



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

5:30 PM
Sunday,
Sept. 19, 2010
Come to the Party!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010 - 2PM - **From Servitude to Slavery in Bermuda and Virginia's Northern Neck, 1609-1705** - Steven Harris-Scott will explore the long-standing debate of the advent of slavery and racial prejudice in British America and its origins, whether from economics or preexisting racism.

Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010 - 2PM - **The Names of Leesburg** - Robert Regan & Jeffrey Wingard, author and photographer, respectively, address the origin and development of many of the town's features, to help residents and visitors enjoy and appreciate Leesburg.

Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010 - 2PM - **Shenandoah Landscapes and the Great Valley Road** - Author and historian Warren R. Hofstra is a highly respected scholar on the regional history of the Shenandoah Valley and its communities from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. He will comment on the changes to the area, fully explored in Dr. Hofstra's most recent work, *The Great Valley Road of Virginia: Shenandoah Landscapes from Prehistory to the Present*, will be available for purchase.

Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010 - 2PM - **Leesburg: An Exploration Through Time** (Movie) - This documentary film highlights both the community of Leesburg residents as well as the town's infrastructure. Produced by Thomas Balch Library, directed by Matthew Exline, with production assistance from library staff members Stephanie Adams Hunter and Beth Schuster, the film uses a variety of materials from the library's archival holdings and newly recorded oral history interviews. The film runs approx. 1 hour, after which the director and his assistants will be available to take questions.

Monday, Oct. 4, 2010 - 7PM - **Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historic Records** - John Fishback, Historic Records Manager for Loudoun County, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office and discuss the extent of the County's record holdings, where to look for records and how to use these records in research. No one is permitted to enter restricted areas of the Clerk's Office after 7:00PM, so the group will leave the library promptly at 6:45 PM.

Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010 - 2PM - **Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance** (Video presentation and discussion.) Writer and scholar James H. Hershman, Jr. and Emmy awarded filmmaker Mason W. Mills look forward to a lively discussion following the video presentation of the Commonwealth of Virginia's defiance of the Supreme Court's mandate to end segregation in public schools. Shedding light on this dark time in Virginia's past, the video employs interviews, academic commentary and archival footage from the era.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010 - 9AM-12PM - **Walking Tour of Leesburg** - Leesburg native and 2008 recipient of a Loudoun History Award, James Roberts will lead this jaunt through Leesburg, giving participants an insider's view of local people, places and points of interest. Factual, historic and anecdotal information are intertwined and presented in a storytelling fashion. Great fun, too.

Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010 - 2PM - **Collecting and Writing Family History** - Mary Burgan, former professor and present day author, will report on family research and the effort needed to produce a coherent family history, along with anecdotes of her personal journey to produce her own family's story.

Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010 - 2PM - **The Horse in Virginia: An Illustrated History** - Author Julie A. Campbell will discuss the 400 year history and the continuing affect the horse has had on Virginia's economy, as well as its lifestyle.

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

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Josie A. Ballato
 Roberto Costantino
 Francis & Margaret Fera
 Rebecca Groff
 Mary W. Harris
 Forest Hough
 John Lancaster & Daria D'Arienzo
 Christine Lanphere
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 John B. Ricketts



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 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.

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Student/Senior	\$ 15.00
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Patron	\$ 50.00
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Benefactor	\$ 250.00
1757 Founders Club	\$ 500.00+

Please forward with your check to:

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

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

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 BALCH
 LIBRARY, INC.**

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 20177

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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
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 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
 - Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture Series (2008)**
 Hosted by Thomas Balch Library, includes booklet & 2 DVDs \$ 15.00

*Thank
 You*

Sub-total _____
Shipping & Handling _____
TOTAL DUE _____

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**
 We also accept Visa and MasterCard

The Director's Letter

Since my last letter there have been many exciting events including presentation of the third annual social science fair award, our presence on Facebook, and WiFi access for patrons in the library.

