

The **CHRONICLE**

After Friends' Successful Black Heritage Tour and Annual Fundraiser **Make Plans Now to Enjoy the Talks, Walks, and Seminars on the Library's Full Fall Calendar**



Friends' Fall Event, September 24

President Don Cooper, above left, Bill Ray, second from left, and Lewis Leigh, Jr., far right, present hosts Suzi and Travis Worsham with the chain of title for their historic property, Riverside on the Potomac.

On the Road Again: BHC's 3rd African American Tour—Page 3



The Freedman's Bureau office, above, is located in a historically black section of Middleburg opposite Shiloh Baptist Church. It's known as Bureau Corner.

Sunday, October 15, 2017, 2-4 PM

The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust

Lisa Moses Leff, a professor of history at American University, joins us to talk about her recent book, which tells the story of Zosa Szajkowski, a Polish-born Jewish historian who took tens of thousands of Jewish documents from Europe in the 1940s and '50s and moved them, illicitly, to New York. He eventually sold them to Jewish research libraries in the U.S and Israel. Was this a heroic act of salvage or simply theft? Critics have praised Leff's work as "brilliant" and "illuminating." *The Archive Thief* was awarded the 2016 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish literature and was a finalist for a 2015 National Jewish Book Award. Leff received her BA from Oberlin College and her MA and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.



Lisa Moses Neff

Sunday, October 22, 2-4 PM

In My Father's Words – The World War II Letters of An Army Doctor

Researcher and writer Laura Cantor Zelman's collection of more than 500 letters, covering the years 1941-45, details the daily life of a Jewish American, fluent in German, who served as a doctor in the US Army. The letters shed light on the condition of soldiers' medical care, censorship, Nazis, German POWs, and army life. *Continued at the bottom of page 6.*



Laura Cantor Zelman

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www.balchfriends.org

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Renew Your Friends Membership Today!

The deadline for renewal—December 1—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 and to the far right of your name is *Dec 2018. If so, your dues have already been paid for the coming year. If the date is *Dec. 2017 or *Dec 2016, you owe dues for 2018. If you're not already a member, please join us! Below is a form to fill in and send to us to renew or join.

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

I would like to make a tax deductible contribution of _____.

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. To pay by credit card, fill out the information below:

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Please provide your contact information:

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

Friends Annual Meeting Set for January 21, 2018

The 23rd Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, in the downstairs meeting room of Thomas Balch Library from 2-4 PM. In case of inclement weather, the make-up date will be on Sunday, January 28. The program will be "Oral History Series: Interview with Bill Harrison." Bill is the former Loudoun County Extension Agent. This meeting also will include the election of the 2018 directors of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library Board.

Participants Call Third Tour of African American Sites "Riveting"

By Alicia Cohen and Robert Sanabria

This year's successful Heritage Bus Tour on Saturday, June 24, 2017, started bright and early at 8:45 AM and on through the day to 4:30 PM. This all-day tour started and ended at Leesburg's Thomas Balch Library with 26 guests and our bus tour team members.



Settle-Dean cabin housed two families.

Building on our success with the past two African American Heritage Bus Tours created by Friends' Black History Committee, this summer's tour was filled quickly and even over-subscribed. Our guests came from all over Loudoun, as well as Fairfax, Washington, D.C., and Gaithersburg, Maryland. Under the leadership of Alicia Cohen, Cultural Tourism Ambassador (CTA) and other members of the Black History Committee (BHC), including Phyllis Cook-Taylor and Mary Randolph, the team organized over the winter months to ensure historically important sites for the 2017 tour.



Shiloh Baptist Church

They included the restored Settle-Dean Cabin in Conklin at top; at left, Shiloh Baptist Church at (Freedman's) Bureau Corner in Middleburg; Ashburn Colored School in Ashburn, at right, as well as the Coton Plantation site in Lansdowne, and Douglass School in Leesburg.

Well received by past participants, the previous two Heritage Bus Tours have sparked enthusiasm for this excursion and those yet to come. The tour focuses on the shared history and contributions of African American residents while traveling along "hallowed ground."

