**Death and the American Civil War**

Robert M. Vickers

Sunday, 8 March 2009, 2PM

Harvard President and history professor Drew Gilpin Faust’s The Republic Divided: Recapturing History’s Civil War has called attention to the ways in which the American Civil War changed popular patterns of dealing with death. Vickers will examine the argument Faust has presented and draw upon other publications, such as the Civil War letters of the Donohue family of Loudoun County, to explore the general topic of mid-19th century American patterns of dealing with death. The Rev. Robert W. Prichard, Ph.D., has been a professor of Church History at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria since 1983. Prichard has earned degrees at Princeton, Yale, and Emory Universities, and is the author of editor of seven books, including A History of the Episcopal Church (revised edition 1999). An Episcopalian, he has served parishes in several parts of the state, including Cheddar County. He is the First Vice President of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church.

**Women in the American Revolution**

Constance Potter

Sunday, 15 March 2009, 2PM

The American Revolution affected not only soldiers, but the civilian population as well. This lecture focuses on women’s roles in the Revolution, not as solders, soldiers, but women at home. Potter will discuss pensions and other frequently used records and also the less well-utilized Papers of the Continental Congress, Courthouse Historical Records, and Societies as well as local genealogical groups. She is a regular speaker at the National Institute on Genealogical Research, the National Genealogical Society, and at the Society of Genealogical Societies as well as local genealogical groups.

**Banjo Roots: Exploring the Multicultural History of the New World Banjo**

Greg C. Adams

Sunday, March 29, 2009, 2PM

Greg C. Adams will provide an interactive presentation concerning the evolution of the banjo. From its West African roots to the present day, the banjo is an iconic instrument whose complex history still surprises scholars, aficionados, and musicians alike. Enjoy an introduction to the basics of the banjo and a chance to learn more about it. Adams (www.myspace.com/banjangreg) is a musician, archivist, and independent researcher who studies the multi-cultural history of the banjo. He holds a BA in Music History from Youngstown State University and an MA in History from University of Maryland, College Park. In addition to his professional work as a photo-archivist with an international organization in Washington, DC, he has banjo roots research and has been a member of the World Wide Web’s (1998) Banjo Sightings Database of early banjo artifacts (entitled Banjo Sightings Database www.banjodatabase.org), and the general study of early African American and African banjo playing in the early 19th century. His book An American Black Stringed Instrument: a prototype database dedicated to early banjo artifacts (entitled Banjo Sightings Database www.banjodatabase.org), and the general study of early African American and African banjo playing in the early 19th century. His book An American Black Stringed Instrument: a prototype database dedicated to early banjo artifacts exists. His book An American Black Stringed Instrument: a prototype database dedicated to early banjo artifacts exists. Adams is a frequent speaker at libraries, historical organizations, and at various events. He is also an active member of the Northern Virginia law firm of McCandlish & Lillard, P.C., is celebrating its centennial this year. This year’s honorees are Mitchell Diamond, a founding partner of the firm who has practiced in Virginia for a number of years working first in Blacksburg, VA for VTLS, Inc., a library software company, before moving to Northern Virginia.

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**Balloons in Loudoun County**

John Fishback

Monday, 20 April 2009, 7PM

Meet in the parking lot of Thomas Balch Library by 6:45PM

John Fishback, Historian Records Manager of 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, deeds, and how to use these records in research. 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.

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**From the Director’s Desk**

Thomas Balch Library was recently recognized by INOVA Hospital with a $10,000 Founders Grant from their Loudoun Lauren's Oral History Project. The project recognizes and highlights the first recipients of the INOVA Loudoun Lauraines was held the same evening as the friends of Thomas Balch Library’s “Evening with James Monroe Montagu” while also attended the Friends fall event at Oak Hill. John Wells, Town Manager, represented the Town of Leesburg and Thomas Balch Library at INOVA’s inaugural event on 20 November. Chris Pickering, Eugene Smith, and Kim Hart are the first to be recognized by the Loudoun Lauraines program and their oral history projects will soon be part of our research collections.

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**Loudoun County Civil War Roundtable**

2009 Speakers and Programs


April 9: “Ford’s Theater and the Night Lincoln was Shot” Eric Martin

May 14: “Aunt Abby House, Confederate Nurse” Teej Smith

June 11: “The John Brown Raid” Dennis Frye

July 9: “Piney Branch Church: The Boy General” Richard Welch

*From the Director’s Desk*
The fourth annual Virginia Forum, an educational meeting dedicated to current Virginia historiography, meets at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia, April 24-25, 2009.

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 visit www.balchfriends.org.

EXHIBITS 2009

MARGARET MERCER ROOM

January
History of Education in Loudoun County - Beth Schuster and Catherine Berra

February
African Americans: Their Role in Loudoun’s History - Black History Month

March
Leesburg Churches and History of J.E. Stuart and Robert E. Lee - John Wyrick

April
Restoration of Governor Westmoreland Davis’ Mansion and His Life

May
Local Artists, Sketches, Paintings and Drawings - Loudoun Sketch Club

June
African American Involvement in Rice Plantations of South Carolina - Beth Schuster and LaVonne Markham

July-Aug.
Civil War Artifacts - John Creamer

September
Postal History of Leesburg - Lewis Leigh

LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM

Jan.-March
“Virginia Native Flower Walk” by professional photographer Neil Shubin

April-June
“A Retropective: 1957-2007” by professional photographer K. D. Kidder

July-Sept.
“The Natural World that is Northern Virginia” – featuring images of the natural resources and beauty of the land that has endured throughout the transformation of Northern Virginia from rural to urban - Gary Minter