

The CHRONICLE

On the Road Again, Richard Gillespie and James Roberts Resume Tours of Historic Leesburg and Western Loudoun



Top: Pre-pandemic, field trip participants joined historian Richard T. Gillespie at Aldie's monument to "First Mass Cavalry, 2nd Cavalry Division June 17, 1863 (which was) Erected by the First Mass Cavalry Association, 1888." Above: A class gathered around Gillespie to learn about the founding of Purcellville.

On-Site With Insight: A History Series in the Field

After a two year break in tours, Friends of Thomas Balch Library is proud to cosponsor the compelling, two-semester program that Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Historian Emeritus and former Friends Board Member Richard Gillespie created to share with anyone curious about Loudoun's past.

Whether you're new to the area or wonder about Loudoun's place in our nation's history, the 13 classes of "On-Site With Insight" are experiences worth waiting for. However,

because pent-up demand has been high and enrollment is limited to 25, you may have to wait until next spring to catch the six classes covering 1700 to 1861.

But if you hurry, you could land a spot for this fall's seven-session semester covering 1861 to 1970. From October 6 to November 10, classes are scheduled for Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30.

"This course is designed as an intimate, explore-by-night, field trip-based experience," says Gillespie, who developed the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area's education program before becoming the organization's executive director. *(Continued on page 5)*

Don't Miss the Thomas Balch Library Centenary Exhibit in May!

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LIBRARY, INC.**

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Loudoun History Awards

Two recipients have received 2021's Loudoun History Award based on their contributions to preserving Loudoun's past. Due to postponement of the 2021 awards ceremony, the honorees will be recognized at November 2022's awards ceremony.

Michael R. Napper has been recognized for his many contributions to and documentation of the memory of African Americans in Loudoun County's history. The Family and Friends of the Mount Sinai Cemetery—Claudette Bard, Ron Campbell, Edward W. Spannaus, and Howard Gilbert Timbers, Jr.—has been recognized for their contributions to the conservation of African American cemeteries in Lovettsville.

In addition, the Black History Committee of Friends of Thomas Balch Library has been given special recognition for its commemorative efforts in connection with Frederick Douglass Elementary School.

Friends of Thomas Balch Library Membership Form

Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc., is a 501(c)3 corporation.

To become a member, please fill out this form completely and send it with your tax-deductible membership dues and/or contribution to:

Friends of Thomas Balch Library, P.O. Box 2184, Leesburg, VA 20177. If you have any questions, please call 540-579-2825 and leave a message, or send us a secure email using the Contact Us form on our website.

Membership Dues

- Legacy Society.....\$500+
- Benefactor \$250
- Sustaining/Business \$100
- Patron.....\$50
- Family..... \$25
- Student/Senior..... \$15

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Spring Talks and Workshops

Pre-registration is required for Thomas Balch Library programs. Please call 703-737-7195, email balchlib@leesburgva.gov, or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/TBLEvents>.

Congo, the Miserable Expeditions and Dreadful Death of Lt. Emory Taunt, USN Luncheon Lecture with Andrew Jampoler

April 27, 2022 1p.m. – Virtual Event



Lt. Emory Taunt's map

resident diplomat in equatorial Africa, who died in 1891 along the Congo River. His life and times at the end of the 19th century open a window today on the tragic history of this deeply troubled region.

Pre-registration is required.

Andrew Jampoler, writer and amazing storyteller, recounts the story of

America's first

Researching Your House – Maral Kalbian

May 5, 2022 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Thomas Balch

Library

Pre-registration is required.

Architectural historian Maral Kalbian walks you through methods and sources for researching the history and architecture of your house. Kalbian has practiced in the

Shenandoah Valley and Piedmont areas of Virginia for 34 years and is the author of several books. She serves as an architectural historian to several Virginia local governments, including Clarke and Frederick counties. Recently, she completed a two-year process to add Grafton Farm, site of the Upperville Colt & Horse Show, to the National Register of Historic Places.



Loudoun County and the W&OD Railroad – Paul McCray

May 22, 2022 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Thomas Balch Library *Pre-registration is required.*

A recipient of Thomas Balch Library's Loudoun History Award, Paul McCray oversaw various regional parks in Loudoun for NOVA Parks, including Ball's Bluff Battlefield. In this program he explores how the W&OD Railroad came to be, its successes and failures, and why it was abandoned in 1968.



One reason was the W&OD's loss of a contract to carry the mail, as seen here at Loudoun's Sterling station.