Each tour site has offered presentations by knowledgeable interpreters. The continued success of the tours is reflected in the interaction of the guests with the site interpreters, the

many questions asked, suggestions for future sites, and the comments on our feedback form, for example:

- "It was exceptionally fantastic!"
- "Kudos to the team!"
- "It more than met my expectations—wish it were longer!"
- "Having guides who lived much of the modern history is riveting...."
- "The tour was enjoyable and enlightening to see small preserved slivers of history amongst the runaway development...."



Ashburn Colored School, above top, before restoration began, later after it was defaced by graffiti, and then fully restored with surge of community support.

Based on the past tours and feedback, the BHC Heritage Tour team has been recognized with a 2016 Loudoun History Award by the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission, a Tourism Ambassador Award from the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, a proclamation during Black History Month 2017 by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, and an invitation to participate as a BHC panel member in the 2017 Virginia Forum. We send our thanks and appreciation to all of the site interpreters, the staff of Thomas Balch Library and our many supporters who helped promote this year's tour. Our other tours of 2017 included a February all-day tour for Loudoun County Public Schools history and social studies teachers and an April lunchtime tour for residents of Arbor Terrace of Herndon.

We welcome requests for private group tours. For future tour information, please contact Alicia Cohen at aaheritagelocova@gmail.com or 703-606-3275.

Scheel Recounts "Little Known Facts about Loudoun"

By James P. Lucier

Loudoun historian Eugene Scheel was the featured speaker at the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library's fall gala, "A Late Afternoon at the River," on September 24. Hosted by Travis and Suzanne Worsham at their circa 1750 home, Riverside on the Potomac, the event showcased Scheel as one of the pre-eminent researchers of local history in Loudoun. Beginning to work in a period when the county was transitioning from two centuries of sleepy agriculture to an advanced technical center, Scheel's efforts have managed to capture vanishing oral traditions just before they were gone forever.

His talk at Riverside did not disappoint. He gave as his title, "Little Known Facts about Loudoun County," but what he actually did was to draw anecdotal character sketches about strong-willed individuals, who, no matter what their rank or station, left their mark on all those around them.

He began with Arthur Godfrey, the national radio and TV celebrity of the 1950s who chose to make his home on Beacon Hill, just outside of Waterford. His homey mixture of talk, music and young talent was broadcast every morning for two or three hours from New York City five days a week. Then, on Friday, Godfrey, an experienced pilot, would fly his own DC-3 back to Leesburg. In those days, there was no Dulles Airport, nor any Leesburg Executive Airport. Instead he would fly low, buzzing Beacon Hill, thereby alerting his wife Mary that it was time to gather up the kids and come pick him up. Pick him up where?

Godfrey had his own landing strip. He purchased 142 acres



Eugene Scheel at Friends event.

on Edwards Ferry Road that was just big enough to give him a 3,500-foot-long grass runway to accommodate his own DC-3. "He called it Godfrey's International Cow Pasture," said Scheel. "Then on Sunday evenings about 5:00, half of Leesburg would be parked along Edwards Ferry Road to watch the return takeoff. The plane would rattle and rumble across the rough field, poison ivy and Virginia creeper flying off the wheels and smoke roaring out of the engines. For the observers clustered at the fence, the stunning sight was their idea of weekend entertainment."

A great lover of animals, Godfrey kept a high-stepping thoroughbred named Goldie. She was always the highlight of the Leesburg Fourth of July Parade. Then there was

Mollie, a baby elephant who had the run of Beacon Hill Farm. When Mollie grew up, she loved to wrap her trunk around the electric and telephone poles that crossed the farm carrying the lines to Waterford. As she shook the poles, the wires came loose and the lights went out in the village. "That's why we learned to cook on gas stoves in Waterford," said Scheel.

Nevertheless, Godfrey was a generous man, who gave over a million dollars to support the county fire, police and hospital.

Turning to another vignette, Scheel talked about the Legard family who came to the county in 1912. There were five boys, who all became farmers, together owning a good chunk of western Loudoun. One of them, Campbell Legard, was

known for his objections to government at all levels, local, state, and national. Every year he would go before the Board of Supervisors to protest his taxes. On the state and federal level, he would protest the quota system intended to stop over-production. Legard and his (Continued on page 5)



Arthur Godfrey and nurses at Loudoun Hospital celebrate the national radio and television star's donation of a new wing.

colleagues wrote a letter to Ezra Taft Benson, then the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. According to Scheel, they wrote: "My neighbor has just received \$1,000 for not growing 50 hogs. Last year, he grew hogs, but made only \$400.

