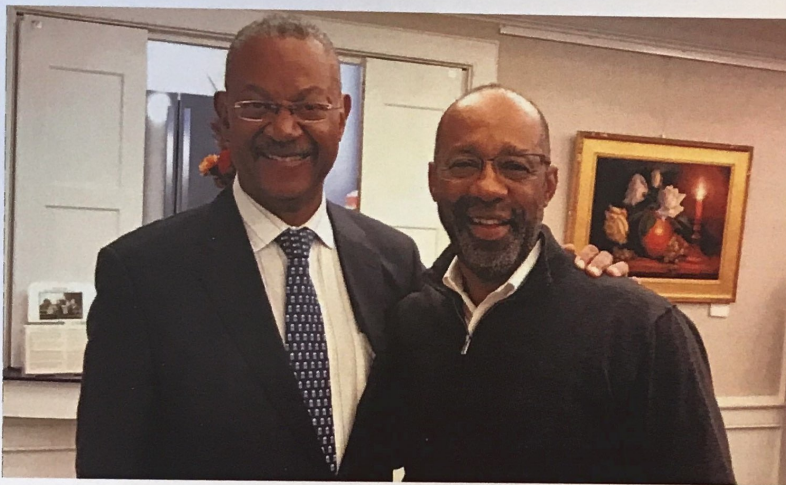


The CHRONICLE

At Black History Committee's Special Event

Smithsonian Institution's John F. Franklin Challenges Common Perceptions of African American History and Culture



John Franklin, left, with Ron Campbell, Leesburg Town Council member and representative on the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission.

On October 21, the Black History Committee and Thomas Balch Library welcomed guest speaker John W. Franklin, senior manager in the Office of External Affairs at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture

Mr. Franklin gave an informative, thought-provoking presentation weaving together subjects that engaged and challenged perceptions about African American history and culture.

He addressed three themes: African American genealogy, the global impact of the slave trade and slavery, and the museum (continued on page 4.)

Exhibit Highlights Library's Archives of Vintage Christmas Cards



This holiday season be sure to stop by Thomas Balch Library and discover its delightful vintage cards in the visual collection. The cards are on display in the Margaret Mercer Room.

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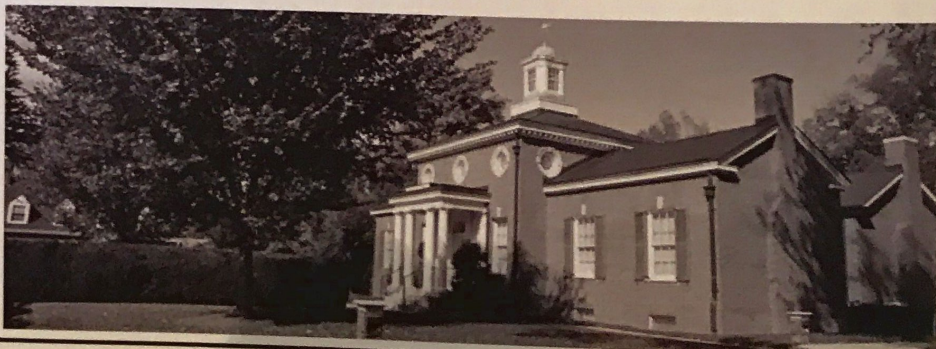
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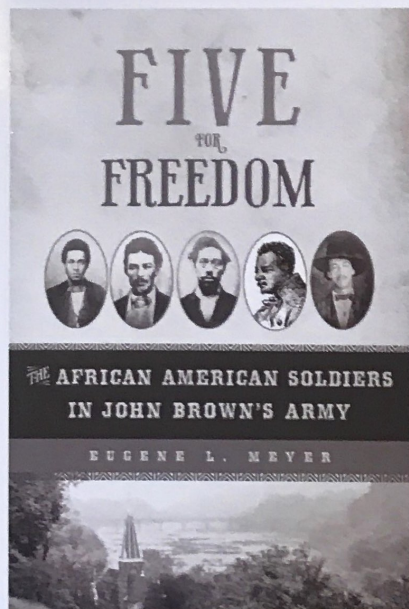
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Thank you for supporting the work of Friends of Thomas Balch Library!



