



1922-2014

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 18 Issue 1

Spring 2014

Annual Meeting of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library Elects Board and New Officers for the Coming Year



PHOTO: SARAH HUNTINGTON

The new FTBL Board, L to R: Sarah Huntington, Dan Morrow, Ann Daye, Thomas Horne, Gary Dickens, Francis Fera, Ron Rust, Don Cooper, Jeff Bolyard, Jim Lucier, Lewis Leigh, Jr., Sharon Parker, Suzi Worsham, Bill Ray. Not pictured: Derrick Clarke, Patty Rogers-Renner, Rich Gillespie, Phil Lo Presti, and Susan P. Webber.

On January 26, 2014, in addition to hearing a report from Library Director Alexandra S. Gressitt about the health and the 'State of Thomas Balch Library', the members approving the slate for the new board, and then being chilled by Dan Morrow's gripping account of his new book, *Murder in Lexington*, a blood-curdling time was had by all.

(Please see Jim Lucier's review and description of the book on page 3).

Gary Dickens is succeeding Ron Rust as Board President. Rust served for the past three years. Phil Lo Presti offered the following appreciation of Ron's leadership:

"The Friends wish to thank Ron Rust and Judy Kozacik for their many contributions to the Thomas Balch Library and to the Friends. Ron has just completed his tenure as President of the Friends and the Board of Directors is extremely grateful for his leadership, kind words and nudging. Ron is also well known for his complimentary coffee he was so kind to bring to bi-monthly meetings. Ron and Judy have given graciously to the Friends their time and their wonderful facility Birkeby House, to host fundraisers for the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, a treasure in the heart of this great town, operated by some very special people. We all are indebted to them for their many contributions."

President Dickens is already hard at work, familiarizing himself with the Board structure, tapping members for committees to ensure the Friends organization will meet its full potential in fund raising, and marketing the value of Thomas Balch Library, not just to its local audience, but to its regional standing as the finest history and genealogical library in the Tri-State area.

The entire Friends organization is looking forward to its next Fundraiser, always a great event, as the Friends work to fulfill their primary purpose: providing support to the Endowment Fund of Thomas Balch Library.

200 Years Ago . . . It was the Spring of 1814

The War of 1812 had raged for two years on at least three fronts, and on the seas of the world. What was happening, two hundred years ago?

Mar 4	Battle of Longwoods
Mar. 27	Battle of Horseshoe Bend
Mar. 28	Capture of USS <i>Essex</i>
Mar. 30	Battle of Lacolle Mills
Apr. 11	Napoleon abdicates French throne
Apr. 20	HMS <i>Orpheus</i> defeats USS <i>Frolic</i>
Apr. 14	United States repeals Embargo Act & Non-importation Act
Apr. 25	British extend blockade New England
Apr. 29	Capture of HMS <i>Epervier</i>

May 1	General William Clark leaves St. Louis for Prairie du Chien
May 6	Raid on Fort Oswego
May 14	Skirmish at Otter Creek
May 18	Lt. Col. Robert McDouall relieves Fort Mackinac
May 29	Skirmish at Sandy Creek

And things began to heat up, with the British in the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland, on their way to DC and Baltimore.

Friends of the
Thomas Balch
Library, Inc.

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Website:

www.balchfriends.org

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Loudoun's 22nd Annual Walk Honors Martin Luther King, Jr.

Members of the Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library joined other groups and individuals on Monday, January 29, to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. "Honoring 50 Year of Commitment to the Dream, Building Community Through Service" was the theme for this year's celebration, the County's 22nd annual event. Led by a color guard from Loudoun County High School NROTC, the marchers proceeded along East Market Street from Courthouse Square to Douglass Community Center, the walkers were joined by several high school bands, Town and County dignitaries, and a large number of civic groups.

Following the march, refreshments were served at the community center, and Joseph Daye performed an original MFK Gospel Rap, and there was more music from the various HS bands. Keynote speaker, Kevin Grigsby, historian and author of *Howardsville: The Journey of an African-American Community in Loudoun County Virginia* and *From Loudoun to Glory: The Role of African-Americans from Loudoun County in the Civil War*, addressed the gathering. Greg Wigfield, founder and lead pastor of Destiny Church in Leesburg, presented his remarks about MLK and what his "Dream" has meant to African Americans here.

