



1922-2013

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 17 Issue 2

Summer 2013

Don't Miss This!

The Friends' Sixth Annual Fundraiser A Lesson in Military History

August 18, 2013 – 4 o'clock in the afternoon
Thomas Birkby House
Historic Downtown Leesburg, Virginia



Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. will host their sixth annual fundraising event, on Sunday, August 18, 2013, beginning at 4 pm, in the gardens of historic Thomas Birkby House (circa 1770) in downtown Leesburg, Virginia.

Co-chairs Harriett Condon, Patty Rogers-Renner, and Suzi Worsham, with Susan Webber's assistance, have arranged for a great hearty hors d'oeuvre station and mini desserts, catered by Purple Onion Caterers, along with superb local wines, in a delightful garden setting. And there is an air-conditioned tent, should the weather not cooperate. Added to all this, guests also will be treated to a very special Lesson in Military History.

To some, the War of 1812 may bring to mind the burning of the White House and other government buildings in Washington, D.C., or the safe-keeping of the Constitution, among other valuable papers right here in Loudoun County, or perhaps the origin of our national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, at Ft. McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. But there was more, much more, as that war was fought from one end of the then United States to the other and into the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec in Canada.

In keeping with our on-going recognition of the War of 1812 Bicentennial, The Friends are pleased to present Joseph W. A. Whitehorne as our speaker for this event. A historian and widely published author, he will expose his audience to another perhaps less known part of the War of 1812, based on his book, *While Washington Burned – The Fort Erie Campaign of 1814*.

Whitehorne served as a staff historian in the United States and Europe, his last assignment on the staff of the Secretary of the Army. His duties included primary research, battlefield interpretation, archive development and support to archaeological and casualty recovery operations. One of his last

military projects was as historian to the Snake Hill excavation at Fort Erie, Ontario - a War of 1812 site.

Retiring from the Army in 1989, he was a professor of history at Lord Fairfax Community College until retiring again in 2010. He continues as a historical consultant to the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at James Madison University, and he has written the history portions of 16 major reports on Civil War military sites in the Shenandoah Valley.

He is the author or co-author of numerous military history articles and 19 books, many of which deal with War of 1812 and Civil War topics.

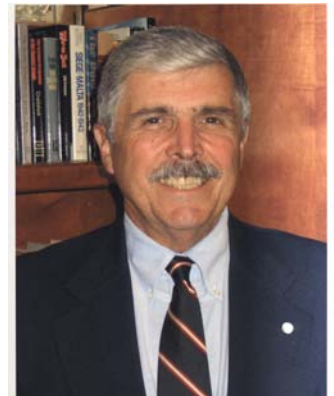


Photo: LFCC

Joseph W. A. Whitehorne

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he holds a doctorate from George Mason University and an honorary doctorate from Shenandoah University. His honors also include the Andrew Watts Prize from the University of Pennsylvania and the Moncado Prize from the American Military History Institute. His military awards include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart and two Legions of Merit.

Whitehorne is past president of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation and past president of the Warren County (VA) Historical Society. He lives in Warren County, Virginia.

All proceeds go to the endowment funds supporting activities of the Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg.

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Library, Inc.

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Website:

www.balchfriends.org

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Keep your FTBL membership current, check your label for renewal date.

Key Loudoun Historic Preservationist John Lewis Dies

John G. Lewis, an architect and historian who left a significant imprint on Loudoun during his decades of civic activism, died April 14 in Camano Island, WA, at the age of 82. He was born in Richmond June 26, 1930, to Charles David Lewis and Louise Elizabeth Gibboney Lewis. After attending Leesburg High School, Lewis entered the U.S. Army. He served in the U.S. Army Airborne Infantry with the 45th Infantry Division from 1952 to 1954 in Korea, where he was awarded a number of medals including the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Campaign Stars.

On returning to the U.S. he established a practice as a restoration consultant and it was in that capacity that he became involved with Loudoun's historic resources, many of which he documented and recorded. Those records now are part of the collection in Leesburg's Thomas Balch Library.

He restored and lived in five historic houses in Loudoun, four of which are listed on the state and national Registers of Historic Places. In 1970, he became a local regional representative for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, now known as the Department of Historic Resources. He conducted surveys, and measured and documented more than 600 structures in the counties of Loudoun, Clarke, Frederick, Fairfax, Fauquier and Prince William.

