

# *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 public history programs The Filson offers are about to get even better. These conferences, expert lectures, author talks, and show-and-tell sessions from The Filson's collections have always been limited in audience size by the spaces available to us. All that is changing now with the opening of the Owsley Brown II History Center on The Filson's expanded campus in Old Louisville. Two major features of the new complex are the Dan and Frances Street Hall on the first floor and Caperton Hall directly above it.

These two new spaces are stunning in their beauty and versatility. Both halls are lined in hardwood panels with beveling and contours that attract the eye and contribute to acoustic excellence. Cork flooring adds to sound quality and visitor comfort. Technology in these spaces allows The Filson to share video and sound recordings on our web site and elsewhere. Both lecture halls are equipped with hearing loop technology that broadcasts a special audio signal to audience members with hearing aids, so everyone can hear crystal clear sound. Finally, these spaces each hold 230 people for programs, more than twice the audience capacity we've had in the past.

This fall's program schedule is sure to draw crowds to fill those spaces. We'll have a public conference on the U. S. Constitution just before election day. Our Henry D. Ormsby III Seminar Series will focus on Muhammad Ali this November. Audience favorite Steve Wiser will lead a session on Louisville architect Jasper Ward. Charles Strozier will present his new book on Abraham Lincoln's enduring friendship with Joshua Speed. The music of Tom T. and Dixie Hall will be celebrated by Louisville musicians using Tom T. Hall's own instruments, which he recently donated to The Filson. Add to those topics special programs with such Louisville treasures as John Hale, Ed Hamilton, Wendell Berry and Teddy Abrams and you can begin to see why we needed more space for programs. Join us as often as you can.



Craig Buthod  
President and CEO

## FROM THE CHAIR

As we near the completion of the Cornerstone Capital Campaign, the renovation of the Ferguson mansion/carriage house and the construction of the new Owsley Brown II History center, it is appropriate that we reflect upon this most significant achievement in the 132-year history of The Filson Historical Society.

The vision to renovate and expand began approximately ten years ago. In November 2007, The Filson's board of directors issued a request for proposals to nine architectural firms. The DeLeon and Primmer Architectural Workshop was engaged in February 2009. DeLeon and Primmer did an outstanding job of researching the history of Old Louisville and creating a marvelous plan that translated the Italianate residences into a bold look for the future. Their design received the unanimous approval of the Metro Landmarks Commission at its first hearing. It is contextually specific with a compelling trajectory and engages the community with the creation of a true campus.

It was initially envisioned that the project would cost approximately \$6.4 million. In 2010, Campbell and Company of Chicago was retained to serve as campaign counsel and Rick Anderson, a retired Managing Partner of the former Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald law firm, joined The Filson's staff to lead the endeavor. Rick assembled a talented team to assist him and the Cornerstone Capital Campaign was launched. The campaign has been a huge success, having now raised over \$12.1 million and nearing our revised "stretch goal" of \$12.4 million.

There have been many "heroes and heroines" that have enabled The Filson to attain this level of success. One person has truly been steadfast and exemplary for The Filson over the past ten years, and that is Orme "Sandy" Wilson. Sandy finished the term of President/CEO Henry Ormsby and began his own four year term in 2007. With thanks to Mac Brown, who succeeded Sandy as President/CEO in 2011, Sandy was able to devote his considerable energies to leading the board's Cornerstone Capital Campaign Committee. He has done a superb job which we are all proud and for which we will be eternally grateful. Bravo Sandy!



Carl M. Thomas  
Chairman of the Board

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## The Filson

is published quarterly by  
The Filson Historical Society  
1310 South Third Street  
Louisville, KY 40208  
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and story ideas.  
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[info@filsonhistorical.org](mailto:info@filsonhistorical.org)

## OUR MISSION:

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



# YOU'RE INVITED!

Join The Filson Historical Society for our

## GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 29 | 1:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public

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Concert featuring the Tom T. and Dixie Hall Collection | 7:00 p.m.

