

The CHRONICLE

Black History Committee Welcomes National Museum of African American History & Culture's John Franklin to Thomas Balch Library

On Sunday October 21, 2018 at 2 p.m., John W. Franklin, the distinguished cultural historian and head of external affairs at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), will discuss the museum's and libraries' roles in researching African American genealogy. Franklin brings his personal experience to the subject, including stories of how his father, world-renowned historian John Hope Franklin, overcame obstacles in conducting research in segregated libraries.

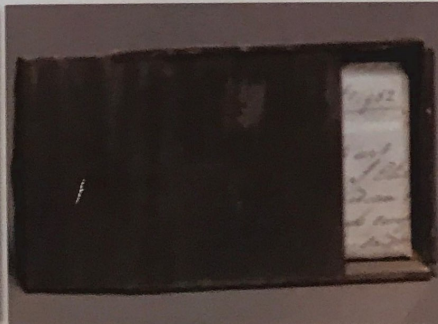
Franklin received his bachelor's degree in anthropology from Stanford University with a focus on French-speaking West African and Caribbean societies. He later did graduate work at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies on African development issues. Prior to joining the National Museum of African American History and Culture, he served as a program manager and curator with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage where his responsibilities included curating the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival's programming.

As a program specialist in the Smithsonian Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, he organized numerous conferences, including Black Francophone Presence in the U.S, African Americans and the Evolution of the Living Constitution, African Immigration, West Africa Research and Human Rights, and Scientific Progress and Cultural Diversity.



John W. Franklin

Did you know these Loudoun artifacts are on display at the NMAAHC?



The flowered skirt, far left, belonged to Lucy Lee Shirley, born enslaved in Leesburg, Virginia, in 1854. On the left is the **hand-made tin carrying box with the freedom papers** of Joseph Trammell of Loudoun County. It was a gift of the late Elaine E. Thompson, a Trammell descendent and BHC founding member. Both are displayed in the museum's "Slavery and Freedom" exhibition.

See pages 4 and 5 for photos from the annual Friends event at Murray Hill

News From the Director's Desk

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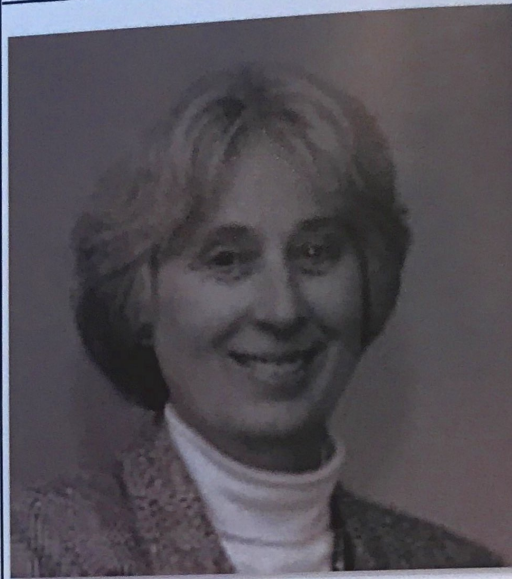
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Alexandra S. Gressitt

In 2016 Thomas Balch Library received the correspondence of Dr. Armistead Randolph Mott, his wife, Virginia Bentley Mott, and their friends and family.

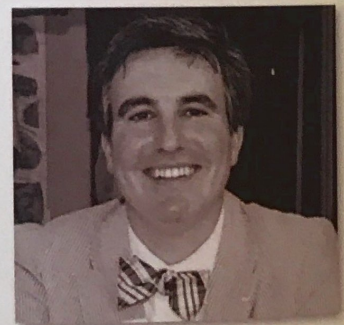
Comprising more than 500 letters dating from 1840 to 1900, this correspondence includes detailed descriptions of life in Loudoun County prior to, during, and after the Civil War. The Motts lived at Rokeby, and their network of correspondents extended throughout Loudoun County into all parts of Virginia and neighboring states.