In 1972, Lewis chaired a committee to hire an architect for the new county office building to be built in the Leesburg Historic District, which has now been incorporated into the courts complex. He was the first chairman on the Virginia Board of Architectural Review working on both the Historic District Ordinance and the Design Criteria. He spearheaded Scenic River designations for both Catoctin Creek and Goose Creek and was instrumental in creating 10 town and village county historic districts and the 10,000-acre-Goose Creek Historic District—the first rural historic agricultural district in the nation.

Lewis and his family moved to the Shenandoah Valley and he became active in the Winchester-Frederick County Historic Society, continuing his crusade to research and document historic buildings and areas. He purchased his last house to restore from the Revolving Fund of Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc. He worked on and supervised the restoration and adaptive re-use of several Winchester buildings. He last lived with his daughter and former wife on Camano Island in Washington state.

He won a number of state and local awards for his work, including being named the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year in 1977. He also wrote a num-

ber of publications, of which perhaps the best sums up his trademark wit and tart observations, "Ladies, Liquor, & Laughter – John G. Lewis – Mischief of an Architectural Historian – 1930s-70s Loudoun County VA," written in 2007. His work in Loudoun was significant in a number of ways, Heidi Siebentritt, senior preservation planner for the county, said. "We are lucky that John Lewis lived in Loudoun and loved the county so much that he spent endless hours documenting its oldest buildings," she said. "His architectural survey files, lovingly referred to as 'The Lewis Files' by all of us who use them daily, formed the very foundation of all of Loudoun's historic preservation efforts and are the underpinnings of all our national and local historic districts."

And it was Lewis' work in helping spearhead the creation of the Catoctin Creek Scenic River designation and the Taylorstown Historic District that proved crucial in thwarting the 1974 efforts of the Fairfax County Water Authority and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to dam the north fork of the Catoctin River from Waterford to Taylorstown to form a reservoir, according to another key player in that fight—Phil Ehrenkranz of Taylorstown.

Because of the establishment of the Goose Creek Historic District, Ehrenkranz said, when the county was considering which streams to nominate for inclusion in the state scenic river program, Goose Creek had a leg up. But Lewis and Ehrenkranz worked to get both Goose Creek and Catoctin Creek included. The county formed its own Scenic River Committee, which Lewis chaired. The Board of Supervisors then adopted a resolution opposing a dam on Catoctin Creek as a matter of policy. Although the State Commission on Outdoor Recreation said it had insufficient money to do the qualifying work on the Catoctin designation, Lewis and Ehrenkranz worked with the Loudoun County Scenic River Committee, with the help of the Piedmont Environmental Council, to get the designation approved.

Lewis' other big contribution was advising Taylorstown activists how to create a historic district and become listed on state and national registers of historic places. Lewis then told them, "I'll take it from here." He completed all the drawings, descriptions and analysis necessary to submit to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. The district was approved and established in 1976.

"But for John's efforts," the effort to oppose the dam proposal would not have been successful, Ehrenkranz said. "He really cared very deeply about the things that were worth preserving in Virginia." **Margaret Morton, Leesburg Today**



PHOTOS: THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY

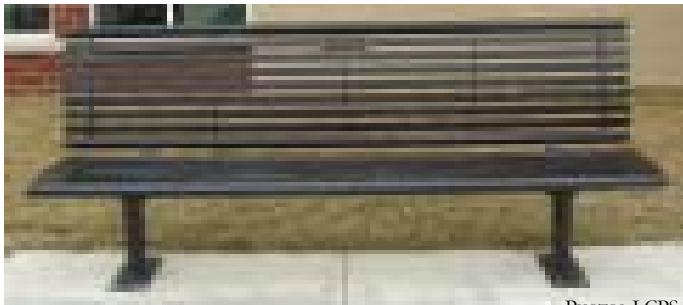
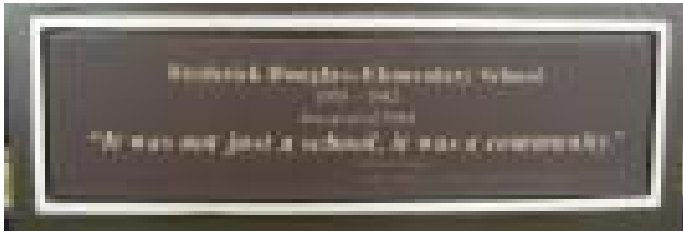
Editor's Note: According to a press release from the Town of Leesburg, June 10, 2013 is the Fifty Year Anniversary of the creation of the Old and Historic District by the Leesburg Town Council. That action made Leesburg the fifth jurisdiction in Virginia to do so.

