



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

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.

Saturday, 9 April 2011 10AM-4PM **SPECIAL EVENT: The Civil War 150 Legacy Project** will be inviting the public to bring in privately held American Civil War documents and photographs to be scanned for incorporation into a state-wide research database. To make an appointment, call Tracy Gillespie at 703-327-9777 or email tgillespie@nvrpa.org. For more information on this project visit: www.virginiacivilwar.org/legacy.

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 insight 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.

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.

Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the lower meeting room, and are free, unless otherwise noted.

New and Renewing Members

Jan Bartlett
 Andrew and Jane Bogle
 Elizabeth P. Bradley
 Brenda S. Butler
 Alexandra S. Gressitt
 Mrs. John Gressitt
 Daniel G. Mock
 Ken and Susan Parks
 Mary Ann Polachek
 Diane Rice
 Alfred Van Huyck
 Nancy Williamson



PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT
 THIS COMPREHENSIVE
 LISTING OF PUBLICATIONS
 PRODUCED BY THE FRIENDS.
 EACH IS A GOOD READ, AND
 WILL EXPAND YOUR
 KNOWLEDGE OF THE RICH
 HISTORICAL LEGACY OF
 LOUDOUN COUNTY
 PLACE YOUR ORDER 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 Founders 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

WWW.
 BALCHFRIENDS.
 ORG

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 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

Recently Catalogued Books at Thomas Balch Library

Virginia's Private War: Feeding Body and Soul in the Confederacy, 1861-1865 by William Blair
The Balch Family In America by June Balch Francis
Federal Land Series (4 volumes) by Clifford Neal Smith
Civil War in Virginia by Va.State Chamber of Commerce
Desegregation in Loudoun County Public Schools, 1954-1970: Timeline of Events Associated with Douglass Elementary School (55 Plaza St SE, Leesburg) People Associated with Douglas Elementary School, 1954-1970 by Evelyn Causey and Julia Claypool
Before Jim Crow: The Politics of Race in Post-emancipation Virginia by Jane Dailey
Battle of the Bulge by Steven J. Zaloga
Thomas Balch Library: A Monument to the Father of International Arbitrations by Alice Gildersleeve
Atlantic Virginia: Intercolonial Relations in the Seventeenth Century by April Lee Hatfield
Early Church Records of Loudoun County, Va., Volume II: 1800-1830 by Marty Hiatt
Big House After Slavery: Virginia Plantation Families and Their Postbellum Domestic Experiment by Amy Feely Morsman
Chesapeake Watershed: A Sense of Place and Call to Action by Ned Tillman

Unpuzzling Your Past 4th Edition by Emily Anne Croom
Table of Contents and Index to Within the Iron Gates: Collection of Stories about Loudoun as Remembered After Rereading The Loudoun Times-Mirror for the Years 1925-1975 by TLB staff
Fort Mose and the Story of the Man who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America by Glennette Tilley Turner
Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade by David Eltis and David Richardson
Virginia: Mapping the Old Dominion State Through History by Vincent Virga and Emilee Hines
Virginia Silversmiths, Jewelers, Clock- and Watchmakers, 1607-1860: Their Lives and Marks by Catherine B. Hollan
World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of the Material Life of Slaves in the United States edited by Kym S. Rice and Martha B. Katz-Hyman
George Washington's America: A Biography Through His Maps by Barnet Schectre
Quicksheet: Citing Online African-American Historical Resources Evidence Style
Quicksheet: Genealogical Problem Analysis: A Strategic Plan Evidence! Style by Elizabeth Shown Mills

Recently Processed Manuscript Collections

(12/10 & 02/11)

American Association of University Women,
Loudoun Branch Records, 1973-1998 (M 056)
Loudoun County Public Schools'
Social Sciences Fair Collection (M 054)
Loudoun County Cemetery Collection photos
(M 017/V 013)
Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission
photographs (VC RG08)
T.(Thomas) Bentley Mott & Georgette Saint Paul
Wedding Invitation 23 May 1923 (SC 0062)
Ben G. Davis Letter, 8 May 1922 (SC 0061)
Winslow Williams Photograph Collection, 1925-1980
(VC 0004) (While a guide has been prepared for this
collection, data entry in Past Perfect is ongoing
and will take some time to complete.)
Town of Leesburg Business Development & Retention
Photograph Collection, 1998-2008 (VC RG 020)
Robert Lee Preston Address (SC 0060)

Monthly Exhibits Add to Your Thomas Balch Library Experience

EXHIBITS IN THE MARGARET MERCER ROOM
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
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

Thomas Balch Library Sponsored Classes Will Maximize Your Time and Enrich Your Life. Check your Balch Column for a complete listing. To enroll, call 703-737-7195 or go to the TBL website for more information and to enroll online at balchlib@leesburgva.gov.

