

# *The* **CHRONICLE**

## Friends Plan Fall Event, Remember Fred Morefield & Celebrate BHC's 2nd Successful Tour of Loudoun's African American Sites



*Snapshots from the Black History Committee's African American Heritage Tour, Pages 4 & 5*



*Save Sunday, October 2, 2016, for the Friends Annual Event. Details on Page 3.*

### **FREDERICK LAWRENCE MOREFIELD**

By James P. Lucier

The passing of Frederick Lawrence Morefield (1936 - 2016) recalls the extraordinary impact that he had on the redevelopment of the Thomas Balch Library. During the critical period when the Thomas Balch Library was in transition from a county general library to its current eminence as a library of history and genealogy owned by the Town of Leesburg, Fred stepped in to help. In 2000 he became president of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library to initiate a fundraising campaign that raised more than \$400,000.



*Fred Morefield at the 2001 rededication of the Library.*

But he did more than raise money. Pursuing the idea of a public/private partnership between the Town and the community, Fred acted as a missionary proclaiming the importance of the Balch Library to many sectors of the community that previously had paid no attention. A man whose warm personality dominated every room that he entered, Fred had deep, intellectual eyes and a friendly smile. He did not hesitate to put his arm around any banker that he met, any businessman, any prominent member of the *(continued on page 3)*

**FRIENDS OF THOMAS BALCH  
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P.O. Box 2184  
Leesburg, VA 20177  
www.balchfriends.org

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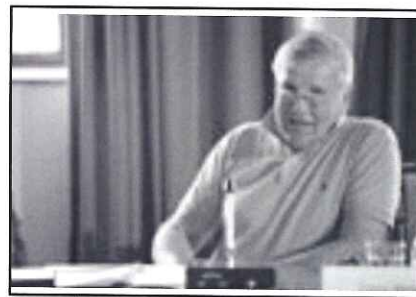
*Save the Date—Sunday, October 2, 2016*

**Friends' Annual Fall Event to Focus on Life in  
Loudoun During World War I**



*Credit: Bob Farkas, Custom Graphics*

**The Friends' ninth annual celebration of Loudoun history** will be held at the Marshall House in Leesburg on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 4 p.m. In keeping with ties to the history of Loudoun County, this year's topic will be Loudoun in the Great War. The focus will be on what the County was like in the year leading up to U.S. entry into the conflict and how that effort changed Loudoun and its people.



*Dr. Terry Sharrer*

The speaker will be Dr. Terry Sharrer, a local historian with a unique perspective on the political, social, and economic forces that have shaped Loudoun. Proceeds from the event will go to support the endowment and programs of Thomas Balch Library.

Dr. Sharrer earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland. He served as curator of Health Sciences at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, where he worked for 36 years. He has authored some three dozen publications, including *A Kind of Fate, Agricultural Change in Virginia, 1861-1920* about the biological consequences of the Civil War and the beginning of germ theory practices (Iowa State University Press, 2000). And he has contributed to life in Loudoun County as science advisor to the Department of Economic Development. He lives in Hamilton with his wife, Patty. They have two sons, Alex and Nicholas. For more information, call the Friends at 540-579-2825.

## Remembering Friends President Fred Morefield

*(continued from page 1)* legal profession, or the like, and explain to them why it was in their interest to contribute to the work of Balch. In addition, he persuaded many of Loudoun's old families to make memorial gifts, including The Westmoreland Davis Foundation; the Rust Family Foundation; the Robey Foundation; the Loudoun Library Foundation; the Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society (now the Preservation Society of Loudoun County); and one important anonymous donor.

The anonymous donor turned out to have significant impact. The contribution of \$50,000 carried with it the suggestion that one of the rooms be named for an historic African American personage from the surrounding community. This donation stirred strong interest, and a group of local African Americans came together with the Friends board to choose an appropriate subject. That discussion resulted in the commissioning of a portrait of Howard Willard Clark to hang in the Clark Room, but also in a broader discussion of the role which free blacks and enslaved blacks had played in the history of Loudoun County.

