

The CHRONICLE

Friends Celebrates the Thomas Balch Library's 100th Anniversary; Mortons Give Rare Engraving of 4th Earl of Loudoun to Library



This is the history of the engraving of John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun, by Scottish artist Allan Ramsay. It came into Brown Morton III's possession before being donated to the Balch Library in 2022.

By Margaret Morton

The engraving was given to Morton as a gift by a husband-and-wife English team of historians for his assistance in their work, when the three of them collaborated on a joint research project on the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745-46, involving Lady Primrose, an ardent Jacobite spy.

Loudoun was a professional soldier, and a member of the powerful lowland clan Campbell (a hated name to Jacobites). Loudoun fought on the government side at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Loudoun was an officer in the Duke of Cumberland's victorious army, which finally extinguished the hopes of the House of Stuart. As far as we know, he was considered a competent soldier, although an indecisive leader, and is credited with a number of reforms, including the use of waterways as a means of moving men and materiel.

Earlier, in February 1745, as an officer in Cumberland's army, Loudoun was sent from Inverness, the Highland Capital, to try to capture "Bonny Prince Charlie," when the latter was reported to have been in the house of the Lady of Moy. She was married to the Hanoverian Mactintosh clan chief in Cumberland's Army (continued on page 6)

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LIBRARY, INC.**

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Black History Committee Update

By Donna Bohanon, BHC Chairperson



Partnership and Outreach

Friends of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church—Lori Kimball is leading the BHC efforts to assist trustees of the historic African American church to collect oral history and find assistance to determine how to preserve the church.

The Lucketts
Ruritan Club

applied for and was awarded a grant from the Loudoun Preservation Society for \$1,375. It is a matching grant, and we must raise the other half.

The funds will be used to hire a structural engineer with experience analyzing historic buildings to evaluate the church and provide a report.

Genealogy Meeting Segments

For the third year, we are including short segments in our meetings on genealogy and family history.

Coordinated by Alicia Cohen, we are learning through short segments about family trees, sharing family stories and heirlooms, research resources at the TBL and throughout the country. We are exchanging information on conferences and skill classes, as well as attending the TBL classes.

Topics for this year will include Lineage Societies, Military Connections and the Patriots for the Revolutionary War, Genealogy at the new International African American Museum in Charleston, Challenging Brick Walls, Fredrick Douglass, and Black Resistance and more.

BHC Field Trips

We are having focused field trips for our members.

Our first was just before the pandemic, hosted by Steve Hammond, to George Washington's Mount Vernon for its exhibition: "Lives Bound Together in Slavery."

In June, we visited the Loudoun Museum with a curated tour by Lori Wysong, interim director. The special exhibition was on USCT "17 Men."

This fall, we will visit and tour the Lovettsville Museum and Cemetery. The event will be hosted by Edward Spannaus.



*Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church near
Lucketts*

In Celebration of Thomas Balch Library's 100th Anniversary

Celebrating Thomas Balch Library's 100th anniversary, the Friends welcomed members of the Board of Directors and the Friends Black History Committee, the Library Advisory Committee, and Loudoun County and Town of Leesburg officials to Julie and Steve Chapin's



home on Cornwall Street. The event marked the second occasion when the Chapins have graciously offered their garden for a Friends fundraiser.

This year, on September 11, the Friends presented a program that expanded on last year's discussion of the relevance of Thomas Balch Library and the contributions that Thomas Balch (1821-1877), a native of Leesburg, made to the field of International Arbitration.

The presentation also touched on the Library's 50 years of operations as a subscription library under a private Board of Trustees. It became a free public library in 1960. In 1994, ownership was transferred by Loudoun County to the Town of Leesburg to be operated as a history and genealogy library.

At the 2022 annual event, the Friends continued their journey into the history and work of Thomas Balch Library with a panel comprised of individuals who know firsthand the period when Thomas Balch Library transitioned from orphan in the Loudoun County library system to a beautifully renovated and expanded premier genealogical and historical organization, owned and funded by Leesburg.

Featured in the presentation—"Those Who Remember the Stories"—were James Hershman, Wynne Saffer,

Karen Titus, Donna Bohanon, James Roberts, and Susan Webber. The Friends also shared a statement from James Lucier, first chairman of the Thomas Balch Library Commission. At the conclusion of the panel discussion, Margaret and W. Brown Morton III presented a framed etching of General John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun, to Thomas Balch Library Director Alexandra Gressitt and Laura Chistiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives. Dr. Don Cooper, Friends President, gave the Library a book containing the chain of title and history of the Thomas Balch Library property starting from the Fairfax Proprietary up to the present. Thanks to the generosity of members and guests, the annual event contributed \$15,000 to the Friends, which helps to fund Library programs.

