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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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Hofstra & Foard, Final Speakers for Series, Maintain High Standards for Attendees Pleasure

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When a World War is the Home Front: The Seven Years' War on Virginia Frontiers

Warren R. Hofstra

The brutality of fighting on the Virginia frontier during the Seven Years' War is well-known. Less recognized, however, is the way in which bloodshed brought an end to a long half-century of relative peace among Native Americans and European settlers in a colonial backcountry extending from central Pennsylvania across western Virginia. The memory of brutality against civilian populations—terrorism, as we would understand it today—produced an Indian-hating among Americans that for Indians transformed a conflict of seven years into a violent struggle for survival that lasted more than 130 years and concluded only with near annihilation at the end of the nineteenth century. What we remember in history, therefore, and the way we remember the past often goes further in explaining events than their immediate causes in political, economic, or social developments.

Thus wars, sadly, constitute much of our national memory. Certainly the memory of the Seven Years' War helped precipitate the American Revolution. Because our history concentrates on the causes of war, we overlook the outbreak of peace. We maintain a huge Department of Defense and belittle legislation to establish a Department of Peace. A study of the home front at the time of the Seven Years' War, however, provides an opportunity to reverse this situation and see how a culture of peace shared among Native American and European American peoples literally allowed peace to break out when war seemed inescapable more than a decade before the Seven Years' War.

In the sixteenth century the five nations of the Iroquois brought an end to centuries of intertribal warfare by establishing a league among their peoples sustained by complex rituals of diplomacy symbolized in regular council fires of negotiation. Peace among themselves allowed the Iroquois to grow prosperous, powerful, feared, and dominant throughout northeastern North America. The Iroquois then extended this culture of peace and conciliation to colonists in New York and Pennsylvania through the diplomatic rituals of the

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"The Imperious Laird": John Campbell, the fourth Earl of Loudoun

Douglas W. Foard

During my brief tenure as Director of the Loudoun Museum I was startled to discover that no full-length biography of this important eighteenth-century figure existed. It was then that I set about to remedy that oversight.

In recent days, there had been articles published in the local press urging that the County be renamed since, in the words of one writer, Lord Loudoun was "a despicable English aristocrat." Why would the colonial government in Williamsburg chose to name its newest jurisdiction in 1757 after such a person? The answer was that Virginia felt quite happy with the appointment, since Loudoun was an experienced British officer, a member of the House of Lords and the Royal Society, and closely connected to the royal family. In order to convince him to accept the post of Commander of Anglo-American forces in North America, parliament had tossed in the extra inducement that he would be named Governor of Virginia and be compensated for that office, although he was never obliged to visit the colony.

Loudoun's appointment came at a dark moment in Anglo-French competition for control of North America. The defeat of British troops and Virginia militia near what is now Pittsburgh in 1755 was so crushing that the Redcoats retreated all the way to Philadelphia to recover. Meanwhile British settlements on the frontier, including the Shenandoah Valley, were attacked and burned, forcing families to flee east across the Blue Ridge to find safety in such places as the soon-to-be-named Loudoun County. With General Braddock, the British commander, having been killed in the action outside of Pittsburgh and the army in retreat, it is small wonder that Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York were so pleased to welcome John Campbell, a peer of the realm, to these shores.

There was a long and distinguished history of the lords Loudoun in the creation of the United Kingdom of Scotland and England in 1707 and John Campbell's own role in preserving its

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“Covenant Chain.” The records of both peoples—the wampum of the Iroquois and the minutes of political councils in Albany or Philadelphia—are replete with the hard work of comprehension and compromise across cultures.

In 1742, Virginians, unfamiliar with this culture of peace, almost provoked an all-out Anglo-Indian war that would have engulfed the entirety of North America in a devastating conflict. Mistaking the intentions of a party of Iroquois warriors traveling through the Shenandoah Valley on their way to raid southern Indians, hostile settlers precipitated a skirmish that cost the lives of upwards of twenty men on both sides. Virginians blaming the Indians for these deaths armed immediately for war, and their governor eagerly alerted authorities in London and throughout the colonies about the impending struggle. The Indians, fearing universal devastation, foresaw a different course of action based on the principles and practices of the Covenant Chain. They hurriedly returned to Pennsylvania where they told their side of the story through the accepted rituals of council-fire diplomacy. Thereafter the governors of both Pennsylvania and New York intervened with war hawks in Williamsburg, calmed Virginians down, and initiated a series of events leading to the 1744 Treaty of Lancaster resolving, at least temporarily if not completely, the issues lying behind the troubles.

