

The Filson Historical Society

July/August 2012 Programs

1310 South Third Street

Louisville, Kentucky

40208

July Programming at The Filson

FILSON FRIDAY

Melville Otter Briney and Old Louisville

Jennie Cole

The Filson Historical Society

Friday, July 6 • Noon



Before she became a celebrated *Louisville Times* columnist, educating and entertaining readers on the city's history with her weekly editorial page entitled "Old Louisville," Melville Otter was a young girl growing up in the neighborhood we now refer to as "Old Louisville." Melville and her parents, John D. Otter and Melvilla Carter Otter, lived on St. James Court, the neighborhood of choice for city's literary and political elite. Melville's memory books, dating from 1912 through 1916, document her teenage years as the only child of a prominent, well-to-do family in the early twentieth century. Using the multiple manuscript and photograph collections on Melville Otter Briney and her family, Jennie will delve into Melville's accounts of life on St. James Court in the 1910s, as well as discuss her family background, her education and her career as a journalist and author.

Jennie Cole is an associate curator of Special Collections at The Filson. Her research interests include women's history, the Speed family, and using social media to promote archival research. **Reservations are suggested.**

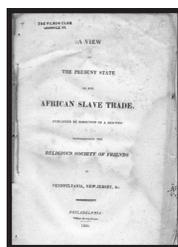
FILSON FRIDAY

Rare Pamphlets: An Underutilized Asset in The Filson's Collections

Judith Partington, Kara Hennis, and Cassie Bratcher

The Filson Historical Society

Friday, July 13 • Noon



The Filson Historical Society has a large collection of rare pamphlets, an asset that tends to be underutilized by our researchers and members. Join Judith Partington, Cassie Bratcher, and Kara Hennis for the opportunity to examine these important collections. Judith will start the lecture with a look at African American history in the rare pamphlets and cover many topics, such as the biographical pamphlet *From Slavery to Affluence: Memoirs of Robert Anderson, Ex-Slave*. From there, the discussion moves to the history of the Southern Exposition, including list of the artwork displayed and how it led to the creation of the Satellites of Mercury festival. Finally, Kara will cover early medicine in Kentucky and the Ohio Valley, discussing rare pamphlets we have on the University of Louisville Medical Department, the Louisville Medical Institute, the teaching of medicine, and Cholera.

Judith Partington is the head librarian at The

Filson. Cassie Bratcher is our technical services librarian and has been with The Filson since 1984. Kara Hennis is The Filson's reference specialist.

Reservations are suggested.

FILSON FRIDAY

The Process of History: Cataloging the Bullitt Family Papers

Shirley Harmon

The Filson Historical Society

Friday, July 20 • Noon



When you arrive at the Filson to do research in our special collections department, the materials are presented to you in labeled folders and boxes. Have you ever wondered what the process of cataloging a collection is like? Join us as Shirley Harmon discusses the process of cataloging the Bullitt Family Papers. The Bullitt papers are the largest that are housed at the Filson measuring over 170 cubic feet. The Bullitts have been a prominent family throughout Kentucky's history and their papers span from the late 18th century to the late 20th century. Shirley will take you through the process of cataloging the papers and discuss the history of the Bullitt family, as well as their estate, Oxmoor Farm, and highlight some of the historical gems found in the collection.

Shirley Harmon is a native Louisvillian. She has been with The Filson since 1999 as an associate curator and a special collections assistant, where she cataloged the Bullitt Family papers.

Reservations are suggested.

FILSON FRIDAY

Lucy Nichols and the Limits of Freedom in the Post-Civil War Ohio Valley

Glenn Crothers

The Filson Historical Society

Friday, July 27 • Noon



Lucy Nichols ran from her master in Bolivar, Tennessee, to Union Army lines and freedom in August 1862. She became laundress, cook, and nurse for the Indiana 23rd Volunteer Regiment, and served with them through the duration of the war, seeing action at Vicksburg, in the Atlanta campaign, and Sherman's March to the Sea. After the war, Nichols returned to Indiana with the regiment and settled in New Albany, Indiana. She remained close to the men of the Indiana 23rd, who honored her wartime service with membership in the New Albany post of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and helped her obtain an army pension in 1898. Yet despite her celebrity, Nichols, or "Aunt Lucy" as the veterans of the 23rd called her, never enjoyed a full measure of equality in post-war Indiana. Her status and opportunities were circumscribed by her race and gender.

Glenn Crothers is the Director of Research at The Filson Historical Society and an associate professor of history at the University of Louisville.

Reservations are suggested.

August Programming at The Filson

FILSON FRIDAY

The Language of Buildings: An Introduction to The Filson's Architectural Collection

Sarah-Jane Poindexter

The Filson Historical Society

Friday, August 3 • Noon



Everyone has heard the old saying, 'if these walls could talk, what stories they would tell.' Join Associate Curator of Special Collections Sarah-Jane Poindexter to explore The Filson's historical architectural collections and delve into the fascinating stories these materials convey. With their distinct language, the paper trails of buildings give us another perspective on history and lend a unique voice to our historical record. Poindexter will discuss what we can learn from these unique collections, highlighting particular drawings of note and addressing the challenges of archiving and preserving architectural records. The non-narrative format of architectural records retains many clues to the myriad people, events, and cultural influences that have inspired our constructed environment. Come learn about former buildings that once graced downtown Louisville, even a proposed grand public theater that never came to fruition, the city's chic residential designers of the 19th & 20th centuries, and pioneering African American and female architects.

Sarah-Jane Poindexter is an associate curator of Special Collections at The Filson. She serves as the chair on the Kentucky Council on Archives.

Reservations are suggested.

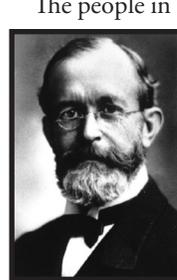
FILSON FRIDAY

Distillers and the 18th Amendment

Michael Veach

The Filson Historical Society

Friday, August 10 • Noon



The people in the distilling industry had many arguments as to why prohibition was a bad idea. The problem was that they did not do a good job getting their message to the public. This talk will focus on the arguments against prohibition made by the distillers and then their arguments for the repeal of prohibition. There were many valid arguments as to why prohibition does not work. Legally, the enforcement of prohibition laws is impossible without an army of enforcement officers. Economically, the cost of the enforcement and the loss of tax revenue are too much to endure. E. H. Taylor, Jr., George Garvin Brown, J.M. Atherton and others used these arguments and others as they fought to protect their livelihood and Kentucky's signature industry.

Michael Veach is an associate curator of Special Collections and has been inducted into the Bourbon Hall of Fame. He has authored a book on bourbon, forthcoming in Spring 2013.

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.

July/August at The Filson: **Filson Friday Talks**

July 6

Melville Otter Briney and Old Louisville

Jennie Cole, Associate Curator of Special Collections

July 13

Rare Pamphlets: An Underutilized Asset in The Filson's Collections

Judith Partington, Kara Hennis, and Cassie Bratcher, Library Staff

July 20

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Shirley Harmon, Special Collections Assistant

July 27

Lucy Nichols and the Limits of Freedom in the Post-Civil War Ohio Valley

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August 3

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August 10

Distillers and the 18th Amendment

Michael Veach, Associate Curator of Special Collections

Save the Date!

Nineteenth Annual

House Tour

Sunday, September 30, 2012 • 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. • \$125 per person
More details to follow

The **Filson Historical Society** will be closed on Wednesday, July 4 in honor of Independence Day. We will re-open at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 5.

Nervous Melvin and the Mistakes
Friday, September 14 • 6:00 p.m. • Oxmoor Farm

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

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

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