

The CHRONICLE

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Fall 2016

At the Historic Marshall House in Leesburg

Friends Enjoy Successful Annual Fall Event Featuring Dr. Terry Sharrer, Distinguished Historian, on "Loudoun in the Great War"

'An Inquiry into Loudoun's Present'

"History has many uses—amusement, escape, heritage, good citizenship, understanding behavior (including our own)," said Dr. Terry Sharrer as he began his talk at the Friends fall event. "But," he added, "the word 'history' (a word invented by the Greeks in the 3rd Century BC) means 'inquiry,' and it is an inquiry about how we came to the present. So the first question about the past is where we are at the present, and how did we get into this situation?"

Dr. Sharrer reviewed Loudoun's present-day wealth in terms of commodity prices between 1910 and 1914; our health given the advent of cigarette smoking in World War I; and our politics, prohibition, women's suffrage, and wars.

The Loudoun men—431 white and 159 black—who were taken into service in the Great War fought at the Second Battle of the Marne and the Meuse Argonne Offensive, planned by a young Col. George C. Marshall. At the Battle of Belleau Wood, Marine Captain Edward Fuller became the first combat death from Loudoun.

He cast their role in World War I in context: "Take a look at the Loudoun County Court House plaque—'Our Glorious Dead, 1917–



Dr. Terry Sharrer at the Marshall House

1918'—and realize they are hand-in-hand with the patriots of Valley Forge, the defenders of Ft. McHenry, the heroes of Little Round Top and, going forward, the 116th Infantry of Virginia's national guard who were first to storm Omaha Beach on D-Day, and every other young man and woman in the military service of the United States. This is how we came to the present."

Dr. Sharrer received his Ph.D. in American History and Agricultural Economics from the University of Maryland and curator of Health Sciences at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian from 1969 to 2007.

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www.balchfriends.org

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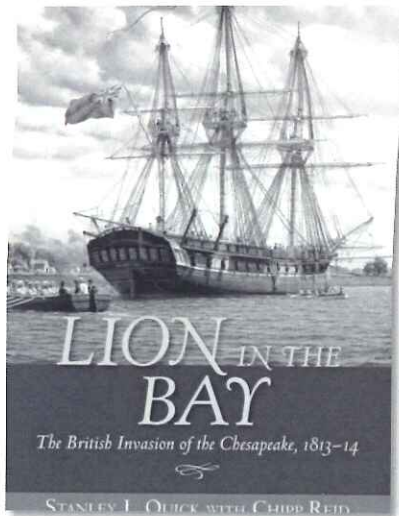
Elaine E. Thompson, Historian, Activist



Elaine E. Thompson

A great friend and contributor to the Friends and Black History Committee, Elaine E. Thompson died at her home in Hamilton on Sunday, October 9, 2016, just as this issue of *The Chronicle* was going to press. The granddaughter of Loudoun County's Emancipation Association founder, she was a founder of the Friends' Black History Committee. Her book on the history of the Emancipation Association entitled *In the Watchfires* was published by the Friends of Thomas Balch Library Black History Committee in 2005. **Please look for our tribute to Elaine Thompson in the winter issue.**

A Fall Calendar Full of Fascinating Lectures and Exhibits



The Thomas Balch Library presents a wide range of talks this fall, including editor Chipp Reid on *Lion in the Bay*, which provides an intimate look at the events leading up to the battle at Ft. McHenry in Baltimore that inspired our national anthem.

It is a story of resilience and triumph in the wake of catastrophe. **For the full roster of events, see page 8.**

Look for full details on talks and exhibits at www.balchfriends.org.

Deadline: December 1

Don't Forget Your Friends Dues!

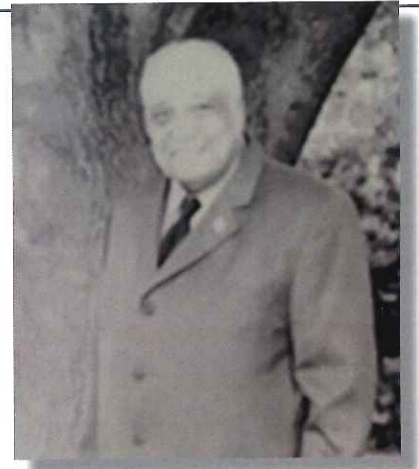
Now is the time for you to renew your membership in Friends of Thomas Balch Library. The deadline is December 1. For the sake of efficiency, the board agreed to move to an annual renewal cycle. If you haven't received a reminder by mail, please just us a call at 540-579-2825 with any questions. If you're not already a member, please join us! Visit the Friends website at www.balchfriends.org and click on *Join Us*. You'll find a form to fill in and send to us.

