



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

Save the Date! May 22, 2005!
It's the Friends' 10th Birthday!
Join us for an Old-Fashioned
Ice Cream Social!

Calendar of Events

April 6 7-9 p.m.

Notable Women in Northern Virginia's Past

Sandra Treadway, Deputy Director of The Library of Virginia, will talk about women from the greater Loudoun area whose stories she discovered through her research as editor for the Library's ongoing multivolume *Dictionary of Virginia Biography* project. Please call 703-737-7195 to reserve a place. No fee.

April 9 10-12 noon.

Beginning Genealogy

Jinx Hartung will give tips on pinning down your elusive ancestors and organizing your research. Register at 703-737-7195. No fee.

April 21 6-8 p.m. Tally-Ho Theater.

Looking Back at Leesburg with Wilson Townsend, Jr.

The video premier of 89 year-old Mr. Townsend's life in Leesburg. This event is free and open to the public.

May 14 10-12 noon.

Intermediate Genealogy

Jinx Hartung, continuing her genealogy course, demonstrates specific record research and will answer your questions and help you in your areas of research. Register at 703-737-7195. No fee.

May 14 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Germans in the Lower Shenandoah Valley.

Rebecca Ebert, Certified Archivist will provide an overview of the early German settlements in Frederick County, Va. and surrounding counties and provide information on research facilities and resources. Your questions will be welcomed. Please call 703-737-7195 to reserve a place. No fee.

May 22 2 p.m.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library's 10th Anniversary Celebration.

Come join us for an old fashioned ice cream social on the Library lawn. Festivities include the unveiling of a William Woodward painting for Thomas Balch Library.

A Word from the Vice President

This year, the Friends celebrate the 10th anniversary of our support to Thomas Balch Library. We are planning a special tenth anniversary party at the Library on May 22, 2005, and chose this date in particular, because eighty-three years ago, on May 22, 1922, Thomas Balch Library was dedicated.

In the Fall of 1994, suggestions made by the newly-appointed Advisory Commission to begin a Friends of the Library support group became a reality when Karen Jones graciously offered to chair a committee to explore ways and means to assemble a core of dedicated volunteers and seek application for non-profit status. Incorporation was approved on September 21, 1995. The original governing body listed on the incorporation papers were: Karen U. Jones, Leesburg - President; Craig Scott, Lovettsville - V. Presi-

dent; Joan Zawacki, Leesburg - Secretary; Murray Rose, Paeonian Springs - Treasurer; Susan Webber and Sarah Armstrong, Leesburg - Directors.

Seventy-two individuals and the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation joined in support of the fledgling organization as charter members. Many of these continue as active members today. At the close of our first fiscal year in December 1995, income totaled \$2,041.38, nearly all from memberships. Expenses that year amounted to \$585.66. Fundraising efforts were confined to purchasing and selling Friends' mugs.

We have come a long way since then! End-of-year figures for 2004 included income of \$5,540 in memberships, \$9,000 in grants, \$1,100 in memorials, and \$5,517.19 in contributions. Friends' direct support to Thomas Balch Library for

archival preservation, programs, additions to the collection, equipment, marketing and website education totaled \$7,391.98.

Please join the Friends in celebration on Sunday, May 22, for an old-fashioned ice cream social, on the lawn, at Thomas Balch Library.

Susan P. Webber, Vice President

A Reminder to Friends of Balch Library:

Be certain to renew your Friends' membership. It is truly an investment in the future; by contributing to the preservation of our past, you ensure that this information is available to the generations to come. Check your label for your own renewal date, and use the form below to enlist your friends, now.

From the Library Manager

Exciting changes and events are on tap for Thomas Balch Library this Winter and Spring. With the assistance of new Town Manager John A. Wells, the Library is finally able to address persistent leaks. Roof replacement and gutter repair will start in March with an anticipated, weather permitting, construction time frame of 90 days. In January warranty work was completed on the atrium roof in the Margaret Mercer Room.

To better serve patrons, institute "best practices," and utilize shelf space to capacity, the book collection shift has been completed as scheduled. Thomas Balch Library books are now arranged by Call Number. Each book is labeled on the spine or front cover. Periodicals and newsletters are filed alphabetically by title in the Janney Room. To access our book and periodical collection, please use Horizon, our online catalog. There is a link to Horizon from the Thomas Balch webpage on the Town of Leesburg website.

Fiction, videos, uncatalogued genealogical materials (until catalogued) and town and county publications also have found their resting place in the Janney Room. Books shelved by call number start on the left side of the Westmoreland Davis Room and snake around the front side of the building ending in the Howard W. Clark, Sr. Room. This shift will allow space for growth where needed.

