



1922-2009

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 13 Issue 1

Spring 2009

Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., 12th Annual Meeting – January 18, 2009

Despite chilly and nasty weather on January 18, more than 30 members and guests of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library met at Thomas Balch Library to elect their new board. They also said farewell to departing board members, while welcoming new additions. (See page 4, Welcome from new Board President, Lewis Leigh, Jr.)

Of great interest and enjoyment was an illustrated talk by Dr. Donald R. Kennon, chief historian of the United States Capitol Historical Society. He is co-editor of the Ohio University Press series *Perspectives on the History of Congress 1789-1801* and editor of the series *Perspectives on the Art and Architectural History of the United States Capitol*.

A synopsis of his remarks, unfortunately without his wonderful illustrations:

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATIONS, PAST & PRESENT

Shortly after noon on January 20, 2009, Barack Obama will take the oath of office as the 44th President of the United States of America. The 20th Amendment to the Constitution provides that the term of the President begins at noon on January 20; however, before executing the powers of the office the President must take the following oath as specified in Article II, section 1 of the Constitution:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Prior to 1937, Inauguration Day was set on March 4. The first inauguration, however, didn't take place on March 4, 1789, but nearly two months later on April 30. Because Congress met in Federal Hall, Washington went there to take the oath of office. Because no Supreme Court justices had been appointed, the oath was administered by Robert Livingston, Chancellor of New York State. The Bible used in the ceremony had been borrowed from nearby St. John's Masonic Lodge when none could be found in Federal Hall.

The first inauguration to take place at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., was one of the most significant in our history. Thomas Jefferson's March 4, 1801 inauguration was the first instance in which the presidency changed political parties. It was also the result of the first time an election had to be decided by the House of Representatives. The semicircular Senate Chamber was crowded with spectators as Jefferson gave his inaugural address, carefully worded to reassure his Federalist opponents that

“We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists.”

In 1829 the inauguration of Andrew Jackson moved the ceremony to the East Portico of the Capitol. Because of the crowd at the Capitol's east front, a ship's cable had been stretched across the stairs to keep the crowd back. At the close of the ceremony, the crowd pressed forward to greet Jackson, the cable broke and the President had to leave by the west door where he mounted a horse and rode back to the White House.

The Capitol's East Front remained the usual site for Presidential inaugurations until 1981. Lincoln's first inauguration in 1861 took place in an atmosphere of danger and apprehension. The Capitol was still a work in progress—the cast-iron dome was still under construction. Its completion, Lincoln is reported to have said later, was a sign that the Union would survive the Civil War.

Lincoln's second inaugural, 1865, came just as the Civil War was drawing to a close. A war-weary President ennobled the occasion with his inaugural address which many consider the greatest speech in American history. His second inaugural address is a somber, deeply-felt, and articulate meditation on the meaning of the Civil War to the soul of America. The last paragraph, beginning “With malice toward none, with charity for all” is the most famous of any Presidential Inaugural speech.

In 1981, the inauguration of Ronald Reagan was moved to the West Front of the Capitol, setting a new precedent that continues to this day. The West Front location provides more space for spectators and a larger platform for dignitaries; but most of all, with its sweeping vista of the Mall, the West Front is best suited for televising the event and permitting the new President his first opportunity to demonstrate that most important of qualities, being “presidential.”

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

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Newspapers: Rich Material for the Patient Researcher

Whether researching a genealogy or exploring a particular historical era, newspapers can be a bonanza of information. They provide an understanding of the issues of the day, national and local events, estate transactions, property sales and business advertisements. Also to be found are births, marriages, deaths, public opinions in letters to the editor, and politics of the day. Access to this treasure trove at Thomas Balch Library may through pages of hard copy, available at the library, microfilm, or online. Whatever your interest, it most likely will be satisfied here. Knowledgeable staff is always ready to assist you in your search. Here's a sample of newspaper holdings at Thomas Balch Library:

Newspapers Housed at Thomas Balch Library

(Current on-going subscriptions)

