



1922-2011

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

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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 2

Summer 2011

Friends' 2011 Fundraising Event: An Afternoon at the River – Not to be Missed!

Sunday, September 25 from 4 to 7 pm is a must for your calendar. It will be **An Afternoon at the River**. The site is Riverside on the Potomac [ca 1750], Suzi and Travis Worsham's home outside of Lucketts.

Riverside on the Potomac, also referred to as Clapham's Ferry, has been the site of a Potomac River crossing since 1757 when the General Assembly granted Josias Clapham permission to operate a ferry to join Virginia to Maryland. The ferry operated until the Civil War.

The stone dwelling was probably built late 1700 to early 1800 with a log dwelling used as the kitchen after the main house was built. Also on the property is the stone and timber bank barn, believed to be one of the largest in Loudoun County.

Restoration of the house, outbuildings and surrounding land are ongoing restoration projects for the present owners. The house sits on a knoll facing the Potomac River with Sugar Loaf Mountain the vista from the two storied porch.

In addition to perfect views, good food and drink, the event will feature an address by Dennis E. Frye, Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Most appropriately, Frye will talk about *"The Potomac: International Border Between North and South."* He is the author of over 50 articles and four books on the Civil War, his latest entitled *Antietam Revealed*. He has served as a battlefield guide for National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian Institution, major universities, and Civil War Round Tables across the country. He has appeared on the History Channel's *Civil War Journal* and Ken Burn's *Civil War* series. Dennis also worked as Associate Producer and historical consultant for the movie *Gods and Generals*.

All proceeds from these events go to the Friends' endowment fund to support Thomas Balch Library. Please join us in our efforts to preserve this gem, perhaps the finest history and genealogy library in Northern Virginia..

BHC Publications Placed In All LCPS Middle and Senior H.S. Libraries

The Black History Committee, working with LCPS liaison Sarah O'Brian, has delivered complete sets of all Black History Committee publications to some 26 Loudoun County Public School middle and high school libraries.

Having these publications so readily available to these students, provides one more facet to their learning about the rich heritage of Loudoun County's African American Community. Included in the selection are *Essence of a People*, Vols I and II; Elaine Thompson's *In the Watchfires*; *Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Guide and Map*; *George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist & Musician*; *Journey Through Time*; and *Billy Pierce: Dance Master, Son of Purcellville*.

On June 4, Herbert Duvall and Wynne Saffer will judge and present the winner of the Black History Committee's special award at the Loudoun County Social Science Fair.



Riverside on the Potomac, near Lucketts, VA

SARAH HUNTINGTON

Marc Leepson on Lafayette

Journalist, historian and author Marc Leepson gave a talk on Sunday, May 1, at the Thomas Balch Library on his new book *Lafayette: Lessons in Leadership from the Idealist General*, a concise biography of the famed Marquis de Lafayette. Mr. Leepson, who recently joined the Board of Directors of the Friends of Balch Library, gave a synopsis of Lafayette's life, concentrating on the important roles he had in the American Revolution, the French Revolution of 1789, and the French July Revolution of 1830.

Mr. Leepson noted that Lafayette, one of the wealthiest young noblemen in France, was enamored of the ideals of the American Revolution, and traveled to the colonies in 1777, where he volunteered to join the cause. Soon thereafter, at age 20, he received his commission as a major general in the Continental Army. Washington embraced the young French aristocrat as an adored, all-but-adopted son. And Lafayette came to look at George Washington as his surrogate father.

Lafayette served on Washington's staff, then was given command of his own division and fought boldly and with distinction in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He returned to France in 1778 where, working with Franklin, the young Marquis accomplished what may have been an even more important mission: playing the leading role in helping secure full French support for the American cause. Lafayette came back to these shores in 1780 and commanded American forces in Virginia during the campaign against Cornwallis, where he played a key role entrapping the English general at Yorktown.

Lafayette went on to draft the French Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1789 as a member of the French National Assembly. He commanded the National Guard in Paris the day after the storming of the Bastille as France stood on the edge of civil war and anarchy. The 32-year-old Lafayette bravely and effectively protected the monarchy while pushing for republican reforms during the violent, tumultuous French Revolution that began in the summer of 1789. Lafayette was forced to flee his homeland by the radical republicans in 1792.

In 1824, he undertook an astoundingly triumphant year-long tour of the United States, during which crowds by the thousands greeted him, cities across the land lauded him, and the newspapers gave him coverage befitting a 21st century rock star.

During the turmoil of the short-lived July Revolution of 1830 when the anti-republican King Charles X enacted a series of severely repressive measures, Lafayette had the opportunity to mount a military coup and seize control of the government. He declined, and instead led the moderate faction of the July Revolution against the King, who soon abdicated in favor of the "citizen king," Louis-Philippe.

