



1922-2012

**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 16 Issue 1

Spring 2012

## Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. Seventeenth Annual Membership Meeting: A Report

Nearly fifty members of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., patrons and thier friends braved the nasty weather to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the organization, at Thomas Balch Library on Sunday, January 22, 2012. During a brief business meeting, the group congratulated three board members who ended their terms: Robert Patton, Bernadette A. Light, and Tracy Coffing, and welcomed Martha Robin as a new board member. There were no changes in the officer slate.

The group then welcomed an interesting and informative talk by local historian and author of *A Little Short of Boats: The Civil War Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edward's Ferry*, James A. Morgan III, as reported by James Lucier. (see below)

### The American Role in Egypt after the Civil War

The Confederacy made a terrible mistake in its battle for independence when it thought it could force diplomatic recognition from Great Britain though control of the world cotton market, according to James A. Morgan III, in a presentation at the Thomas Balch Library on January 29. In fact, said Morgan, Britain was just as dependent on the North for wheat as it was on the South for cotton. Moreover, Britain had prepared for cotton shortages by building up a reserve of cotton purchased from Egypt. The Confederates played their trump card, but lost the game and lost the war.

After the war, ironically, officers of both the Northern and the Southern forces worked together to build up Egypt from a backwater of the Ottoman Empire into a modern nation. Morgan, a librarian at the U.S. Department of State, gave his lively presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. A resident of Bluemont, he is the author of *A Little Short of Boats: The Civil War Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry*.

In the middle of the 19th century, Ferdinand de Lesseps began construction of the Suez Canal under the rule of Said Pasha. In 1862, Said died and was succeeded by Ismail Pasha, later Khedive, who immediately understood that Egypt was about to occupy a strategic position in world affairs and wanted to modernize the country. He built modern Cairo and Alexandria and began a program of public works. Disturbed by the machinations of the French and the British, he turned to the Americans to develop a professional army.

During the 1870s, some 50 former Union and Confederate officers found their way into the service of the Khedive. Their reasons for doing this were as varied as their personalities and some were more successful than others. Led by former Union Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone, who remained in Egypt the longest, these American soldiers of fortune had an impact on Egypt's military, on its education system, and on the exploration of the Nile.

Based on his extensive research, Morgan discussed the colorful careers and eccentric personalities of many of the officers. With the consolidation of British control after the 1888 Treaty of Constantinople, the Americans returned home. According to Morgan, Stone then took over the construction of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.

*Editor's Note:* In speaking with Mr. Morgan, he commented about his interest in writing a biography of General Stone who, at this point has none. To do so would entail an extended research trip to Egypt to go through Stone's files of his twelve years as chief of staff to two Khedives. He says he knows where the papers are, and has made some preliminary contacts, but getting there is another question. Also, the present political situation there is to be considered.

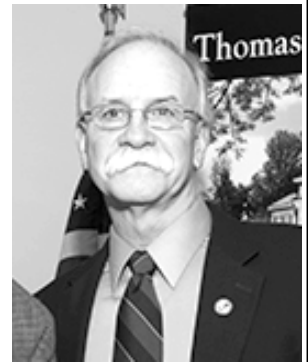


PHOTO: JAMES P. LUCIER

**James A. Morgan, III**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW, FOR THE 2012 FRIENDS' FUNDRAISING EVENT:  
AUGUST 19, 2012 AT THOMAS BIRKBY HOUSE, IN HISTORIC LEESBURG.**

## ***Black History Timeline Slated for New Douglass Elementary School***

The Black History Committee continues to work with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) on the historical documentation of Frederick Douglass Elementary School, constructed in 1958 as a segregated school for African American children. A new school is being constructed on the original site and will open this coming fall.

At the January meeting, the Committee reviewed the historical timeline and received an update from LCPS on the exhibit to be constructed within the new school. Exhibit drawings are anticipated to be available for review at the February meeting. The exhibit is to include a timeline that will frame the local history in the context of national and state events. Photographs, oral histories, and artifacts will also be incorporated. The exhibit will create a permanent record of the school and be an educational resource for teachers and students.