Blue Ridge Leader-2007-current
Charleston Mercury -2008- retains one year
Leesburg Today - 2004 to current
Loudoun Business -2004 current
Loudoun Independent- 2005-current
Loudoun Times Mirror - retains current copies until microfilm received - usually one year
Middleburg Eccentric-2005- current
Middleburg Life-1983-1997; 2008-current
Times U.K.Literary Supplement-2007-current (catalogued in Horizon)
Washington Post-retains one month.
(Loudoun Extra retained permanently)

Newspapers on Microfilm

Afro American (various editions) 1893-1967
Alexandria Gazette 1784-1866
Am. & Commercial Advertiser 1861-1862
Blue Ridge Herald 1924-1957
Loudoun News 1937-42
Loudoun Telephone 1881-1896
Democratic Mirror 1857-1861
The Mirror 1865-1902
Loudoun Mirror 1908-1931
Loudoun Times 1920-1924
Record 1903-1906 (incomplete run)
Loudoun Times Mirror 1925-2007

Loudoun Telephone 1892-1893
Loudoun Whig 1848-1849 (incomplete run)
Weekly Enterprise 1891-1896
Loudoun Times 1917-1922
The Independent 1846-1876 (incomplete run)
The Loudoun Chronicle 1876
Washingtonian 1810-1811
Washingtonian Mirror 1903-1907 (incomplete run)
Washingtonian 1828-1907 (incomplete run)
Genius of Liberty 1817-1820

There are other newspapers held but no longer received:

Some are in hardcopy and have not been microfilmed

NOTE:Thomas Balch Library seeks past issues to fill gaps.

Genius of Liberty - incomplete run
Loudoun Easterner-incomplete-1975, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1982, 2007, 2008 no longer published
Purcellville Gazette- incomplete-2004-2006- now online
Loudoun Connection Ashburn Edition- incomplete- 2005 -2007 now online
Loudoun Connection South Riding Edition – incomplete 2007 - 2008 – now online
Loudoun Connection – incomplete - 2005-2008 now online
Friday Time – incomplete 2004-2005 - no longer published
Public Pamphlet -incomplete 1979-1986 - no longer published

New Acquisitions at Thomas Balch Library

250 Years in Fauquier County., by Kathi Brown
A Kind of Fate, by G.Terry Sharrer
Along Virginia's Route 15, by Josei Ballato
American Social Classes in the 1950s, by Daniel Horowitz
Augusta County, Virginia, Earliest Will Index,
by Elizabeth Sherman
Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward, by Anne Hooper
Brunswick, by Mary Rubin
Confronting Southern Poverty, by David Carlton
Family Photographs, by Jayne Shrimpton
Kentuckians in Gray, by Bruce Allardice

Mapping a Continent, by Raymonde Litalien
Mosby's Keydet Rangers, by Eric Buckland
Mr. Gatling's Terrible Marvel, by Julia Keller
Privacy & Confidentiality Issues, by Theresa Chmara
Slavery in White and Black, by Elizabeth Fox-Genovese
Southern Built, by Catherine Bishir
Talking Back to Civilization, by Frederick Hoxie
The Buildings of Main Street, by Richard Longstreth
The Civil War on Pensacola Bay, by John Driscoll
Vicksburg's Long Shadow, by Christopher Waldrep
Your Life, Your Community, 3 volumes, by Frederick News-Post

Compiled by LaVonne Markham

Black History Month Honored with Special Exhibit at Library

February, traditionally set aside to honor Black History Month, is marked this year with an exhibit at Thomas Balch Library. entitled *African Americans: Their Role in Loudoun's History*. Assembled by committee member Louis Jett, it features photos and other documents contributed by local families that represent the rich culture contributed to Loudoun County.

Unforgotten: Slave Quarters and Other African American Sites, an exhibit of paintings by Sherry Zvares Sanabria, continues through March 17, 2009. Presented by The George Washington University Virginia Campus and the Gallery 222/Loudoun Academy of the Arts Foundation, her luminous and haunting images are on display at 44983 Knoll Square, Ashburn, Virginia. Don't miss it.

