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Thomas Balch  
Library, Inc.**

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# The Thomas Balch Chronicle

The Newsletter of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library of the Town of Leesburg, Virginia  
*A Library for History and Genealogy*

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Summer 2007

## Thomas Balch Library's 250th Loudoun Anniversary Lecture Series Meets With Great Enthusiasm

The large number of those attending the first two lectures in the series, *Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem*, found them highly informative in their exposition of an era not often publicized. The series of five lectures, presented by distinguished historians, commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Loudoun County's becoming a legal entity. The lectures explore events in the New World and Europe that had long-reaching impact on the then British colonies, including Virginia.

It is our pleasure to provide a synopsis of Dr. Carl J. Ekberg's lecture presented April 15, 2007.

At press time the taping of Dr. Paul Mapp's lecture of May 6 has not been formatted. Look for the synopsis of his lecture in the next edition of the *Thomas Balch Chronicle*.

### THE FRENCH CHALLENGE TO BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

**Dr. Carl J. Ekberg, Professor Emeritus, Illinois State University**

Hostilities in what would eventually be called the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War in Europe), famously began with events in the Allegheny Mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania in the spring of 1754, events in which the young George Washington was deeply (and embarrassingly) involved. With striking victories—over Washington in 1754, General Edward Braddock in 1755, and at Oswego (Chouagouen) and Fort William Henry in 1757—it at first appeared that the French might present a serious challenge to British hegemony in North America. But this was an illusion: Twenty times as many English persons as French inhabited the eastern portion of the continent; Britain, with William Pitt the Elder as leader, had a more effective government than that of Louis XV; and Britain had a more advanced economy and financial system than France. Despite the early losses, it was virtually foreordained that Britain would eventually prevail militarily in North America.

The very name French and Indian War conveys the message: the French who willingly allied themselves with Indians were in fact quite like the savages, i.e. sneaking, cunning, treacherous, and cruel—in a word undesirable. As Washington wrote to John Campbell Lord Loudoun in March 1757, "Indian parties are generally intermixed with some Frenchmen, and are dexterous at skulking around our forts." Or as George Croghan, who was in and out of northern Virginia during the 1750s, noted: "The French...are a lazy indolent People fond Breeding Mischief and Spiriting up the Indians against the English and Should by no Means be suffered to remain here [Ohio River Valley]." Invoking Biblical precedent in a call to

eradicate Roman Catholic French Canadians, the New England Puritan preacher, Jonathan Edwards quoted the book of Samuel: "Then David said to the Philistine...I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee...for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands."

But if God was clearly on the side of the righteous English it was not entirely clear that the English necessarily held the moral high ground during the French and Indian War: The war began

with George Washington's war party murdering (so Washington admitted) a French diplomatic emissary (Joseph Coulon Villiers de Jumonville). It continued with unprecedented savagery in Acadia, where New England militiamen flogged French Canadian Roman Catholics, some unto death, and in the modern Western World's first example

of ethnic cleansing, deported more than 5,000 men, women, and children to Louisiana and prison ships at Philadelphia. And the war concluded militarily in 1759 when General James Wolfe's troops (British and American) devastated the St. Lawrence River valley, systematically destroying villages and terrorizing the inhabitants. At St. Joachim the entire village, including the parish church, was incinerated, the priest, Father Portneuf, was murdered and scalped, and nine of his parishioners butchered. In addition to their strategic advantages noted above, one might argue that the British command, from Virginia to New England, possessed a final military asset that helped them prevail in the French and Indian War—a driving ambition to conquer, sharpened by a willingness (to quote a French officer) "to violate the sacred laws of all civilized nations."



## Buffalo Soldiers Come to Balch

On March 31, the Black History Committee presented 'The Buffalo Soldier Story, the proud history of the 9th and 10th Cavalry. A large audience was entranced by the Baltimore Chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association. Dressed in authentic 19th century cavalry uniforms, members of the Association described this exciting and important part of history.

Negro soldiers who wished to remain in the army following the Civil War were organized into the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments — and their service in controlling Indians on the Great Plains during the next 20 years was as invaluable as it was unpraised.

Nearly sixteen months after the end of the Civil War, Section 3 of the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to increase and fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States" authorized the formation of the two regiments of cavalry composed of "colored" men. The Act was approved on 28 July 1866. On September 21, 1866, the 9th Cavalry Regiment was activated at Greenville, Louisiana and at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the 10th Cavalry Regiment was activated. Under the competent leadership of Colonels Edward Hatch and Benjamin Grierson, first Regimental Commanders of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, respectively, both regiments were trained and equipped and began a long and proud history.

