

# *The Filson*

*A Publication of The Filson Historical Society, Kentucky's Oldest and Largest Independent Historical Society*



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

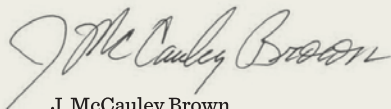
The Filson was started as a small history club by Col. Reuben Durrett and nine other prominent Louisvillians who had great interest in collecting and preserving Kentucky history. At that time, The Filson's monthly meetings were held in the library of Col. Durrett's residence and were considered to be some of the most delightful and intellectual events of the year. The Durrett library grew to be one of the richest sources of early Kentucky history and was visited by Theodore Roosevelt.

For almost thirty years, Durrett served as The Filson's president. The Filson's collections were held in Durrett's home along with his personal library. In the early 1910s Durrett suffered a series of strokes and, as his health declined, he became concerned about the fate of his collection. In 1912, he sold his collection to the University of Chicago. Unfortunately, most of The Filson's holdings, which were not part of the purchase, went to Chicago as well, forcing The Filson to start again.

After becoming president of The Filson in 1923, R. C. Ballard Thruston and others worked diligently to assure the future of The Filson and its collections. During his presidency, The Filson moved into its own building on Breckinridge Street and published a scholarly journal, *The Filson Club History Quarterly* (presently *Ohio Valley History*). When Thruston died in 1946, he had transformed The Filson into a strong historical society that no longer relied on one man to survive.

In 1986, The Filson moved its headquarters to The Ferguson Mansion on Third Street. Over the years, The Filson has grown in many ways and experienced a number of transformations, evolving into a professionally staffed regional historical society that holds some 100 educational programs a year. With its reputation as a center of scholarship and learning with a Kentucky and Ohio Valley focus, The Filson continues to stress the importance of relevant history as we consider the issues of today.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board and the staff for the tremendous work they are doing in creating increased opportunities for membership engagement. Further, I want to thank all our members for their continuing support which allows The Filson to fulfill its mission.



J. McCauley Brown  
President

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

During the coming year, you will begin to see many changes to our facilities and campus in Old Louisville. These changes reflect six years of planning and hard work that have already gone into our exciting \$11.7 million Campus Expansion Project. As members, you may have seen plans and updates in previous issues of *The Filson* and here at our headquarters.


First, join us at The Filson on May 8 at 4:00 pm for our groundbreaking! Our new educational and archive facility at 4th and Ormsby has been designed by Louisville's award winning architects De Leon and Primmer Architecture Workshop. Also in May, preliminary work will begin onsite and our construction managers Wehr/Realm will install construction fencing and our project trailer.

This fall, the entire museum collection will be removed from the Carriage House. Renovation of its interior will create an impressive new campus entrance, linking all buildings on the campus and featuring expanded gallery space. In the meantime, construction will continue on our new 20,000 square foot building at 4th and Ormsby.

In approximately fifteen months, weather permitting (and let's hope for a mild winter), work will begin on the interior and exterior of the Ferguson Mansion. A pedestrian way from our new building through the roofline of the carriage house and into the Ferguson Mansion's west side (the major exterior change to the Ferguson) will be your first clue that work is entering its final stage. The Ferguson Mansion and the Carriage House, also joined by an attractive atrium and small garden, will continue to fulfill central roles in our research and interpretative programs.

Our Campus Expansion Project is the largest new construction to take place in Old Louisville in a generation. During construction, look for more lectures and events to take place at Oxmoor, especially during 2015 as work on the the Ferguson Mansion, Carriage House, and new archival and educational facility proceed. We expect the newly expanded campus to open approximately eighteen months after groundbreaking.

More information on how you can help us complete our campaign goal (we have \$2.4 million to go) will be forthcoming in the very near future. We are witnessing an exciting and transformative period in The Filson's 130 year history. Thank you for your interest and support, and for making our continued growth possible.



Mark V. Wetherington, Ph.D.  
Director

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## The Filson

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## OUR MISSION:

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

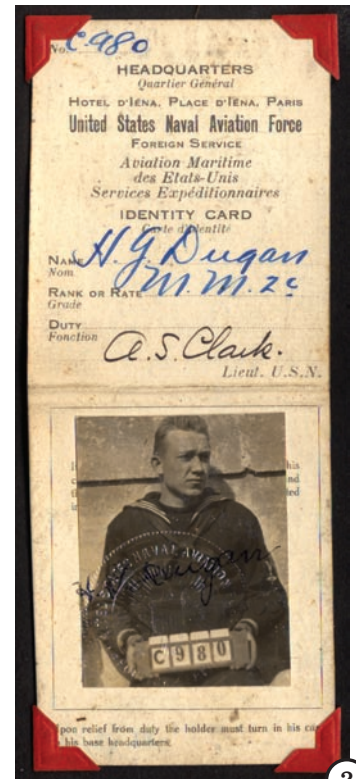


# Recent Acquisitions

From letters written by Rhode Islander Ezra Greene while serving on the Union gunboat *Louisville* on western waters (part of the “Brown Water” Navy during the Civil War) to Jeffersonville, Indiana, resident Harry Graham Dugan, who took his Ohio River boating skills to the U. S. Navy and the Atlantic Ocean, serving on a submarine chaser, a variety of wonderful material has been added to The Filson’s collection in recent months. Portraits, photographs, prints, manuscripts, books, and artifacts have all been added to the collection. The items shown here are just a small sampling.



1



2



3

1. Harry Graham Dugan (with the “x” on his chest) as a member of the 1910 Jeffersonville High School “second team” football team.
2. Harry Graham Dugan’s U. S. Navy identification card issued during his service in World War I.
3. Dugan served aboard the *USSC 100* – U. S. Submarine Chaser 100 – in 1918 and 1919, providing escort protection and chasing German U-boats.

