



1922-2006

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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

Volume 10 Issue 4

Winter 2006

Thomas Balch Library Hosts Loudoun History Awards



2006 Awardees, l to r: William H. Harrison, Allen Cochran, Reginald Simms, Dan Kent

On Sunday, November 12, 2006, Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission recognized four Loudoun County residents at the thirteenth annual history awards ceremony, presenting them with the 2006 Loudoun History Awards.

Allen Cochran, a local stonemasonry contractor, was nominated by fellow stonemason Tim Winther for his role in preserving historic landmarks in Loudoun County. Mr. Cochran has been involved hands-on in the preservation of a number of Loudoun's historic buildings, such as Oatlands Plantation, and other sites owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A demonstration of his skill, Mr. Cochran was restoration supervisor at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. He takes special pride in using historically authentic materials in his restorations, including his own mortar made on site at his firm in Purcellville.

Introduced by Commissioner Joan G. Rokus, **William H. Harrison** was recognized for longstanding commitment to Loudoun County heritage and its history of dairy farming. Retired

after 29 years as Loudoun County Agricultural Extension Agent, he is fervent in keeping Loudoun's agricultural past alive. To this end is his active part in founding the Loudoun Farm Heritage Museum at Claude Moore Park and the four Ruritan Clubs in Loudoun. He is the author of a book, *The Story of Loudoun's Dairy Industry*. Mr. Harrison firmly believes Loudoun newcomers and their children need to know about the past of where they live.

Dan Kent currently teaches at Broad Run High School and Northern Virginia Community College. A committee of present and former students nominated him to recognize his knowledge, enthusiasm and deep appreciation for the lessons of local history. A firm believer in the hands-on and community assistance approach, his students are working at Oatlands Plantation, along with Lynne Lewis, archaeologist for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to determine where the estate's former slave quarters were located.

Reginald Simms is a long time leader in preserving, promoting and collecting Loudoun County African American history. He was nominated by historian and author Elaine Thompson. His particular interest now, as a multigenerational native of Purcellville, is the Purcellville Centennial celebration. A talented artist, Mr. Simms rendered for the town offices of Purcellville a large scale town logo. He has served on the boards of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library and the Loudoun Museum, and is a founder of the Douglass High School Alumni Association. He has also put much effort into the restoration and dedication of the Carver School and Grace Methodist Church.

Battle of Harpers Ferry

By E. Prescott Engle

Harpers Ferry, W.Va., nestled at the point where the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers meet, most often is a mere mention in today's Civil War histories. In 1862, however, this small town played a strategic role in the schemes of generals who commanded armies on both sides.

By the end of August 1862, General Robert E. Lee and his principal lieutenants, Maj. Generals Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and James Longstreet, had successfully outmaneuvered and thoroughly defeated the much larger Union Army of Virginia at Second Manassas, crushing any hopes Generals John Pope and George McClellan had of capturing Richmond that summer.

A worried President Abraham Lincoln watched as the shattered Army of Virginia straggled back to the vicinity of Washington. After relieving Pope, Lincoln asked General McClellan to reassume command of a reconstituted Army of the Potomac, incorporated with the mauled remnants of the short-lived Army of Virginia. To McClellan fell the manifold tasks of defending Washington, reorganizing his battered army, keeping an eye on Lee's movements, and pleasing the victory-hungry Washington politicians.

While criticized for his slow and cautious movements, McClellan was dealing with meddling politicians, poor to nonexistent military intelligence, and an army devastated by the course of events that summer. In a letter to the Union Army's chief

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New & Renewing Members

Allen County Public Library-
Genealogy Section
John L. Barnhard, Jr.
Mildred L. Bowers
Mary & George Bradley
Margaret R. Clarridge
Tracy Coffing & Ron Rogos
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Bret & Amy Russell
Cheryl Sadowski
Robert & Sherry Sanabria
Glen A. Scatterday
Bronwen & John Souders
Mrs. Page Orr Thomson Steele
Ann Whitehead Thomas
Karen & Templar Titus
Karen Washburn

A Reminder to Friends of the Thomas Balch Library

Annual Meeting
January 7, 2007 at
2:00 p.m.

