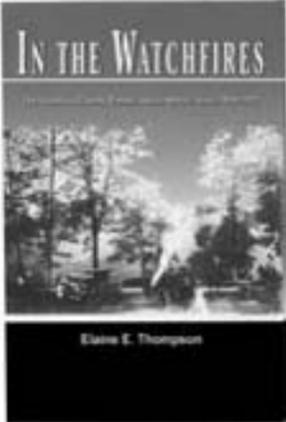


# THE BALCH COLUMN

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY • 208 W. MARKET ST. • LEESBURG, VA 20176 • 703-737-7195 • FAX: 703-737-7150 • EMAIL: balchlib@leesburgva.gov

## BOOK SIGNING

**IN THE WATCHFIRES: THE LOUDOUN COUNTY EMANCIPATION ASSOCIATION, 1890-1971**



by Elaine E. Thompson: Book Signing, Author Talk and Reception  
Saturday, 24 September 2005  
3-5PM  
Downstairs Meeting Room

Elaine E. Thompson, a retired teacher, local historian, museum consultant and author of the recently published book *In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971*, will talk about and sign copies of her book. *In the Watchfires*

presents a well-documented and informed interpretation of the Loudoun County Emancipation Association that contributes not only to Loudoun County Virginia history, but to African American and United States history. It is a memoir as well. You will not want to miss hearing Ms. Thompson as she brings the Emancipation celebrations to life and illuminates the community that created them. This event is co-sponsored by the Black History Committee, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., and Thomas Balch Library. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (No Fee; Books Available for Sale)

## CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Fishback  
Monday, 3 October 2005 7-9PM  
Meet at Thomas Balch Library at 6:45PM

John Fishback, Historic Records Manager for Loudoun County, will lead a tour of the Clerk's Office. He will discuss the extent of Loudoun County's records holdings, where to look for records of births, deaths, marriages, and deeds and how to use these records in research. Please meet at Thomas Balch Library at 6:45PM. No one is permitted to enter restricted areas of the Clerk's Office after 7:00PM, so the group will leave the library promptly at 6:45PM. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (No Fee)

## TRACKING YOUR GENES IN GENEALOGY: DNA TESTING

Thomas H. Shawker, MD  
Saturday, 8 October 2005 11AM  
Downstairs Meeting Room

This talk explains the principles behind Y chromosome and Mitochondrial DNA tests for genealogy, how to interpret the results, and how you can use them for genealogy. It assumes the audience has heard of DNA testing but has absolutely no knowledge of what it consists of, how the results are reported and understood, or how it is used in genealogy. Dr. Shawker is a research physician at the National Institutes of Health with over 200 scientific publications and numerous articles on genetics, family health history, and medical history geared to genealogical audiences. Dr. Shawker currently serves as Chairman of the National Genealogical Society Family Health and Heredity Committee and has spoken at numerous genealogy conferences including annual meetings of the National Genealogical Society, as well as the National Institute on Genealogical Research and the Smithsonian. He is author of the book *Unlocking your Genetic History: A Step-by-step Guide to Discovering your Family's Medical and Genetic Heritage*. Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press, 2004. While this book will not be available for sale at the talk, the author will be happy to autograph your copy. The book may be purchased on-line from the National Genealogical Society or your preferred on-line bookstore. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (No Fee)

## SAVE THE DATE:

The Board of Directors and membership of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., will gather at the Library on Sunday, March 5, 2006, at 2PM for its Annual Meeting. Join us for this celebration and to help recap the year's many successful activities. As this is a change of date from the last several years, please mark your calendar for March 5, 2006.

## MANAGER'S MUSING GUEST COLUMN FROM TOWN MANAGER

August 2005



Dear Patrons and Friends of Thomas Balch Library,

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Balch Column*. As Leesburg's new Town Manager, this is my first opportunity to say "thank you" for your interest in Thomas Balch Library. Whether a donor, volunteer, or patron, your support is needed and very welcome. If you have never been to this very special history and genealogy library, please take this opportunity to read the "Column." Thomas Balch Library is much more than a building with books and documents. History truly does come alive with special programs and speakers.

Just a few of the special events in store for you this fall are:

- Elaine E. Thompson – author talk and signing of *In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971*
- John Fishback - tour of Clerk's Office, Loudoun County Courthouse
- Thomas Shawker, MD, of the National Institute of Health - speaking on DNA and Genealogy
- Marty Hiatt, CGRS - teaching introductory and subject area classes on Genealogy
- Teckla H. Cox and David A. Edwards - discussing historic house research, and,
- Marc Leepson - author talk and signing *Flag: An American Biography*

Leesburg and Loudoun County are rich in history and tradition. There is no better memorial to our local history than Thomas Balch Library. I see a very bright future for the library as it matures in its second decade focused on history and genealogy. The facility continues to be upgraded, the collection is robust, and special programming is rich in content; all guided by a professional, caring and knowledgeable staff. I hope you and your family will take the opportunity to visit the facility or participate in one of our many exciting programs mentioned above or elsewhere in *Balch Column*.

I end where I began...with a "thank you" to our donors, volunteers, and patrons that have helped make Thomas Balch Library a very special part of Leesburg.

With Warm Regards,  
John Wells  
Town Manager

## ARTIST DONATES PAINTING TO THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY



Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., presents painting to Thomas Balch Library: Over the last three years, renowned Virginia muralist and painter, William Woodward, has worked with the Black History Committee to create a stunning depiction of African American experiences in Loudoun County. The unveiling was held at the 10th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., Sunday, May 22, 2005, and is now on permanent display in the Howard Clark, Sr., Room.

## DONATIONS AND GIFTS IN KIND

Heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, organizations and volunteers who have so kindly donated materials and services. It is with the addition of generous gifts that our collection continues to grow.

