

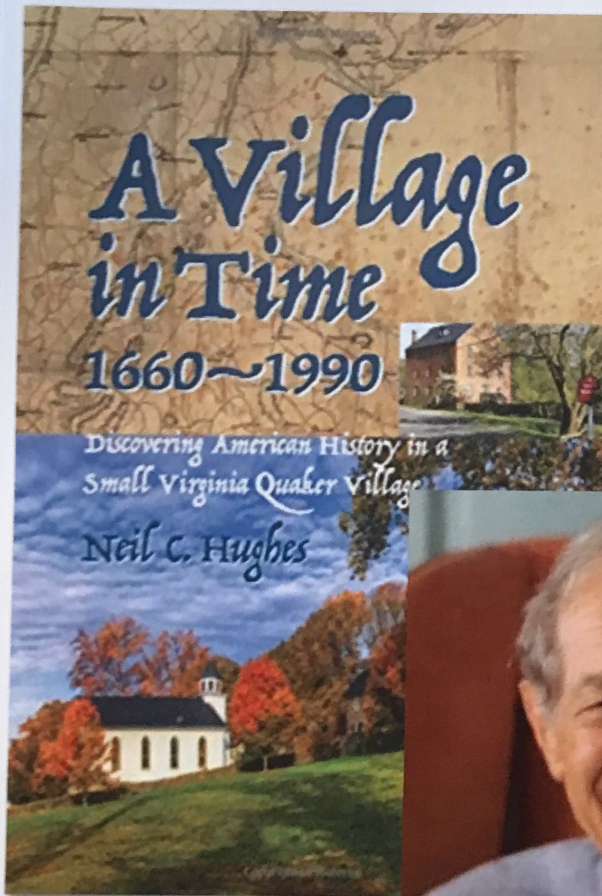
Friends of Thomas Balch Library

The CHRONICLE

Volume 22 Issue 2

Spring 2018

In the Small Quaker Village of Waterford, Loudoun Author Neil C. Hughes Finds American History on His Own Doorstep



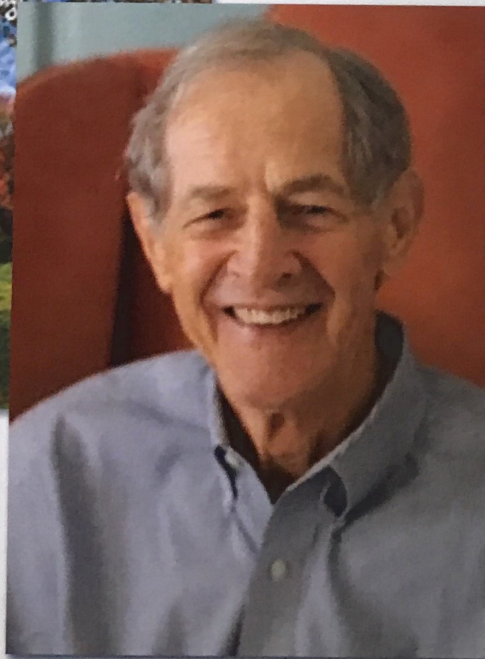
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Neil C. Hughes, author. Photo by Schuyler Richardson.

"Follow the money" is a phrase we're more likely to associate with Watergate than Waterford, Virginia, the historic Quaker village in western Loudoun County that is now a National Historic Landmark. And yet, for Waterford resident Neil Hughes, who was looking into the history of his home, it was an unusual transaction between mother and son, Lydia Hollingsworth Hough and Samuel Hough, that sparked the curiosity of this international finance specialist and convinced him he had bigger story. So began Hughes's journey into American history through the genealogy of his home and the life of his community from 1660 through 1990.

Why, Hughes wondered, would Lydia Hough pay her son the incredible sum of \$3,500—twice the price for neighboring homes in 1820—for the house he'd built for her the year before? "What Lydia did," Hughes explains, "was provide Samuel with money he undoubtedly needed due to the 'Panic of 1819'—which is considered to be the first boom-and-bust business cycle in American history."