What this story demonstrates is not the indelible purity of Indian culture, or the unvarying good faith of William Penn’s Quaker colony, or the impetuous violence of “long knives” in Virginia. But the stereotypes of the early American past as a progression of Indian and imperial wars can give way to the hard reality of peace—and the hard work of peacekeeping—when we open our eyes to the way in which cultural institutions of accommodation can be brought to bear against the inevitability of war.

A Town Treasure: Thomas Balch Library Programs

What might be viewed until now as a best-kept secret, the Leesburg community and Loudoun in general have discovered the outstanding programs offered by Thomas Balch Library. The recent 250th Anniversary Celebration of Loudoun County lecture series demonstrated the need for and the appreciation of such a variety of programs, with some 400 patrons participating in the five lectures.

To satisfy that need, plans are underway for another series of lectures in 2008 to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Leesburg, and there are plans and schedules for the highly popular Thomas Balch Library Program series. In the works. Look for the 2008 schedule in the upcoming *Balch Column* publication and in the Spring edition of *The Thomas Balch Chronicle*.

Meanwhile, there are two additional programs remaining in the 2007 roster. Don’t miss them.

Sunday, 2 Dec. 2007, 2PM Author Talk, Book Signing:
An African Republic: Black and White Virginians in the Making of Liberia - Marie Tyler-McGraw

The author traces the parallel but seldom intersecting tracks of black and white Virginians’ interests in African colonization from Revolutionary-era efforts at emancipation legislation to African American churches’ concern for African mis-

Hanoverian dynasty. Fortune had smiled upon him at his birth in 1705 into such a prestigious family, but it was not so generous to Lord Loudoun when he took command of Anglo-American forces in 1756. Arriving at Quebec just a month before John Campbell sailed into New York harbor was Louis-Joseph, the Marquis de Montcalm-Gonzon de Saint-Véran, the new French military commander. Montcalm was a brilliant strategist and during the next two years outfought and outmaneuvered Lord Loudoun at every turn. He captured Fort Ontario at Oswego, New York only three weeks after the Laird (a Scottish term for a wealthy landowner) reached North America. In the following year’s campaign, he frustrated Loudoun’s attack on the French fortress at Louisburg, and counterattacked down Lake Champlain capturing Fort William Henry on the southern shores of Lake George, an event immortalized in James Fenimore Cooper’s *The Last of the Mohicans*.

Many of these setbacks had little to do with Lord Loudoun’s military skills. In fact, the plans he made for defeating Montcalm were successfully executed by his successors, James Wolfe and Jeffrey Amherst. Nevertheless, he was recalled to Britain in 1758 and retired to his estates in Ayrshire, Scotland. It was a brief respite, however, since he was recalled to the colors in 1762 to head a British expeditionary force sent to Portugal to save that nation’s independence from an invading Spanish army. The effort was a memorable success.

Lord Loudoun did not endear himself to the North American colonists because he attempted to use every means at his disposal to defeat the French, including forced quartering of his troops in American homes and the imposition of strict military discipline on the colonial militias under his command. Nevertheless, he transformed British military tactics to suit the wilderness in which they fought and designed the strategies that would eventually witness the Union Jack flying over Quebec and bring about the death in combat of his nemesis, the Marquis de Montcalm. The County should be proud of its name-sake.

sions. She further follows experiences of emigrants from Virginia to Liberia and examines tensions between racial identities, domestic visions, and republican citizenship in Virginia and Liberia.

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

Leepson tells the story of the Battle of Monocacy, July 9, 1864, one of the Civil War’s most significant, but little-known battles. This was a full-field engagement between some 12,000 battle-hardened Confederate troops, led by Jubal Anderson Early and some 5,800 Union troops, many of them untested in battle, under Lew Wallace. The ostensible outcome: 1,300 Union troops dead, wounded, missing or taken prisoner, with Confederate losses at some 800. Two days after this rout, Early was at the gates of Fort Stevens, the very fringe of Washington, D. C., about to make one of the war’s most fateful, portentous decisions: whether or not to order his men to invade the nation’s capital. Leepson’s engaging study of the “Battle That Saved Washington” demonstrates its impact on the last nine months of the Civil War, and on the course of American history.

