

The Filson Historical Society

January 2012 Programs

1310 South Third Street

Louisville, Kentucky

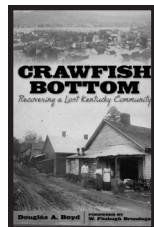
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Crawfish Bottom: Recovering a Lost Kentucky Community

Douglas A. Boyd

The Filson Historical Society

Wednesday, January 18 - Noon



The fifty acres of swampy land in North Frankfort, Kentucky, has had many names: “the lower part of the city,” “the Craw” or just “Craw,” “the Bottom” or just “Bottom.” Underneath the neighborhood’s reputation as “a rough class of people, who didn’t mind killing or being killed,” however, it had a vigor marked by a sense of belonging, friendships that defied racial segregation, and a cohesion that acted against the daily struggle of poverty.

In *Crawfish Bottom: Recovering a Lost Kentucky Community*, Douglas A. Boyd weaves together history, folklore, and geography to offer a compelling and sensitive meditation on a forgotten neighborhood and what it meant to those who knew it best.

Douglas A. Boyd, is the director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky. Mr. Boyd coedited *Community Memories: A Glimpse of African American Life in Frankfort, Kentucky*.

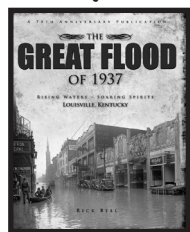
Reservations are suggested.

The Great Flood of 1937 and the History of Louisville’s Waterfront

Rick Bell

The Filson Historical Society

Tuesday, January 24 - 6:00 p.m.



On the 75th anniversary of “Black Sunday,” Rick Bell will recall the Great Flood of 1937 and discuss the city of Louisville’s challenging relationship with the Ohio River throughout history.

In a richly-illustrated presentation, Bell will explore the evolution of Louisville’s active wharf area from the city’s founding through the creation of its award-winning Waterfront Park. Rare photographs will highlight Louisville’s response to the Great Flood, America’s “greatest natural disaster in the twentieth century.”

The Great Flood of 1937 and Louisville’s Waterfront Park: A Riverfront Renaissance, both featured in this presentation, will be available for purchase prior to and following the event.

Rick Bell is a historian, specializing in the steamboating industry and culture along both

banks of the Ohio River during the peak of the steamboat era. He is the executive director of U.S. Marine Hospital Foundation in Louisville and leads walking tours of the Louisville waterfront.

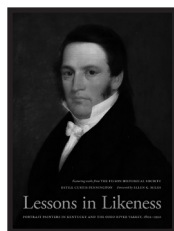
Reservations are suggested.

Lessons in Likeness: Early Kentucky Portrait Artists in the Collection of the Speed Museum and The Filson Historical Society

Estill Curtis Pennington

The Speed Art Museum

Thursday, January 26 - 6:00 p.m.



Not only was the culture of early Kentucky blessed with highly skilled cabinet makers, but also with a group of talented, well educated portrait artists. Matthew Harris Jouett, William Edward West, John Grimes and Oliver Frazer are amongst those artists whose stylistic ambitions belie their frontier origins. From their inception, the collections of the Speed and the Filson have been rich in holdings of works by these and other painters of the era. In this lecture Pennington explores the climate of taste which shaped Kentucky portraiture art and celebrates the connoisseur value of both collections.

This event is co-sponsored by The Filson Historical Society and The Speed Art Museum

Estill Curtis Pennington has served in curatorial capacities for such institutions as the Archives of American Art, the National Portrait Gallery, and the Morris Museum of Art. *Lessons in Likeness: the Portrait Painter in Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley, 1800-1920*, was the winner of a 2011 Kentucky Historical Society publication award and sponsored by The Filson Historical Society.

Reservations are suggested.

Exhibit Tour

“United We Stand - Divided We Fall”

Jim Holmberg and Mark Wetherington, Curators

The Filson Historical Society

Monday, January 30 - 10:30 a.m.



The Filson has one of the finest Civil War manuscript collections in the state, featured along with artifacts in the

new exhibit “United We Stand – Divided We Fall.” The exhibit, which commemorates the sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Civil War, will focus on the war in Kentucky and the Ohio Valley region. The exhibit takes a thematic, rather than chronological, approach to the war, starting in the 1850s and focusing on the growing division between the North and South

Please join us for a guided exhibit tour at noon. This exhibit is located in the carriage house behind the Ferguson mansion.

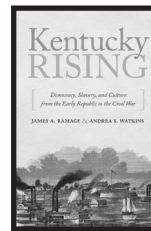
Limited Capacity; Reservations are required.

Kentucky Rising: Democracy, Slavery, and Culture from the Early Republic to the Civil War

James A. Ramage

The Filson Historical Society

Monday, January 30 - Noon



In 2010, Kentucky ranked 44th in a national health survey, only 76.4% of Kentuckians graduate from high school, and almost a quarter of children under the age of eighteen live in poverty. This grim snapshot of the state, however, has not always been its prevailing image. The Commonwealth’s first settlers brought with them a dedication to democracy and a sense of limitless hope for the future, and very shortly after Kentucky declared its statehood in 1792, it was a well-respected innovator and leader to the rest of the nation.

In *Kentucky Rising: Democracy, Slavery, and Culture from the Early Republic to the Civil War*, historians James A. Ramage and Andrea S. Watkins offer a new synthesis of Kentucky history in the sixty years leading up to the Civil War. Drawing on both primary and secondary sources, they explore the crucial but often overlooked period from 1800 to 1865, a time when the Commonwealth ascended to become a leader in politics, science, and education, with the eyes of the nation upon it as a model of patriotism and military spirit, yet still grappling with the thorny issues such as slavery.

James A. Ramage is the Regents Professor of History at Northern Kentucky University. He is the author of *John Wesley Hunt: Pioneer Merchant, Manufacturer, and Financier and Rebel Raider: The Life of General John Hunt Morgan*.

Reservations are suggested.

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

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

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Noon • The Filson Historical Society

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Douglas A. Boyd

Friday, January 20

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Kentucky Rising: Democracy, Slavery, and Culture from the Early Republic to the Civil War

James A. Rammage

Save the Date!

**Black History Month events at
The Filson Historical Society**

Tuesday, February 7 - 6:00 p.m.

Remembering Walnut Street

Kenneth Clay and Mervin Aubespain

Thursday, February 16 - Noon

From Slavery to Freedom: Celebrating Emancipation in Louisville

Pen Bogert

Tuesday, February 21 - 6:00 p.m.

Crescent Hill: Its History and Resurgence

Sam and Debbie Thomas

Friday, February 24 - 7:00 p.m.

Blues Night

10th Street Blues Band

The *Filson Historical Society* will be closed on Monday, January 16 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We will re-open at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17.

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

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

Programs

502-635-5083

www.filsonhistorical.org

1310 S. Third St. • Louisville, KY 40208

The Filson Historical Society

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