



The Friends of the Thomas Balch Library **CHRONICLE**

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208 W. Market St.
Leesburg, VA 20176

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Loudoun County Planner Teckla Cox Is Focus of Friends' First Oral History on Video

The Friends of the Thomas Balch Library launched its new Thomas Balch Library Oral History Series on Sunday, January 11, 2015, with the premier showing of a video interview with Teckla Cox, whose work with the Loudoun County Planning Department helped shaped the Loudoun County of the 21st century.

The interview was part of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Oral History Series, and was produced entirely by members of the Friends' Board. It was conducted by board member Richard Gillespie, executive director of the Mosby Heritage Area Association.

Teckla Cox not only has become part of Loudoun's history, but has also been able to shape its future. Her family moved from Michigan to Georgetown, in 1941, and then in 1945 to the 19th century farm called Hedgeland, just outside of Waterford.

When she married in 1954, she moved into her husband's family home, the historic John Janney house at 10 East Cornwall Street in Leesburg. Janney was a friend of Robert E. Lee, and a prominent Virginia statesman. The Janneys and their relatives, the Coxes,



have lived in the house for six generations.

With the first section built in 1780, and the west wing in 1840, the house sits on one of the original lots in the 1779 Hough Plan of Leesburg. She says that she loves the irony of having a life-long career as both a comprehensive planner *continued on page 6)*

About the Thomas Balch Library & Friends

The Thomas Balch Library is a history and genealogy library owned and operated by the Town of Leesburg. A designated Underground Railroad research site, the Library's collections focus on Loudoun County, regional and Virginia history, genealogy, military history with special emphasis on the American Civil War, and ethnic history. www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary.

**208 West Market Street, Leesburg, VA
20176 (703) 7737-7195**

About the Friends

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., is a nonprofit organization organized in 1995 to help the Library preserve, enhance, and promote Loudoun and Virginia heritage through its public programs, special events, and projects. With the dedicated support of Friends members from coast to coast, the Library has become the most complete history and genealogical research library in Northern Virginia. The Friends also made major contributions to the extensive renovation of the Library building in 2001–2002, which transformed it into a beautiful, bright, and airy place to conduct research.

About the Black History Committee

The Black History Committee of the Friends was founded in 2000 “to preserve, collect, promote, and share the history of African Americans who contributed to the emergence and development of Loudoun County, Virginia.”

About Library Programs:

Lectures and other special programs are made possible with the support of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. 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 the Library's website at: www.leesburgva.gov/ThomasBalchLibrary/publications

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library today and play an important role in supporting the collections and programs of the most complete history and genealogical library in Northern Virginia.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Tel _____

Email _____

Membership

Senior/Students \$15

Family \$25

Patron \$50

Sustaining/Business \$100

Benefactor \$250

Legacy Society \$500+

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.
P.O. Box 2184, Leesburg, VA 20177
*Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. is
tax exempt under 501(c)3.
www.balchfriends.org*

Thomas Balch Library Spring Exhibits

Margaret Mercer Room

April – Civil War Artifacts of Maine Soldiers – Jack Craig

May – History of Engraving and Photography – Harold Brown

June – Margaret Mercer Room. Weapons from 1860-1900—Gary Heath

Lower Level Meeting Room

April – June A Look Around Loudoun: What Will You Discover? – Jennifer Lamberton

On the Friends Website

Newly processed manuscript collections and newly catalogued books from September 2014 - March 2015 are listed on the Friends of Thomas Balch Library website at www.balchfriends.org

Books and Authors, Then and Now

Cassandra A. Good to Speak on *Founding Friendships* Wednesday, June 3, from 6 to 8 at the Thomas Balch Library

Abigail Adams called her friend Thomas Jefferson "one of the choice ones on earth," while George Washington signed a letter to his friend Elizabeth Powel with the words "I am always Yours." In today's parlance, these emotionally rich missives might well be taken for romance, and understandably so. But by analyzing period letters, diaries, novels, and etiquette books, historian Cassandra A. Good offers a fresh look at how the founding generation defined and experienced friendship, love, gender, and power.

