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# 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*

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Spring 2006

## Conference on Quakers and the Underground Railroad

On Saturday 4 February 2006, Thomas Balch Library hosted a conference, *Quakers, African Americans, Antislavery, and the Underground Railroad in the Mid-Atlantic Region*. Despite heavy rains one hundred enthusiastic attendees gathered to hear six panelists summarize and discuss cutting-edge scholarship on the topic.

Panel members were: Chairperson Christopher Densmore, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College; A. Glenn Crothers, University of Louisville and the Filson Historical Society; Katherine Grover, an Independent Scholar from New Bedford, Massachusetts; Deborah A. Lee, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities; Jenny Masur, National Park Service, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program; Bronwen Souders, Waterford Foundation; and Debra McCauslin, an Independent Researcher from Adams County Pennsylvania.

In recent years, historians have found a significant number of Quakers, African Americans, and others in the mid-Atlantic region were actively working to end slavery through a variety of strategies and tactics. Their findings shed new light on abolitionism and the coming of the Civil War. This informal conference demonstrated the significance of local history in informing and enlightening our view of national history, and vice versa. Our thanks to panel members for providing us with brief synopses of their work in this area.

### Christopher Densmore's Introductory Remarks

Let me tell the story about how this meeting came to be. I am the director of Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College. Our business is to preserve and make available documentation on the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, and we serve as the repository for most of the records of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and its subordinate local meetings in Pennsylvania, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. We also have papers of Quaker families, including manuscripts relating to the Janney, Stabler, Hallowell and others in this region.

I am interested in the use of these collections and noted several researchers using the same records for similar, but not identical interests. All of this research touched in some way on Quakers, African-Americans and abolitionism in

the 19th century. These are people who ought to know each other. You will hear from some of them today. There are others, and I'd particularly like to mention Harrold Stanley's *Subversives: Antislavery Community in Washington, D.C., 1828-1865* (2003) One might think that these folk would be in competition, but that's not the way of historical scholarship. Each researcher brings new insights into the materials, and if one book on a topic is good, two books are better and if we have four or five, we might even come to a consensus. If not, we at least might have some productive discussions.

A couple of words about Quakers. Quakers came to Maryland and Virginia in 1656 and haven't left. That's three hundred and fifty years of history (and records). Although it took Quakers some years to develop their anti-slavery testimonies, by the 1770s Friends from North Carolina to Nova Scotia were solidly and absolutely committed to the anti-slavery position. The story of Quaker abolitionism has been told. A corollary to freedom for the enslaved is the question of what will happen to the freed people. Quakers had a concern for the education, legal protection and economic viability of the freed people. The full story of the interactions between Quaker communities and African-American communities remains to be told.

But we are beginning. Research is necessarily local but we are beginning to have sufficient information to think about commonalities and differences. In addition to some of the research you will hear about today from Loudoun County, Virginia, Adams County, Pennsylvania and New Bedford, Massachusetts, there is parallel research in print or in process about similar communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and the Midwest.

But there are more than parallels between these

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### Correction:

The Winter 2005 issue of *The Thomas Balch Chronicle* incorrectly listed the title of Elaine E. Thompson's book. The correct title is ***In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971.***

I sincerely regret the error.

Janet MacDonald Manthos, editor

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studies. I've been interested in the Underground Railroad. I used to work in Western New York and one of the local heroes was the station master at Elmira, New York, a self-emancipated slave from Loudoun County, Virginia. Stanley Harrold's book *Subversives* tells about the efforts to free the Weems family and the escape on the Underground Railroad of Anna Marie Weems via the Underground Railroad conducted by Jacob Biggelow in Washington, DC, to William Still in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and then on to Buxton, Ontario, via New York City. I don't know the specific route, but one frequently used at this time was via John W. Jones in Elmira.

Quaker meetings were particularly well networked. A Friend from Hopewell, Virginia, going to Baltimore to attend sessions of the Yearly Meeting would be brushing shoulders with Friends from Pennsylvania. Traveling Friends, such as Samuel M. Janney of Goose Creek, Virginia, visited meetings throughout North America. A Friend in Whitewater, Indiana or Norwich, Ontario, might have been better informed about events in Goose Creek or Sandy Springs than she was about the doings of her Methodist or Presbyterian neighbors in the next town over. For his part, Janney was in correspondence with abolitionist minded Friends from Isaac T. Hopper, sometimes credited as being the founder of the Underground Railroad, to John Needles in Baltimore and Joseph Dugdale in Green Plain, Ohio.

Different people are working on parts of what is clearly the same puzzle. Now we can begin to fit the pieces together and get a far better image. This is exciting and ground-breaking research.