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Details and a full schedule of events can be found online at  
[filsonhistorical.org/events](http://filsonhistorical.org/events)

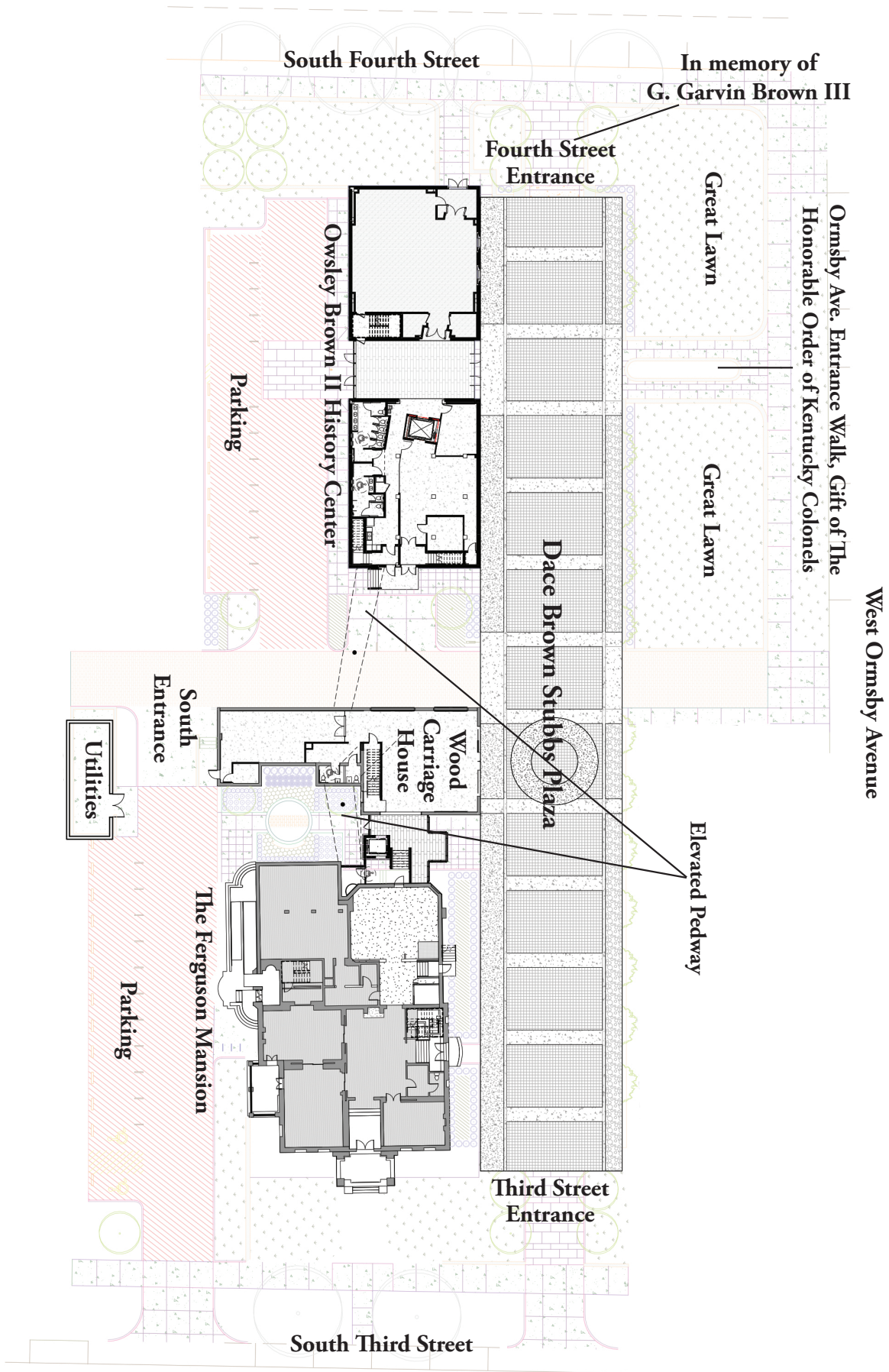


### Grand Opening Will include:

- Music
- Docent-led tours and interpretations
- Special Exhibits
- Children's activities
- Information about continuing programs
- Concert will include performances by Brigid Kaelin, Johnny Berry and Steve Cooley, Tyrone Cotton, The Derby City Dandies, members of Relic, and many more.