Our Winter and Spring calendar of events is filled with exciting lectures, tours and genealogical classes. Opening events, a books signing for Ann Thomas' recently released history on Round Hill and a talk on the Lewis and Clark trek by Annie Hulen drew enthusiastic crowds. If you have not already done so, you may wish to sign up for forthcoming genealogical classes, and a talk on April 6 by Dr. Sandra Goia Treadway, Deputy Director of the Library of Virginia. This presentation on prominent women in Northern Virginia will be both interesting and entertaining. These women made a difference for us all and will be included in the Dictionary of Virginia Biography currently being compiled and published by The Library of Virginia. For information on events please refer to the calendar elsewhere in this publication.

During February, I was privileged to be a participant in the dedication and celebration of the opening of the African American Episcopal History Collection at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. This event, a culmination of many years of dedicated work by a variety of interested researchers, historians, librarians and archivists, marks the beginning of a new era in the preservation of African American historical documentation. During the welcome and dedicatory remarks various individuals who have contributed both to this project and been instrumental in preserving and making

available African American history were recognized. Fittingly, among these were Elaine Thompson and Deborah Lee of the Black History Committee. My thanks to all for your continuing support of Thomas Balch Library.

Alexandra S. Gressitt

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. invite you to join us!

Yes! I wish to join the Friends and play an important role in supporting the collections and programs of Thomas Balch Library.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Individual	\$ 20.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Student/Senior	\$ 15.00
Business/ Professional	\$ 35.00
Patron	\$ 50.00
Sustaining	\$ 100.00
Benefactor	\$ 250.00

Please forward with your check to:

**Friends of the
Thomas Balch Library, Inc
P.O. Box 2184 Leesburg, VA 20177**

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation

Not So Long Ago:

From the *Thomas Balch Chronicle*,
July 1997:

On The Home Front

It was a point of honor among Loudouners to contribute to the "war effort." Communities across the country planted victory gardens, bought war bonds, learned to handle ration books, and set up Red Cross Centers for rolling bandages, training nurses' aides, and knitting sweaters.

Victory Gardens, encouraged by the government to supplement rationing, were perhaps second nature to rural Loudouners. Those in town were encouraged to plant a corner of their gardens in vegetables and children planted them at school. Miss Charlotte Noland of Foxcroft School in Middleburg organized gardens among her students, along with marches and drills, and then enlisted all the schools in the Middleburg-Aldie area.

Purcellville's *Blue Ridge Herald* printed tips for Victory Gardeners, including these from February 1943:

Every householder certainly by now knows, or should know, that fruits and vegetables you do not produce for yourself this summer, may not be available in cans, unless in a very small amount. Point rationing is here. Certain garden seeds are scarce and high. The nation is calling upon everyone able to grow some garden crops for themselves to do so vigorously. Some important points to consider now are:

- Clean off garden spaces. Insects and

New Woodward Painting Presented

In 2001, Friends of the Thomas Balch unveiled a handsome mural of the history of Loudoun County that was installed as a frieze, in the atrium of the Library. Since that time, the artist, William Woodward, renowned muralist and painter, has worked with the Black History Committee of the Friends to develop a concept for a new painting, his gift to the Library.

Now complete, the new painting will be unveiled on Sunday, May 22, at Thomas Balch Library, as part of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Friends. *Pauline Singletary*

disease pests live over in old garden trash.

- Plow the garden at the earliest possible date.
- Use manure when possible to get it.
- Plan your garden for the year, in succession of crops you like best.
- Order the seeds you will need at once and order the fertilizer you will need at once.

A county-wide Victory Garden program will be carried on through leaders in the County Board of Agriculture beginning in March. In the meantime, let's plan and carry out effective all-seasons gardens.

The Blue Ridge Herald also sponsored Garden Contests, with points awarded for selections of vegetables and adequacy to meet the year round food needs of the family.

New & Renewing Members

David & Mary Kate Ambler
Elizabeth Balch Benckart
Paul W. Bice
Charles D. Binns
Susan P. Boothe
Donald A. Dove
June Francis
Tracy & Richard Gillespie
Alexandra S. Gressitt
Mrs. John Gressitt
Agnes G. Harrison
Lori Hinterleiter
John Kimball
William S. Kennelley
Carol Kupchik
Shirley M. Mann
Janet MacDonald Manthos
Albert & Maureen Mercker
James A. Pierpoint
Phil & Patti LoPresti, Jr
Daniel G. Mock
David J. O'Connor
James & Peggy Roberts
Linda DeButts Roberts
Murray & Barbara Rose
Betty S. Ruby
Mr. & Mrs. S. Murray Rust, Jr.
Patricia R. Shoaf
Reginald & Marion Simms
Jean Smidt
Jonathan Stayer
Kay Barnhouse Stout
Karen Woltz
Mrs. Mary Smalley Wood

Meet your new Board Members

Gail Adams

A native Virginian and Air Force brat, Gail has lived all over the world, but is now back in Virginia. Married to Scott Adams and with two children, she does volunteer work in a wide variety of organizations: docent at the DAR Museum, editor of the Howland Quarterly, and belongs to 26 hereditary societies including Mayflower, DAR, Magna Charta, Charlemagne, and Germanna Foundation. She is also a member of Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad. "I believe Balch is a very special library with so much to offer to our community. Keeping our history alive and passing it to our children is very important. It is an honor to be on the Board and to serve our community in this capacity."