The 'Gospel Rap' and the speeches were recorded and will be available for listening at Thomas Balch Library in the near future.

Virginia Forum: March 13-15, 2014

The eighth annual 2013 Virginia Forum will be held on the campus of George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. The Virginia Forum brings together historians, teachers, writers, archivists, museum curators, historic site interpreters, librarians, and others engaged in the study and interpretation of Virginia history, to share their knowledge, research, and experiences. The Virginia Forum is interdisciplinary and welcomes proposals from scholars, teachers, students, and professionals in all fields. This year's theme: "Traffic." From familiar modern concerns with transportation to more general processes of commerce, both licit and illicit, to historic modes of exchange and interaction between people, issues of "Traffic" have pervaded Virginia's history.

The Forum particularly encourages submissions that analyze the ways in which Virginia has been represented, constructed, and recorded in non-fiction, fiction, other literary and historical forms, the visual arts, and historic and monumental sites. Plans are to offer sessions and workshops that draw from the full range of Virginia-focused research, including the humanities and sciences. They invite proposals about any aspect of Virginia life, society, history, and culture and from a variety of fields, including: economics, politics, geography, law, literature, history, politics, archaeology and anthropology, environmental studies, museum and library studies, preservation, and other. For more information, please see www.virginiaforum.org.

Outstanding Free Classes at TBL Offer Something for Everyone!

It has long been this editor's opinion that many of the classes provided by Library Director Alexandra Gressitt and her crew are every bit as interesting and as valuable as the many exceptional lecture programs. Check these out!

Burned County Records in the South

Thursday, 6 March 2014, 10AM

Victor S. Dunn, Library of Virginia

Researching Court Records

Thursday, 3 April 2014, 10AM

Jeanette Irby, Leesburg Town Attorney

History of Virginia as Told by Legislative Petitions

Thursday, 1 May 2014, 10AM

Greg Crawford, Library of Virginia

Locating Real Property

Thursday, 5 June 2014, 10AM

Wynne Saffer, Author of *Loudoun County, Virginia 1860 Land Tax Map*

Historic Preservation

Thursday, 7 August 2014, 10AM

Kim Del Rance, Preservation Planner, Town of Leesburg

Preservation for Home Archives

Thursday, 2 October 2014, 10AM

Elizabeth E. Preston, Library Archives Specialist

Chronicling America and the Virginia Newspaper Project

Thursday, 6 November 2014, 10AM

Errol S. Somay, Director, Virginia Newspaper Project, Library of Virginia \

Sherry Zvares Sanabria 1937-2014

We regret to inform our members and patrons of the death of Sherry Zvares Sanabria, longstanding and enthusiastic Black History Committee member and renowned artist, on March 3, 2014. She was known particularly for her extremely effective use of light in her works, and in displaying what she called *Painting as Structure*. Most recently, she exhibited her series entitled *The Corrections: Prisons and Mental Hospitals* in Washington, DC and in Raleigh, NC. She will be missed.

Keep your FTBL membership current; Your newsletter mailing label shows the date for your renewal. And you'll find a membership application form on page six, so you can enroll your family and friends.

Murder, He Wrote *By James P. Lucier*

At the annual meeting, Dan Morrow gave an exciting account of his new book, *Murder in Lexington*. Subtitled, *VMI, Honor and Justice in Antebellum Virginia*, the book seems more like a story taken out of today's headlines rather than a detailed retelling of the murder of a VMI cadet in 1854 and the subsequent trials. Rather than just concocting a thriller, Morrow offered a deep understanding of a society that would soon disappear in the impending storm—a social structure vastly more complex than ours, one whose extraordinary virtues were brought down by deep tragic flaws.

When VMI cadet Thomas Blackburn, then a First Classman, staggered out of an alley next to the Lexington Presbyterian Church on the evening of January 15, 1854, and collapsed in a pool of blood on Main Street, it set off a series of events that would split the town and set faction against faction. Morrow described these in admirable fashion, explaining how he had combed libraries, newspaper files, archives, court records and contemporary accounts.