More programs of this high calibre will follow in 2008.
Stay tuned!

Loudoun Celebrates 145th Anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation

by Elaine E. Thompson

On September 22, the citizens of Loudoun County celebrated the blessings of liberty and the 145th anniversary of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. The day-long event was held on the original Loudoun County Emancipation Association Grounds (now the Blue Ridge Bible Church property) and at the Carver Center in Purcellville, Virginia.

During the opening ceremony, the history of the Loudoun County Emancipation Association was presented in word, music and reenactment. Historic figures, featured in pageants presented during Emancipation Day celebrations of the past, were dramatically reenacted by Stokes Tomlin who gave John Brown's last speech; Reverend Reginald A. Early read Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; Edith Ferrell repeated Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman?" speech; and Jason Nichols, who portrayed Frederick Douglass, spoke on the importance of remembering and gave the Roll Call of Founders and presidents of the Loudoun County Emancipation Association. Music was performed by Tom Gossage, flutist; Charity Smith, pianist; and the Blue Ridge Church Ensemble. Elaine Thompson narrated the program.

Abolitionist John Brown, portrayed by Stokes Tomlin, believed in racial equality without patronization and was executed for his attempt to free those enslaved. His last act was to write a note that said, "I, John Brown, am quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood." Brown's prophesy came true and in the midst of the bloody Civil War, Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. As was the custom of the

Loudoun County Emancipation Association, Reginald A. Early, playing the role of Lincoln, read the proclamation.

A parallel to the fight to end slavery was the fight for women's rights. Former slave and northern abolitionist, Sojourner Truth was involved in both battles. Her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech given in 1851 at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio was dramatically presented by Edith Ferrell.

A highlight of past Emancipation Day celebrations was the Roll Call. Jason Nichols, a sixth generation descendant of a founder of the LCEA and the great grandson of its last president, stepped into the role of Frederick Douglass and shared the importance of remembering, calling each name followed by a drum roll.

Events at Carver Center included LEST WE FORGET: Black Holocaust Museum of Slavery. J. Justin and Gwen Ragsdale, co-curators of a private collection of slavery artifacts and Jim Crow memorabilia, displayed many items from their museum's collection and co-facilitated presentations that included detailed descriptions of their authentic treasures and a review of several slave periods.

Supporters included Purcellville Preservation Association, Lincoln Preservation Foundation, Buffalo Soldiers, Loudoun County NAACP, Loudoun/Douglass Alumni Association, local artists, private collectors of African and African American art. The Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library sold its publications and distributed literature about the library.

Maximizing Your Time at Thomas Balch Library: An Introduction to Thomas Balch Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques

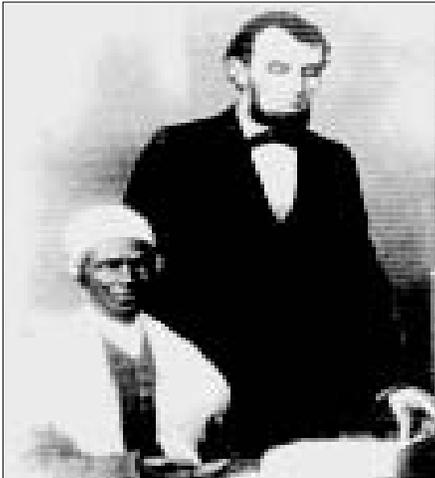
This Fall, this valuable and popular series of classes were held at the library. Designed to assist in deciphering the intricacies of resources at Thomas Balch Library, they served both the novice and the experienced researcher. In the works are plans are to make them available again in 2008. Look for schedules in the Winter Spring edition of the *Balch Column* and the Spring *Thomas Balch Chronicle*. All programs will be posted on line at <http://www.leesburgva.com/services/Library/Newsletter>.

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, and General-in-Chief of the Army and Navy thereof, do hereby proclaim and declare that hereafter, as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the constitutional relation between the United States, and each of the States, and the people thereof, in which States that relation is, or may be, suspended or disturbed.