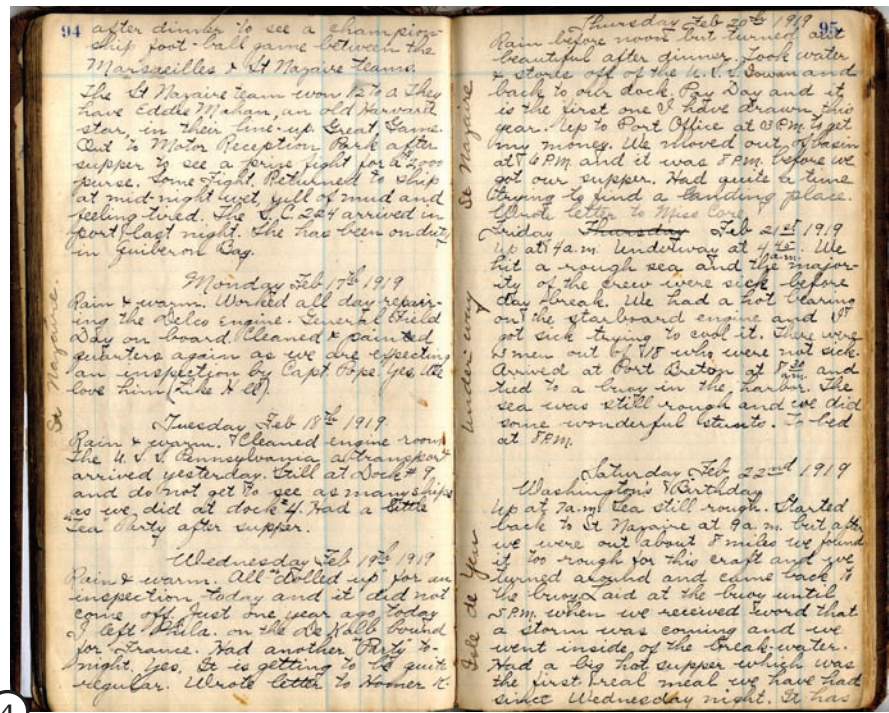
*Recent Acquisitions continued on page 2.*



4. February 1919 entries from Harry Graham Dugan's "war" diary chronicling his service and experiences in the U. S. Navy and aboard *USSC 100*. Dugan returned home to Jeffersonville, graduated from Purdue University with a degree in mechanical engineering, and worked for railroads in North and South America. The Dugan photo albums, diary, and other items were donated by Margaret W. White and her brother Dr. William Winter, niece and nephew of Uncle Graham Dugan.

5. Letters written by Ezra Greene while serving in the "Brown Water" Navy. Greene apparently tired of the infantry early in the war and transferred from the Second Rhode Island Infantry to service on ironclads and gunboats on western rivers. He served on the *Cincinnati* and the *Louisville*, from where he wrote several of the eight letters acquired.

6. Daguerreotypes of Isaac Newton Long and his wife Margaret Walter Long. The couple married on November 19, 1863, and although daguerreotypes were fast fading as the preferred form of photography, it is possible that these were taken at or about that time. Gift of Margaret Talbert.



4



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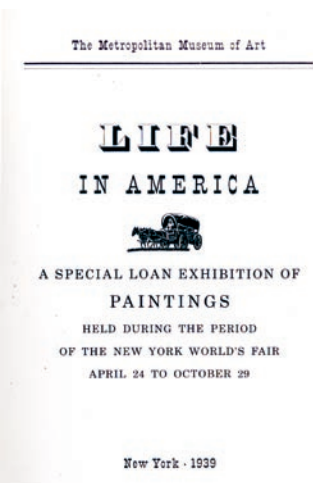
# View of Louisville, Kentucky, Ca. 1856

BY JAMES J. HOLMBERG | CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



While The Filson’s paper-based collections are usually showcased in our “Browsing” feature, occasional forays into our museum collection are interesting and worthwhile. Wonderfully important items sometimes come to us from out of the proverbial “blue.” When such items combine historical importance with beauty we are all the more fortunate.

Such was the case in January of 2013 when John Prewitt Wehle, a native of Louisville and member of an old Louisville family, long a resident of New England, called The Filson with the offer of donating in the name of the Fred Wehle Family a mid-19th century painting of the Louisville waterfront from the Indiana shore. The painting’s origins are shrouded in mystery. Sometime in the 1930s, probably about 1938 or 1939, Harry Wehle, John Prewitt Wehle’s uncle, acquired the painting. Where and from whom he acquired it is unknown. There is a family tradition that Harry possibly acquired it somewhere in Ohio. As a Louisville native, Harry might simply have liked the historical scene of his hometown. He also might have had another purpose in mind when he acquired it. In 1939 Harry was a curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and was a curator for the exhibit “Life in America.” This exhibit was mounted by the museum in 1939 in conjunction with the New York World’s Fair.\* This lovely scene of the Louisville waterfront at sunrise, with the steamboat *Louisville* approaching the Falls of the Ohio, represented Louisville and Kentucky in the exhibit.



*Wonderfully important items sometimes come to us from out of the proverbial “blue.”*

For the accompanying exhibit catalog, Harry asked his brother Fred Wehle, still living in Louisville, to research the painting for him. Fred (John Prewitt’s father) did so, using sources available to him, and reported his findings to his brother for inclusion in the catalog. There, as item 224 on pages 169 -171, the painting and its description appeared. The artist was unknown and the painting was attributed to the “American School.” Its size (23” high by 30” wide) allowed for sufficient detail that some buildings were

tentatively identified and it was dated circa 1840. Fred Wehle was listed as the painting's owner, Harry having given it to him for his help in researching it. After the exhibit the painting made its way to Louisville where it was enjoyed by the Wehle family for over seventy years. John Prewitt Wehle eventually inherited the painting but it remained in Louisville with relatives.