Eugene L. Meyer to Tell Story of African Americans in John Brown's Army

On Sunday, February 24, at 2 p.m., author and journalist Eugene L. Meyer will describe how five African Americans fought with John Brown's raiders at the battle



of Harpers Ferry. In his newest book, *Five for Freedom: African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army*, Meyer recounts the story: "Late on the evening of October 16, 1859, John Brown and his band of 18 raiders descended on Harpers Ferry at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. In their ill-fated attempt to

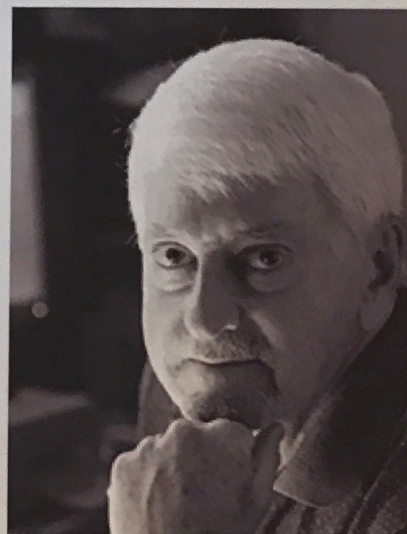
incite a slave insurrection, they seized the federal arsenal, took hostages, and retreated to a fire engine house where they barricaded themselves until a contingent of U.S. Marines battered their way in on October 18th.

"The raiders were routed, and several were captured. Soon after, they were tried, convicted, and hanged. Among Brown's raiders were five African

Americans whose lives and deaths have long been overshadowed by their martyred leader and, even today, are little remembered. Two—John Copeland and Shields Green—were executed. Two others—Dangerfield Newby and Lewis Leary—died at the scene. Newby, the first to go, was shot in the neck, then dismembered by townspeople and left for the hogs. He was trying to liberate his enslaved wife and children.

"Of the five, only Osborne Perry Anderson escaped and lived to publish the lone insider account of the event that, most historians agree, was a catalyst to the catastrophic Civil War that followed over the country's original sin of slavery."

Eugene L. Meyer grew up in the Long Island suburbs in a house of 25,000 used books. Since January 2004, after more than three decades at *The Washington Post* as a reporter and editor, Meyer has been a fulltime freelancer, receiving more than a dozen awards. He has had more than 50 bylines in *The New York Times* and written for numerous other publications, including *Bethesda Magazine*, where he is a contributing editor, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *Washingtonian*. Meyer has been the editor of *B'nai B'rith Magazine* since December 2009.



Eugene L. Meyer, journalist and author

He has written about the rise of citizen journalism and about media codes of ethics for the Center for International Media Assistance, a Washington, D.C. think tank, and about the "gig" economy for *CQ Researcher*.

Much of Meyer's writing is closely tied to his love of history. He also seeks to provide readers with a sense of place about where

they live, work, or travel.

Over his long career, he has interviewed U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, covered antiwar protests from inside and out, spent Jimmy Carter's last presidential Christmas in Plains, Ga., covered two state legislatures and the release of the Iranian hostages in 1981, gone crabbing with Maryland watermen, and written newspaper series on subjects ranging from urban renewal and farm preservation to the Chesapeake Bay to a police "death squad." Oh, and he also interviewed the Beatles in their dressing room — the calm eye in the middle of a hurricane — prior to their Philadelphia rock concert on Aug. 17, 1966. He has the clips to prove it!

"Gene Meyer is one of the finest journalists to come out of the Ben Bradlee era at *The Washington Post*. He has the highest standards and practices aggressive but compassionate storytelling."

—Bob Woodward

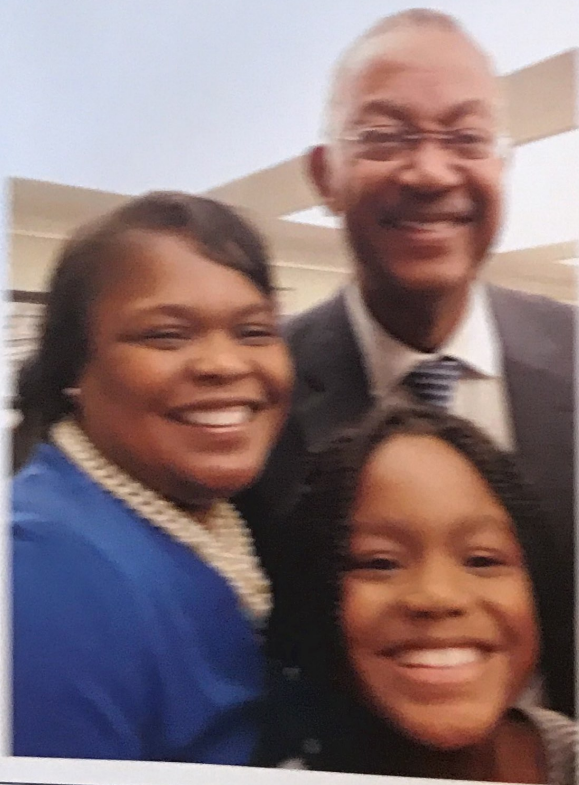
Franklin Recounts Memories of Distinguished Father, Grandfather