### **Deborah A. Lee**

Lee highlighted the difficulty of working against slavery in a slaveholding region. She quoted Pennsylvania Quaker abolitionist Lydia Wierman who, after a visit to Loudoun in 1845, published a letter about her experiences in an antislavery newspaper. She observed that, "We of the north know not what it is to live in the lion's mouth," adding that antislavery work was challenging enough for "we [who] live in reach of its paws." Consequently, documentary evidence of an organized underground railroad in Virginia is fragmentary and scant. By tracing Quaker and African American migration and correspondence with colleagues

to the North and West, however, more sources come to light that illuminate the resistance in Loudoun and elsewhere in the South. Since even northern and western sources are local ones, researchers do well to recreate the social networks, in a sense, and collaborate with local historians with similar interests. As examples, Lee briefly related three cases of free and formerly enslaved African Americans—Nelson T. Gant, John W. Jones, and Daniel Dangerfield—who left Loudoun and became active in the underground railroad in Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania. Primary sources found in the North included public records, newspaper articles featuring late nineteenth-century interviews with former slaves, obituaries, and correspondence. Lee has found evidence of chain migration to particular northern communities and continued communications with friends and family in the South. She has discovered complex networks of black and white activists that crisscrossed the Mason-Dixon line. Not least, she has enjoyed connecting with other researchers, exchanging information, and marveling together at the rich picture of the past that emerges from their shared work.

### **Debra McCauslin**

McCauslin gave information from her newly published book *Yellow Hill: Reconstructing the Past Puzzle of a Lost Community*.

She had found evidence that Quakers at Menallen Friends Meeting in northern Adams County, along with their neighbors living in a free African American community at nearly Yellow Hill, were working together in the Underground Railroad. McCauslin talked about Adams County's Menallen Friends and their involvement in the 1845 kidnapping of former Virginia slave Kitty Payne who was taken with her three children from the Bendersville area. McCauslin had obtained a letter which was postmarked October 3, 1845 in Leesburg from Yardley Taylor to Menallen Friend Cyrus Griest concerning Payne's fate. McCauslin learned from Deborah Lee that Taylor was an outspoken abolitionist and a Virginia Quaker. McCauslin had learned of Griest's reputation as an Underground Railroad station master in Pennsylvania. The letter proves that the Friends above and below the Mason Dixon Line were communicating with each other. Most of the Friends' meetings in the tri-state area (south central PA, MD and northern VA) attended the Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

### **Jenny Masur**

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act was enacted by Congress in 1998. The National Park Service was mandated to set up a network of sites, educational programs, museums, and archives verifiably associated with the Underground Railroad through the use of primary sources. In order to include bondsmen using their own initiative and courage, "Underground Railroad" is defined as resistance to enslavement through flight through the end of the Civil War. The Network to Freedom now has over 225 members in 27 states and the District of Columbia (including the Thomas Balch Library). Members are dedicated to telling the story of the Underground Railroad in a variety of places and a variety of circumstances from Canada to Mexico and the Caribbean. Local historians, academics, genealogists, and historic preservationists are pooling information and resources in order to identify, protect, document, and interpret people, places, and events associated with the flight to freedom of enslaved African Americans. While many escapes were secretive, more and more stories are emerging from careful scrutiny of court and jail records, diaries and letters, period newspapers, runaway ads, and first person narratives.

### **Kathryn Grover**

Grover spoke about her prior and current research on people of color, fugitives, and fugitive assistance in New Bedford, Massachusetts. As a percentage of total population, New Bedford's black population was more dense than in any other northern city—Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, included—and nearly 30 percent of its 1850 black population declared slave-state origins, compared to only about 15 percent or less of those in New York and Boston. A remarkable number of antebellum blacks in the city were from Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Richmond in Virginia, Washington, DC, and Baltimore. Grover's current work deals with tracing the lives of both whites and blacks in a single New Bedford neighborhood, including their southern lives and business connections, as well as their experiences in New Bedford.

### **Bronwen Souders**

Souders presented the results of 177 scans of runaway slave advertisements from the *Genius of Liberty*, a weekly paper published in Leesburg 1817-1843. Tho-

mas Balch Library has copies for the first few years of the *Genius* but Souders had access to the entire (private) collection and drew conclusions from its content. When combined with a ten-year span of material from Edward Hammat's jail book of 1829 to 1841 (also in private hands), the material showed a pattern of runaways—either advertised or jailed in Leesburg—from Loudoun County as well as southern, eastern and western Virginia counties, Washington DC, present West Virginia, and New York and Maryland. This strongly confirms Route 15 as an Underground Railroad route, not only for escapees but those returning to seek the freedom of family members left behind. The *Genius* material and a searchable index may be found on the Friends of Thomas Balch Library website at: <http://www.balchfriends.org/Slaves/index.htm> <http://66.241.205.188/Slaves/search.asp>