In January 2013 when Mr. Wehle called, he stated that the painting belonged in Louisville and that it deserved to be seen and enjoyed by people. To achieve both that and its assured preservation, he wanted to donate it to The Filson. We were of course very pleased to add such a fine and historical work to our collection. The painting was in need of conservation and Mr. Wehle donated the funds to accomplish that work, wanting the *View of Louisville, Kentucky* to be in its best possible condition. Sadly, just a few months later in April, before the conservation was completed, Mr. Wehle passed away. In June of 2013, when the Wehle family held a memorial service at Cave Hill Cemetery for the interment of John Prewitt's ashes in the family lot, his wife Mary, daughters, grandsons, and other family members visited The Filson and viewed the beautifully conserved painting.

Even before the conservation work commenced, research was conducted in hope of identifying the artist and the year it was painted. It was a team effort, with curators, conservators, and art historians joining the endeavor. Knowledge of Louisville and artists during that period and access to sources that weren't available to Fred and Harry Wehle in 1939 combined to lead to different conclusions about the painting. Given the perspective of the painting and the view being down Fourth Street, the tall steeple to the right of center is believed to be Walnut Street Baptist Church. In 1849 it was announced that a new church was being built on the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut (now Muhammad Ali Blvd.). It was begun in March 1850 and the first service was held in it in January 1854. In the January 21, 1854, issue of the *Daily Courier* it was noted that the tower with its spire was to rise 220 feet and was scheduled for completion by the spring of 1855. The tall spire rising above the skyline in the painting very favorably compares to photos of the church (torn down in the early 1900s). To the left can be seen what research indicates accurately depicts the First Christian Church, which was located on the northeast corner of Fourth and Walnut. To the left of it can be seen the square tower of what likely represents the Second Presbyterian Church on the east side of Third Street north of Walnut. To the right of Walnut Street Baptist Church between what would be Fifth and Sixth Streets is believed to be the Jefferson County Courthouse on the north side of Jefferson Street. The perspective is understandably a bit skewed given both the challenges of accomplishing a work of this nature and perhaps some artistic license. Was there really a *Louisville* sidewheel steamboat plying the Ohio, or was that done for artistic effect? That Bible of river boat listings, *Way's Packet Directory*, reveals that there were several steamboats named *Louisville* but only one that was a sidewheeler. It was built in Louisville in 1844 and had disappeared



*Before Conservation*



*After Conservation*

from the lists by 1857 (a long life for a steamboat of that era); so it is quite possible it passed in front of the artist as he worked on the painting.

The big mystery regarding the painting is, of course, who painted it? No attribution was made in 1939. And despite a number of knowledgeable people studying it today, no solid attribution can still be made. But, there are educated, well informed opinions. A number of painters called the Ohio River Valley home in the mid-19th century. Many others simply passed through, itinerates traveling the region in search of commissions. Louisville and Cincinnati were home to well known and successful artists, some of whom are quite famous today. But perhaps no artist's style and body of work matched the painting as well as that of the famous 19th century African American artist Robert S. Duncanson (1821-1872). Duncanson was a native of New York, moved to Monroe, Michigan, as a youth, and worked as a sign painter and glazier. He studied art on his own and was self taught. Eager to pursue a career as an artist he settled in Cincinnati by the early 1840s. There he became active in a group of talented artists. Duncanson specialized in landscapes and was the





first African American artist to win national and international fame. Like so many artists of the day, he traveled in search of commissions and also went abroad to Europe. He was influenced by the Hudson River school of style and was then and still is today considered by many to be the preeminent 19th century landscape painter.

Did Duncanson journey down the Ohio from Cincinnati to Louisville to paint this early morning scene of the thriving city? As already noted, artists often traveled in pursuit of their art and commissions. A steambot trip between the Queen City and the River City was routine for many people and it can easily be assumed that Duncanson made such trips – at least once. A comparison of *View of Louisville, Kentucky* to known Duncanson works compares favorably with them. The billowing clouds, multi-hued sky, figures in the foreground, treatment of trees, and attention to detail are all characteristics of Duncanson paintings. His *View of Cincinnati, Ohio from Covington, Kentucky* painted in 1851 shares a number of similarities to *View of Louisville, Kentucky*. Does that mean it can be attributed to Duncanson? Not at this time. An acknowledged Duncanson authority viewed photos of the painting but did not think

it was painted by the artist. But other experienced art historians and curators familiar with Duncanson and other artists of the period think it is a distinct possibility. So for the time being, and perhaps permanently, the talented painter of this beautiful and historical scene of Louisville as it appeared circa 1856 remains unidentified. But whether identified or not, *View of Louisville, Kentucky* is a significant addition to The Filson's collection and an important historical work depicting the city.

*\*The ambitious exhibit included 290 works, including the portrait of George Rogers Clark attributed to Matthew Jouett loaned by The Filson.*