We want to go into the not raising hogs business. What kind of land is best for not raising hogs? If we get \$1,000 for not raising 50 hogs, will we get \$2,000 for not raising 100 hogs? And how much do we get for not planting the grain that we won't feed to the 100 hogs we will not raise?"

Scheel then related the story of his friend Charlotte Lewis, an African-American woman from Round Hill who struggled against the de facto segregation policies that still prevailed long after they had been abolished in areas that

were more metropolitan. As a child, she couldn't understand why she couldn't sit at the soda fountain in Round Hill with her white friend and have a Coca-Cola. Then her mother, a widow, arrived and whisked her away, warning her never to attempt that again. As it turned out, although the pharmacist wouldn't let the little girl sit down, he was also supplying the mother with whatever medicines she needed, free of charge, in a sort of awkward noblesse oblige.

When Lewis grew up, she took her sick baby to the hospital one day, but was ignored in the waiting room. Finally, after about four hours, her doctor found her and rushed the baby into an oxygen chamber, but it was too late – the baby died. Lewis later told Scheel that she became so angry that "I became as mean as a snake."

Gradually, she realized that her bitterness was destroying her – that unless she forgave, she would never be forgiven. She turned her life over to the care of the sick and the handicapped and became a beloved member of the community.

Finally, Scheel talked about another powerful woman, this time one of the wealthiest in the county – Eugenia Baskerville Tenant Fairfax. Married to Lt. Col. Henry Fairfax of Oak Hill, she was a generous contributor of money and energy to many causes. She was the founder in 1912 of the Ladies Hospital Board, which initiated the annual rummage sale; it still exists today raising significant funds for Inova Loudoun Hospital.

Mrs. Fairfax was also an early advocate of conservation. When the state began to pave Rt. 50 near Aldie, they were about to tear down the stone arched bridge which had been built early in the 19th century. She directed her chauffeur to drive to the site and park on the middle of the bridge. She then got out and told the befuddled workmen: "I am Mrs. Henry Fairfax. I do not think this bridge

should be torn down. I will call Richmond." So she did, and the bridge is still there.

Disturbed by the many cheap advertising signs that were popping up all along Loudoun's roads, she invited 12 of her distinguished female friends to a formal lunch. The table was laid with a beautiful cloth, china, crystal, and silverware. Beside each place setting was a brand new hatchet.

She instructed her friends to take the hatchets and chop down every sign that they saw on the side of the road—or have their chauffeurs do it.

Soon all the signs were gone. "We wore white gloves while doing it," one lady recalled. This campaign eventually led to the passage of Loudoun's first anti-sign ordinance in 1942, which has kept the landscape free of blight.

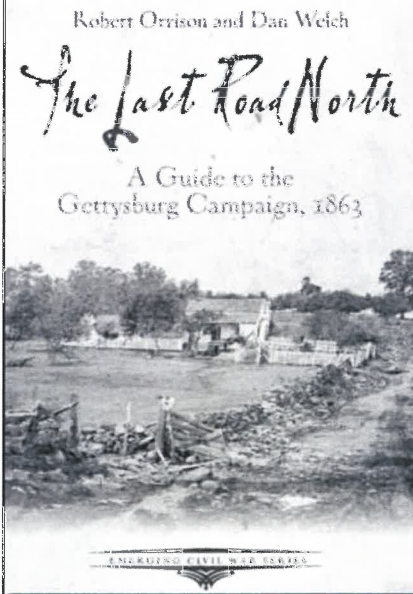
Strong characters made for a vibrant society in Loudoun's vanishing history.



Clockwise from top left: gala chairman Ron Rust; Alicia Cohen and Donna Bohanon; above from left, Travis Worsham, Patty Rogers-Renner and Gail Adams; and Rosalie Leigh.

Orrison Traces the Last Road North to Gettysburg, 1863

Sunday, October 29, 2 - PM *The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign, 1863* - Robert Orrison and Dan Welch



The Last Road North is a tour book in the "Emerging Civil War" series. It follows the routes of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac to Gettysburg and on to the subsequent Confederate retreat.