**A. Glen Crothers**

Crothers introduced his research on the Quaker community of northern Virginia between 1750 and 1865. He argued that Quakers, spurred by their religious beliefs, played a crucial role in antislavery activities in northern Virginia, writing antislavery tracts, providing aid and education to the local free black community, helping African Americans illegally held in bondage, and (on occasion) helping enslaved people to escape to freedom. He mentioned, as an example, the activities of Seth Smith, a Loudoun County Quaker who, even after he was disowned from the Goose Creek Monthly Meeting in 1826, continued to speak and act against slavery. The antislavery activity of men such as Smith was important because it destabilized the institution of slavery in northern Virginia. Located on the fringes of the South next to free soil, slavery was most vulnerable in such borderland regions. The activities of Quakers and other antislavery activists in borderland regions like Loudoun County ensured that local slaveholders could never be entirely secure in their human property. Ultimately, Crothers argues, the collective impact of such networks of resistance—black and white, Quaker and non-Quaker—had a dramatic impact on the growing sectional divide of the 1840 and 1850s.

**Be sure to check your mailing label for your membership renewal date.**

**New and Renewing Members**

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- Charles D. Binns
- Jeff & Laura Bolyard
- Susan P. Booth
- George & Mary Bradley
- Alice & David Calhoun
- Michelle J. Foley
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Forbes
- Paul R. Gliniewicz
- Alexandra S. Gressitt
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- Agnes G. Harrison
- William S. Kennelley
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- Joan G. Rokus
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- Elizabeth Seccombe
- Jean Schmidt
- Duane & Lee Smith
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Snyder
- Jonathan Stayer
- Kay Barnhouse Stout
- Elaine E. Thompson
- Alfred P. Van Huyck

**Recent Additions at TBL:**

**United States Army in World War II Series**, The Center for Military History - additional volumes added to the collection

**Runaway Slaves Project**

Runaway slave ads taken from *The Genius of Liberty* newspaper of Loudoun County by Bronwen Souders

**Cemeteries of Clarke Co, VA**

by Donald Royston

**Finns in North America**

by Eloise Engle

**Following Our Phillips Trail**

by Marguerite Ryan

**Lalla Harrison Dodge 1918-2006**

Thomas Balch Library was but one of many recipients of Mrs. Dodge's generosity. Her most recent gift to the library, "Meeting the Piscataway" a painting by William Woodward, honors her ancestor, Burr Powell. Our condolences to her family.

**Friends of the Thomas Balch Library's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**

Sunday afternoon, March 5, 2006, over forty friends, advisory commissioners and guests gathered at Thomas Balch Library to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and election of directors.

Nineteen board members were elected to the 2006 term by those in attendance. They include sixteen returning members and three new members: Brenda Branscome, executive director at Aldie Mill, historian Prescott Engle of Paxson-Hawthorne Insurance and James P. Lucier, James Madison scholar and former Thomas Balch Library advisory commission chairman.

Four retiring board members were honored. Susan Webber, the last of the original six signers of incorporation papers in 1995 to leave the board, was honored for 10 years; Jane Bogle for 7 years of continuous service; Phyllis-Cook Taylor and Rachel Thompson each for 3 years. Phyllis Cook-Taylor also chaired the Black History Committee during part of her term. Rachel Thompson produced and will continue to add to the "Glimpse" web project.

Following the business meeting, the board elected Paul Bice president, Brenda Douglass vice-president, Jeffrey Bolyard treasurer, and Annie Hulen secretary for 2006.

Keynote speaker, Dr. White McKenzie Wallenborn, a retired physician, scholar, historian, and past president of the Home Front Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, gave a very lively and informative talk entitled **Thomas Jefferson, The Louisiana Purchase, and the Lewis & Clark Expedition.**

His text follows:

Thomas Jefferson, probably the greatest visionary among our presidents, was primarily responsible for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory and the planning for the Lewis & Clark expedition. The Louisiana Purchase made possible Mr. Jefferson's vision of a country extending across the continent from sea to shining sea populated by people who spoke the same language, were governed by the same laws, and who had the same customs. The Expedition fulfilled his dream of a multi-faceted exploration of our continent from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. Probably the most fruitful exploratory expedition in the history of mankind was this journey of the Corps of Discovery, planned by Thomas Jefferson and executed admirably by Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the courageous members of the Corps of Discovery. However, Thomas Jefferson's involvement with the expedition had its beginnings well before the Louisiana Purchase in 1830.

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Thomas Jefferson was born at Shadwell, Virginia, where he lived until he was nine years old in 1770. Shadwell was right on the Three Notch'd Road (Three Chopt Road), part of the Indian trading route from the Ohio Valley to the Chesapeake Bay. As a youth he befriended many of the Indians who would camp near Shadwell. The American Indians' travels were very stimulating to the young Jefferson and most likely his early interest in geography, ethnology and exploration began with this exposure. His father, Peter Jefferson, was a surveyor, mapmaker, land developer and farmer. The first accurate map of Virginia was completed by Peter Jefferson and Joshua Fry when Thomas was nine. This interest in geography later resulted in the accumulation of over three hundred fifty maps, atlases and globes at Monticello. Thomas Jefferson was not an explorer himself. He never went farther west than Natural Bridge and Warm Springs, Virginia, or south of tidewater Virginia. He did travel to upstate New York with James Madison and to the Boston area before sailing to France in 1784. During his time overseas, he traveled through England, the Low Countries, Germany, France and northern Italy.