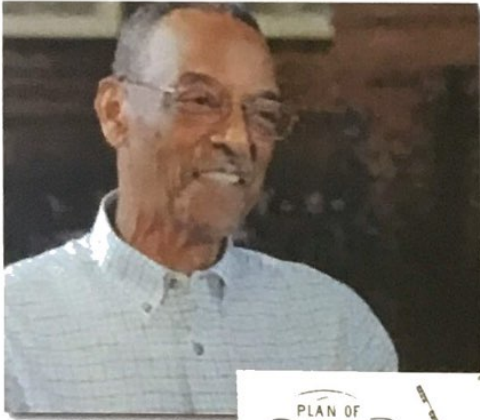
Maryland Property Records – Travis Shaw

June 2, 2022 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Thomas Balch Library *Pre-registration is required.*

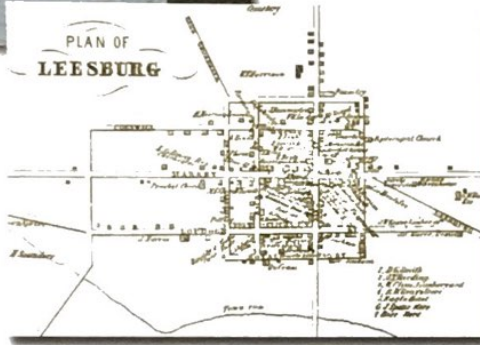
Travis Shaw, Thomas Balch Library Associate and Director of Education for the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association, will give a step-by-step introduction to online tools for accessing property records in the state of Maryland. With them, you can research deeds, plats, and other records back to the 17th century. Shaw is a public history professional with nearly two decades of experience in historic preservation and archaeology.

Missed a program? Thomas Balch Library has a YouTube channel that offers lots of great video content, including workshops and author talks. To find the Library's channel, go to <https://tinyurl.com/VideoTBL> or search for "Thomas Balch Library" in the YouTube search bar.

Friends Sponsor Field Trips Once Again



James Roberts, above, frequently gives tours of Leesburg sites that have played important roles in the town's 282 years. The Plan of Leesburg at right is a detail on the famous Yardley Taylor map of 1853.



On May 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., James P. Roberts, a native of Leesburg, former member of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, 2008 recipient of the Loudoun History Award, and recognized in 2011 by Loudoun Laurels, will lead a walking tour of Leesburg.

The tour is an insider's commentary of local people, places, and points of interest both in and around Leesburg. Roberts pays attention to how Leesburg has grown and evolved through the years architecturally, economically, and racially. Factual, historical, and anecdotal information is intertwined and presented in storytelling fashion as only someone who has lived through it and thoughtfully observed it can do. Roberts' unique tour will leave from Thomas Balch Library parking lot at 9 a.m. Be sure to wear sturdy, comfortable walking shoes.

On-Site With Insight *(continued from page 1)*

NOVA Parks is the principal presenter of "On-Site With Insight." Cosponsors are Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area, the Loudoun Museum, the Short Hill Historical Society, the Waterford Foundation, the Loudoun Preservation Society, and the Lovettsville Historical Society.

Gillespie, who taught U.S. history for 30 years at Loudoun Valley High School relied heavily on excursions to historic sites, finding them to be effective in making the past relevant today. For the "On-Site With Insight" program, his teaching sites include Hillsboro,

Aldie, Upperville, Purcellville, Lincoln, and nearby Harpers Ferry. They are posted here: www.novaparks.com/parks/aldie-mill-historic-park.



Aldie Mill, top, and Potts-Neer Mill close to Hillsboro.

While you cannot sign up for individual classes, you may enroll for one semester. The fee for this series is \$250 per person for both the spring and fall sessions, or \$150 for either one. Proceeds benefit the education programs of Aldie Mill Historic Park, a NOVA Parks property. Cost includes course materials. To keep tuition modest, class participants provide transportation.

To learn more, call NOVA Parks Aldie Mill Historic Site Manager Tracy Gillespie at 703-327-9777 or email tgillespie@nvrpa.org.

Black History Committee Extends Outreach

UPDATE from Donna Bohanon, Chairperson African American Families: Land & Farms in Algonkian and Sterling



On February 11, Donna Bohanon and Alicia Cohen shared the Land & Farms presentation with Countryside Women's Club.

"African-American History at Loudoun County Courthouse"

On February 16, Donna Bohanon and Alicia

Cohen joined the County's Historic Records Division's staff in a virtual program to introduce the publication "African-American History at the Loudoun County Courthouse" The recording is available online at the courthouse website: <https://www.loudoun.gov/2165/Historic-Records-Deed-Research>

Historic Preservation Class at NOVA Community College February 23, Donna Bohanon and Kacey Young, President of the Purcellville Historical Society, discussed their various Loudoun historic preservation projects with NOVA's Historic Preservation class. Donna's presentation included the role of the Black History Committee.

Algonkian District Town Hall Meeting On February 23, during the Algonkian District's virtual Town Hall meeting, Alicia Cohen and James Roberts, representing the BHC, and Larry Roeder, representing the Edwin Washington Project, participated in a panel discussion on African American history in Loudoun. The panel discussion was recorded and is available on Facebook.

Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) On March 7, Donna Bohanon represented the BHC on a panel at the VAM Annual Conference, which was coordinated by the Loudoun County Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records Division.

The session, "Making the People's Records Accessible: Exhibits, Programs and Education," also included Robin Burke, Executive Director of the Loudoun Freedom Center. The BHC presentation, "Using Records to Tell the Story," highlighted primary source documents found at the courthouse that support the history and resources in Black History Committee publications.