Leesburg's Old and Historic District joined the Cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Richmond and Williamsburg. Thus, the Leesburg Town Council pre-dated the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Leesburg Old and Historic District became part of the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1969 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

A View of North King Street, part of Leesburg's Old and Historic District

Black History Committee/LCPS Exhibit Receives National Honor.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has selected the Frederick Douglass Elementary School Memorial Exhibit as a 2013 Award of Merit winner by the Leadership in History awards committee. This prestigious national award will be presented in September. In addition, LCPS has been invited to make a presentation on the exhibit at the Virginia American Planning Association Conference in July. The exhibit will be featured in a tour of Leesburg by the group.



PHOTOS: LCPS

One of three benches placed at the FDES bus loading area, by the BHC, each with the above plaque.

The Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.,

is seeking new members to join us in our exciting and valuable activities. We welcome all people interested in furthering the scope of Black History throughout our county. . . and beyond.

We meet every fourth Tuesday at 7 pm at the Library.

Want to know more?

**Contact: Thomas Balch Library
703-737-719**

www.leesburgva.gov/services.library

True or False and Did You Know? Test Your Knowledge of BHC

At the Douglass Elementary School dedication, last October, Donna Bohanon, Events Coordinator for the Black History Committee of FTBL, presented a lively “Did You Know” and “T&F” segment which entertained and informed the audience of events and personalities that are the legacy of the African American population of Loudoun County.

We plan to insert some of these bits of information in the Chronicle over the next few issues. Test your knowledge, and learn more about the rich heritage this group continues to contribute to life in Loudoun County.

Did you know? The formation of the BHC is an indirect result of an anonymous gift to the Thomas Balch Library (TBL)?

Additional Information: An anonymous donation was made to the Library along with a request that one of the rooms be named for a Loudoun County African American citizen. The first BHC committee was formed and decided to seek nominations from the community. Mr. Howard W. Clark, Sr. of Hamilton, a founder of the Loudoun County Emancipation Association was chosen. Due to the overwhelming response to the committee’s request for nominees (a total of twenty were submitted), the committee agreed to publish *Essence of a People*, to highlight the accomplishments of the other nominees. A second book, *Essence of a People II* was published to highlight others with Loudoun ties the committee felt deserved recognition for their contributions in Loudoun County and beyond. More information about the committee’s beginnings can be found in the BHC pamphlet titled *Black History Committee – Our History, Our Mission, Our Ongoing Commitment* and at the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library website: www.balchfriends.org/bhessence.htm. The pamphlet and both books can be purchased at the TBL.

True or False: At one time Loudoun County had 10 African American Communities?

False, Loudoun County had more. Over 40 communities existed at one time. Some examples are St. Louis near Middleburg, where many African American horsemen lived., and Willard a community located where Dulles Airport now stands.

Additional Information: See Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Black History Committee website: www.balchfriends.org/bhmap.htm# for a map with description of the two mentioned and many more African American communities. Also see Loudoun County’s *African American Communities a Tour Map and Guide*, available for purchase through the TBL. This full-color, illustrated, twenty-four-page booklet with map takes you on a trip through Loudoun County’s rich black history. Beginning largely in the post-emancipation period, African Americans built homes, schools, churches, fraternal lodges, and businesses throughout the county. Some communities have died out while others have remained vital; many buildings survive despite changes in the landscape. A narrative introduction and brief descriptions of forty-four settlements and neighborhoods are enhanced by thirty-two illustrations - many of them archival photographs. - and a fold-out map marked with communities, churches and schools.