When the Treaty of Paris was signed September 3, 1783, ending the Revolutionary War, Great Britain acknowledged the independence of our country from Canada to the Floridas and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. During 1783, the first indication of Jefferson's thought about the importance of the west appeared when, while a member of the Continental Congress, he offered to George Rogers Clark, 'Conqueror of the Northwest', a privately financed opportunity to take a small expedition across the continent to California. Clark refused, probably because of his age, health, and business.

In 1786, Jefferson gave his name and a small financial gift to John Ledyard from Connecticut who proposed a far-fetched crossing of Russia, Siberia, the Bering Straits, Alaska, Canada, and thence from the west coast to the Mississippi River. Ledyard got as far as Siberia, but the journey ended when Empress Catherine the Great had him imprisoned.

In 1790, Secretary of War Henry Knox proposed another transcontinental expedition headed by a Lt. John Armstrong. Armstrong never got beyond the Mississippi River.

While Secretary of State and vice president of the American Philosophical Society, Jefferson initially supported Andre Michaux, a French botanist who had expressed interest in the offer of a prize of 1000 pounds sterling to the first person to complete an expedition from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. But before the expedition reached the River, it was cancelled when Michaux was found to be a French agent. Interestingly enough, Meriwether Lewis, then 18, had applied to lead or join this expedition. Jefferson wrote: "Lewis had warmly solicited me to be selected for the expedition."

Thomas Jefferson took office as President of the United States on March 4, 1801. About a week later, he appointed Meriwether Lewis his private secretary and Lewis moved into the President's House where he occupied the East Room. Jefferson said they were "like two mice in a church" as they were the only ones living there, other than the servants.

Who was Meriwether Lewis? He was born August 18, 1774 at Locust Hill, Virginia, about seven miles west of Monticello Mountain. He was "born in a place where the west invited exploration but the east could provide education and knowledge." (quote from Ambrose). His parents William Lewis and Lucy

Meriwether Lewis were cousins of Welsh origin (as were the Jeffersons). They represented a combination of great strength but were subject to hypochondriacal affections. His father died in November 1779 at Cloverfields, a Meriwether estate. Meriwether Lewis was five years old when his father died. His mother remarried later and moved to Georgia. Meriwether returned to Virginia to get an education. He joined the army in 1794 and remained on active duty until April 1, 1801. He had an extensive career in the NW Territory during which time he was assigned to an elite rifleman-sharpshooter company under Capt. William Clark. In the six months of duty under Clark they became very close friends. Later Lewis was made regimental paymaster, according to Thomas Jefferson, because "he always attracted the first attention where punctuality and fidelity were requisite." On Dec. 5, 1800 he was promoted to the rank of Captain. After he came to live at the president's house, Jefferson noted: "I observed at times a sensible depression of mind "in him."

Something new and ominous occurred in 1789 when Alexander MacKenzie successfully crossed Canada to the Arctic Ocean and then crossed to the Pacific Ocean in 1793. When MacKenzie's book about these trips (*Voyages From Montreal...*) was published in 1801, President Jefferson eagerly purchased it. He and Meriwether Lewis read it with alarm but also with scientific interest. MacKenzie's success represented a threat that not only would the British control the lucrative fur trade in the Northwest but it would also allow them to claim that area where the states of Washington and Oregon are now located.

Sometime in the summer or fall of 1802, the president selected Meriwether Lewis to be the Captain of the expedition to the west. Mr. Jefferson felt very confident with his selection of Lewis. In writing to a friend he said of Lewis: "It was impossible to find a character who to a compleat science in botany, natural history, mineralogy & astronomy, joined the firmness of the constitution & character, prudence, habits, adapted to the woods, & a familiarity with the Indian manners & character, requisite for this undertaking. All the latter qualifications Capt. Lewis has." While at the President's House, Lewis was extensively tutored by Mr. Jefferson in botany, the use of Latin classification system for plants, navigation with a sextant, and how to use an equatorial theodolite. He received a thorough course in the liberal arts, geography, mineralogy, astronomy, and ethnology. Later he was sent to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to study under Andrew Ellicott and to buy celestial instruments. He went on to Philadelphia where Jefferson had arranged for him to be taught by Benjamin Smith Barton in botany; by Caspar Wister in anatomy and identification of fossils; by Robert Patterson in navigation, latitude and longitude; and by Benjamin Rush in medicine and medicinals (including Rush's own "Thunderclappers"). Rush also prepared a list of medical questions to be asked of the Indians. While in Philadelphia Lewis was also busy selecting and purchasing supplies for the expedition.