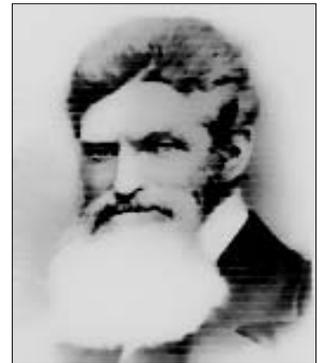
That it is my purpose, upon the next meeting of Congress to again recommend the adoption of a practical measure tendering pecuniary aid to the free acceptance or rejection of all slave States, so called, the people whereof may not then be in rebellion against the United States, and which States may then have voluntarily adopted, or thereafter may voluntarily adopt, immediate or gradual abolishment of slavery within their respective limits; and that the effort



Sojourner Truth and Abraham Lincoln



Frederick Douglass



John Brown

“Mother” of the Airplane

By Gail Ann Adams

Some say that behind every good man is a good woman. In this case, it would be two men and a woman. The men are Wilbur and Orville Wright and the woman is their mother, Susan Koerner Wright.

Susan was born in 1831 near the Village of Hillsboro, Virginia. She was of German descent. Her father, John Gotleib Koerner, was born in Germany. Her mother, Catherine Frye (Fryer in some records), was born in Loudoun County about 1796.

Susan's parents were married in Loudoun County in 1820. They lived at the “Koerner Farm” until 1832 when they sold their farm and moved to Indiana. Susan was only 17 months old when they moved.

John Koerner was a skilled wagon and carriage maker. Susan spent a great deal of time in her father's shop. He taught her how to work with the tools and encouraged her to use these skills. As a result, Susan developed considerable mechanical aptitude.

Susan Koerner attended Hartesville College in Indiana where she studied literature and science. She was the top mathematician in her class.

While in college, Susan met Milton Wright. They both loved learning. Milton and Susan were married on November 24, 1859. They had two libraries – one consisted of books on theology since Milton was a minister, while the second was a large, varied collection.

Years later when Orville Wright looked back on his childhood he commented that he and his brother Wilbur had “special advantages and were lucky enough to grow up in a home environment where there was always much encouragement to children to pursue intellectual interests; to investigate whatever aroused their curiosity.” With Susan's

mechanical aptitude, knowledge of tools and mathematics, she was able to guide Orville and Wilbur Wright in their constant pursuits to build and discover. Indeed, the Wright brothers built their first flying machine, a rubber band powered helicopter when Orville was only eight and Wilbur was 12. Orville made kites to sell to his friends. Wilbur invented a machine that folded the United Brethren newspaper published by his father. Their lives revolved around their workshop as they made furniture, printing presses, gliders, bicycles and airplanes. No doubt their mother, Susan Koerner Wright, was there working with them. In fact, she made many of her own household appliances and toys for her children.

Milton Wright wrote of his wife Susan, “She was very active, industrious....She was of fine intellect, a very apt scholar....”

Susan and Milton had seven children. Four sons and one daughter survived past infancy. Wilbur was born in Indiana in 1867. In 1870 the Wright family moved to Ohio, where Orville was born in 1871.

On December 17, 1929 a marker was dedicated in Hillsboro to honor Susan. Dr. P. B. Barringer had this to say:

“...it was due to the wisdom of their parents but particularly strong were the gifts of their mother—imagination, courage, and craftsmanship...her early inheritance of much gentleness, her college training, her varied experience as a circuit rider's wife and her natural instinct for domestic craftsmanship made Susan Koerner Wright an ideal mother for her Sons of Flight.”

Sadly, this Loudoun daughter died in 1889 at the young age of 57 and did not witness the dawn of a new era she helped usher in.



1938 Cachet Honored Leesburg & Loudoun County

The week of May 15-22, 1938 was National Air Mail Week. This was the 20th anniversary of the first airmail route. The week began with the issuance of a new six cent Eagle multi-colored stamp on Saturday, May 14. For the next seven days thousands of communities across the United States designed their own cachet. It is estimated that 10,000 individual cachets were prepared giving each locality a chance to brag. The main event was on May 19 for a one-day-only special that the mail would be carried on NAMW flights, linking all the thousands of participating sites.

The cachet gave Leesburg boasting rights that Loudoun County, Virginia, was the birthplace of Susan Koerner Wright, mother of the Wright Brothers. After all, without her, all this would not be!

Others joined in. Danville, Virginia, boasted having the United States' oldest Mayor and the “World's Best Tobacco Market.” Ipswich, Massachusetts, boasted “Birthplace of American Independence” and had a map linking Massachusetts to Ohio with “Four months to Ohio with oxcart in 1838, nine hours by airplane in 1938.”