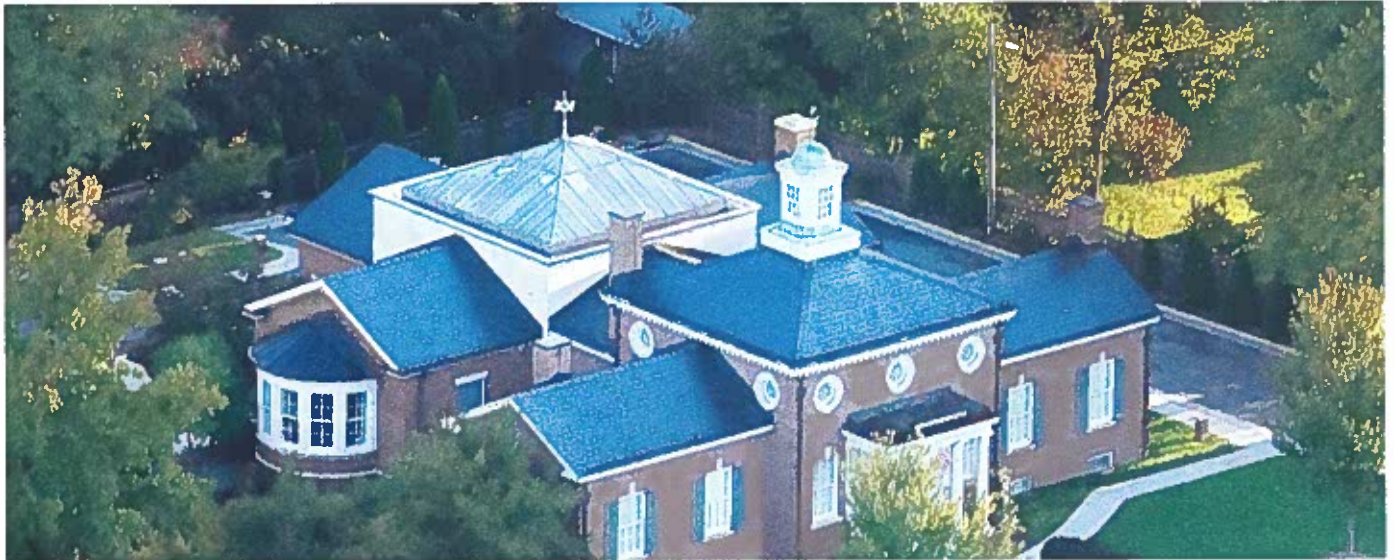
Friends of Thomas Balch Library gives heartfelt thanks to hosts Julie and Steve Chapin and to sponsors Page and Murray Bradley, Laura and Jeff Bolyard, Donald G. Cooper,



Jennifer and Greg Early, Judy and Chris Gerow, Alexandra S. Gressitt, Al Van Huyck, Mary Grace and James Lucier, Martha and James Marks, David O'Connor, Judy Kozacik and Ron Rust, Wynne Saffer, Susan and George Webber, and Suzi and Travis Worsham—Riverside on the Potomac.

The Friends give many thanks for additional support from caterer Savoir Faire and gift certificates from Lightfoot Restaurant, Trungo's Restaurant, King Street Oyster Bar, and Tuscarora Mill Restaurant.

Friends of Thomas Balch Library Gathers to Celebrate the Centennial of Loudoun's Invaluable Resource



Photos clockwise from top: 1-aerial view of Thomas Balch Library by Jim Hanna; 2-Jim Hershman, president, Thomas Balch Library Commission, at center, with Friends board members Ron Rust, left, and Richard Routman; 3-Laura Christiansen, Thomas Balch Library Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, Library Director Alexandra Gressitt, and Dr. Don Cooper, Friends president; 4-James Roberts and Donna Bohanon; 5-Karen Titus, center, with daughter Sara and Mike Napper.