*p.3 - Top  
Half cleaned*

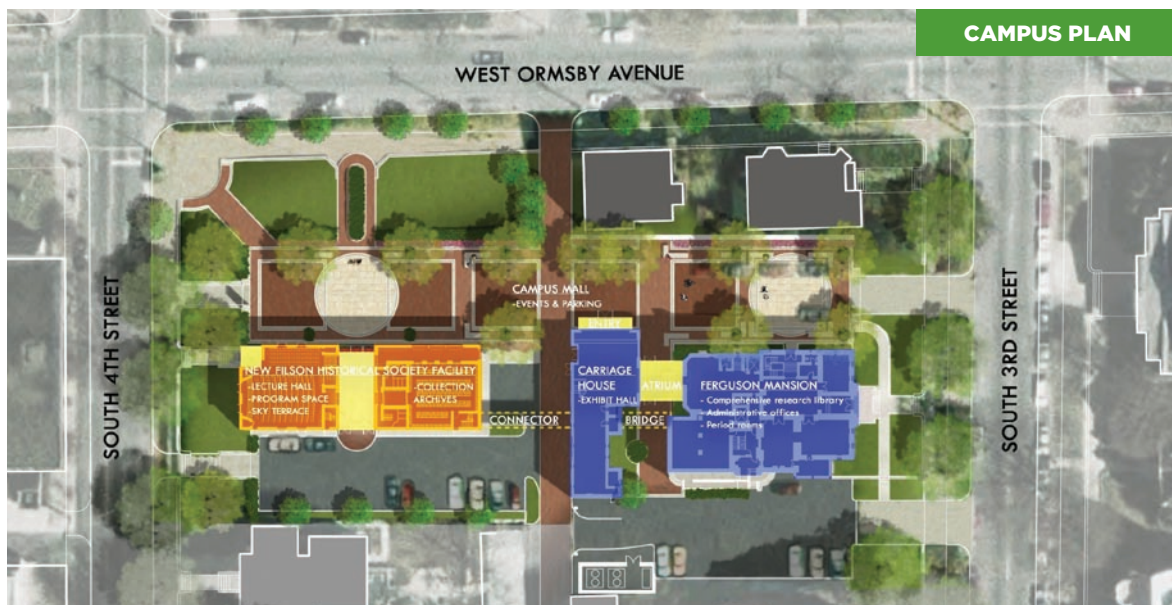
*p.3 - Bottom Left  
Life In America title page  
Life In America picture*

*p.5  
Louisville waterfront,  
ca. 1856.*

# CAMPUS EXPANSION PROJECT AND THE CORNERSTONE CAMPAIGN

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR CAMPUS EXPANSION GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014 AT 4PM

Our Cornerstone Campaign for the Campus Expansion Project has made remarkable strides, and is well ahead of schedule. With pledges for \$9.36 million, 80% of our \$11.75 million goal, we will break ground on the Expansion this spring, with completion in fall 2015. We invite you to attend the Expansion Groundbreaking Ceremony: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 2014.



### THE PROJECT

The Project, designed by the award-winning De Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop includes:

- Construction of a 20,000 square foot building featuring new collection storage facilities, a modern digitization and preservation technology center, museum-quality exhibition space, and a modern, multi-purpose education and event center.
- Renovation of the Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House, adding new exhibition galleries, a modern library, and a technologically advanced research facility.
- Creation of a public, park-like Campus.

### THE PROJECT'S IMPACT

The Expansion will:

- Increase our collection storage capacity by 140%, with modern archival systems.
- Enhance the quality of our acclaimed programming, with a new, modern multi-purpose event center accommodating audiences up to five times larger than our current capacity.
- Make our collections more accessible to far greater numbers through digitization.
- Enhance the quality and size of our exhibits.
- Demonstrate The Filson's commitment to our historic Old Louisville neighborhood.
- Create another major cultural and event destination.



The Campaign owes its success to the vision and leadership of our Campaign donors. All of our current donors—individuals, businesses, and regional and national foundations—are identified on the Cornerstone Campaign Donor Roster opposite. We thank them for their faith in The Filson and the Project, their early support and commitment, and their generosity.

We look forward to moving quickly down the homestretch, raising the remaining 20% balance of our target—about \$2.4 million— and reaching the finish line. If you would like to join those on our Cornerstone Campaign Donor Roster in making our essential and transformative Campus Expansion Project a reality, please contact me by telephone at 502-634-7109 or by e-mail at [pra@filsonhistorical.org](mailto:pra@filsonhistorical.org). More information about the Expansion and our Campaign is available on our website [filsonhistorical.org](http://filsonhistorical.org).

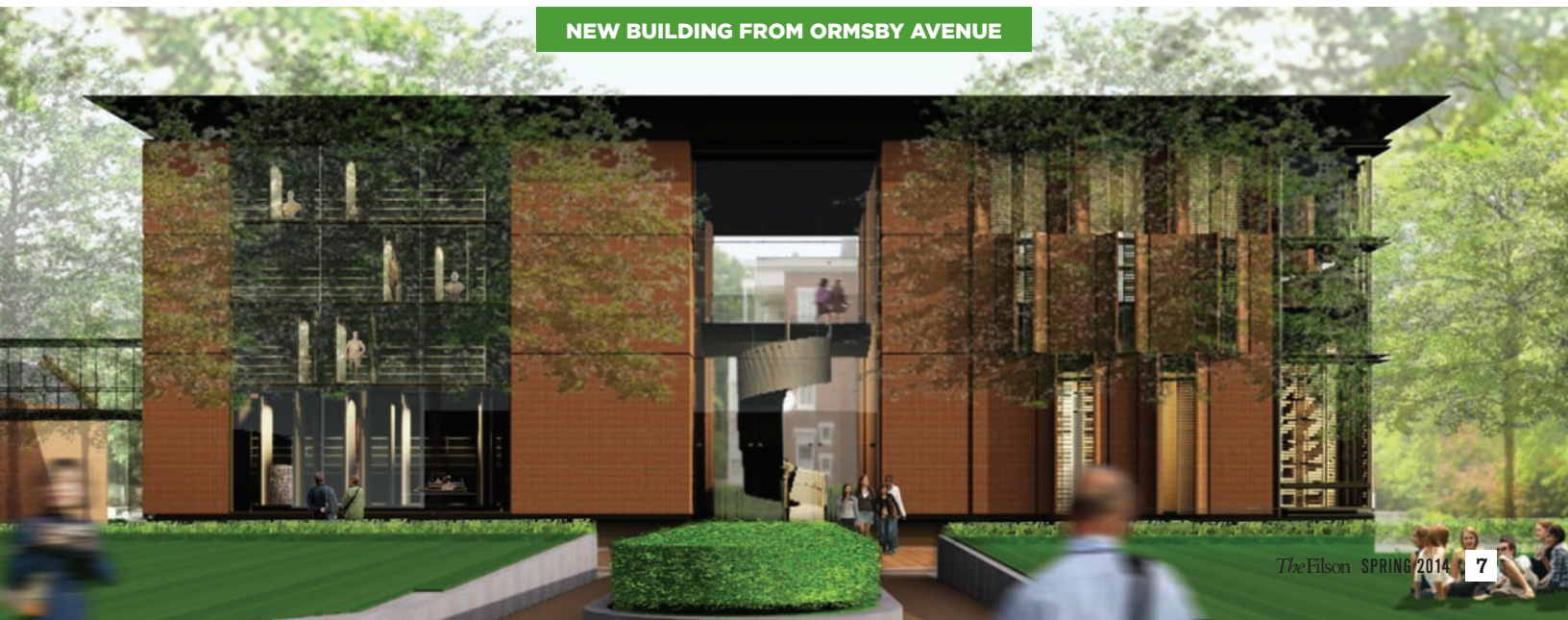
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EXPANSION FROM FOURTH AND ORMSBY



