

The CHRONICLE

Spring Lectures Spotlight Women

Four Authors Introduce Remarkable Women in Virginia History



Lee Lawrence



Cynthia A. Kierner



Sandra Gioia Treadway



Linda Harris Sittig

The Women Behind the Books Taking to the Thomas Balch Library podium in April and May are the four authors/editors above who introduce us to Catherine Broun, whose diary captures life in Middleburg during the Civil War; 17 notable Virginia women, and a Philadelphia woman in the textile industry who finds herself in the South when the Civil War breaks out.

Lecture Dates

Lee Lawrence 2-4 PM, 4/17/16
Cynthia Kierner & Sandra Gioai
Treadway 2-4 PM 5/15/16
Linda Sittig: 7-9 PM. 5/17/16
Learn more on pages 4 and 5.

Why Are Catherine Broun and Her Civil War Diary So Compelling?

by Lee Lawrence, Vice President, Friends of Thomas Balch Library

I'm interested in stories, and history is basically stories about people's lives. My own background is in philosophy, not history, but what those disciplines have in common is books, research, and study—my idea of fun! After my husband and I moved to this area in 2009, I attended a talk on the Civil War given by Rich Gillespie, executive director of the Mosby Heritage Area Association. ("*Compelling*" p 4)



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Don't Miss Out!

**Register Today for "Making History Come Alive" –
June's African American Heritage Tour**

Registration Closes Friday, May 20

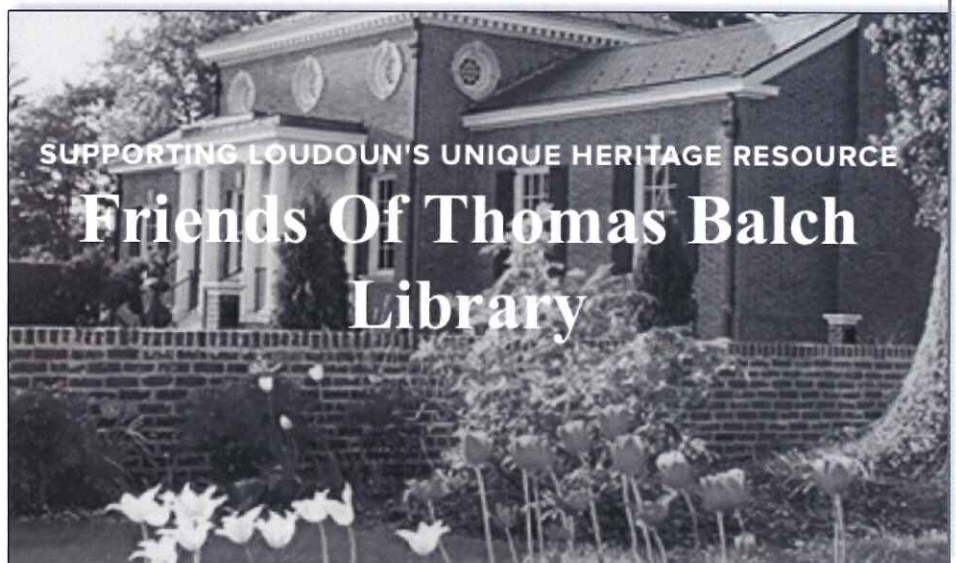
Who: Alicia Cohen for tour information and registration form
aaheritagelocova@gmail.com 703-606-3275

What: Heritage Bus Tour of African-American Communities and
Sites in Loudoun County

When: Saturday, June 25, 2016, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Where: Starts and ends at Thomas Balch Library

Check Out the Friends New Website!



Type **www.balchfriends.org** into your browser and prepare for a surprise! Gone is our legacy site, and in its place you'll find a colorful, easy-to-use, mobile-responsive resource that you can access anytime on your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

Guided by Board president **Don Cooper**, members **Susan Webber** and **James Lucier**, IT Committee Chair **Phil Lo Presti**, and Library Director **Alexandra Gressitt**, **Laura Longley** at LauraLongley.com created the new site. She built it on Squarespace, a unique content management system.

The site may look different, but all of the information you've found most helpful over the years is there, as well as membership forms, book shop order lists, contact forms, and information on our endowment. Please take a moment to visit **www.balchfriends.org** and share it with your friends!

