



1922-2008

The Thomas Balch Chronicle

The Newsletter of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg, Virginia
208 WEST MARKET STREET, LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 20176

A Library for History and Genealogy

Volume 12 Issue 4

Winter 2008

Friends' Endowment Fundraising Event for Thomas Balch Library at Oak Hill Highly Successful

Oak Hill, the historic estate on Route 15 near Aldie, was filled to capacity with guests on Saturday evening, September 20. The occasion was a fundraising event conducted by the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and was hosted by the estate's owners, Gayle and Thomas DeLashmutt. Guests were treated to hors d'oeuvres, strolls through Oak Hill's elegant gardens, and an address by Dr. Daniel Preston of Mary Washington University. Preston is currently editing the papers of James Monroe, who resided at Oak Hill, and has just published a biography of the fifth president. He conducted a book-signing at the conclusion of the evening. Guests also visited with James Monroe, in the person of historical enactor Jay Harrison, in full period costume.

According to Brenda Douglass, the president of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, the event was a huge success and raised more than \$20,000 for the establishment of a permanent endowment to support the library. She stated, "Oak Hill is a privately-owned property and we are profoundly grateful to the DeLashmutt's for opening their doors to us in support of this worthy cause."

This year marked the 250th anniversary of President Monroe's birth in Virginia and the Oak Hill event was one of several throughout the Commonwealth to celebrate the occasion. Monroe served as President of the United States from 1817-1825 and ran unopposed for re-election in 1820.



Above, owners of Oak Hill, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas DeLashmutt, and event speaker, Dr. Daniel Preston & Mrs. Preston join event chairperson Patty Rogers-Renner at Oak Hill.



(right) Historical Enactor and Interpreter, Jay Harrison, in full Monroe persona and regalia.

PHOTOS: CINDY BRIDGMAN

Annual Meeting of Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

The Friends organization, members and guests, will meet in the downstairs meeting room at the library at 2 pm, on January 18, 2009. Patrons will hear a report on the state of the Friends, its plans for the future, welcome new members, and participate in election of board directors for 2009.

A special treat this year will be an address by author and editor Donald R. Kennon, chief historian of the United States Capitol Historical Society. Among numerous other works, Mr. Kennon is editor of *The United States Capitol: Designing and Decorating a National Icon*. This comprehensive and impressive volume contains "perspectives on the Art and Architectural History of the United States Capitol." Appropriately at this time, Mr. Kennon will address "Inaugurations Past and Present: A Look at the History Behind the Pomp and Circumstance."

All are welcome. Please join us for an entertaining and instructive afternoon. Snow date: 1/25/09.

Be sure to renew your membership in the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. Your membership ensures your playing an important part in supporting the collections and programs of Thomas Balch Library. Check your label for your renewal date

NOTE: Thomas Balch Library plans to produce a DVD and a booklet featuring the special lecture series honoring the 250th Anniversary of Leesburg. The package will be similar to the one produced for Loudoun's 250th Anniversary. That package contains a booklet and DVD. It is available from Thomas Balch Library, for \$15.00.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

P.O. Box 2184
Leesburg, VA 20177

E-Mail:

info@balchfriends.org

Website:

www.balchfriends.org

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Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lectures: Synopsises of the Final Three in the Series

Beginning in Spring 2008, the first three of six Thomas Balch Library Loudoun County's 250th Anniversary Lectures were presented. The lecture series honors the Town of Leesburg's 250th Anniversary. The final three lectures were equally well received. Sponsoring organizations are Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg, TBL Advisory Commission, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., and the Loudoun County Historical Society, with support from community groups. First off, this fall was a panel presentation on "Leesburg as Transportation Hub." Paul McCray, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority who spoke about the railroads in Loudoun County, Tim Deike, of Leesburg Executive Airport, and Noel Grove, who addressed Loudoun's roads.