While the route is connected via the Civil War Trails network of helpful interpretive signs,

the book provides additional context for the campaign, which represented the last foray of any Confederate army north of the Mason-Dixon line.

Dan Welch, co-author, is currently an educator in a public school district in northeast Ohio. Previously, Welch served as the coordinator of the education programs for the Gettysburg Foundation, which is the vital non-profit partner of the Gettysburg National Military Park. Welch also has worked as a seasonal park ranger at Gettysburg. Welch received his BA in Instrumental Music Education from Youngstown State University and is currently working on an MA in Military History with a concentration on the Civil War era at American Military University.



Dan Welch, co-author

Rob Orrison, the co-author and our speaker, has been working in the history field for more than 20 years. He has a wide range of interests and has worked in museums and historic sites covering eras from Colonial times to the 20th century. Born and raised in Loudoun County, Orrison received his Bachelor's Degree in Historic

Preservation at Longwood College. He went on to receive his Master's Degree in Public History from George Mason University. He has worked at Petersburg National Battlefield, Sully Plantation and, since 2006, with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division as a historic site manager. His published works include: *A Want of Vigilance: The Bristoe Station Campaign* and *War on the Potomac, 1861-1862*. With Philip Greenwalt, he is now working on a book about the battles of Lexington and Concord as part of the series *Emerging Revolutionary War*.

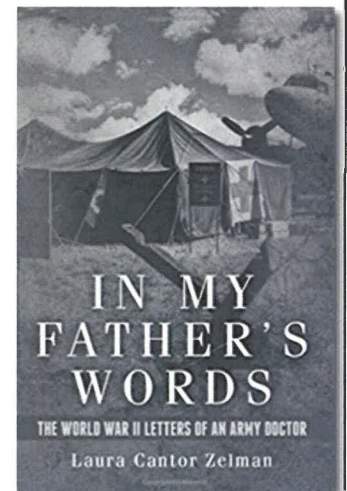


Rob Orrison, co-author and speaker

Sunday, October 22, 2017 - 2 - 4 PM:

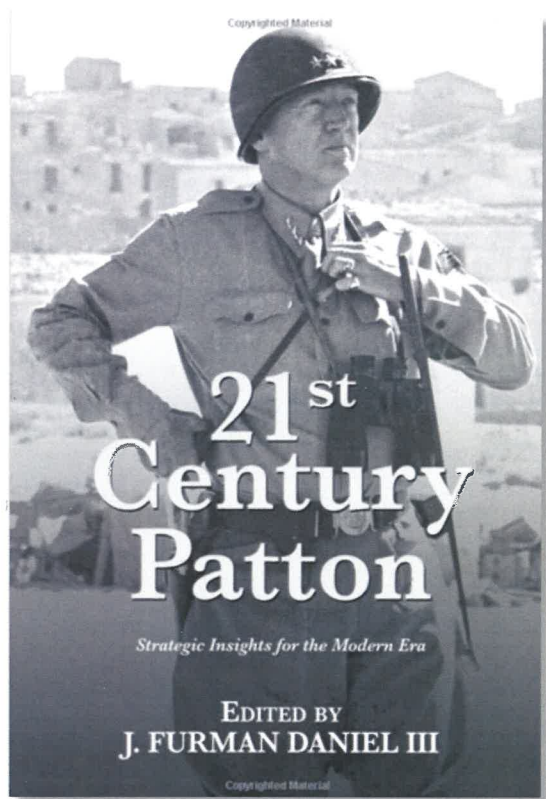
***In My Father's Words* (continued from page 1):**

These letters are a testament to the work of military doctors in war time and the many sacrifices they make. These are a time capsule of the time Milton Cantor, M.D., spent in Central America and Europe serving his country. They shed light on the condition of soldiers' and medical care at the time, the small joys that brought hope to those away from home and the unabashed patriotism of a doctor doing his part to make sure America remained the land of the free. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Laura Cantor Zelman is the eldest of four Cantor sisters. Having grown up in a vibrant ethnic household, Zelman has never shied away from lively political discussions. She has been a writer for and editor of various volunteer organizations' publications and enjoys writing songs, poems, and skits for family celebrations. This passion is the basis for Zelman's organization and excerpting of letters *In My Father's Words*.