As early as April 18, 1802, Mr. Jefferson had strong concerns about our land west of the Appalachians and north of the Ohio River. On that date he wrote Robert R. Livingston, U.S. Minister to France, "There is on the globe one single spot, the possessor of which is our natural and habitual enemy. It is New Orleans through which the produce of 3/8 of our territory must pass to market, and from it's (the west) fertility it will ere long yield more than one half of our whole produce and

contain more than half of our inhabitants. France, placing herself in that door assumes to us the attitude of defiance. The day that France takes possession of New Orleans...we must marry ourselves to the British fleet and nation...Thomas Jefferson."

The President's concerns about New Orleans were related to other situations as well. There were only two states west of the Appalachians, Kentucky and Tennessee; there were only four roads coursing through the Appalachians and transportation of goods was inadequate on them; if the right of deposit at New Orleans was ever withdrawn it would be very difficult for those people depending on the Mississippi River to transport their goods to overseas markets; and there was a real threat of secession of these states and territories. The Spanish government had secretly retroceded the Louisiana Territory back to France and the Spanish Commissioner of New Orleans on his own initiative had withdrawn the right of deposit for Americans. .

Jefferson had requested that Capt. Lewis set up a plan where, in the case of the death of the leader of the Corps of Discovery, there be designated the person who should be next in command and so on down the line. Capt. Lewis suggested that he have a co-commander with the identical rank of Captain and Jefferson approved. Capt. Lewis wrote William Clark, June, 19th, 1803: "Dear Clark, my friend...if there is anything in this enterprise, which would induce you to participate with me in its fatigues, its dangers and its honors, believe me there is no man on earth with whom I should feel equal pleasure in sharing them as with yourself."

Clark replied: "Dear Lewis,...I will officially join you in an "official character"...and partake of the Dangers, Difficulties & fatigues, and I anticipate the honors and rewards...should we be successful in accomplishing it. This is an immense undertaking freighted with numerous Difficulties, but my friend I can assure you that no man lives with whom I would prefer to undertake and share the Difficulties of such a trip than as yourself." On July 24, 1803, Clark wrote Thomas Jefferson accepting the appointment. He said: "I will cheerfully, and with great pleasure, join my friend Capt. Lewis in this Vast enterprise."

Who was William Clark? He was born August 1, 1770 in Caroline County, Virginia. He was the much younger brother of George Rogers Clark (b. 1752). Clark's family moved to Kentucky when he was rather young. Clark was a tough woodsman accustomed to command. In addition, he was a better terrestrial surveyor, waterman, and mapmaker than Lewis. Lewis & Clark were complementary to one another. Where one was weak the other was strong. Lewis was introverted, melancholic, and moody while Clark was extroverted, even tempered, and gregarious. They had some other differences, e.g. Lewis liked dog meat and salt and Clark did not care for either. However throughout the entire expedition, they never disagreed on a major decision.

In late 1802, Thomas Jefferson had asked the Spanish Minister to the U.S., Carlos Martinez de Yrujo, if the Spanish Court would take it badly if a small group of Americans explored the course of the Missouri River for reasons of commerce and geography. Yrujo replied that "an expedition of this nature could not fail to give umbrage to our government."

On Jan. 18, 1803, Jefferson sent a confidential message to Congress proposing the appropriation of \$2500 for the purpose of extending the external commerce of the U.S. This was

the proposal to send the Corps of Discovery to the Pacific Ocean by the Missouri and Columbia Rivers.

Congress approved this February 28, 1803. On the same date, Meriwether Lewis received a passport from England to explore the headwaters and shores of the "Missouri" and western parts of the North American continent. On the first of March 1803, Lewis also received a passport from the French government to do the same.

On June 20, 1803, Jefferson gave his instructions to Meriwether Lewis for the Corps of Discovery in their mission to the west in the following letter:

"To Meriwether Lewis, Esquire, Captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> regiment of infantry of the United States of America:

Your situation as Secretary of the President of the United States has made you acquainted with the objects of my confidential message of Jan. 18, 1803, to the legislature. You have seen the act they passed, which, though expressed in general terms, was meant to sanction those objects, and you are appointed to carry them into execution.

Instruments for ascertaining by celestial observations the geography of the country thro' which you will pass, have already been provided. Light articles for barter, & presents among the Indians, arms for your attendants, say for from 10 to 12 men, boats, tents, & other traveling apparatus, with ammunition, medicine, surgical instruments & provisions you will have prepared with such aids as the Secretary at War can yield in his department; & from him you will receive authority to engage among our troops, by voluntary agreement, the number of attendants above mentioned, over whom you, as their commanding officer are invested with all the powers the laws give in such a case .