NEW BUILDING FROM ORMSBY AVENUE





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# MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

In late 2013, The Filson Historical Society sent out a survey to our membership to gauge your thoughts on our programming and membership benefits. We were very pleased with the comments that we received, and wanted to share with you some of the things you are saying about The Filson.

*“I appreciate the intellectual integrity The Filson brings to its lectures, publications, events and exhibits. I especially enjoy the tours.”*

*“My husband and I have thoroughly enjoyed the lectures in Jeffersonville and New Albany. Thank you for coming to Indiana.”*

*“I appreciate the friendly, approachable staff. Thank you. You have fabulous programs, though for a variety of reasons I cannot get to all I’d like to.”*

*“I really appreciate the learning opportunities provided by the programming you offer.”*

*“I believe The Filson Historical Society is a treasure for our community and state and wanted to be a member to show my support.”*

*“I loved the tour of the house and portrait collection by the Speed docents. It was very informative.”*

*“I also enjoy your publications, museum exhibits, and your research collections.”*

*“I have only been a member for one month and am using the research area for genealogy. The staff has been extremely helpful and knowledgeable about your holdings.”*

*“The Filson, with its excellent staff, is important to us. It provides an entertaining, informative avenue for us to learn more about our region, country, and world. I would keep changes to a minimum.”*

*“The Filson Historical Society is a ‘treasure’ for the community, state and beyond/nationally. Thank you for making and keeping it so.”*

*“When I am looking for historical information, The Filson is my first resource. The Filson is a priceless gift for our community.”*

What do you know about the history of your family? Why did your ancestors come to America? What were their lives like? Did they fight in any of the country's wars? What are their stories? Many of us probably don't know nearly as much as we would like to about our ancestors. Perhaps you would like to know more, but you're not sure where to start. Fortunately, there are a number of things you can do to find out more about your family. The Filson recently conducted a three-part Beginning Genealogy lecture series, and I am happy to share some of the strategies we talked about in this article. The following are a few of the basic genealogical principles that were discussed, which may aid you as you begin to explore your family's history.

**Work backward in time.** Start with yourself and your family. Write down what you know and gather information from family members. Research one generation at a time, documenting each generation thoroughly before moving back to the next. Never start with someone you think you might be related to (Abraham Lincoln, for instance!) and try to connect that person to your family. Researching a famous person you believe is connected to your family often results in frustration and time wasted working on the wrong family tree.

**Your extended family can be your greatest resource.** Sometimes the most unique documents about our ancestors are still within the family. Old family photographs, letters, diaries & journals, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings—all of these and more could be lurking in the attic or basement of one of your family members. You might even decide that some of these family treasures belong in an archive such as The Filson!

If your family doesn't have many documents, don't worry. Some of your family members may have wonderful stories to share about your ancestors. Interview members of your family about what they remember. Ask open-ended questions and consider recording your interviews, or at least taking good notes.

**Be critical of your sources.** Never accept another person's research without confirming it yourself. During your research, you may come across information on your family that another person has compiled. It would be so easy and convenient to accept such information as correct, but you should always verify another person's research. If they have done a good job, they will have provided sources for where they got their information and it will be relatively easy for you to confirm that their research is sound.

# Seeking the Stories of our Ancestors

By Jana Meyer



*Group picture of the family of Joseph Cabell Breckinridge, Sr. Often, the best way to locate old family photographs is by contacting members of your extended family.*





The cover of an 1872 Louisville city directory. In addition to a list of city residents, directories also contain advertisements for local businesses.

**Organize your research.** You may think that you'll be able to keep your research straight, but you will soon realize that organizational forms can be beneficial. Two of the most widely used organizational systems are the generations chart and the family group sheet. A generations chart (also called a pedigree chart) can help you visualize your family line. Family group sheets, on the other hand, can help you keep much of the pertinent information about a family unit in an easily accessible document. Templates of these forms can be found on the internet.

**Become familiar with the common record types.** An understanding of some of the most frequently used records is essential for successful genealogy research. We reviewed the following resources during our genealogy series. You can gain access to many of these useful records in a research library such as The Filson's.

**Census records.** The United States has conducted a Federal census every 10 years, beginning in 1790. The census provides a snapshot of a family at a particular point in time, and information contained in these records can be a wonderful resource when researching your family history. In the early records, only the head of the household was named; however,

in later census years each member of the family was named and relationships to the head of household were listed. Remember that some states also conducted their own censuses. Unfortunately, Kentucky never conducted a state census, but many others states did—these records can help fill in the gaps between the federal census years.