The Director's Letter

Thomas Balch Library continues its outreach to local groups and educational institutions with staff presentations on genealogy and collection holdings such as Purcellville and the American Association of University Women. As part of our cooperative efforts with George Mason University we will be hosting a senior historical research class this spring. Wendi Manuel Scott, Chair of the African American Studies Program at GMU has arranged to bring the class here for an orientation and to utilize our collections for their research projects. Our scheduled classes and events continue to be popular with the community and for the recent showing of the documentary *Locked Out* members of two LCPS middle school classes were present.

Our intern program continues. Sarah Wycoff, a James Madison University student started her internship in January. She has been busily processing manuscript collections to be made available for use by researchers.

Thomas Balch Library will be the site for Loudoun County's Sesquicentennial Committee's sponsorship of the Civil War 150 Legacy Project – a program of the Virginia Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia. Loudoun County residents will be invited to bring in their American Civil War documents, photographs, and etc., to be scanned by a team from the Library of Virginia. The date selected is Saturday 9 April 2011. You may wish to visit the following website for more detailed information: <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/cw150>

In December, Beth Schuster, Library Reference Specialist, accepted a position in the private sector and her final day at TBL was December 30.

The sixth annual Virginia Forum focusing on "Different Virginias" will be held March 24-26, 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. A former intern, Matthew Exline will also be on a panel. Having been a member of the program committee I will be chairing a session. Additional information is available online at www.virginiaforum.org.

We now have available several revised brochures and gift items. Our popular mouse pad has been revised and updated. The *On-site Electronic Resources* rack card has been revised and is now available as a brochure. And, the Loudoun History Awards brochure has been updated to recognize the 2010 award recipients. These are available at the library or may be requested by mail.

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

Carol A. Kupchik (1944-2010)

With regret, we report the death of Carol A. Kupchik on Dec. 14, 2010. Carol joined the Friends board in 2000 and immediately, in her efficient and energetic way, assumed the role of membership chair. She soon made it her own of course. She served on the board through 2007, at which time she and her husband Ray moved to WV. She was an active participant in the Ketocin chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

A Demonstration of TBL's Value

Wynne Saffer, FTBL board member and well known local historian, submitted the following 'real-life' example of the sorts of information to be found at Thomas Balch Library, and demonstrates the value such resources are to this community:

In February, three members of the Friends' board, Bernie Light, Lewis Leigh, Jr., and Wynne Saffer, joined a citizen's committee whose task was to choose a name for a new high school, now called HS7, planned for a site in southern Loudoun. Bernie Light put forth "Goshen" as the school will be located on Goshen Road. Her suggestion was seconded by Lewis Leigh. Saffer suggested honoring the late Arcola native John F. Ryan, former Virginia Delegate and speaker of the House of Delegates. However, these suggestions were discarded. After three ballots, a tie vote between "John Champe" and "Warfield" made a secret runoff vote necessary, resulting in "Warfield" being the committee's choice, by an 8-6 count.

So who are these people?

John Champe was a Revolutionary War soldier from west of Aldie, Virginia. He was selected by Lighthorse Harry Lee to conduct a secret mission for General George Washington. It was necessary for him to appear to desert his unit, cross into British lines with the goal of capturing Benedict Arnold from the British and returning him to American lines for trial for treason. While he was unable to deliver Arnold, Champe returned safely to his unit. Later, Washington released him from the army, for fear he might fall into the hands of the British.

