

JANUARY at THE FILSON

1310 South Third Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40208
www.filsonhistorical.org
502.635.5083

The Filson Historical Society

Our Mission

To collect, preserve and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture.

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 927

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NEWS
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SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 11 AND 18TH

6:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm, 720 Oxmoor Avenue

Members Only

Henry D. Ormsby Series 2014

The 7th Annual Henry D. Ormsby, III Seminar Series honors and recognizes Henry's devotion and distinguished contributions to The Filson Historical Society.

This year's Ormsby Series will feature three films from KET's "Kentucky Time Capsules" series created by Reverend Al Shands in the 1970s. These films describe the major urban changes to Louisville in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. We will view one film per session then discuss with three community leaders the relevance of these issues for today and in the future.

"In the Name of Progress". During the 1950s and '60s, Louisville lost much of its unique architectural heritage when old buildings and entire neighborhoods were torn down for high-rises, expressways, and "urban renewal". The reaction that emerged in the 70s was led by such critics as former mayor Charles Farnsley.

"In the American Way" looks back at urban renewal in Louisville in the



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Doors open 7:00 p.m.; music begins 7:30 p.m.
The Filson Historical Society

\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Blues Night

10th Street Blues Band

Blues music is a key part of Louisville's history, with its roots dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. Several legendary blues artists called the River City home, including Sylvester Weaver, who recorded the first blues guitar record in 1923. Other local blues legends include Bill Gaither, Sarah Martin, Helen Humes and Edmonia Henderson.

Sonny Strgraves (drums), James Watkins (bass), Billy Bird (vocals and harmonica) and Pen Bogert (guitar) have been playing together for more than 10 years. Bogert, a former Filson staff member, will provide a brief introduction to the history of blues, with music to be enjoyed throughout the rest of the evening. Materials relating to blues history will also be on display.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

12:00 noon • The Filson Historical Society
Free for members, \$10 for non-members

"United We Stand, Divided We Fall: The Civil War in Kentucky"

A Closer Look at the Civil War: A Soldier's Life

Mark Wetherington and Jim Holmberg

"A Closer Look at the Civil War" is a three part discussion series presented by the exhibit curators. It gives attendees a detailed look at exhibit items and the history they represent in The Filson's exhibit "United We Stand - Divided We Fall: The Civil War in Kentucky and the Ohio Valley."

The third session in this series, "A Soldier's Life," will examine the lives of Union and Confederate soldiers. Topics will include camp life, battles, life in the military, and the importance of music both as a soldier and in family life. Some noted figures that will be discussed are Samuel Wells, Colonel in the 50th Indiana, John Weller, Henry Hurst, and Isaac Craig.

This lecture will last approximately 45 minutes in the exhibit. Limited Capacity: Reservations are required.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

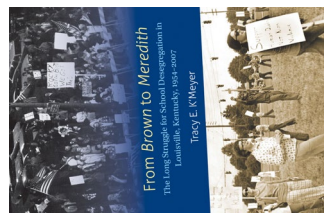
12:00 noon • The Filson Historical Society
Free for members, \$10 for non-members

From Brown to Meredith: The Long Struggle for School Desegregation in Louisville, Kentucky, 1954-2007

Tracy K Meyer

When the Supreme Court overturned Louisville's local desegregation plan in 2007, the people of Jefferson County, Kentucky, faced the question of whether and how to maintain racial diversity in their schools. This debate came at a time when scholars, pundits, and much of the public had declared school integration a failed experiment rightfully abandoned. Using oral history narratives, newspaper accounts, and other documents, Tracy E. K Meyer exposes the disappointments of desegregation, draws attention to those who struggled for over five decades to bring about equality and diversity, and highlights the many benefits of school integration.

Tracy E. K Meyer is professor of history and codirector of the Oral History Center at the University of Louisville.



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MONDAY, JANUARY 13

12:00 noon • The Filson Historical Society Museum
Free for members, \$10 for non-members

“United We Stand, Divided We Fall: The Civil War in Kentucky” A Closer Look at the Civil War: The Growing Divide Mark Wetherington and Jim Holmberg

“A Closer Look at the Civil War” is a three part discussion series presented by exhibit curators. It gives attendees a more detailed look at exhibit items and the history they represent. The first session in this series, “The Growing Divide,” will cover the widening rift between the North and South leading up to the Civil War, and how Kentucky was caught in the middle. While Kentucky was a slave state, it was in favor of preserving the Union. Kentuckians were proud of their tradition of supporting the Union. From the “Great Compromiser”, Henry Clay, to John J. Crittenden’s failed attempt to avoid Civil War, Kentucky and Kentuckians were major players on the national stage.

This program will last approximately 45 minutes in the exhibit. Limited Capacity: Reservations are required.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

6:00 p.m. • Shelby County Library, 309 Eighth Street,
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Coming To Kentucky: Heaven is a Kentucky of a Place

Brigadier General Ronald R. Van Stockum,
U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)

The Filson Historical Society and the Shelby County Historical Society are co-sponsoring a talk by Brigadier General Ronald R. Van Stockum, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired). He will discuss his fourth and latest book, *Coming To Kentucky: Heaven is a Kentucky of a Place*.

In 2007, he began writing a series of columns under the heading “History: Researched and Recalled,” for the *Sentinel-News* in Shelbyville, KY. Six years later, 115 columns have been published.