Donna Bohanon

Newly Catalogued Books, February – April 2013

- Aiken, Scott Daniel, *The Swamp Fox: Lessons in Leadership from the Partisan Campaigns of Francis Marion*,
- Belko, W. Stephen, *The Triumph of the Antebellum Free Trade Movement*
- Bodie, Charles A., ed., *Highlands, Virginia Manuscripts: a guide to collection in the United States*.
- Borden, Duane Lyle, *Tombstone Inscriptions, Woodstock and Fort Valley Vicinities, Some of Hardy County, West Virginia: Books 1 and 2*
- Carmichael, David, *Organizing Archival Records: A Practical Method of Arrangement and Description for Small Archives*,
- Cerny, Johni, *A guide to German parish registers in the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Vol. One: Baden, Bavaria, Wuerttemberg*
- Connery, William S., *Mosby's Raids in Civil War Northern Virginia*
- Crothers, A. Glenn, *Quakers Living in the Lion's Mouth*,
- Dobak, William A. W. *Freedom by the Sword: U.S. Colored Troops, 1862-1867*
- Federici, Michael P. *The Political Philosophy of Alexander Hamilton*,
- Gish, Agnes Evans, *Virginia Taverns, Ordinaries and Coffee Houses: 18th - Early 19th Century Entertainment Along the Buckingham Road*,
- Grigsby, Kevin Dulany, *From Loudoun to Glory: The Role of African-Americans from Loudoun County in the Civil War*
- Jackson, Maurice, *Let This Voice be Heard: Anthony Benezet, Father of Atlantic Abolitionism*
- Mack, John, *Bucking the Railroads on the Kansas Frontier: The Struggle Over Land Claims by Homesteading Civil War Veterans, 1867-76*
- Mawdsley, Evan, *December 1941 : Twelve Days That Began a World War*
- Moltman, Gunter & Hartmut Bickleman *Germans to America: 300 years of immigration, 1683 to 1983*
- Newmyer, R. Kent, *The Treason Trial of Aaron Burr: Law, Politics, and the Character Wars of the New Nation*.

Newly Processed Manuscript Collections, February – April 2013

- Planters' Club Records, 1915-2012* (M 061).
- Mollie Brady Collection, 1847-1893* (M 084), a collection of the correspondence of a young woman living in central Pennsylvania during the Civil War with many of the letters to her originating from Virginia
- The Mary Carter Collection, n.d., 1914-1915* (SC 0105), comprised mostly of a scrapbook recording dances, parties, and gatherings she attended during school breaks in Leesburg, maintained by Mary Carter, a young woman in Leesburg;
- Constance Welsh Collection, 1890-1948* (M 048) contains scrapbooks maintained by an older woman in Leesburg
- The Brooks Equestrian Photograph Collection, 1932-1989* (VC 0051) which documents horses at Charles Town Jockey Club and Shenandoah Downs.
- Rough Minutes of Goose Creek Monthly Meeting, 1802-1849* (M 086). Final drafts of the minutes are held on deposit at the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College.

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- Prefer, Nathan, *Leyte, 1944: The Soldiers' Battle*
- Rawn, James *The Double V: How Wars, Protest, and Harry Truman Desegregated America's Military*.
- Rigby, David, *Allied Master Strategists : the Combined Chiefs of Staff in World War II*,
- Spong, John Shelby, *Here I Stand: My Struggle for a Christianity of Integrity, Love, Equality*
- Works Progress Administration, *Inventory of Church Archives, Society of Friends in Pennsylvania*
- Tritt, William, *Apple Trees Look Gay in Bloom: Civil War prison diary of William Tritt*
- Knox, Emily, *Document Delivery and Inter-library Loan on a Shoestring*.

The Director's Letter

With ongoing financial support of the Friends the Library is able to present outstanding programs for the community. These have proven an excellent outreach mechanism as we have welcomed many new patrons to the library. Both the library and the community appreciate your enthusiastic support of these educational opportunities. Eric Grundset, Library Director for the DAR in Washington DC and one of our recent lecturers has embarked on the publication of a new series on researching ancestors of the revolutionary war era. The first volume in this series, *New York in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians* has been published. As an example of information included in this series, the New York volume provides detailed information on the availability of manuscript and archival material that exist for the Revolutionary War era for New York State along with published listings of historical and genealogical studies which supplement original sources. The series will be the most extensive gathering of such information ever published, and researchers will find the volumes an essential resource with which to identify materials and studies located in many scattered libraries and archives. Subsequent volumes nearing completion include South Carolina, Geor-

gia, and Virginia. The Kettoctin Chapter, NSDAR, has voted to donate a copy of this volume to the library. We appreciate their generosity and on-going support of Thomas Balch Library.