Good, associate editor of *The Papers of James Monroe* at the University of Mary Washington will take up these topics when she discusses her book *Founding Friendships: Friendships between Men and Women in the Early American Republic* in a program cosponsored by the Journey Through Hallowed Ground and the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. Copies of the book will be available for



purchase and signing after the program. Pre-registration is encouraged as space is limited. To register, visit HallowedGround.org.



'The Rebellion is all over and the Negroes is all free.'

Loudoun History in a Mill Ledger: Today we have video and oral histories to tell our history. As for stories of major events and local happenings 150 years ago, we are fortunate that our forebears kept journals, wrote letters, and related neighborhood doings in diaries and even mill ledgers like this one belonging to Moses Pascal Watson. Richard Gillespie, executive director of the Mosby Area Heritage Association and member of the Friends board, shared the ledger's entries in a recent talk at the Goose Creek Meeting in Lincoln.

This mill ledger book begun in 1857 was saved from the federal cavalry's Burning Raid of November 29-30, 1864 when Moses Pascal Watson's wife placed the book in the dog house while the mill was being burned. Watson was a local miller/businessman, with his mill at Guinea Bridge, to the southwest side of Telegraph Springs Road, south of Purcellville about two miles and west of Lincoln. (Continued on page 6)

News from Friends of Thomas Balch Library Black History Committee

BHC Turns 15 With Revitalized Oral History Program and Major Research Initiative Underway

By Donna Bohanan
Chair, Black History Committee

In June, the Black History Committee of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library will mark its 15th anniversary. We have many accomplishments to celebrate and exciting plans to grow our programs in the years ahead.

Since it was formed in 2000, the Black History Committee (BHC) has been fulfilling its mission “to preserve, collect, promote, and share the history of African Americans who lived in and contributed to the emergence of Loudoun County.” To give meaning to these aims, the Committee launched the Oral History Project 2000. Its purpose was to collect and transcribe oral histories and document the County’s African American communities. To accomplish the latter goal, we established the Community History and Mapping Project to document the many black communities in Loudoun that were disappearing as residents moved away or developers moved in.

We also have published seven books and many pamphlets on Loudoun County’s African American history and provided County teachers with a “Standards of Learning” study guide.

Recently, recognizing the urgency of interviewing older African American citizens before they pass on, as well as younger African Americans and their achievements, the Committee’s members pressed for expansion of the Oral History Project. At the same time, we realized that advances in technology could enhance the BHC’s efforts. To achieve those goals, the BHC recently applied for and was granted \$3,000 from the Loudoun Credit



Black History Committee members Herbert DuVall, and Donna Bohanan, BHC chair, receive the grant check of \$3,000 from Cindy Mester, Loudoun Credit Union board chairperson (left), on March 25.

Union to acquire a state-of-the-art digital camera and recording equipment. The grant will also support our new Heritage Bus Tour of the County’s African American communities. Tour operations will begin in the fall.

Currently, the Black History Committee is engaged in a major research effort to document all of the “Colored Schools” that existed between the end of the Civil War and desegregation. The reasoning is that the education process was one of the truly great Civil Rights accomplishments of Loudoun County. We want to know where the schools were, what they looked like, who instructed, who studied and what was learned.

We will need volunteers to examine records of the Loudoun County Public School System, the National Archives, records in the Library of Virginia, and records of the Quaker Library at Swarthmore College.

The coming year promises to be a busy one for the Black History Committee. There are plenty of ways members can contribute, including extending an invitation to friends and relatives to

News from Friends of the Thomas Balch Library



Meet the 2015 Board of Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc.