But first he had to find out who all the players were—and that is not easy in the study of the ruling class in the history of Virginia. The concept of family in Virginia extends not just to the nuclear family, nor to living relatives. Rather it is layer upon layer of family connections that can go back two or three hundred years. Virginians absorbed all these relationships with their mother's milk and were perfectly familiar with their third cousins, twice removed, without giving it a thought. Even though Morrow, who grew up in Danville, Virginia, was familiar with this situation, he suddenly realized that he was hopelessly awash in dealing with 19th century Lexington. Everybody, it seemed, was related to everybody else either at a distance, or in a previous generation.

Thus Morrow became a wholesale client of the website Ancestry.com, not to look up his own genealogy, but to figure out who was related to whom among the victim, the defendant, the judges, the lawyers and the juries. Perhaps that is why, despite the weight of overwhelming evidence, the first trial resulted in a hung jury, and the second trial in the next county resulted in acquittal.

The town, which boasted of only 1,100 free citizens, nevertheless was host to not one, not two, but three institutions of higher learning to prepare the young gentlemen of Virginia for leadership roles in the Commonwealth. The first, of course was the Virginia Military Institute, famed for its Spartan quarters and discipline, and still under its founding Superintendent, Maj. Gen. Francis Henney Smith.

The second was Washington College, with the Rev. Dr. George Junkin as president, who was also minister of the Lexington Presbyterian Church.

The third was a private law school run by one of the most distinguished jurists in Virginia, John White Brockenbrough, judge of the United States Court for the Western District of Virginia.

Years later the college would become Washington and Lee University, and Judge Brockenbrough's school would become the Washington and Lee College of Law.

In 1851, VMI Superintendent White hired a hero of the Mexican War, Maj. Thomas Jonathan Jackson, to be a teacher and second-in-command at VMI. An indifferent teacher, he was later to acquire the nickname "Stonewall" for his brilliant command in the First Battle of Bull Run. Meanwhile Jackson

married the daughter of Dr. Junkin, and the newlyweds moved into a new wing of the President's house on the campus of Washington College. In this same period, Judge Brockenbrough became a trustee of Washington College.

This complexity became significant with the murder of Cadet Blackburn. The perpetrator of the deed was one of the Judge's top students, Charles Burks Christian. In that small town, with three schools of young gentlemen who had limited opportunities to meet the fair sex, a highly prized activity was the chance to escort a young lady of quality to the evening Sunday sermon of Dr. Junkin at the Presbyterian church.

Christian, having met formally a beautiful young lady and obtained permission to escort her to the Church service, was mortified when she suddenly spurned his invitation. He became convinced that his character had been slandered by

Blackburn, and, as Blackburn was entering the church, called him out to the alley for a "discussion." As they wrestled in the mud, the larger and stronger Blackburn got the best of Christian, choking him with bare hands. With a final thrust, Christian managed to pull out a Bowie knife and slit his opponent's throat.

It was self-defense, Christian said as he surrendered to authorities, but he was the only living witness to the act.

With the cadet corps storming the scene and threatening to lynch Christian, it was all Superintendent White and Maj. Jackson could do to impose military discipline to form up the cadets in an honor guard to convey the body of their dead comrade to the barracks.

At the trial, White hired a famous retired lawyer at exorbitant expense "to defend the honor of Blackburn and the Institute," while Brockenbrough himself headed up a defense team of eight of the top lawyers in Virginia to defend the honor of his student. The whole town was held spellbound for weeks by the jurists' rhetorical flights of fancy. In the end the jury was hung, and therefore the defendant was not hanged. A second trial in the next county reprised the first, but the jury ruled for acquittal. Christian was free.