Balch Hosts Irish Ancestry Workshop on Exploring Your Roots

By James P. Lucier

On March 9 the Thomas Balch Library conference room was turned into a little bit of Ireland as a capacity audience of 85 persons enjoyed an all-day workshop on researching their Irish ancestors.

Cosponsored by Friends of Thomas Balch Library, the workshop featured two experts, **Fintan Mullan** and **Gillian Hunt**, from the Ulster Historical Foundation Lecture Tour.

The workshop was an “outstanding success,” said Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director. “The event was so popular that we had to turn away 33 would-be registrants.”

The millions of Irish who came to Canada and the USA in the Irish diaspora have left many descendants anxious to trace their roots. However, the sad history of Ireland in the 19th and early 20th centuries has complicated their task immensely. Most records were kept in parish registries of the Church of Ireland until the late 19th century.

At that time many were moved for safekeeping to the Public Record Office in Dublin, although some were left in parishes that had were

left in parishes that had fireproof storage.

In 1922 the Public Record Office came under heavy bombardment and was burned to the ground, a catastrophic loss for historical and genealogical research.



Further complications grew out of the British suppression of the Roman Catholic Church as well as their strictures against dissenters such as the Presbyterians.

Despite all these historical impediments, the speakers emphasized that all was not lost, and archivists in more recent times have not only pieced together the fragments that remain, but they have also unearthed a wealth of resources, among them census records, land records, and school records, now conveniently searchable online.

Mullan and Hunt alternated in presenting rapid fire solutions to how to retrace Irish families.

They demonstrated that the

medieval boundaries in Ireland remain intact to such an extent that by overlaying Google Earth on 18th century records homesteads and small tracts can be located. They suggested that seekers broaden their searches to a wider source of records. As an example they showed how school records would often contain names of pupils and their parents.

For detail on the Ulster Historical Foundation, consult ancestryireland.com. Internet sites relating to Irish genealogy are

at cyndislist.com/uk/irl. Useful books on Irish genealogy include John Grenham's *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (2012) and *Tracing Irish Ancestors* by MacConghal and Gorry (1997).

Founded in 1956, the nonprofit Ulster Historical Foundation promotes interest in Irish genealogy and history with particular emphasis on the historical nine-county province of Ulster. The Foundation is one of the leading genealogical research agencies in Ireland and a major publisher of historical, educational and genealogical source books. Its online historical and genealogical resources have helped transform the availability of Irish records for family historians.

Spring Lectures Spotlight: Meet the Women and the Books

Dark Days in Our Beloved County: The Civil War Diary of Catherine Hopkins Broun

By Lee Lawrence

Catherine Hopkins Broun

(1820 – 1908) lived her entire adult life in Middleburg, Loudoun County, and on the family's nearby farm, Sunny Bank. She wrote a diary that included the years of America's Civil War. It starts in 1854, and those early years relate family events: preachers coming for Sunday dinner, the typhoid epidemic that swept through killing slaves and citizens in equal measure. Then in 1861 Catherine wrote: "These are dark days in our beloved country. Civil war has commenced." From that point on, Catherine's diary is a riveting account of how war affected our divided nation.

She saw war dead at Ball's Bluff: "We saw in a ravine the entire arm of a poor Yankee, exposed. The earth had washed off him." She smuggled goods over the Potomac River from Maryland back into Virginia and almost got caught. "I was never so scared in my life," she writes. Only her quick thinking and the cool demeanor of a secret agent saved her from arrest.

The Brouns owned slaves, and this diary gives us insight into the hefraught relationships between master and slave. This thorny topic doesn't make for comfortable reading, but it is riveting.



Catherine Broun with one of her children.