# The New Filson





# THE FERGUSON MANSION

Gift of H. C. and Elizabeth F. Clay

Sun Porch

South Parlor  
Gift of Marianne Cabot Welch  
in honor of  
Currie Duke, Daughter of  
General Basil Duke

Henry  
Dumesnil  
Ormsby III  
Dining Room

Archive

1ST FLOOR

Great Hall  
Gift of  
The Michael N. Harreld, Sr.  
Family

North Parlor  
Gift of  
David and Carol  
Armstrong

M/W

The Nash Gallery

James W. Stites, Jr. Special Collections  
Study Room

Archive

2ND FLOOR

M/W

Gift of  
Robert E.  
Kulp, Jr. in  
memory of  
Margaret  
Barr Kulp

Office of the  
President

Second Floor  
Reading Room

Second Floor  
Reading Room

In honor of Robinson Brown, Sr. and Mary Rogers Lyons Brown

Special Collections Workroom

Archive

3RD FLOOR

Special  
Collections  
Workroom

Carl M. and  
Ellen B. Thomas  
Curator  
Conference Room

M

Administrative  
Office

Gallery

Administrative  
Office

Administrative  
Office

Administrative Office

Gift of Bingham  
Greenebaum Doll, LLP  
in honor of P. Richard  
Anderson, Jr.