Hughes brings that little known chapter in American history—and many more like it—to light through the lens of Waterford. He brings home "The Panic of 1891," for example, through its impact on the price of flour in Waterford: "It affected everyone, from wealthy banker and landowner, to the most humble trader and holder of a mortgage on a log cabin.... The speculative fever in land and investments, in new production, especially cotton, which had been going on for decades, was brought to a sudden halt by a fall in cotton prices of 60 percent between 1818-19 when British (continued on page 3)

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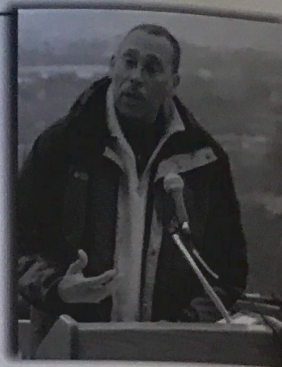
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BHC Hosts Historian Steve Hammond



On March 17, continuing its theme of African American genealogy, the Friends' Black History Committee hosted a talk by Steve Hammond, right, a descendant of the prominent Washington area Syphax Family. In "The Syphaxes: Researching an African-American Family History," Steve shared the accomplishments of ancestors in addition to their ties to important events in U.S. history. Steve has spoken at the African American Civil War Museum and the Decatur House on Lafayette Square, both in Washington, DC, and has contributed to exhibits at George Washington's Mount Vernon and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

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Discover Waterford's History at Neil Hughes's Library Talk on April 29

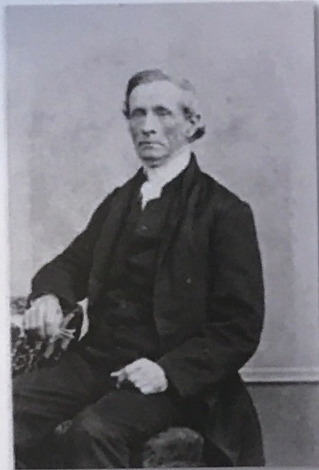
(From page 1) investors shifted to Indian cotton. The price per barrel of American Superfine Flour produced by Samuel Hough's Beaverdam Mill near Waterford fell 65 percent." and was responsible for the care, resettlement, and rehabilitation of 6,000 American Indians

Washington writer Dan Wallace, who recently reviewed it, discussed the book's scope: "From the French and Indian War through the Civil War, the education of former slaves and Native Americans up to current fights to preserve its legacy, Hughes's account of this remarkable community covers an amazing span of watershed moments in history.

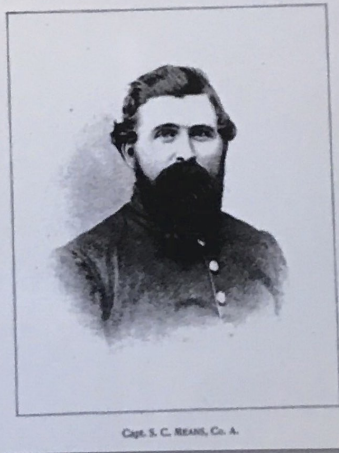
"Both engrossing and engaging, *A Village in Time* offers many surprises such as George Washington's Potomac Canal plan dependent upon slave labor. In the Civil War, the stalwart Union sentiments in Waterford brought continuous and ruthless attacks by Rebel marauder Mosby and others time and again until the war finally ended. The influence of the Waterford Quaker heritage spread throughout the land as a wonderful example of how a small, determined community can demonstrate the best values in our nation."

The book's jacket introduces a few of the ordinary and extraordinary people whose stories Hughes weaves together:

- **John Hough**, who was a friend and mentor to young George Washington and partner in his failed Potomac River Canal venture
- **Samuel Means**, miller and Quaker, who raised the only Union cavalry unit in Virginia, and his neighbors, the Dutton Sisters, who published an underground newspaper for Union troops
- **Millie Winters**, a free African American who carried her "passport to freedom," folded and refolded, against her person to ensure she would never be enslaved again
- Quaker **Ann Herbert Moore**, who set sail to minister in England and was kidnapped by the French
- **Samuel Janney**, who was appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Nebraska



Samuel Janney



Capt. S. C. MEANS, Co. A.

• **Henry Taylor**, farmer, miner, gold prospector, riverboat owner, and finally Nebraska homesteader

• **"Pinky" Pierce and "Sister Spriggs,"** one white and one black, childhood friends who did everything together but go to school. And many more.



Young surveyor George Washington, mentored by John Hough

"After reading *A Village in Time*," writes Hughes, "I hope you will discover how small towns like Waterford are, in author Bill Bryson's words, "where history ends up," and join other preservationists in helping keep history alive in these charming old streets and buildings where so much of American history can still be found."



