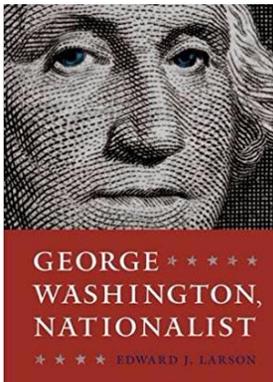


October 1, 2017

Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree, MLS



130 Year Anniversary 1887 ~ 2017

The Franklin County Law Library is proud to announce our 130th anniversary. You and your guests are invited to join us for a day of celebration Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

1:00 - 3:00 373 S. High Street Auditorium: Pulitzer Prize winning author and Ohio native Dr. Edward J. Larson will discuss the one year he spent living and working at Mount Vernon. The result of that time is his 2016 book, *Return of George Washington*. Since space is limited, tickets for this event are mandatory by calling or stopping by the circulation desk.

4:00 - 6:00 369 S. High Street, 10th Floor: Join us in the law library for hors d'œuvres and light refreshments. Dr. Larson will be on hand to sign copies of his books. No RSVP is required for this portion of the day.

The board and staff of the Franklin County Law Library is especially grateful to the Columbus Bar Association and the Columbus Bar Foundation for their co-sponsorship of this event. We hope to see many of you at some point during the day.

Presidential Libraries

October's Brown Bag Lunch Program

Since FDR opened his Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY, all succeeding U.S. Presidents have followed his example. Local Presidential Historian Jeri Diehl Cusack will discuss the 13 Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) which are located from coast to coast.

The class will be offered on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at 12:15**. Reservations are mandatory; register by calling or visiting the law library. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch.



Law Library History: Thomas Buker and the Changing Role of the Law Librarian

Jennifer D. Jones

In its early days, the Columbus Law Library Association relied on its trustees to do much of the work that is now done by the law librarian. While the law librarian maintained a daily presence within the library and catalogued the books, the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Law Library Association managed most other functions by committee: Committees recommended which books to buy, looked for additional space to operate, and investigated the persistent lack of statutory funds. However, it

was not until the late 1940s and early 1950s that the law library finally started to see progress in both consistently receiving its funding and finding more space to operate--thanks to the efforts of a new law librarian who took the initiative to improve the library.

With the appointment of Thomas R. Buker as law librarian in 1947 (upon the death of the previous librarian, Rudolph Wittenmeier) came drastic change. However, the minutes of the Association's business do not clarify if the board wanted the librarian to take on more responsibilities or if Mr. Buker simply took it upon himself to take on more challenges than previous librarians. The only indication of the qualifications sought in the new law librarian were those expressed by the Columbus Bar Association when two bar representatives attended a special board meeting to express a desire for a librarian "who could analyze and digest the decisions of the Judges of the Common Pleas Court, especially with reference to procedural matters and...could act as a contact man with the several Common Pleas Judges" (minutes of July 18, 1947). Nowhere do the minutes indicate any displeasure with previous librarians, but Mr. Buker clearly viewed his position differently than his predecessors.

In Mr. Buker's first annual report, he detailed his efforts to restore missing volumes, rearrange the books for more shelf space, and better control the removal of books so that attorneys had access to titles needed for trial. He presented plans to create more space, reported on visits to other law libraries, and noted he had joined the American Association of Law Libraries. He also wrote the following: "I believe that [the] Library Association can recover that portion of fines collected by Clerks of Municipal and Mayors Courts as provided by statute and have information that such has been done by libraries at Elyria, Cleveland, Lima, Youngstown and Ottawa. I have a copy of a petition that has been used successfully at Cleveland." He concluded with a list of the immediate needs of the library: "telephone, new shelving, better furniture, completion of essential sets, replacement of missing volumes, removal of discarded books, securing more space or immediate determination of space desired and indication given to County Commissioners so as to secure it upon completion of Court House Annex, and securing of Library's portion of fines from Municipalities as provided by statute" (minutes of January 15, 1949).

For the board, this detailed report was a stark contrast to previous librarians' reports of only how many volumes were added and total number of volumes in the library. Not only did Mr. Buker present plans for future success, but, as later entries in the minute book show, he executed those plans and took on challenges that had been neglected for years. You will be able to read about more of Mr. Buker's contributions in next month's newsletter as the law library prepares to celebrate its 130th anniversary in November. Mr. Buker kept the library going when others could not secure its finances or ensure adequate space, so, when we celebrate our anniversary, we are also celebrating him.



Patron Feature

Rebecca Hess, Esq.

In our new feature, we will highlight local attorneys who use the Franklin County Law Library. If you would like to be featured in future newsletters, either email the law library or like our [Facebook](#) page. We'll be selecting patrons from that page.

Rebecca Hess works at [Mina Nami Khorrami, LLC](#) where she helps clients with consumer and bankruptcy, debt defense, wills, and civil litigation.

Ms. Hess has been using the Franklin County Law Library since 2001 when she moved to Columbus. She is appreciative of the staff's help in locating various reference books for her, especially *Collier on Bankruptcy*. She finds the law library a great place to visit to catch your breath, relax, and enjoy the views from the law library's windows.

Ms. Hess recently read *Death Penalty* by William Couglin. While it's not a new book, she reminds us that it's a great legal mystery.

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Your Questions!*

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