# WOOD CARRIAGE HOUSE

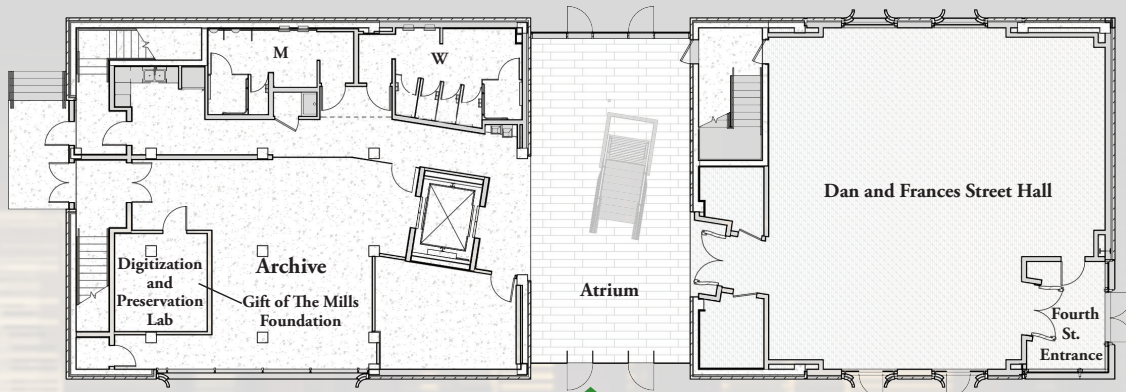
A gift of William M. Wood, III



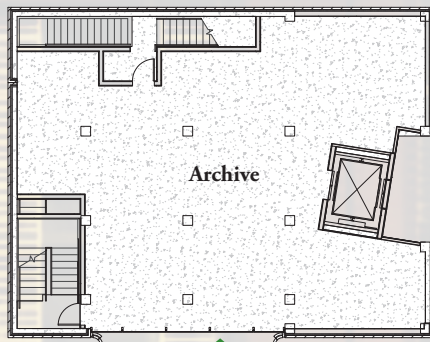


# OWSLEY BROWN II HISTORY CENTER

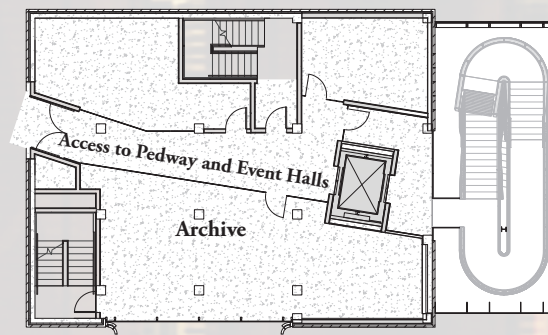
Gift of the Owsley Brown, II Family



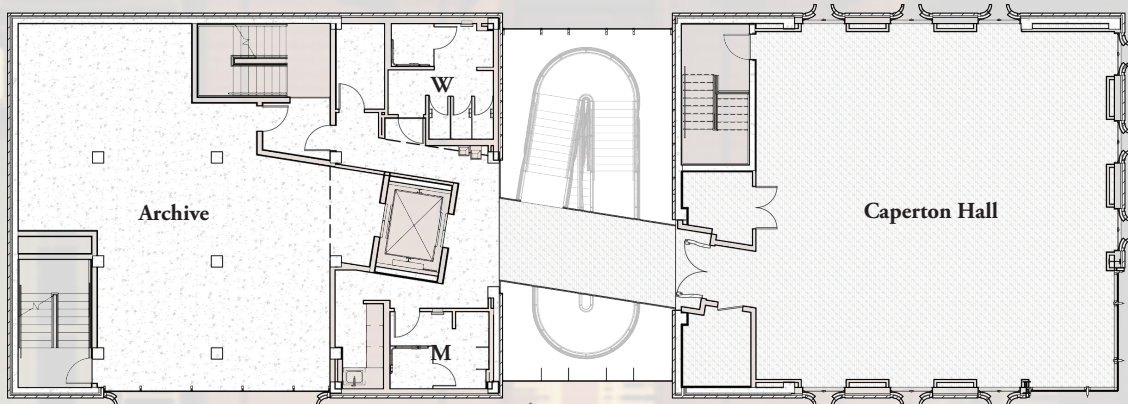
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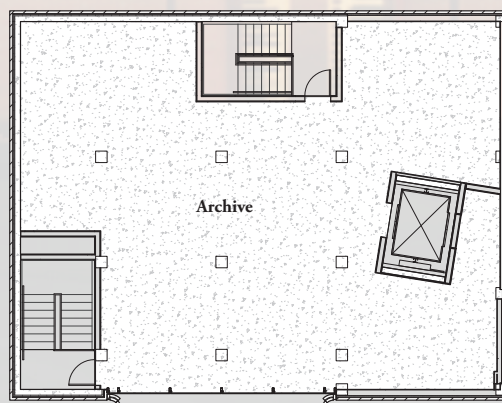
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3RD FLOOR