"Warfield" is for Cecelia Warfield, the first woman principal of Aldie School in 1882, according to the village of Aldie's website celebrating its 200th Anniversary. No other information was available to the committee. However, using the resources at Thomas Balch Library and with the assistance of staffer Mary Fishback, the following information was obtained and will be presented to the Loudoun County School Board for their final choice:

Cecelia Warfield was born in Maryland around 1837. Her parents were Surratt D. and Matilda Warfield. According to the 1850 census, Rachel C. was living with them in Frederick County, Maryland. By 1860, Rachel C. Warfield, age 23, is living near Leesburg with her sister and bother-in-law, Francis E. and Minerva Shreve. In a deposition in a Loudoun chancery court case, Cecilia Warfield states she was living with the Shreves without paying rent because "my work was always considered a just compensation for my board".

Celia Warfield was still living with the Shreves in Loudoun in 1870. Her sister and brother-in-law both died in 1878. By 1880, Cecelia Warfield, age 39, is living in Bethesda in Montgomery County, Maryland. She is listed as a "boarder" and "a Teacher." Rachel Celia Warfield, age 45 married M. Samuel Temple, age 65, in Alexandria, Virginia on June 22, 1885. The following obituary appeared in the *The Mirror* newspaper in Leesburg in 1896: "Mrs. R. Celia Temple, formerly of Loudoun County, Virginia, a daughter of the late Surratt D. Warfield of Johnsville, Frederick County, Md."

We have not learned anything about her educational background or her service at Aldie School. Everything we know about her was obtained from published materials and on-line resources available at Thomas Balch Library. It should be noted that even the Aldie Anniversary website reference to her was from a 1937 newspaper article, found on microfilm at Thomas Balch Library.

**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.**

Dedicated to Art: The Corcoran and Eustis Families

The William Corcoran Eustis family that bought and restored the Oatlands estate south of Leesburg was part of an extended family that, over four generations, was “Dedicated to Art,” according to a lecture given by James P. Lucier at the Thomas Balch Library on January 16. Lucier, who did his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, has been a long time supporter of the Balch, serving as chairman of the Balch Advisory Commission during the restoration and expansion of the Balch, and is currently on the Board of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library.

As Keynote speaker at the 16th Annual Meeting of the Friends, Lucier placed the Eustis family in the broad context of art history in the United States. He pointed out that William Corcoran Eustis was the grandson and heir of millionaire Washington banker William Corcoran who founded the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 1870 to house his personal art collection for the benefit of the public. The motto, “Dedicated to Art”, still stands over the door of the building that Corcoran built.

That building was designed by the foremost U.S. architect of his day, James Renwick—designer of Grace Church in New York on Broadway, as well as St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Although the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York was founded in the same year, the Corcoran was then the largest gallery in the United States. The building, itself an architectural masterpiece, is now known as The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian.

The original building was soon found to be too small. In 1894, Eustis, then Chairman of the Corcoran, laid the cornerstone for its “new” Beaux-Arts building two blocks south. It was still the largest gallery in the United States. In 1900, Eustis married Edith Morton, daughter of Levi Morton, in Grace Church. Levi Morton was another millionaire banker. He entered public service as a congressman from New York, then Minister (equivalent to the term ambassador, today) to France, Vice President of the United States, and finally Governor of New York. Edith, as a child, grew up in France during the four years her father was a diplomat. Her husband was the son of a Louisiana congressman who became an expatriate in France during the Civil War. Consequently W.C. Eustis was born in Paris and lived there for ten years until he was orphaned by the death of both parents and brought back to live in his grandfather’s mansion in Lafayette Square. A mutual attraction to French culture may well have been the connection that led to the couple’s marriage.

In 1903, looking for a horse-training venue, the couple bought the boarded-up Oatlands House, building extensive stables and restoring the house and the gardens which had been built by George Carter a century before. Retaining Corcoran House as their townhouse, and living at Oatlands during the summer season, the couple maintained a lifestyle that replicated that of the English aristocracy. Indeed, Mrs. Eustis was inspired in her gardening by the theories of English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. She was as well a talented painter, and was beginning to write the first of two novels of manners about society in Washington, D.C. On Lafayette Square, Corcoran House was next door to the residence of Henry Adams (now the site of the Hay-Adams Hotel), where the aging literary lion presided over a weekly salon of the best thinkers and writers in the city. Adams, a Boston Brahmin transported to the nation’s capital, was the grandson of President John Quincy Adams and the great-grandson of President John Adams.