For more than two decades, the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments conducted campaigns against Native Americans on a western frontier that extended from Montana in the Northwest to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in the Southwest. They engaged in several skirmishes against such great Indian Chiefs as Victorio, Geronimo, and Nan.

"Buffalo Soldiers" was the name given the black cavalymen by the Plains Indians. Reason for the name is uncertain. One view is that the Indians saw a resemblance between the black man's hair and the mane of the buffalo. Another view is that when a buffalo was wounded or cornered, it fought ferociously, displaying unusual stamina and courage. This was the same fighting spirit Indians saw in combat with black cavalymen. Since Indians held the buffalo in such high regard, it was felt that the name was not given in contempt.

When not engaged in combat with Native Americans, both regiments built forts and roads, installed telegraph lines, located water holes, escorted wagon trains and cattle drives, rode "shotgun" on stagecoach and mail runs, guarded selected lands from settler encroachment and protected settlers from outlaws and Mexican revolutionaries.

Elements of both regiments fought in Cuba during the War with Spain and participated in the famous charge on San Juan Hill. Troopers of the 10th Cavalry Regiments rode with General John J. Pershing during the punitive Expedition in Mexico in search of the outlaw Pancho Villa. From 1866 to the early 1890s these regiments served at a variety of posts in the Southwestern United States (Apache Wars) and Great Plains regions. They participated in most of the military campaigns in these areas and earned a distinguished record. Thirteen enlisted men and six officers from these four regiments earned the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the 10th Cavalry Horse Brigade participated in the Emancipation Day celebrations held in Purcellville. In 1944, all the Cavalry regiments were integrated and their steeds were now motorized, as troop carriers and tanks. The curtain was lowered on the long and glorious past of the "Buffalo Soldiers."

## Loudoun County's 250th Anniversary Celebration: A Journey Through History

On May 19, with dignitaries galore, music, historical dramas and re-enactments, and displays by local historic organizations, Loudoun County made the most of this celebration.

The Black History Committee of the Friends' display at the Courthouse featured artifacts and documents pertaining to the African American experience in Loudoun County over those 250 years. Author and historian Elaine E. Thompson addressed the group:

"250 years of history is a lot to celebrate and what better place to commemorate it than at the Loudoun County Courthouse. The courthouse has always been important in the lives of Americans of African descent. Enslaved people were auctioned off here during August Court days. Free people of color were required to come here to register their free status and pay taxes. Some had the strength to resist, or could not afford to pay taxes. As a result, they suffered the indignity of having their names posted on the courthouse door. Both free and enslaved persons seeking employment gathered at the courthouse on New Year's Day to get hired.



ORNL REVIEW

While those enslaved had no rights, those who were free could sometimes look to the courthouse as a symbol of justice. In some instances justice did not necessarily prevail, but at least those accused were given a day in court and the impact of what happened in the Loudoun County Court affected generations in Loudoun County and beyond. Two cases were in large part responsible for the Loudoun County Courthouse being designated by the National Park Service as an Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site.

In 1840 an arrest warrant was issued for Leonard Grimes who was born free in Leesburg in 1810 for allegedly transporting an enslaved woman named Patty and her six children to freedom. Grimes, who at the time lived in Washington and operated a hackney service, was jailed in October 1839 and denied bail on March 2, 1840. He was ably defended by Walter Jones of Washington, John Janney and Burr Harrison of Loudoun. Although the evidence against him was circumstantial, he was found guilty, fined \$100 and sentenced to two years in the State Penitentiary. The actual transcript of this case was lost, but historians have pieced

the events together from the many petitions for a pardon sent to the Governor of Virginia and from newspaper accounts. After Grimes' release, he moved to Massachusetts and became pastor of 12<sup>th</sup> Baptist Church continuing his Underground Railroad and abolition activities, assisting freedom seekers, campaigning to allow African Americans to fight for the Union and recruiting for the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment.

