

The CHRONICLE

Volume 19 Issue 3

Fall 2015

The Friends' Revolutionary Fundraiser

At Historic Silverbrook Farm, Members and Guests Learn About Life in Loudoun During the War for American Independence

Every successful fundraiser needs an army of volunteers to plan and execute it. For its 8th annual fundraising event, the Friends enlisted a remarkable group of individuals, none more so than Friend and owner of Silverbrook Farm, Dorothy ("Dot") Shetterly. How to properly thank her? In the tradition of the Thomas Balch Library, it seemed appropriate to look to history and genealogy. Thanks to the inspiration of Lewis Leigh, Jr., and Bill Ray, the Friends presented Dot with a framed chain of title for her family's property going back to pre-Revolutionary times.



Presenting the Silverbrook chain of title to Dot Shetterly are, from left, Donald Cooper, Lewis Leigh, Jr., and William Ray.

A few words of appreciation to all from Friends President Donald G. Cooper, Ph.D.—

I want to take this opportunity to thank the numerous individuals and firms who helped to make this fundraising event a success this year. First, I want to thank Dorothy Shetterly who graciously provided the use of Silverbrook

Farm to the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. Second, a special thank you to the fundraiser committee—Ron Rust, Lewis Leigh, Jr., Bill Ray, Susan Webber, Suzi Worsham, Patty Rogers-Renner, Sharon Parker, Brock Bierman, and Phil Lo Presti—who planned and executed this event

Third, thanks to our *(continued on page 4)*

**THE FRIENDS OF THE
THOMAS BALCH
LIBRARY, INC.**

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Membership Dues & Website News

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Don't Forget Your Friends Dues

Now is the time for you to renew your membership in the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library. The deadline is December 1. For the sake of efficiency, the board agreed to move to an annual renewal cycle. If you haven't received a reminder by mail, please just give us a call or send an email to us AT WHAT PHONE AND EMAIL with any questions.

Renew or Join Today

Renew your membership or 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 Fees

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

Stay Tuned for the Friends' New Website

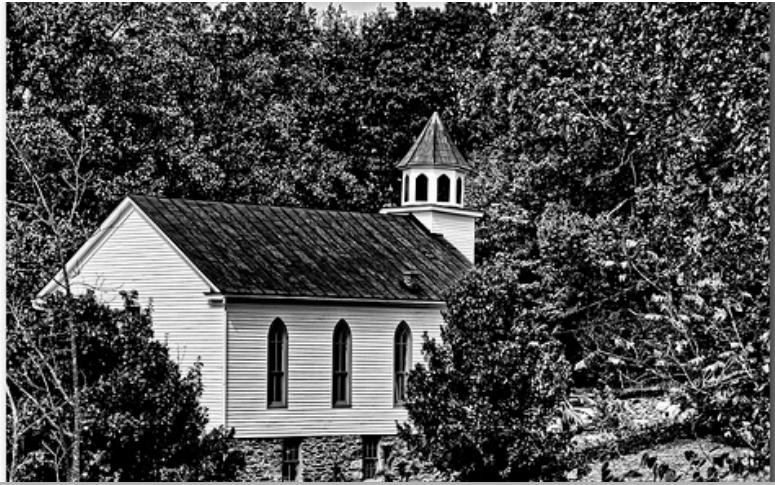
We have a new website in the works! Look for it to launch before the end of the year. The site will bring you the latest information on our programs, news about your fellow Friends, the Library's heritage resources, collection contributions, background on exhibits, tour maps, member profiles, and compelling information added to our Glimpse of African American Life in Loudoun County.

News from the Black History Committee

Saturday, November 14, 2015

Save the Date for Our First Official Heritage Bus Tour

Make your plans today to join the Black History Committee's first public bus tour of African American heritage sites in Loudoun County. Based on the BHC publication Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide, the tour will explore the shared history of Loudoun's citizens as we travel historic routes and visit sites in Waterford, such as the John Wesley Church, right, and the Second Street School, shown below with the Class of 1920. The tour will also take visitors to Gleedsville, Middleburg, and Oatlands Plantation.



Built as a permanent home for the black congregation in Waterford, the John Wesley Methodist Church served the African American community from 1891 until 1968.

Organized by Cultural Tourism Ambassador (CTA) Alicia Cohen, the tour aims to increase Loudoun



County's cultural tourism as it relates to its African American communities, citizens, and heritage. Importantly, most of the tour volunteers were born and/or raised in Loudoun County, including Phyllis Cook-Taylor, Louis Jett, and Mary Randolph.

The mini-bus tour will begin and end at the Balch Library in Leesburg. This is an all-day

tour, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at approximately 4:30 p.m. A donation of \$28 is requested. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc., with the memo line "Heritage Bus Tour." Please mail your check to the Friends at P.O. Box 2184, Leesburg, VA 20177. This new and exciting project is made possible by the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library, the Thomas Balch Library, and Loudoun Credit Union which provided the supporting grant. For more information, please contact, Alicia Cohen at (703) 606-3275 or email her at aaheritagelocova@gmail.com.