Front row from left: Patty Rogers-Renner, Lee Lawrence, Suzi Worsham; Middle row from left: Donna Bohanan, James Lucier, Susan Webber, NAME?, Sarah Huntington (vide president), Richard Gillespie; Back row from left: Derrick Clarke, Brock Bierman, Donald Cooper (president), Phil LoPresti, Ron Rust, Lewis Leigh. Tom Horne. Not pictured: Jeff Bolyard (treasurer), Ann Daye, Francis Fera (secretary), Dan Morrow, Sharon Parker, and William C. Ray.

Outreach

James H. Hershman, chair of the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, co-chaired the opening session of the 2015 Virginia Forum on the topic "Everyday Virginians in Extraordinary Times: Eyewitnesses to Activism." Former Black History Committee member Deborah A. Lee presented "John W. Jones and the Freedom Seeker's Role in Ending Slavery." Lee also read BCH member Elaine E. Thompson's "Celebrating Emancipation and Fashioning a Better World: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971." Laura Christiansen, also attended the Forum and at the Shenandoah Genealogical Fair in January. **Friends President Don Cooper**, Friends secretary Francis Fera, and Library assistant Mary Fishback, joined BHC members in representing the Thomas Balch Library at the Fairfax Genealogical Society's spring meeting. **Susan Webber** extends an invitation to newsletter readers with Valentine's lineage and/or interest to attend the the Virginia Reunion of the Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr. Society, June 17 – June 21 in Winchester, Virginia. Valentine Hollingsworth Sr., a Quaker, and his family followed William Penn to America in 1682. For an itinerary and registration form, visit dvhss.org. Loudoun historians Jim Morgan, Bronwen Souders, and Rich Gillespie will provide historic perspectives at the reunion. Please direct your questions to Susan Webber (pemberton_webber@msn.com) or John Hollingsworth (jph@filmtecinc.com).

Teckla Cox, continued from page 1

and an historic planner in the Loudoun County Planning Office while living in Leesburg's first registered subdivision.

Shortly after 1970, Loudoun's growth began to explode just as Cox started to work for the planning office. Beginning to work as an entry-level secretary, she earned a masters degree from Virginia Tech, and then became the first woman professional in the department. She was just in time to help shape and manage the coming avalanche of development, until her retirement in 1999.

She played a major role in 1980 in developing the County's first truly comprehensive plan. That plan was instrumental in laying out a picture of what the county would become, putting the emphasis for planned development in the east and maintaining the west as an agricultural area.

"Loudoun really is two places: east and west," she says. And there were practical factors: "The development in the east was possible because water and sewer could be run out here when Dulles Airport was built. There is no water and sewer in western Loudoun except in the towns."

Asked by Gillespie what she sees for the County looking ahead, she replied, "If I were advising a government entity, I'd say keep up the preservation work. Keep up the differentiation between the east and the west. The west has a great deal to offer to tourists and to the people who live here, and they keep bringing in money. And if the west were to be developed like the east, we'd be losing a great deal."

Friends board member Patty Rogers-Renner produced the video. Friends Vice President Sarah Huntington and Peter Buck, both of the Lincoln Studios, provided videography and editing. The Oral History series is made possible by a grant of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor.

Mill Ledger, continued from page 3

He was tied in to the Quaker community at Goose Creek, although not a Friend himself. He continued to use the saved ledger book, and his entries from the spring and early summer of 1865 are especially poignant.

THURSDAY APRIL 13, 1865: There is great rejoicing with the Union people in regards to the fall of Richmond and the surrender of Gen. Lee.

It is said Samuel M. Janney had the old Gobbler killed and invited many of his Union friends to eat and be merry. William Tate shut himself up in a room and laughed his fill. Joseph Nichols has been riding hunting hands to go to his house and drink cider. Bill Lemon and Lot Tavenner is gone fishing today, they say the work is done. Thornton Whitacre says the backbone of the Confederacy is broken and the war is about over. It is the prevailing opinion that the south can fight no longer. Buck Bolen has a heap of fun about my Negroes[;] he asks me if I did not think them very valuable. If I would like to sell them and what would I ask for them now. Henry Taylor says the Secesh ought never to be allowed to vote again and not be allowed to hold an office of any kind. Eliza Marlow says Benj[amin] Birdsall and others talk of going to Upperville to haul away their corn that Mosby's men impressed.