Another case concerning a free man taking an enslaved person to freedom occurred. This time it involved a married couple. In 1847, Talbott Nelson Gant who had been manumitted and required to leave Virginia, tried to purchase his wife. After two unsuccessful attempts, they escaped, but were captured. The wife, Maria, was returned to her enslaver & Gant was jailed until his trial. John Janney, R.P Swann and J. S. Carper appeared for his defense. They used three humane arguments. First, if Gant were white he would be praised for his action; second, a wife can not be required to testify against her husband; and third, the Divine law of matrimony is higher than the human law of slavery. Gant was acquitted. When they left Loudoun, he had fifty cents. Fifteen years later, he was a prosperous farmer in Muskingum County, Ohio and a community leader.

Petitioning the Court is an established legal right that may or may not result in the outcome desired. In 1883 at the Colored Mass Meeting held in Leesburg, delegates representing various areas of Loudoun were authorized to present a petition to James B. McCabe, Judge of the County Court of Loudoun, requesting their rights to serve as jurors and election judges. The Judge denied the right to serve as election judges, but granted the right to serve as jurors. However, it is interesting to note that an African American was not added to the jury pool until 1939.

George Crawford, a black man was accused of killing a Middleburg socialite and her maid, both white. Crawford fled to Boston, Massachusetts, but a Loudoun County Grand Jury indicted him anyway. During this time, the early 1930s, the NAACP was engaged in a campaign for civic equality and the Loudoun case captured their interest. They viewed it as more than just a criminal case because the grand jury that returned

the indictment contained no blacks & the trial jury was unlikely to have any. Charles Hamilton Houston and a team of other NAACP lawyers defended Crawford. They asked that he not be extradited to Virginia as the Loudoun Co. prosecutor had requested. Houston, in addressing the Boston judge, held up the Constitution of the United States, saying, "It is under *this* that Crawford is being sought by VA; and it is under *this* that Crawford is being denied by Virginia of his right to a jury of his peers...and you can't spit & whistle at the same time." The judge ruled in favor of the NAACP, but the ruling was reversed on appeal. Crawford was brought back to Loudoun. Houston and his team again defended him. Crawford was found guilty, but due to Houston's skill and logic, was spared the death penalty. More importantly, a chink in the discrimination armor had been made. Shortly thereafter, the Supreme Court ruled in another more high profile case that while all white juries in and of themselves were not illegal, that a persistent pattern of excluding Negroes was in itself conclusive evidence of discrimination and therefore intolerable.

The Courthouse is a treasure trove for researchers. Those interested in genealogy will find tools for researching family history available in the form of birth, marriage & death records as well as deeds, chancery suits, wills, other lists and schedules. There is so much history of African Americans in Loudoun County to be learned. There is the good, the bad and the indifferent. We need to know it all and the Loudoun County Courthouse & the Thomas Balch Library are perfect places to begin. You don't need to go it alone. I had a rewarding experience as the result of networking. All of my life I had heard that my great great great grandfather who was born free in Loudoun County in the 1780s had owned several properties in the Philomont area. I had copies of the deeds and his 1850 will, but didn't know its location; I had never seen it. A historian and three researchers, all members of the Black History committee, using tax records and deeds, compiled their resources, mapped the area & took me to the spot. It was a great adventure. I hope you will be inspired to find your own adventure."

## Fight a War Without Maps? Difficult, If Not Impossible!

Among the outstanding programs offered this season at Thomas Balch Library was the March 18th lecture by Richard W. Stephenson. Dr. Stephenson, former head of the Geography and Map Reading Room at the Library of Congress, spoke about "Mapping the Civil War." A noted expert on this subject, and with more than fifty years in the field, he described the absolute dearth of accurate maps available to both sides at the beginning of the Civil War. The unimaginable hardship in determining the accuracy of what charts were available, paled in the difficulty of providing the field officers with good copies for military purposes. "With the exception of the US Coast Survey's ongoing program to produce charts of the coasts and estuaries, there were no systematic mapping programs in existence in 1861 ... The survey was forced to rush into print in 1862 its first charts of the Potomac River, the very river on which the nation's capital city sits." The North did have long established mapping units, and within time, was able in time, to produce charts and maps in large numbers.

The Confederacy's map production was hampered by lack of existing agencies and trained personnel and also by the lack of suitable printing equipment, paper, and ink. As the war progressed, an inexpensive and readily available source of maps were the major Northern newspapers. The war created an urgent need for maps that cartographers on both sides worked to satisfy. Survey methods improved, the gathering of intelligence became more sophisticated, printing techniques were improved and photo reproduction processes became an important means of duplicating maps. However, it was fourteen years after the end of the Civil War that Congress established the U.S. Geological Survey. It was many years, therefore, before modern topographic maps became available to replace those created by war's necessity. Those maps are splendid testimony to the skill and resourcefulness of Union and Confederate mapmakers.



