



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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Highly Popular Lecture Series Continues: Synopsis from Drs. Tim Shannon & Paul Mapp

1922-2007

Friends of the
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CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: THE INDIGENOUS RESPONSE TO FOREIGN IMPERIAL DESIGNS

TIMOTHY J. SHANNON

In this anniversary year for both Jamestown and Loudoun County, it is worthwhile to reflect on what perspective Native Americans might bring to the public celebrations that invariably accompany such occasions. The Jamestown anniversary has certainly generated its share of media hype, even prompting Queen Elizabeth II to cross the Atlantic for a state dinner at the White House. But did Lord Loudoun, the British general for whom a prosperous county in the Northern Neck is named, ever get a dinner? For that matter, would any Native Americans living in Virginia then or now have been able to pick Lord Loudoun out of a police line-up? Some of Virginia's modern Indian communities—the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Rappahannock, Nansemond, and Monacan—have embraced the Jamestown anniversary as an opportunity to tell their stories and acquaint their neighbors with the Native American history of this state, but culturally and historically these groups have closer ties to Jamestown and the Chesapeake Bay than the Upper Potomac region out of which Loudoun County was formed in 1757.

Recovering a Native American perspective on Loudoun County's history requires telling a different story, one that focuses less on famous names like Pocahontas, Powhatan, and Captain John Smith and more on less familiar peoples like the Conoys, Nanticokes, Piscataways, and Iroquois. The region out of which Loudoun County was formed did not have a large Native American population in 1757, but it had served as an important crossroads for Indian peoples long before the arrival of European colonizers. Two great rivers, the Susquehanna and the Potomac, connected Iroquoian-speaking peoples from the northern interior to the Algonquian-speaking peoples who lived near Chesapeake Bay. The founding of Jamestown in 1607 upset the equilibrium between native peoples in this region by introducing deadly diseases, creating fierce competition in the trans-Atlantic fur trade, and establishing a tobacco economy that transformed the landscape. In the struggle for survival that ensued, Algonquian

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THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR AND CHANGING BRITISH IMPERIAL OBJECTIVES

PAUL W. MAPP

Professor Mapp's talk considered British territorial choices at the end of the Seven Years' War. Military victories during this conflict gave the British Empire the opportunity to demand lucrative Caribbean and Central and South American territories from France and Spain as the price of peace. Given the undeniable value of sugar-producing Caribbean islands, and traditional British interest in Latin American ports, French possessions like Guadeloupe and Martinique, and Spanish towns like Havana, Cartagena, and Buenos Aires seemed logical objectives. British statesmen decided instead to ask Spain for Florida, and France for Canada and those portions of the French Louisiana colony lying between the Mississippi and the Appalachians. These lands were little developed and had generally lost money for the French and Spanish Empires. Britain's preference for them presents something of a puzzle.

Mapp found an answer in changing conceptions of territorial value. He argued that by the end of the Seven Years' War, hard experience had left key British statesmen increasingly disenchanted with old projects to seize valuable and glamorous American possessions—especially Spanish American possessions, and increasingly appreciative of the burgeoning mainland British North American colonies. As the populations of the thirteen colonies had grown over the course of the eighteenth century, so too had their demand for British goods, and this had elevated their importance in the eyes of British merchants and officials. At the same time, many British strategists had come to recognize that more grandiose British efforts to seize territory and trade from the Spanish Empire, visible in the 1711 founding of the famous South Sea Company and the 1739 initiation of the colorfully named Anglo-Spanish War of Jenkins' Ear, had proved disappointing or even disastrous. British statesmen were also worried that the scale of British Seven Years' War triumphs was fomenting jealousy and unease among European nations, and that seizing too many celebrated French and Spanish American territories would lead to the formation of an anti-British coalition

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Continued from page 1 - Shannon

Indians from the northern Chesapeake Bay and lower Potomac Valley—the Conoys, Nanticookes, and Piscataways—faced demographic collapse, dispersal, and assimilation into refugee populations that moved northward into the relative security of Pennsylvania’s Susquehanna Valley. After warring against many of these Algonquian peoples and speeding their dispossession, the Iroquois nations of central New York asserted dominion over the Blue Ridge region and traversed it frequently in their wars against Indian peoples in the Carolina backcountry.