The organization of the Black History Committee (BHC) in 2000 led to an exciting biracial dialogue as elderly members of the community stepped forward with their reminiscences for the younger participants to write down. The BHC now has a long list of accomplishments, including publications, lectures, and tours to educate the public about historic African American communities and achievements.

In the central atrium room of the new addition to the historic original Balch building, the architects left a blank space that ran around all four walls just under the skylight. Fred proposed that this space be filled with a mural depicting the history of Loudoun

County from the earliest beginnings to the present day. Moreover, he persuaded the luxury home builders, Toll Brothers, to make a significant contribution. He then organized a competition, sending 300 invitations to artists of renown, receiving 23 submissions. The winner was William Woodward, professor emeritus of fine arts at George Washington University. Installed in 2002 and entitled "A Loudoun



*Fred Morefield at Thomas Balch Library*

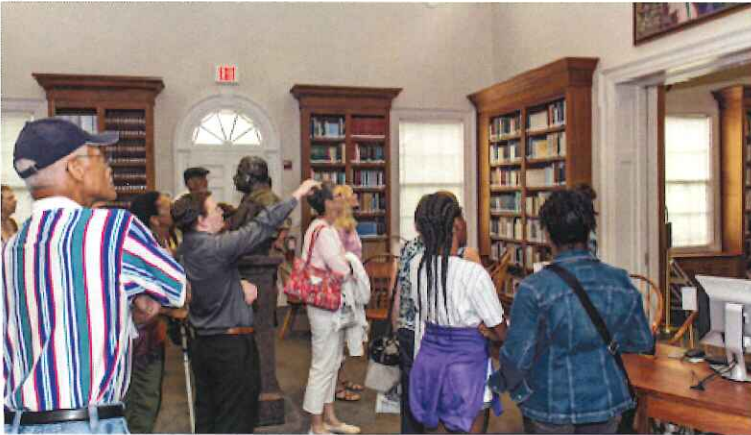
County Story," each of the four panels depicts a different era of our local history in a continuous panorama.

Fred's contribution of time, energy, and dynamic leadership is all the more remarkable because he was a relative newcomer to Loudoun. He was born March 5, 1936 in Philadelphia, Pa. Graduating from Mercersburg Academy in 1953, he received his B.S. and M.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1965, he received his J.D. from Harvard Law School. He then entered upon a worldwide career, working in the petroleum industry for 18 years. His work took him to London, England; Helsinki, Finland; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Later he switched to the health field, and for many years was the Chief Financial Officer of the New York City public health system, and then served as an executive for several private health corporations.

In 1966, he married Betty Louise Kramer in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Later in life, when the couple moved to Hillsboro in Loudoun in the late 1990s, Betty Morefield also served on the Friends board and was notable for her work with the BHC. Her cosmopolitan European culture enlarged the perspective of everyone she met. Eventually, the couple left Hillsboro and moved to Sleepy Hollow, New York, where she survives her husband.

## Spotlight on BHC's African American Heritage Tour—

**Building on the success** of the Black History Committee's first African American Heritage Tour last fall, Alicia O. Cohen, project leader, along with a dedicated group of local historians and volunteers, welcomed 24 enthusiastic guests to an entertaining and educational journey into Loudoun's past on Saturday, June 25, 2016. **Making a loop through Western Loudoun** County—from Thomas Balch Library and Douglass School in Leesburg to Waterford, Purcellville, Middleburg, Oatlands Plantation, and Gleedsville—tour participants visited sites associated with all aspects of life—work, worship, family, and education. **Special thanks to site interpreters** Shannon Fuller, Mary Randolph, Bronwen Souders, Phyllis Cook-Taylor, Oatlands Plantation's Lori Kimball, Leslie Wright, and Mattie Turner (guest care). Additional thanks to local historian Reginald Simms, tour guest and assistant director of Carver Center, Jennifer Lumley, and volunteer photographers and tour guests Denise Moore Pierce and Bob Pierce, who captured the people and places here.