CACHET COURTESY GAIL ANN ADAMS

Mrs. Lockett's Garden

By James P. Lucier

If you lived in Lucketts in the nineteen forties and fifties, the person to know was Mrs. Roger W. Lockett. That's because Mrs. Lockett presided over the U.S. Post Office as well as her general store, and, in the nature of things, sat like the queen bee in the center of information central. Everybody came in to gossip, and she heard it all. Her little post office served some 150 rural mail boxes and 170 families. She knew when you got that letter from Aunt Matilda, and when you got around to answering it, and she might ask you how Aunt Matilda was doing. She knew when the packages from Sears, Roebuck came, and who was getting the spring seed catalogues.

And in fact, when you did get the seed catalogues, it would be a good idea to drop by the store and talk to her about the best seeds to buy. Everyone knew that she was the finest gardener in Loudoun County. In fact, she had two gardens—a big vegetable patch just next to her side porch, and her beloved flower garden across the road. If she wasn't at her desk in the post office when you went in, the next place to look for her was in her favorite spot, where she could be seen wearing the long dresses and aprons of another era and a broad-brimmed sun bonnet. You can still see the garden today—that fenced in triangle just next to the kid's playground by the Old School. There's not much left but the memories, except for a few shrubs that still come into flower. It's all waiting for someone to revitalize it.

But, in a garden there's always a future to look forward to, as the *Loudoun Times-Mirror* noted in 1956 when writing about Mrs. Lockett's garden. "A sprinkling of white dogwood and purple lilacs against the blue-green of spruce trees make a garden at Lucketts a pleasant place to visit this time of year," said the unnamed T-M reporter. "A sudden hot spell last week faded the daffodils, except in the shade and last week's frost cut back the magnolias. But the baby iris are coming out. Oregon holly grape, with yellow flowers, are blooming, while its leaves turn red. There are banks of low mystide flora and blue anchusis. The fall anchusis is yet to come."

"The viburnum earlesis is the sweet smell that lingers over the one-acre garden," the article went on, "The tree peony is still in bud. At one time Mrs. Lockett had 40 varieties of peonies. Yellow primroses are coming on and so is the snowball. White and purple lilac at the back of the garden are still in bud. The purple wisteria vines on the post office porch are now in bloom."

The Lockett clan came over from Montgomery County in 1786, marrying into the Noland family of Noland's Ferry. T. H. Lockett had his home on the southwest corner of the cross-roads. But then William H. and Sally J. Lockett came over the mountain from Waterford in 1890 and built a house and a store on the northeast corner, which by then had become known as Lockett's Cross Roads. Just as Tyson's Corners eventually dropped the pesky apostrophe, so the village became known as Lucketts. William's son Roger met Mae Arnold, the daughter of M.D. Arnold, while going to the Sunnyside school, about two miles north of Lucketts. Having married his childhood sweetheart, he built the new store in 1912 with a commodious 12-room house above, featuring a glassed-in sunroom that caught both morning and mid-day sun, and a dining room with a built-in sideboard in the latest style. The stunningly modern Lucketts Elementary School across the road went up in 1914.

Roger took on his duties as postmaster when the building was complete, which included a small, but separate post-office room in the back corner of the store. When Roger died in 1944, Mae became postmistress. Lucketts Post Office closed in 1960. With the deaths of Roger and Mae, the Lockett clan disappeared from Loudoun.



PHOTO: JAMES P. LUCIER

Lucketts Postmistress Mrs. Roger W. Lockett sorting the mail.

FURTHER READING: "Mrs. Lockett...Finds Time for One of County's Finest Gardens," *Loudoun Times-Mirror*, May 10, 1956; "The Post Offices of Loudoun" Andrew A. Rowberg and Marie C. Rowberg, *Bulletin of the Historical Society of Loudoun County, Virginia 1957-1976*; Eugene M. Scheel, *Loudoun Discovered: Leesburg and the Old Carolina Road*, Vol. Two, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library.

NOTICE!

**What: The 12th Annual Meeting
Friends of**

Thomas Balch Library

When: 2 PM. January 20, 2008

**Where: Thomas Balch Library,
208 West Market Street,
Leesburg, VA 20176**

**Why: To hear an outstanding
speaker, learn about your
organization, where it's been and
where it's going, and to join in
celebrating this gem:
Thomas Balch Library
Everyone is welcome!**

Just in Time for Christmas! A New Book About Loudoun ...

