

THE BALCH COLUMN

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

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.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

THE DIGITAL DAR

Eric Grundset

Sunday, 30 September 2007, 2PM

During the past six years the DAR has sponsored a program to digitize many of its historical records, to index these and other genealogical materials, and to make more information available to both members and to the public through its website. Major changes in the way information about Revolutionary War ancestors and other genealogical sources is accessed have taken place in the past couple of years. This lecture emphasizes the unique materials at the DAR Library and the digitalization of its collections.

Eric G. Grundset has been Library Director for the DAR in Washington, DC since 1984. He has been a member of the DAR's Technology Advisory Committee from 2001-2007 during the DAR's digitization project and is the author of *American Genealogical Research at the DAR*, Washington, D.C. Grundset is a past vice president of the National Genealogical Society, and a past president of the Virginia Genealogical Society. He is a lifelong Virginian with many family lines on his mother's side extending to the mid-seventeenth century in the Old Dominion.

CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, 1 October 2007, 7PM

Meet in the parking lot of 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.



W&OD RAILROAD: ITS HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE TO LOUDOUN COUNTY

Paul McCray

Sunday, 7 October 2007, 2PM

Paul McCray was manager of the W&OD Trail for 20 years before taking on his new role as Operations Director for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. During that time, he actively researched the railroad, collecting photographs and documents related to it. He is the author of several articles about the railroad published in local and

national magazines. McCray will discuss how the railroad was started, its long history and why it played such an important role in the development of Loudoun County.



AUTHOR TALK BOOK SIGNING: LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE APPARATUS HISTORY

Mike Sanders

Sunday, 14 October 2007, 2PM

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Apparatus History, published by Arcadia Publishing, covers the apparatus history of Loudoun

County fire and rescue departments through approximately 200 black and white photographs. Fire engines, ladder trucks, rescue squads, ambulances, and other unique apparatus that have served and continue to serve Loudoun County are included. Photograph captions contain interesting information on Loudoun's fire and rescue history and traditions. In these you will learn the fire and rescue departments enjoyed naming their trucks - there was Old Maude, Queen Mary, Old Binder, Puppy, the Silver Ghost, etc., and a Loudoun County fire truck was photographed in front of the Eiffel Tower in France.

Mike Sanders has been a volunteer fire fighter and fire truck driver for the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department since 1999. He became interested in fire trucks as a young boy and

currently is a writer for a variety of fire department publications. His enthusiasm for fire apparatus and his photograph collection of Loudoun County fire and rescue apparatus led him to permanently capture this changing history of our county's fire and rescue trucks.



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

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Spring and summer have proven to be an unusually exciting time at Thomas Balch Library. We have welcomed two new part time staff members - Pamela Gottfried, Library Office Associate and John E. Berfield, Jr., Library Associate. Beth Schuster, who first joined our staff as a part time Library Associate, is now working full time as the Library Reference Specialist. Should you have occasion to visit the library, please take a few moments to welcome these outstanding new staff members.

One of the many changes this past spring and summer is implementation of a new fee structure for duplication or publication of special collection materials at the library. The fee structure is available on our website.

Our 250th Loudoun County Anniversary Lecture Series has proven so successful we have had to move them to a larger facility - the Leesburg United Methodist Church Social Hall. There are two remaining lectures in this series - September 16 will feature Warren Hofstra speaking on the Seven Years' War on the Virginia frontier and on October 21 Doug Foad will speak on Lord Loudoun. Foad's new biography on Lord Loudoun is expected to be available for sale and autographing at this lecture. Many organizations came together to make this free lecture series possible. With appreciation the following organizations are recognized: Dominion Resources Services, Inc.; Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.; Leesburg United Methodist Church; Loudoun Historical Society; Loudoun Library Foundation; Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society; Town of Leesburg, and Volunteers and Staff of Thomas Balch Library; Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. Special thanks also go to Stephen F. Hood, president, and members of the Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team, Inc., and Ricky Cooper and Mike Hough of the Town of Leesburg Street Division for their assistance with traffic control and parking. Stephanie Adams Hunter, Library Archives Specialist, produced and installed an exhibit entitled *People & Places in Loudoun County's History* for the 250th Anniversary.