A century of intercultural trade and warfare had dramatically altered Virginia’s Indian population by 1707. Colonial officials in Williamsburg turned their attention north to the Iroquois in order to secure the colony’s frontier. At two treaties, one in Albany in 1722 and one in Lancaster in 1744, Virginians negotiated boundary lines with the Iroquois that enabled them to push west, first to the Blue Ridge and then into the Shenandoah Valley. On each of these occasions, the Virginians expressed doubt and impatience with claims made by the Iroquois to dominion over this territory, but in response, the Iroquois boldly asserted their rights. It was true that they did not occupy the land in question, but they had lived in North America long before the English arrived. The Iroquois claimed the land in question because they could; no other Indians peoples were numerous or strong enough to challenge them. And what possible right could newcomers as recent as the English have to it?

By 1757, colonial authorities in Virginia had engaged in the necessary land purchases from the Iroquois to bring the Blue Ridge and Shenandoah regions under the colony’s jurisdiction, but a century and half of interaction with America’s indigenous peoples had brought them no closer to understanding the Indians’ perspective on the land and who owned it. Before General Edward Braddock set out on his fateful march from the Potomac to Fort Duquesne in 1755, he held a council with some Indian chiefs from the Ohio Country. The Indians offered their assistance to Braddock in exchange for his guarantee that once the French were defeated, the land would remain securely in Indian hands. Braddock famously spurned their offer and told them that “No Savage Should Inherit the Land.” Braddock met his comeuppance on the banks of the Monongahela River several weeks later. His death ignited an intercultural conflict the likes of which Virginia had never seen. Instead of fighting against the French, the Indians turned away by Braddock brought war to Virginia’s extended frontier. They fought to protect their homelands from grasping colonists and the overbearing cultural hubris embodied by the likes of Braddock. Loudoun County, born in the blood of the French and Indian War, was forced to relive the same tragedies and sufferings played out at Jamestown 150 years earlier.Ω

Continued from page 1 - Mapp

of European powers. Asking for thousands of square miles of North American wilderness seemed less likely to provoke hostility than would grasping the choicest pearls of the Indies. Ultimately, British officeholders preferred the acquisition of lands offering continental British North American colonies immediate security and favorable prospects to efforts to gain enticing but problematic French and Spanish maritime possessions farther south. The Virginia Counties of early 1760s North America were more appealing and significant relative to other New World territories than they had been decades before.Ω

250th Anniversary Lecturers’ Suggestions for Further Reading

It is our pleasure to include here a bibliography as suggested by the series speakers and compiled by staffer Beth Schuster. Additional copies may be picked up at the library. Many of the volumes are available at Thomas Balch Library.

Anderson, Fred. *Crucible of War: The Seven Years’ War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

_____. *The War That Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War*. New York: Viking, 2005

Dorn, Walter L. *The Rise of Modern Europe: Competition for Empire: 1740 - 1763*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1940.

Eccles, W. J. *France in America*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1972.

Foard, Douglas. *The Imperious Laird: John Campbell, the fourth Earl of Loudoun*. Forthcoming, 2007.

Fowler, William M. Jr. *Empires at War: The French and Indian War and the Struggle for North America*. New York: Walker & Company, 2005.

Hinderaker, Eric. *Elusive Empires: Constructing Colonialism in the Ohio Valley, 1673-1500*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Hofstra, Warren R., ed. *George Washington and the Virginia Backcountry*. Madison, Wisconsin: Madison House, 1998.

Hofstra, Warren R. *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.

Jennings, Francis. *The Ambiguous Iroquois Empire: The Covenant Chain Confederation of Indian Tribes with the English Colonies from its Beginnings to the Lancaster Treaty of 1744*. New York: Norton, 1984.

Kent, Barry C. *Susquehanna’s Indians*. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 2001.

McConnell, Michael N. *A Country Between: The Upper Ohio Valley and its Peoples, 1724-1774*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1992.

Pargellis, Stanley McCrory. *Lord Loudoun in North America*. New York: Archon Books, 1968.

Shannon, Timothy J. *Indians and Colonists at the Crossroads of Empire: The Albany Congress of 1754*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000.

Speck, W. A. *The Butcher: The Duke of Cumberland and the Suppression of the ’45*. Llandudno [Wales]: Welsh Academic Press, 1995.

Ward, Matthew C. *Breaking the Backcountry: The Seven Years’ War in Virginia and Pennsylvania, 1754-1765*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003.

Now is the time to submit your nominations for the Loudoun History Awards. Nomination criteria information is available at the library. Submissions of nominations are due in October. Act now!

Not So Long Ago: By Gail Ann Adams Loudoun's Home-Grown Hero

In 1757, the same year Loudoun became a county, John Champe was born. Little is known of his early life, but when the American colonies revolted against England, he at once enlisted in Virginia's forces. In 1776 Champe was a private in Capt. Harry (Light Horse Harry) Lee's Company of 1st Light Dragoons of the Continental Army. By 1778 he was a corporal and on January 1, 1779 promoted to Sergeant-Major. While John Champe was becoming an excellent soldier and advancing in rank, Benedict Arnold, committed treason. Major-General Benedict Arnold, hero of the 1777 Battle of Saratoga, deserted the American troops and sided with the British. General George Washington received anonymous papers suggesting similar leanings of some of his soldiers and even one of his generals [Gates]. He was concerned that others would follow in Arnold's footsteps.