Black History Committee Welcomes All to Its October 29 Open House

The Black History Committee (BHC) of Friends of Thomas Balch Library will hold its first Open House at the Library, on Saturday, October 29, 2016. The event, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will explore the African American experience in Loudoun County through several special presentations by Committee members. They will focus on African Americans who have made a difference in the county.

The event will include:

- a tour of **Balch Library** and its African American resources
 - a talk by **Gertrude Evans**, on "Segregation & Civil Rights in Leesburg—A Personal Story," which includes her role in successfully protesting segregation of the audiences at the Tally-Ho Theatre. Before that, African Americans had been allowed to sit only in the balcony, while whites sat on the main floor. Evans' collection of Civil Rights posters are archived at Balch.
 - a screening of the documentary "Looking Back at Leesburg with *Wilson Townsend, Jr.*," above.
- Light refreshments will be served.*



Poster from the Gertrude Evans Collection at Thomas Balch Library.

Established in 2000, the Black History Committee is dedicated to preserve, collect, and share the history of African Americans who have contributed to the emergence and development of Loudoun County, Virginia. During the past 16 years, it has recorded oral histories and produced numerous publications, including, "A Glimpse into Loudoun County's African American Histories," a Virginia Standards of Learning teaching aid, and "African American Historic Communities: A Tour Map and Guide" on which our two successful bus tours of these prominent communities is based.

Coincident with the historic opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), the BHC will continue to inform the community of the substantial history of Loudoun's African Americans and of Thomas Balch Library's resources. Our ambitious plans are to help expand Loudoun's legacy and to tell our community about it.

Please plan on attending and pass the invitation on to others. RSVP to BHC@BalchFriends.org.

Spotlight on Friends Annual Fall Event —

Thank You, Fall Event Contributors!

By Dr. Donald G. Cooper, President, Friends of Thomas Balch Library

As I wrote last year after our "American Revolution" event, it takes an army of volunteers and sponsors to create a remarkable occasion. This year was no different, and we thank all who made this gathering another great success.

Our special thanks to sponsors Brock Bierman, Jeffrey A. Bolyard, CPA, P.C., Dr. Donald G. Cooper, John and Mary Davis, Fieldstone Farm Bed and Breakfast – Amy Marasco Newton, Lee and Paul Lawrence, Rosalie and Lewis Leigh, Jr., James and Mary Grace Lucier, Sharon and Lew Parker, Brad and Jocelen Pearson, Patty Rogers-Renner and David Renner, Riverside on the Potomac – Suzi and Travis Worsham, Ronald Rust and Judy Kozacik, Silverbrook Farm – Dorothy Shetterley, Toth Financial Advisory Corp., and Susan and George Webber. **We are grateful** to the Black History Committee, Rich Gillespie, Alexandra S. Gressitt, Sarah Huntington, William C. Ray, Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, Joan Wolford – Savoir Fare, and the staff and volunteer tour guides of the George C. Marshall House.



From left, Bernie and Rumsey Light with Lori Kimball, Oatlands' director of programming and education



From left, Pat Daly, president and CEO of the George C. Marshall International Foundation, and Jim Daly



Audience at the Friends of Thomas Balch Library fall event gathers for Dr. Terry Sharrer's talk on Loudoun in the Great War.

—Focused on 'Loudoun County in the Great War'



From left, Ned Douglass, Wynne Saffer, and Lewis Leigh, Jr.



Judy Kozacik, left, and Tracy Gillespie



From left, Terry Sharrer and son Nick, Polly and Bill Harrison

How to Make the Most of Library Resources

Special Tour & Lecture to Explore the Charles A. Johnston Collection



Charles A. Johnston

Thomas Balch Library will host a special tour on October 23, leaving at 2 p.m. from Balch Library, as well as a **related lecture** from 2 to 4 p.m. on **March 19, 2017**. Each event offers you a unique opportunity to get acquainted with the Library's most diverse collection: the Charles A. Johnston Collection. The tour will be led by curator Ben Tayloe. **An extensive archive** of manuscripts, photographs, books, film, family papers, and everyday items, this intensely personal collection captures the stories of Leesburg's Johnston family, close friends, and business associates. It provides a rare view of life in Loudoun County from the late 1700s through the 20th century.

Dive into Thomas Balch Library Archives and Discover Its Wealth of Books and Manuscripts Revealing Our Genealogy and Region's History

Newly Processed Manuscript Collections, March-May 2016

- Loudoun Community College Collection 1949-56 (SC 0118)
- Lois Krumweide Research Files 1983, 1996 (SC 0117)
- Ernest F. Gray Papers 1931-2001, n.d. (SC120)