Be sure to renew your membership.
Check your label for your renewal date,
and
recruit your friends, as well.

Long Ago: Oak Hill

About nine miles south of Leesburg on Route 15 is Oak Hill, home of James Monroe. His original purchase, made jointly with his uncle, Judge Joseph Jones of Fredericksburg, totaled more than 4000 acres in 1794.

Judge Jones died in 1805, left no heirs and all interests in the land went to Monroe. In the February 6, 1810 "*Washingtonian*," vol. 2, issue 62, Monroe listed the Loudoun property for sale. It didn't sell and in 1822 construction began on the "new" house. It was built of brick and boasted a large portico. The architect was James Hoban, designer of the White House, with design input from Thomas Jefferson.

From 1823 to 1830, Oak Hill was Monroe's primary residence. He retired there after his second term as President in 1825. During the Monroes' tenure at Oak Hill, many dignitaries were guests, including the Marquis de Lafayette and John Quincy Adams.

Monroe's wife, Elizabeth Kortright Monroe, died at Oak Hill on September 23, 1830. After her death, Monroe moved to New York to live with his youngest daughter. On April 11, 1831 he wrote the following to James Madison about Oak Hill, "It is very distressing to me to sell my property in Loudoun, for besides parting with all I have in the State, I indulged a hope, if I could retain it, that I might be able occasionally, to visit it, and meet my friends, or many of them there." James Monroe died three months later on July 4, 1831. In the early 1840s Oak Hill was in the possession of Samuel L. Gouverneur, a son-in-law of Monroe.

Oak Hill was soon to pass out of the Monroe family. Confederate States Army Colonel John W. Fairfax bought Oak Hill in 1854. During the Civil War, Oak Hill was captured by General George G. Meade of the Union Army and used as his headquarters during the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in 1862.

In 1922, the mansion was enlarged with two wings by then owner Frank C. Littleton. The central façade looks much the same as it did during Monroe's lifetime. Today the Oak Hill property is a National Historic Landmark. The property remains in private hands and is not open to the public.

Gail Ann Adams



1840s engraving of Oak Hill from Henry Howe's 1845 "*Historical Collections of Virginia*." Howe states: "The main building is a Grecian front, is of brick, and was built by Monroe while in the presidential chair. The one on the left is a wooden dwelling of humble pretensions, and was occupied by him previous to his inauguration."

Sanabria Slave Quarter Paintings on Exhibit

Black History Committee member and artist, Sherry Zvares Sanabria's work, *Slave Quarters and Other African American Sites* will be exhibited at The Athenaeum, in Alexandria from February 2 - March 4, 2007. In April the exhibit moves to Waddell Gallery at Northern Virginia Community College, Sterling.

This moving exhibition consists of some of her recent works exploring and recording sites throughout Virginia and Maryland that played significant roles in the lives of African Americans during the time of slavery and after. One viewer's comment: "You take hard subjects, in the literal and figurative sense, and render them in a soft and mystical, yet true-to-life form. . . Somehow, your architectural portraits verily glow with the spirits of the oppressed people that once inhabited them."

And the colors positively glow, as well. We regret space limitation precludes printing more than a sample of these emotion-stirring works. Please make a point to see them during their exhibition.



Slave cabin interior, Prestwould, Virginia

Continued from page 1 **Battle of Harpers Ferry**

of staff, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, "Little Mac" said, "however, the process of reorganization rendered necessary after the demoralizing effects of the disastrous campaign upon the other side of the Potomac is rapidly progressing. The Federal troops are gaining confidence and their formerly soldierly appearance and discipline are fast returning." Few could dispute his talents as an able administrator or the fact he was worshiped by his troops.

