

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.

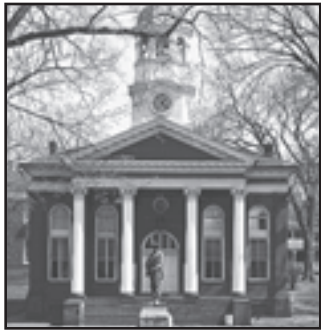
CLERK'S OFFICE TOUR, LOUDOUN COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Fishback

Monday, 25 September 2006, 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.



THE DAIRY INDUSTRY IN LOUDOUN COUNTY: AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

William H. Harrison

Sunday, October 8, 2006, 2-4PM

Bill Harrison will talk about *The Story of Loudoun's Dairy Industry*, a book he co-wrote about the history of dairy farming in the county. Following the Civil War, the development of the dairy industry in Loudoun County played a critical role in the local economy. During the twentieth century dairy farming grew rapidly, and by 1951 Loudoun County ranked first in the state for the number of its dairy farms and cows. The latter years of the century saw the industry in decline, pressured by growing expenses and development; in 2006 only one dairy farm remained in business. Harrison has been involved in farming his whole life, working for the Cooperative Extension Service for 29 years in agriculture and education. He has been active in many community organizations, including Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, which he helped to launch and for which he is currently serving as president. He has also worked both professionally and as a volunteer with the Virginia 4-H program, and is a former director of the Virginia Holstein Association. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event.

RESEARCHING CENSUS RECORDS WHILE KEEPING YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR

LaVonne Markham and Jinx Hartung

Saturday, 21 October 2006, 1-3PM

Online Census Research - Learn to make the most of electronic census records. LaVonne Markham, Library Specialist at Thomas Balch Library since 1999, amateur genealogist since 1989, and expert in extracting the impossible from online census records, will teach techniques for successfully researching census records online. Taught using an LCD projector, images will be projected to a large screen.

Humor in Genealogy - Deals with those silly and serendipitous items that make us chuckle and relieve the seriousness of genealogical research. Our ancestors were only too human (as we are) and left some very interesting notations about their existence. Her talk covers entries from records genealogists routinely use in their research. Jinx Hartung has been hunting her families for the past 25 years, with some success and a lot of interesting detail. She enjoys sharing the uniqueness of their experiences and teaching others to look for the serendipity in their ancestors' lives.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Meets second Tuesday of the month, 7:30PM, Lower Level Meeting Room, Thomas Balch Library, unless otherwise noted.

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

September 12: George Kundahl - Alexandria Goes to War
October 10: Mike O'Donnell - Civil War Centreville:
Then and Now

November 14: Rock Williams - The Chicago
Mercantile Battery

December 12: Richard Crouch - A Christmas Spy
Story: Laura Ratcliffe and Antonia
Ford - Meeting at Leesburg
Presbyterian Church

MANAGER'S MUSING



Since my last column many exciting events and developments have transpired at Thomas Balch Library. We have recently welcomed two new staff members. Lauren E. Post, Library Reference Specialist, though currently residing in WV, is originally from Fairfax County and received an undergraduate degree in American Studies from Rutgers and an MLIS from University of Texas-Austin. She has held a number of positions in academic, legal and business libraries, working most recently for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and The Library Corporation (library automation software). Lauren will manage Visual Collections and coordinate reference services. Roberta Savold, Library Office Associate, who recently completed her BLS at the University of Mary Washington, manages and coordinates book sales, meeting room reservations and revenue.

With the forthcoming commemoration of Jamestown's founding in 2007, the 250th Anniversary of Loudoun County (2007), and Leesburg (2008), over the next several years programs at the library will relate to and focus on historical developments in Virginia, Loudoun County and Leesburg.

Our informational brochure has just been revised to reflect the recent elections and changes in town leadership. This new and improved brochure includes our mission statement and an historical note in addition to providing descriptive information on our holdings.

On May 21, 2006, the Kectoctin Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution honored Thomas Balch Library with a bronze marker recognizing its commitment to preserving American heritage. The chapter spent five years working through the process to obtain this national recognition for Thomas Balch Library and the Town of Leesburg. The marker, mounted by the entrance to the library, reads "Kectoctin Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Honors Thomas Balch Library for the Preservation of Our American Heritage."



The Second Annual "Signatures of Loudoun" Design Excellence Program was held July 18, 2006. Sponsored by the Loudoun County Design Cabinet, a volunteer group of architects, designers, and interested community members, the program identifies outstanding projects and designs throughout the county. The nine winning projects of 2006 were announced during a presentation to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. An expanded awards ceremony and reception followed at the Leesburg offices of Burnett & Williams.



