



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

**Don't Miss It!**  
**Friends' Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 16, 2011**  
**2:00 PM**

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

- Sunday, 5 Dec. 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.
- Sunday, 12 Dec. 2010 2PM *Mount Gilead History & Heritage***-Bill Ray, author and resident of the unincorporated village of Mt. Gilead will give a detailed account of the area, along with previously unpublished photos. Books will be available for purchase on site.
- Saturday, 5 Feb. 2011 2PM *Leesburg: An Exploration Through Time (documentary)*** A reshewing of the film produced by Thomas Balch Library, directed by Matthew Exline. If you missed the previous showing, this is your chance.
- Sunday, 20 Feb. 2011 2PM *Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance*** (documentary). Don't miss this opportunity to view this report and analysis of the defiance of The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Supreme Court's mandate to desegregate public schools.
- Sunday, 27 Feb. 2011 2PM *Becton: Autobiography of a Soldier and Public Servant*** Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton Jr., U.S. Army (Ret.)
- Sunday, 6 March 2011 2PM *Colonial Migrations In and Out of the Shenandoah Valley*** Victor Dunn
- Wednesday, 9 March 2011 2PM *Leesburg: An Exploration Through Time*** (documentary) A re-showing of the film produced by Thomas Balch Library, directed by Matthew Exline.
- Sunday, 20 March 2011 2PM *Theodore Roosevelt's Naval Diplomacy: The U.S. Navy and the Birth of the American Century*** Cdr. Henry J. Hendrix, USN.
- Sunday, 3 April 2011 2PM *The Last Lincoln Conspirator: John Surratt's Flight from the Gallows*** Andrew Jampoler
- Tuesday, 5 April 2011 7-8PM *Leesburg: An Exploration Through Time*** (documentary) A re-showing of the film produced by Thomas Balch Library, directed by Matthew Exline.
- Sunday, 10 April 2011 2PM *Artist paintings of Sites of Conscience*** Sherry Sanabria
- Sunday, 1 May 2011 2PM *Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General*** Marc Leepson
- Saturday, 14 May 2011 9-12AM *Walking Tour of Leesburg*** James Roberts, Leesburg native and Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission member leads this informative and entertaining trip through Leesburg, providing insite to its history, and adding a bit of anecdotal information about the Town and its present and former residents.
- Sunday, 15 May, 2011 2 PM *Armchair Warriors: Private Citizens, Popular Press, and the Rise of American Power.*** Joel Davidson.
- Monday, 16 May, 2011 7 PM *Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historic Records.*** John Fishback

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**

Jinsie Bingham  
 Childs F. Burden  
 Alice H. Calhoun  
 Mary Jane Cavins  
 Dr. Donald G. Cooper  
 Ione Dawson  
 Tracy and Richard Gillespie  
 Robert C. Gleason  
 Denise and J. Ford Johnston  
 Elizabeth L. McNair  
 Susan Olsen  
 Jane G. Packard  
 Joseph and Juanita Pierson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Rhodes  
 Murray and Barbara Rose  
 Kay Barnhouse Stout  
 Karen and Templar Titus  
 George and Joan Whitener



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 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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 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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
  - 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*

Over the last year we have been operating with a reduction in full and flex time staff. Joining us in the library are three new flex time staff members : Bryan Fisher who has his BA in History from the University of Central Florida and an MLIS from Florida State University; Robert Goldberg who has his BA in Government from Oberlin College, an MPA from the University of Washington, Seattle, and an MLS from the University of Illinois at Champaign, and Elizabeth Preston who has her BA in History and MLS from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and her MA in Public History from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. They will be assisting at the reference desk and with projects in their respective areas of expertise. The addition of these individuals reflects a redistribution of existing flex hours over a greater number of people. The addition of these outstanding staff members does not reflect an increase in hours or funding.