**Vital Records.** Records of births, marriages, and deaths are frequently used by genealogists. Most states did not begin recording births and deaths until the late 1800s, with registration becoming common in the early 20th century. In Kentucky, for example, births and deaths were recorded by some counties beginning in 1852; by 1911, statewide registration of births and deaths was required. Marriage records, in contrast, date back much earlier. Jefferson County recorded marriages as early as the 1780s, when Kentucky was still part of Virginia. If you are unable to find a vital record for an ancestor, do not despair. There are many other sources you can use to establish the dates and places of important life events.

**City Directories.** Our ancestors who lived in urban areas may have been listed in a city directory. City directories are a bit like old phone books—without the phone numbers, of



course! You can use a city directory to find out what years your ancestor resided in a city, where they lived, and often other interesting details such as occupation, or ownership of a business. City directories can provide information dating back to the early years of a city. Louisville, for instance, has directories dating back to 1832.

**Obituaries.** These short life summaries, usually found in local newspapers, are most often available for individuals who died in the 20th century. Ancestors who died earlier may have only had a death notice included in the local paper, if their death was mentioned at all. However, it is sometimes possible to find a longer summation for ancestors who died prior to the last century—especially if they were prominent members of the community, or if there were unusual circumstances surrounding their deaths. Identify and consult newspapers that were in circulation at the time your ancestor died. Many

newspapers are now being digitized and are more easily searchable than ever before.

I hope that some of these suggestions will be useful as you begin your own family history research. Teasing out family stories can be a long process—it's often compared to working on a puzzle, where each piece gives you a clearer understanding of a person's life. Even at the conclusion of your research, you may feel like you still know very little about some of your ancestors. In these cases, keep in mind that remembering your family is about more than just names and dates—it's also important to understand the times our ancestors lived in. To that end, I would encourage you to take advantage of resources available at The Filson and other historical organizations. The Filson offers a number of wonderful programs every year that can help us gain a better sense of the times our ancestors lived through. Learning the stories of our ancestors can give us a more personal connection to the history of our nation.

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REGISTRAR'S NO. 421  
Subdivision No. 790 Primary Registration District No. 2290

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY <b>Kenton</b>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE a. STATE <b>Ky.</b>		b. COUNTY <b>Kenton</b>	
b. CITY OR TOWN <b>Covington</b>		b. CITY <b>Covington</b>		c. ZIP CODE <b>40303</b>	
3. NAME OF DECEASED a. FIRST NAME <b>Levi</b>		b. MIDDLE NAME <b>M.</b>		c. LAST NAME <b>Oliver</b>	
d. SEX <b>Male</b>		e. RACE <b>White</b>		f. DATE OF BIRTH <b>4 19 1904</b>	
g. MARRIAGE STATUS <b>Married</b>		h. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <b>12-1886</b>		i. PLACE OF BIRTH <b>North Carolina</b>	
j. OCCUPATION <b>Retired U.S. Conductor</b>		k. SERVICE RECORD <b>Parous Allan</b>		l. CITIZENSHIP <b>USA</b>	
m. USUAL RESIDENCE (State or U.S. Possession) <b>Ky. Mendis Oliver</b>		n. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <b>12-1886</b>		o. INFORMANT <b>Wesley Oliver</b>	
p. CAUSE OF DEATH PART I: DEATH CAUSED BY <b>Heart Disease - pulmonary edema</b>		q. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE 1. I certify that I attended the deceased from <b>March 27, 1964</b> to <b>April 17, 1964</b> and that I last saw the deceased alive on <b>April 18, 1964</b> and that death occurred on <b>2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 31</b> days after the onset of the disease.		r. INTERNAL MEDICINE <b>32 y</b>	
s. DATE OF DEATH <b>4-20-1964</b>		t. TIME OF DEATH <b>10:30 P.M.</b>		u. PLACE OF DEATH <b>South Hospital</b>	
v. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <b>Paul F. Royce</b>		w. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED'S PHYSICIAN <b>Paul F. Royce</b>		x. SIGNATURE OF WITNESSES <b>Wesley Oliver</b>	
y. DATE OF DEATH <b>4-20-1964</b>		z. TIME OF DEATH <b>10:30 P.M.</b>		aa. PLACE OF DEATH <b>South Hospital</b>	

I, Paul F. Royce, Registrar of Vital Statistics, hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the certificate of birth, death, marriage or divorce of the person therein named, and that the original certificate is registered under the file number shown. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the official seal of the Office of Vital Statistics to be affixed at Frankfort, Kentucky this 30 day of April, 1964.

**Paul F. Royce**  
State Registrar

A 1964 death certificate issued by the state of Kentucky. Death certificates often provide information beyond the circumstances of the death, including details such as occupation, date of birth and place, and names of the parents of the deceased.

St. Louis September 24<sup>th</sup> 1806.

Dear Brother

I wrote you a letter last night giving you a summary sketch of our journey to the mountains since that time many interesting occurrences has taken place, which I hope to have the pleasure of relating to you in the course of about 18 days. Capt Lewis and my wife will be detained here for the purpose of settling with our men which will delay us here eight or ten days, when we shall set out with a Great Chief of the Shawnee nation his family and an interpreter through the Country by the way of Vincennes, and expect to reach the Falls about the 9 or 10 of next month. Capt Lewis will pass on with the Indians to Kentucky (or City) after remaining a few days in the neighborhood of Louisville. As I cannot here any certain information of my friends near you, I know not who is living or dead and must therefore request you to prompt me most carefully to them all. I have not time to write more as the time post is waiting, at the same present my most affectionate regards to my sister and the family and believe me to be your devoted friend & brother.

My friend Capt Lewis presents his compliments  
most respectfully to your family and also my best regards

Wm. Clark

Note please to have the my letter to you if your publisher of your thank paper etc.