Throughout the American Revolution and the two French revolutions Lafayette faced physical hardship, mental anguish, the threat of imminent death and the frustrations of military bureaucracy. But Lafayette never wavered from his dedication to the ideals of individual freedom and republican—versus unfettered monarchical—government. He proved time and again that he was willing to put his life on the line in pursuit of his beliefs.



VISUAL COLLECTION, vc_0006_0007A, THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, LEESBURG, VIRGINIA.

This image, held at Thomas Balch Library, is inscribed in faded script on the back with the following:

"The portrait of Lafayette on the other side was painted by a lady on the occasion of his visit to Leesburg. It was the property of Judge L. P. Balch."

The Marquis de Lafayette visited Leesburg in conjunction with a visit to James Monroe's home at Oak Hill, in August, 1825.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Our Spring issue carried an item from Wynne Saffer describing the efforts by a citizens' committee to provide the School Board with an appropriate name for a new high school to be built in southern Loudoun County.

FYI, the Board elected to honor Revolutionary War hero John Champe, a legendary former citizen of Loudoun County.

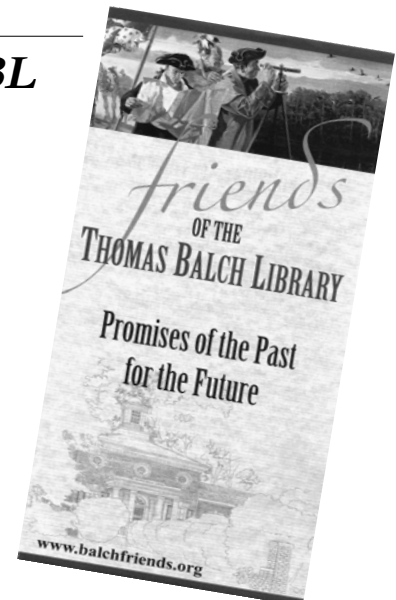
Champe was a trusted member of General George Washington's staff who attempted to capture the traitorous Benedict Arnold. Champe was believed to have been born and lived near Aldie before joining the Revolutionary Army.

It will be John Champe High School, set to open Fall 2012.

New Brochure(s) from FTBL

THE FRIENDS PRESENT TWO HANDSOME FULL-COLOR BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE.

PROMISES OF THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE PROVIDES GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FRIENDS, ITS MISSION, AND A BIT OF THE STORY OF THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY. THE SECOND, SUPPORT FOR THE PAST DESCRIBES THE VARIOUS WAYS ONE CAN HELP THIS UNIQUE LIBRARY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.



The Director's Letter

Greetings:

Thomas Balch Library continues its outreach to local groups and educational institutions with staff presentations on genealogy, local history, and collection holdings. We have also participated in events such as the Seventh Annual National Archives and Records Administration Genealogical Fair, April 20 & 21. Mary Fishback and I represented the Library; James Roberts represented the TBL Advisory Commission; Mary Randolph represented the Black History Committee, and Ron Rust and Robert Patton represented the Friends. We recorded 740 visitors to our table and have recorded telephone inquiries, in person library visits and attendees at the May class from among those who learned of the library at the Fair. In response to my report on our experience at the Fair, Diane Dimkoff, Director Customer Service Division, NARA noted: "We've used your quote about the 700 plus visitors to the Balch table as a quote—hope you don't mind." This was an outstanding experience for the Library and we look forward to participating next year.

Our intern program continues. We anticipate hosting two interns this summer, Moises Yanez from the College of William and Mary and Charlotte Blacklock from Patrick Henry College. Shannon Fuller of the University of Buffalo expects to intern here in the fall.

The success of Thomas Balch Library is attributable in part to the broad based support it receives from the community - from researchers and those who attend programs, exhibits and events and volunteers. A wide cross section of individuals both from within Leesburg and from across Loudoun County contribute their time,

skills, and knowledge to further the goals of the library. On May 4 library staff took time to recognize volunteers who have contributed so much to the success of TBL and to recognize the generosity of these outstanding people.

Thomas Balch Library was the site for Loudoun County's Sesqui-centennial Committee's sponsorship of the Civil War 150 Legacy Project – a program of the Virginia Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia. We had people coming in from as far away as Winchester and the demand was so great that LVA staff has to return to complete scanning one collection. They anticipate a return visit to Loudoun before the grant project ends. If you are interested in viewing the material that are being scanned during this project please visit the website:

<http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/cw150>

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a list of newly catalogued materials. Programs and exhibits are also listed elsewhere in the newsletter. Please note one addition to our line-up of spring programs: On Sunday June 12 at 2:00 pm Thomas Balch Library will host photographer Frank Lee Ruggles, who is giving a slide show and talk about his experiences and work. A selection of his photographs is also on exhibit in the lower level meeting room through June.