## PLANNING A RESEARCH TRIP?



For information on our holdings, visit our website <http://www.leesburgva.gov/services/library/> or request copies of our new and revised informational brochures by contacting the Library at [balchlib@leesburgva.gov](mailto:balchlib@leesburgva.gov)

## BEGINNING GENEALOGICAL METHODS & SOURCES

Saturday 22 October 2005 9:30AM -12:30PM  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
Marty Hiatt, CGRS



Topics to be discussed include planning, organization, finding vital records and using census schedules. Marty Hiatt has been a genealogist all her life, actively researching in Northern Virginia for 15 years. She serves on the board of the Virginia Genealogical Society, and is the editor of Northern Virginia Genealogy. Her most recent publication is *Marriage and Death Notices from the Genius of Liberty, 1817-1843*. Ms. Hiatt currently works on the Circuit Court Records Preservation Project in the Loudoun County Courthouse archives. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (Fee \$10 per registrant)

## THE JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND

Wednesday 26 October 2005 7-9PM  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
Cate Magennis Wyatt

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground began in 1996 as a public-private partnership to raise national awareness of the heritage and cultural resources along the Old Carolina Road, from Gettysburg, PA to Monticello, VA. This 175-mile corridor of the mid-Atlantic region holds more history on the creation of the United States than any other region in America. Cate Magennis Wyatt, Executive Director of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground has worked in both the public and private sectors including serving as Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia (1991-1993) and as President of Remington International. Don't miss this opportunity to learn where America happened. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (No Fee)

## RESEARCHING BUILDINGS AND HOMES IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

Saturday 5 November 2005 1:30-3:30PM  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
Teckla Hilbert Cox and David A. Edwards



Buildings, like families, have histories and life cycles. Here is an opportunity to learn how to research buildings and homes, historic or more contemporary, through use of such resources as the Lewis-Edwards Historic Properties Files and other architectural survey files. Both speakers have a wealth of knowledge and experience with Loudoun County properties. Teckla H. Cox has worked with an historic preservation consulting firm, the first architectural survey of the Town of Leesburg, and Loudoun County Planning Department where she specialized in historic and preservation planning. David A. Edwards, an architectural historian, is Director of the Winchester Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and has conducted surveys of historic architecture in Alleghany, Bath, Highland, Loudoun and Rappahannock counties. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (No Fee)

## SAINTS AND SINNERS: FIND YOUR ANCESTORS IN CHURCH AND COURT RECORDS

Saturday 12 November 2005 9:30AM-12:30PM  
Marty Hiatt, CGRS  
Downstairs Meeting Room

Most of our ancestors had a connection with one church or another. The type of family information that might be found in church records depends on the denomination, the time and location, and of course, the man in charge. Ordinary citizens are frequently found among county level court orders, minutes, and civil suits. These will be explained briefly and participants will have a hands-on opportunity to examine old written records. Marty Hiatt has been a genealogist all her life, actively researching in Northern Virginia for 15 years. She serves on the board of the Virginia Genealogical Society, and is the editor of Northern Virginia Genealogy. Her most recent publication is *Marriage and Death Notices from the Genius of Liberty, 1817-1843*. Ms. Hiatt currently works on the Circuit Court Records Preservation Project in the Loudoun County Courthouse archives. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (Fee \$10 per registrant)

## THOMAS BALCH HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday 13 November 2005 1-3PM  
Downstairs Meeting Room

Commissioners of Thomas Balch Library will present the thirteenth annual Thomas Balch History Awards. This event honors individuals who have made significant contributions to preserving Loudoun's past through collection of county documents and memorabilia, preservation of historic landmarks, visual arts, writing, and long-time commitment to local history organizations. For information on nominating individuals, contact the Library Manager at 703/737-7195.

## HISTORY OF THE HORSE IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

Saturday 3 December 2005 1-3PM  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
Steven Miller

Come hear Lovettsville native Steven Miller talk about the history of horses and their economic and social value to Loudoun County. Tack and gear will be on display. Miller and his wife Carol own and operate George's Mill Riding Stables. Miller is a member of the Board of Directors, Loudoun Horse Association and member of the Lovettsville Historical Society. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (No Fee)

## CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month except July and August at 7:30 PM.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Loudoun County history during the Civil War period. For information: 540/822-4480 or scalpem@megapipe.net

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|---------------|---|
| September 13: | Gary Ecelbarger – <i>Jackson in Clarke County</i>                               |
| October 11:   | Bill Wilkin – <i>Senator Edward D. Baker</i>                                    |
| November 8:   | Tom Clemens – <i>How McClellan Won the Battle of Antietam</i>                   |
| December 13:  | Richard Crouch – <i>A Christmas Spy Story: Laura Ratcliffe and Antonia Ford</i> |

## PHOTOGRAPHIC MYSTERIES:



Help identify people in this photograph taken at Lincoln High School during the 1920's or 30's. Call 703/737-7195 or email: Balchlib@leesburgva.gov with identifications.

## BOOK SIGNING AND AUTHOR TALK FLAG: AN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY BY MARC LEEPSON

Sunday 4 December 2005 1-3PM  
Downstairs Meeting Room

Journalist, historian, and author of the highly acclaimed *Saving Monticello*, Leepson uncovers scores of little-known, fascinating facts as he traces the evolution of the American flag from the Colonial period to its prominent role as a symbol of American resolve in today's war against terrorism. *Flag* sifts through the historical evidence to—among many other things—uncover the truth behind the Betsy Ross myth and to discover the true designer of the Stars and Stripes. The book also shines informing light on a string of colorful and influential Americans who shaped the history of the American flag. To register, please call 703/737-7195 (No Fee – Books available for sale)



The Balch Column

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