ROADS IN COLONIAL LOUDOUN

The early European settlers in Loudoun owed a considerable debt to the original occupants, the Native Americans. Algonkian tribes that proliferated in this area regularly burned the forests to open them up and create grazing for the herbivores they hunted. They also wore trails in traveling from one important place to another.

When Europeans began moving into Loudoun after the Indian threat was removed, the new settlers made use of the open areas for farmland and turned the trails into roads. Two of the major roads, now Routes 9 and 15, intersected and inspired the location of Leesburg, the seat of the new county.

Smaller roads evolved as Loudoun became a grain-producing area and grist mills sprang up along streams. Farmers hauled their grains to the mills to be ground into flour, and the flour was then hauled to main roads by wagon and carried to the international port in Alexandria.

The roads were dirt, which turned to powdery dust in dry weather and into a quagmire in wet. Wagons pulled by horses or oxen only made 10-20 miles per day, so "ordinaries" or inns sprang up where traffic was heaviest. The county attempted to regulate ordinaries but most were not comfortable and cleanliness was suspect.

Transportation by road was so difficult that some farm produce was moved to market by flatboat on the Potomac, and later on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The Goose Creek and Little River Navigation Company attempted to make two lesser streams navigable, but the company went bankrupt before the project was completed. By that time, around 1850, trains had become the popular means of getting Loudoun's farm products to the Washington area, but Leesburg continued to be an important crossroads and rail destination.

Noel Grove

LEESBURG EXECUTIVE AIRPORT:

Leesburg Airport began as George's Field until 1950 when Arthur Godfrey owned it and it became the "Old Cow Pasture" of his radio show fame. Mr. Godfrey flew a DC-3 aircraft from his field to New York to perform his radio broadcasts. His plane was rather loud and the Town Council appointed a panel to find a new location for the airport. The airport was sold and half of the proceeds were used to partner with the Federal and State governments to purchase the property.

Since that time airports have grown exponentially. The U.S. now has some 257 air carrier airports and over 19,000 general aviation airports. A general aviation airport now sits adjacent to every city and town a person would need to do business with.

In 2004 the Department of Aviation Virginia released an Economic Impact Study on the 66 Virginia airports and their contribution to the regional economies. Leesburg contributes 617 jobs, \$16,966,000 in wages and \$40,582,000 in economic activity. All total, the Virginia Airports System generates \$10.8 billion in economic activity and \$5 billion in wages.

In addition, airports also provide the following services to the communities they serve: Airline service; Search & Rescue; Air Medical Transport; Public Safety; Recreation & Tourism; Just-in-time shipping; Weather Reporting and Corporate Travel.

Everyday businesses travel to the Leesburg Airport. They come and stay at our hotels, eat in our restaurants and purchase our goods and services. This is called the multiplier effect. While the airport itself receives no money for these operations, the region receives a great benefit from our airport just being here.

Tim Deike

RAILROADS IN LEESBURG & LOUDOUN

By the early 1800's, Leesburg was an established crossroads and business center, serving the Loudoun Valley agricultural community. But with roads still fairly primitive and the markets of Alexandria and Washington a several day's journey there and back by wagon or horse, it couldn't serve the larger region. Moving farm produce, particularly perishable goods, was especially difficult.

Solutions came in the form of the C&O Canal on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River and the B&O Railroad built nearby. This diversion of goods to Baltimore caused a group of businessmen in Alexandria to petition the state to charter a railroad which would run from their city to Leesburg and beyond.

The Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad reached Leesburg by May of 1860, immediately bringing an increase in business to the town and making travel of all sorts easier. Riding from Leesburg to Alexandria was a swift two-hour trip...much faster than by road. One of the perishable products that soon became a staple in town was oysters. Previously difficult to keep fresh on a long journey, these plentiful shellfish could be quickly and cheaply transported from the port in Alexandria in the morning and on the table in Leesburg by afternoon.

