

# PRESS RELEASE

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*The Filson  
Historical  
Society*

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## **The Filson Director Announces Leadership Transition**

*LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY – December 19, 2014* – Mark V. Wetherington, Ph.D., Director of The Filson Historical Society, announced his plans to transition his role after 22 years of leading the 130-year-old historical society, part of his 30-year career in historical research and education.

“These are exciting times for The Filson, and with the expansion of our campus and growth of the organization, I have decided that this is the perfect time to focus my interests on researching and writing in the field of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture as a senior research fellow.

Our campus expansion in Old Louisville is transforming The Filson. Our new Owsley Brown II History Center and renovations to the historic Ferguson Mansion will provide us with the facilities we need to continue our success and growth for another generation. With the expected completion of our expansion by early 2016, this is an ideal time for me to focus on history and for a new leader to build on the extraordinary progress we have made as a board and staff.”

The Filson’s Board of Directors will conduct a national search for an Executive Director. The board anticipates the search will take nine to twelve months. Dr. Wetherington will remain as Director until his successor comes on board and then expects to stay engaged with The Filson as a senior research fellow.

Looking back on his 22 years as Director, Dr. Wetherington reflected on the changes The Filson has seen:

“We have built an excellent professional staff. Our collections and programs have expanded dramatically. We have emphasized excellent scholarship and a regional approach to history and culture. We have developed a strong Filson Fellows program, regional publications such as *Ohio Valley History* and conferences that explore key historical issues, and have built a national reputation for The Filson as the “go-to” place for the study of Kentucky and Ohio

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Valley history and culture. Capping this off, we are expanding our campus and ensuring that The Filson will remain strong for another 130 years. I am pleased with our progress, and thank our membership, board, and entire staff for their outstanding support that has made these accomplishments possible.”

The Filson President, J. McCauley Brown, said of Dr. Wetherington: “During Mark’s tenure as Director, The Filson has had enormous success. Our campus expansion project is a direct result of the growth The Filson has enjoyed over the past 20 years. On behalf of our entire board, we thank him and congratulate him for being so instrumental in The Filson’s progress.”

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***About The Filson***

*Since its founding in 1884, The Filson Historical Society has pursued a single mission—to collect, preserve and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture. Headquartered in the Ferguson Mansion at 1310 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Louisville, Kentucky, The Filson houses a rare book library, extensive archives of important documents and a small museum. Offering over 100 lectures, programs and events each year, The Filson is a regional center for historical and cultural education. The Filson is entirely privately supported.*