As your movements while within the limits of the U.S. will be better directed by occasional communications, adapted to circumstances as they arise, they will not be noticed here. What follows will respect your proceedings after your departure from the U.S.

Your mission has been communicated to the Ministers here from France, Spain & Great Britain, and through them to their governments: and such assurances given to them as to its objects as we trust will satisfy them. The country of Louisiana having been ceded by Spain to France, the representative of the present sovereign of the country will be a protection with all it's subjects. And that from the Minister of England will entitle you to the friendly aid of any traders of the allegiance with whom you may happen to meet.

The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River, & such principle streams of it, as, by its course & communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent, for the purposes of commerce."

The letter continues at great length and asks Captain Lewis to "take observations of latitude and longitude, at all remarkable points on the river...to fix by observation the interesting points of portage between the heads of the Missouri & the water offering the best communication with the Pacific Ocean...the commerce which may be carried on with the people inhabiting the line you will pursue, renders a knowledge of these people important...to acquaint yourself with the names and nations & their numbers...their language, traditions, monuments; their ordinary occupations in agriculture, fishing, their

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food, clothing, & domestic accommodations; the diseases prevalent among them, & the remedies they use...it will be useful to acquire what knowledge you can of the state of morality, religion & information among them, as it may better enable those who endeavor to civilize & instruct them, to adapt measures to the existing notions & practices of those on whom they are to operate..." The letter continued with requests for observations on the soil and face of the country, animals, extinct or rare animals, mineral productions of every kind, and volcanic appearances. The president continued: "In all your intercourse with the natives treat them in the most friendly & conciliatory manner which their own conduct will admit; allay all jealousies as to the object of your journey, satisfy them of its innocence, make them acquainted with the position, extent, character, peaceable & commercial dispositions of the U. S., of our wish to be neighborly, friendly & useful to them..." The letter went on to request that Captain Lewis provide the name of who should succeed him in command in case of his decease. The president ended the letter:

"Given under my hand at the city of Washington, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1803.

Thomas Jefferson, President, U S. of America"

On the 14th of July, 1803\* and about three weeks after he had sent his instructions to Lewis, President Jefferson received word that France had sold the entire Louisiana Territory to the U.S. for 11 1/4 million dollars plus another 3.75 million dollars to pay off other debts of France to American citizens. This was 836,000 square miles, doubling the size of our country, and for three cents an acre. \*(Jefferson heard, unofficially, of the terms of the treaty on July 3rd, 1803).

This debt was finally paid off in 1823 and the total, with interest was approximately \$23,500,000, still a bargain.

Meriwether Lewis left Pittsburgh on August 30th, 1803 for Louisville where he would meet up with William Clark. The final expedition would start from Wood River on May 14th, 1804 as 45 men left under a gentle breeze.

Sgt. Floyd died August 20th, 1804 and was buried on site below present day Sioux City, Iowa. (His was the only death of expedition members.) After wintering at Ft. Mandan, (North Dakota), 33 people including Sacagawea, her infant son, and York, a negro slave, left on April 7, 1805, heading up river.

Thomas Jefferson's last communication from Lewis & Clark had been April 7th, 1805 when Lewis sent a letter from Ft. Mandan on the day they broke camp and headed west. The letter: "Dear Sir: Herewith enclosed you will receive an invoice of...67 specimen's of earths, salts, and minerals; and 60 specimens of plants...You will receive herewith enclosed a part of Capt. Clark's private journal...We have encouraged our men to keep journals and seven of them do so...I have transmitted...information relative to the geography of the country we possess, together with a view of the Indian nations...I can foresee no material or probable obstruction to our progress, and entertain therefore the most sanguine hopes of complete success...At this moment every individual of the party are in good health, and...act with the most perfect harmony. With such men I have everything to hope, and but little to fear...Meriwether Lewis, Capt. 1st U.S.Reg.Inftry"

The Corps of Discovery completed their journey on September 23, 1806 after two years, four months, and nine days having covered 8000 miles at an average of 14 miles per day while on the move. Upon arriving back at St. Louis, Lewis' first

question was: "When does the post leave?" He was informed that the post had left St. Louis. Capt. Lewis immediately sent word across the Mississippi to Mr. Hays at Kahoka (Clark's spelling for Cahokia) asking him to hold the post until noon the next day. He then took a room at Pierre Chouteau's. Early the next day Lewis finished his letter to the President and Clark finished his letter to Gov. Harrison of Kentucky. George Drouillard took the letters over to Cahokia in time for the post. Lewis' letter to Thomas Jefferson: St. Louis: "September 23, 1806. Mr. President, it is with pleasure that I announce to you the safe arrival of myself and party at 12 o'clock, today...In obedience to your orders we have penetrated the Continent of North America to the Pacific Ocean..." Then followed a long report on the expedition. In the last portion of the letter, Lewis gave great tribute to his co-commanding officer: "With respect to the exertions and services rendered by that estimable man Capt. William Clark in the course of our late voyage I cannot say too much; if, sir, any credit is due for the success of the arduous enterprise in which we have been mutually engaged, he is equally with myself entitled to your consideration and that of our common country." The letter ended with: "I am very anxious to learn of the state of my friends at Albemarle, particularly whether my mother is yet living. I am with every sentiment of esteem Your Ob and very humble servant, Meriwether Lewis."