At Loudoun County Public Schools' 14th annual Social Science Fair in June Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission selected Thomas "T.J." Williams, Jr., a rising sophomore at Freedom High School, as the recipient of the Commission's local history research award for his research paper entitled "How Has Development Hurt the Dairy Industry in Loudoun County?" A sixth-generation farmer, T.J.'s research project explored the detrimental effects of growth and development on Loudoun County's dairy industry, a topic of which he has firsthand knowledge. At one time, there were over 300 dairy farms in Loudoun County; today, only one remains in operation. T.J.'s family owned one of the dairy farms that is no longer in existence. The Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission established the local history research award at the Social Science Fair in 2008 as part of the Town's 250th anniversary celebration. The award complements the Loudoun History Awards, hosted by the Commission in November each year.

The Loudoun History Awards, sponsored by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, established in 1993, honor individuals who have made significant contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing, and long-term involvement in local history organizations. Letters of nominations for the 2010 awards are being accepted through October 11, 2010. Nomination letters should include a brief statement in support of the individual's accomplishment, their mailing address, and be directed to: Library Director, Thomas Balch Library, 208 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176. For more information on this prestigious award visit the library

website, email at Balchlib@leesburgva.gov, or contact the library at 703-737-7195.

The library now provides keyword searching of its online archives and manuscript collection guides. These guides describe special collections holdings in detail, providing researchers with historical and contextual information about the materials and their creators. In addition, friends and researchers alike may follow Thomas Balch Library's activities on Facebook. An eye catching feature of our Facebook presence is "This Week in Loudoun." Posted weekly, it includes images and snippets of information on historic events in Leesburg or Loudoun. If there is an interesting historic event you would like to see featured, please contact us at Balchlib@leesburgva.gov. For researchers visiting the library, we now offer WiFi.

Following eight years of dedicated service as a Thomas Balch Library Advisory commissioner and three as chair, Martha Schonberger has stepped down. Robert Hodge has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Councilmember Kathryn Sheldon Hammler has replaced Councilmember Thomas S. Dunn, II, as the council representative.

The following brochures are available – a new color brochure providing basic information on the library, an informational brochure providing detailed information on the library's holdings, an informational brochure listing digital product offerings, professional researchers' brochure, and a Loudoun History Awards brochure. Information contained in these brochures is also available on our website <http://www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary> where one will also find posted news about the library and new acquisitions.

As always it will be my pleasure to welcome you when visiting Thomas Balch Library or when attending programs and exhibits.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

Monthly Exhibits Add to Your Thomas Balch Library Experience

EXHIBITS IN THE MARGARET MERCER ROOM

- September** George C. Marshall - Dodona Manor
October American Archives Month - Thomas Balch Library
November Loudoun History Awards - Thomas Balch Library
December Loudoun Arts Council
January: Mementos, Monograms & Keepsakes of Loudoun County Families - Loudoun Museum
February: Black History Committee, Friends of the the Thomas Balch Library
March: Mt. Zion Church (Aldie)
April: Civil War Arifacts - United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Confederate Veterans
May: Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.
June: Women In Loudoun County's History - Thomas Balch Library

EXHIBITS IN THE LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

- July-September:** Virginia Flowers in Bloom - Gary Mester
October-December: Morven Park: A unique look at the Old Mansion - Fran Poston
January-March: Virginia's Flora and Landscapes - Susan Potter
April- June: Historic Selma Mansion - Jim Hanna

Recently Catalogued Items at Thomas Balch Library

- Temple and Lodge* by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh
Horse in Virginia: An Illustrated History
by Julie A. Campbell
Four Brothers in Blue: Or Sunshine and Shadows of the War of the Rebellion
by Robert Goldthwaite Carter
American Wills Proved in London, 1611-1775
by Peter Wilson Coldham
"We Have Waited Too Long": Civil Rights and the Death of Segregation in Loudoun County, Virginia
by Matthew Exline
Great Valley Road of Virginia: Shenandoah Landscapes from Prehistory to the Present
by Warren Hofstra
Railroad Came—and a Special Community Grew in Brunswick, Maryland by Peter Maynard
Antietam: The Soldier's Battle by John M. Priest
Ships from Ireland to Early America, 1623-1850, vol 1
by David Dobson
Prince of Carpetbaggers by Jonathan Daniels
Chancellorsville: Lee's Greatest Battle by Edward Stackpole

Thomas Balch Library Sponsored Classes Will Enhance Your Balch Experience and Enrich Your Life.