Champe 'deserting' and fleeing Lee's forces, on special assignment to capture Benedict Arnold.

LOUDOUN MUSEUM

Indeed, Arnold was at the British headquarters in New York recruiting loyalists to fight for the British.

Washington sent for "Light Horse" Harry Lee, to discuss plans to capture Arnold. In a letter to Lee he wrote: "My aim is to make a public example of him." It was imperative Benedict Arnold be captured and brought back alive. An added goal was to establish the innocence of General Gates. Lee recommended John Champe for the job. He described him to Washington as "rather above the common size, full of bone and muscle, with saturnine countenance, grave, thoughtful and taciturn – of tried courage and inflexible perseverance...."

The plan was put into motion. About 11 pm on October 20, 1780, John Champe "deserted." Lee delayed pursuit as long as possible, but shortly past midnight troops set out to find the deserter. Champe was on his way to the British patrol boats lying in Newark Bay. [In 1780 the Loudoun Dragoons were encamped near Bergen, NJ, a few miles from the Hudson River. Across the river were the British headquarters in New York City and Benedict Arnold.] The rainy night made tracking Champe's horse's hoof prints easy. With the pursuing patrol getting closer, Champe dismounted, ran across the meadows, plunged into the Bay, and swam for the boats calling for help. The British fired at the patrol and sent a boat to pick up Champe. It was a narrow escape, but it set a realistic background for Champe's introduction to the British. He was interrogated by ever-higher-ranking British and finally by their commander, Sir Henry Clinton. Champe convinced the British that he, and soon many more, would come over to the British side. Sir Clinton introduced Champe to Arnold and Arnold made him one of his recruiting sergeants, giving Champe close access to Arnold.

Lee reported to Washington that the first part of the plan had been successful. Some co-conspirators in on the scheme enabled Champe to get messages to Lee and Washington. They were relieved to receive Champe's confirmation that there was absolutely no evidence that General Gates or any other American officers were collaborating with the British. Now, for the primary part of the plan—the capture of Arnold. Champe was familiar with Arnold's habits. Arnold usually retired around midnight but would visit the garden beforehand. Champe and his ally would lie in wait, seize and gag Arnold, and remove him to a waiting boat. On the appointed day, Lee sent a small detachment of dragoons to meet Champe and his prisoner at the boat. Hours went by and as morning broke, Lee and his party returned to their camp. Lee informed General Washington and they wondered of Champe's fate. A few days later they received a letter explaining: the night of the abduction, Arnold unexpectedly moved his camp to another part of Manhattan, taking Champe with him.

Champe continued his role but was unable to get Arnold in a position to abduct him while keeping him alive, as Washington had ordered. He stayed with the British as they traveled to Virginia and North Carolina. There, he "deserted" the British and made his way to General Greene, who provided Champe with a good horse and money, and sent him to General Washington. Lee's *Memoirs* state that General Washington "...munificently anticipated every desire of the sergeant and presented him with a discharge from further service lest he might, in the vicissitudes of war, fall into the enemy's hands, and if recognized, he was sure to die on a gibbet."

Champe returned to southwestern Loudoun and had a homestead near Aldie. A few years later, President Adams called upon George Washington to command the Army to defend the Country from French hostilities. Washington wrote Lee to have Champe called into service and placed at the head of a cavalry command. Lt. Col. Lee dispatched a courier to Loudoun in search of Champe. Lee was told that Champe had moved to Kentucky and had died there. Many publications claim that John Champe did die in Kentucky, but other sources disagree.

Indeed, Champe's wife Phoebe and a son, in their handwritten application for Champe's pension, state he died near Morgantown [now in West Virginia] in 1798 and was buried in Prickett Fort Cemetery. A Revolutionary marker was dedicated there in April 2001 in his honor.

John Champe is a local hero. Though he did not capture Benedict Arnold, his investigations secured the complete vindication of General Gates and put to rest the rumors of traitors and treason, a great boost to the morale of the American troops. In 1861, a Confederate infantry company was formed in Aldie and called themselves "Champes Rifles" to honor their local hero. When Light Horse Harry Lee's *Memoirs of the War* was republished in 1869 by his son, Robert E. Lee, Loudouners could read the whole story of their local hero. In Loudoun today, his name lives on with the Sergeant-Major John Champe Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Ω



Road sign near Aldie, Virginia VDOT

Thomas Balch Library Lecture Series

Programs are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. We recommend registering in advance by calling (703)737-7195.

