabria
is exhibiting her
Paintings: The Magic of Light
at
Rust Library in Leesburg
only through December, 2012**

**Be sure to renew your Friends' membership. Check your label for renewal date.
Please use the form on page six to enlist your friends to become members.**

The Director's Letter

The Ketocin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) recently presented Thomas Balch Library with a new reference work *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography* by Eric Grundset with Briana L. Diaz and Hollis L. Gentry. The three volume set highlights resources and scholarship from the 18th century to the most recent publications that document and analyze the lives of women and girls 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. *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790: A History Through Bibliography* is available at the Thomas Balch Library to researchers.

The twentieth annual Loudoun History Awards were presented Sunday, November 11 at Thomas Balch Library. The 2012 recipients are Kenneth Fleming, Louis Jett, James Hanna, and James P. Lucier, Sr.

Although I have mentioned this before, 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. Staff works hard

to find interesting historical tidbits to share with the public and to illustrate our holdings. If you have not visited Facebook: Thomas Balch Library, do so soon. You may be surprised at how interesting Loudoun's history has been.

Library Staff join me in expressing appreciation for the support Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. provides the library. From underwriting the honoraria for the Lectures series to covering the cost of electronic databases the Friends are always ready with a helping hand.

The winter-spring lectures series has been set and promises an interesting array of topics – from A Musical Odyssey: Appalachia to Himalaya to the escapades of Aaron Burr, and through the life of Orra White Hitchcock (1796-1863) scientist and artist to Abraham Lincoln, Loudoun Chancery Court County records to the Zimmerman Telegram there will be something here for everyone. Tours, exhibits, and classes fill out our educational offerings.

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

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

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

Researching History and Genealogy at Thomas Balch Library

The library offers classes introducing researchers to research techniques and resources at Thomas Balch Library. Classes will include subject-specific training by experienced staff or guest speakers. The classes, limited in size, with registration required, will be held the first Thursday of each month.

Information Seeking Strategies for Historical Research

Thursday, 7 February 2013, 10-12AM

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*.

Deed Research

Thursday, 7 March 2013, 10-12AM

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.

Researching Court Records

Thursday, 4 April 2013, 10-12AM

Jeanette Irby, Leesburg Town Attorney, will discuss how to use court records and other resources for data that are frequently overlooked in genealogical and historical research. Irby will demonstrate how to mine court records for clues that can be used to collect information for genealogical research. Examples of these records include real estate records, chancery suits, estates, and indexes. Jeanette Irby, previously employed by Fauquier County, has researched land records dating from the 1700s and participated in genealogical seminars sponsored by the Warrenton Court House Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of which she is First Vice Regent. She holds a BS from Central Michigan University and a JD from Thomas Cooley Law School.

Researching the Revolutionary War in Virginia

Thursday, 2 May 2013, 10-12AM

In the fall of 2012, the DAR began a series of new source guides for research during the American Revolution in each of the original states. Virginia is one of the first in the set, and the speaker will discuss the identification of materials for inclusion, how they reflect Virginia's involvement in the war effort, and the primary goal of helping researchers discover their Virginia Revolutionary War ancestors.

Eric G. Grundset has been Library Director for the Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, D. C. since 1983. He is co-author of the DAR's successful 2004 publication *American Genealogical Research at the DAR, Washington, D.C.* and editor of their 2008 book *Forgotten Patriots: African Americans and American Indians in the Revolutionary War*. In 2011, the DAR published a new set of books titled *America's Women in the Revolutionary Era, 1760-1790*, with Eric as the primary author. Eric is currently working on a new series of books on researching ancestors during the American Revolution. The first volume is *New York in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*.

In September 2012, the National Society Sons of the American Revolution awarded Eric its Silver Good Citizenship Medal for projects between SAR and DAR.

Recently Processed Manuscript Collections

(08/12-10/12)

Cooper Fry and Scott Family Papers (M 076)
Nancy Graham Rogers Papers (M 058)
Arcola Elementary School, 1857-1858 (VC 0048)

Recently Catalogued Books (08/12-10/12):

Anderson, Mabel Washbourne, *Life of General Stand Watie
The Only Indian Brigadier General of the Confederate
Army and the Last General to Surrender*

Brownlow, William Gannaway and Stephen V. Ash,
*Secessionists and Other Scoundrels: Selections from Parson
Brownlow's Book*

Dow, Elizabeth H., *Archivists, Collectors, Dealers, and Replevin:
Case Studies on Private Ownership of Public Documents*

Gallagher, Henry T., *James Meredith and the Ole Miss Riot: A
Soldier's Story*

Jackson, John Brinckerhoff, *Visions: Land and Community in
Loudoun County Virginia*

Pulley, Raymond H., *Old Virginia Restored: an Interpretation of
the Progressive Impulse*

Smallwood, Carol and Elaine Williams, *Preserving Local
Writers, Genealogy, Photographs, Newspapers, and
Related Materials*