A special class for Loudoun County Public School social science teachers was presented on September 30 as a joint project with Wendi Manuel-Scott, chair of the African American Studies Program at George Mason University and Thomas Balch Library. The program, opened with greetings on behalf of the town of Leesburg by vice mayor Kevin Wright, was presented in three parts. James H. Hershman, Jr., on the faculty at Georgetown University and vice chair of the TBL Advisory Commission spoke first on massive resistance. Manuel-Scott then presented on incorporating African American history into the curriculum – challenges and opportunities. The final part was a demonstration by the Library Director of resources available for teachers and students and a tour of the library, following which teachers were able to participate in a research exercise. Beth Schuster and Stephanie Adams-Hunter, TBL staff, assisted along with volunteers: Becky Ottinger and Karolyn Whiteley, retired teachers, and Donna Jamison, a retired law librarian.

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. The awards ceremony took place on November 14 with the recognition of four outstanding local historians: H. Vernon Davis, Lori H. Kimball, Margaret T. Morton, and Arlean Hill. Also present and recognized, was T J Williams the 2010 recipient of the TBL Advisory Commission Social Science Fair award.

*Leesburg: An Exploration Through Time*, a documentary about the town's 250 year history has recently been completed. It was premiered on September 28 for the Council and for the general public on October 3. It was directed by Matthew Exline of Liv-

ing Stones Productions, a recent graduate of Patrick Henry College, with production and research assistance from library staff members Stephanie Adams Hunter and Beth Schuster, the film highlights both the community of Leesburg residents as well as the town infrastructure. A variety of materials from Thomas Balch Library's archival holdings and newly recorded oral history interviews as well as materials from collections in other repositories have been utilized in producing the film. The film lasts approximately one hour. For those who missed the fall screenings it will be presented again during 2011.

William C. Ray, a consulting engineer and Loudoun County resident, has recently completed a book on the history of Mt. Gilead. On Dec 12 at 2PM he will be here at TBL for an author talk book signing. Please mark your calendars – this will be a great opportunity to pick up a new local history book for your holiday gift giving.

Last year the Commonwealth's Attorney donated 126 cubic feet of historic Virginia Law books to TBL. Cindy Timmerman and Betty Keller, both formerly administrators at Loudoun County Public Library, and now retired, have been volunteering their time to get the books catalogued and housed in protective casings. Once catalogued these books will be displayed in the Town Attorney's office and because they are offsite will be retrieved for use by appointment only.

Thomas Balch Library is the recipient of a bequest from the estate of long time volunteer, Virginia L. Bowie. In 2009 we received the first installment, \$250,000 of this generous bequest. We recently received the final installment bringing the total bequest to over \$600,000. Ms. Bowie, a very unassuming and private person, as a volunteer was extraordinarily generous to the Library with her time and talents. With this bequest we hope to honor Ms Bowie's memory by insuring that Thomas Balch Library will live on forever.

The sixth annual Virginia Forum focusing on "Different Virginias" will be held March 25-26, 2011, at Washington & Lee University and Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA. James H. Hershman, Jr., vice chair of the TBL Advisory Commission, will be a panel speaker at the Forum. Additional information is available online at [www.virginiaforum.org](http://www.virginiaforum.org).

The Researchers brochure was revised by Beth Schuster and is now available for distribution.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a list of newly catalogued materials. Programs and exhibits are also listed elsewhere in the newsletter

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

*Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director*

### **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](http://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](http://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.**

## **Thomas Balch Library Sponsored Classes Will Enhance Your Library Experience and Enrich Your Life. To enroll, call 703-737-7195 or go to the TBL website for more information and to enroll online.**

### **SCHEDULED CLASSES FOR 2011:**

**Introduction to On-Line Genealogical Resources**  
at Thomas Balch Library  
Thursday, 3 February 2011, 10-12AM –Alexandra S. Gressitt