The success of the railroad was interrupted, however, by the outbreak of the Civil War when Confederate troops destroyed much of the line. The railroad was slow in rebuilding after the war and, through a series of owners, was never financially strong or viable enough to build beyond Bluemont.

One of the reasons prosperity eluded the rail line was the improvement of roads and motor vehicles. As it became easier and more affordable to commute or ship goods on roads, fewer used the railroad. The last company to run the rail line was the Washington & Old Dominion, and it

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Continued from page 2 Railroads

limped along until 1968 when it was abandoned. Within five years, work began converting the property to a



PHOTO: DWAYNE P/WIKIPEDIA

Clarke's Gap W&OD Underpass

recreational, multi-use trail, once again serving as a major transportation route. However, the route is once again threatened. Dominion Electric Power Company, owner of the right-of-way, plans to install new above-ground power lines along the trail. If approved, the only transporting will be electricity to power the ever expanding Northern Virginia region.

Paul McCray

LEESBURG'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY: AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE

On September 28, three speakers discussed Leesburg's rich black history with a focus on community. Illustrating her talk with PowerPoint slides, independent historian Deborah Lee shared stories of the Town's African American residents and visitors during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Because of the Town's geography between North and South, its proximity to the Nation's capitol, and the ethnic diversity of its population, African Americans here enjoyed a relatively rich informal education and a high degree of connectedness.

Elaine Thompson, author of *In the Watchfires* and numerous essays, explained the role of NAACP and Howard Law School attorney Charles H. Houston in local as well as national civil rights agitation. Houston led the defense counsel in a murder trial in Leesburg in 1932-33 and became the first African American to argue a ma-

major case in a southern courtroom. In that case, Houston worked with local black citizens to demonstrate their exclusion from juries. Later in the decade, black citizens enlisted his help in obtaining a high school for black students.

Rev. Harold Stinger, pastor of First Mount Olive Baptist Church, expounded upon the important spiritual and practical role of African American churches. Because of the added burdens of social inequality and racial oppression, black people have historically "walked closer to God." The church taught that all people were equal and precious in God's eyes and helped them cope. It served as the hub of the community, providing fellowship, leadership opportunities, and aid to its members. It also facilitated communication with African Americans locally, nationally, and globally.

Dr. Deborah Lee

LEESBURG, 1774: "ADVANTAGEOUSLY SITUATED, INDIFFERENTLY BUILT"

On the eve of the American Revolution, Leesburg was a far cry from the picturesque town it is today. French traveler du Roi the Elder wrote that Leesburg had "about 50 houses, which are badly constructed.... It is a wretched place." Still, what Leesburg symbolized was a new type of America—independent, rapidly growing, and a patchwork quilt of cultures and faiths.

Leesburg began life at the intersection of the Great Road from Alexandria to Winchester and the ancient north-south Carolina Road, a tent camp of refugees from the Shenandoah Valley, where the French and Indian War was raging. They named the camp "George Town" to honor King George II. In 1757, western Fairfax was granted status as a new county, Loudoun, by the General Assembly. George Town sat in the center of the county, and was an ideal place for a county seat to be established.

Thus the formal establishment of Leesburg came on October 12, 1758. The small community was renamed Leesburg in honor of Thomas Lee, a man of prominence in Virginia politics. The land on which Leesburg was situated was owned by Nicholas Minor, who had hired surveyor John Hough to survey his land and lay it out into seventy 1/2 acre lots. Deeds that Minor issued for town lots contained covenants insisting that each purchaser "build, erect and finish on said Lott one house of twenty feet long and sixteen feet . . . within three years."

By 1774, English traveler Nicholas Cresswell could write, "Monday 28th, 1774. Viewing the town. It is regularly laid off in squares, but very indifferently built and few inhabitants and little trade, tho' very advantageously situated . . ." In common for these early roads through town was *mud*, with pigs often running loose and enjoying their nature, and along them, simple, small, mostly tentative log or stone houses, taverns, and shops.