Three lectures, part of the regular library series, were presented in March and April. Richard W. Stephenson presented an interesting lecture on *Mapping the American Civil War*; Mike F. Plunkett spoke on *Africans and African Americans in the Special Collections Library at UVA* and Deborah Lee and Marie Tyler-McGraw presented findings on their research projects on *Virginians in Liberia*. Despite weather related interference this series was well attended and generated interesting discussions. Programs for the fall are outlined in this newsletter and encompass the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County, genealogical, historical and biographical topics as well as book signings. Be certain to mark your calendar for these events.

One of the most exciting developments at Thomas Balch Library is the posting of collection guides to our website: <http://www.leesburgva.gov/services/library/online>. As manuscript collections are processed we add the new guides to the website. These collection guides are also linked to the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) catalogue records found on the Library of Congress website: <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/rlnsearch.html>. Our collection guides are also being posted to the Virtual Library of Virginia (VIVA) under Virginia Heritage: Guides to Manuscript and Archival Collections in Virginia at <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaead/>. Electronic posting of our collection guides makes information about our special collection materials globally available.

This spring we successfully launched an internship program. During the spring we had two interns: Mary Osborn from NOVA and Nichole Recker from Patrick Henry College. During the summer we have had two interns, Austin A. Bakus and Emily Holmes, both of Patrick Henry College. These interns processed a number of collections for us and their guides are posted to our website.

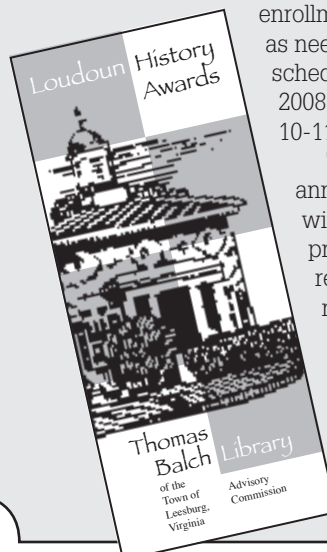
Library Volunteers have been equally busy with such projects as processing collections, helping with mailings, indexing, and data entry. We have welcomed two new volunteers to the library - Lisa Dezarn, a candidate for an MLS, and Emily Hershman, a high school student.

This fall we will be launching a program to provide on-site introductions to the library and its resources and how to conduct research in a special collections library. These sessions will last about an hour and will include a tour of the facility, half an hour to forty five minutes on a specific topic such as local history, genealogy, on-line census research; how to research using on-line resources; using an electronic card catalogue, and accessing and using manuscript and visual collections. There will be time for questions. These classes will have limited enrollment. Pre-registration is required and classes will be repeated as needed throughout the year. The first three sessions have been scheduled October through December and starting in February 2008 they will be held on the first Thursday of every month from 10-11AM.

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission sponsors the annual Loudoun History Awards. These are held in November with nominations accepted in October. A new brochure providing submission criteria and procedures and listing past recipients is available from the library. In other Commission news, I am delighted to announce that Martha Schonberger, immediate past chair, was the recipient of the Shenandoah Teacher of the Year Award.

As always it will be my pleasure to see you when visiting Thomas Balch Library or when attending our programs.

Alexandra S. Gressitt
Library Director



RECENTLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

A number of manuscript collections have been processed since the last newsletter. They include Rodney and Elizabeth Davis Family Papers (M 023), Elijah V. White's Ball's Bluff Address (SC 0023), and John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun Bookplate (SC 0017). Also of interest are a brochure from Springwood Select Home School for Girls (SC 0019); The War 1812-1815 (M 029), a newspaper published during the War of 1812; and Civil Defense Air Raid Instructions (SC 0022).



ROBERT E. LEE, ENGINEER: A BOOK IN PROGRESS

W. Brown Morton, III

Sunday, 4 November 2007, 2PM

Brown Morton will present a progress report on his research for his forthcoming book on Robert E. Lee's life as an engineer. The book will cover Lee's life from 1825, when he entered The United States Military Academy as a cadet to study engineering, to 1855, when Lee resigned as Superintendent of West Point and left the United States Corps of Engineers. Most Lee biographers focus on the Civil War years and pass all too quickly through much of this thirty year period although it comprises almost 50% of Lee's life.

