

APRIL 2018

at THE FILSON

1310 S. 3rd St.
Louisville, KY 40208
www.filsonhistorical.org
(502) 635-5083

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Louisville, KY
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The Filson Historical Society

Our Mission

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

6:00-9:00 p.m. • Galt House Hotel, Ballroom B/C

Free keynote & reception, fee for meeting

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History Keynote Address
Southern Cross, North Star: The Politics of Irreconciliation and Civil War Memory in the American Middle Border

Christopher Phillips

Dr. Christopher Phillips, the John and Dorothy Hernandes Professor of American History, the University Distinguished Professor of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and the Head of the Department of History at the University of Cincinnati, will present the keynote address "Southern Cross, North Star: The Politics of Irreconciliation and Civil War Memory in the American Middle Border." The keynote address, sponsored by The Filson Historical Society, is free for Filson members and covers the complex history of the Ohio Valley region during and after the U.S. Civil War.

The Society for Military History is offering specially priced \$39/day passes for local residents to the conference. To learn more and register, please visit www.louisville.edu/history/events/snhc.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

5:00-7:30 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society

Free • Galleries and Reception open at 5:00

Film Screening - Look & See: Wendell Berry's Kentucky

KET and The Filson Historical Society present a special preview screening of *Look & See: Wendell Berry's Kentucky*.

The author of more than 40 works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry, Kentucky writer and farmer Wendell Berry has often been called "a prophet for rural America," giving voice to those affected by the changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America. The film *Look & See: Wendell Berry's Kentucky*, airing nationally as part of the PBS series *Independent Lens*, combines observational scenes of farming life and interviews with farmers and community members with lyrical and evocative shots of the surrounding Henry County landscape.

Look & See: Wendell Berry's Kentucky is directed and produced by Laura Dunn; co-produced by Owsley Brown III, Gill Holland, Elaine Musselman and Nick Offerman; and executive produced by Terrence Mallick and Robert Redford.

APRIL

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A privately-supported historical society dedicated to preserving the history of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley Region.



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12



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18



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24

APRIL 2018 PROGRAMS

Call The Filson at (502) 635-5083 or register online at www.filsonhistorical.org/events - Reservations are requested to ensure seating for all programs.

All programs are free for Filson members and \$10 for non-members unless otherwise noted.

The Dan and Frances Street Hall and Caperton Hall are equipped with a hearing loop to assist our patrons with hearing devices.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

Galleries open at 5:00, Lecture at 6:00 • The Filson Historical Society

Free for members, \$10 for non-members

Experiencing WWI: America During the Great War

Jennifer Keene

Most Americans possess only a hazy understanding of World War I or its significance for the United States. So why not leave it there? Why bother with this history lesson? How the nation responded to the challenge of fighting its first modern war re-made America, leading to female suffrage, the modern civil rights movement, the drive to protect civil liberties, new perceptions of military service, and an expanded role for the United States in the world. This lecture examines home-front mobilization and the experiences of soldiers on the battlefield, while also considering how the war affected women, immigrants, and African Americans. In the inter-war period, Americans tried to “learn lessons” from the Great War in unexpected ways, revealing additional ways that the war continued to impact American society.

Dr. Jennifer Keene is a specialist in American military experience during World War I and the chair of the Department of History at Chapman University. She received her Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University and her undergraduate and masters degrees from The George Washington University. Dr. Keene has published three books on the American involvement in the First World War.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

4:00-6:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society

Free

Exhibit Opening Through a Soldier's Lens: Jack Speed's WWI Photography

Please join us for the opening of our latest exhibit, *Through a Soldier's Lens: Jack Speed's WWI Photography*, curated by Heather Potter and Jana Meyer.

Louisville native John “Jack” Speed was an officer in the 150th Field Artillery during World War I. His unit served on the Western Front where they saw action at Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne. Speed was not only a soldier, but also an amateur photographer – his numerous photographs the product of technological improvements that made cameras more portable and accessible to the general public than ever before. This exhibit features Speed's images of war, exploring the experiences of one Kentuckian afield during global conflict.