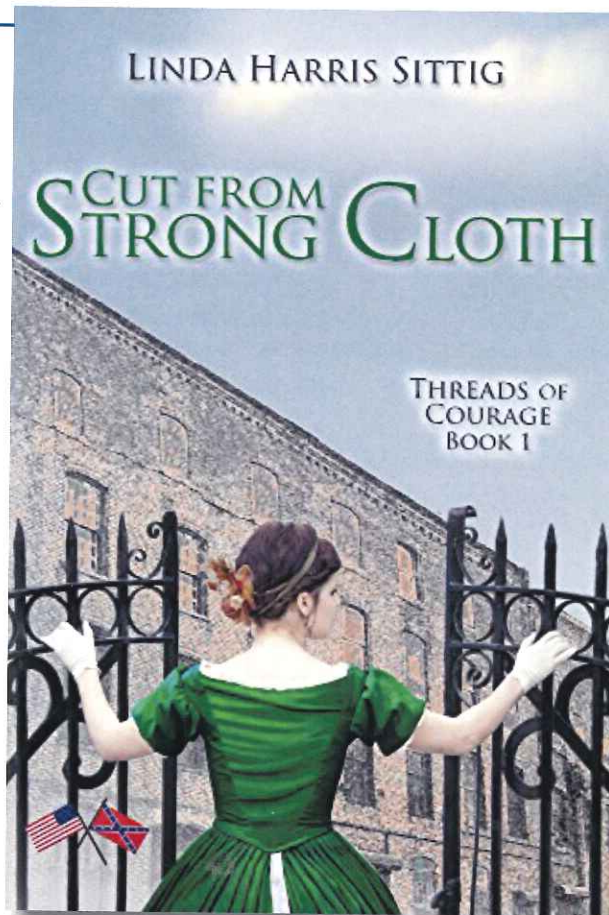
In March 1865, John Singleton Mosby and two of his men rode up to Sunny Bank. Catherine wrote: "I quickly had some coffee toasted and a nice luncheon fixed up for them when we saw was a column of Yanks coming. The Colonel got away." The Union officers and their scout, Yankee Davis, came to the house and asked if Mosby was around, but Catherine denied having seen him. She wrote: "Yankee Davis drank the coffee I had prepared for Mosby."

"Compelling" from p. 1

It turned out that several universities had copies of a 1959 typewritten transcript. Then I found out the original was located in the archives of the University of Virginia so I went to Charlottesville to see it.

The diary had never been published for a general reader so I decided to publish it, with footnotes to help explain Catherine's references to people, battles, and places.

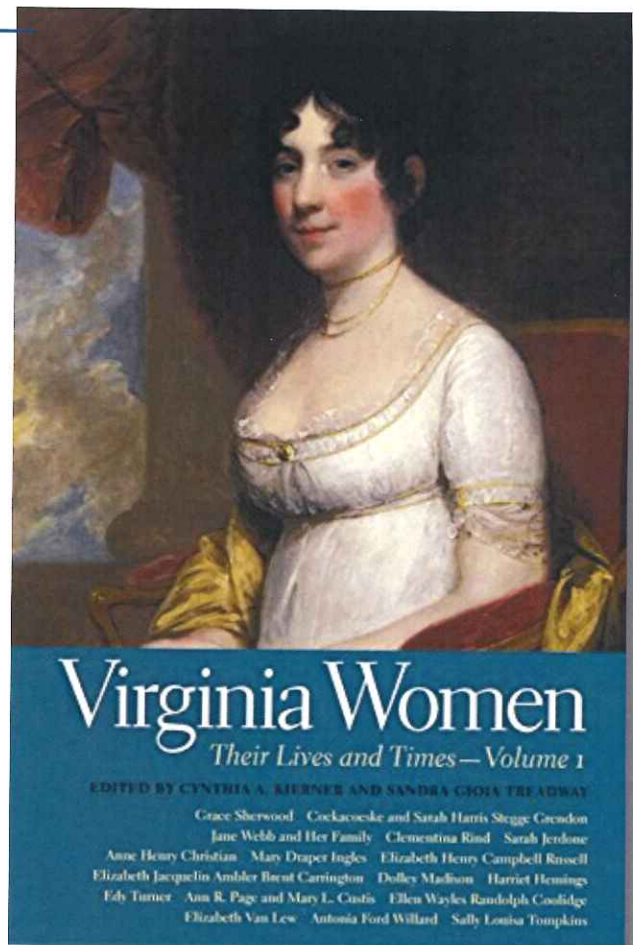
Meet the Women in the Books



Linda Harris Sittig's debut novel was inspired by a real woman, **Ellen Canavan**, a young Irish immigrant who struggled to establish herself as a businesswoman in the cutthroat textile industry of 1861 Philadelphia. As she fights to establish her credentials for the design of a superior cloth for soldiers' uniforms, the Civil War erupts, and a malicious arsonist sets out to destroy her.