**Information Seeking Strategies for Historical Research**  
Thursday, 3 March 2011, 10-12AM–Beth Schuster

**Researching Court Records**  
Thursday, 7 April 2011, 10-12AM–Jeanette Irby

**Manuscript & Archives Research at TBL**  
Thursday, 5 May 2011, 10-12 PM–Stephanie Adams Hunter

**Researching with On-Line Newspapers**  
Thursday, 2 June 2011, 10-12 AM – Stephanie Adams Hunter  
& Beth Schuster

**Traditional Genealogical Resources at TBL**  
Thursday, 4 August 2011, 10-12 AM–Mary Fishback

**Introduction to Digital Resources at TBL**  
Thursday, 6 October 2011, 10-12 AM–Alexandra S Gressitt  
& Stephanie Adams Hunter

**Using Visual Collections at TBL**  
Thursday, 3 November 2011, 10-12AM–Beth Schuster

**Deed Research**  
Thursday, 1 December 2011, 10-12 AM–Wynne Saffer

## **Recently Catalogued Books at Thomas Balch Library**

*Abolition: A History of Slavery and Antislavery*  
by Seymour Drescher

*U.S. Colored Troops at Andersonville Prison* by Bob O'Connor

*A Few Good Women: America's Military Women from World War I to the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan*

by Evelyn M. Monahan & Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee

*Opportunity: Leesburg and You* by Colonial Leesburg, Inc.

*Sustaining Identity, Recapturing Heritage: Exploring Issues of Public History, Tourism, and Race in a Southern Rural Town*

by Ann E. Denkler

*Hon. Edward D. Baker, US Senator From Oregon: Colonel E.D.*

*Baker's Defense in the Battle of Ball's Bluff, Fought October 21st, 1861, in Virginia and Slight...* by Generals Wistar and Stone

*Loudoun County Bicentennial August 19-24, 1957*

by Loudoun County Bicentennial Committees

*Index to "Exploring Leesburg"* by TBL Staff & Volunteers

*Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*

by John Michael Vlach.

*Falls of the James atlas: historic canal and river sites on the falls of the James with a special supplement on the Tuckahoe Creek navigation; The Appomattox river atlas: historic sites on the Appomattox and its navigable branches, and The James River bateau festival trail: a guide to the James River and its canal from Lynchburg to Richmond.*

*The Descendants of Mercer (Messer) Norton 1750-1800: and his wife Martha* by Mildred Dulaney

*John Todd and the Underground Railroad: Biography of an Iowa Abolitionist* by James Patrick Morgans

*Race and Revolution* by Gary B. Nash

*Loudoun County 4-H Fair programs;*

*Douglas High School 50th Anniversary, 1941-1991*

*Segregation's Science: Eugenics and Society in Virginia*

by Gregory Michael Dorr

*Strategies for Survival: Recollections of Bondage in Antebellum Virginia* by William Dusingberre

*Weaving a Common Thread: A History of the Woolen Industry in the Top of the Shenandoah Valley* by Wilbur S. Johnson

*George C. Marshall: Volume 4: Statesman* by Forrest C. Pogue

*Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy* by Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff

*Religion and the Making of Nat Turner's Virginia: Baptist Community and Conflict, 1740-1840* by Randolph Ferguson Scully

*Within Her Power: Propertied Women in Colonial Virginia*

by Linda Sturtz

*Seventeenth Virginia Infantry* (The Virginia Regimental

Histories Series) by Lee A. Jr. Wallace

## **Recently Processed Manuscript Collections**

Family Bible Records (M 050)

Audrey Windsor Bergner Research Collection (M 048); additions to the Loudoun's Quilt of Faith (M 042) and Teachers Register for Virginia Public Schools, Jefferson District Colored School A, 1904-1906 (SC0050)

Keep Loudoun Beautiful Collection, 1969 (M 052)

(?) Club of Loudoun County, 1997-2007 (M 039)

Russell Gregg Photograph Collection, ca1920-1944 (VC0008)

Loudoun County Fair Association 4-H Collection (VC0017)

Mrs. Swan Photograph (VC0036)

James L. Hamilton Letter, 30 August 1848 (SC 0041)

Eliza R. James Letter, 8 May 1861 (SC0046)