The library received a grant of \$5,000 from Loudoun Library

Foundation to assist with the processing of this collection.

- In April we hosted our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. This is always a wonderful opportunity for staff and volunteers to mingle and share information.

- Four of our part-time staff obtained full-time positions. Barbara Hughes accepted a position in Fairfax; Christy Toms accepted a position as digital archivist at the Stark Center, University of Texas–Austin; Keelia McCaffrey is now a youth librarian in Ohio, and Travis Shaw is now public programs coordinator at Mosby Heritage Area. While both Christy and Keelia have moved out of the area, Travis will still be with us on Tuesday evenings. Mary Frye, retired executive associate for former town manager John Wells, has joined us as office manager.



Travis Shaw

- Thomas Balch Library hosted the Virginia caucus meeting of the Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in June. This event drew 40 archivists from across Virginia and southern Maryland who enjoyed hearing updates from regional archives, a tour of the library, and the Charles A. Johnston Collection walking tour of downtown Leesburg.

- Following a relatively mild winter, we were hit with a late winter storm in March. Our spring seminar had to be postponed. Rescheduled in May, the seminar Genetic Genealogy: Understanding DNA Results with Shannon Combs-Bennett drew an enthusiastic crowd. We are planning on future seminars and anticipate they will be held in May to accommodate Mother Nature.

As we enter our busy fall season, I look forward to welcoming you when visiting Thomas Balch Library and exhibits or attending our programs.

—Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

Ending Slavery, Changing Lives

Polly McLean Remembers Lucile Jones

Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 2PM

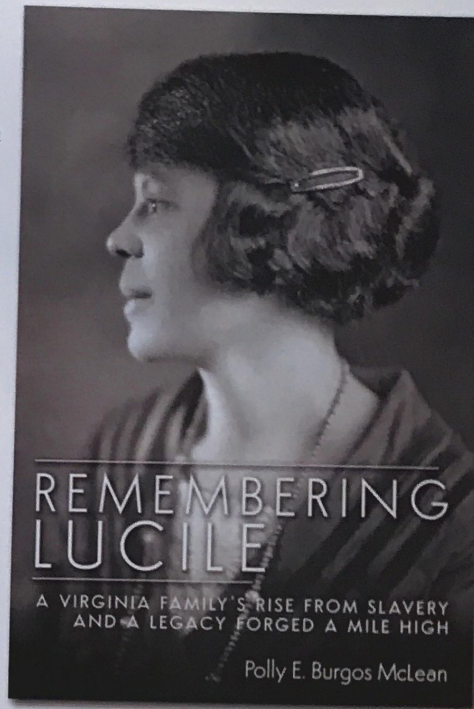
Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Jones, born to freed slaves from the Oatlands plantation in Loudoun County, became the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Colorado when she received a bachelor's degree in 1918. *Remembering Lucile* depicts the rise of the African American middle class through the historical journey of Lucile and her family from slavery in northern Virginia to life in the West.



Polly E. Bugros McLean

An associate professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Polly E. Bugros McLean received a master's degree from Columbia University and a PhD from the University of Texas, Austin. She has been a

visiting professor at the University of Zambia and Howard University, as well as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Namibia.



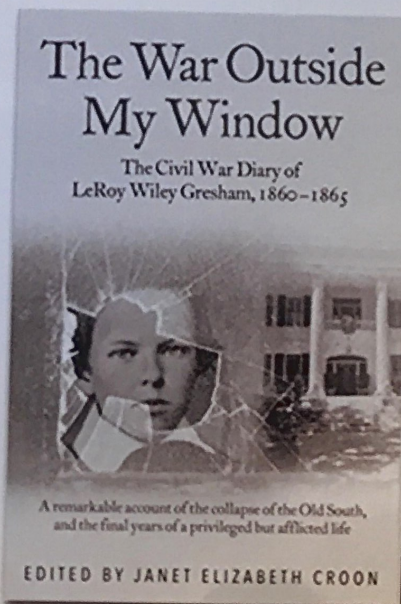
The Civil War Through the Eyes of a Privileged White Southern Teen

Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 2PM

The War Outside My Window, edited by Janet Elizabeth Croon, captures the spirit and character of a privileged white teenager who witnessed the dissolution of slavery in America and the end of the reign of white slaveholders.