Newly Catalogued Books, March-May 2016

- Howard Allen, *Unforgotten Times: Jackie Kennedy's Happy Days in the Virginia Hunt Country: a Picture Story*
- Kevan M. Hansen, *Map Guide to German Parish Registers V. 54, Kingdom of Prussia - Province of Silesia II*
- Stephen Weissman, *Printed Americana in the Harlon Crow Library*
- Cheryl Jackson Malone, *The Jackson Families of Loudoun County Virginia*
- Brice McAdoo Claggett, *Three Generations of the Clagetts in Georgetown and Washington 1751-1860 : Extract of Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D.C., 1963-1965*
- *Commissioners of St. Michaels, Maryland, The War of 1812: the Battles for St. Michaels, Maryland, August 10 & 26, 1813*
- Michael Vincent McCable, *Ancestors and Descendants of My Great Great Grandfather Dr. John Henry McCabe, Mayor, Leesburg, Virginia*
- Shiloh Baptist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Middleburg, Virginia 125th Anniversary 1867-1992
- *Shodo, Taki, Japan Today: A Pictorial Guide*
- *G. R. Watson, The Ulster Covenant and Scotland*
- *Rollie Winter, Ed Robisheaux, S. Ann Robinson, Swing County: the Inside Story About Loudoun County for Obama '08*
- Charles R. Haller, *Across the Atlantic and Beyond: The Migration of German and Swiss Immigrants to America*
- Grover C. Criswell, Douglas B. Ball, and Hugh Shull, *Comprehensive Catalog of Confederate Paper Money*
- David Dobson, *The People of the Scottish Burghs: A Genealogical Source Book. The People of Montrose, 1600-1799*
- Eric Grundset, *Massachusetts and Maine in the American Revolution: a Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*
- Peter Wilson Coldham, *English Estates of American Colonists. American Wills and Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1610-1699*

New Electronic Databases: An Open Door

By James P. Lucier

The Friends of Thomas Balch Library recently provided a grant to the Library for subscriptions to five more electronic databases.

Patrons can now

search in the Library for newspaper articles in *The American Israelite*, 1854-2000; *The Atlanta Constitution*, 1868-1984; the *Chicago Tribune*, 1849-1992; the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, 1936-2013; and *The Norfolk Journal and Guide*, 1916-2011.

Of course, the prime mission of the Library is to concentrate on collections dealing with Leesburg and Loudoun County, as well as Virginia materials that provide a context for the local area. So why add such far-flung resources? The reason is that research knows no bounds. Since the 18th century, people have come to Loudoun County from all over, and others departed for new destinations. History needs to know their origins and their fate.

These new subscriptions have been added to some 20 other electronic databases at Thomas Balch Library that are not available on the Web but cover documents from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the civil rights movement, and many genealogical resources. Other databases include the Sanborn

Fire Insurance Maps of Virginia, 1867-1970; JSTOR, an interdisciplinary archive of academic journals on the arts and humanities; and World Vital records, including census records, and court, land, and immigration and military records.

Electronic databases provide ready access for genealogical searches, historical research and critical scholarship. Authors and graduate students can find the materials they need without having to travel to

distant cities or remote libraries. In many cases, a person has to be a registered student at a university or a member of the institution to use the collections. But at Thomsas Balch Library, all of its resources are open to the public.

When a writer begins to look into an historical problem, there is no telling in which direction the search will lead. The joy of discovery is one thing; but then that discovery needs further explanation and further evidence to support it.

If a researcher begins studying one individual, it soon becomes apparent that family and friends must be studied too, and then the social, political and economic impact that caused the person being studied to act.

That's why an institution such as the Thomas Balch Library can't be put in an isolated box. Rather, it stands as an open door to research and new horizons.



One of thousands of documents now available to Balch researchers with new database subscriptions made possible by a grant from the Friends.



Friends of Thomas
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THE CHRONICLE

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**Don't forget your
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Deadline 12/1/16**

Fall Programs & Exhibits

Programs and Events

Opening Doors to Leesburg's History: The Charles A. Johnston Collection Tour - Tour by Ben Tayloe - October 23, 2016 - 2 - 4 PM

Black History Committee Open House - October 29, 2016 - 10 AM - 4PM

Syren's Song: A Connor Stark Novel - Claude Berube, author - October 30, 2016 - 2 - 4 PM

Lion in the Bay: The British Invasion of the Chesapeake, 1813 -1914 - Chipp Reid, editor - December 4, 2016 - 2 - 4 PM

Practise to Deceive: Learning Curves of Military Deception Planners - Barton Whaley, author - November 6, 2016 - 2 - 4 PM

Researching African American Genealogy - Cara Griggs - February 2, 2017 - 10 AM - 12 PM

Programs are held in the downstairs meeting room and are free unless otherwise noted.

Tours and Exhibits

Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits
Baseball in Loudoun by Jack Barrett - December 2016

Frederick Douglass School Art Show
Elementary School Art Class Projects - January 2017

Artifacts & Photos, Union Civil War by Jack Craig - February 2017

Lower Level Meeting Room Exhibit
Loudoun Photo Club - January 1, 2017 - March 31, 2017

For updated news 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>