Photos clockwise from top right: 1- Margaret and W. Brown Morton III present their etching of Lord Loudoun to the Thomas Balch Library in honor of its 100th anniversary; 2-photo center right, from left Shirley Carpenter, Donna Bohanon, and Darlene Napper; 3-opposite, from left, Wynne Saffer, James Christiansen, Laura Christiansen, and Lori Kimball; 4-center left, from left, Larry Roeder, Jim Roberts, and George Webber; 5-top left, Gail and Perry Epes.

Reminder: Annual Meeting at Thomas Balch Library on Dec. 11 (weather date January 8, 2023). Video oral history of Wynne Saffer.

(Lord Loudoun: continued from page 1)

but was a Jacobite follower herself.

She was alerted by a tip from her Jacobite mother-in-law that a strong force under Lord Loudoun was preparing to march from Inverness to Moy in an attempt to capture Prince Charlie, who was reported to have been sheltering with the Lady of Moy.

Loudoun did indeed march with a strong force, some 1,500 men, to Moy in hopes of capturing the Jacobite "Pretender" but was routed by a ruse and the bravery of Lady Moy. With the help of a few servants, banging kitchen pots and pans, setting off firecrackers to create fog and yelling ferocious Highland battle cries, Lady Moy, also known as "Colonel Anne," succeeded in routing Loudoun's men, who fled, howling all the way back to Inverness.

Loudoun's reputation took a hit from "The Rout of Moy," as well as a chilly reception from the duke (also called the "Butcher of Culloden" for his ferocity in putting down the rebellion).

Loudoun became Commander-in-Chief of British forces in North America, where he fought with little success against the French. He arrived in North America in 1756, as governor general of the king's forces. He fought in the French and Indian Wars, and was said to be surprised to find that Americans were insistent on their rights, not content to be mere "vassals" of the Crown.

Although he was the colonial governor of Virginia, he never left New York. Both Washington and Franklin derided his indecision, calling it the most notable characteristic of his nature.

To put it in more modern terms, "he was a desk man." Loudoun was likened by Franklin to "St. George on a pub sign, always on horseback, and never riding on."

He was appointed Governor of Edinburgh Castle in 1763, a post he held until his death in 1782.

Don't Forget Your Dues in December. Not a Member? Join Today!

Renew your membership or join Friends of 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.

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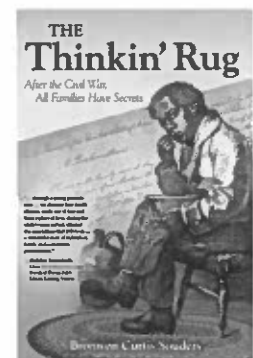
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Catch up with Library Programs on YouTube

Many of Thomas Balch Library lectures, seminars, and classes are now available online. To find them, open your browser, enter "YouTube" and "Thomas Balch Library," and programming will appear with titles and descriptions. Learn about African American genealogy

with Lori Kimball, for example, or hear Waterford author Bronwen Curtis Souders discuss her young adult book, *The Thinkin' Rug: After the Civil War All Families Have Secrets*, and many more discussions.



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**Friends of Thomas
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THE CHRONICLE
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Programs, Classes & Exhibits

Programs & Events

Loudoun History Annual Awards

11/6/22 at 2 PM in Lower Level Meeting Room.
Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commissioners will present the 29th and 30th annual awards. They will recognize the 2021 and 2022 recipients (Snow date 1/8/23.)

***Dark Queen of Donegal* - Mary Pat Ferron Canes**

12/12/23 at 2 PM in Lower Level Meeting Room.
A scholar of Gaelic people and culture, Canes will discuss her work of historical fiction.

Classes & Seminars

Care and Preservation of Photographs

Curator Laura E. Christiansen
12/1/22—10 AM-12PM

African American Genealogy

Lori Kimball and Steve Hammond
2/2/23—10 AM-12PM

Exhibits

Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits

History of Douglass School—11/1/22—11/30/22 —
Loudoun County Public Schools in conjunction with the
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Delegates of the 1883 Mass Meeting—12/1/22—
12/31/22—Donna Bohanon

Temple Hall—1/1/23—1/31/23—Curated by Paul
McCray for Northern Virginia Parks

Black History Committee—2/1/23—2/28/23

Lower Level Meeting Room Exhibits

Friends of Leesburg Public Art—through 12/25/22

Photography by Heather Lynn Overheu—1/2/23
—3/29/23

Programs are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. For program updates, visit the Friends' website at balchfriends.org or the library's website at <http://www.leesburgva.gov/government/departments/thomas-balch-library/library-events>