Professor W. Brown Morton, III, Hon. A.I.A., holds the Prince B. Woodard Chair of Historic Preservation in the Department of Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Virginia. He is a national and international historic preservation consultant and architectural conservator. Morton's work throughout the United States has included projects for the preservation of the New York State Capitol in Albany, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the co-author of *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects* and served as Chairman of the United States National Committee of ICOMOS, 1975 -1979, and on the US/ICOMOS Executive Committee, 1975-1988. He received his Bachelor of Architectural History from the University of Virginia School of Architecture, and completed graduate studies in architectural conservation with the French Ministry of Cultural Affairs at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

LOUDOUN HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, 11 November 2007, 2PM

Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the fifteenth annual Loudoun 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 a brochure or information on nominating individuals, contact the Library Director at 703/737-7195.

AUTHOR TALK BOOK SIGNING: AN AFRICAN REPUBLIC: BLACK AND WHITE VIRGINIANS IN THE MAKING OF LIBERIA

Marie Tyler-McGraw

Sunday, 2 December 2007, 2PM

In *An African Republic*, Tyler-McGraw traces the parallel but seldom intersecting tracks of black and white Virginians' interests in African colonization, from Revolutionary-era efforts at emancipation legislation to African American churches' concern for African missions. In Virginia, African colonization attracted aging revolutionaries, republican mothers and their daughters, bond persons schooled and emancipated for Liberia, evangelical planters and merchants, urban free blacks, opportunistic politicians, Quakers, and gentlemen novelists.

An African Republic follows experiences of emigrants from Virginia to Liberia, where some became the leadership class, consciously seeking to demonstrate black abilities, while others found greater hardship and early death. Tyler-McGraw carefully examines tensions between racial identities, domestic visions, and republican citizenship in Virginia and Liberia.

Marie Tyler-McGraw is a public historian who has worked with the National Park Service, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Valentine Museum in Richmond as well as teaching in a number of colleges, including the Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. She has served as consultant for dozens of public history projects across the United States and has lectured widely in the United States and internationally. She holds a PhD in American Studies from George Washington University and is the author of three books of Virginia history, the most recent of which is *An African Republic: Black and White Virginians in the Making of Liberia*, part of The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture published by the University of North Carolina Press.

AUTHOR TALK BOOK SIGNING: DESPERATE ENGAGEMENT

Marc Leepson

Sunday, 9 December 2007, 2PM

Desperate Engagement tells the story of the Battle of Monocacy, July 9, 1864, one of the Civil War's most significant, yet little-known battles. What played out that day in the corn and wheat fields four miles south of Frederick, MD, was a full-field engagement between some 12,000 battle-hardened Confederate troops led by the controversial Jubal Anderson Early, and some 5,800 Union troops, many of them untested in battle, under the mercurial Lew Wallace, best known as the author of *Ben Hur*. When the fighting ended, some 1,300 Union troops were dead, wounded, missing or taken prisoner and Early—who suffered some 800 casualties—had routed Wallace in the northernmost Confederate victory of the war. Two days later, on another brutally hot afternoon, Monday, July 11, 1864, the foul-mouthed, hard-drinking Early sat astride his horse outside the gates of Fort Stevens in the upper Northwestern fringe of Washington, DC. He was about to make one of the war's most fateful, portentous decisions: whether or not to order his men to invade the nation's capital.

In his book, Leepson shows that had Early arrived in Washington one day earlier, the ensuing havoc easily could have brought about a different conclusion to the war. He uses primary material in a reader-friendly and engaging account of events surrounding what became known as "the Battle that Saved Washington," its impact on the last nine months of the Civil War, and on the course of American history.

Marc Leepson is a journalist, historian and author of six books, including *Desperate Engagement*, *Flag: An American Biography*, and *Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built*. A former staff writer for Congressional Quarterly, he has, since 1996, been a free-lance writer and arts editor and columnist for *The VVA Veteran*, published by Vietnam Veterans of America. He teaches U.S. history at Lord Fairfax Community College in Warrenton, VA. Leepson graduated from George Washington University in 1967. After serving in the U.S. Army, including a year in Vietnam, he earned an MA in history from GWU.