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

Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg, Virginia Rededication Ceremonies, May 19-20, 2001

It's hard to believe it was May 19 and 20, 2001. The Rededication of the beautifully renovated and enlarged Thomas Balch Library was a perfect demonstration of a massive outpouring of community support. Rescued by the Town of Leesburg with its purchase from the Loudoun County Public Library system, the small brick building was now expanded in size, and most important, in breadth of offerings to the public. To get to this point were required literally years of planning, fundraising, construction and finally, the Thomas Balch Library you see today became a reality.

The archived *The Thomas Balch Chronicle* Fall 2002 issue contains a special section, full of photos of the uncounted citizens, volunteers, and supporters of all manner. An important part of the ceremony was the unveiling and presentation of portraits of each of the persons honored by having a reading room named for them: Governor Westmoreland Davis; Historian John Divine; Howard Clark, Sr., and Margaret Mercer. Leesburg Mayor B. J. Webb cut the ribbon and also officiated at a Major Donor Appreciation Luncheon. Mural artist William Woodward was very much a center of interest, as he displayed proposed panels of the mural that was later installed under the skylight in the Mercer Room.

A few of those recognized for their efforts: Fred Morefield, exemplary fundraiser; Karen Jones, FTBL board president; longtime supporters Agnes Harrison; Wynne Saffer; Will O'Keefe, of the Westmoreland Davis Foundation; Walter Music, Toll Brothers; Jane Bogle; Leland Mahan; Ann Noel; Leesburg Council members George Atwell, Mervin Jackson, James Lucier, Leonard McDonald and David Schmidt; Karen Titus; Dr. Charles Nichols; Kurt Schwartz; Mary Fishback; Susan Webber; and Thomas Balch descendant Elizabeth Balch Benckart. The efforts of these people mentioned, along with those of many others, made the present day Thomas Balch Library unique in its offerings, but most important, in its community support.

Speaking at a luncheon the day before the official dedication ceremonies, Friends' Board Chairman Fred Morefield announced that the goal to raise \$400,000.00 was more than met. Some 210 gifts and pledges totaling more than \$425,000.00 were received. Among the major donors to the *Campaign for the Thomas Balch Library*: The Westmoreland Davis Foundation; the Rust Family Foundation; the Robey Foundation; The Loudoun Library Foundation; the Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society; Toll Brothers; and an anonymous donor who contributed \$50,000.00 with the hope that one of the principal rooms would be named for an African-American citizen of Loudoun.

**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.**

Recently Catalogued Books at Thomas Balch Library

(between 03/11 & 04/11)

Voices of Arcola, Then and Now

by the Arcola Elementary School Fourth Graders

Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the

High Sea, 1812-1815 by Stephen Budiansky

Gone, But Not Forgotten: Cemetery Preservation Guide

by the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Soc.

A Village Called Brave by James Hoy

Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World

by Maya Jasanoff

Genealogy at a Glance: French-Canadian Genealogy Research

by Denise R. Larson

A Loudoun County Coloring and Activity Book

by the Loudoun Museum

In Search of Jewish Loudoun by Nessa Memberg

Prince William County, Virginia Patriots and Pensioners

1752-1856 by Joan W. Peters

*Civil War Area Covered by Valley News Echo Between Reb
and Yank: A Civil War History of Northern Loudoun
County, Virginia*

by Taylor M. Chamberlin and John M. Souders

*Orthopaedic Injuries of the Civil War: An Atlas of Orthopaedic
Injuries and Treatments During the Civil War*

by Julian E. Kuz and Bradley P. Bengston

*Ersatz in the Confederacy: Shortage and Substitutes on the Southern
Homefront* by Mary Elizabeth Massey

The Hamilton Book Club Charter Members by Donna Norton

Recently Processed Manuscripts

(between 03/11 & 04/11)

·Round Hill Woman's Club (SC 0068)

·Nichols/Moore Land Indenture (SC 0070)

·Doman Family Reunion Calendar (OM 14)

·Lewis Leigh Collection, 2007-2008 (M 019)

Loudoun related philatelic materials.

Upcoming Thomas Balch Library Sponsored Classes

Researching with On-Line Newspapers

Thursday, 2 June 2011, 10-12AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Reference Associate, and Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, will introduce participants to both free and Thomas Balch Library subscription databases of online newspapers. Participants will explore the different methods of accessing information in these important historical resources.

Traditional Genealogical Resources at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 4 August 2011, 10-12AM

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.

Introduction to Digital Resources at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 6 October 2011, 10-12AM

Participants in the session 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*, and *America's Newspapers*.

Using Visual Collections at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 3 November 2011, 10-12AM

Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library.