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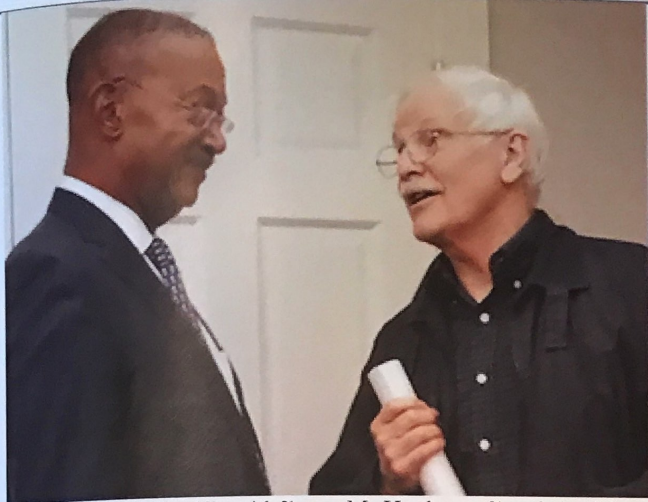
In keeping with BHC's theme for 2018 on African American genealogy, John Franklin shared stories about his father, the late, great historian and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient John Hope Franklin, and his grandfather, Paul Luther Franklin. His grandfather's life represented many layers of the human experience—Southern and Native American, farmer and teacher, small businessman and urban professional. He witnessed the 1957 Little Rock.

To help illustrate the impact of the African slave trade, Mr. Franklin gave attendees copies of maps depicting the number of people taken from Africa and the routes from various locations on the continent to multiple locations throughout the world. With special focus on the Americas, he shared the little-known fact that only a small percentage of Africans ended up in North America; the majority were taken to and enslaved in South America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Franklin also presented the video on the inspirational history of the African American Museum of History and Culture, its exhibit and mission.



The great grandfather John Franklin (center, second row) and BHC Chair, David Johnson (center right), Mr. Franklin, Mrs. Thomas, and their daughter, Thomas.



Above, John W. Franklin with James M. Hershman, Jr., chair of the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission., which awards the annual Loudoun History Awards (see below). At right, Reggie Simms and Mary Randolph.



Mildred Anne Daye and Lee D. Stone Receive 2018 Loudoun History Awards

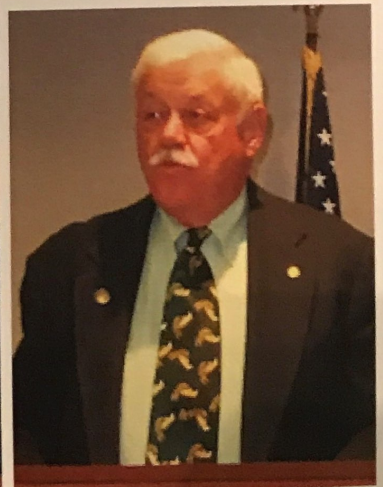
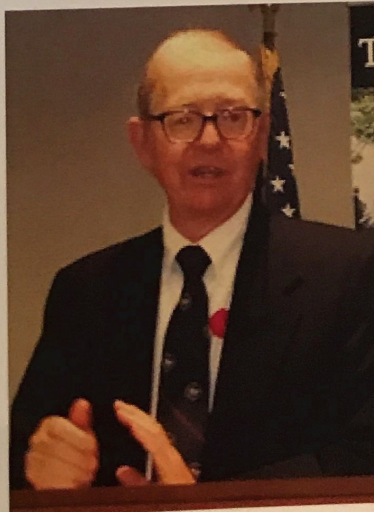
On November 11, 2018, the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission presented its 26th annual Loudoun History Awards to Mildred Anne Clark Daye "for her many contributions to advocacy, preservation and documentation of African American history, customs, and life in Loudoun County."

Lee D. Stone was honored "for his many contributions to research and documentation of Loudoun County's and specifically Waterford's role in the American Civil War." Over the past few years, he has updated the history of the Loudoun Rangers. The Waterford Foundation, which receives all proceeds of the sale of the book, published the work in 2016.

Ron Campbell, Town of Leesburg representative to the advisory commission, also gave special recognition to Horace Nelson Lassiter "for his dedication to preserving by oral dissemination Loudoun County's African American History."

James W. Hershman, Jr., commission chair, gave the welcome remarks. Also greeting the guests were Keith Markel, deputy town manager, and Library Director Alexandra S. Gressitt.

Above right, Mildred Anne Clark Daye sits with Louis Jett, who made the award presentation to her on behalf of her daughter, Gwendolyn M. Daye. Wynne Saffer, left, stepped in for nominator John A. Coffee to present the history award to Lee D. Stoner, right.