To enroll, call 703-737-7195 for full information.

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL RESOURCES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thursday, 7 October 2010, 10-12AM

In this session, participants will learn about digital resources available at Thomas Balch Library. Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, and Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, will demonstrate databases and other online tools available for researchers, showing types of information to be found and suggesting research strategies. Resources to be demonstrated include *JSTOR*, *America's GenealogyBank*, *HeritageQuest*, and *America: History and Life*.

LOUDOUN COUNTY HISTORIC BUILDING FILES, ASSESSMENT AND PARCEL DATABASE

Thursday, 4 November 2010, 10-12AM

This class, recommended as a companion to the Leesburg Historic District presentation, will demonstrate various Loudoun County land records and mapping systems available to the public and how to use them in researching historic properties. Included will be a brief overview of the library's Lewis/Edwards and Historic Leesburg files, tax records, and maps available for researching historic properties and early Loudoun settlers.

Mary A. Pender, a part-time librarian and cataloger at Thomas Balch Library received her BA from the College of William & Mary and 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 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.

LEESBURG'S HISTORIC DISTRICT FILES AND SANBORN MAPS

Thursday, 2 December 2010, 10-12AM

Annie McDonald, Preservation Planner and staff liaison to the Leesburg Board of Architectural Review, will delve into using primary and secondary resources available at Thomas Balch Library for researching a property's history. She will explain the purpose behind the architectural surveys of the late 1990s and how to use architectural survey files, Sanborn fire insurance maps, and historic photographs to identify how a building changes over time. The talk focuses only on the area covered by the Sanborn Maps, which is limited to the Leesburg historic district, and this session is recommended as a companion to the county records presentation. Previously employed by a DC-based preservation consulting firm and by a regional NGO based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, she has been with the Town of Leesburg since September 2005.

For your information, the following popular classes may be scheduled for a later date in the Winter and Spring. Contact the Library for future schedules.

USING VISUAL COLLECTIONS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Beth Schuster, Library Reference Specialist, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library. Types of images available and how they may be accessed will be discussed.

TRADITIONAL GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Mary Fishback, Library Assistant, will introduce participants to basic genealogical research utilizing materials in the collections of Thomas Balch Library and how to organize their research.



Thomas Balch Library, Front view

GOOGLE IMAGE

OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission sponsors the annual Loudoun History Awards and an award for excellence in historical research at the annual Loudoun County Public School Social Science Fair. It meets at the Library the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. The public is always welcome.

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

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

**BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP. CHECK YOUR LABEL FOR YOUR RENEWAL DATE.
AND USE THE FORM ON PAGE FIVE TO ENLIST YOUR FRIENDS TO BECOME MEMBERS.**

Awards Galore

Since 1993 the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission has sponsored its annual Loudoun History Awards. Now in its eighteenth year, the event honors individuals who have made significant contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing, and long-time commitments to local history organizations. Honorees for 2009 were Anne Donovan Larons, W. Brown Morton, III, Henry G. Plaster and Mary E. Randolph.