The Friends' Revolutionary Afternoon—



Lee and Paul Lawrence



Fundraiser Committee member Phil Lo Presti with future Friends—daughters Angelina, left, and Maria



Guest speakers Gary Clemens, clerk of Loudoun County Circuit Court, and Virginia historian Tracy Gillespie



Above, from left, Patty Rogers-Renner, Dot Shetterly, and Rosalie Leigh. At right, Sharon Parker, right, with guests Tony and Stephanie Nerantzis



Our thanks continue . . . to Sharon and Lew Parker, Lee and Paul Lawrence, Brock Bierman, Ron and Judy Rust, Marilyn Rogers-Renner and David Renner, James and Mary Grace Lucier, Jeffrey Bolyard, John and Mary Davis, Suzi and Travis Worsham, Engle, Paxton & Hawthorne Insurance Services, and Toth Financial Advisory Corporation. Fourth, thanks to our speakers Tracy Gillespie, Hon. Gary Clemens, and Dr. Don Cooper for providing us information on the role of Loudoun County during the American Revolution. Fifth, a special thanks for the additional support provided by Gary Dickens, Rich Gillespie, Sarah Huntington, Laura Longley, William Ray, Middleburg Printers, PR Construction, United Site Services, and catering by Savoir Faire and Smokin' Willy. Finally, a thank you to all who purchased tickets, made donations, and bought raffle tickets. We appreciate your support.

Snapshots From Silverbrook Farm

Photography Courtesy of Sarah Huntington



Wynne Saffer sports a Colonial tricorn.



Malcolm and Pam Baldwin



Don Cooper speaks on Loudoun patriots. He is standing behind a model of the Revolutionary War memorial be erected at the Loudoun County Courthouse..



George Webber and Norma Gates



Balch Library Director Alexandra Gressitt and Brock Bierman



Jim Christian, president of the Patriot Project responsible for the Revolutionary War memoria, and Barbara Christian



Ron Rust

Mimi Baker and Jane Hirst Bogle

Remembering Two Dedicated Friends Volunteers

Miriam Emily ("Mimi") Nash Baker died of cancer on September 2 at age 88. She was born in the Camden, New Jersey, area, but spent the last 30 years of her life as a Leesburg resident and supporter of the Thomas Balch Library.

In 1985 she and her husband, Russell Baker, and their family, moved back to his childhood home— Loudoun County. Here, the people and places of his youth that had provided him with rich material for his Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography, *Growing Up*, would later become the focus of Mimi's research at the Balch Library. As her husband has noted, she "was especially devoted to the Balch genealogy library and did extensive scholarly studies of such big Loudoun County families as the Coopers, Fries, Bakers, and others rooted in the long Germanic culture of the county's northern area."

In 1985, Mimi became a member of the Local History and Genealogy Advisory Committee formed that year to help turn the Thomas Balch Library into a history and genealogy center.

In 1995, she became a charter member of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and, with her husband, a capital campaign donor and sponsor of the 2009 Friends fundraising event at Morven Park.

She is survived by her husband and three children: daughter Kasia Baker of Nantucket, Massachusetts, sons Allen Baker of New York and Michael Baker of Morrisonville.

Jane Bruce Hirst Bogle, of Purcellville, who passed away at on August 18 at age 82, served on the board of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library at a critical time in its history—during the fundraising period and restoration of the Library.

From 1998 to 2007, she worked tirelessly on the project and served as liaison with Robert Noe, then the town manager of Leesburg, to preserve valuable fixtures from the old structure, including two crystal chandeliers and the sign over the front door.

At the time, Jane also assisted Library volunteer Mary Fishback in compiling old photos of Leesburg and Loudoun County. she later donated many of her photographs to the Thomas Balch Library, where they form part of the Jane Bogle Collection.



From the Jane Bogle Collection at the Thomas Balch Library: Members of the Home Interest Club of Purcellville, Virginia. The collection is open for research.

With her husband, she contributed to the Thomas Balch Library capital campaign in 2000-2001, and to the Friends fundraising events in 2008 at Oak Hill and in 2009 at Morven Park.

Jane Bogle worked for Arlington Trust Company for 35 years. She was member of the St. Peter's Episcopal Church,

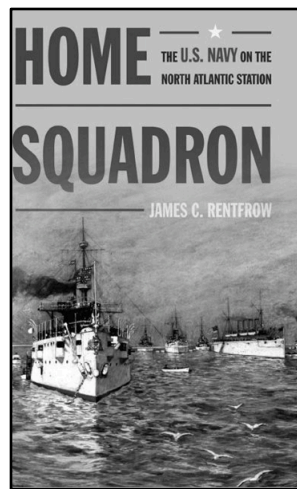
the DAR, and Colonial Dames XVII, and Daughters of the Confederacy.