LeRoy Wiley Gresham was born in 1847 to an affluent slaveholding family in Macon, Georgia. As a child he suffered a horrific leg injury that left him an invalid. Educated, inquisitive, and exceptionally witty, the 12-year-old began keeping a diary in 1860 just as secession and civil war began tearing the country and his world apart.

He wrote daily for five years, putting pen to paper with a vim and tongue-in-cheek vigor that continues to impress more than 150 years later. His practical, philosophical, and occasionally Twain-like observations cover politics,



the war, family pets, and a wide variety of hobbies. His writing sheds light on life for a member of a socially prominent and wealthy family in Macon, an important manufacturing center for the South. Gresham's own slow and painful death mirrored that of the demise of the Confederacy.

Janet E. Croon recently retired from teaching advanced high school history in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science, modern European history, and Russian language from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in international studies from the University of Dayton. She

taught international baccalaureate history for two decades and developed a deep interest in the Civil War by living in Virginia.

Friends Gather at Murray Hill on the Potomac for Annual Event

Just in time for the Friends of Thomas Balch Library's annual event on September 16, 2018, the sun broke through cloudy skies, giving lucky guests a delightful afternoon at the historic Murray Hill estate of hosts Peggy and John Rust. Overlooking the Potomac River, the 18th century-style home built by the owner's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Stirling Murray Rust,

provided a beautiful backdrop for the occasion featuring delicious food from Savoir Fare and compelling food for thought from historian Richard T. Gillespie. He shared stories of the early days of the Civil War at this strategic location on the Virginia—Confederate—side of the Potomac just a stone's throw from the shore of Maryland—the United States of America.



Clockwise from top left: Bill Ray, left, and Dr. Donald Cooper, president of the Friends, right, present the event's hosts and Murray Hill owners John and Peggy Rust with the property's chain of title; board member Mildred Anne Daye, left, and Susan Webber; Peggy Fera; Kacey Young, Friends vice president; Ron and Barbara Campbell. He is Leesburg Town Council representative to Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission.



From top: Rich Gillespie shares stories of pre- and early Civil War activity along the Potomac near Murray Hill; above center, historian Wynne Saffer with Patty and C.M. Piggott; above, Jim Hershman, president of Thomas Balch Library Advisory Board, left, with Friends of Thomas Balch Library board member Jim Lucier.

Top, the Patton family--Alexandra, left, Landey, and CiCi.; above, Suzi and Travis Worsham, who hosted the 2017 Friends event at their home, Riverside on the Potomac.

Two Strategic Thinkers on Factors of Military Victory and Failure

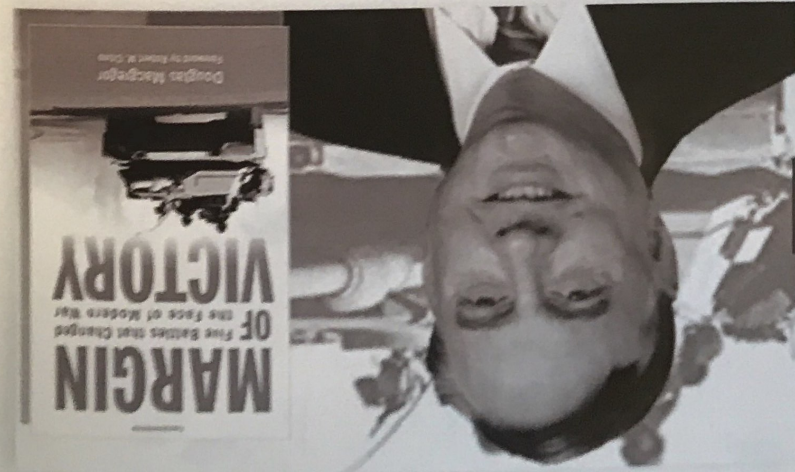
Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 2PM

Margin of Victory author Douglas Macgregor, a decorated combat veteran and principal of a defense and foreign policy consulting firm in Reston, will present the book's riveting stories of military triumph and defeat set against the backdrop of national politics, culture, and history.