Top row, left: Thomas Balch Library staff librarian Shannon Fuller describes a painting given to the Library by the Black History Committee; at the Loudoun County Courthouse, BHC member Mary Randolph, describes slave auctions held on the steps. She also led the group to the Leesburg Training School, among other sites. Middle row, left: Bronwen Souders describes education at Waterford's segregated Second Street School; center, at Waterford Union of Churches Cemetery. Andre Ferrell, who traveled from Baltimore to attend the tour and find his roots, kneels beside his ancestors' graves. Bottom row, Ferrell is flanked by Patricia Fisher, left, and Linda Chriclow-White, both from D.C. Left: BHC Chair Donna Bohanon, on left, joins historian Reginald Simms, and Alicia Cohen, tour organizer, in welcoming guests to lunch at Purcellville's Carver Senior Center, once a segregated school. Photos by volunteers Denise Moore Pierce and Bob Pierce.

## —From Loudoun's Courthouse to Gleedsville's Church



### Meet Alicia Cohen, BHC's Tour Creator



Alicia O. Cohen, a member of the Black History Committee and a Certified Tourism Ambassador for The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, is the dynamic force behind this important cultural tourism initiative. For her work, Cohen was recognized in May by the Journey "for excellence in providing

outstanding customer services to visitors." As BHC Chair Donna Bohanon wrote in her recommendation, Alicia's efforts have provided the BHC the opportunity to introduce "visitors and new Americans to the history, communities, and contributions of African Americans in Loudoun County and thus to our country . . . while telling the stories of the enslaved, abolitionists, Civil War, emancipation, equestrian, farming, Civil Rights, and their connection to us today." Of course, Alicia is already planning the third tour for June 2017. Stay tuned!

*Top row, left, at Asbury Methodist Church in Middleburg, Phyllis Cook-Taylor talks about the local churches and Freedman's Bureau; right, Oatlands Director of Programming and Education Lori Kimball shares stories of the enslaved who worked here. Center row, left, participants explore archaeological finds; right, Leslie Wright, Mt. Olive Methodist Episcopal Church historian, describes the founding of Gleedsville and the building of this church by formerly enslaved John Gleed. Above, the tour group gathers on the church steps, now the Universalist-Unitarian Church.*

## Friends Books—Order Today for Your Summer Reading!

To buy directly from the Friends, use the form below. Check off your items, fill out the form and include your credit card information or enclose a check payable to Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. Mail your order to Friends of Thomas Balch Library, P.O. Box 2184, Leesburg, VA 20177. If you have any questions, please call us at 540-579-2825 or send us a secure message via our website Contact Us form.

### 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

Volume 4: *Quaker Country and the Loudoun Valley* - \$20

Volume 5: *Waterford, the German Settlement and Between the Hills* - \$20

Individual copies of 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

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Learn About Lineage Societies and the Library of Virginia's Crowdsourcing Project at August and September Events

## Would you like to help make history?

On Thursday, August 4, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Thomas Balch Library, Sonya Coleman, the Library of Virginia digital collections specialist, will introduce LVA's "Making History: Transcribe" project. This is your opportunity to learn about crowdsourced transcription, LVA's program, and how you can participate.

"We have a vast collection full of a million wonderful documents," Coleman told Catherine Komp, WCVE reporter for Virginia Currents, "and we're just never going to have enough staff to fully transcribe all of them and really do justice for each story. So asking the public for help is a great way to both engage them, let people know what we have, and make these things secure for the future."