Ellen's design incorporated Pennsylvania wool and Georgia cotton to produce a strong cloth comfortable for soldiers to wear, yet sturdy enough to survive a battle. She travels from the factory floors of Philadelphia to the cotton wharves of Savannah with her mentor; then Fort Sumter is fired upon.

On their perilous journey back north, the pair stops in Manassas, Virginia, and Ellen is forced to draw upon her fiery strength to guide her through a dangerous encounter and a divided nation.



In the first of two volumes of essays by established and emerging scholars, editors **Cindy Kiernan**, director of the PhD Program at George Mason University, and **Sandra Gioia Treadway**, State Librarian of Virginia and director of the Library of Virginia, recover stories of diverse Virginia women, from the 17th century through the Civil War era. The authors show how experiences of Virginia women varied by race, class, age, and marital status, and also across both space and time.

Some of the essays examine the lives of well-known women—such as First Lady **Dolley Madison**—from a new perspective.

Others introduce readers to relatively obscure historical figures: the convicted witch **Grace Sherwood** and the colonial printer **Clementina Rind**. Essays on frontier heroine **Mary Draper Ingles** and Union spy **Elizabeth Van Lew** examine the real women behind the legends.

Friends Books—Order Today!

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Publications of the Friends' Black History Committee

- The Essence of a People: Portraits of African Americans Who Made a Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia* - \$15
- The Essence of a People II: African Americans Who Made Their World Anew in Loudoun County, Virginia and Beyond* - \$15
- Loudoun County's African American Communities: A Tour Map and Guide - \$5
- In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971* by Elaine E. Thompson - \$20
- George Washington Carver: Scientist, Artist & Musician* by Lemoine D. Pierce - \$10
- Journey Through Time* by the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Thomas Balch Library- \$5
- Billy Pierce: Dance Master, Son of Purcellville* by Lemoine D. Pierce - \$15

Publications of the Friends

Loudoun Discovered: Communities, Corners & Crossroads

5-Volume Collection of Articles by Historian Eugene Scheel on the Histories of Towns and Villages of Loudoun.

Volume 1: *Eastern Loudoun: Goin' Down the Country* - \$20

Volume 2: *Leesburg and the Old Carolina Road* - \$20

Volume 3: *The Hunt Country and Middleburg* - \$20

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Individual copies of the Eugene Scheel's Historical Map of Loudoun - \$10

Set of 5 Volumes plus Eugene Scheel's New Historical Map of Loudoun County - \$100

A Story of Round Hill, Loudoun County, Virginia by Ann Whitehead Thomas - \$20

"The Imperious Laird": John Campbell, Fourth Earl of Loudoun by Douglas W. Foard, PhD - \$15

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. Book and 2 DVDs - \$15

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Newly Processed Manuscript and Books**

Manuscripts: Alexander McIntyre/William Moore Deed, 1840 (OM 0029); John Sowers Letter, 1861 (SC 0115); Thomas Knox Letter, 1849 (SC0116); : The Lena Agnes Smith Collection (M 0115), and the Hillsboro Store Ledgers, (M0114). The Lefferts Family Collection (SC 0119); reprocessed collections: Alexander McIntyre William Moore Land Indenture 1840 (OM 0029), John Sowers Letter, 1861 (SC 0115); additions to collections: Constance Williams deBordenave Collection 1795-1935 (M 102). Greg Hanson Postal Cover Collection (SC 0114)