Some of the buildings stood out. There was the Loudoun County courthouse, which stood at the intersection of Market and King Streets. Construction had begun in the fall of 1758,

with the first sessions able to be held there by November 1760. This first courthouse measured only 40'x 28', with an attached 16'x 16' jury room. Construction of a bell tower was authorized in 1769, but not completed until 1773 or 1774. The courthouse was the center of activity in the town. In Cresswell's Journal, dated December 12, 1774, we find: "Court day. A great number of litigious suits. The people seem to be fond of law . . ." The courthouse yard was where public meetings were held, where the county militia mustered for annual training, and was overrun with social, commercial, and official activity during court days.

There were several ordinaries, or simple taverns, in Leesburg, including Mosses' and Herryford's near the courthouse. McCabe's Ordinary on Loudoun Street is still standing and known to most in Leesburg today as "the Patterson House." The ordinaries served food and liquor, and provided accommodations in shared beds or straw ticks on the floor. They were a place to pick up mail, and above all, provided the news from travelers coming through town who had been to the outside world.

Leesburg had its shops, too. There was the inevitable blacksmith and other such needful businesses, as well as shops that indicated a community and county growing in wealth. How else to explain the still-standing log shop of Leesburg silversmith Stephen Donaldson, today part of the Loudoun Museum?

Perhaps most indicative of the nature of Leesburg were its several churches. Of course there was the official Anglican Church that met in the courthouse. Due to its duties of keeping birth, marriage, and death records, caring for the poor, and maintaining local roads, all citizens were taxed for it. It was dominated by Loudoun's landed gentry. There was also a Methodist Church. The parishioners purchased land for this meeting house in May of 1766. Their stone structure on Cornwall Street was erected by 1770, the first Methodist meeting house to be built in the colonies. Although this stone Methodist Church is now gone,

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the site is maintained and interpreted and its graveyard preserved.

Leesburg residents were an up-and-coming set, risk-takers by their businesses, often religiously independent of the English tradition of the official church, sometimes Scottish or Scots-Irish, and not necessarily included in the day-to-day governing. But they knew what they were about—and it boded ill for the American-British bond. On June 14, 1774, hundreds of Leesburg and Loudoun residents gathered in the courthouse yard to let Parliament know just how they had come to feel. Reacting to the British government's clamp-down on Massachusetts and Boston, they resolved,

... We will always cheerfully submit to such prerogatives as his Majesty has a right, by law to exercise, as Sovereign of the British Dominions, and to no others . . . It is beneath the dignity of freemen to submit to any tax not imposed on them in the usual manner, by representatives of their own choosing . . .

The people of Leesburg may have lived in a town of "few and insignificant wood houses" as Hessian surgeon Dr. Johann Schoepf wrote in 1783, but visible not just by their "Loudoun Resolves" but they were on the cutting edge of the America that would replace their colonial society.

Richard & Tracy Gillespie

New Leesburg Postcards



BETH SCHUSTER



JIM HANNA

EDITOR'S NOTE:

IT HAS LONG BEEN THIS EDITOR'S HOPE THAT ALL LECTURES AND PROGRAMS PRESENTED AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE, IF NOT IN THEIR ENTIRETY, IN SYNOPSIS FORM, FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF PATRONS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE EVENT. WE ARE PLEASED TO PROVIDE, AT LAST, THE ONE PRESENTED BY AUTHOR DAVID A. DOHENY ON OCTOBER 26.