As a part of the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the creation of Loudoun County, Virginia, the first complete biography of the jurisdiction's namesake, John Campbell, fourth Earl of Loudoun, has been published. The volume's author is Friends of Thomas Balch Library board member, Douglas W. Foard, a resident of Loudoun County. Foard is the former Executive Secretary of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society. Foard, a retired history professor, holds his Ph.D. in that discipline from Washington University in St. Louis.

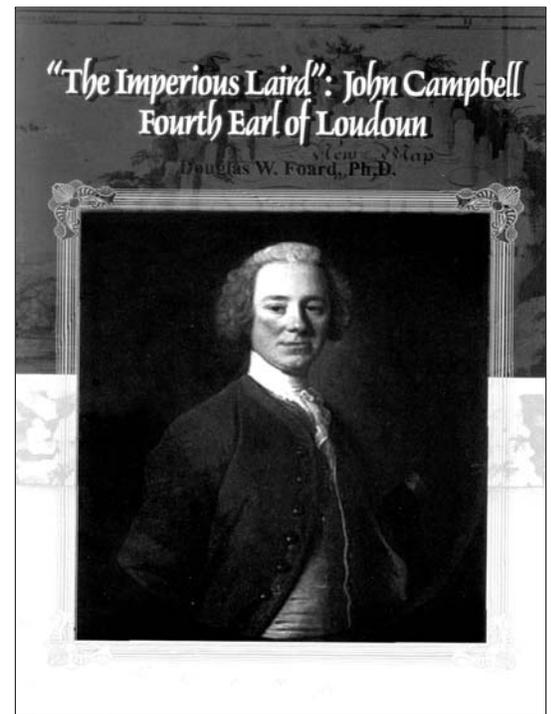
This handsomely illustrated volume describes Campbell's entire career, beginning with his birth into one of Scotland's most important families and concluding with his successful defense of Portuguese independence during the Seven Years' War in Europe. Particular attention is devoted to his command of British and American armed forces during one phase of that global conflict, referred to here in the United States as the French and Indian War. We share some of the reviews.

Of all the British officers who served in North America during the Seven Years' War—Edward Braddock, James Wolfe, Jeffery Amherst, John Forbes, and the rest—not one had a greater influence on the conflict's outcome than General John Campbell, fourth Earl of Loudoun. Yet he remains virtually unknown to modern Americans. This superb, gracefully-written account restores Lord Loudoun to public view in time for the 250th-anniversary commemorations of the war, doing full justice to the memory of an important figure, too long forgotten.

Fred Anderson, University of Colorado,
Boulder, Associate Professor and winner of
the Parkman Prize for *Crucible of War*

That no other British commander in the Seven Years' War, save perhaps Edward Braddock, had such a profound effect on Col. George Washington as did John Campbell, fourth Earl of Loudoun, and that Washington's achievements in the American Revolution were owing in large measure to his ability in commanding and controlling a vast army through the mastery of logistical detail goes a long way in demonstrating Loudoun's impact on American history. Douglas Foard's new biography of Loudoun makes the case for the significance of this important military figure with elegance, conviction, and a subtle appreciation for the nuances of the man's strengths and weaknesses—successes and failures.

Warren R. Hofstra, Shenandoah University,
Stewart Bell Professor of American History



**“The Imperious Laird”: John Campbell,
Fourth Earl of Loudoun
by Douglas W. Foard, Ph.D.**

The book is available for \$15.00 per copy in Leesburg at Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg Pharmacy, Treasure House, Oatlands Gift Shop, and other retail outlets. Look for it in Purcellville at Final Draft, in Lincoln at Janney's Store and it's also in stock at the Philomont Store.

Or we will be happy to take your orders for this great publication to be sent to you for \$15.00 plus shipping and handling. Orders go out within 48 hours of receipt.

To place your orders contact Janet Manthos at **703-777-8041**, janetmanthos@aol.com, or on line at www.balchfriends.org.