Adams at this time was writing his two most famous books, *Mont Saint Michel and Chartres* and *The Education of Henry Adams*, two works which are still in print and remain on college reading lists. The young Mrs. Eustis was welcomed into this circle, and Adams’ letters thank her for her critique of his works. Of course Adams was also well traveled in France, and his *Mont Saint Michel* shows a deep sympathy for medieval French culture and architecture.

During World War I, W. C. Eustis, with his fluency in French, volunteered to serve as the confidential assistant to General John Pershing at Allied Headquarters in Paris. Here he barely overcame a severe case of the deadly influenza. When he returned home, Mrs. Eustis inherited Levi Morton’s large residence on Rhode Island Ave., and the couple decided to sell the house in Lafayette Square and move to the newly refurbished Morton house. No sooner did they do so than Mr. Eustis died suddenly from a flare-up of the influenza. The year was 1920, and Mrs. Eustis was left to raise five children. She died in 1964.

In 1930, Mrs. Eustis’ daughter Margaret married David Finley, son of a South Carolina congressman. He was a special assistant to the millionaire U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew Mellon, entrusted with many of the Secretary’s special programs. The wedding was held on the lawn at Oatlands, and Mrs. Eustis gave the couple Little Oatlands, an 18th century farmhouse on the estate. Finley became an intimate member of the family who handled not only Mrs. Eustis’ financial affairs, but took

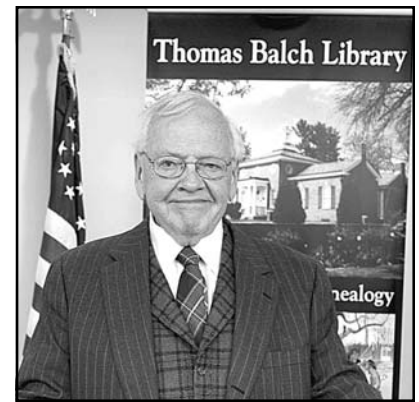


PHOTO: SARAH HUNTINGTON

Keynote Speaker James P. Lucier

on many of her personal projects.

Finley had been hired by Mellon to work on tax policy, and ghost-wrote a book for Mellon on that topic. But the Treasury in those days was in charge of U.S. government building programs, and Finley was tapped with the development of the so-called Federal Triangle project in Washington. Working with Mellon, Finley conceived the collection of classically-styled federal office buildings that remains today as an iconic statement of official Washington. But Mellon sought a greater legacy. He decided to build a great art collection and give it to the people of the United States. Moreover, he would erect a great structure to house the collection, and give it as well.

By this time, Mellon was in his late 70s and it fell to Finley to implement the project. Although Mellon always made the final decisions, it was Finley who negotiated with U.S. and European dealers, weeded out the fakes, and recommended potential acquisitions to Mellon. It also fell to Finley to be liaison to John Russell Pope, the architect for the new National Gallery of Art building. Then when the building was 90% complete, Mellon died—and Pope died 24 hours later. Finley became the one to ensure that Mellon’s vision was completed as planned, and to hold together Pope’s dispirited architectural associates who wanted to take shortcuts to complete it. By this time, Finley was recognized as one of the nation’s experts in medieval and Renaissance art, and he became the museum’s founding Director.

Thus the Corcoran and Eustis families—not to mention the Mortons and the Finleys—joined together over several generations to establish three great landmarks in the history of U.S. art culture: The first was the original Corcoran Gallery, now the Renwick. The next was the second Corcoran Gallery, which remains as a great adornment to Washington cultural life today. And of course the National Gallery of Art is the premiere gallery in the nation’s capital. Seldom has there been a family so Dedicated to Art.



1922-2011

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

P.O. Box 2184
Leesburg, VA 20177

E-Mail:

info@balchfriends.org

Website:

www.balchfriends.org

Annie Hulen
Web Administrator

Board of Directors

- Ronald A. Rust,
President
- Lewis Leigh, Jr
Vice President
- Jeff Bolyard,
Treasurer
- Wynne Saffer
Secretary
- Paul Bice
- Tracy Coffing
- Harriet M Condon
- Donald Cooper
- Richard Gillespie
- William H. Harrison
- Sarah Huntington
- Marc Leepson
- Bernadette A. Light
- Phil Lo Presti
- James P. Lucier
- Robert Patton
- Peggy Roberts
- Patty Rogers-Renner
- Susan P. Webber
- Suzi Worsham