Meanwhile, Lee began moving his army northward. From the 4th to the 7th of September, the bulk of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac near Leesburg and on September 9, 1862, made camp outside Frederick, Maryland. General Lee, with Generals Jackson and Longstreet together, planned their strike to the north.

Lee's strategy was to move the Army of Northern Virginia to the vicinity of Hagerstown, Md., seize the Federal supplies stored there and then push northward into Pennsylvania. But he faced a double-barreled problem. Both Martinsburg and Harpers Ferry (both still part of Virginia) held substantial garrisons of Federal troops. The garrison at Martinsburg numbered about 2,500, while there were about 10,000 troops at Harpers Ferry. As long as Union forces occupied those strategic points, the Confederate army's vital lines of supply and communications through the Shenandoah Valley could easily be cut, isolating them from Richmond. Lee must capture and occupy Martinsburg and Harpers Ferry.

Dividing his forces, he ordered Jackson and his three divisions to Williamsport, Md. to cross the Potomac and capture the Federal garrison at Martinsburg; and then make a lightning thrust upon Harpers Ferry from the rear. Another division would occupy Maryland Heights, overlooking Harpers Ferry from north of the Potomac, while a fifth division would claim Loudoun Heights across the Shenandoah, thus subject the town to triple fire.

Once those objectives were attained, Jackson's forces were to rejoin the main body of Lee's army. The rather elaborate and risky plan was devised on the evening of September 9, and Jackson was on the move the very next morning, north through Middletown, across South Mountain at Turner's Gap to an encampment at Boonsboro. Jackson's force crossed the Potomac at Williamsport. As Jackson approached Martinsburg from the west, Union scouts alerted General White, the Federal commander, whereupon during the night, the Union general withdrew his forces to join the garrison at Harpers Ferry.

Discovering White had withdrawn, Jackson ordered his troops to seize any supplies the Federals had left and the next day, September 13, they resumed their march toward Harpers Ferry. It was now that in a field near Frederick, a soldier of the Union Army discovered Gen. Lee's famous Special Order No. 191, dated September 9. It was found by Private B.W. Mitchell, a soldier of XII Corps, 27th Indiana Volunteers. His regiment had stacked arms on the same ground that Confederate Brig. Gen. D. H. Hill had occupied the evening before. The Order specifically stated Lee's intentions for military movements in Maryland, how his forces would be divided, and where they would rendezvous after accomplishing their respective missions.

How the order was lost still remains largely a mystery. One story: D.H. Hill, while a part of Jackson's corps, had

been attached to Longstreet to cover the Confederate rear, and received Special Order 191 from Lee. Jackson, as Hill's commander, also sent him a copy of the order. Therefore, Hill presumably received two copies of the same order (although after the war Hill denied having been given two copies). The discovery was invaluable to McClellan, enabling him to position the Army of the Potomac in front of Lee, thus forcing the bloodbath of Antietam (Sharpsburg), that erupted on September 17.

Meanwhile, two other key Confederates, Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws and Brig. Gen. John G. Walker, were making their move on Harpers Ferry. Walker was to take his division across the Potomac at Cheek's Ford. However, Walker's scouts discovered a superior Federal force at the Ford, so Walker marched his men to Point of Rocks, Md., crossing the Potomac there. This was all accomplished on September 11. On the 12th, Walker's forces reached Hillsboro, Va., and by the morning of the 13th, Walker arrived at the foot of Loudoun Heights. He detached two regiments under Col. J.R. Cooke to climb the heights and take possession of them, but not to reveal the Confederate presence to the garrison at Harpers Ferry. Cooke reported no opposition. Walker informed Jackson of his position and readiness to attack. By the next morning, Walker had placed five long-range Parrott rifled cannons on the mountain.