God be bless

In 1888, a cache of letters written by explorer William Clark to his brother Jonathan—including several written during the historic Lewis & Clark expedition—were discovered in a Louisville attic by Jonathan Clark's descendants. The letters were donated to the Filson in 1990, and are one of its most important collections. You may find documents like these hiding in your attic or basement.



# FILSON

## FRIDAY TALKS



**June 13**

***Preserving Early Amateur Film Footage  
of Kentucky and Beyond***

***Heather Stone, Assistant Curator of Special Collections***

***Aaron Rosenblum, Assistant Curator of Special Collections***

In February 2013, a film collection was rediscovered, tucked away on a bottom shelf amongst The Filson's photograph collection. Inside several old, small trunks were thirty-nine 16mm films. The films came from the Arthur E. Hopkins Collection. Judge Arthur E. Hopkins (1881-1944), a member of the Board of Directors of The Filson Club, bequeathed the reels to The Filson. For the past year archivists on staff have worked on bringing several of these historic Louisville films back to life. Join us to learn more about The Filson's film collection, our preservation and digitization efforts, and to see the magic of history come to life with the premiere screening of three of the digitized Hopkins films.

**June 20**

***Bondage on the Border: Slaves and Slaveholders  
in Tazewell County, Virginia***

***Laura Cordle, Development Coordinator***

Tazewell County, Virginia, lies on the mountain spine that separates Virginia and West Virginia. The county has a strong pioneer history. The local white settlers are praised for their independence, bravery, and love of liberty. The Amerindians are also recognized and admired for their self-reliance and freedom. However, white and red were not the only colors in the mountains, and freedom was not residents' only condition. The first settlers brought enslaved Africans with them; however, their history in this part of Appalachia is almost forgotten. In spite of that collective amnesia, records show that there was a significant and growing slave population in Tazewell County, Virginia, throughout the nineteenth century. Slavery in the county was typical of Appalachian slavery in some ways, and not in others. The case of Tazewell County complicates commonly held assumptions about Appalachian slavery and slave societies, proving that in more ways than one, Tazewell County was on the border.

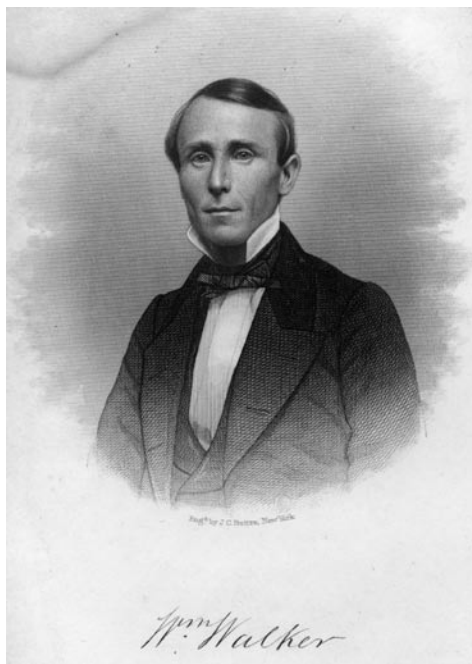
*June 27*

*“The Fruits of the Labors of My Life”:*

*Lyman C. Draper and His Collection”*

*Jim Holmberg, Curator of Special Collections*

Almost everyone who has done research on pioneer Kentucky knows the name Lyman Draper. With the goal of chronicling the lives of the First American West’s pioneers, especially those of George Rogers Clark and Daniel Boone, Draper made collecting trips through Kentucky and other states beginning in the 1840s in search of the manuscript sources needed for his work. He also interviewed people and maintained extensive correspondence in search of information. What resulted were the Draper Manuscripts, one of the most significant collections of primary source material about the history of the First West and its people. But the histories and biographies he promised the owners of the material essentially never appeared. Lauded but also vilified for his voracious collecting, his life and how he accomplished the amassing of tens of thousands of manuscripts is a tale of adventure itself. Join Jim Holmberg for this lecture on this 19th century collector and historian responsible for assembling one of the great manuscript collections in American history.



*July 11*

*“Glory or the Grave”:*

*Kentucky’s Forgotten Soldiers of Fortune*

*James Pritchard, Cataloger*

The acquisition of a vast western empire after the Mexican War led many American adventures to strike out on their own and conquer additional territory in Mexico and Central America. Still others risked their lives in private military expeditions to liberate Cuba from Spanish rule. Between 1849 and 1860, these “Filibusters” (from Los Filibusteros or Free-booters) fought and died in an effort to colonize lands they regarded as their right to rule in the name of “Manifest Destiny.” Hundreds of Kentuckians, including such colorful figures as the Soldier-Poet Theodore O’Hara and Col. Jack Allen, followed the banners of Gen. Narcisso Lopez, Col. Henry Crabb and the “Grey Eyed Man of Destiny”, Gen. William Walker. And like their ill-fated leaders, many of these Kentuckians found only defeat and death in faraway lands. This presentation sheds light on a colorful yet largely forgotten chapter in the history of both Louisville and Kentucky.



*July 18*

*Kentucky and its People Through the Eyes of Travelers, Mapmakers, and Surveyors*

*Judith Partington, Head Librarian*

*Cassie Bratcher, Technical Services Librarian*

*Jana Meyer, Reference Librarian*

Join the Filson library staff as we explore some of the documents left behind by early settlers and visitors to Kentucky. The Filson library houses an exceptional collection of rare maps and narratives written by travelers to the state. Come hear the stories of the early explorers and travelers who created these documents. Library staff will also showcase some of these unique items during the presentation.