Morrow will present another discussion of his book as part of the Thomas Balch Lecture Series, free to the public, on March 30, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

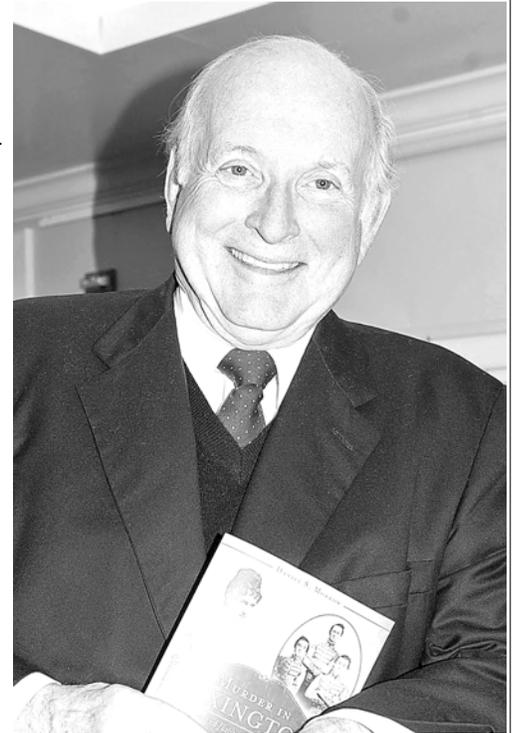


PHOTO: SARAH HUNTINGTON

Daniel S. Morrow

Newly Processed Manuscript Collections, through January 2014:

The Anna Snowden Wildman Dyer Collection (M078)
The Charles Blair Tavenner Collection 1709-1980 (M090)
The Confederate Veterans Photograph, ca. 1909
(VC 0056)
The Ethel Littlejohn Adams Collection, 1847-1941
(M091)

Newly Catalogued Books through January 2014

World War I, S. L. A. Marshall

Without Indentures: Index to White Slave Children in Colonial Court Records [Maryland and Virginia],
Richard Hayes Phillips

Loudoun County, Virginia Criminal Indictments 1801-1843, Patricia Duncan

Just Call Me Soldier Boy: World War II Letters from PFC Andy Bergner, Patton's Third Army,
Laurie Bergner Maggiano, ed.

Race to the Top of the World: Richard Byrd and the First Flight to the North Pole, Sheldon Bart

The Abundant Life of Lalla Fauntleroy Harrison Dodge: August 10, 1918 – January 9, 2006,

An Extraordinary Gentleman: Clarence Dodge, Jr., Nov 3, 1914 – Dec 28, 2002, Lalla Dodge Brutoco

Map Guide to German Parish Registers: Kingdom of West Prussia I: Volume 44, Kevan M. Hansen

The History of Public Library Access for African Americans in the South, Or, Leaving Behind the Plow,

David M. Battles

1812: A Nation Emerges, Sidney Hart

Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II, Arthur Herman

Over the Counter and On the Shelf; Country Storekeeping in America, 1620-1920,

Laurence Ayers Johnson

Early American Decorative Arts, 1620-1860, Rosemary Troy Krill

Writing Local History Today: A Guide to Researching, Publishing, and Marketing Your Book,

Thomas A. Mason & J. Ken Calder

Murder in Lexington: VMI, Honor and Justice in Antebellum Virginia, Daniel S. Morrow

The Grandees of Government: The Origins and Persistence of Undemocratic Politics in Virginia, Brent Tarter

Family Photo Detective: Learn How to Find Genealogy Clues in Old Photos and Solve Family Photo Mysteries,

Maureen A. Taylor

"Mr. President": George Washington and the Making of the Nation's Highest Office, Harlow G. Under

Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends, Richard Hite

The Extreme Searcher's Internet Handbook, 4th Edition, Randolph Hock

Exhibits

Margaret Mercer Room

March – Civic Service Projects of SCV/UDC – Ken Fleming/
Becky Fleming
April – Generations of Outlands Historic Houses and Gardens -
Lori Kimball
May – Thirty Years of the Loudoun Preservation Society
Lori Kimball
June – Antique Arms of the War of 1812 Era – Gary Heath

Lower Level Meeting Room

March - Scenes from Northern Virginia - Ofelia Knapp
April-June - Art in Cross Stitch: Scenes Along the Back
Roads of Loudoun - Cathy Payne
July-Sept - Photographs of Historical Figures -
Bachrach Photography
October - December - The Grist Mill in Northern
Virginia - Jim Steward

The Director's Letter

2014 has started off with a heavy dose of snow and cold weather. Certainly spring must be around the corner and with that in mind, please check our listing of library programs for winter and spring in the calendar of the *Balch Chronicle*.