Stivison, David and William Penn, *Magna Carta in America: a
Project of the Magna Carta Research Foundation*

Welcher, Frank J., *The Union Army, 1861-1865: Organization
and Operations*

Winner, Lauren F., *A Cheerful and Comfortable Faith: Anglican
Religious Practice in the Elite Households of Eighteenth-
Century Virginia*

Ashe, Walter Carr, *The John Calhoun Carr and Dora Gott Carr
families in Loudoun County, Virginia and Poolesville,
Maryland*

Benkleman, Jr., Alvin, *Ayres Letters 1853-1865: photocopies of
letters found in an old attic in 1939*

Bowen, Jeff, *Applications for Enrollment of Seminole Newborn
Freedmen, Act of 1905 and Cherokee Descendants West*

Campbell, Eric A., *"A grand terrible drama": from Gettysburg
to Petersburg: the Civil War letters of Charles Wellington
Reed*

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo, *Immigration Research*

Carr, Joseph Julian. *The Carr Family of Loudoun County
including also our Kerr, Ker, Karr and Carr antecedents in
Ireland, Scotland, and England*

Burke, Evangeline & Davis Burke, *Rebel Raider: a Biography
of Admiral Semmes*

Grundset, Eric G. *Buckingham County, Virginia Surveyor's Plat
Book, 1762-1858*

Humphrey, John T., *Pennsylvania Genealogy Research*

Johnston, James H., *From Slave Ship to Harvard: Yarrow
Mamout and the history of an African American family*

McCartney, Martha W., *Jamestown People to 1800: Landowners,
Public Officials, Minorities, and Native Leaders,*

Overmyer, Jack K., *A Stupendous Effort: the 87th Indiana in the
War of the Rebellion*

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Segars, J. H. & John McGlone, *In Search of Confederate
Ancestors: the Guide*

Taylor, James, *The Great Historic Families of Scotland*

Ulmann, Helen Schatvet, *Western Massachusetts Families
in 1790*

Wright, F. Edward, *Stafford County, Virginia Marriage
References and Family Relationships, 1664-18*

Wright, Richardson Little, *Hawkers & Walkers In Early
America: Strolling Peddlers, Preachers, Lawyers,
Doctors, Players, and Others, from the Beginning to
the Civil War*

Digital Collections

(added 08/12-10/12):

From the Archives Unbound Collection of the
Gale Group the following databases have been
added to our offerings:

Civil War Reports of Union Army Generals
Confederate Newspapers: A Collection from Florida,
Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and Alabama
The War Department: Diplomacy on the High Seas

New & Renewing Members

Jan Bartlett
Jinsie Bingham
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- ☐ Individual copies of the **Historical Map** \$ 10.00

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Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia \$ 15.00

- ☐ **The Essence of A People II: African Americans Who Made**
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- ☐ **Loudoun County's African American Communities**
A Tour Map and Guide \$ 5.00

- ☐ **A Taste of Loudoun County:**
Our Favorite Recipes 1903-1951
Home Interest Club Cookbook - Centennial Edition \$ 10.00

- ☐ **A Story of Round Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia**
by Ann W. Thomas \$ 20.00

- ☐ **In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County**
Emancipation Association, 1890-1971
by Elaine E. Thompson \$ 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
P. O. Box 2184
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Friends Annual Meeting
January 27, 2013 2 PM
Everyone Welcome

Calendar of Events at Thomas Balch Library

Please see the Winter/Spring Issue of *The Balch Column* for full description of TBL Sponsored Programs

Sunday, 2 Dec., 2 pm—**Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army's Victory that Shaped World War II**—Stuart D. Goldman.
Sunday, 9 Dec., 2 pm—**Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1816**—Stephen Budiansky
Sunday, 27 Jan., 2 pm—**The Friends Annual Meeting and Election of Directors**. Keynote speaker: Author Marc Leepson.
Sunday, 10 Feb., 2 pm—**The Mountain Music Project Film**—Tara Linhardt.
Sunday, 24 Feb., 2 pm—**They Closed Our Schools**—A Documentary Film—Brian Grogan, producer.
Sunday, 3 Mar., 2 pm—**Orra White Hitchcock (1796-1863): An Illustrated Life**—Daria D'Arienzo.
Saturday, 9 Mar., 10–12 am—**A Walking Tour Civil War Leesburg**—Richard Treat Gillespie.
Sunday, 10 Mar., 2 pm—**Sussex County's Greatest Generation**—Deborah L. Parker.
Sunday, 17 Mar., 2 pm—**American Emperor, Aaron Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America**—David O. Stewart.
Sunday, 7 Apr., 2 pm—**"They Have Killed Pap Dead!" The Road to Ford's Theatre, Abraham Lincoln's Murder, & The Rage for Revenge**—Anthony S. Pitch

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 Loudoun County's history during the American Civil War. Meetings are held at TBL unless otherwise noted.

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.