THE TRUE AMERICAN WAS A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT THE TURN OF THE 18TH CENTURY BY LEESBURG EDITOR PATRICK McINTYRE. FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT, A FEW "CLASSIFIEDS" FROM THE DECEMBER, 1800 ISSUE. (WE BORROWED THESE FROM THE JULY 1996 ISSUE OF THE THOMAS BALCH CHRONICLE.)

NOTICE

Those who have claims on the estate of the late Colo. Burgess Ball, are desired to forward a statement of them to Mrs. Ball, as the administrators are anxious to make provision for the immediate payment of them.

December 8th, 1800

For sale or to rent the following

Property: One LOT containing about 150 Acres of land whereon the subscriber now lives, upon the LOT, are a Dwelling House, Barn, and other useful buildings, a young Orchard, with meadow ground, &c. One LOT adjoining the above of two acres, with a small Log House, convenient to a good spring and is an excellent stand for tavern or waggon yard.

One LOT on the North side of the road leading from Leesburg to Winchester containing about fifty Acres, with a new barn thereon, LOTS of one acre each, to be laid off on the East side of Leesburg, in a line with Loudoun and Market Streets. The purchaser may be accommodated with about eighty acres of wood land not more than one mile from the above LOTS.

If this property is not sold or rented by Loudoun Feb. Court next, the LOTS of One acre each will be offered at public sale or let on ground rent, on the premises for a number of years, on the second day of said Court. For further particulars,

enquire

of JOHN LITTLEJOHN

Dec. 02, 1800

TO THE PUBLIC

The present number of the True American compleats this year. The contracted limits of this paper (as it now appears) won't admit of a copious detail of foreign & domestic news, the Editor wishing to please the public and also make the paper as pleasing a fit vehicle, for the most important and useful matter: he proposes in as short a time as possible to change his present size of printing paper, into a royal size. His present resource to feed the press with all her necessary exigencies incident to this addition, are sensations not a little interesting, but trusting as he does, upon the free and good will of his patrons; hope to meet their decided opinions for the enlargement, Introductions of a literary, moral or political nature, will meet with a due reception from him. As foreign news is generally looked after by the public, I shall let its exertion be wanted with me in detection of the earliest, the most important, impartially. As Congress has commenced her official proceedings an investigation of their works must be looked for and nicely attended to, by everyone who feels a warmth for the good of his country, which I trust all Americans feel. This town being the second nearest to the City of Washington, of any other in Virginia where a paper is published, it is to be presumed, that news contained in this paper will be earlier than another, at the price of two dollars per year.

I cannot conclude without observing I appreciate their encouraging conduct to their

Humble Servant,
PATRICK McINTYRE

THE subscriber wishes to take an apprentice to the Wheel and Chair making business; a journey man will find employ on good terms and for a considerable time, by immediate application to

JOSEPH KNOX

We are authorized to inform the freeholders of thie County, that Colo. JOSEPH LANE. will serve as their Representative in the state Legislature if elected

THE SIGN OF THE HORSE

THE Prop' er having removed from Faquire County to Leesburg—begs Leave to inform his friends and the Public in general that he has opened a house of entertainment, in the house formerly occupied as such by Mr. S. Losch. Has furnish'd himself with good Hay and Oats, has stabling sufficient for 20 or 25 Horses, and by January Court will have a supply of Good Liquors, and hope to merit the Patronage of those who call on him.

JOHN SCATTERDAY

December 15, 1800

A few copies of the late
GENERAL WASHINGTON'S
WILL

For sale at this office.

LEESBURG ACADEMY

Leesburg, Nov. 12, 1800

The Trustees having rented a house and engaged the Reverend Mr. ALLEN, notify the public that the languages and sciences usually taught in Academies, may be acquired here. The respectable recommendation of the ability of the teacher, excite in them, the most flattering hopes of success in this infant institution, which may be rendered an object of the highest importance to the public. And the easy terms on which boarding may be obtained in reputable families in the Town, they hope will include all within a reasonable distance to prefer this to more distant and expensive Seminaries.