4TH FLOOR



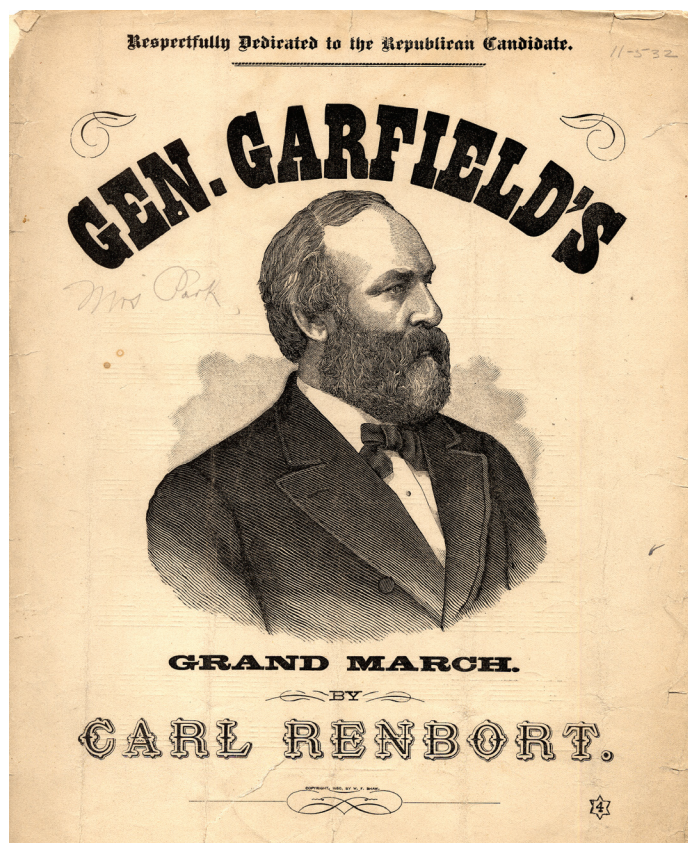
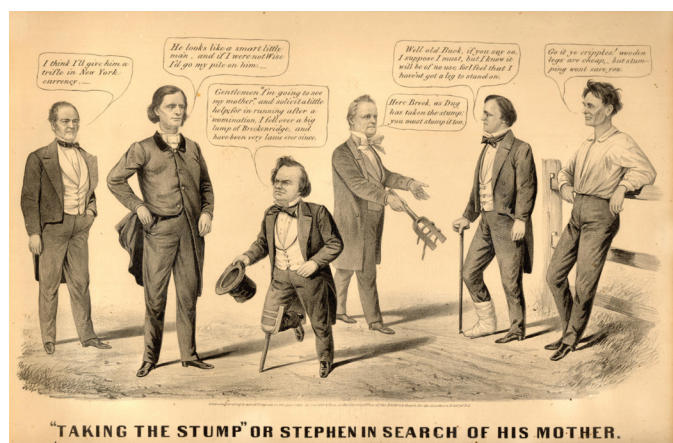
5TH FLOOR



# Coming Soon to *The Filson*—Exhibits

## **“To The Polls!: Presidential Campaigns and Elections”**

Just in time for this year’s presidential election, the inaugural exhibit in the Nash Gallery in the Ferguson Mansion focuses on U.S. presidential campaigns and elections from George Washington to today. Drawing primarily from *The Filson’s* own collection, visitors will view portraits, broadsides, photographs, newspapers, artifacts, and other items chronicling in part the history of electing our chief executive. From landslides to hotly disputed outcomes, Americans have chosen their president since 1789. The process of electing the president and who could vote in the election has changed over the years. Methods of campaigning for the White House have also varied over the years. Not only will visitors be able to view items dating back to the early days of the Republic, but they will also learn about the admirable and not so admirable aspects of this democratic process.





## **“Moments in Time: The Power of Pictures”**

In the Wood Carriage House Bingham Gallery the exhibit “Moments in Time: The Power of Pictures” will be mounted. Pictures exist in various mediums, and this exhibit will focus primarily on photography. Drawing on The Filson’s collection of photographs dating to the mid-19th century, visitors will see how visual images have documented people and events through history and can impact people to this day with their power. We’ll also showcase some of our historical films dating back to the late 1920s. Area residents such as Judge Arthur Hopkins and the Hemp family documented events and travels on their home movie cameras. These films also open a window to the past through which the visitor can view life and scenes from many years ago.



Main Street, Louisville, Ky., looking west from about 4th St., ca. 1858



Scene in West Louisville following the riots sparked by the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., April 1968



# THE FILSON'S CAMPUS EXPANSION PROJECT

Thanks to the generous support of members and donors, the largest expansion in the history of The Filson is almost complete. Expansion has been a theme throughout The Filson's history. Over its 132 year life, more and more people and institutions have entrusted The Filson with their artifacts and documents and more and more people have attended its educational programming. These ever-growing collections and audiences have made expansion necessary in almost every generation. What started as a private club in Colonel Rueben Durrett's library in 1884 has grown into a professional, technologically-savvy historical society occupying three

buildings on a landscaped campus in the heart of Old Louisville. In every instance of expansion, The Filson's members and donors have made that growth possible.