While Walker was occupying Loudoun Heights, Gen. McLaws was making his way toward Maryland Heights, directly across the Potomac from Harpers Ferry. McLaws faced the most difficult tactical operation in the effort to capture Harpers Ferry. First he must occupy Maryland Heights to prevent the Federals at Harpers Ferry from escaping westward into Maryland; and he also must guard his rear so the Federals would not overrun him, thus dividing the Confederate forces north and south of the river. McLaws, and his 10 brigades, hoped to be in possession of Maryland Heights and ready to seize Harpers Ferry by September 12. After capturing Harpers Ferry, they were to join the main body at Sharpsburg and Boonsboro.

By the end of the day, September 10, his first day's march, McLaws and his division were just east of Brownsville Gap at South Mountain. The 11th was spent crossing South Mountain, an unexpected delay, as Lee's plan called for McLaws to close on Harpers Ferry on the 12th. However, nightfall of the 11th found McLaws with Harpers Ferry still six miles away. With McLaws himself leading, the bulk of his force arrived at the Potomac three miles downstream from Harpers Ferry before nightfall on the 12th. Upon his arrival, McLaws ordered Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw and his South Carolinians, supported by Brig. Gen. William Barksdale's brigade of Mississippians, to occupy Maryland Heights. As Kershaw and his South Carolinians advanced upon the Heights, they came under fire from three companies of Union cavalrymen. The Confederate skirmishers returned fire, and the Yankee troopers retreated.

At about 6 p.m. that evening, as Kershaw, Barksdale and their soldiers were struggling along the narrow path to the summit, they encountered a Union-defended abatis. After a sharp exchange of gunfire, Kershaw withdrew his skirmishers, deployed his forces across the mountain, and encamped for the night.

Renewing their assault early the next morning, Kershaw's men took less than 20 minutes to overrun the abatis—only to encounter a second, behind which lay a hastily prepared breastwork of stones and logs defended by 1,200 Union troops. Kershaw mounted a frontal assault while Barksdale led his Mississippians around the Union right flank. The Union troops

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held their own. However, after driving back two Rebel assaults, Kershaw's troops advanced once again.

Meanwhile, Barksdale's troops were in position on the Federal flank when a regiment of Mississippi riflemen fired prematurely at a nest of Union sharpshooters. The Union skirmishers ran, and rumors of a retreat traveled along the Federal line. Green 126th New York troops began to break and run. By the time order was restored, Maryland Heights had become untenable for the Union forces and they withdrew, leaving behind three spiked guns. By 4:30, Kershaw and Barksdale occupied the Heights and McLaws occupied the village of Sandy Hook, cutting off all northern retreat routes.

McLaws cut a road so artillery could be placed on Maryland Heights, and to protect his rear, deployed some troopers to Pleasant Valley. Brig. Gen. Howell Cobb took command of Crampton's Gap, a passage through South Mountain. Brig. Gen. Paul J. Semmes left a small guard at Solomon's Gap and send the rest to join Cobb at Crampton's Gap, while Maj. Gen. Richard H. Anderson was situated at Weverton. The deployment of those troops proved to be vital later that day, as those at Crampton's Gap slowed the progress of Union Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin's VI Corps long enough to prevent his coming to the relief of Harpers Ferry, and thus saved Lee's army from being further divided. By 2 p.m. on the 14th, McLaws had four artillery pieces in position overlooking Bolivar Heights and adjoining Harpers Ferry. McLaws ordered them to open fire, and Walker added the fire from his batteries. The assault was effective, and the Union troops were driven from their works and into the town.

Jackson, meanwhile was camped in the vicinity of Halltown, about two miles from Bolivar Heights. Maj. Gen. A. P. Hill (under arrest since the crossing of the Potomac in early September for being a half-hour late marching his troops) asked Lieutenant Henry Kyd Douglas, of Jackson's staff, to plead his case before Jackson, asking for reinstatement until the pending action was over. He would then report himself under arrest again. Jackson would not refuse a request to be permitted to fight, and Hill took command of his old division.