The Nokes Family Farm Equipment and Heritage Farm Museum (HFM) Donation

In BHC's February 5 meeting, members voted to donate \$1,000 to the Heritage Farm Museum's Give Choose campaign to restore and exhibit Nokes family's farm equipment.

Salvaged from an overgrown area on the museum property, the manure spreader, below, was used to fertilize the fields. It will be the central exhibit in interpretation of Eastern Loudoun County's African American land and farm ownership.



As of *Chronicle* press time, the Library is exhibiting "The Nokes Family Farm Equipment" in the Margaret Mercer Room. Try to see it before April 30. This is local history that has not been told!

The Black History Committee's support of the Heritage Farm Museum's work is a continuation of a partnership established in 2019 through programs and presentations to promote interest in the Black history of Eastern Loudoun. The partnership's programs draw on Heritage Farm Museum research and Thomas Balch Library resources, specifically from BHC publications and collections.

Recently Processed Collections to Explore

Leesburg Branch of the Valley Bank Papers & Leesburg Virginia Telephone Company Stock

In October 2021, the staff and volunteers of the Thomas Balch Library processed and made available to the public two new archival collections: the Leesburg Branch of the Valley Bank Papers (SC 0155) and the Leesburg Virginia Telephone Company Stock (SC 0156).

Both collections were purchased for the Library by the Thomas Balch Library Endowment Foundation in 2020.

Leesburg Branch of the Valley Bank Papers (SC 0155)

This collection consists of records created by the Leesburg Virginia Branch of the Valley Bank between 1818 and 1859.

The Bank of the Valley of Virginia, also known as the Old Valley Bank, was originally established in Winchester, Virginia, on January 17, 1818. Later that year, a Leesburg branch building opened for business east of the Loudoun County Courthouse at 20-22 East Market Street.

Leesburg Virginia Telephone Company Stock (SC 0156)

Stock Certificates issued between 1908 and 1911, along with correspondence regarding transfers, recall, and liquidation of stock from 1916-1918, are part of this collection. An index of stockholders is available.



From top, Leesburg Branch of the Valley Bank east of the Loudoun County Courthouse; middle, early telephone lines in Leesburg at East Market Street and Fayette, now Edwards Ferry Road; above, from the Goldie Maffett Collections, youngsters with flowers.

Goldie Estelle Maffett Collection

Goldie Maffett, daughter of Walter Gray Maffett and Estelle Ellmore Maffett, was born 26 September 1897 and died 9 March 1988. During her life, Maffett collected genealogical information and family photographs.

In 2021, Thomas Balch Library volunteers and staff completed the processing of Maffett's collection, which, along with genealogical research and clippings, includes more than 850 photographs, most clearly and carefully labeled. Along with Maffett information, family names represented in Maffett's collection include Arundel, Ellmore, Flip, Caylor, and many more.

Photographs from the Goldie E. Maffett Collection (M0131) may be browsed in Thomas Balch Library's online Visual Collections Catalog: <https://thomasbalchlibrary.pastperfectonline.com/photo>.

Friends Publications Order Form

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Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads by Eugene Scheel

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

All 5 volumes plus Eugene Scheel's Historical Map of Loudoun County \$ 100

Individual copies of the Historical Map \$ 10

The Essence of A People: Portraits of African Americans Who Made a Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia \$ 15

The Essence of A People II: African Americans Who Made Their World Anew in Loudoun County, Virginia, and Beyond \$ 15

Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide \$ 5

In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971 by Elaine E. Thompson \$ 20

George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist, Musician by Lemoine D. Pierce \$ 10

Journey Through Time by Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library \$ 5

Billy Pierce: Dance Master, Son of Purcellville by Lemoine D. Pierce \$ 15

Loudoun 1757: On the Border of Mayhem—Loudoun County 250th Anniversary Lecture Series \$ 15

Leesburg 250th Anniversary Lecture Series (2008) hosted by Thomas Balch Library, includes booklet plus 2 DVDs \$ 15

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Spring 2022 Programs & Exhibits

Programs and Classes

Bitter Roots

Ellen Crosby, Author
Sunday, April 24, 2-4 p.m.
Thomas Balch Library—in person

Luncheon Lectures: The Congo

Andrew Jampoler, Author
Wednesday, April 27, 1 p.m.
Virtual program

Researching Your House

Maral Kalbian, Historian
Thursday, May 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thomas Balch Library—in person

Loudoun and the W&OD Railroad

Paul McCray, Author
Sunday, May 22, 2-4 p.m.
Thomas Balch Library—in person

Maryland Property Records

Travis Shaw, Library Associate
Thursday, June 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Thomas Balch Library—in person.

Exhibits and Tours

Margaret Mercer Room

Thomas Balch Library Centenary Exhibit
May 2022

Don't miss this special exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Library building in 1922. Artifacts, photographs, and documents.

Granny's Cooking – Johnston Collections
June 2022

Loudoun County Civil War Artifacts
July through August 2022

Lower Level Meeting Room

Ligia Inra Fine Art
April through June 2022

Tours

James P. Roberts' Historic Leesburg
Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

On-Site With Insight

13 Spring and Fall seminars in the field with Richard Treat Gillespie.