To donate from the original school, especially from the years of 1958-68, contact the Committee or Sara Howard-O'Brien at LCPS (571-252-1156)

## ***Recent TBL Additions to Digital Collections***

Two new collections were added to our digital holdings during November: *Proquest Obituaries* collection a resource for genealogical and historical research enables one to search obituaries and death notices from prominent newspapers, such as *The New York Times* (dating back to 1851). The collection includes both famous and lesser-known individuals and may be searched by name or by keywords appearing in the body of the article.

*Proquest African American Heritage* a comprehensive resource for African American history which includes search options for census, military records, slave and free black registers, and Freedmen's Bank records, and allows access to the AfriGeneas social networking site and the Black Genesis resource guide, as well as a how-to guide for use of African-American reference and general research materials

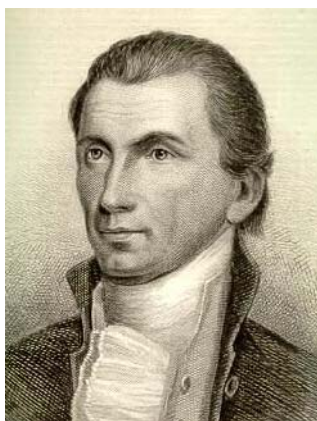
## ***President Monroe's Slave Community***

Research into Thomas Jefferson's and James Madison's slave ownership has been conducted for years but little has been publicized about James Monroe's. He owned both land and slaves in several Virginia locales, including Loudoun County. In 1830 he was the owner of 1,828 acres in Loudoun and 66 slaves, making him the largest slave owner in the county.

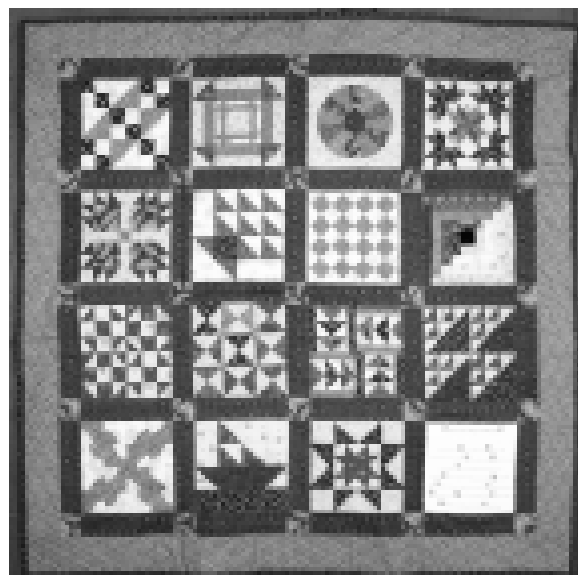
Lori Hinterleiter Kimball and Wynne Saffer have spent several years locating and analyzing documents related to Monroe's slaves, primarily the enslaved community in Loudoun County. Their work has resulted in a database of references, now available online to researchers and genealogists.

Kimball has lived in Northern Virginia for 25 years and has done research on various local topics, including the Paxton family of Carlheim/Paxton in Leesburg; the historic Selma mansion and property; and freedom seekers Peyton Lucas and Frank Wanzer. She is president of the Loudoun Preservation Society; a member of the Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library; and a member of the County's Heritage Commission.

Wynne Saffer is a life-long Loudoun resident. He has completed numerous research projects, mapped the county by land ownership in 1860; and written several books about Loudoun's history, including *Loudoun Votes 1867-1966*, *A Civil War Legacy* and *Mount Zion Cemetery, Aldie, Virginia*. He is a former member of the Black History Committee and a founding member of the Friends of the Arcola Slave Quarters. Wynne currently serves on the Boards of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library; the Loudoun Historical Society; the Patriot Project; and the Sesquicentennial Committee of the American Civil War. Both Kimball and Saffer are recipients of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission's Loudoun History Award.



**James Monroe**



If we had color, you could see the true beauty of the Underground Railroad quilt that was displayed at the Library, through March 1. More of the story can be found in the Director's Letter, on page 3.