The Country Squire Who Changed Washington David Finley, Quiet Force for America's Arts

One small, quiet, part-time resident of Loudoun County had an enormous influence on the cultural growth of America during the middle third of the 20th century. David E. Finley, "lawyer by profession, connoisseur and cosmopolite by taste" and Andrew Mellon's right-hand man in creating the National Gallery of Art, married Margaret Eustis at her family's Oatlands House in June 1931. For the next 45 years, they spent their weekends and vacations at Little Oatlands where they entertained such guests as Andrew Mellon, Ailsa Mellon Bruce, Lady Nancy Astor, Lord Kenneth Clark and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

To all local appearances, David Finley was a modest country squire. But back in Washington, he carried on a monumental career on the cutting edge of the cultural growth of the nation. In 1927, Andrew Mellon tapped him from the legal staff of the Treasury Department to create the National Gallery serving as its founding Director 1938-1956. During the Second World War, Finley led one of America's finest hours - the rescue of the artworks of Europe by the Roberts Commission and their Monuments Men imbedded in the U.S. Army and Air Force. After the war, Finley founded the National Trust for Historic Preservation, serving as Chairman 1949 -1962. After her mother Edith Morton Eustis died in 1964, Margaret Finley and her sister Anne Emmett gave Oatlands to the National Trust for perpetual protection.

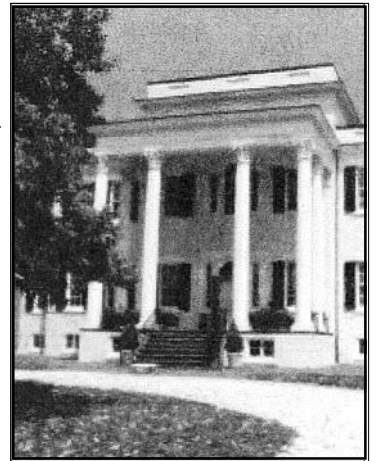


PHOTO: STACY MORDOCK

Oatlands House

It is too easy to forget that many of the institutions that advance, support, and protect our cultural heritage would not exist today but for the hard work, perseverance, and personal influence of individual Americans like David E. Finley. For the first time, his achievements have been chronicled in a comprehensive biography by David Doheny, a former vice president and general counsel of the National Trust. Based on copious archival sources, enlivened by Finley's recently-discovered journals, and richly illustrated, the author brings to life Finley's role in fostering America's cultural maturity during the mid-20th century, and details the National Trust's early struggles and accomplishments.

David A. Doheny was born in Canada, grew up in Illinois and studied art history at Williams College and law at Harvard, wrapped around a stint with the U.S. Army in Korea and Japan. After practicing corporate law in Chicago and Miami and as a state and federal prosecutor, he came to Washington in 1985 as general counsel for the National Trust, where he became interested in the life and work of David Finley. After his retirement from the Trust in 1996, he spent most of the next decade researching and writing Finley's story. At the lecture, Doheny shared his insights into this fascinating chapter in national and local history.

Copies of the book are available for purchase through Oatlands Historic House and Gardens Gift Shop.

**Don't Miss the Friends' Annual Meeting
January 18, 2009 2 PM**

Advisory Commission Loudoun History Awards - 2008



THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION (VC RG08). THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, LEESBURG, VA.

*The 2008 Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Loudoun History Awardees:
l to r: Mitch Diamond; Stevan F. Meserve, Sandra
& Phil Ehrenkranz; James P. Roberts.*

November 9 saw the presentation of the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission's sixteenth annual Loudoun History Awards to four local historians. The History Awards are the Commission's way to recognize individuals and organizations that work to preserve various aspects of Loudoun County's history.

Mitch Diamond researched and worked to secure two federal grants for the Unison Preservation Society. His efforts to reevaluate the little known but vital three-day Battle of Unison resulted in a study/mapping grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. He was further instrumental in securing a place for the eight-mile-wide battlefield on the State and National Registers of Historic Places

Sandra and Phil Ehrenkranz were recognized for their preservation of historic sites. Making their home in several historic sites which they restored, gives them a place here, without question. However another facet of their lives secured their honor: their successful efforts to halt the plans of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Fairfax County Water Authority to construct a dam on Catoctin Creek, that would have resulted in the flooding of Taylorstown and the Catoctin Valley as far as Waterford. The 'invaders' were repelled, thanks in large part to this couple and other members of the community. Additional positive results from this action were the establishment of the Taylorstown Historic District and the inclusion of Catoctin Creek in the Virginia Scenic River system. The Ehrenkranz pair con-

tinues to rescue historic buildings, the most recent, the restoration of a derelict structure near Taylorstown resulting in a first place for Historic Preservation from the American Institute of Architects.