Monthly Exhibits Add to Your Thomas Balch Library Experience

EXHIBITS : MARGARET MERCER ROOM

JUNE: US 15 POSTCARDS—JOSIE BALLATO

**JULY-AUGUST: LOUDOUN ARTIFACTS FROM THE
CIVIL WAR ERA—JOHN CREAMER**

EXHIBITS : LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

**APRIL- JUNE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE—
FRANK RUGGLES**

**JULY-SEPTEMBER: LEESBURG: NOW AND THEN—
K D KIDDER & NEIL STEINBERG**

New and Renewing Members

Gail Adams
 Charles D. Binns
 Valerie D. Gibbs
 Henry and Joyce Harris
 Forest L. Hough
 John C. Kelly
 Carty & Rennee Lawson
 Olen H. Lewis, Jr.
 Janet MacDonald Manthos
 Dean N. Quinney
 Diane Rice
 Dorothy K. Rickard
 Wynne C. Saffer
 Jean Smidt



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 invite you to join us!**

Yes! I wish to join the Friends and
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 the collections and programs of
 Thomas Balch Library.

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1757 Founders Club	\$ 500.00+

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Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads

- Volume 1 **Eastern Loudoun: Goin' Down the Country**
 - Volume 2 **Leesburg and the Old Carolina Road**
 - Volume 3 **The Hunt Country and Middleburg**
 - Volume 4 **Quaker Country and the Loudoun Valley**
 - Volume 5 **Waterford, the German Settlement and Between the Hills**
- each volume: \$ 20.00

- Set of all 5 volumes plus Eugene Scheel's
New Historical Map of Loudoun County \$100.00
- Individual copies of the **Historical Map** \$ 10.00
- The Essence of A People:
 Portraits of African Americans Who Made a
 Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia** \$ 15.00
- The Essence of A People II: African Americans Who Made
 Their World Anew in Loudoun County, Virginia and Beyond** \$ 15.00
- Loudoun County's African American Communities
 A Tour Map and Guide** \$ 5.00
- A Taste of Loudoun County:
 Our Favorite Recipes 1903-1951
 Home Interest Club Cookbook - Centennial Edition** \$ 10.00
- A Story of Round Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia**
 by Ann W. Thomas \$ 20.00
- In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County
 Emancipation Association, 1890-1971**
 by Elaine E. Thompson \$ 20.00
- George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist, & Musician**
 by Lemoine D. Pierce \$ 10.00
- Journey Through Time**
 by Black History Committee of Friends of the
 Thomas Balch Library \$ 5.00
- "The Imperious Laird": John Campbell,
 Fourth Earl of Loudoun**
 by Douglas W. Foard, Ph.D. \$ 15.00
- Billy Pierce: Dance Master, Son of Purcellville**
 by Lemoine D. Pierce \$ 15.00
- Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem Loudoun
 County 250th Anniversary Lecture Series** \$ 15.00
- Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture Series (2008)**
 Hosted by Thomas Balch Library, includes booklet & 2 DVDs \$ 15.00

*Thank
 You*

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 We also accept Visa and MasterCard



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

**Mark Your Calendar
For Sept. 25, 2011
An Afternoon at the River!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

Sunday June 12 – 2:00 PM Photographer Frank Lee Ruggles will give a slide show and talk about his experiences and work. A selection of his photographs is also on exhibit in the lower level meeting room through June. Frank Lee Ruggles was selected in 2007 as an official photographer for the National Park Service, a position once held by his photographic hero, Ansel Adams. In the three years since, Frank has visited and hiked over 150 National Parks and Forests across the Nation, on a 1000 day, 25000 mile journey that took him to the most beautiful and wondrous places in the country. A professional photographer since 1992, his work has included architecture, portraiture, product photography, photo journalism, scientific photography and weddings. He was a photo services provider for several federal agencies in Washington DC, including the State Department, where he was the exclusive photographic printer for Secretary of State Colin Powell. Through the years, his passion has always been photographing nature while hiking and camping. The position with the Park Service offered him endless possibilities to explore and photograph the country. Ruggles made the most of his off-duty time by grabbing his camera and backpack and heading out on a trail to see what he could find. His experience as a paratrooper in the Army gave him the skills to travel to remote places in the parks, traversing rivers and climbing cliffs to capture his best photographs. He has photographed the rugged coast of Maine, the glaciers of Alaska, the desert arches in Utah, the wonders of Yosemite, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and everything in between. He recently finished his tour with the National Park Service and is preparing his private works for gallery exhibitions across the country.

Sunday, Oct. 30 – 2:00 PM *The Last Hardware Store*. If you missed the May 14 premier of this documentary video produced by The Lincoln Studio, you are in luck. FTBL Board member Sarah Huntington is executive producer and it was through her efforts this record of the venerable Nichols Hardware Store in Purcellville is preserved for posterity. **Don't miss it.**

A full schedule of the great Fall and Winter programs at TBL will be found in the Fall issue of this newsletter and in *The Balch Column* both available in September.

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.