Thomas Jefferson replied to Lewis: "I received, my dear Sir, with unspeakable joy your letter... The unknown scenes in which you were engaged, & the length of time without hearing of you had begun to be felt awfully...A salute to you with sincere affection. Thomas Jefferson"

On December 2, 1806 in his annual state of the union message to Congress, Thomas Jefferson presented the following: "Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives: The expedition of Messrs. Lewis and Clark, for exploring the river Missouri, and the best communication from that to the Pacific Ocean, has had all the success which could have been expected. They have traced the Missouri nearly to its source, descended the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, ascertained with accuracy the geography of that interesting communication across our continent, learned the character of the country, of its commerce, and inhabitants; and it is but justice to say that Messrs. Lewis and Clark, and their brave companions, have by this arduous service deserved well of their country."

*It was the intent of this talk to point out the intense involvement and vision of Thomas Jefferson in ensuring the completion of this monumental exploratory expedition. The overwhelming determination, bravery, and success of the expedition is a tremendous credit to Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, the entire Corps of Discovery, including Sacagawea, York, and Seaman the dog. Also to be credited are those who helped in the preparatory education of Meriwether Lewis: Ellicott, Barton, Wistar, Patterson, Rush, and Gallatin, et al.*

*White McKenzie Wallenborn, M.D.*

*March 5, 2006*

Note: Dr. Wallenborn has prepared a bibliography of his remarks, along with a delightful page of miscellaneous data.

I regret we have no room in this issue, but should you care for a copy, we would be happy to send them to you. Please contact Janet MacDonald Manthos, 703-777-2682 or email me at: janetmanthos@aol.com.

## The Manager's View

Since my last letter there have been many exciting events and developments at Thomas Balch Library. We filled a new position, that of archives specialist, welcoming to our staff, Stephanie Adams, who received her undergraduate degree from The Evergreen State College and her MLS from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Over the last year the library has been undergoing repairs and renovation. To protect the collections from the vagaries of wind, snow and rain we now have a new slate roof. Contractors are currently working on the interior of the building to restore plaster and molding damaged by leaks and cracking from roof construction. Repainting will take place in stages with the historic portion of the building slated for this year. We apologize for any inconvenience caused during the renovations but know everyone will be pleased with the outcome.

In December, through the efforts of Bruce Dewar and Julie Overman, the Historic District Residence Association donated two Princeton American Elm trees to the Town of Leesburg. These trees, planted on the front lawn, serve to restore a lost piece of American history and will enhance the beauty and architecture of Thomas Balch Library for generations to come.

One of our primary activities is the collection and preservation of printed, manuscript, photographic, cartographic and genealogical documentation of Leesburg, Loudoun County and the surrounding region. We actively seek and welcome donations of original business records, diaries, correspondence and photographs (with identification) documenting the life, culture and history of Leesburg and Loudoun County. Catalogue records for original materials are available on the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) accessible through the Library of Congress website, and collection guides will soon begin being available on The Virtual Library of Virginia website (VIVA) <http://www.viva.lib.va.us/>. We also purchase and accept by donation published works relating to local and regional history and genealogy. Catalogue records of our printed materials are accessible on Horizon from a link on our website or through the Loudoun County Public Library website.

Thomas Balch Library is honored to have recently received by donation from Isaac Lyumkis a portrait of Thomas Willing Balch. The portrait is 40" x 32" oil

on canvas painted in 1909 by Lazar Raditz, a popular portrait artist in Philadelphia in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thomas Willing Balch and Edwin Swift Balch, sons of Thomas Balch (1821-1877), established the library and dedicated it 13 May 1922 as a memorial tribute to their father, a native of Leesburg. Thomas Willing Balch (1866-1927) practiced law in Philadelphia, PA devoting much of his time to writing and research in genealogy and international arbitration – a topic for which his father gained international renown. Edwin Swift Balch (1856-1927), the elder son, also resided in Philadelphia, and traveled frequently in pursuit of his interest in mountain climbing and the study of glaciers.