Additional information on these programs, lectures, classes, tours, and exhibits may be found in the library's newsletter, *The Balch Column*, on the library's webpage

<http://www.leesburgva.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=12712>

or on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/ThomasBalchLibrary>

As we have mentioned before, often the library receives collections related to families in the area. These frequently include invaluable but inadequately identified images of people. One such collection, *Cooper Fry Scott Family Papers 1816-1950 (M76)*, was recently processed by Lisa DeZarn, a Library Associate. The grandson of Nicholas, William Martin Fry (b.1833), married John Cooper's daughter, Mary Amanda, on 03 January 1856 in Loudoun County. At the time of their marriage, William was listed in the census as a shoemaker. Together, Mary Amanda Cooper Fry (10 March 1833-22 April 1917), and William Martin Fry (b.1833), had ten children: Sarah C. (b. 1857), Anna (b. 1859), John W (1861-16 January 1922), Charles H. (b.1863), Ida (b .1865), Rose Mary (b. 1868), Eliza L. (b. 1869), Frank (b. 1870), Mary M. (Mattie) (1871- 5 December,1937) and David T. (b. 1874).

This photograph (vc_0047_003) entitled "Mattie Fry with Grandchild of Mary Amanda Cooper Fry" remains a mystery. Which grandchild? We do not know. Mattie Fry was never married and there is no indication that she had children.



Any assistance in positive identification of the children in this photograph or any other unidentified persons in the Cooper Fry Scott Family Papers (M 076) would be appreciated. Please contact balchlib@leesburgva.gov or call 703-797-7195 if you are able to provide identification on this photograph or are able to assist in the identification of other unidentified images from this collection.

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

Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

Greetings From FTBL President Gary Dickens

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I assume the role of President of this wonderful organization. I'm thankful to Ron Rust for his years of leadership and hard work, the results of which can be seen in the very makeup of the Board of Directors and a strong balance sheet.

My relationship with the Thomas Balch Library goes back to the '70s, when it, and the Purcellville Library, pretty much made up the entire county library system, at least from the vantage of the western Loudoun boy.

Teachers at Loudoun Valley High School were prone to give research and writing assignments, including our own Rich Gillespie. When the depth of the assignment outstripped the resources of the Purcellville Library, I'd ask mom to take me into Leesburg, to the "big" library, where all knowledge was sure to be found. Once there, if one was lucky, the card catalog would indicate that the sought book would be in the basement stacks, necessitating a cautious trip down the spiral stairs.

College and a long career at REHAU, Inc. took me far afield in the '80s and '90s, so that, while I remained a Loudoun resident, I really wasn't here. When the calendar turned over to a new century, I left my road warrior ways to become that Loudoun teenager again, seeking to reconnect with our dirt roads and villages.

Part of the reconnection has been through working with small businesses, particularly in helping Brett Phillips in the early years of "Loudoun Magazine" and through our family's business, Jerry's Flowers. Both businesses have brought, and continue to bring me up close and personal with our back roads and new roads, both our native born residents and those from across the globe.

Now I have the distinct privilege of understanding and promoting the mission of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library and in doing so I turn to the roots of the library itself, recorded in a 1923 book documenting the speeches made on the day of the library's dedication, May 23rd, 1922.

In that book I learn that Thomas Balch was a man who devoted his life to the use of words rather than guns to settle the differences between nations. His son, Edwin S. Balch, would say on that day **"May the library long endure, not only as a memorial of the leading part our father took towards reducing this greatest curse of mankind..."**

The library's current role in curating local history fits well into Edwin Balch's wish and given Loudoun's prominence in our nation's history, even to the point of that famous quote **"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"**.

The library's role in disseminating historical knowledge, providing both a comfortable place for research and lectures, fulfills the second part of Edwin Balch's wish, **"...but also as a center for the diffusion of knowledge in his birthplace and surrounding country"**.