MAXIMIZING YOUR TIME AT THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY:

An Introduction to the Library, Its Resources and Research Techniques

A new series of classes aimed at introducing both the novice and the experienced researcher to the intricacies of resources at Thomas Balch Library will be offered on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted. This series will include a tour of the facility, subject specific training by experienced staff, handouts, and an opportunity to ask questions. These classes will be limited in size, registration required, and classes will repeat throughout the year.

ONLINE GENEALOGY RESEARCH AT TBL

LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist ▪ Thursday, 11 October 2007, 10-11AM

This session will be led by LaVonne Markham, a staff member since 1999, whose specialty is genealogical research. She will demonstrate how to use the different online subscriptions and resources offered at TBL. Sites such as the New England Historic Genealogical Society, AncestryLibrary and NewspaperArchive will be discussed and handouts will include: "How to Get Started in Genealogy."

TRADITIONAL HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

Mary Fishback, Library Assistant ▪ Thursday, 1 November 2007 10-11AM

Mary Fishback, a staff member since 2000 who has compiled five pictorial histories of Loudoun County, will lead this session. Learn how to use traditional research materials to uncover family or local history. Users will be introduced to documenting and abstracting historical resources.

ONLINE CENSUS RESEARCH – "MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS"

LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist ▪ Friday, 7 December 2007, 10-11AM

This session will provide special tips for using different online census databases, such as HeritageQuest and AncestryLibrary, for printing clear copies and how to use extraction forms for each census year.

LOUDOUN COUNTY 250TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES CONCLUSION FALL 2007

250TH ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES: LOUDOUN 1757: ON THE BORDER OF MAYHEM

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County, Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun County Historical Society, Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society, and Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., have joined together to present a series of lectures by distinguished historians, "Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem." This five-part lecture series will recapture the moment of global conflict in which Loudoun County was created 250 years ago and why the Williamsburg legislature chose to name this jurisdiction after a Scottish chieftain who never set foot in Virginia. This special lecture series is funded in part by a Chairman's Grant from The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. The first three lectures were: *The French Challenge to British North America*, presented by Carl J. Ekberg, *The Seven Years' War and Changing British Imperial Objectives*, by Paul W. Mapp, and *Caught in the Middle: The Indigenous Response to Foreign Imperial Designs*, by Timothy J. Shannon. The concluding lectures are:

WHEN A WORLD WAR IS THE HOME FRONT: THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR ON VIRGINIA FRONTIERS

Warren Hofstra

Sunday, 16 September 2007, 2PM

Location: Leesburg United Methodist Social Hall, 107 W Market Street

The Seven Years' War (which we call the French and Indian War) was played out across the planet. Hofstra with his noteworthy scholarship on "backwoods" people will describe how this global conflict impacted Virginia's earliest European and African settlers.

Warren R. Hofstra earned a BA in History at Washington University, MA in History from Boston University, and PhD from University of Virginia. He is the Stewart Bell Professor of American History at Shenandoah University, and has written numerous articles and books about the history of Virginia.

THE IMPERIOUS LAIRD:

JOHN CAMPBELL, LOUDOUN'S NAMESAKE

Douglas W. Foard

Sunday, 21 October 2007, 2PM

Location: Leesburg United Methodist Social Hall, 107 W Market Street

Douglas Foard's presentation will reflect his current research and new interpretations on the life and activities of John Campbell (1705-1782), fourth Earl of Loudoun. Douglas W. Foard is a retired history professor and former Executive Secretary of Phi Beta Kappa, (1989-2001) the nation's oldest academic honor society. He taught at Ferrum Junior College and later Ferrum College for twenty years. Foard is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Randolph-Macon College and holds his PhD in history from Washington University in St. Louis. The author of *The Revolt of the Aesthetes: A Study in Spanish Cultural Nationalism*, he has devoted his research career to studies of the experience of the Iberian peoples. The author will autograph copies of his book, *The Imperious Laird: John Campbell, Loudoun's Namesake*, available at the lecture.



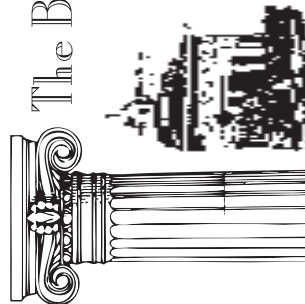
FALL 2007 LECTURES AND EVENTS

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LEESBURG AND LOUDOUN
ANNIVERSARY