Charles A. Bos Photograph Collection (VC 0024)

Arnold Account Books, 1903-1937 (BV 008)

Ketocin Chapter, DAR Genealogical Records Committee Reports, 2001(M 051)

**FRIENDS OF THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC.  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR  
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
FRIENDS OF THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC.  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011 AT 2:00 PM  
IN THE LIBRARY'S DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM.**

**JAMES P. LUCIER WILL SPEAK ABOUT  
DEDICATED TO ART:**

***THE CORCORAN AND EUSTIS FAMILIES.***

**YOU WILL HEAR A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE  
FRIENDS, THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE  
INTRODUCED AND OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED.**

**COME MEET AND GREET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS  
AND PATRONS OF THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY.**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS FOR AN INTERESTING AND  
ENLIGHTENING AFTERNOON.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS, TOO.**

*Continued from page 1. Fundraising event.*

when for over a century people have adopted their own cultural alibis on each side. Some critics were miffed because his films hadn't "perpetuated the victor's myth of a war waged against an evil Confederacy."

"It is not the job of the film-maker to reinforce the prejudices and tastes of the critics or the prevailing elites," he said. "What has interested me as a film maker are the hard choices people have to make, drawn by divided loyalties and conflicting affections."

"Each historical character embodies their own internal struggle, their own personal civil war," he added. "We human beings by our very nature are attached to place and to home. The characters in *Gods and Generals* are not immune to these variant forces. They are all, to a man and a woman, pushed and pulled by these conflicting allegiances."

In telling a story where the outcome is so well known, according to Maxwell, it is easy to set up straw men who could be taken down later and manipulated for political effect. "Every day the actors on the set were reminded that the characters did not know and could not know what would happen to them in the future or even the next day or the next hour," he said. "Nor could I write dialogue that would place any character outside of their own lives or place them beyond their own time."

Maxwell still hopes to make the final film in the trilogy. "If we get to make Part Three, neither Ulysses S. Grant nor William T. Sherman will be set up as straw men. They too were real men who had real lives, who put themselves in harm's way and emerged victorious in the most brutal and most costly of American wars. It would be shameful to portray them with anything less than their full humanity," he noted.

A lively question period followed Maxwell's remarks and guests enjoyed the interaction with Mr. Maxwell.

Corporate sponsors of the event included Andrew Babb & Associates; John Marshall Bank (Paul Bice, Regional President); Karen Harper-Fuog Catering; Sarah Huntington Photography; Silverbrook Farm B & B (Dorothy F. Sheterly, Proprietor); and Thomas Birkby House (Ron Rust & Judy Kozacik, Owners.)

*James P. Lucier*

**"Locked Out:  
The Fall of Massive Resistance"**

On Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>, as part of its fall lecture series, the Thomas Balch Library screened the documentary, "Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance." The film focuses on Virginia's defiance of the 1954 *Brown* decision of the US Supreme Court outlawing racial segregation in the public schools. During the two years following *Brown*, supporters of segregation, especially Richmond editor James J. Kilpatrick, persuaded Virginia's white majority that the state could "Interpose" its sovereignty to block enforcement of federal court orders. The initial policy of local option shifted to a policy of Massive Resistance designed to block desegregation everywhere in the Old Dominion. When, in September 1958, two federal judges ordered the admission of a small number of black students into nine white schools in three localities, Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Warren County, the governor did as he was required by the Massive Resistance laws: he closed them under executive order, locking out more than 12,000 students. A federal court and the state's highest court overturned the school closing laws in January 1959, opening the way for the first school desegregation to take place on February 2, 1959 in Norfolk and Arlington. Eight months later, in a final gesture of defiance, Prince Edward County, acting on its own, closed all its public schools for five years until they were ordered to reopen by the US Supreme Court in 1964. Making full use of interviews with twenty-two of the black students involved in the school cases, the film's director skillfully interweaves TV news footage from the period with commentary from historians and two former governors to give viewers insight into this tragic period in the state's recent past.