Notice is hereby given

To the freeholders of this County of Loudoun, the Mr. RICHARD BRENT will be a candidtate for your suffrages, at the next election for a member of congress, to serve this district of Loudoun, Fairfax & Prince William.

The Director's Letter

It gives me great pleasure to announce that as of Tuesday February 3, Thomas Balch Library is able to provide researcher access to JSTOR in-house. Journal Storage (JSTOR) is an interdisciplinary archive of academic journals across the humanities, social sciences as well as select monographs and other materials. It is full text searchable, offers search term highlighting, includes images, and is interlinked by millions of citations and references. Our subscription focusing on arts and humanities includes more than five hundred titles in forty disciplines. This subscription was made possible by a generous donation (\$3000) from the Friends of TBL, Inc., to cover the cost of installation. TBL will cover the cost (\$750) of the annual subscription. This online subscription is one of eight in-house on-line subscriptions offered to researchers. The others include: Access NewspaperArchive.com; American: History and Life; AncestryLibrary Edition; Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970 – Virginia only; Footnote.com; HeritageQuest Online; and New England Historic Genealogical Society. A rack card illustrating TBL's electronic resources is available on request.

The Balch Column for Winter/Spring 2009 listing classes, lectures and exhibits, was distributed in January. Additional copies are available in the library or on request or it may be viewed on the library website. In addition, all the events have been posted to the Town web calendar. Following the November Loudoun County History Awards ceremony, the History Award Brochure was revised to include names of 2008 awardees. These brochures are also available at the library or online at the library website.

The Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture series concluded in November. In December, Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society awarded a \$3000 grant to assist in the publication of a Leesburg 250 Booklet/DVD. Recordings of the lectures series are currently being professionally mixed and we still anticipate a late 2009 release date.

Outreach to the Loudoun County Public Schools has been on-going. During February. Working with the Thomas Balch Li-

brary Advisory Commission, introductory meetings were held Feb 2 and 4 with Loudoun County Public School Library Media Specialists. We then hosted a meeting Feb 18 of LEMA, the library educator's professional organization. An introduction to the online subscriptions and other resources was provided along with a tour of the facility. It is hoped that a similar program can be arranged for the private school librarians.

Matthew Exline, who completed an internship with us last year, submitted a copy of a documentary "A Town and its Railroad" to the Library in fulfillment of our collection use policy. This was completed as a project for a film class. In reviewing the DVD I was struck at how thoughtful a presentation it was and inquired if he would be willing to share his experiences in creating the documentary with the staff. He agreed and his presentation was outstanding. Those present, including Town Manager, John Wells, and Francis Fera, Chair of the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, were suitably impressed. As a Library Director it is always helpful to be able to show others such outstanding products of research in special collection libraries.

It is a living illustration of the significance to a community of historical collections. Those who viewed this DVD learned about Purcellville as a railroad town and saw firsthand the type of products that can result from research in libraries like Thomas Balch Library.

The **2009 Virginia Forum**, a two-day conference devoted to all aspects and time periods of Virginia history, will be held at Longwood University, Farmville, **April 24-25, 2009**. Thomas Balch Library will be well represented at the forum with James Hershman, Douglas Foard and I as participants in several programs; Deborah Lee has served on the program committee.

There is considerable activity at the library – 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 our programs.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

To The Friends of Thomas Balch Library:

First, a welcome and thank you to the new members of the Board of Directors of the Friends: David LeRoy, Phil Lo Presti, Lynn Maurer, Ron Rust and Suzi Worsham. They are joining a hard-working and dedicated group.

We enter the year 2009 with both a sense of achievement for what we have accomplished during the past, and with trepidation for what might lie just ahead.

However, to borrow a phrase that served our country well some years ago, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Our country's economy will thrust some serious and challenging changes on our library, and each of us must strive to keep this valuable facility moving forward and in the right direction. We need your time and your talents even more, during these trying times, to help make the best even better. This means more of you must step forward to become hands-on members, to serve on the Friends' committees, and to participate in our programs. To paraphrase Uncle Sam's, "I Need You", on that famous recruiting poster, "We Need You!"