By now, Jackson realized the Federals were trying to advance through the South Mountain gaps to relieve Harpers Ferry—time was of the essence! At daylight, September 15, McLaws and Walker opened fire on the town itself, while A.P. Hill's division advanced from the rear upon Bolivar Heights, along the west bank of the Shenandoah River. The Confederate artillery from both elevated Loudoun and Maryland Heights was especially effective. As the Confederate guns dropped their shells on the garrison, several parts of the town itself were subjected to the devastating hail of fire.

A distant relative of the author, Mrs. Jessie (Engle) Johnson, witnessed the scene. She later wrote: "Several houses in Bolivar had been struck and were burning. Women and children were running in danger of being struck, some fainting, all crying. Major Young's house next to ours was hit with a bomb which tore up three rooms. Our dining room, in the basement, was full of women and children; we had to keep it dark for a fear of light would draw fire from the mountain on the Maryland side. One cannot portray with words this awful scene."

Union guns were unable to make an effective reply and within an hour, the Union artillery had been all but silenced, and Hill's infantry was ready to storm the town. As Brig. Gen. William Dorsey Pender advanced with Hill's division, the Federal bat-

teries reopened. Hill immediately moved Captain William J. Pegram's and Captain Carpenter's batteries to within 400 yards of the Federal works and poured a furious rain of enfilading fire into the Union positions.

Confusion reigned in the Federal garrison. Union Gen. White had taken over the command just moments before when Col. Miles fell, mortally wounded. White now realized defeat was imminent. He gave the order to surrender. About 8 o'clock on the morning of September 15, the Federal garrison at Harpers Ferry capitulated, the Confederates occupied the town.

At little cost to Jackson and his men, the Federals surrendered about 11,500 men, 13,000 stacked arms and 73 pieces of artillery. About 1,300 Union cavalymen under the command of Col. Benjamin Franklin Davis were the only Federals to escape. They had left Harpers Ferry during the night of the 14th, making their way along an unguarded road at the base of Maryland Heights. That outfit, the 8th New York, along with a company from the 12th Illinois and two companies of Rhode Island and Maryland Cavalry, made its way toward Hagerstown and, on the 15th, attacked a part of Longstreet's wagon train, destroying about 40 wagons, before eventually rejoining the Union Army near Sharpsburg, Md.

The surrender of Harpers Ferry left many questions to be answered by the Union side: why had U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Henry Halleck insisted on holding Harpers Ferry against McClellan's advice and why had Col. Miles not concentrated on holding Maryland Heights and putting up a more spirited defense? On September 23, an official inquiry was launched concerning the surrender. The commission found Col. Miles, Gen. White and Col. Thomas H. Ford (the Union commander on Maryland Heights) guilty of "improper conduct that led to the shameful surrender of Harpers Ferry." Miles was dead; Gen. White and Col. Ford were both arrested and dismissed from the service, by order of the president.

They had been defeated by a master tactician at his best—although Stonewall Jackson still is better known for his Valley campaign than his equally brilliant tactics at Harpers Ferry. The Confederates now were able to consolidate their forces with Lee just in the nick of time to save the Army of Northern Virginia from being split and shattered at the bloody Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862. Lee's lieutenants had done the job for him once again by capturing Harpers Ferry with a minimum of Confederate bloodshed, thus keeping open his vital lines of supply and communication.

Today, Harpers Ferry lies still and serene along the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers. The scars of war have healed now, and instead of the thunder of artillery, you are more likely to hear only the excited voices of the tourists as they peer into the past in this little town. If you stand quietly some late summer evening on the steps of St. Peter's Cathedral, however, and view the two rivers and their respective heights, you may once again return to that late summer of 1862 and in fantasy hear the whistle of shells, the crack of rifles, and the creak of cannons being pulled up those steep slopes. With just a touch of imagination, you can be a quiet witness yourself to this significant action, which came just before the far better known Battle of Antietam.