Co-founder and president of the Eastern Loudoun County Civil War Round Table, historian Stevan F. Meserve is the author of *The Civil War in Loudoun County: A History of Hard Times*. His other activities include photograph research for Time-Life's *The Civil War Images of an American Tragedy* and he serves as a contributor to the Library of Congress's *Civil War Desk Reference*. He says his lifelong interest in the Civil War stems from the fact his ancestors fought in the Civil War, and on opposite sides.

James P. Roberts was cited for his "varied and important contributions toward preserving the county's history." Where to start? Roberts, a Loudoun native, has received various accolades for his civic contributions to the Boy Scouts, the Middleburg Volunteer Fire Company, Windy Hill Foundation and the Middleburg Town Council. His popular walking tours of Leesburg are renowned for his way of weaving together his first-hand historical accounts of segregation with his deep knowledge of the town – interspersed with reminiscences of his boyhood pranks. As a photographer, Roberts has visually preserved sites of local history all around the county. A member of the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, he continues to advocate the preservation of historical documents and places.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Adams-Jefferson Letters, by Lester Cappon
Artisan Workers in the Upper South, by L. Diane Barnes
Cherokee Connections, by Myra Gormley
Episodes of Gettysburg & the Underground Railroad, by G. Craig Caba
Fabric of America, by Andro Lindlater
Franklin & Lucy, by Joseph Persico
Genealogical Proof Standard, by Christine Rose
Good Wives, Nasty Wenches & Anxious Patriarchs, by Kathleen Brown
Groundwork – Charles H. Houston, by Genna McNeil
Irons in the Fire (Tayloe Family), by Laura Kamoie
James Monroe, an Illustrated History, by Daniel Preston
Making of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, by Teresa Moyer
Pritchard Family History – 2 vol., by Emily Cary
Scott County, VA, Cemeteries (multi-volumes), by Phyllis Peterson
Scott County, VA, Marriages (multi-volumes), by Phyllis Peterson
Simms Family of Stafford County, by William Hall
The Coles of Cole Hill, by John Cole
The River Flows On By, by Walter Rucker
Voices of Emancipation, by Elizabeth Regosin

Compiled by LaVonne Markham

MORE RESOURCES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Find Books at Thomas Balch Library using Horizon --
Shared catalog with Loudoun County Public Libraries
Loudoun County Cemetery Database
Architectural File Indices
Map Index
Newspaper Index
(Available In-House only)

IN-HOUSE ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Access NewspaperArchive.com
America: History and Life
Ancestry Library Edition
Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970TM (Virginia)
Footnote.com
HeritageQuest Online
New England Historic and Genealogical Society

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

M. Kathleen Ault
Mrs. James D. Bartlett
Betty L. Bauer
Carolyn & John Beck
Tracy Coffing & Ron Rogos
June Francis
Alexandra S. Gressitt
Mrs. John Gressitt
Rebecca Groff
Mary W. Harris
Forest L. Hough
Terry & Sarah McCracken
Elizabeth L. McNair
George & Austin Miller
Susan K. Olsen
Joseph & Romaine Perritte
Diane M. Rice
Joan G. Rokus
Wynne C. Saffer
Ann Schneider
John & Bronwen Souders
Kay Barnhouse Stout
Nancy Williamson

A REMINDER

Be sure to renew your Friends' membership. Check your label for your renewal date, and use the form below to enlist your friends, now.