Coming to Kentucky is a collection of Van Stockum’s columns that feature Kentucky individuals, places, and events. It is divided into seven parts: Early Settlers in Kentucky, Allen Dale Farm, The Great Depression, Farmers of Shelby County, Kentucky Military Leaders, other military columns and Post-war Japan. He plans to highlight Air Force hero Colonel Ben Pollard of Shelbyville, who, after being shot down in North Vietnam, survived nearly six years of captivity, including torture at the “Hanoi Hilton.”

General Van Stockum served for 30 years as a career officer in the regular Marine Corps. Shortly after arriving in Kentucky in 1970, he began a second career as an administrative officer at the University of Louisville. He is past President and past Interim Director of The Filson Historical Society and past President of the Shelby County Historical Society.

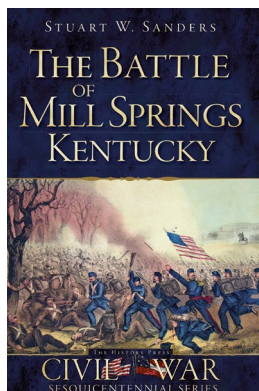
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

12:00 noon • The Filson Historical Society
Free for members, \$10 for non-members

The Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky Stuart W. Sanders

On January 19, 1862, Confederate and Union forces clashed in the now-forgotten Battle of Mill Springs. Armies of inexperienced soldiers chaotically fought in the wooded terrain of south-central Kentucky as rain turned bloodied ground to mud. Mill Springs was the first major Union victory since the Federal disaster of Bull Run. This Union triumph secured the Bluegrass State in Union hands at a critical time, opening the large expanses to Tennessee for Federal invasion. Although smaller when compared to later battles, Mill Springs was a fight of great consequence. *The Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky* details this important action which lifted Union morale. From General Felix Zollicoffer meeting his death by wandering into Union lines to the heroics of General George Thomas, Civil War historian Stuart Sanders chronicles this important battle and its essential role in the war.

Stuart W. Sanders is former executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association. He is also the author of *Perryville Under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky’s Largest Civil War Battle*. He has contributed to several other books, and has written for *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *America’s Civil War*, and other publications. He is currently a public history administrator in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

6:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society
Free for members, \$10 for non-members

Up the Valley and Through the Gap Mel Hankla

Mel Hankla will give a power point presentation entitled, “Up the Valley and Through the Gap” which will refer to several of the fine long rifles in The Filson’s collection. He will discuss the migration of early Kentucky rifle smiths, including Michael Humble of Louisville and Jacob Riser and his apprentice David Weller of Bardstown. Several original rifles will be on display, including a rifle, owned by Hankla, that is signed by M. Riser, either Jacob’s father Mathias or his uncle Martin. Hankla’s talk explores the long rifle’s roots in Pennsylvania, how rifles are linked either by genealogy or geography, and follows their development from Pennsylvania, through Kentucky and on to Tennessee.

Mr. Hankla is a collector, researcher and writer of Kentucky’s heritage. He is a past President of the Contemporary Longrifle Association and editor of *American Tradition* magazine. In 1984, he received a National Endowment of the Arts – Folk Arts Apprenticeship grant to work with Hershel House, “a noted builder of long rifles” since 1967. A historical actor/educator, he has worked 18 years with the Kentucky Humanities Council presenting Chautauqua characters of frontiersman Simon Kenton and Gen. George Rogers Clark, founder of Louisville.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

12:00 noon • The Filson Historical Museum
Free for members, \$10 for non-members

“United We Stand, Divided We Fall: The Civil War in Kentucky” A Closer Look at the Civil War: The Homefront Mark Wetherington and Jim Holmberg

“A Closer Look at the Civil War” is a three part discussion series presented by exhibit curators. It gives attendees a detailed look at exhibit items and the history they represent.

The second session in this series, “The Homefront,” will examine the lives of those who were left behind in the Falls’ cities and countryside. Some of the topics will include what life was like for the people at home and how the war affected them. We will look at what the city and Southern Indiana were like during the war, how the residents felt about the war and the kinds of things that boosted support and patriotism, such as patriotic stationary and music. Other topics will include how residents dealt with the threat of guerrilla activity, the African American perspective on the war, along with death and dying during the war.

This lecture will last approximately 45 minutes in the exhibit. Limited Capacity: Reservations are required.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

3:30 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society
Free for members, \$10 for non-members

Upon the Altar of a Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War

Harry S. Stout

Book Discussion Leader A. Glenn Crothers, PhD

Please join Dr. A. Glenn Crothers for a book discussion of *Upon the Altar of a Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War* by Harry S. Stout. This book is a profound and timely examination of the moral underpinnings of the War Between the States. The Civil War was not only a war of armies but also a war of ideas, in which Union and Confederacy alike identified themselves as a moral nation with God on its side.

Dr. Crothers is the Director of Research at The Filson Historical Society and an associate professor of history at the University of Louisville. His research interests include southern United States History before 1865. Participants are encouraged to read this book before the program.

Bourbon Academy schedule in the following cities:

January 25 – Covington, Kentucky

February 2 – Brooklyn, New York

March 1 – Louisville, Kentucky

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The Filson Historical Society will be closed January 20 in honor of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and February 17
in honor of Presidents’ Day.