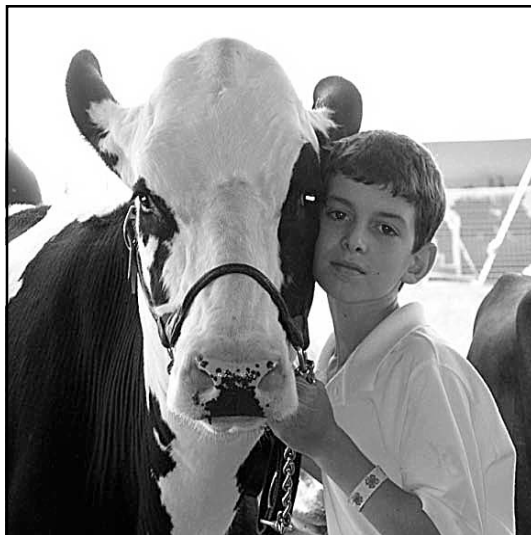
The Commission is now actively soliciting your nominations for this prestigious honor for 2010. Deadline for letters of nomination is October 11, 2010 and should be directed to Library Director Alexandra Gressitt at Thomas Balch Library, 208 W. Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20176. The Loudoun History Awards Ceremony will be November 14, 2010 at 2 PM at the Library.

In fulfillment of its mission of furthering knowledge of local history and as an outreach to the community, Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission recognizes high school students for excellence in historical research at the annual Loudoun County Public School Social Science Fair. This award complements the Loudoun History Award. The student award was established in 2008 as part of The Town of Leesburg's 250th Anniversary Celebration

This year the award in the local history research category went to Thomas "T.J." Williams, Jr. T.J., a rising sophomore at Freedom High School, chose as the subject of his research paper "How Has Development Hurt the Dairy Industry in Loudoun County?" T.J.'s family owned one of the more than 300 dairy farms no longer in existence. Thus, he has learned first hand the disastrous effect creeping growth of Loudoun's population, and the accompanying need for housing that influx, such growth has had onto this once thriving industry in the County.

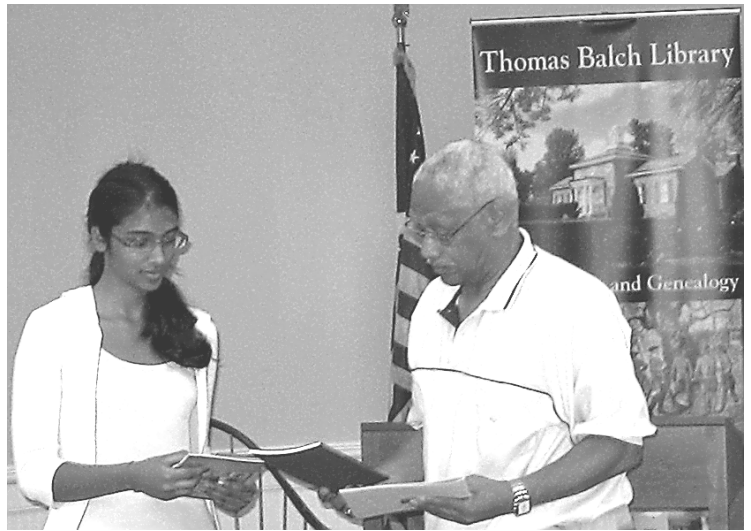
The Williams family started their dairy on Watson Road in Loudoun County in 1920. T.J.'s great-grandfather sold the property in 1986, but his grandfather continued to run the dairy until 2000.

The son of Thomas and Suzanne Williams, T.J. is active in the 4-H Dairy and Livestock clubs in Orange County, where his aunt and uncle own the J-Team Dairy farm.



"T.J." Williams and friend

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY



HERBERT DUVAL

Ms Tasha Sharms and Herb Duval at Thomas Balsb Library presentations

In addition, the Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library awards a student participant in the Loudoun County High School Social Science Fair, in a special category. This year, Tasha Sharma, a freshman at Freedom High School, in South Riding was selected. Her topic: "What If Slavery Didn't Exist in America?" Above, Ms. Sharma receives her award, a selection of committee published books from Black History Committee Chairman Herb Duval.