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

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

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

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

Please forward with your check to:

**FRIENDS OF THE
THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC**
PO Box 2184 Leesburg, VA 20177

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

The Library Director's Letter

Thomas Balch Library is the recipient of a \$10,000 Founders Grant from INOVA hospital for their Loudoun Laurels oral history program. While I attended the Friends fall event at Oak Hill, John Wells, Town Manager, represented the Town of Leesburg and Thomas Balch Library at INOVA's inaugural event September 20. Childs Frick Burden, Eugene Scheel, and Kim Hart are the first to be recognized by the Loudoun Laurels program. Town Council recognized Randall L. Kelley, Chief Executive Officer, INOVA Loudoun Hospital, with a certificate of appreciation on September 23. At the same meeting I presented Council with copies of the Loudoun 250th Anniversary Lecture Series DVD/Booklet. This booklet has been distributed to Loudoun County High Schools for their media centers and is available for purchase through the Library or from the Friends for \$15.

On October 15 Town Council issued a proclamation for Archives Month—Becky Ottinger, a long time volunteer at Thomas Balch Library, was present to accept it. She and I both made appropriate remarks concerning the significance of TBL. During the month posters and a copy of the proclamation were displayed.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission held the sixteenth annual Loudoun History Awards on November 9. This year's honorees are Mitch Diamond, for his role in researching and verifying a little known Civil War battle at Unison, Phil and Sandra Ehrenkranz, for their work to preserve historic sites, Stevan F. Meserve, for his 2008 publication *The Civil War in Loudoun County: A History of Hard Times*, and James P. Roberts, for his contributions as a volunteer, local historian, and preservationist. Although unable to attend the ceremony, Alexander I. Bailey, recipient of the 2008 Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Social Science Award was recognized for his mapping project *Historical Sites in Leesburg*.

A revised and updated researcher's brochure is now available on request. Three new postcards are available for sale: *Town Hall* donated to us by the architects of Town Hall, Hanno Weber & Associates, *Historic Images of Leesburg* created by staff member Beth Schuster utilizing images from Visual Collections at TBL, and *Thomas Balch Library*, the image donated to us by photographer Jim Hanna. There will be small increases in two fees charged at the library beginning January 2009. Our charge to a patron for an Interlibrary Loan request will increase one dollar to \$4. This is only a small portion of the per request cost to the Library which is \$15.25. Self serve photocopy/reader printer charges will be raised to \$0.25 per page (from \$0.20).

Maria Sogegian, a part-time reference staff member, was offered and accepted the position as head librarian at Loudoun Country Day School. While we were sorry to see her leave, we wish her great success. Trina K. Winant has now joined the staff in that position providing reference service for patrons most often on Monday afternoons and alternate Sundays. Trina holds a BA in Speech Communication from Blackburn College, Carlinville IL, an MLS (Reference and Cataloguing) from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and an MA in Speech Communication from the University of Minnesota, Mankato, MN. She has lived in Virginia for a number of years working first in Blacksburg, VA for VTLS, Inc., a library software company, before moving to Northern Virginia.

The Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture series concluded in November. The six programs were recorded and we plan to produce a Booklet/DVD to be available sometime in 2009. These lectures as well as our regular lecture series were hugely successful. Programs for the remainder of 2008 include: Saturday, November 29, 11AM- *BBQ Joints Stores and Recipes from the Barbeque Belt* – David Gelin (*books will be available the day of the event for \$15*); Thursday, December 4, 10-12- Loudoun County Historic Building Files, Assessment and Parcel Database - Mary Pender and John Berfield - part of the Maximizing Your Time at Thomas Balch Library; Sunday, December 7, 2PM- *Purcellville Virginia 1908-2008 A Centennial Anthology* – Deborah Lee, editor (*books will be available*); and Sunday, December 14, 2PM- *The Rescue of Streetcar 304: A Navy Pilot's Forty Hours on the Run in Laos* – Kenny Wayne Fields (*books will be available the day of the event*). If you missed our lectures in 2008 stay tuned for our spring lecture series. Information on these programs will be posted to the Library website and will be available in the next issue of the *Balch Column*.

