

The Filson Historical Society

February 2013 Programs

1310 South Third Street

Louisville, Kentucky

40208

HENRY D. ORMSBY SERIES 2013

Members Only

Seeing the Help: Perspectives on the History and Culture of Domestic Service in the United States

Emily Bingham

The Library at Oxmoor Farm

Tuesdays • February 5 and 19

Wine 5:45 p.m. • Lecture 6:00 p.m.

\$100 • Free for Boone and above



Drawing from a popular Centre College course and significant recent scholarship on domestic workers and employers across three centuries, this year's Ormsby lectures highlight a sensitive and dynamic relationship in America's social history. Emily Bingham attributes the success of Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* (2009) and its subsequent film adaptation as well as the BBC's *Downton Abbey* to a fascination with power relationships between workers and employers in domestic settings. Domestic service's close involvement with exploitative class and racial systems produced generations of memories, some painful, many rich. The great number of Americans who have either performed or benefited from such labor and its ongoing place in society make it ripe for discussion.

Participants are asked to watch *The Help* (2011, dir. Tate Taylor) in advance. It will serve as a reference point throughout the series.

Emily Bingham is an independent historian whose book, *Mordecai: An Early American Family* tells the story of three generations from the Revolution to the Civil War. She received her B.A. from Harvard and her Ph.D. from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She writes and teaches in Louisville.

Limited Capacity; Reservations are required. Call Judy Miller at 635-9289 or e-mail miller@filsonhistorical.org

Blues Night

10th Street Blues Band

The Filson Historical Society

Friday, February 15

Doors Open 7:00 p.m., Music at 7:30 p.m.

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

Join the 10th Street Blues Band for an evening of blues hits from the 1950s and '60s alive.

Blues music is a key part of Louisville's histo-



ry, with its roots dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. Several legendary blues artists called the River City home, including Sylvest Weaver, who recorded the first blues guitar record in 1923. Other local blues legends include Bill Gaither, Sarah Martin, Helen Humes and Edmonia Henderson.

The 10th Street Blues Band has been featured at The Kentucky Folk Life Festival in Frankfort and in blues clubs and festivals statewide. Sonny Sitgraves (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 an overview of 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.

Wine, beer and light refreshments will be served. Doors will open at 7 p.m., with music beginning at 7:30 p.m. The cost for this event is \$20 for Filson members and \$25 for non-members.

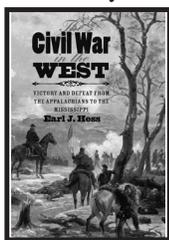
Reservations are required.

The Civil War in the West: Victory and Defeat from the Appalachians to the Mississippi

Earl J. Hess

The Filson Historical Society

Thursday, February 21 • 6:00 p.m.



The Western theater of the Civil War, rich in agricultural resources and manpower and home to a large number of slaves, stretched 600 miles north to south and 450 miles east to west from the Appalachians to the Mississippi. If the South lost the West, there would be little hope of preserving the Confederacy. Earl J. Hess's comprehensive study of how Federal forces conquered and held the West examines the geographical difficulties of conducting campaigns in a vast land, as well as the toll irregular warfare took on soldiers and civilians alike. Hess balances a thorough knowledge of the battle lines with a deep understanding of what was happening within the occupied territories.

In addition to a mastery of logistics, Union victory hinged on making use of black manpower

and developing policies for controlling constant unrest while winning campaigns. Effective use of technology, superior resource management, and an aggressive confidence went hand in hand with Federal success on the battlefield. In the end, Confederates did not have the manpower, supplies, transportation potential, or leadership to counter Union initiatives in this critical arena.

Earl J. Hess is Stewart W. McClelland Chair in history at Lincoln Memorial University and has written many books on Civil War history, including *In the Trenches at Petersburg: Field Fortifications and Confederate Defeat*.

Reservations are required.

The Age of Edison: Electric Light and the Invention of Modern America

Ernest Freeberg

The Filson Historical Society

Wednesday, February 27 • 6:00 p.m.



The late nineteenth century was a period of explosive technological creativity, but arguably the most important invention of all was Thomas Edison's incandescent lightbulb. Unveiled in his Menlo Park, New Jersey, laboratory in 1879, the lightbulb overwhelmed the American public with the sense of the birth of a new age. More than any other invention, the electric light marked the arrival of modernity.

In *THE AGE OF EDISON: Electric Light and the Invention of Modern America*, Ernest Freeberg explains how the lightbulb became a catalyst for the nation's transformation from a rural to an urban-dominated culture. City streetlights defined zones between rich and poor, and the electrical grid sharpened the line between town and country. "Bright lights" meant "big city." Like moths to a flame, millions of Americans migrated to urban centers in these decades, leaving behind the shadow of candle and kerosene lamp in favor of the exciting brilliance of the urban streetscape.

Ernest Freeberg is a Distinguished Professor of Humanities at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is the author of *Democracy's Prisoner: Eugene V. Debs, The Great War, and the Right to Dissent*, and *The Education of Laura Bridgman*. Freeberg is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians, has served on the editorial board of the *History of Education Quarterly*, and has produced a number of public radio documentaries on historical themes.

A special thank goes to Carmichael's Bookstore and the Edison House Museum.

Reservations are required.

Call The Filson at (502) 635-5083 - reservations are requested to assure seating for all programs.

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

February 2013 Programs

February 5

Ormsby Series - "Seeing the Help"

Emily Bingham
The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Wine at 5:45 p.m.
Lecture at 6:00 p.m.

February 15

Blues Night

10th Street Blues Band
The Filson Historical Society
Doors open 7:00 p.m., Music 7:30 p.m.
\$20 members, \$25 non-members

February 19

Ormsby Series - "Seeing the Help"

Emily Bingham
The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Wine at 5:45 p.m.
Lecture at 6:00 p.m.

February 21

The Civil War in the West: Victory and Defeat from the Appalachians to the Mississippi

Earl J. Hess
The Filson Historical Society
6:00 p.m.

February 27

The Age of Edison: Electric Light and the Invention of Modern America

Ernest Freeberg
The Filson Historical Society
6:00 p.m.

The Filson Historical Society will be closed on Monday February 18, 2013 in honor of Presidents Day. We will re-open at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2013.

Save the Date!

It's all about the Bourbon

The Filson Bourbon Academy

Saturday, March 2, 2012

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • \$100

Come enhance your appreciation of bourbon and increase your knowledge of Kentucky whiskey products at The Filson Bourbon Academy. This educational seminar is supported by the Kentucky Distillers Association and the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

This eight-hour course will take place on Saturday, March 2 at The Filson Historical Society. The class will be led by The Filson's bourbon historian, Mike Veach, a member of the Bourbon Hall of Fame and author of the forthcoming book *Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey: An American Heritage*.

The Academy is limited to 25 students, with a cost of \$100 for the day-long session. Please call The Filson to make your reservation at (502) 635-5083 or visit us online at www.filsonhistorical.org.

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

Our Mission:

Reservations are important to ensure seating. Now enjoy the convenience of our new online registration system - www.filsonhistorical.org

Programs

The Filson Historical Society
1310 S. Third St. • Louisville, KY 40208
www.filsonhistorical.org
502-635-5083

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