(Left to Right) Susan B. Horne, Alexandra S. Gressitt, Kelly Burk, Susan Webber, Martha Schonberger, Thomas A. Mason, Renee LaFollette, John A. Wells

Thomas Balch Library was honored to receive a Signatures of Loudoun Award in the category of Makeovers. The award recognized the Town of Leesburg's outstanding efforts in historic renovation and for preserving a piece of Loudoun's unique history. On July 25 the Town Council recognized Thomas Balch Library for the extraordinary efforts associated with its renovation and for receiving the Signatures of Loudoun 2006 Award for the Makeover Category.

We actively seek and welcome donations of original business records, diaries, correspondence and photographs (with identification) documenting the life, culture and history of Leesburg and Loudoun County. We also purchase and accept by donation published works relating to local and regional history and genealogy.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our many exciting programs this fall or simply when dropping in to research your home, family or some tantalizing community event. Thanks to all - friends, patrons, donors, Library Advisory Commissioners and Friends of Thomas Balch Library - who continue to make Thomas Balch Library a special place in Leesburg.

Alexandra S. Gressitt
8/15/2006

DONATIONS AND GIFTS IN KIND

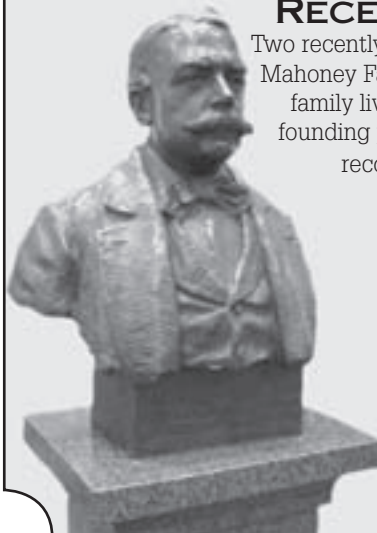
Heartfelt thanks to the individuals, organizations and volunteers who have donated materials and services. It is with the addition of generous gifts that our collection continues to grow.

"OLD VIRGINIA DAYS AND WAYS"

Now available from Jim Presgraves of Bookworm and Silverfish or Thomas Balch Library.

RECENTLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS

Two recently processed collections are available for research. "Griffith and Mahoney Family Papers (1846-1944)" documents a free African American family living in Loudoun County. "Diaries of Samuel B.T. Caldwell," founding publisher of *The Genius of Liberty*, date from 1811-1820 and record his experiences in Leesburg and Loudoun County.



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

SAVE THE DATE

The annual meeting of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. will be held Sunday, January 7, 2007.

A TOUR THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

David Lillard and Beth Erickson

Wednesday, October 25, 2006, 7PM

David Lillard, author, will join Beth Erickson, Director of Marketing Communications of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, Inc., to talk about his new book, *Journey Through Hallowed Ground: A Travel Guide*. Publication of this book coincides with the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. It features more than 100 historical sites from Gettysburg through Charlottesville including presidents' homes, Civil War battlefields, African American historical sites, and national parks. The book provides information about creating itineraries that will appeal to all interests. Lillard is the author of six adventure travel guides and books that explore the heritage of the American landscape. He is also editor of an online travel guide to the Potomac River published by the National Park Service. As a consultant, he conducts and develops plans for regional heritage-tourism initiatives. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

LEWIS AND CLARK AFTER THE EXPEDITION

Annie Hulen

Saturday, November 4, 2006, 1-3PM

Annie Hulen, a collateral descendant of Meriwether Lewis, past president of The Meriwether Society, Inc., and a member of the Kectoctin Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, will talk about the aftermath of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. She will focus on what happened to William Clark, Meriwether Lewis, the men who accompanied them and, of course, Sacajawea. Utilizing a family quilt depicting the Lewis and Clark expedition she will focus on why it took a hundred years for anything to appear in print about the expedition and talk about the intrigue with Lewis' death and Thomas Jefferson's reaction.

FAIRFIELD PLANTATION WINDOW TO THE PAST

David Brown

Sunday, November 5, 2006 2-4PM

Fairfield, also known as Carter's Creek, is the 17th and 18th century ancestral home of one of colonial Virginia's largest landholding and politically influential families, the Burwells. A large brick manor was constructed at Fairfield in 1694, and stood until destroyed by fire in 1897. Though sold out of the family in 1787, the property was reacquired, with the intention of preserving the plantation, by Burwell descendants in 1930. This National Register and Virginia Historic Landmark