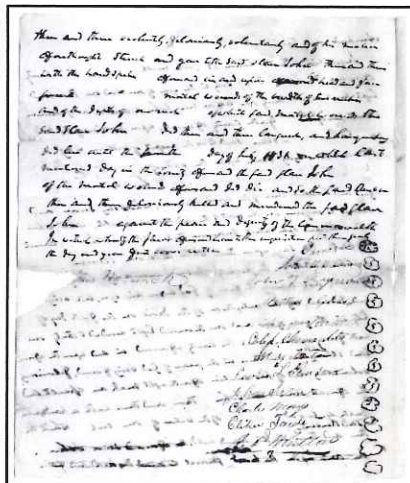
Part of the larger umbrella called "Making History,"

LVA's new home to user-engagement efforts, citizen historians work individually or join in the

Transcribe-A-Thons held on a regular basis at the Library. Volunteers zoom in on scans of their documents, type the words into a text box, then turn it over to a librarian to review for accuracy. With five to 10 active projects at a time, there's something for everyone—treatises from the Colonial period to Civil War soldiers' letters home, court records and political statements, accounts of concerts and conspiracies.

"Making History: Transcribe" uses open source technology originally developed by the University of Iowa and George Mason University; the code is available for others interested in starting crowdsourced transcription projects.

Learn more about Making History: Transcribe at <http://www.viriniamemory.com/transcribe>—and at <https://prezi.com/user/5tus11jli-bq/>



Coroner's Inquisition, Amherst County, Va.

**Ever think of joining a lineage group** such as the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution or the National Society Sons of the American Revolution? On "Society Lineage Day," Saturday, September 24. Friends of Thomas Balch

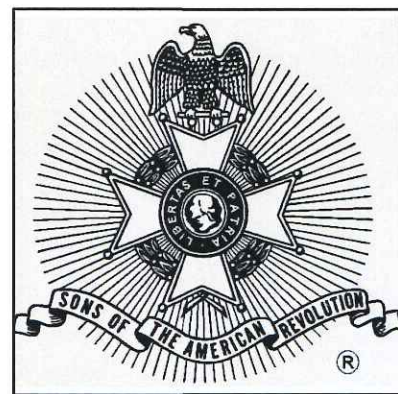
Library will host a gathering from 1 - 4 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room to acquaint you with the DAR, the SAR, and

many other lineage groups.

Friends Board member Brock D. Bierman, who has organized the event, will explain the breadth of lineage societies' work beyond genealogy, including community service, philanthropy, and sharing,

preserving, and remembering our heritage.

"Society Day" will provide information on how to join. Representatives will be on hand not only from the DAR and the SAR but also from the District of Columbia Sons of the American Revolution; the National Society Sons of the American Colonists; the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington D.C.; the Sons of the Revolution, and the National Society Sons of Colonial New England, and others. So come over and chat with the folks, and get all your questions answered about joining lineage societies.





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## Summer Programs & Annual Fall Event

### Programs and Events

**Washington & Old Dominion Railroad  
Revisited** - In his second volume with co-author Paul E. McCray, David A. Guillaudue expands his focus on four W&OD stations, including Leesburg and Purcellville.  
7/20/16 - 7 - 9 PM

**Crowdsourcing  
Transcription:**  
*Sonya Coleman,*  
*Digital Collections  
Specialist, Library  
of Virginia* 8/4/16 -  
10 AM - 12 PM

**Society Day: An  
Introduction to Lineage Societies with Brock  
D. Bierman** 9/24/16 - 1 - 4 PM

### Tours and Exhibits

**Margaret Mercer Room Exhibits**  
**Handmade Rugs** by Carolyn Lineberry

**Frederick Shafer  
Pottery** - William  
Whitmore

**Lower Level Meeting  
Room Exhibit -  
"Through the Lens of  
A Miguk,"** an exhibit  
spotlighting photographs  
on canvas taken during  
the 1990s when Gerry  
D'Onofrio, the Miguk  
(American), was exposed  
to South Korea and its  
fascinating people.

Explore the rich  
traditions and culture of the "Hermit Kingdom."

The exhibit runs through September 30.