MAPPING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR  
The Alan M. and Nathalie P. Voorhees Lecture on the History of Cartography

As Presented on March 28, 2013 • The Library of Virginia  
Richard W. Stephenson

## Not So Long Ago: Leesburg “Dog Money” by Gail Ann Adams

Collecting Confederate money is very popular. It does not matter if you are a Confederate or a Yankee, these notes continue to be one of the most interesting series of American currency.

There are several series of notes to collect. The 7 Series Confederate notes were authorized by the Confederate Congress and all have “Confederate States of America” printed on the face of the note. There are also coins, obsolete notes, stocks, and bonds. Other forms of “currency” included store cards, encased postage stamps, tokens and the many different cents.

During the Civil War small change was scarce. The General Assembly of 1861-1862 authorized cities and towns in Virginia with a population of at least 2000 to issue small notes as currency. On May 31, 1861 the Leesburg Town Council authorized Mayor John M. Orr to issue these small notes.

The local newspaper, *The Washingtonian*, printed the notes on white, brownish, bluish, yellow and green paper, both plain and ruled. Mayor Orr authorized three men to sign the notes: George Fox, Jr., J. H. Chamblin, and Joseph Birkby. Leesburg’s currency included a portrait of George Washington on the left, a large dog guarding a chest in the center and Lady Justice on the right.

We are fortunate to have a first hand account of what was soon to be known as “Leesburg Dog Money” from Robert Stiles, Major of Artillery in the Army of Northern Virginia. In his book *“Four Years Under Marse Robert”* he writes:

“It is of course familiar to students of the financial history of the Confederacy, yet it may not be devoid of interest to the general public, to note that, in the South during the war, banks, municipalities, companies, and even in some cases individuals issued fractional notes, or shin plasters which passed as Currency supplementary to the Treasury notes issued by the Confederate government. I am confident every surviving member of our battery who was with us at Leesburg, will recall the little “dog money” notes issued by the town, ornamented by a picture of a majestic Newfoundland dog lying down before a massive iron safe supposed to be full of currency. No one, so far as I know, ever questioned the validity of Leesburg’s fiat money. Certainly we Howitzers experienced no difficulty whatever in getting rid of all we could get our hands upon”.

While it is a bit harder today to get your hands on the “Dog Money,” it is not impossible. And we would not be so eager to get rid of it!



## New at Thomas Balch Library

*“The Debatable Land”*: Loudoun & Fauquier Counties, VA, during the Civil War era

by Michael S. Mangus (doctoral dissertation)

*Even More Palatine Families* by Henry Jones

*Finding Your Father's War* by Jonathan Gawne

*Genealogical Abstracts From Brunswick MD Herald, 1895-1910*

in 3 volumes, by Patricia Duncan

*General George E Pickett in Life & Legend* by Lesley Gordon

*More Damning Than Slaughter* by Mark Weitz

*Our Heritage: Round Hill Baptist Church* by Ivan Clark

*Recording Oral History* by Valerie Yow

*Sons of Privilege* by Eric Emerson

*Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry* by Scott Nelson

*The 1930 Census: A Reference & Research Guide*

by Thomas Kemp

*The Palatine Families of Ireland* by Henry Jones

*The Palatine Families of New York* by Henry Jones

*More Palatine Families* by Henry Jones

*They Became Americans* by Loretto Szucs

*Trace Your Roots With DNA* by Meg Smolenyak

*Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs*

by Maureen Taylor

*Westervald to America* by Henry Jones

## New Brochure Features Painting



New at Thomas Balch Library is a handsome brochure produced by the Friends’ Black History Committee. It tells the story of the Loudoun County African American History painting by noted artist William Woodward. Mr. Woodward also designed and executed “The Loudoun County Story” mural for the atrium of the library. Members of the Committee named the gift from Mr. Woodward, anonymous donors and the Friends, “Perseverance Through Faith and Strength.”

**NOTE:** Thomas Balch Library has a role in Steve Golightly’s recently published novel, if only under another name. The book, *Manifest Infamy*, is set in Leesburg, and is loosely based on Mr. Golightly’s stint as a news reporter at WAGE radio a number of years ago. The book is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) in a ‘print-on-demand’ form – and at Thomas Balch Library.