Some New Books at TBL

LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist

48th VA Infantry, by John Chapla

5th VA Cavalry, by Robert Driver

A Crisis in Confederate Command,
by Jeffery Prushankin

Appomattox Commander,
by Bernard Cresap

Backcountry Towns of Colonial Virginia,
by Christopher Hendricks

Buckingham Co. Burials, 3 vol.,
by Janice Hull

Champion Hill, by Timothy Smith

Cherokee by Blood, Vol. 1-9,
by Jerry Jordan

Confederate Goliath, by Rod Gragg

Confederate Naval Cadet,
by Hubbard Minor

Dressed for the Photographer,
by Joan Severa

Evidence Explained,
by Elizabeth Shown Mills

Furious, Insatiable Fighter,
by David Trimble

Like Grass Before the Scythe,
by Robert Bender

Lincoln in the Times,
by David Donald

*Loudoun County, VA,
A Photographic Portrait*,
by Rob Levin

Louisiana Sugar Plantations during the Civil War
by Charles Roland

New Annals of the Civil War,
by Peter Cozzens

Sad Earth, Sweet Heaven, by Lucy Buck

Slavery in the U.S., 2 vol.,
by Junius Rodriguez

The Lure of Loudoun, by Noel Grove

The Rebel and the Rose, by Wesley Millett

VA Immigrants & Adventurers,
by Martha McCartney

Virginia Indian Heritage Trail,
by Karenne Wood

Washington Images – Rare Maps, etc.,
by James Goode

The Library Director's Letter

Fall is always a busy time at Thomas Balch Library. This year was especially so with many special activities celebrating Loudoun County's 250th Anniversary. Our 250th Anniversary lecture series drew a total of 403 participants which augers well for our next special series celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Leesburg in 2008. Special thanks to members of the Friends who staffed a display at the Business Expo at Dulles Town Center on October 6 and also to those who worked the display at Court and Market Days October 20.

Thomas Balch Library hosted the fifteenth annual Loudoun History Awards sponsored by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission on Sunday November 11, 2007. Two Loudoun County residents and one group received awards. This year's honorees are the Laurel Brigade restoration and preservation group: Joe Ritenour, Dan Travostino, Christine Mougín-Boal, Stilson Greene and Rhonda Paice, for their role in restoring and preserving an historic landmark in Loudoun County; Lou Etta Watkins, for her longstanding commitment to Loudoun County heritage and its African American history; and Cate Magennis Wyatt, for her deep appreciation for the region's history and for her work in preserving it. In recognition of the Loudoun History Awards, an exhibit, curated by Stephanie Adams-Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, was installed at Thomas Balch Library. It highlighted four past Loudoun History Award winners: Vinton Liddell Pickens, 1993, for her paintings of historic houses; Elaine E. Thompson, 1998, for her work in preserving and promoting Loudoun County's African American history; Patricia B. Duncan, 2005, for her efforts to increase access to Loudoun County's records through abstracting and indexing; and The Honorable Thomas D. Horne,

2005, for his work uncovering and preserving the history of the courthouse square. We were pleased to be able to include artifacts from the courthouse lawn excavation on loan from The Honorable Thomas D. Horne.

In response to a recent increase in inquiries for internships, guidelines and information about the application process have been formalized. These may be found at <http://www.leesburgva.com/services/library/interns/>. In addition we now have 54 collection guides posted to the town website. Some of the newly processed collections are Thompson/Plaster X-Ray Co., BV 006 (ledger); Loudoun County Military Records, M 015 (copies of musters, rolls); *Loudoun Destiny*, SC 0024 (play); Loudoun Defenders of States Rights and Individual Liberties, SC 0025 (letters, meeting information), and Catocin Farmers' Club Records, M 034 (minutes and other records).

We are pleased to share with you the outstanding achievement of one of our volunteers. Emily Hershman, a volunteer who has been processing collections for us, was honored November 11, 2007 at the Loudoun County Public School's Excellence in Education banquet. The event recognized students who obtained a 4.0 or better during the first three years of high school. Please join the staff in congratulating Emily on this remarkable accomplishment.

Winter and spring program planning is currently underway. These events will be posted in the Winter Spring edition of the *Balch Column* and on line at <http://www.leesburgva.com/services/Library/Newsletter/>. A variety of exhibits and programs, including a special series reflecting Leesburg's history, will be offered.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director



PHOTO: JAMES P. ROBERTS

2007 History Awardees: Cate Magennis Wyatt, Nominator Joan Rokus, Lou Etta Watkins, Stilson Greene, Christine Mougín-Boal, Joe Ritenour, Rhonda Paice.

New and Renewing Members

Allen County Public Library
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