Keep informed by reading the *Thomas Balch Chronicle* and *The Balch Column* closely each issue. Each provides news of programs of education, fellowship and opportunities to serve. The Friends of Balch Library is only what your help makes it. Your contribution in time, talent and gifts will return to you, personally, a more

than even exchange. We have a great Board of Directors dedicated to carrying out our mission of support for Thomas Balch Library, which I share with you once again:

The objectives of the Friends shall be:

- A. To promote awareness of and interest in Thomas Balch Library of Leesburg, Virginia.
- B. To engage in activities which improve access, facilitate research, and preserve records used in the field of genealogy and local history.
- C. To educate the membership and the public through publications, projects and programs.
- D. To provide support to Thomas Balch Library and its programs.
- E. To attract community resources to make those programs possible.

2009 will not be all work, I promise you. There will great fellowship with kindred-minded people, topped off in the Fall by a great celebration evening at the newly renovated Morven Park. Please join us there and at our educational lectures during the year.

Sincerely,

Lewis Leigh, Jr., President

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

John L. Barnhard, Jr.
 M.W. Baumeister
 Elizabeth Balch Benckart
 Elizabeth P. Bradley
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 Roberto Costantino
 Brenda and Andy Douglass
 Louisa S. Hutchison
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 Donna C. Norton
 Ken and Susan Parks
 Patricia C. Rock
 Bret E. Russell
 Juli S. Seaman
 Page Thompson Steele
 Alfred P. Van Huyck
 George and Joan Whitener

A REMINDER

Be sure to renew your Friends' membership. Check your label for your renewal date, and use the membership 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 _____

Student/Senior	\$ 15.00
Individual/Family	\$ 25.00
Patron	\$ 50.00
Corporate/Sustaining	\$100.00
Benefactor	\$250.00
1757 Founder's Club	\$500.00+

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

FRIENDS OF THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2184
 LEESBURG, VA
 20177

TELEPHONE
 703-737-2166

FAX:
 703-737-7150

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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**
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- 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

Thank You

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 We also accept Visa and MasterCard



The Thomas Balch
Chronicle
Friends of the
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P. O. Box 2184
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Sunday, Mar. 8, 2009 - 2PM - Death and the American Civil War - Robert W. Prichard, PhD., will explore ways in which the Civil War changed popular patterns of dealing with death. Sources will include Civil War letters of the Donohoe family of Loudoun.

Sunday, Mar. 15, 2009 - 2PM - Women in the American Revolution - Constance Potter, reference archivist with the National Archives, will focus, in addition to the woman soldier, the American woman at home and demonstrating the effect on the civilian population.

Sunday, Mar. 29, 2009 - 2PM - Banjo Roots: Exploring the Multicultural History of the New World Banjo. Greg C. Adams, musician, archivist and independent researcher, will take us on an interactive journey covering the early history and development of this popular and iconic instrument from West Africa through early American blackface minstrels, and more.

Monday, April 20, 2009 - 7PM - Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historical Records. John Fishback, Historic Records Manager for Loudoun County will discuss the extent of Loudoun County's records holdings, and how to use the birth, deaths, marriages and deeds records in research. Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 6:45 PM.

Sunday, May 3, 2009 - 2PM - Celebrating an American Family: The Williams Family Papers at Thomas Balch Library. Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist will discuss highlights from this fascinating collection, recently processed at the Library, that follows a family of nearly 200 years through letters, memorabilia and photographs. It offers an intimate view of family life in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Saturday, May 16, 2009 - 9AM-noon - Walking Tour of Leesburg. Once again, Leesburg native James Roberts will bring an insider's view of his town. Factual, historic, and anecdotal information is intertwined with and presented in storytelling fashion as Jim shows the changes and growth of the town architecturally, economically and racially. Don't miss this informative and fun walk. Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library at 9 AM.

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 Wednesday of every other month at 9:15 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.