Those familiar with the history of the library know that Thomas Balch (1821-1877) was born here in Leesburg at the corner of King and Cornwall Streets. Through the dedicated efforts of his sons, Thomas Balch became known as "the father of international arbitration" for recommendations leading to a peaceful resolution of war claims between the United States and Great Britain. During the Civil War, Confederate raiders such as the *CSS Alabama* exacted considerable damage on Northern merchant marine and naval forces. Because the *Alabama* had been built in the United Kingdom, the United States sued Great Britain for damages winning a settlement of fifteen and a half million dollars in 1872. The peaceful resolution of this dispute (Treaty of Washington, 1871) through arbitration ultimately served to solidify Anglo American relations. In recognition of the significance of Thomas Balch's career we have purchased for our collection Thomas Willing Balch's *The Alabama Arbitration*, Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott, 1900 and recently received by donation from Professor John O'Brien the following related volumes: Bradlow, Edna and Fran, *Here Comes the Alabama* (1958); Delaney, Norman C., *Ghost Ship, The Confederate Raider Alabama* (1989); John McIntosh Kell of the *Raider Alabama* (University of Alabama, 1973) and Charles G. Summersell, ed. *The Journal of George Townley Fullam: Boarding Officer of the Confederate Sea Raider Alabama*. University, AL: The University of Alabama Press, 1973.

Our opening program for the Winter/Spring series, *Quakers, African Americans, Antislavery, and the Underground Railroad in the Mid-Atlantic States* was immensely successful drawing a crowd of 100. Panel

## From the Friends . . .

For generations public libraries have served as havens for information, learning and expanding horizons for all people. To sustain and fortify our great civic institutions and public services, we all must participate in that effort.

And that effort begins right here at home. While publicly funded, Thomas Balch Library needs citizen participation to keep the Library and its services a priority in the eyes of community leaders, local elected officials and the Commonwealth. An easy way to help is through the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library.

As a Friend of the library, consider using your talents and skills within one of several standing committees. The Education, Black History, and Marketing committees each are working on exciting and interesting projects that can benefit from your involvement. If you aren't a Friend, become one, and recruit a friend or family member. This membership helps preserve valuable historic information and resources for future generations.

Citizen support not only increases awareness, it makes possible strong, vital library programming and resources. The diverse interests and expertise of our citizenry have resulted in many successful library programs, such as the recent conference on Quaker's antislavery efforts, as well as publications like: *The Essence of a People, Loudoun Discovered, A Story of Round Hill* and *In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1892-1970*.

Attending library programs, purchasing publications, and voicing ideas for new programs and resources, augment the library's network beyond Loudoun County and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Your contributions of talent and insight are encouraged and welcomed by the Friends. Thank you for helping to make Thomas Balch Library a unique and special place. Cheryl Sadowski

speakers submitted synopses of their remarks printed elsewhere in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at some of our many exciting programs this Spring (see calendar of events) or simply when you drop in to research your home, family or some tantalizing community event.

Thanks to all members of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., for your continuing support.

Alexandra S. Gressitt

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

## Calendar of Events

- March 11- 1 PM **Conducting Research in the Alsace Region of France** - Roland Loison. Genealogical research in Europe is very different from that in the United States and even varies significantly from one region to the next within a country. Mr. Loison will talk about how to overcome some of the road blocks people may encounter doing research in this region.
- March 13 - 7 PM **Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historical Records** - John Fishback, Historic Records Manager for Loudoun County, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office and will discuss the extent of Loudoun County's records holdings, where to look for records of births, deaths, marriages, and deeds, and how to use these records in research. Please meet at Thomas Balch Library at 6:45 PM. No one is permitted to enter restricted areas of the Clerk's Office after 7:00PM, so the group will leave the library promptly at 6:45 PM.
- March 22 - 7 PM **Desperate Women: Fighting Slavery in Virginia's Potomac Hinterland** - In honor of Women's History Month, Deborah Lee, a research fellow at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, will recount the stories of women who opposed slavery in the Counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Clarke, Frederick, Jefferson, and Berkeley. This presentation will draw from Dr. Lee's larger research project and manuscript entitled "Trouble the Water: Opposition to Slavery in Virginia's Potomac Hinterland." She will also discuss the challenges and rewards of investigating women's history.
- April 2 - 2 PM **The Scotch Irish: Who Are We?** Maureen Hutchinson Mercker, President of the Scotch-Irish Society of Virginia will speak about the history of the Scotch Irish in America and their pivotal role in the development of American education, politics and culture.
- April 30- 2 PM **Copying and Preserving Family Photographs** - Old family photographs draw our thoughts back to the past, providing a glimpse into the lives of our ancestors. Proper care and handling ensures the longevity of these precious mementoes for future generations. Historian, writer, and photographer Steven Spring will speak about ways of preserving these special artifacts.
- May 7 - 2 PM **Author Reading and Book Signing** - Local author/editor Claire Kincannon will read from and sign copies of her books, which include *Paeonian to Paris*. Its sequel, *Paris to Paeonian with Fresh Eyes* is forthcoming.

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.