She is survived by her husband and by her daughter, Margaret Bruce Harris, and by numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Fall Lectures at the Thomas Balch Library

OUR FALL SERIES OF SUNDAY LECTURES—2 to 4 p.m. at the Library—focus on military history through books that cover a wide range of compelling people and events between the mid-19th and mid-20th century. Here's a brief preview:

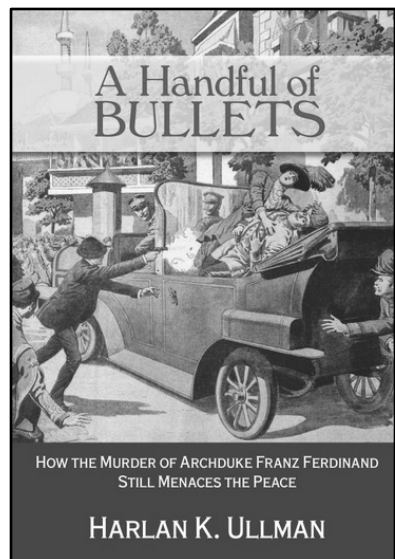
OCTOBER 4—**Andy Jamoler**, who lives in Loudoun's "Lost Corner" near Lovettsville, will take us on the journey to the Middle East through the lens of his 2005 book *Sailors in the Holy Land: The 1848 American Expedition to the Dead Sea and the Search for Sodom and Gomorrah*. Learn more about him at his website <http://jampoler.com>



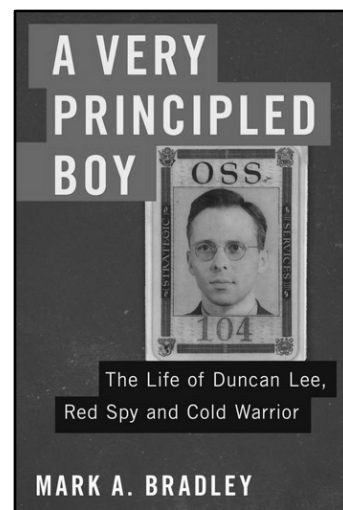
OCTOBER 18—U.S. Naval Commander **James C. ("Chris") Rentfrow**, author of *Home Squadron*, will examine the transformation of the U.S. Navy as a fighting organization—a process of change often resulted in the appearance of capability without the rigorous exercise necessary to possess it. Books will be available for purchase.

OCTOBER 25—*The Purge of the Thirtieth Division* by **Maj Gen Henry Dozier Russell**. Editor **Lawrence M. Kaplan** will discuss Russell's memoir and

first-hand look into the training—and unfair treatment—of National Guard units in preparation for World War II.



NOVEMBER 1—*A Very Principled Boy: The Life of Duncan Lee, Red Spy and Cold Warrior*. Author and former CIA officer **Mark A. Bradley** will recount the life of Duncan Chaplin Lee, a Rhodes Scholar, patriot, and descendent of one of America's most distinguished families—and possibly the best-placed mole ever to infiltrate U.S. intelligence operations.



NOVEMBER 15—*A Handful of Bullets: How the Murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand Still Menaces the Peace*. The author, **Dr. Harlan K. Ullman**, will examine the assassinaiton of Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in the streets of Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, and the ensuing carnage of World War I and laid the foundaiton for World War II and the Cold War. Dr.

Ullman serves on the Senior Advisory boards for Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), one of NATO's two strategic commanders, and Commander of U.S. European Command (EUCOM).



The Friends of the
Thomas Balch Library
THE CHRONICLE
P.O. Box 2184
Leesburg, Virginia 20177
(540) 579-2825
balchfriends.org

Friends Fall Calendar

Programs and Events

Preservation for Home Archives

10/01/2015 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

***Sailors in the Holy Land: The 1848
American Expedition to the Dead Sea &
the Search for Sodom and Gomorrah***

10/04/2015 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Home Squadron

10/18/2015 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

***The Purge Of The Thirtieth Division by
Maj Gen Henry Dozier Russell***

10/25/2015 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

***A Very Principled Boy: The Life of Duncan
Lee, Red Spy and Cold Warrior***

11/01/2015 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Researching Genealogy Using Electronic Resources

11/23/2015 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tours and Exhibits

Exhibit: Ball's Bluff

10/01/2015 - 10/31/2015

**Photo Exhibit: A Celebration of Small
Villages and Cross Roads of Loudoun
County**

01/01/2015 - 12/31/2015

Leesburg Walking Tour

10/03/2015 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County
Courthouse Historic Records**

10/19/2015 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil
War**

10/28/2015 - 12/18/2015

**Exhibit: New Collections at Thomas
Balch Library**

11/01/2015 - 11/30/2015