From an article from the Volume 3 Issue 3 of The Thomas Balch Chronicle, dated August 1998:

It's All Relative: The High Cost of Education

Education has always been a driving force in Loudoun County. Loudoun school children have long been proud of their educators. The following is but a partial listing of those educators who were on the payroll in the 1940s:

Ruth M. Emerick, J. Lupton Simpson, Charles S. Monroe, Mildred Orrison, Sue K. Lipps, Rosa T. Presgraves, Ethel L. Adams, Anna M. Beavers, Wanda L. Womeldorph, Ruth C. Bradfield, Lois Clemens, Phillip DiZerega, Paul K. Gentry, Cecelia Leigh, Charlotte Weadon, Jane J. Palmer, Alice W. Coughlin, Blanche Hutchison, Leona V. Cooper, Mary E. Hemsley, Tillie D. Monroe, Eliza D. Lunceford, Wilda F. Tucker, Henrietta Gray, Minnie B. Trussell, Columbia J. Wire, Willie Mae Fling

Some of these educators remained in the County, and some of our present schools carry their names.

Following the listing of teachers, according to the Peoples National Bank records in the Thomas Balch Library archives, the School Board in one month expended over \$2,500 in salaries for *fifteen* school teachers in the 1940s!

NEW AND INFORMATIVE BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY: ONE WITH BASIC INFORMATION ON THE LIBRARY; A DETAILED INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE ABOUT THE LIBRARY'S HOLDINGS; AN INFORMATIONAL PIECE LISTING DIGITAL PRODUCT OFFERINGS; A SPECIAL BROCHURE FOR PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHERS; FULL INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS. YOU MAY ALSO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION AT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.LEESBURGVA.GOV/THOMASBALCH LIBRARY



1922-2010

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 14 Issue 3

Fall 2010

Third Annual Balch Library Endowment Fund Raiser To Be Hosted By Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

You are invited to share another Evening with History, at the Friends of Thomas Balch Library's third annual fundraising event on Sunday, September 19, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. This year's venue: Oatlands Plantation near Leesburg.

The exquisite and historic Oatlands house and grounds will be open to our guests who also will enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres produced by Karen Harper-Fuog Caterers, along with a sip or two of wine.

This year's speaker is Ron Maxwell, acclaimed director of the popular films *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*. He will address a favorite subject: *For the Love of Tender Kinship, a Filmmaker's Journey Through the Civil War*.

A highly compelling speaker, Mr. Maxwell spoke at the annual commemoration of the Confederate Monument in Arlington National Cemetery in 2009. At that time he urged all Americans to realize how precious our history of liberation is to this nation. He claimed to be neither a 'Confederate' nor a 'neo-Confederate' but rather one who believes in honoring this nation's dead heroes — all of them — and urged each of us to move out beyond our sectarian or regional differences and to celebrate this nation of liberation. And he believes the history of America is a history of liberation: "Liberation from the dark superstition of the Salem witch hunts, from ignorance about the native peoples who inhabited this continent before the 17th century, liberation from a domineering and oppressive parent country an ocean away, from the religious wars of Europe by codifying in law the separation of church and state, liberations from hereditary power, from aristocratic noblesse oblige, from arbitrary justice and unchecked political power."

The Friends' Board urges you to join us to hear more from this brilliant speaker, and most importantly, to support that honorable and worthwhile cause, Thomas Balch Library's mission of history, education and genealogy. All monies contribute to the Library's Permanent Endowment Fund. Get your tickets today, as space is limited. For more information, call 703-737-2166.



Ron Maxwell

PHOTO, SARAH HUNTINGTON

Out of the Past:

Ten Years Ago, on November 27, 2000, staff and volunteers organized, packed, and unpacked in preparation to move back to the newly renovated Thomas Balch Library. By that time, construction crews, working seven days a week, had completed painting, wiring and landscaping. And according to The Thomas Balch Chronicle, the move into the handsome, spacious and modernized building was accomplished with few glitches.

Today, Thomas Balch Library is viewed as the premier venue for history and genealogy in the Northern Virginia area. And today, the library and the knowledgeable and talented staff welcome researchers of all ages, conduct classes to enhance use of the library facilities and serve as a resource for scholarship in many fields.

Recently added features are WiFi and keyword searching of its online archives and manuscript collection guides. Come visit Thomas Balch Library today. It is well worth the trip.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

P.O. Box 2184
Leesburg, VA 20177

E-Mail:

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www.balchfriends.org

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