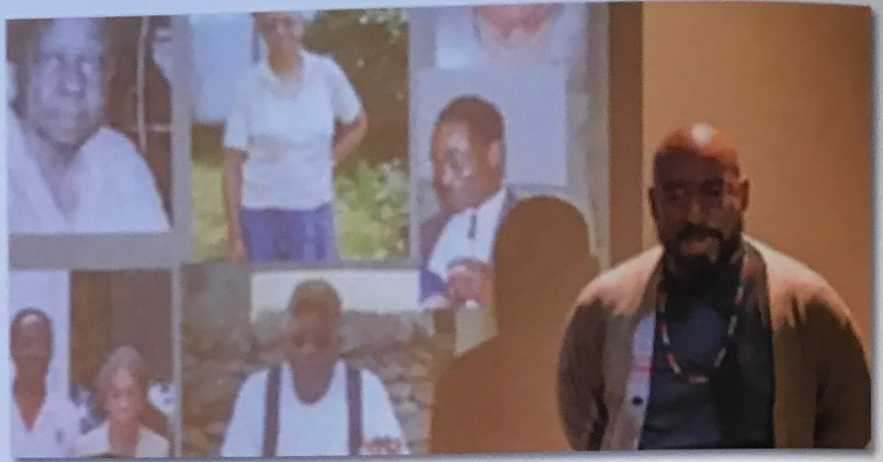
The Hughes home, built by Samuel Hough for his mother in 1819.

Black History Committee Hosts Second Open House

On Saturday, February 24, the Friends' Black History Committee Chairperson Donna Bohanon and BHC members welcomed guests to its second Open House to introduce the wider community to Thomas Balch Library's resources for research and the themes "African Americans in Times of War" and "African American Genealogy."

Among the audience were local leaders, historians and activists. The morning keynote speaker, Kevin Delany Grigsby, right, gave a

moving presentation about the importance of family and community and reminded us that "it takes a village to write a book." Also, BHC members Donna Bohanon, Alicia Cohen, Gertrude Evans, and Larry Roeder shared their personal experiences researching African American Genealogy.



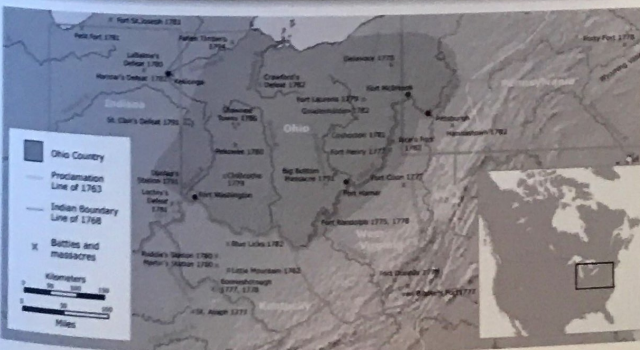
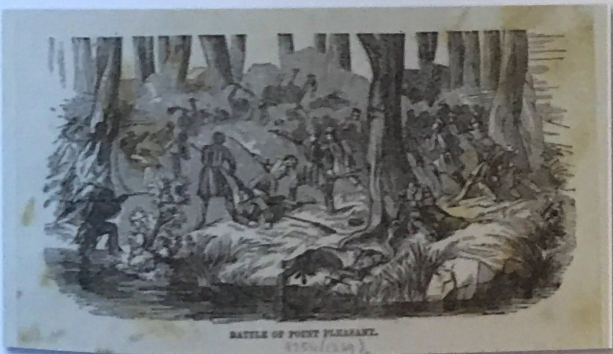
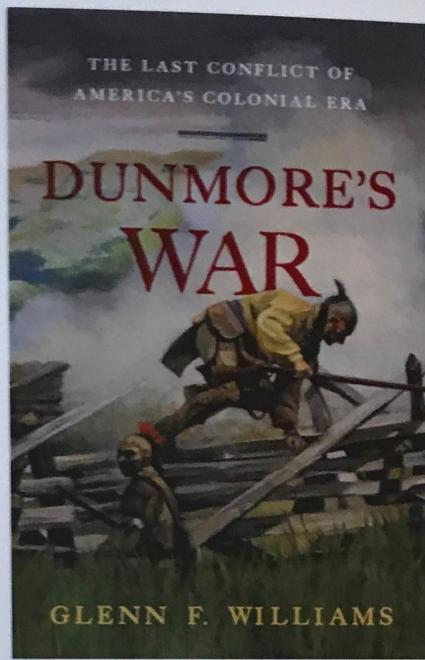
Clockwise from top left, Library Director Alexandra Gressitt and Loudoun Board of Supervisors Chairperson Phyllis Randall; top right, Leesburg Town Council representative Ron Campbell, Alex Walker; center right, Mattie Lassiter, Gertrude Evans; bottom right, Larry and Nancy Roeder; above, Julie Lane, Lou Etta Watkins and Donna Bohanon.



Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era

Join fellow Friends at Thomas Balch Library on Sunday, May 6, from 2 to 4 PM to explore an important but too often neglected chapter in American history. Author Glenn F. Williams, PhD., senior historian at the US Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair, fills that gap, chronicling this campaign and its major influence on the conduct of the Revolutionary War in his latest book, *Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era*.

The 1774 campaign against a Shawnee-led Indian confederacy in the "Ohio Country" (map below) marked the final time an American colonial militia took to the field in His Majesty's service and under royal command. Led by John Murray, the fourth Earl of Dunmore and royal governor of Virginia, a force of colonials including George Rogers Clark, Daniel Morgan, Michael Cresap, Adam Stephen, and Andrew Lewis successfully enforced the western border established by treaties in parts of present-day West Virginia and Kentucky.



The disputed "Ohio Country," above, and an illustration of the Battle of Point Pleasant, the only major action in Dunmore's War.

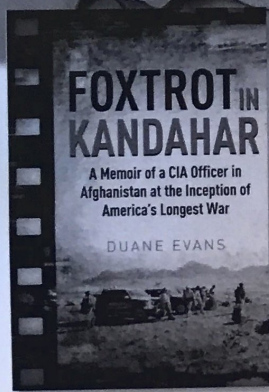
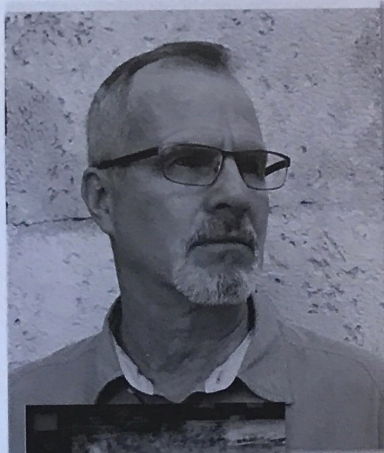
Supported by extensive primary source research Williams corrects much of the folklore around Dunmore's War and frontier fighting in general, demonstrating that the Americans did not adopt Indian tactics for wilderness fighting as is often supposed. Rather, they used British methods that had been developed for fighting irregulars in the woods of Europe, incorporating certain techniques they learned from the Indians and experience they gained from earlier colonial wars.



In addition to his work at the US Army Center of Military History, Glenn F. Williams has served as historian of the National Museum of the US Army Project, the Army Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, and the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. He is the author of many books, including *Year of the Hangman: George Washington's Campaign against the Iroquois*. He holds a PhD. in history from the University of Maryland.

Foxtrot in Kandahar: A Personal Quest to Respond to 9/11

Foxtrot in Kandahar: A Memoir of a CIA Officer in Afghanistan at the Inception of America's Longest War is the true story of veteran CIA officer Duane Evans's unexpected journey from the pristine halls of Langley to the badlands of southern Afghanistan. Within hours after he watched the horrors of 9/11 unfold during a chance visit to FBI Headquarters. It was then he decided to begin a personal and relentless quest to become part of the U.S. response against al-Qa'ida.



Above, author Duane Evans

—one of only a handful of Americans who were pushing forward across the desert into some of the most dangerous, yet mesmerizingly beautiful, landscapes on earth.

The ultimate triumph of the CIA and Special Forces teams, when absolutely everything was on the line, is tempered by the U.S. tragedy that catalyzed what is now America's longest war.

Evans's very personal adventure unfolds within the pages of *Foxtrot in Kandahar* at the inception of America's longest war and concludes with an analysis of opportunities lost in the years since.

According to Frank Archibald, former deputy director for

At Thomas Balch Library on Sunday, May 20, from 2 to 4 PM, the author will discuss his memoir, which tracks his efforts to join one of the CIA's elite teams bound for Afghanistan, a journey that took him to the front lines in Pakistan, first as part of the advanced element of the CIA's Echo team supporting Hamid Karzai, and later as leader of the seriously under-resourced and overlooked Foxtrot team.