This article, in its entirety, first appeared as the cover article for the August 1995 issue of Military History Magazine. With permission of the author, it is somewhat edited here to meet space constraints. We hope the facts and flavor of the article remain intact.

From the President

It has been a tremendous honor and blessing to serve as the President of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library over the past few years. When I was asked by Fred Morefield to join the organization as the Treasurer, we were preparing to unveil the Woodward mural and putting together the Gala Balch Ball at Belmont Plantation. What a grand event that was — a huge success for Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, and Loudoun County. I quickly learned the Black History Committee and the Education Committee had their hands full with a number of wonderful projects, including publications and website programs.

Over the years I have found the greatest benefit from being involved with the Friends, the staff of the Library, its volunteers, and the members of the Board of Directors, has been the opportunity to meet and build friendships with Alexandra Gressitt, the library executive for the Thomas Balch Library, and with the Board of Directors. The passion and zeal these citizens carry for the preservation of the historical essence of Loudoun County is amazing. I recall visiting with Alexandra and a family in Lovettsville who had come across an old shoe box containing original documents carrying the *original* signatures of Lord Loudoun and Lord Fairfax! The manner in which Ms. Gressitt conducted herself, calmly and profession-

ally, while I was giddy with excitement, was most impressive.

The dedication of the Board and the Executive Committee is remarkable. Annie Hulen, our Secretary, continues to be very involved, even though she has moved out of the area; Brenda Douglass, our Vice President, has put in innumerable hours with our Marketing Committee; Jeff Bolyard brings a much higher level of professionalism and expertise over the previous Treasurer (I was the previous Treasurer, therefore I can say that); Pauline Singletary has for years, chaired and managed the Black History Committee - our largest and most active committee.

There are so many people who have poured themselves into this treasure chest of historical and genealogical information, I can not effectively thank everyone. But I would be terribly remiss if I did not thank Susan Webber. Susan worked with me as Assistant Treasurer, she was one of the original board members for the Friends, and she has been a good friend, and someone who has always been there to help with what ever needed to be done.

As we walk the path laid before us, it is not the tangible things that matter but rather the people we meet along the way; not the beauty of the stuff we gather, but rather the beauty of the friendships gained.

Thank you & God Bless You

Paul Bice

□

These events will be posted in the Winter/Spring edition of the Balch Column and online at <http://www.leesburgva.gov/library>.

A variety of programs reflecting various historical celebrations currently underway in Virginia, Loudoun County, and Leesburg will be offered. We are also working with the Town of Leesburg's IT Department to upgrade our website offerings. If you have not visited our website recently, please check it out. Further enhancements are pending including posting on line collection guides to processed manuscript collections.

We look forward to seeing you in the library for research, or viewing an exhibit. And, come see the new banner.

Alexandra S. Gressitt

The Manager's View

Since my last letter we have welcomed a new part-time staff library reference associate. Beth (Bethany) Schuster received her BA in History and German from the University of Oregon, an MA in History from the University of Montana and has recently completed her MLS/MA (library science archives and academic libraries and history) at the University of Maryland. You will see her most frequently at the reference desk Wednesday evenings and she is also working with us to mount our collection guides on VIVA (The Virtual Library of Virginia: <http://www.viva.lib.va.us/collect/>). On your next visit, please take a moment to welcome her to the community.

Our *Professional Researcher and Additional Research Facilities* brochure has been revised by Lauren Post. Copies are available at the library.

The Marketing Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Brenda Douglass and Cheryl Sadowski, co-chairs, recently created a banner for the library. This debuted at the Dulles Town Center on October 21 and has been shared with the Library Advisory Commission to great acclaim. It will be on display in the library for all to see and admire through the Friends Annual Meeting January 7. Our thanks to the Friends for providing this exciting and valuable marketing tool.