Macgregor explores 1) why congruence of national culture, geography, and scientific-industrial capacity is essential for successful military action; 2) how strategy and geopolitics inevitably trump ideology; 3) how building

effective military power takes time, resources, and imagination; and 4) unity of command, unity of effort, and the integration of capabilities across service lines only happen when they are ruthlessly imposed top down.

These are some of the enduring lessons in the five warfighting dramas that unfold in vivid detail.



Macgregor was commissioned in the Regular Army after one year at VMI and four years at West Point and retired with the rank of colonel. He holds an MA in comparative politics and a PhD in international relations from the University of Virginia.

Macgregor is widely known for his leadership in the Persian Gulf War Battle of 73 Easting.

Why has the United States lost every war it

began or failed in every

military intervention since

the end of World War II?

This record of failure had

largely hidden in plain

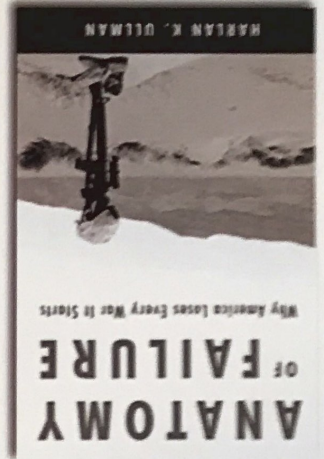
sight until Harlan Ullman

sought to answer it with

his new book, *Anatomy of*

Failure: Why America Loses

Every War It Starts.



Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 2PM

Ullman analyzes the presidential records of Kennedy to Trump and finds that presidents and their administrations have consistently failed to use strategic thinking and lacked sufficient knowledge or understanding of the circumstances prior to deciding whether to employ force.

To combat the military inexperience of presidents, Ullman recommends using a "brains-based" approach and strategic thinking. Ullman reinforces his argument

Harlan K. Ullman

through the use of autobiographical vignettes that provide a human dimension and insight into the reasons for failure. Harlan K. Ullman's career spans the worlds of business and government. Chairman of several companies and an advisor to heads of major corporations and governments, he was principal author of "shock and awe." A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he skippered a swift boat in Vietnam and a destroyer in the Persian Gulf. He holds an MA, MAJD, and PhD from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He lives in Washington, D.C.



Ellen Crosby Harvests Her 9th Virginia Wine Country Mystery

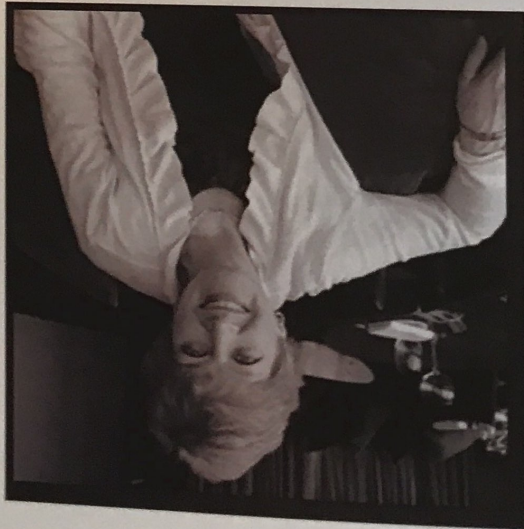
Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 2PM

Just published in November,
Harvest of Secrets by local author Ellen Crosby's ninth book in her popular Virginia Wine Country Series.