APRIL 15, 1865: Asa M. Janney says he intends to rebuild his mill as soon as he heard of the fall of Richmond. He told Saul Purcell yesterday that he was going to work on it right away and would have the sawmill running in about two weeks.

The Rebellion is all over and the Negroes is all free. Purcel[l] asked him what would be done with them, and he said that they would be left with us, the women and children that could not support themselves would have to stay with their owners until they were able to support themselves, the owner being compelled to maintain them.

JUNE 25, 1865—The Contraband or Negroe school commenced at Goose Creek this day. Eliza Janney, Samuel M. Janney and Davis is teachers. This is the first Negro school I have heard of being in Virginia.

The ledger is in the collection of the Loudoun Museum. John Divine transcribed the entry at the time the ledger was donated. Alana Blumenthal assisted Gillespie in photographing the book and pages. To learn more, visit www.balchfriends.org or the Library to access the ***Reading List on The War's End, Lincoln's Death, and The Aftermath*** prepared by Laura E. Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, The Thomas Balch Library.



Alexandra Gressitt

The Thomas Balch Library Director's Spring Update

Although weather wreaked havoc with our winter lecture series, all but one of those cancelled has been rescheduled, and we have added several events of special note, including the June 3 lecture by Cassandra A. Good on her book *Founding Friendships*.

Processing the Charles A. Johnston Collection: The Loudoun Library Foundation recently was awarded a grant of \$8,500 to complete processing of our largest and most diverse collection, which incorporates archives, manuscript materials, artifacts, rare books, photographs, and film. Once processed, this intensely personal collection will offer a rare glimpse of everyday life in Leesburg and Loudoun County from the late 1700s through the 20th century. As more papers and other materials have been added in recent months, the Library is seeking additional support to fund their inventory and processing by Ben Tayloe, Library associate and project archivist. The target date for completion of processing of the entire collection is late 2016.

Screening and Listening to Loudoun History: Through the Friends, the Library received a grant of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor to create a kiosk for accessing our oral and video histories. Both Library and Town of Leesburg staff members have contributed their time to setting up the equipment, digitizing the oral histories, and uploading them to the system. The Library is currently working with the town's IT staff to create a more user-friendly interface with software that the town will implement.

Library Staff News: Please welcome our two new part-time employees, Travis F. Shaw and Stephanie Seal, who have taken up the duties of several part-time staff members who left to pursue full-time endeavors.

- **Stephanie Seal** holds a BA and an MA in History from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a PhD candidate in American History at George Mason University and anticipates completing her certification in Public History this summer.
- **Travis Shaw** holds a BA in History from St Mary's College of Maryland and an MA in Public History from American University. He has worked with Historic St. Mary's City, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., and George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Publications: Our revised information and History Awards brochures are now available.

As always, it will be a pleasure to welcome you when you visit the Library and attend programs and exhibits.

—Alexandra Gressitt



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

Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 2 PM **Madison's Gift: Five Partnerships that Built America – David O. Stewart**

Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 10AM **Using Maps In Historical Research – Charlie Grymes**

Saturday, 16 May 2015 at 9-12 AM **Leesburg Walking Tour – James P. Roberts**

Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 2 PM **We Shall Not Be Moved: The Jackson Woolworth's Sit In and the Movement It Inspired – Michael J. O'Brien**

Monday, May 18, 2015 at 7 PM **Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historic Records – Eric S. Larson**

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

Wednesday, June 3, 6-8 PM **Founding Friendships – Cassandra A. Good**

(See article, page XX)

Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 10 AM **Deed Research – Wynne Saffer**

Other Activities at the 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. The Advisory Commission meets at the Library on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. The public is always welcome.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., board meets at the Library every other month. The public is always welcome. For more information, call (703) 737-2166 or visit www.balchfriends.org.

The Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc. meets at the Library the first Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 AM. The public is always welcome.