## The Library Director's Letter

Since my last letter we have welcomed two new part time staff members – Pamela Gottfried, a 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. Please take a moment to welcome these outstanding new staff members to our community.

Our 250<sup>th</sup> Loudoun County Anniversary Lecture Series has proved highly successful. At our first lecture we had an overflow audience with 125. We have moved the remaining lectures to the Leesburg United Methodist Church which has graciously offered use of their Social Hall – seating 284. Our second lecture drew a crowd of 90. The remaining lectures in this series are scheduled for June 17 with Timothy J. Shannon speaking on the topic *Caught in the Middle: The Indigenous Response to Foreign Imperial Designs*; September 16 with Warren Hofstra speaking on *When a World War is the Home Front: The Seven Years' War on Virginia Frontiers* and will conclude on October 21 with Douglas Foard speaking on *The Imperious Laird* (Lord Loudoun). Many organizations have come together to make this wonderful series possible and available free to the public. I wish to acknowledge with appreciation those organizations and their assistance: Leesburg United Methodist Church for so graciously providing their social hall for our remaining lectures; Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy; Loudoun Historical Society; Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society; Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.; Loudoun Library Foundation; Town of Leesburg and Thomas Balch Library. Special thanks also go to Stephen F. Hood, president of the Leesburg Police Citizens Support Team, Inc., for assisting us with parking and traffic. Staff members from the Town of Leesburg's Streets, Buildings and Grounds Division prepared a sandwich board sign directing traffic to the Town Parking Garage for our ongoing use with meetings.

Three very important lectures, part of the regular library series were presented in March and April. Richard W. Stephenson presented an interesting lecture on *Mapping of the American Civil War*. Michael F. Plunkett spoke on *Africans and African Americans in the Special Collections Library at UVA*. This illustrated talk generated an excellent question and answer session at the end. Bibliographic books mentioned in his talk have been added to the collection at the library. Deborah Lee and Marie Tyler McGraw presented findings on their research projects on Virginians in Liberia. Programs for the fall are being finalized. There will be two lectures remaining in the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary series along with two historical lectures, the History Awards, a genealogical program and two author talks/book signings. We are currently working to establish a daytime series of classes taught by staff to assist researchers with specific topics and orient them to research at Thomas Balch Library. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting new series.

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 will be adding guides to the website. These collection guides will also be linked to the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) catalogue records. This step makes the collection materials available across the globe to anyone able to search the Internet.

This past spring we were privileged to have two interns. Mary Osborn came from NOVA and Nichole Recker from Patrick Henry College. Mary worked on processing two collections; Nichole – seven. We anticipate the continuation of this program and prospective interns have expressed interest and met with us.

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

*Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director*

## New & Renewing Members

Robert E. Ash  
Carolyn & John Beck  
Amy Bertsch  
Charles Binns  
Susan P. Booth  
Cynthia A. Bridgman  
Mark Burnette  
Francesca Edling & Lib Zabriskie  
Deborah Fitts  
Tracy & Richard Gillespie  
Rebecca W. Groff  
Agnes G. Harrison  
Lori & John Kimball  
Olen H. Lewis  
Jean P. McDonald  
Daniel G. Mock  
Ann Munsey  
David J. O'Connor  
Glynis Patterson  
Dean N. Quinney  
David P. Rakestraw  
Dorothy K. Rickard  
Betty S. Ruby  
Judy & Ron Rust  
Cheryl Sadowski  
Patricia R. Shoaf  
Thomas & Sandra Smart  
Jean Smidt  
Duane & Lee Smith  
Jonathan Stayer  
Kay Barnhouse Stout  
Alfred P. Van Huyck  
Susan & George Webber  
Wm. Roberts Wilson, Jr.

### A Reminder to Friends of the Thomas Balch Library:

**Be certain to renew your Friends' membership. It is truly an investment in the future; by contributing to the preservation of our past, you ensure that this information is available to the generations to come. Check your label for your own renewal date, and use the form below to enlist your friends, now.**

I would like to become a member in **Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.**

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<i>Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide</i>	\$ 5.00			
<i>A Taste of Loudoun County: Our Favorite Recipes 1903-1951 Home Interest Club Cookbook - Centennial Edition</i>	\$ 10.00			
<i>A Story of Round Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia</i> by Ann W. Thomas	\$ 20.00			
<i>In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971</i> - by Elaine Thompson	\$ 20.00			
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