Following the video presentation, Mason M. Mills, director of "Locked Out," and James H. Hershman, a historical consultant on the film, made brief presentations and held a discussion with the audience. "Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance" was produced by the Community Idea Stations in collaboration with the University of Virginia's Center for Politics with major funding from Robert E. and Jacquelyn H. Pogue, Robins Foundation, and the City of Norfolk.

*James H. Hershman*

**Monthly Exhibits Add to Your  
Thomas Balch Library Experience**

EXHIBITS IN THE MARGARET MERCER ROOM

- December:** Loudoun Arts Council  
**January:** World War II Memorabilia—John Wyrick  
**February:** Black History Committee of Friends of the  
Thomas Balch Library—Herbert Duvall  
**March:** Postcards—Thomas Balch Library  
**April:** 4-H Club—Ann Ludwick  
**May:** Loudoun Sketch Club—Sarrita Moffatt  
**June:** US 15 Postcards—Josie Ballato  
**July-August:** Loudoun Artifacts from the Civil War Era  
—John Creamer

EXHIBITS IN THE LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

- October-December:** Morven Park:  
A unique look at the Old Mansion—Fran Poston  
**January-March:** Old Stone Spring Houses of  
Loudoun County—Jim Baker  
**April- June:** National Park Service—Frank Ruggles  
**July-September:** Leesburg: Now and Then—K D Kidder  
& Neil Steinberg



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 4

Winter 2010

## *Eighteenth Annual History Awards Presented to Four Local Historians by TBL Advisory Commission*

Four individuals were recognized and presented with 2010 Loudoun History Awards at the eighteenth annual awards ceremony sponsored by Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission. The event was held at 2PM on Sunday, November 14 at Thomas Balch Library

This year's honorees, pictured here l. to r., were Arlean Hill, for her contributions in historic preservation of Loudoun's African American heritage, presented by Phyllis A. Cook-Taylor; Margaret T. Morton, for her advocacy of and work in historical research and writing, presented by Phillip R. Ehrenkranz; Lori Kimball, for her many contribution to research in and preservation of local history, presented by Deborah A. Lee; and H. Vernon Davis, for his many contributions to historic restoration and preservation in Loudoun County, presented by Thomas J. Gates, MD.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM ROBERTS, THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION (VC RG08), THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, LEESBURG, VA.

These individuals 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 commitment to local history organizations.

Also recognized was the 2010 Social Science Award recipient, Thomas "T. J." Williams, Jr.. for his project *How Has Development Hurt the Dairy Industry in Loudoun County?*.

## *Third Annual Fundraiser Event Great Success*

The third annual Friends of the Thomas Balch Library fundraising gala attracted a full house of 90 persons at Oatlands on September 19. The event raised over \$10,000 for the FTBL endowment fund used to support activities of the Thomas Balch Library. Although the Library is owned and funded by the Town of Leesburg, the Friends use endowment income and other funds to buy special equipment and underwrite certain special events that the Town budget can't afford to provide. The event was co-chaired by Patty Rogers-Renner and Suzi Worsham.

Attendees enjoyed wine and *hors d'oeuvre* under the ancient trees of Oatlands, and then moved into the Carriage House to hear a lecture by Ron Maxwell, the independent film-maker who produced the widely acclaimed films *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*, part of an intended trilogy about the War between the States.

*Gods and Generals* concentrates on the first two years of the war, and analyzes the motivations of Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. Maxwell, born in New Jersey and now a permanent resident of Northern Virginia, is still seeking investors to produce the third film in the series, which is expected to concentrate on the figures of Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman.

Maxwell used the opportunity at Oatlands to expound on his creative philosophy for the development of character in a film play. Quoting liberally from a wide range of writers who have entered the canon of modern literature, such as Robert Penn Warren, George Eliot, Brooks Adams, William Herrick and Alexander Solzhenitzen, he spoke of how difficult it was to create believable and real characters

*Continued on page 2*

### **Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**

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Annie Hulen  
Web Administrator

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