Was General George Patton a Visionary?

Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2 - 4PM
Twenty First Century Patton - J. Furman Daniel, III



While General George S. Patton, Jr. remains an iconic figure seventy years after his death, few fully appreciate him as a strategic thinker. Indeed, his flamboyant personality often obscures the fact that he was a true visionary.

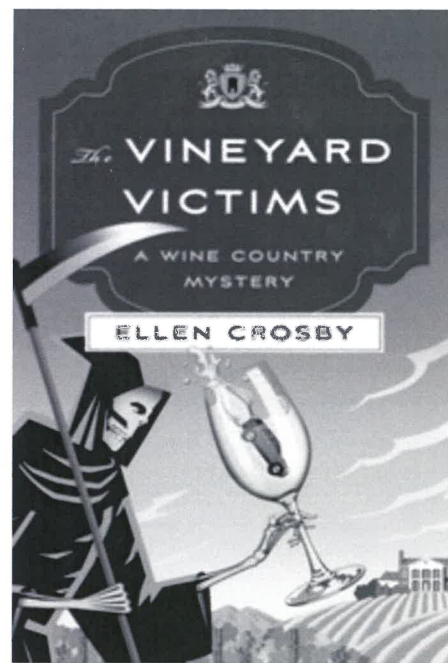


J. Furman Daniel, III

This short volume introduces readers to a more complete and nuanced Patton. Linking Patton's success as a warfighter to his efforts as a thinker, the editor hopes to kindle debate on managing human capital within the military. This collection demonstrates that the seeds of military success can be planted throughout a lifetime of formal and self-directed study of the military arts. J. Furman Daniel III is an assistant professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, Arizona. He holds a BA from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Georgetown University.

Sunday, December 3, 2017, 4 - 6 PM
The Vineyard Victims - Ellen Crosby

In her latest mystery novel, the local author Ellen Crosby introduces us to billionaire real estate mogul, vineyard owner, and unsuccessful presidential candidate Jamison Vaughn who drives his gold SUV into a stone pillar at the entrance to Montgomery Estate Vineyard.



Owner Lucie Montgomery is certain the crash was deliberate. But everyone else in Atoka, Virginia, is equally sure that Jamie must have lost control of his car on a country road slick with rain.

Despite the massive campaign debts he incurred in the recent election, Jamie is seemingly the man with the perfect life. What possible reason could he have for committing suicide...or was it murder?

Ellen Crosby is the author of the Virginia wine country mysteries, including *The Vineyard Victims*, *Multiple Exposure*, and *Ghost Image*, as well as *Moscow Nights*, a stand-alone mystery.

Previously she worked as a freelance reporter for *The Washington Post*, Moscow correspondent for ABC News Radio, and as an economist at the U.S. Senate.



Ellen Crosby. Photograph by Jackie Briggs.



Friends of Thomas
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Fall 2017 Programs & Exhibits

Historic Leesburg Walking Tour:

Saturday, October 14 – 9 AM - 12 PM

The Archive Thief: Lisa Moses Leff
Sunday, October 15 at 2 PM

In My Father's Words – The World War II Letters of An Army Doctor: Laura Cantor Zelman – Sunday, October 22 at 2 PM

The Last Road North: A Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign, 1863: Robert Orrison and Dan Welch – Sunday, October 29 at 2 PM

Preservation for Home Archives

Thursday, November 2 at 10 AM

Twenty First Century Patton: J. Furman Daniel, III – Sunday, November 5 at 2 PM

25th Annual Loudoun History Awards –
Sunday, November 12 at 2 M

The Vineyard Victims: A Wine Country Mystery by Ellen Crosby – Sunday, December 3 at 2 PM

Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits

New Collections by Thomas Balch Library –
October

Loudoun Court House by Sarah Markel and Alyssa Fisher – November

Between the Hills: White, Mosby, Mobberley and Their Influence on the Civil War by Greg and Patti Paxton – December

Lower Level Meeting Room Exhibit

Loudoun Harvest: Agro-Tourism by Loudoun Sketch Club – October through December

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

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.lesburgva.gov/government/departments/thomas-balch-library/library-events>