As Friends of the Balch Library, let us continue to support and promote those desires expressed over 90 years ago, to the betterment of our local communities and given today's technologies, around the world.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Dickens

About Us:

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. was organized in 1995 as a 501(c)3 corporation. The membership stretches from coast to coast, due to the unique nature of the Library's collections and the faithful support of genealogists and history lovers everywhere.

The board members and committee members of the Friends are active participants in collecting and preserving information from Loudoun County as well as surrounding areas.

The Library, owned by the Town of Leesburg, underwent a major renovation, in 2001-2002, and the Friends organization was heavily involved in the massive fundraising effort. The success of that effort is evident today in the bright, comfortable, and most complete history and genealogical research library in Northern Virginia.

Please use the form below, for yourself and for your friends -- Join Us Today!

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.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Senior/Student	\$	15.00
Family	\$	25.00
Patron	\$	50.00
Sustaining/ Business	\$	100.00
Benefactor	\$	250.00
Legacy Society	\$	500.00+

FRIENDS OF THE THOMAS BALCH LIBRARY, INC

PO Box 2184 Leesburg, VA 20177

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. is tax exempt under 501(c)3

New & Renewing Members

Mark Crowley
Alexandra Gressitt
Doris Gressitt
Shirley & Robert Hall
Howell Simmons
David & Donna Torraca
Alfred Van Huyck
Joan Whitener

A Reminder

Do not forget the publications produced by The Friends and its Black History Committee listed on the form on the next page.

These fascinating and well researched volumes cover many different aspects of the legacy and history of Loudoun County, the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond.

Use this order form to order, or come to the Library to see these and many other works by local and regional authors and videographers.

Also, often available following their author's presentation at one of the highly regarded lectures and programs presented by Thomas Balch Library.

See page 8 of this newsletter for partial listing of the programs. For full description, see *The Balch Column*. Don't miss them.



FRIENDS OF
THOMAS
BALCH
LIBRARY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2184
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20177

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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

*Thank
You*

Sub-total _____

Shipping & Handling _____

TOTAL DUE _____

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**
We also accept Visa and MasterCard



The Thomas Balch
Chronicle

Friends of the
Thomas Balch Library
P. O. Box 2184
Leesburg, VA 20177

Calendar of Events at Thomas Balch Library

Please see the Spring Issue *The Balch Column* for full description of TBL Sponsored Programs

Sunday, 2 Mar.–2PM *Mission to Tokyo* – Robert F. Dorr, author. Books will be available for purchase at lecture.

Sunday, 9 Mar.–2PM *The Battle of Midway (A Naval Institute Guide)* –Thomas C. Hone.

Sunday, 16 Mar.–2PM *Secret War for the Middle East: The Influence of Axis and Allied Intelligence Operation During World War II* –Youssef Aboul Enein, author. Books will be available for purchase at lecture.

Sunday, 23 Mar.–2PM *Lucky Few: The Fall of Saigon and the Rescue Mission of the USS Kirk* –Jan K. Herman, author. Books will be available for purchase at lecture.

Sunday, 30 Mar.–2PM *Murder in Lexington: VMI, Honor and Justice in Antebellum Virginia* –Daniel S. Morrow, author. Books will be available for purchase at lecture.

Sunday, 6 April–2PM *The Golden Few* – Anthony R. Wells, author. This book and an earlier work *Black Gold Finale* will be available for purchase at lecture.

Sunday, 27 April–2PM *The Grandees of Government: The Origins and Persistence of Undemocratic Politics in Virginia* – Brent Tarter, author. Books will be available for purchase at lecture.

Sunday, 4 May–2PM *Black Rock and Blue Water: The Wreck of the Royal Mail Ship Thone in St. Narcisco's Hurricane of October 1867* – Andrew C.A. Jampoler, author. Note: This book available only in e-book format.

Sunday, 18 May–2PM *Blowtorch: Robert Komer, Vietnam, and American Cold War Strategy* – Frank Leith Jones, author. Books will be available for purchase at lecture.

Other Activities at Thomas Balch Library

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.