**July 25**

***The Life and Times of E. H. Taylor, Jr.***  
**Mike Veach, Bourbon Historian**

Edmond Haynes Taylor, Jr. was one of the Bourbon industries most influential people in the 19th century. He was born in the Jackson Purchase region of Kentucky in 1830 and educated in Lexington, Ky. Taylor was trained in the banking industry and was a partner in a private bank in Lexington in the 1850s. In 1871, he entered politics as the Mayor of Frankfort, where he served until 1877 and again from 1881-1890. However, it was the distilling industry that brought him fame and fortune, first as the junior partner in Gaines, Berry and Co. and then with his own distilleries at the OFC Distillery in Frankfort and the Old Taylor Distillery in Millville, Ky. Taylor helped change the way bourbon was sold.



**August 8**

***Camp Zachary Taylor: “An Institution of the Great War”***  
**Jennie Cole, Associate Curator of Special Collections**

Camp Zachary Taylor was one of the nation’s 16 cantonments erected during World War I, built to house an entire army division. It opened on 5 September 1917 just outside the city of Louisville, Kentucky, as a “place where Kentucky and Indiana soldiers trained for war.” Associate Curator of Special Collections Jennie Cole will share stories and images of Camp Taylor from The Filson’s collections, highlighting images of the camp, soldiers’ lives, and the incident of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919.



**August 15**

***The Changed Face of Agriculture in the 20th Century***  
**Dr. Mark Wetherington, Director**

During the twentieth century agriculture in Kentucky and the Ohio Valley region changed tremendously. World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, and post-World War years had a profound impact on farms and farming communities. This lecture explores some of the major trends and is illustrated with images from The Filson’s collections.

ABOUT US | COLLECTIONS & RESOURCES | EDUCATION | READ, WATCH & LISTEN | ATTEND AN EVENT | GIVE & JOIN | JOHN FILSON BLOG

**Memberships & Benefits**

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By Becoming a Member, You Can Make a Difference.

The Filson Historical Society is the oldest privately supported historical society in Kentucky. For over one hundred years we have served the public through our extensive library, varied museum artifacts, and our special collections department that includes original manuscripts, letters, diaries, photographs, maps, and portraits. Our extensive collections form a regional educational resource that attracts national and international researchers. We are an organization dedicated to providing continuing adult education in the form of quarterly publications, weekly lectures, historical tours, art exhibits, reading-and-discussion groups, and weekend-long history conferences.

Because we receive no government support for operations, your membership is critical in our efforts to maintain the high level of service we provide to our patrons, researchers, and the community. Your membership directly helps to fulfill our mission of identifying important historical artifacts, acquiring them, and preserving them for the education of future generations.

Benefits	eMembership	Student	Individual	Boone	Audubon	Clay	Shelby	Clark	Filson
Annual Commitment	\$45	\$25	\$30	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1000	\$2500	\$5000
Online podcasts of lectures and events, including Pulitzer Prize winning authors.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Online research tools, catalogues	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Filson Club History Quarterly Online, published by The Filson from 1926-2001.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**August 1**

***An Overview of Online Membership Benefits at The Filson***  
**Sarah Strapp, Membership Coordinator**

Come learn all about the new benefits available online exclusively for Filson members. This overview will answer all of your questions about how to search for our online resources, how to access a podcast or telecast, and the newly available online databases. Sarah will also be available for you to reset your password. Please feel free to bring a tablet device or laptop and follow along! Sarah Strapp is the Membership and Annual Fund Coordinator for The Filson and is a graduate of Sweet Briar College.

# The Filsonians *January - March 2014*

## SUPPORT THE FILSON WITH A PLANNED GIFT

How can you give a gift that will provide the greatest benefit to you and The Filson Historical Society? Through Planned Giving.

By informing us of your intent to include The Filson Historical Society in your estate, you are helping to ensure The Filson's ability to meet our mission of saving and sharing the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture. Your commitment allows us to remain a strong and vital educational resource for our community both today and tomorrow.

Planned gifts create opportunities for both you and The Filson Historical Society. Choosing the right type of commitment for you and your needs is just as important as making the gift. It could be something as simple as naming The Filson as a beneficiary to a more complex trust arrangement. In addition to the tangible benefits of planned giving, you will have the joy of knowing that your commitment helps The Filson continue to be a steward of the past and ensures our future as a resource for Kentucky and the Ohio Valley. To learn more about planned giving options, please contact Rick Anderson at 502-635-5083.

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## GERTRUDE POLK BROWN LECTURE SERIES

### *American Spring: Lexington, Concord, and the Road to Revolution*

Walter R. Borneman / Thursday, May 22, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

Second Presbyterian Church, 3701 Old Brownsboro Road, Louisville



When we look back on our nation's history, the American Revolution can feel almost like a foregone conclusion. In reality, the first weeks of the war were much more tenuous, and a fractured and ragtag group of colonial militias had to coalesce to have even the slimmest chance of toppling the mighty British Army.

*American Spring* follows a fledgling nation from Paul Revere's little-known ride of December 1774 and the first shots fired on Lexington Green through the catastrophic Battle of Bunker Hill, culminating with a Virginian named George Washington taking command of colonial forces on July 3, 1775.

Focusing on the colorful heroes John Hancock, Samuel Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Benjamin Franklin, and Patrick Henry, and the ordinary Americans caught up in the revolution, Walter Borneman tells the story of how a decade of discontent erupted into an armed rebellion that forged our nation.

Walter Borneman is the author of eight works of nonfiction, including *The Admirals, 1812*, *The French and Indian War*, and *Polk*. He holds both a master's degree in history and a law degree. He lives in Colorado.

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“Walter Borneman has written an engaging and illuminating account of some of the most critical weeks in American history. Here is how it all began.” – Jon Meacham, author of *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*

“Superbly reported...Historian Walter R. Borneman tackles the essential question of military leadership: What makes some men, but not others, able to motivate a fighting force into battle?” – *Los Angeles Times*