The library is very active – by frequently checking our website, you will be able to keep up with our activities, research collection additions, and events. As always it will be my pleasure to welcome you when visiting Thomas Balch Library or when attending

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

FRIENDS OF
THOMAS
BALCH
LIBRARY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2184
LEESBURG, VA
20177

TELEPHONE
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Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads

- Volume 1 **Eastern Loudoun: Goin' Down the Country**
 - Volume 2 **Leesburg and the Old Carolina Road**
 - Volume 3 **The Hunt Country and Middleburg**
 - Volume 4 **Quaker Country and the Loudoun Valley**
 - Volume 5 **Waterford, the German Settlement and Between the Hills**
- each volume: \$ 20.00
- Set of all 5 volumes plus Eugene Scheel's **New Historical Map of Loudoun County** \$100.00
 - Individual copies of the **Historical Map** \$ 10.00
 - 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 County, Virginia 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 E. Thompson \$ 20.00
 - George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist, & Musician** by Lemoine D. Pierce \$ 10.00
 - Journey Through Time** by Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library \$ 5.00
 - "The Imperious Laird": John Campbell, Fourth Earl of Loudoun** by Douglas W. Foard, Ph.D. \$ 15.00
 - Billy Pierce: Dance Master, Son of Purcellville** by Lemoine D. Pierce \$ 15.00
 - Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem Loudoun County 250th Anniversary Lecture Series** \$ 15.00

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FTBL ANNUAL MEETING
2 PM- JANUARY 18, 2009
MARK YOUR CALENDARS - NOW!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thursday, 4 December 2008, 10-11:30AM - Mary A. Pender, a part-time librarian and cataloger at Thomas Balch Library has an undergraduate degree from the College of William & Mary and an MLIS from University of Texas at Austin. A Project Manager for Loudoun County's Land Records System, she has been employed with the Building and Development Department since 1998. She is currently part of a development team working on the County's first online permitting system. John Berfield, a Library Assistant, earned his BA in Geography, with concentrations in Cartography and Urban Planning, and a Minor in History, from Virginia Tech. He retired from a Planner position with the Loudoun County Department of Building and Development in 2005. His work at the county included contributing toward the addition of several historic structure files, including chain of title information, in the Lewis/Edwards Files.

Sunday, 7 December 2008, 2 PM - Purcellville, Virginia, 1908-2008: A Centennial Anthology - Purcellville historian Deborah Lee and members of the town's Centennial Committee assembled a collection that in Lee's engaging narrative, weaves together memoir, histories, and tributes, all richly illustrated with photographs, old and new, and paintings by talented local artists. Lee will share stories from the book and about its making, accompanied by slides. She will sign copies of the book, which will be available for purchase.

Sunday, 14 December 2008, 2 PM - The Rescue of Streetcar 304: A Navy Pilot's Forty Hours on the Run in Laos - Kenny Wayne Fields. On 31 May 1968, Lt. Kenny Fields catapulted off USS *America* in his A-7 for his first combat mission. His target was in Laos, and Fields was shot down. *The Rescue of Streetcar 304* is Fields' exhilarating narrative of the 40-hour ordeal that followed, and what turned out to be one of the largest air rescues of the Vietnam War. Copies of his best-selling book, at the Air & Space Museums since 2007, will be available for purchase.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission meets at the Library, at 7 PM, the second Wednesday of every month. The public is always welcome.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., a 501c3 corporation organized to provide support for Thomas Balch Library, meets at the Library the third Tuesday of every other month at 8:30 AM. The public is always welcome. For more information call 703-737-2166 or visit www.balchfriends.org.

Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. meets at the Library the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 PM. The public is always welcome. For more information visit www.balchfriends.org.

Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. Because of limited seating, we recommend registering in advance by calling 703-737-7195.