## **MERCER ROOM EXHIBITS SPRING 2012**

- March: Loudoun County Cemeteries  
Wynne Saffer
- April: The Marshalls Remembered  
Dodona Manor
- May: 100th Jubilee  
The Ladies Board  
&  
INOVA Loudoun Hospital
- June: Charles Fenton Mercer  
and the Aldie Mill  
Tracy Gillespie

## **LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM**

- January-March:  
Sustaining Rural Culture:  
Loudoun Wines and Vines  
- Jim Hanna
- April-June:  
Local Civil War Battlefields  
- Gary Mester

## **JOIN US AT THE GENEALOGY FAIR**

Sponsored by the National Archives, the eighth fair will be held at the National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW on Wednesday and Thursday, April 18 and 19. The program showcases records held by the National Archives, and provides information to all interested in genealogy.

TBL will have an exhibit table.

## The Director's Letter

The reorganization of the general vertical files including biographies, church information, historical, and general information on Loudoun County has been completed. The files include articles, clippings, pamphlets, unpublished papers, and photographs about Loudoun County residents, local congregations, and local history. They are divided into three specific sections: ephemera, unpublished papers, and vertical files. Indices for these may be found on the Special Collections web page for Thomas Balch Library

Two flex staff members, filling vacancies left by departing or promoted staff, have joined us. Laura Christiansen received a BA in History and a BA in Art History from Berry College, and an MA in Public History and an MLIS from the University of South Carolina. She has also completed a painting restoration program at the Scuola Lorenzo D'Medici, Florence, Italy. Laura comes to TBL from the Jean Outland Chrysler Library, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA. Shannon Fuller holds a BA in Japanese Studies from Salem International University, and an MA in History from the State University of New York College at Buffalo. He will receive his MLS from SUNYC at Buffalo, August 2012. He recently completed an internship here at TBL.

A link has been placed at the base of the left hand column on TBL's website to encourage people to visit our Facebook page. Staff continues to provide research for items posted to Facebook. These are posted weekly, usually Monday, by the li-

brary director. If you have not yet viewed our Facebook site, please take time to do so: Facebook: Thomas Balch Library and "friend us." Events held at TBL are also featured on the wall and the calendar.

The Library is displaying an Underground Railroad Quilt from February 3 – March 1. Created by local quilter Debra Pettit and donated to the Library in 2011, the quilt features patterns, passed down by oral tradition that may have been used to provide directions and to issue important advice to escaping slaves on the dangerous journey to freedom. According to tradition, quilts, long a source of personal and artistic expression for enslaved and free African Americans before the Civil War, were easily adapted to display symbols that helped guide "passengers" between safe havens on the Underground Railroad. Pettit's sixteen panel quilt features one set of symbols in the order they may have been used and also describes the traditional meaning of each symbol. More than just a roadmap, the symbols depicted in *The Underground Railroad Quilt* also document the experiences of the Underground Railroad as escaping slaves may have encountered them along the journey to freedom.

Two important collections, documenting land surveys recorded in Loudoun County in the mid 19th century, are now available to researchers at Thomas Balch Library in downtown Leesburg. The Asa Jackson Collection contains the survey book and measuring tape of Asa Jackson. Jackson, an independent surveyor, regularly surveyed parcels involved in land transactions

in Loudoun County and for the Chancery Court of Loudoun County. His notebook contains 85 surveys from the years 1860-1866 and an index. In addition to the notebook of surveys, the collection includes a 50 foot cotton measuring tape in a leather case, likely used by Asa Jackson in the course of his surveys.

The Yardley Taylor Surveying Notebook belonged to Yardley Taylor, a Loudoun County surveyor famed for his "Map of Loudoun County, Virginia, from Actual Surveys," published in 1853. No mention of the map is made in the notebook. It is made up entirely of surveys of parcels in Loudoun County, however, and was in use during the years Taylor was working on his map. The notebook continues beyond the date of Taylor's death with surveys in another hand, possibly that of his nephew, Bernard Taylor. The Yardley Taylor Surveying Notebook contains an alphabetical index at the front of the volume, and is bound in the original leather.