The Campus Expansion Project is the result of years of effort and an outpouring of generosity from The Filson's supporters. In 2002, The Filson Board purchased the parking lot on the corner of Fourth Street and Ormsby Avenue behind the Ferguson Mansion. This lot gave The Filson room to grow, and soon that growth was imperative, as The Filson's archival and event space in the Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House began filling up. The Board

explored The Filson's expansion options and began moving forward with a plan to build a new building in the vacant parking lot. In 2009, the Board selected the DeLeon and Primmer Architecture Workshop to design the project. Their designs received unanimous approval from the Old Louisville Architectural Review Committee. In 2013, Louisville's Wehr-Realm Construction was contracted for the project. The Cornerstone Campaign for the expansion began in early 2011. More than 410 generous donors from around the region, nation, and world have successfully funded the expansion. A list of those donors begins on page 12.





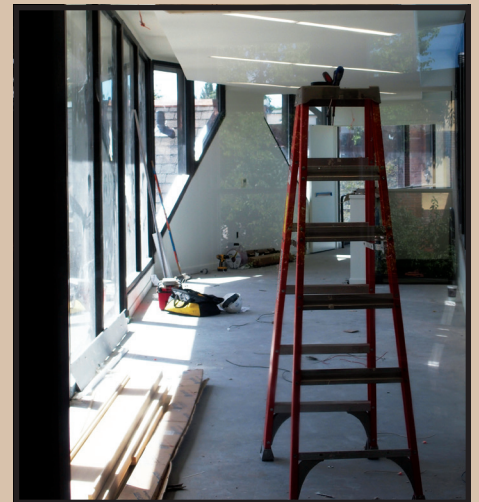
The Filson campus now includes a brand new 20,000 square foot facility, The Owsley Brown II History Center. The Center features 5 new floors of climate-controlled, fire-safe archival storage, and two multi-purpose event halls—Dan and Frances Street Hall on the first floor and Caperton Hall on the second—as well as new exhibit space and The Filson's first ever digital preservation lab. The new event halls are equipped with modern audio-visual technology, including a "hearing loop" which will allow hearing-impaired patrons to fully enjoy Filson programs. From the Center's digital preservation lab, Filson archivists will digitize more of our unique collections so that they can be viewed online and used by researchers around the world.

The Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House have undergone major renovations as well. Both now contain new exhibit spaces that will give visitors a first-hand look at the region's historical and cultural materials. The second floor of the Ferguson Mansion has been opened up to create new modern reading rooms for those doing research in The Filson's library and archive. The three buildings that comprise the Filson campus are all connected and integrated by an elevated second floor pedway and surrounded by a beautiful plaza and landscaped green space.

Throughout this process, The Filson has passed several significant milestones. In May 2014, The Filson broke ground on the

project. In May 2015, the final steel girder "topping off" the Owsley Brown II History Center was installed. This fall, The Filson will cross the finish line when the new campus opens to the public. The Filson's many supporters have made this transformative, far-reaching project possible and in so doing have provided a home for the region's history for generations to come. Many thanks to all who have supported The Filson Historical Society and the 2016 Campus Expansion Project.

The Cornerstone Campaign Steering Committee current and former Members: David Armstrong, Mac Brown, Holly Gathright, Bob Kulp, Bill Street, Carl Thomas, and Campaign Chair Sandy Wilson.





# THE FILSON THANKS OUR CORNERSTONE CAMPAIGN DONORS:

## FOUNDER (\$1,000,000+)

The Owsley Brown II Family  
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*Gifts Received as of August 24, 2016*



# Volunteers, Welcome to The Filson Historical Society!

Volunteering is a great way to learn more about history while helping to preserve the past for the enjoyment of future generations. Meeting new people, learning and sharing information, and making a real contribution to The Filson are just a few of the benefits volunteers can receive for their time and effort.