The opening will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and will feature light refreshments and short remarks from the curators. Curators and Filson staff will be available to answer questions about the items on display and the history behind them.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information about these and other upcoming exhibits, please visit filsonhistorical.org/exhibits.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

6:30-7:30 p.m. • The Temple, 5101 US Hwy 42, Louisville

Free for members, \$10 for non-members

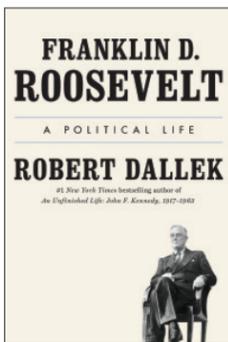
The Gertrude Polk Brown Lecture Series *Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Political Life*

Robert Dallek

Robert Dallek's *Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Political Life* takes a fresh look at the many compelling questions that have attracted all his biographers: how did a man who came from so privileged a background become the greatest presidential champion of the country's needy? How did someone who never won recognition for his intellect foster revolutionary changes in the country's economic and social institutions? How did Roosevelt work such a profound change in the country's foreign relations?

Robert Dallek is the author of *Camelot's Court, An Unfinished Life*, and *Nixon and Kissinger*, among other books. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *Vanity Fair*.

This lecture series was initiated as a memorial to the life of Gertrude Polk Brown, and continues to be made possible by the generous support of Dace Brown Stubbs and G. Garvin Brown III.



THURSDAY, APRIL 12

6:00-7:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society

Free for members, \$10 for non-members

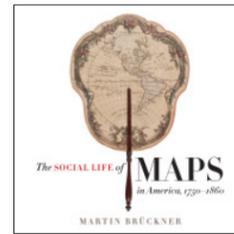
The Social Life of Maps in America, 1750-1860

Martin Brückner

Between 1750 and 1860, maps did more than communicate geographic information and political pretensions. They became affordable and intelligible to ordinary American men and women looking for their place in the world. School maps quickly entered classrooms, where they shaped reading and other cognitive exercises; giant maps drew attention in public spaces; miniature maps helped Americans chart personal experiences. In short, maps were uniquely social objects whose visual and material expressions affected commercial practices and graphic arts, theatrical performances and the communication of emotions.

Between the decades leading up to the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, early Americans bonded with maps; Martin Brückner's comprehensive history of quotidian cartographic encounters is the first to show us how.

Martin Brückner is professor of English and material culture studies at the University of Delaware. This program is sponsored by Phi Beta Kappa.



TUESDAY, APRIL 17

12:00-1:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society

Free for Filson members, \$10 for non-members

Camp Taylor and the Spanish Flu

Charles Oberst

WWI began with the assassination of the archduke of Austria and rapidly spread through Europe. With the involvement of the United States, more soldiers were needed. In 1917, the U.S. Defense Department acquired approximately 3,000 acres of land south of Louisville, which became Camp Zachary Taylor. Camp Taylor was quickly constructed and trained thousands of troops. In 1918, the cantonment was nearly immobilized by the Spanish Influenza. This lecture will cover why Louisville and this site was selected for this cantonment, including its rapid construction, military training, how the Spanish flu's mortality rate overwhelmed the base, and what remains today. This is the amazing story of young America's response to its first world-wide conflict.



Dr. Charles R Oberst is a Louisville native and a 1960 graduate of the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He trained at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas and spent two years in United States Air Force in Japan. He is a retired clinical professor from the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 24

12:00-1:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society

Free for members, \$10 for non-members

Political Quickstep: The Life of Kentucky's Colonel Charles S. Todd

Sherry Keith Jelsma

Charles Stewart Todd was born into a life of privilege and unyielding social structure. After studies at the College of William and Mary and Judge Tapping Reeves' law school, he joined the militia to serve in the War of 1812; by the time he mustered out, he was a regular army colonel. He fell in love with and married Letitia Shelby, daughter of Kentucky's first governor, Isaac Shelby.

Through military service, international and domestic travel, vast wealth and crippling debt, political successes and failures, Todd's life reflects a turbulent time in America. During his life, social and class distinctions were upended, new lands were opened to settlement, and the Civil War ended slavery and the plantation lifestyle to which Todd had been born. This biography explores the evolution of a patriotic Whig gentleman into a champion of the cultural and industrial revolutions in 19th-century America.

Sherry Keith Jelsma, granddaughter of historian Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood, grew up with history. She earned a Bachelor of Arts with honors from Harvard/Radcliffe College and an MA from New York University.

