

# A Guide to the Leesburg May Pole Dance, 1932

Leesburg May Pole Dance 1932  
1932



A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library VC 0012  
Thomas Balch Library  
2006  
**Author:** Donald Cooper

## History

**Processed by:** Donald Cooper

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Leesburg May Pole Dance, 1932

**Subtitle:** Leesburg May Pole Dance

**Collection:** VC 0012

**Author:** Donald Cooper

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2006 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Beth Schuster, 1 September 2010

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

**2013-11-21** Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

VC 0012

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The Leesburg May Dance collection contains one black and white 5.5" x 3.5" photograph of the 1932 May Day and Health Day celebration taken by local photographer Russell Gregg.

**Collector**

Lucille Muse

**Repository**

Thomas Balch Library

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection open for research.

**Use Restrictions**

Visual materials may require special handling.

**Acquisition Information**

Estate of Lucille Muse, Leesburg, VA

**Processing Information**

Processed by Donald Cooper, 15 July 2009.

Updated Beth Schuster, 1 September 2010.

**Preferred Citation**

Leesburg May Pole Dance, 1932 (VC 0012), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

## Accruals

2008.0160

## Alternative Form Available

Digital Surrogate

## Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Bibliography

History of May Day. 8 July 2009 <http://www.theholidayspot.com/mayday/history.htm>..

## Other Finding Aid

Past Perfect catalogue record

## Historical Information

The Maypole tradition came to America with English settlers in the seventeenth century. However, because of Puritan influence, May Day is not universally celebrated today in the United States.

May Day began as a pagan holiday originating with Druids of the British Isles, who celebrated May 1 as Beltane or day of fire. They believed May 1 divided the year into two parts. Therefore, May Day was an ancient New Year rite celebrated by Druids with bonfires. Cattle were then driven through these fires to purify them. Men, with their sweethearts, also passed through smoke for good luck. During the Middle Ages, English villages began to erect Maypoles as a part of their celebration of first spring planting in late April or early May, and vied with each other for the tallest Maypole.

Many localities, both in the United States and throughout the world, continue celebrating with dancing and singing around Maypoles tied with colorful streamers or ribbons and choose their May Queen or other

festivities.

## Scope and Content

The Leesburg May Dance collection contains one black and white 5.5" x 3.5" photograph of the 1932 May Day and Health Day celebration taken by local photographer Russell Gregg. Leesburg High School students are shown at the court house lawn performing a Maypole dance. The photograph was printed in the May 19, 1932 *Loudoun Times Mirror*. This photograph is the only item in this collection. Another copy is part of the Russell Gregg Photograph Collection, ca. 1920-1944 (VC 0008).

## Contents List

### Item 1: Leesburg May Day Dance, 1932

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