Staff has been active in the community, making public presentations across the county and hosting tours and researchers here at the library. In March eight staff members and one TBL Commission member successfully completed the Ambassador training offered by The Journey Through Hallowed Ground. Other exciting outreach opportunities have included a proclamation for Library Week issued by the Town of Leesburg Council with James Hershman accepting and the Loudoun Board of Supervisors issuing a proclamation, in which TBL was mentioned, for Library Month. Programs for the fall lecture series, exhibits, and classes are being arranged. Stay tuned and check out the Town Calendar and the library on Facebook: Thomas Balch Library for the latest details.

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

*Alexandra S. Gressitt,
Library Director*

Enhance Your Visit to Thomas Balch Library: Don't Miss the Exhibits

Exhibits – 2013

Margaret Mercer Room

June	Dairy Monty - Leesburg Farm Museum
July -August	Local & Regional Civil War Artifacts - John Creamer
September	The Washington & Old Dominion RR, from the Northern Virginia Park Authority Archives - Tracy Gillespie
October	Friends of Balls Bluff - Ken Fleming
November	Loudoun Photography Club
December	Loudoun Symphony - Kathy Zeigler

Lower Level Meeting Room

June	Old Churches in Loudoun County - Jim Baker
July - September	Vanishing Egypt - 1922 - 1952 - W. Brown Morton, III
October - December	Loudoun Contours: Aerial Views of Our Heritage - Jim Hanna

***Be sure to renew your Friends' membership.
Check your label for renewal date and
please use the form on Page Six to enlist your friends to
become become members.***

Great Free Classes and Programs Coming in Late Summer and Fall 2013

Look for *The Balch Column*, Fall issue, due September 1, for the full and exciting schedule for Fall and Winter. Then be sure to join us for these informative events.

Gold Star Mothers in Virginia

Thursday, 1 August 2013, 10 AM

Constance Porter, reference archivist, Research Service, National Archives and Records Administration, will describe the World War I graves registration and Gold Star Mother pilgrimages of the early 1930s.

Understanding Local Government in Virginia

Thursday, 5 September, 2013, 10 AM

James H. Hershman, writer, lecturer and historian, was a senior fellow at Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute from 1997 to 2010. He served two years on the senior staff at Brookings Institution. He holds a PhD in Southern History from the University of Virginia. Mr. Hershman will clarify and assist us in unraveling this very complex subject.

Introduction to On-Line Genealogy Resource at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 3 October, 2013, 10 AM

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director, will provide a general overview of on-line resources available at TBL to patrons to conduct genealogical research, with particular attention paid to subscriptions databases, such as *AncestryLibrary*, *HeritageQuest*, *GenealogyBank* and non-subscription databases such as *Quaker Meetings*.

Preservation for Home Archives

Thursday, 7 November 2013, 10 AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist, will introduce participants to the basics of preservation and discuss the best ways to house and protect personal archives. Topics will include proper ways to handle letters, books, photographs, and other media; common conservation needs; threats to paper and electronic media; and the dangers of non-archival storage products.

Traditional Genealogical Resources at Thomas Balch Library

Thursday, 5 December, 2013, 10 AM

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

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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Author, **Joseph Whitehorne**, tells the dramatic story...

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 Tammy & Dean Worcester



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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

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The Thomas Balch
Chronicle

Friends of the
Thomas Balch Library
P. O. Box 2184
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**Don't Miss It!
The Friends'
Sixth Annual
Fundraiser
August 18, 2013!**

Calendar of Events at Thomas Balch Library

**Friends of Thomas Balch Library Sixth Annual Fundraising
Event**

Sunday, August 18, 2013

Four o'clock in the afternoon

The Thomas Birkby House (circa 1770)

Historic Downtown Leesburg, Virginia

A Military History Lesson

Author Joseph Whitehorne tells the dramatic story of

While Washington Burned ~ The Fort Erie Campaign of 1814 ~

For sponsorship information, or to request an invitation:

EVENTS@balchfriends.org or call 703-737-2166

Other Activities at Thomas Balch Library

Please see the Fall/Winter Issue of *The Balch Column* for full description of TBL Sponsored Programs

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.

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.

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.

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 or follow us on Facebook.