Thomas Balch Library hosted the thirteenth annual Loudoun History Awards sponsored by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission on Sunday, November 12, 2006. Four Loudoun County residents received the 2006 awards. [See page 1 for the complete story.] The Historic District Residence Association also was recognized with a certificate of appreciation by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission for their donation and planting of two Princeton American elms on the front lawn of the library, December 2005. Accepting on behalf of the Association were Bruce Dewar and Julie Overman, who successfully managed the project.

Mark your calendars for our exciting up-coming programs set for the next few months. [See page 6 for complete listing.]

New Acquisitions at Thomas Balch Library

A Good Southerner: Henry A. Wise, by Craig Simpson
American Indian in North Carolina, by Douglas Rights
Broken Glass: Caleb Cushing, by John Belohlavek
Father Abraham, by Richard Striner
General Society of the War of 1812, by Dennis Blizzard
Guerrilla Warfare & Life in Libby Prison, by John Forsythe
Iroquois Land Claims, by Christopher Vecsey
Jefferson Davis in Blue, by Nathaniel Hughes
Manassas Junction & the Doctor, by L. Vanloan Naisawald
Pilgrim Migration 1620-1633, by Robert Anderson
Preecher and Patriot: Journal of Rev. John Littlejohn,
by Richard Weiss
Seed Corn of the Confederacy: VMI, by James Gindlesperger
Sport and the Horse, by Virginia Museum of Fine Art
The Huguenot 1993-1995, Pub. #36, by The Huguenot Society
The James - Where a Nation Began, by Parke Rouse
Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs 1907-1957,
by Etta Northington
Yellow Hill - Reconstructing the Past, by Debra McCauslin

LaVonne Markham



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

*Friends of TBL Annual Meeting
2:00 PM. January 7, 2007
Don't Miss It!!!*

Calendar of Events 2007

Sunday, Jan. 7- 2 pm - The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library - We will elect our 2007 board members, and present plans and goals for the future of the Friends. Special guest will be **Marc Leepson**, noted author, who will discuss his most recent book, *Flag: An American Biography*. Mr. Leepson specializes in writing about American history, the Vietnam War and Vietnam veterans, and has written for a number of major newspapers throughout the U.S. The author of six books, he currently is working on his seventh, a discussion of the Civil War Battle of the Monocacy, to be released in 2007.

Monday, Jan. 29 - 7 pm - John Fishback - Clerk's Office Tour- Loudoun County Courthouse Records.

Sunday, Feb. 25 - 2 pm - Michael Plunkett - Africans and African Americans in the Special Collections Library (UVA).

Sunday, Mar. 18 - 2 pm - Richard Stephenson - "Mapping the American Civil War.

Sunday, Apr. 19 - 2 pm - Marie Tyler-McGraw and Deborah A. Lee - "The Love of Liberty Brought Us Here; the Lack of Money Kept Us Here: Virginians in Liberia".

The Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun Historical Society and the Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society will present a series of lectures by distinguished historians on the historical context of Loudoun County's establishment in 1757. Loudoun's 250th Anniversary corresponds exactly with the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the English at Jamestowne. This series will emphasize existing humanities scholarship about the world Virginia faced when its colonial legislature decided to create a jurisdiction named for the then commander-in-chief of British armed forces in North America, John Campbell (1705-1782), the fourth earl of Loudoun. Speakers include Dr. Carl J. Ekberg, presenting a program on "The French Challenge to British North America," on April 15, 2007; Dr. Paul W. Mapp, whose topic on May 6, 2007, will be "The Seven Years' War and Changing British Imperial Objectives"; Dr. Timothy J. Shannon, who will speak June 17, 2007, on the subject "Caught in the Middle: The Indigenous Response to Foreign Imperial Designs"; Dr. Warren Hofstra, who will speak September 16, 2007, on the topic "When a World War is the Home Front: The Seven Years' War on Virginia Frontiers"; and Dr. Douglas Foard, speaking October 21, 2007, on "The 'Imperious Laird': John Campbell, Loudoun's Namesake."

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.