property encompasses a complete cross section of Gloucester County's history and serves as a powerful symbol of the county's rich heritage as it prepares for the celebration of Jamestown's founding in 2007. The synthesis of archaeological and historical information will ultimately lead to a more accurate understanding of the lives of slaves, servants, land owners, and all of Fairfield plantation's residents. In addition to his work on Fairfield, Brown has conducted archaeological research on Warner Hall Plantation. Some of the most recognized names in American history are direct descendants of the original owner, Augustine Warner – George Washington, Robert E. Lee, and Meriwether Lewis. Copies of *Warner Hall: Story of A Great Plantation*, co-authored by David Brown and Thane Harpole (2005), will be available for purchase. David Brown received a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from the College of William and Mary, a Master's degree in history/historical archaeology from the University of Massachusetts Boston and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in history at the College of William and Mary. He has conducted extensive research on the history and archaeology of Gloucester County and worked as an archaeologist at the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Since November 2000, he has been co-director of the Fairfield Foundation in Gloucester County and in 2003 became co-owner of DATA Investigations, a cultural resource management company.

THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY HISTORY AWARDS

Sunday, November 12, 2006 1-3PM

Commissioners of Thomas Balch Library will present the fourteenth annual Thomas Balch Library 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.

RECENT DONATIONS



Family papers of Rodney and Elizabeth Davis were recently donated to the library. The Davises were members of Loudoun County's Quaker community. Dating from 1833-1920, the letters document the family's activities during this period. Included with the gift are charcoal portraits of Rodney and Elizabeth.

The civic organization "Keep Loudoun Beautiful" donated their records 22 May 2006. Keep Loudoun Beautiful's mission is to maintain the beauty of Loudoun County, educate citizens and promote awareness about environmental concerns, improve trash disposal, and eliminate illegal dumping. Materials documenting the organization's activities from 1970 to the present include minutes, annual meeting information, Board of Directors lists, newsletters, scrapbooks, and correspondence.

The donation of material relating to Billy Pierce came about as a result of the first in a series of talks on African American History sponsored by the Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. Lemoine Pierce of Atlanta Georgia, the inaugural speaker, talked about George Washington Carver as Scientist, Artist and Musician and about Billy Pierce, son of Purcellville and world famous choreographer in New York and Paris. A Purcellville resident saw an article in *Leesburg Today* promoting the program, recognized Pierce's name and came to the Library with a signed photographic portrait of Billy Pierce and a newspaper clipping about him that had been in the possession of a family member.



THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS: EUROPE'S LAST WILDERNESS

Margaret Morton

Sunday, November 19, 2006 2-4PM

The Highlands of Scotland comprise 10,000 square miles of unsurpassed beauty — moorland and heather, foaming burns and deep lochs, soaring mountains and craggy coastlines, ruined castles and small townships—all inhabited by 500,000 people and more sheep than you can count. Its history is long and bloody, where fierce clansmen stole cattle and slew each other at the drop of a hat, culminating in the death of the clan system with the defeat of history's darling—the ruinous Bonnie Prince Charlie—on windswept Culloden Moor in April 1746. After a century and a half of desolation and struggle, including the dispersion of thousands of individuals, the Highlands today are peaceful and thriving, a tourism Mecca and a new home for hundreds of entrepreneurs who use the Internet to do business in a beautiful setting far from congestion of major cities. Margaret Morton is a deputy editor with Leesburg Today, where she has worked as a journalist for 15 years. She covers a variety of topics in Loudoun, including western Loudoun towns and villages, the environment and historic preservation. She has known the Highlands of Scotland since 1957, when she first fell under the spell of that magical area as a student at the University of Edinburgh. Her presentation on The Highlands – what and where they are, geographic description of land and its people, will focus on some of the main aspects of its history – clan life, the long fight with the English, including Glencoe and the final subjugation after the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie, the desolation of the Highland Clearances and the region's current revival due to North Sea oil, its attraction as a tourist center, and its ability to lure new residents through increased technology and communications.

ONE DAY IN THE WAR OF 1812 AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

Carole Herrick

Sunday December 3, 2006, 1-3PM

Carole Herrick will speak about her research for, and recent publication on, the War of 1812. She lives with her husband Philip in McLean, where she is active in many community organizations. She attended Los Angeles State College where she received her BA in history. As a former president of the McLean Historical Society, she has written numerous articles for publication about McLean and the Northern Virginia area. Currently she is a member of the Fairfax County History Commission. She also co-chairs "McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia 1607-2007" and serves on the board of "Fairfax 2007," two organizations celebrating the quadricentennial anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. In addition to the book being discussed in this program, Herrick also authored *A Chronological History of McLean, Virginia*. The focus of this program is her current publication, *August 24, 1814 - Washington in Flames*, an account of the British burning the City of Washington, the sacking of the City of Alexandria and the escapes of Dolley and James Madison, plus other government officials, into Northern Virginia. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The Balch Column
Thomas Balch Library
208 W. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

703 737-7195

Fax: 703 737-7150

Email: balchlib@leesburgva.gov