At The Filson Historical Society, volunteers provide connections to the past and insights into the present. Volunteers provide personal attention to visitors, perform behind-the-scenes assistance to our Library and Collections, and work with the public in education and programming events ... all by contributing their unique talents, skills and life experiences, and their knowledge about our community, our commonwealth and the Ohio Valley region.

The Filson Historical Society is committed to encouraging volunteer involvement at all levels in the organization. Please see our current volunteer opportunities below:

## **Front Desk Volunteer**

The Filson Historical Society is currently searching for volunteers to work the reception desk in the Ferguson mansion. Volunteers will be responsible for:

- Greeting patrons in a friendly manner
- Registering patrons for research and collecting research fees
- Answering the phone and directing phone calls to appropriate staff members
- Registering people for events
- Directing patrons and visitors within the building/campus according to their needs
- Assisting Filson staff with clerical office duties on an as-needed basis

## **Docents**

The Filson is seeking volunteer docents to give tours within its newly renovated exhibition space as well as the historic Ferguson Mansion. Docents will be required to complete one two-hour session with Jim Holmberg, who will share information about what is on the walls of the mansion and the exhibits on display. Successful docents will have an avid interest in sharing art and history with diverse audiences.

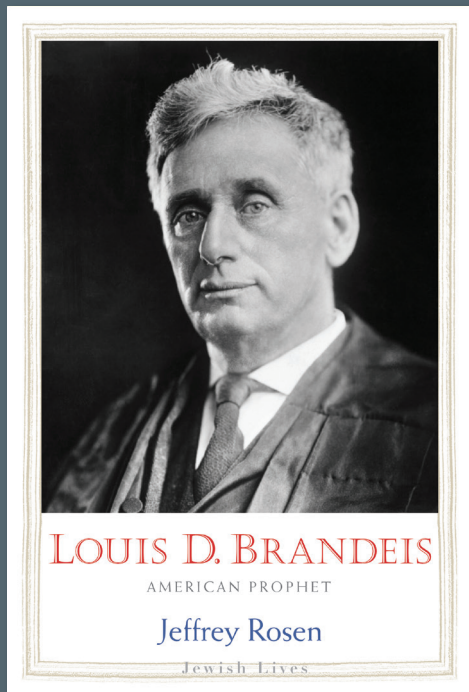
Docent qualifications include:

- Energetic attitude
- Strong communication skills
- Interest in local history, architecture, and art
- Professional demeanor toward visitors, staff and fellow docents
- Punctuality
- Shifts are 9-1 and 1-5, Monday through Friday

**For more information regarding volunteer opportunities, please contact Jordan Sangmeister at 502.635.5083 or email [JordanS@filsonhistorical.org](mailto:JordanS@filsonhistorical.org).**

*It's an exciting time at The Filson—join us!*





“Rosen’s angle on Brandeis is crisp, fresh and incisive, with striking relevance to modern-day issues concerning (among other things) corporate power, the problems of big government, an economy at risk from huge financial institutions that are too big to fail, and the future of Israel as a democratic Jewish state.”

—Akhil Reed Amar, author of  
*America’s Constitution: A Biography*

“A tightly written, tightly reasoned biography aimed at readers who are not legal scholars.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“The brilliant, crusading Brandeis is the subject of Jeffrey Rosen’s excellent *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet*. The book, part of the Yale Jewish Lives series, is...a concise and sympathetic exploration of Brandeis’s main intellectual causes. It is well titled: Brandeis resembled an Old Testament prophet...with his highly articulated moral vision and true believer’s zeal. It is also well timed: Mr. Rosen persuasively makes his case that recognizing Brandeis as an ‘American prophet’ ‘seems more important today than ever.’”