Advisory Commission

- Francis R. Fera,
Chairman
- James H. Hershman
Vice Chairman
- Leonor Paine
- James A. Morgan, III
- James P. Roberts
- Joan G. Rokus
- Lou Etta Watkins
- Kelly Burk,
Representative
- Board of Supervisors*
- Katie Sheldon Hammler
Councilmanic
- Leesburg Town Council*
- Library Director**
Alexandra S. Gressitt
- Editor**
Janet Manthos

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 15 Issue 1

Spring 2011

A Milestone for The Thomas Balch Chronicle

This issue celebrates the fifteen years *The Thomas Balch Chronicle* has been produced for our patrons, members by Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

First edited and produced by Sarah E. Sargent, it was originally planned that each issue would focus on a particular decade of Loudoun and Virginia history.

We present here a glimpse into the first issue of each five year period:

Vol. 1, No.1, January 1996

The lead story reported the visit of two English women who wished to find information about one Richard Realf. He was a native of Uckfield, East Sussex, a poet and a journalist. Almost forgotten now by his home town in England, Realf made his way to the United States and became involved with John Brown's raid in 1859.

Included in this first issue was a complete listing of the Charter Members of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library and a letter of welcome from then President Karen Jones..

Vol. 5, No. 3, Spring 2001

Editor Brenda Douglass led off with a notice of the publication of staffer Mary Fishback's pictorial history, *Loudoun County: A Family Album*.

This issue may have been the very first announcement of the forming and funding of the Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library. The story describes the anonymous gift of \$50,000.00 and the committee's initial purpose to name a room in the newly renovated library for an African-American important to Loudoun's history. The committee selected

Howard Clarke, Sr., the first secretary, Loudoun County Emancipation Society.

From this assigned task, the committee expanded its goal to develop a regional research center of African-American history. An additional grant from Loudoun Restoration and Preservation was to fund a Mapping and Oral History project facilitated by Deborah Lee. The project was to identify historically African-American communities of Loudoun County through recorded interviews and maps. (Note: the following issue, Spring 2002, gave a complete overview of the BHC's activities and programs in process.)

Vol. 10, No.1, Spring 2006

The lead story was an extensive report on a conference: *Quakers, African Americans, Antislavery, and the Underground Railroad in the Mid-Atlantic Region*. Hosted by TBL, one hundred participants heard six prestigious panelists summarize and discuss cutting edge scholarship on the subject. Chaired by Christopher Densmore, the panel included Deborah A. Lee, Debra McCauslin, Jenny Masur, Kathryn Grover, Bronwen Souders and A. Glen Crothers, each an expert on this topic.

A report on the 10th Annual Membership Meeting included a complete transcript of the lively and informative talk by guest speaker White McKenzie Wallenborn, M.D., entitled *Thomas Jefferson, The Louisiana Purchase, and the Lewis & Clark Expedition*.

The issue contains outstanding information on both topics, for your knowledge and reading pleasure. **[A complete archive of backissues of *The Thomas Balch Chronicle* is available for reading at Thomas Balch Library.]**

A VERY SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY
ON SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2011 FROM 10 TO 4
AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY,
THE CIVIL WAR 150 LEGACY PROJECT
IS INVITING THE PUBLIC TO BRING IN
PRIVATELY HELD AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE
SCANNED FOR INCORPORATION INTO A
STATE-WIDE RESEARCH DATABASE.
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL
TRACY GILLESPIE AT 703-327-9777 OR
EMAIL [TGILLESPIE@NVRPA.ORG](mailto:tgillespie@nvrpa.org).
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT
VISIT: WWW.VIRGINIACIVILWAR.ORG/LEGACY

Douglass Document Call

In an effort to preserve the legacy of the original Frederick Douglass Elementary School, scheduled to be replaced this year with a new school of the same name, the Friends' Black History Committee and Loudoun County Public Schools plan to memorialize the history of the original school with a permanent exhibit to be installed in the new building, opening in 2012.

Opened in 1958 as a segregated elementary school, Douglass was integrated in 1968, in accordance with a U.S. District Court order, and served in that capacity for a number of years.

If you have documents or photographs you are willing to share, please contact the LCPS Planning Office at 571-252-1050