These two collections are a rich source of information for genealogists and historians searching for information on land ownership. In addition, they offer a look into surveying methods in Loudoun County in the mid-19th century, a pivotal time as Virginians established farms, towns, and roads, and began to indelibly shape the land.

If you have not already, mark your calendars for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual NARA Genealogy Fair. It will be held April 18 & 19, 2012 at the national Archives in Washington DC.

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

## TBL Sponsored Classes for Spring and Summer

### Information Seeking Strategies for Historical Research Thurs., 1 March 2012, 10AM-Noon.

Under the direction of Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist, participants will learn techniques for developing and implementing effective search techniques. While the techniques discussed are applicable in a wide variety of environments, specific attention will be paid to Thomas Balch Library's subscription databases, including *America: History and Life*, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, and *Footnote*.

### Researching Court Records Thursday, April 5, 10 a.m.-noon

Jeanette Irby, Leesburg Town Attorney, will discuss how to use court records and other resources for data that are frequently overlooked in genealogical and historical research. Irby will demonstrate how to mine court records for clues that can be used to collect information for genealogical research. Examples of these records include real estate records, chancery suits, estates, and indexes. Jeanette Irby, previously employed by Fauquier County, has researched land records dating from the 1700s.

### Using Visual Collections at Thomas Balch Library Thursday, May 3, 10 a.m.-noon

Laura E. Christiansen, Library Reference Associate, will introduce users to visual collections at Thomas Balch Library. Types of images available and how they may be accessed and used in research will be discussed.

### Researching with On-Line Newspapers Thursday, June 7, 10 a.m.-noon

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist and Robert Goldberg, Library Reference Associate 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 Thursday, August 3, 10a.m.-noon

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.

## Recently Catalogued Books :

- American Crisis: George Washington and the Dangerous Two Years After Yorktown, 1781-1783*  
by William Fowler
- The Limits of Optimism: Thomas Jefferson's Dualistic Enlightenment* by Maurizio Valsania
- Taber Genealogy: Descendants of Thomas, Son of Philip Taber* by George Leander Randall
- Glory! Glory! Glory! The Civil War Diaries of Henry Jackson McCord, Captain, Company G, 111th Ohio Volunteer Infantry* by Richard G. Young
- The Creation of Washington, DC: the Idea and Location of the American Capital* by Kenneth R. Bowling
- The Foreign Burial of American War Dead* by Christ Dickon
- In War's Wake: Europe's Displaced Persons in the Postwar Order* by Gerald Daniel Cohen
- Slavery Defended: the Views of the Old South* by Eric L. McKittrick
- The People of the Scottish Burghs: a Genealogical Source Book of the People of Greenock, 1600-1799;*  
*The People of the Scottish Burghs: a Genealogical Source Book of the People of Stirling, 1600-1799;* and *The People of the Scottish Burghs: a Genealogical Source Book of the People of Kirkcaldy, 1600-1799;*  
three volumes by David Dobson
- Army of Amateurs: General Benjamin F. Butler and the Army of the James, 1863-1865* by Edward G. Longacre
- The Life of Johnny Reb: the Common Soldier of the Confederacy* by Ben Irvin Wiley
- The Slave States, Before the Civil War* by Frederick Law Olmsted
- Baptismal Records of Jerusalem Lutheran and Reformed Church, Burkes County, Pennsylvania* by John L. Kistler
- Revolutionary War Genealogy Research* by Craig R. Scott
- German Genealogy Research* by Ernest Thode
- African American Genealogy Research* by Michael Hait
- A History of Saint John the Apostle Church, Leesburg, and the Catholic Faith in Loudoun County, Virginia*  
by Eugene M. Scheel
- Appellate Advocacy in the Supreme Court of Virginia* by George M. Cochran and Stuart B. Campbell
- Joe Rochefort's War: The Odyssey of the Codebreaker Who Outwitted Yamamoto at Midway*  
by Elliot Carlson.
- The Bridge of Deaths* by M. C. V. Egan
- Underground Railroad* by United States National Park Service
- The Life of Abraham Lincoln, As President* by Ward Hill Lamon
- BRB's Guide to County Court Records* by Michael L. Sankey
- The Descendants of Amos Johnson of Middleburg and Fauquier County, Virginia* by Myles Johnson
- Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic;* by Fiske Kimball
- The Seven Days; the Emergence of Lee;* by Clifford Dowdey
- The Captain Who Burned His Ships: Captain Thomas Tingey, USN, 17850-1829;* by Gordon S. Brown
- The Best of Virginia Farms Cookbook & Tour Book: Recipes, People, Places;* by CiCi Williamson
- Silent Wings, Savage Death: Saga of the 82nd Airborne's Glider Artillery in World War II;*  
by Alfred & Charles Nigl
- The Sugar Barons: Family, Corruption, Empire, and War in the West Indies;* by Matthew Parker
- Kevlar Legions : the Transformation of the U.S. Army, 1989-2005;* by John Sloan Brown
- "Drinks Hard, and Swears Much": White Maryland Runaways, 1770-1774;* by Joseph Lee Boyle
- "When Drunk, is Very Bold": White Maryland Runaways, 1763-1769;* by Joseph Lee Boyle
- Unbecoming British: How Revolutionary America Became a Postcolonial Nation* by Kariann Akemi Yokota
- Transcription of Isle of Wight, Virginia, Deed Book 1, 1688-1705* by John Anderson Brayton
- Chronicles of Colonial Maryland.* by James Walter Thomas
- Origins of Our Family: Supplement One, Edward T. Gaynor, 1838/1839-1928* by Donald E. Watts