Sunday, 30 September 2007, 2PM
The Digital DAR - Eric Grundset

**Monday, 1 October 2007, 7PM Clerk's Office Tour,
Loudoun County Courthouse Historical Records -
John Fishback**

**Sunday, 7 October 2007, 2PM W&OD Railroad: Its
History and Significance to Loudoun County -
Paul McCray**

**Sunday, 14 October 2007, 2PM Author Talk, Book Sign-
ing: Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Apparatus
History - Mike Sanders**

**Sunday, 4 November 2007, 2PM Robert E. Lee,
Engineer: A Book in Progress - W. Brown Morton, III**

**Sunday, 11 November 2007, 2PM
Loudoun History Awards**

**Sunday, 2 December 2007, 2PM Author Talk, Book
Signing: An African Republic: Black and White Virgin-
ians in the Making of Liberia - Marie Tyler-McGraw**

**Sunday, 9 December 2007, 2PM Author Talk Book
Signing: Desperate Engagement - Marc Leepson**

250th Anniversary Lecture Series:

Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem

Note Location: Leesburg United Methodist Social Hall, 107
W Market Street

Sunday, 16 September 2007, 2PM
**When a World War is the Home Front: The Seven
Years' War on Virginia Frontiers - Warren Hofstra**

**Sunday, 21 October 2007, 2PM The Imperious Laird:
John Campbell, Loudoun's Namesake -
Douglas W. Foard**

An Introduction to Thomas Balch Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques:

Note: In addition to these, the programs will be offered
the first Thursday of every month from 10-11 AM,
beginning in February, 2008. Don't miss this great
opportunity to learn more about your library and to
enhance your library experience.

Thursday, 11 October 2007, 10-11AM
Online Genealogy Research at Thomas Balch Library
LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist

Thursday November 1, 2007 10-11 AM
**Traditional Historical and Genealogical Resources
at Thomas Balch Library**
Mary Fishback, Library Assistant

New Books at Thomas Balch Library

21st Virginia Infantry, by Susan Riggs

32nd Virginia Infantry, by Les Jensen

Ambitious Iroquois Empire, by Francis Jennings

Beleaguered Winchester, by Richard Duncan

Cemeteries of King George Co., VA, 2 volumes,

by King George Co Historical Society

Civil War Extra Newspaper History, 2 volumes, by Eric Caren

Civil War in Loudoun Valley, by the National Park Service

Confederate General R. S. Ewell, by Paul Casdorff

Delaware (Indian) Trails, by Fay Arellano

Desperate Engagement, by Marc Leepson

Family Legacy of Anthony Johnson, by Harry Matthews

France in America, by W. J. Eccles

Freedom by Deed, by Susan McCabe

Friedrichstal Church Records 1698-1812, by Cathryn Dipppo

Ghosts of Gourdvine Past, by Donnie Johnston

History of Tucker Co., WV, by Homer Fansler

Hollow Folk, by Mandel Sherman

Indians and Colonists at the Crossroads, by Timothy Shannon

Kingdom of Prussia, V.12 & 13, Maps to German Parish Reg.,

by Kevan Hansen

Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Apparatus,

by Mike Sanders (brand new)

Page County, VA, Men in Gray, by Thomas Spratt

Powell Families of VA & the South, by Silas Lucas

Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Children,

by D. Francis Condie (rare book)

Rise & Fall of the Powhatan Empire, by James Axtell

Siren of the South: Belle Boyd, by Ruth Scarborough

Spring Campaign 1986, SCV Leesburg

The Butcher: The Duke of Cumberland, by W. A. Speck

The Opportunity is at Hand - Colored Soldiers,

by Donald Wisnoski

Thomas Bland of Pendleton Co., WV, by Edith Lanning

Virginia Cousins (John Goode), by G. Brown Goode

Washington, City and Capital, by the WPA

Washington County, Maryland Cemetery Records V. 1-7,

by Dale Morrow

Yesterday - 100 Recollections of McLean, by Carole Herrick

Younger, Creek, Kelly, Payne & Day Families,

by Louella Myers

LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist

Friday, December 7, 2007, 10-11AM
Online Census Research -
"Making Sense of the Census"
LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist

From the Director

Thomas Balch Library programs for the fall are outlined in this newsletter and encompass the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County, genealogical, historical and biographical topics as well as book signings. Be certain to mark your calendar for these events. There are two remaining lectures in the 250th Loudoun County Anniversary Lecture Series: September 16, Warren Hofstra will speak on the Seven Years' War on the Virginia frontier and October 21, Doug Foard will talk about Lord Loudoun. Foard's new biography on Lord Loudoun is expected to be available for sale and autographing at this lecture. Overwhelming response to the Anniversary series has required that the lectures be held in the Social Hall of Leesburg United Methodist Church 108 West Market Street. We recommend registering in advance for all programs by calling (703)737-7195.