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Connie Fletcher

Retiring as legal administrator of a large DC law firm, Connie and her husband Tom came to Loudoun in 1997. They own and operate Cobblestones, Ltd, an antique shop in Leesburg. In addition, Connie has immersed herself in an impressive roster of volunteer positions. She has served as board member to Leesburg Downtown Business Association and Leesburg Crossroads, Inc., is a member of the Historic District Residents Association., and she chairs the Loudoun Arts Council 2005 Designer Showhouse. She is vitally interested in the Town's operation and economic development. "I look forward to working with the Friends' board and to making a valuable contribution."

James H. Hershman, Jr.

A senior fellow at the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University, Jim's primary interest is the era of public school desegregation. His articles and reviews have appeared in: *Journal of Southern History*; *Virginia Social Science Journal*; *Journal of Negro Education*; and *The Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. A member of the Thomas Balch Advisory Commission since its creation in 1994, he is the last of the original commissioners still serving. "I hope to see Balch continue to build its reputation in the direction it is going. Unique in Virginia, the Town of Leesburg devotes considerable resources to history and genealogy. This Library is a wise investment that will pay great dividends in the future."



1922-2005

The Thomas Balch Chronicle

The Newsletter of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg, Virginia
A Library for History and Genealogy

Volume 9 Issue 1

Spring 2005

New Architectural Survey Collection Available

USER INFORMATION

Volume of Collection: 5 Cubic feet

Collection Dates: Ca. 1730 to Ca. 1960. Collection created 2003; covers period ca. 1730 – ca. 1960

Provenance: County of Loudoun, Department of Planning, Leesburg, Virginia

Restrictions: None

Reproduction Rights: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from Thomas Balch Library.

Cite As: Additional Loudoun County Architectural Surveys 2003 (ca. 1730 – ca. 1960) (M11); Rust Archive, Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Virginia.

Alternate Formats: None

Other Finding Aids: Database searchable by State Department of Historic Resources Numbers, Addresses, and Tax Map Numbers. Available in print form on site.

Related Holdings: Lewis/Edwards Loudoun County Architectural Surveys; Leesburg Architectural Surveys

Accession Number: 2004.0203

Notes: This collection is a continuation of the Lewis/Edwards architectural surveys of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Also included are two volumes of text and two CDs. The first text volume explains the methodology of the survey and a history of Loudoun County that gives historic context for the properties surveyed. The second volume consists of nine appendices and includes one CD containing the survey forms and one containing photographs of the properties. Selected properties are described and illustrated to represent the various historic periods and types of development.

USGS maps showing locations of all the surveyed sites were also provided. These maps are available in a box in the Rust Archive with the maps of the Lewis/Edwards files.

**Save May 22!
It's a Birthday Party!
The Friends are Ten Years Old!**

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

P.O. Box 2184,
Leesburg, VA 20177

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info@balchfriends.org

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www.balchfriends.org

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The recently completed and valuable Collection M11, processed by volunteer Teckla H. Cox., is now available to researchers. User information, scope and content note, folder list, and cataloguing information for the collection is provided below:

ADDITIONAL LOUDOUN COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL SURVEYS CA. 1730 TO CA. 2003

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The 747 files in this collection represent architectural surveys prepared for the Loudoun County Department of Planning by URS Corporation of Gaithersburg, Maryland in 2003.

The structures surveyed are in all sections of Loudoun County and represent domestic sites and buildings of numerous types: dwellings, agricultural buildings, commercial buildings, religious buildings, and a few old and disused roadbeds. Few of the agricultural buildings remain in major agricultural use as so many of the Loudoun County's farms have been subdivided. However, in many cases the owners have preserved the buildings and even put them to adaptive reuse. The buildings range from dwellings which originated as small log buildings that have had one or more additions over the centuries to buildings of the mid-twentieth century such as ramblers. Most are unpretentious and representative of a rural county with farm houses and related barns, sheds, etc.; small businesses and churches; and some mid-twentieth century dwellings not associated with agriculture and generally located in small hamlets and along roadsides.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Collection includes 747 file folders covering sites and structures in all sections of Loudoun County and is in addition to the Lewis/Edwards files of historic sites. The surveys include a paper form listing address, tax map number, date of the site, Virginia Department of Historic Resources identification number, a brief description of each structure and a notation of its eligibility for the State and National Registers of Historic Places; photographs of the building(s); sketch maps of the site and any outbuildings; and a small copy of the area as shown on the relevant USGS map.