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

## New and Renewing Members

Elizabeth Balch Benckart  
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 Shirley & Robert Hall  
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*Expand your knowledge of Loudoun County and beyond with these great publications from the Friends and the Black History Committee. Great reads and great information. 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.

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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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The Thomas Balch  
**Chronicle**

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

For full descriptions of these programs, please see the Winter/Spring edition of *The Balch Column*, or contact the Library.

- Sunday, 4 March**–2PM ***Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814*** – Anthony S. Pitch will vividly describe the events of the Summer of 1814 when the British torched the Capitol, the White House & other public buildings. Books will be available for purchase.
- Saturday, 10 March**–10AM to noon: **A Walking Tour: Civil War Leesburg** – Local historian Richard Treat Gillespie will conduct participants on a two-hour chronological circuit of Leesburg’s historic district, while providing a glimpse into life of the town at that time.
- Sunday, 18 March**–2PM ***Trailblazer: The U.S. Navy’s First Black Admiral***–Writer and co-author Paul Stillwell will describe the trail of this first African American to be commissioned a flag officer in the USN. Books will be available for purchase.
- Sunday, 25 March**–2PM ***Genetic Genealogy: From DNA Basics to Using DNA Results in Your Genealogical Research***. Robert McLaren will present the basics of DNA and discuss different types of testing; some useful for genealogy and some not.
- Sunday, 15 April**–2PM ***Horrible Shipwreck***–Andrew C. Jampoler, author will describe the disaster that struck the convict ship *Amphitrite* within full sight of the French coast, and the ensuing investigations into the tragedy. Books will be available for purchase.
- Saturday, 12 May**–9AM to noon: Jim Robert’s ***Famous Walking Tour of Leesburg***–Do not miss this delightful visit to the town that gives a view of the ‘burg’, not found elsewhere.

### 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 501(c)3 corporation 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).

**Loudoun County Civil War Round Table** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM except January and February. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Loudoun County’s history during the American Civil War. Meetings are held at TBL unless otherwise noted. Next up will be John Quarstein speaking of the CSS *Virginia* vs. USS *Monitor*

Programs sponsored by Thomas Balch Library are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. Due to limited seating we recommend registering in advance by calling 703/737-7195. For updated news on events visit our website at: [www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications](http://www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications) or follow us on Facebook. Thomas Balch Library is located at 208 W. Market St., Leesburg, VA 20176.