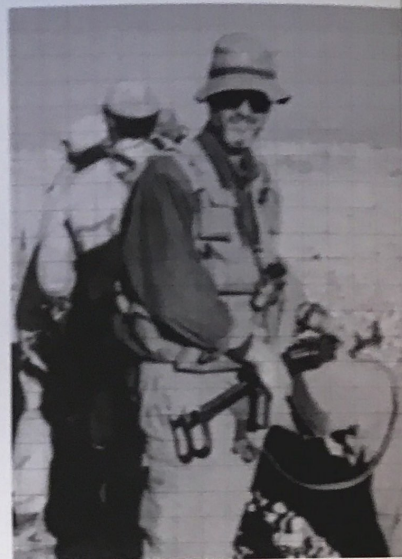
Relying on rusty military skills from his days as a Green Beret, and brandishing a traded-for rifle, Evans moved toward Kandahar in the company of Pashtun warriors

operations, "Duane Evans was one of a handful of patriots who went to war in Afghanistan in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. He overcame multiple obstacles to build a combined force of CIA, DOD, and Afghan tribal fighters that helped defeat the Taliban in their stronghold.

"His important book contributes greatly to the history of the campaign in southern Afghanistan and to understanding of unconventional warfare in the 21st century. Mr. Evans deserves our thanks for his valiant service fighting terrorists and for writing this valuable book."

Another reviewer added:

"One thing is certain: Evans, who has also written fiction (*North from Calcutta*, 2009) is a fine storyteller. Brilliantly crafted and fast-paced, *Foxtrot in Kandahar: A Memoir of a CIA Officer in Afghanistan at the Inception of America's Longest War* fills a major gap in the literature of the war's critical and complex early months. It is required reading for anyone interested in modern warfare, complicated tribal politics, and the ancient land where they intersect."



The author in Afghanistan in 2001



Genetic Genealogy: Understanding DNA Results Workshop

Thomas Balch Library

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Rescheduled from March – Spaces still available.

Shannon Combs-Bennett, Presenter

Do you have DNA results and wonder what to do with them—or perhaps wonder whether it is worth the expense to take a DNA test and if so which one? This seminar, in four parts, will provide a general introduction to 1) DNA Genealogy and include sections on 2) understanding Autosomal DNA results, 3) using third party tools to collect, share, and interpret your results, and 4) developing a research plan combining genetics and genealogy. Whether you are a novice or an experienced geneticist, this seminar is an opportunity to enhance your understanding of DNA genealogy and new developments in the field. There will be two breaks (morning and afternoon) and a lunch break of 1-1/2 hours on your own in historic Leesburg.

Advance Registration \$15 members of Friends of Thomas Balch Library; \$20 non-members; \$30 at door (if space is available); Lunch on your own. Registration is nonrefundable. For more information, call 703-737-7195 or visit www.leesburgva.gov/library

Seating is limited: Preregistration and prepayment will guarantee a seat.

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Name (s) _____

Address: _____

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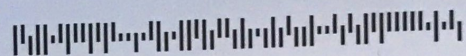
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Spring 2018 Programs & Exhibits

A Village in Time: 1660-1990 Discovering American History in a Small Virginia Quaker Village – Neil C. Hughes Sunday, April 29, at 2 PM

Historic Preservation/Architecture
Thursday, May 3, 10 AM

Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era – Glenn F. Williams
Sunday, May 6, 2 PM

Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse Historic Records – Wednesday, May 16, 7 - 9 PM. Meet at Thomas Balch Library no later than 6:45 PM

Foxtrot in Kandahar – A Memoir of a CIA Officer in Afghanistan – Duane Evans – Sunday, May 20 – 2 PM

Spring Seminar: Genetic Genealogy – Understanding DNA Results – Wednesday, May 23 – 9 AM-4 PM

Digital History – Thursday, June 7, 10 AM

Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits

General George C. Marshall: 20th Century American Hero by George C. Marshall International Center – April through May

Civil War Artifacts by John Creamer – June through July

Lower Level Meeting Room Exhibits

Portraits from Viet Nam and Cambodia by Jim Hann – April through June

Nature's Kingdom by Loudoun Photography Club – July through September

Programs are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted. For updates on programs, tours, and exhibits, please visit the Friends' website at [balchfriends.org](http://www.balchfriends.org) or the Library's website at <http://www.leesburgva.gov/government/departments/thomas-balch-library/library-events>