In other programming news, we are launching a program to provide on-site introduction to the library with instruction by experienced staff on the library's resources and how to conduct research in special collections libraries. These sessions will last about an hour and will include a tour of the facility, half an hour to forty five minutes on a specific topic such as local history, genealogy, online census research; how to research using online resources; using an electronic card catalog, and accessing and using manuscript and visual collections. Time will be scheduled for participant questions. As these classes will have limited enrollment, pre-registration is required. We will repeat sessions as needed throughout the year. The first three sessions have been scheduled October through December. In February 2008 they will be held on the first Thursday of every month from 10-11 AM.

As reported in an earlier newsletter one of the most exciting developments at Thomas Balch Library is the posting of collection guides to our website: <http://www.leesburgva.gov/services/library/online>. As manuscript collections are processed, the guides are immediately added to the website and at this writing we have posted thirty nine. These collection guides are linked to the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) catalog records found on the Library of Congress website: <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/rlineSearch.html>. In addition we post collection guides to the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) under Virginia Heritage: Guides to Manuscript and Archival Collections in Virginia at <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/>. Electronic posting of our collection guides makes information about our special collection materials available globally.

Recently processed collections at Thomas Balch Library include Rodney and Elizabeth Davis Family Papers, 1828-1920 (M 023); Elijah V. White's Ball's Bluff Address, 1887 (SC 0023); Historical Postcards, 1900-1980 (VC004); and John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun Bookplate (SC 0017). Also of interest: a Land Grant Lord Fairfax to Richard Brown, 1741(OM009); a brochure from Springwood Select Home School for Girls, 1866 (SC 0019) run by the Ball family; *The War*, 1812-1815, 1817 (M 029), a newspaper published during the War of 1812; and Civil Defense Air Raid Instructions, ca. 1950 (SC 0022). Collection Guides for these and other collections may be viewed at <http://www.leesburgva.gov/services/library/online>.

Implementation of a new fee structure for reference services and the duplication and publication of special collection materials at the library is in place. The fee structure is available on our website under "services."

Two interns joined us this summer – Austin A. Backus and Emily Holmes, both of Patrick Henry College. The interns processed several collections for us and their guides are posted to our website. Library Volunteers have been equally busy processing collections, helping with mailings, indexing, and data entry. We welcome two new volunteers to the library – Lisa Dezarn, a candidate for her master's degree in library science, and Emily Hershman, a high school student.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission sponsors the annual Loudoun History Awards. Held in November, nominations are accepted in October. A new brochure providing submission criteria and procedures and listing past recipients is available from the library. In other Commission news, I am delighted to announce that Martha Schonberger, immediate past chair, was the recipient of the Shenandoah Teacher of the Year Award in 2007

As always, it will be my pleasure to see you when visiting Thomas Balch Library or when attending our programs.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

New and Renewing Members

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The Thomas Balch
Chronicle
 Friends of the
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 P. O. Box 2184
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*Inside: A Roster of Great
 New Balch Fall Programs!*

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<u>Title</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amt. Due</u>
Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads by Eugene M. Scheel	\$ 20.00/volume		
Vol. 1 Eastern Loudoun: Goin' Down the Country			
Vol. 2 Leesburg and the Old Carolina Road			
Vol. 3 The Hunt Country and Middleburg			
Vol. 4 Quaker Country and the Loudoun Valley			
Vol. 5 Waterford, the German Settlement and Between the Hills			
Full set of five volumes plus companion map	\$100.00		
The Essence of A People: Portraits of African Americans Who Made A Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia	\$ 15.00		
The Essence of A People II: African Americans Who Made Their World Anew in Loudoun Co., and Beyond	\$ 15.00		
Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide	\$ 5.00		
A Taste of Loudoun County: Our Favorite Recipes 1903-1951 Home Interest Club Cookbook - Centennial Edition	\$ 10.00		
A Story of Round Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia by Ann W. Thomas	\$ 20.00		
In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971 - by Elaine Thompson	\$ 20.00		
George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist & Musician by Lemoine D. Pierce	\$ 10.00		
Journey Though Time (An African-American Timeline)	\$ 5.00		
		Total Due:	

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