On March 27, Ann Todd Reports on One Woman's Covert War

OSS Operation Black Mail: One Woman's Covert War Against the Imperial Japanese Army is the story of a remarkable woman who fought World War II on the front lines of psychological warfare. Elizabeth "Betty" P. McIntosh (1915- 2015) spent 18 months serving in the Office of Strategic Services in what has been called the "forgotten theater," China-Burma-India. There she met and worked with characters as varied as Julia Child and Ho Chi Minh.

Author Ann Todd, in her March 27 talk at Thomas Balch Library, will cover McIntosh's craft—black propaganda—and her mission to demoralize the enemy through prevarication and deceit, and ultimately convince him to surrender. McIntosh and her crew ingeniously obtained and altered personal



The Hump was the name given by Allied pilots in the Second World War to the eastern end of the Himalayan Mountains over which they flew military transport aircraft from India to China to resupply the Chinese war efforts of Chiang Kai-shek and the units of the United States Army Air Forces (AAF) based in China.

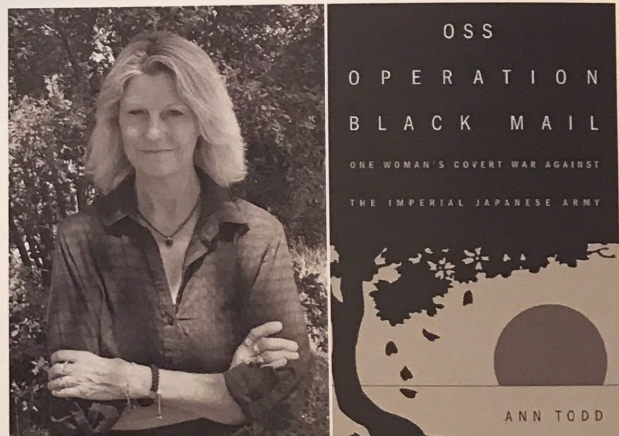
correspondence between Japanese soldiers and their families on the home islands of Japan.

By the time Betty flew the Hump from Calcutta to China, she was acting head of the Morale Operations branch for the entire theater, overseeing the production of thousands of pamphlets and radio scripts, the generation of fiendishly clever rumors, and the printing of a variety of faked Japanese, Burmese, and Chinese newspapers. Her strategy involved targeting not merely the Japanese soldier but the man within: the son, the husband, the father. She knew her work could ultimately save lives, but she never lost sight of the fact that her propaganda was a weapon and her intended target was the enemy.

This is not a typical war story in that the only beaches stormed are the minds of an invisible enemy. For Betty and her friends, time on the "front lines" of psychological



Elizabeth "Betty" P. McIntosh



Ann Todd, author of *OSS Operation Black Mail*

warfare in China-Burma-India rushed by in a cascade of creativity and innovation, played out on a stage where a colonial world was ending and chaos awaited.

Ann Todd completed her research into Betty McIntosh's service as part of her dissertation project while earning a PhD. in history at the University of Texas at Austin.

She has been a contributing author and consultant for the National Geographic Society, given presentations in national parks about OSS operations, and worked as a historian for the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Todd served in the U.S. Coast Guard and now lives in Dripping Springs, Texas.

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Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads by Eugene Scheel

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- Each Volume:** \$ 20
- All 5 volumes plus Eugene Scheel's Historical Map of Loudoun County \$ 100
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 - Journey Through Time by Black History Committee of Friends of the Thomas Balch Library* \$ 5
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 - 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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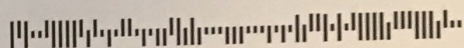


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Winter 2018 – 2019 Programs & Exhibits

REMINDER: Deadline for Friends membership dues is December 2018.

Research Using Deeds—Wynne Saffer, author of *Loudoun County, Virginia 1860 Land Tax Map*, Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 10 AM

Harvest of Secrets: A Wine Country Mystery—Ellen Crosby, author, Sunday, December 9, 2018, 2 – 4 PM

Friends of Thomas Balch Library Annual Meeting—Sunday, January 13, 2019, 2 – 4 PM (Make-up date: Sunday, January 27) featuring a video history of historian, author, and Friends board member James P. Lucier, Sr.

Identification and Care of Photographs—Laura Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, Thursday, February 7, 2019, 10 AM

Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army—Eugene L. Meyer, author and journalist, Sunday, February 24, 2019, 2 – 4 PM

Research Using Northern Neck Land Grants – Wynne Saffer, Thursday, March 7, 10 AM

OSS Operation Black Mail: One Woman's Covert War Against the Imperial Japanese Army—Ann Todd, author, Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 2– 4 PM

Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits

Vintage Christmas Cards from Thomas Balch Library's Visual Collection—December 2018

Exhibits—January – March 2019 to be announced

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>