Set in the beautiful rolling hills west of Middleburg, this mystery begins to unfold when a skull is unearthed near the family cemetery of Lucie Montgomery, the owner of Montgomery Estate Vineyard in Atoka.

It's the busiest season of year for winemaking—not the ideal time for sleuthing and certainly not when it coincides with the arrival of handsome, wealthy aristocrat Jean-Claude de Merignac. He's come to be the head winemaker at neighboring La Vigne Cellars, but he's no stranger to Lucie: he was her first crush when she spent a summer in France.

Soon, Jean-Claude is found dead, and suspicion falls on Miguel Otero, an immigrant worker at La Vigne, who recently quarreled with Jean-Claude. When Miguel disappears, Lucie receives an ultimatum from her own employees: prove Miguel's innocence or none of the immigrants will work for her during the harvest.



As Lucie hunts for Jean-Claude's killer and continues to search for the identity of the skeleton abandoned in the cemetery, she is blindsided by a decades-old family secret that forces her to a decision: reveal the truth or let the past remain dead and buried.

Ellen Crosby was born in Boston and earned a B.A. in political science from The Catholic University of America and a master's in international relations from The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Prior to working as a journalist, she was an economist at the United States Senate. In the late 1980s, she worked for ABC Radio News as their Moscow correspondent, and over the years she has written feature stories for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Washington Post*. Crosby's books have been nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark Award and the Library of Virginia People's Choice Award. *The Risking* *Rebution* won the 2009 Gourmand World Cookbook Award for Best U.S. Wine Literature Book. She lives with her family in Northern Virginia.

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The deadline for renewal—the first week of December—will be here before you know it. So take a few moments now to check the status of your membership in Friends of Thomas Balch Library. To learn whether you owe dues for this annual renewal cycle, look at the back of this *Chronicle* and see if the number above your name is *Dec 2019. If so, your dues have already been paid for the coming year. If the date is *Dec. 2018 or *Dec 2017, you owe dues for 2019.

Membership Dues

- Legacy Society.....\$500+ Benefactor.....\$250
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- I would like to make a tax deductible contribution of \$_____

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Friends of Thomas
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Fall 2018 Programs & Exhibits

Events

- Remembering Lucile: A Virginia Family's Rise from Slavery and a Legacy Forged a Mile High*
Polly E. Bugros McLean—Sunday, Sept. 23 at 2PM
- Margin of Victory* Douglas Macgregor—Sunday, Sept. 30 at 2PM
- Leesburg Tour* John P. Roberts—Saturday, Oct. 13 - 9 AM - Noon. Meet at Library parking lot. Program To Be Announced—Sunday, Oct. 14 at 2PM
- Black History Committee Guest Speaker John W. Franklin of the National Museum of African American Culture and History—Sunday, Oct. 21 at 2PM
- Anatomy of Failure: Why America Loses Every War It Starts* Harlan K. Ullman—Sunday, Oct. 28 at 2PM
- Loudoun History Awards Sunday, Nov. 11 at 2PM
- The War Outside My Window* Janet E. Croon—Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2PM
- Harvest of Secrets: A Wine Country Mystery* – Ellen Crosby – Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2PM

Classes

- Information Seeking Strategies—Thursday, Oct. 4 at 10AM
- Preservation for Home Archives—Thursday, Nov. 1 at 10AM
- Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits**
John Hall: His New Technology Rifle vs. Regular U.S. Rifles –September
- Morven Park's Equestrian Heritage—October
- Seasonal Greeting Cards from Thomas Balch Library Collections –November
- Loudoun/Leesburg Memorabilia—December
- Lower Level Meeting Room Exhibits**
Nature's Kingdom by Loudoun Photography Club—through September
- Loudoun Interiors by The Loudoun Sketch Club—October—December
- Programs are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. For updates, please visit the Friends' website at <http://www.leesburgva.gov/government/balchfriends.org> or the Library's website at <http://www.balchlibrary.org>