Books: *Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration, 1725-1775. The People of the Hebrides*, by David Dobson; *Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures*, by Nancy Moses; *Braddock's Defeat: the Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution*, by David L. Preston. *Virginia in the American Revolution: a Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians* by Eric Grundset; *Baltimore County, Maryland, Marriage Licenses: May 1, 1823 to April 28, 1832* by Michael A. Ports, and *Enslaved Women in America: from Colonial Times to Emancipation* by Emily West. *Genealogy Online* by Elizabeth Crowe Powell; *The Guns of Cedar Creek* by Thomas A. Lewis; *The Washington Arsenal Explosion: Civil War Disaster in the Capital* by Brian Bergin and Erin Bergin Voorheis; *American Cicero: the Life of Charles Carroll* by Bradley J. Birzer; *Excelsior: the Story of Kappa Alpha Order. Lexington, Virginia* by Martin Clagett; *Loudon County Road Orders 1757-1783 and Loudoun County Road Orders 1783-1800* by Patricia B Duncan and Ann Brush Miller; *Slavery in the Development of the Americas* by David Eltis, Frank D. Lewis, and Kenneth Lee Sokoloff; *Fauquier County, Virginia Deeds, 1759-1778* by John K Gott; *High on the Hog: a Culinary Journey from Africa to America* by Jessica B. Harris; *Family Bonds: Free Blacks and Re-enslavement Law in Antebellum Virginia* by Ted Maris-Wolf; *Tolbert Family Reunion: Descendants of Charlotte Tolbert Adams, Edward P. Tolbert and John Talbott*, and *My Yester Years as Remembered* by Marvin Wharton. Raymond Arsenault, *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*; Jeannette A. Bastian, Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, and Donna Webber, *Archives in Libraries: What Librarians and Archivists Need to Know to Work Together*; Kevan M. Hansen, *Map Guide to German Parish Registers V. 53, Kingdom of Prussia - Province of Silesia I*; Catherine B. Hollan, *Eagle Marks on American Silver*; Jon Kukla, *A Wilderness So Immense: the Louisiana Purchase and the Destiny of America*; Thomas Katheder, *Origins of James Carter, Sr. (ca. 1741-1812) of Loudoun County, VA*; Faye Kert, *Privateering: Patriots and Profits in the War of 1812*; and League of Women Voters of Loudoun County, *This is Your County*. Grace Bock, *The Eckermann Story, 1849-1979*; John M. Coski, *The Confederate Battle Flag: a History of America's Most Embattled Emblem*; Henry Gannett, *A Gazetteer of Indian Territory*; Jon Guttman, *Fighter Aircraft Combat Debuts, 1915-1945: Innovation of Air Warfare Before the Jet Age*; Kathy Marquis and Leslie Waggener, *Local History Reference Collections for Public Libraries*; Thomas E. Partlow, *The Partlow Family*; Stanley L. Quick, and Chipp Reid, *Lion in the Bay: The British Invasion of the Chesapeake, 1813-14*; Joel Nathan Rosen, *From New Lanark to Mound Bayou: Owenism in the Mississippi Delta*; Diantha Dow Schull, *Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections*. Gregory P. Wilson, *Jonathan Roberts: The Civil War's Quaker Scout and Sheriff*.

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Spring Programs & Exhibits

Programs and Events

Dark Days in Our Beloved Country: The Civil War Diary of Catherine Hopkins Broun by Lee Lawrence - 4/17/16 - 2 - 4 PM

War in the Chesapeake: The British Campaigns to Control the Bay, 1813-1814 - by Charles P. Neimeyer 4/24/16 - 2 - 4 PM

Sailors in the Holy Land: The 1848 American Expedition to the Dead Sea by Andrew C. A. Jampoler - 5/1/16 - 2 - 4 PM

African American Genealogy - Lori Kimball, Loudoun History Award recipient, discusses Balch and Courthouse sources - 5/5/16 - 10 AM - 12 PM

Virginia Women: Their Lives and Times - presentation by editors **Cynthia A. Kierner**, director, GMU PhD Program, and **Sandra Gioia Treadway**, - 5/15/16 - 2 - 4 PM

Cut From Strong Cloth - debut novel by **Linda Harris Sittig** - 5/17/16 - 7 - 9 PM

Researching Using Northern Neck Land Grants - Wynne Saffer - 6/2/16 - 10 AM - 12 PM

Tours and Exhibits

A Walking Tour of Leesburg with **Jim Roberts**, Loudoun Laureate and History Award recipient, will leave from TBL parking lot. - 5/7/16 - 9 AM - 12 PM

Clerk's Office Tour, Loudoun County Courthouse with **Eric S. Larson**, Historic Records Manager - 5/16/16 - 7 - 9 PM, leaving Thomas Balch Library at 6:45 PM

Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits
Handmade Rugs by Carolyn Lineberry
Frederick Shafer Pottery Exhibit- William Whitmore

Lower Level Meeting Room Exhibit
April - June- An exhibit by noted photographer Frank Ruggles

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