—Adam Cohen, *New York Times*

“In this fast-moving and easily digestible chronicle, Rosen pays ample tribute to Brandeis’s achievements, which included his judicial contributions, his political activism, and his promotion of Zionism. This is an ideal introduction to Brandeis’ life for general readers.”

—*Booklist*

## THE GERTRUDE POLK BROWN LECTURE SERIES

# Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet

by Jeffrey Rosen

According to Jeffrey Rosen, Louis D. Brandeis was “the Jewish Jefferson,” the greatest critic of what he called “the curse of bigness,” in business and government, since the author of the Declaration of Independence. Published to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of his Supreme Court confirmation on June 1, 1916, *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet* argues that Brandeis was the most farsseeing constitutional philosopher of the twentieth century. In addition to writing the most famous article on the right to privacy, he also wrote the most important Supreme Court opinions about free speech, freedom from government surveillance, and freedom of thought and opinion. And as the leader of the American Zionist movement, he convinced Woodrow Wilson and the British government to recognize a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Combining narrative biography with a passionate argument for why Brandeis matters today, Rosen explores what Brandeis, the Jeffersonian prophet, can teach us about historic and contemporary questions involving the Constitution, monopoly, corporate and federal power, technology, privacy, free speech, and Zionism.



Jeffrey Rosen is President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, professor of law at the George Washington University Law School, and a contributing editor of the Atlantic. His books include *The Supreme Court*, *The Most Democratic Branch*, *The Naked Crowd*, *The Unwanted Gaze*, and, as co-editor, *Constitution 3.0: Freedom and Technological Change*.

**Monday, October 24 | 6:30 p.m.**

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# Membership Benefits

For the first time in over 20 years, The Filson has updated membership benefits and prices. Members will continue to enjoy the classic benefits of subscriptions to our publications, discounted or free admission to our acclaimed programs and events, and exclusive online content. New benefits include free unlimited research in our library and special collections across all levels of membership, and free guest event tickets at selected membership levels. The full list of benefits is shown below and is also available on [filsonhistorical.org](http://filsonhistorical.org).

## KEY CHANGES:

- **FREE** research across all levels of membership
- **FREE** guest tickets at selected levels
- **FREE** gift memberships at selected levels

## Price changes:

- Electronic Membership decreased from \$45 to \$30
- Individual Membership increased from \$50 to \$70
- Boone Membership increased from \$100 to \$120

Benefits	EMembership	Teacher and Student	Individual	Boone	Audubon	Clay	Shelby	Clark	Filson
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# The Filsonians

## May–August 2016



The Thruston Legacy Circle is an honorary society established in 2015, to recognize those who have followed the example of R. C. Ballard Thruston by including The Filson in their estate plans. Since our founding in 1884, The Filson has been privately supported and planned giving is an ideal way to continue that tradition of private support.

If you have made a planned gift to The Filson and have not so advised us, we thank you and ask that you let us know so we can welcome you to the TLC. If you have not made a planned gift, but would like more information about doing so, please call our Development Department at 502.635.5083 or email Rick Anderson, Director of Development, at [pra@filsonhistorical.org](mailto:pra@filsonhistorical.org).

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# What are we excited about with the opening of The Filson's new campus?

## *Check it out below!*



I'm excited about all of the new space we'll have for collections storage! I'm especially excited about the art racks for storing our portrait and artwork collections. I also love our new staff workspace and the tables that are available for organizing large collections.

– *Jana Meyer, Associate Curator of Special Collections*

I will be delighted to see our new digitization lab completed so we can carry out important digital preservation work and start making more of our collection available online.

– *Aaron Rosenblum, Associate Curator of Special Collections  
and co-host of "Voices of The Filson"*



I'm excited to see our collections come home and have room for more exhibits.

– *Susan Gray, Volunteer*

I'm looking forward to being able to offer more programming to a wider range of audiences with our expanded event capacity.

– *Jamie Evans, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator*

