

The Filson

A publication of The Filson Historical Society, a privately-supported historical society dedicated to preserving the history of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley Region.



Recent Acquisitions	Browsing in our Archives	Board Members	Gift Membership	Fellowships/ Internships	Featured Testimonial	Conference Recap	Call for Volunteers	Exhibit Spotlight	Staff Profile	The Filsonians
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a full year since The Filson opened the new Owsley Brown II History Center and unveiled major renovations to the Ferguson mansion. In that time we've learned just how valuable this expansion is and how much it will do to create a new future for The Filson.

The Dan and Frances Street Hall on the first floor of the new building and Caperton Hall on the second floor are elegant and well-appointed lecture halls. Each of these rooms will accommodate audiences of more than 200, quite an improvement over the old lecture space in the mansion which held 75 people at most. Every month, The Filson holds programs that simply wouldn't have fit in the former space. The sound system is far better and the technology far more advanced. Both spaces are also available to outside groups, with rental income contributing to the cost of maintenance.

Our new stacks wing is already filling fast with new acquisitions and materials formerly stored off site. The climate control systems ensure the low temperatures and humidity that preserve the life of archival materials and museum pieces.

The Carriage House has been transformed into a welcome hall and beautiful exhibit gallery. Because the new entrance is at ground level, visitors are no longer forced to contend with stairs. The welcome hall serves double duty as a place for receptions and a gathering place for an increasing number of school groups.

The Ferguson Mansion has been transformed with a new library and research room, a more open layout, and beautifully restored oak floors. Visitors on the daily tours take delight in the refreshed original finishes of the grand parlors on the first floor. Improved lighting throughout the mansion shows off the many paintings on display.

In only one year the new and expanded spaces have allowed better programs and exhibits. They have contributed to a climate of professionalism and excellence in Filson activities. For all of this we are grateful to the many people whose gifts made the campus expansion a reality. Thank you.



Craig Buthod,
President and CEO

FROM THE CHAIR

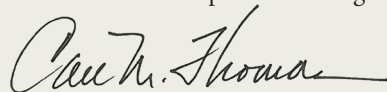
Included in this edition is information about our Board of Directors. We are delighted to have added Stuart Goldberg, Marianne Welch, Elizabeth Clay, Morris Weiss, M.D., and Larry Muhammad in recent months. We have made significant progress in our ambition to have a board that more fully represents our entire community.

In addition to hiring and overseeing the President/Chief Executive Officer and establishing policies, a key responsibility of the board is to set the strategic direction for the organization. In its 2015–2019 Strategic Plan, the board reaffirmed The Filson's mission statement, which is essentially unchanged since our founding in 1884... "to collect, preserve, and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture." Our Mission statement and our core values continue to reflect our desire to be a nationally recognized center, a gathering place for scholars, and to have informative, creative and fully-funded programs to share our collections and research. All of this is to be done in an open, accessible and inclusive manner to serve everyone in our community.

Many key goals and strategies identified in the current plan have been accomplished including the completion of the Cornerstone Capital Campaign (which exceeded the \$11.75 million target), the completion of the renovation of the Ferguson Mansion and the Carriage House, the construction of the Owsley Brown II History Center, modernizing the Society's organizational structure through amendments to the by-laws, successfully managing the retirements of three key staff members (Director Dr. Mark Wetherington, Deputy Director Judy Miller, and Rick Anderson, Director of Development), increasing memberships and annual giving, the completion of the virtual card catalogue, and the installation of digital imaging technology.

Given these accomplishments, we believe that it is appropriate for the board to embark on an endeavor, beginning in December, to update and revise the current strategic plan through 2023. We plan to complete this work by Spring of 2018 and will keep you posted.

For those of you who attended the annual Filson House Tour, I think you will agree that it was terrific! Our sincere gratitude goes to the owners who graciously opened their homes to our members, to our volunteers who participated and to Dr. Julie Scoskie and her team who pulled it all together.



Carl M. Thomas,
Chairman of the Board

BOARD MEMBERS

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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

Papers, paintings, photos, and more continued to be added to The Filson's collection in recent months. Whether a photograph of the long gone Warren house that once graced the southeast corner of Fourth and Muhammad Ali or a memory painting by African American folk artist Helen La France, these and the many more additions to the collection all help tell the story of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture.



"Laundry Day" by Helen La France, no date. La France lived in Graves Co., Ky. The theme of "Laundry Day" was a popular topic in her memory paintings.



Mammoth Life and Accident Insurance Company promotional outing, no date [ca. 1920s]. This African-American owned insurance company headquartered in Louisville played an important role in the African-American community. Gift of Nancy Demartra.



Photo of the A. S. Blunk Heating Company store, 425 S. Third St., Louisville, Ky., 1925. Gift of Louise and Michael Slaven.

Anti-Happy Chandler political leaflet issued by the Democratic supporters of Ned Breathitt as the Democratic nominee for Kentucky governor in the 1963 election. Gift of Mildred Ewen.

NOT WANTED FOR GOVERNOR

Albert Benjamin Chandler, alias Happy, alias Swimming Pool Al, alias Whiskey Fee Albert, alias Newport Ben, alias the Goose Hunter, alias Bennie the Party Bolter, alias The Singing Bandit.

Physical Description: Eyes: shifty, especially in Newport area. Couldn't spot vice and gambling with 75 preachers pointing it out. Build: lardish. Skin: turns different colors when questioned about scandals in last administration and solemn oath not to raise taxes. Mouth: generally open, but can be closed very easily by asking what he did to earn \$32,000 paid him by Lexington liquor firm when Senator.

Race: Prefers presidential but to get nose back in public trough has settled for gubernatorial.

Age: Nearing 70 but prefers not to discuss it. Uses pictures 20 years old.

Scars: Has initials P. M. carved on heart. Inflicted by Pearl Mesta in 1952 when he made Kentucky laughing stock of nation at Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Other Identifying Marks: Tattoo on chest: "I love Thurston", "I love Thurmond". Burned fingers (Check Doris Owen and Olive Hill files).

Occupation: Manufacturer and statewide distributor of ABC Elastic Budget, "Whistful AB's Instant Tears", "Old Hag's Promises for All Counties and Occasions".

Remarks: Self-convicted. Long record of administrative scandals. Despite promises, can be expected to double state income & property tax; also raise tobacco tax and impose service & use taxes. Hates farmers, Louisville, East Kentucky. Most "promising" candidate in Kentucky history. Frequents stumps, platforms, smoke-filled rooms. Seldom found around hunting preserves anymore.

Caution: This man is extremely dangerous. Heavily armed with promises for all. Can wreck school system, road program, set Kentucky back 30 years. Keep all babies out of reach. If seen, please notify nearest "Stop, Thief" Committeeman.



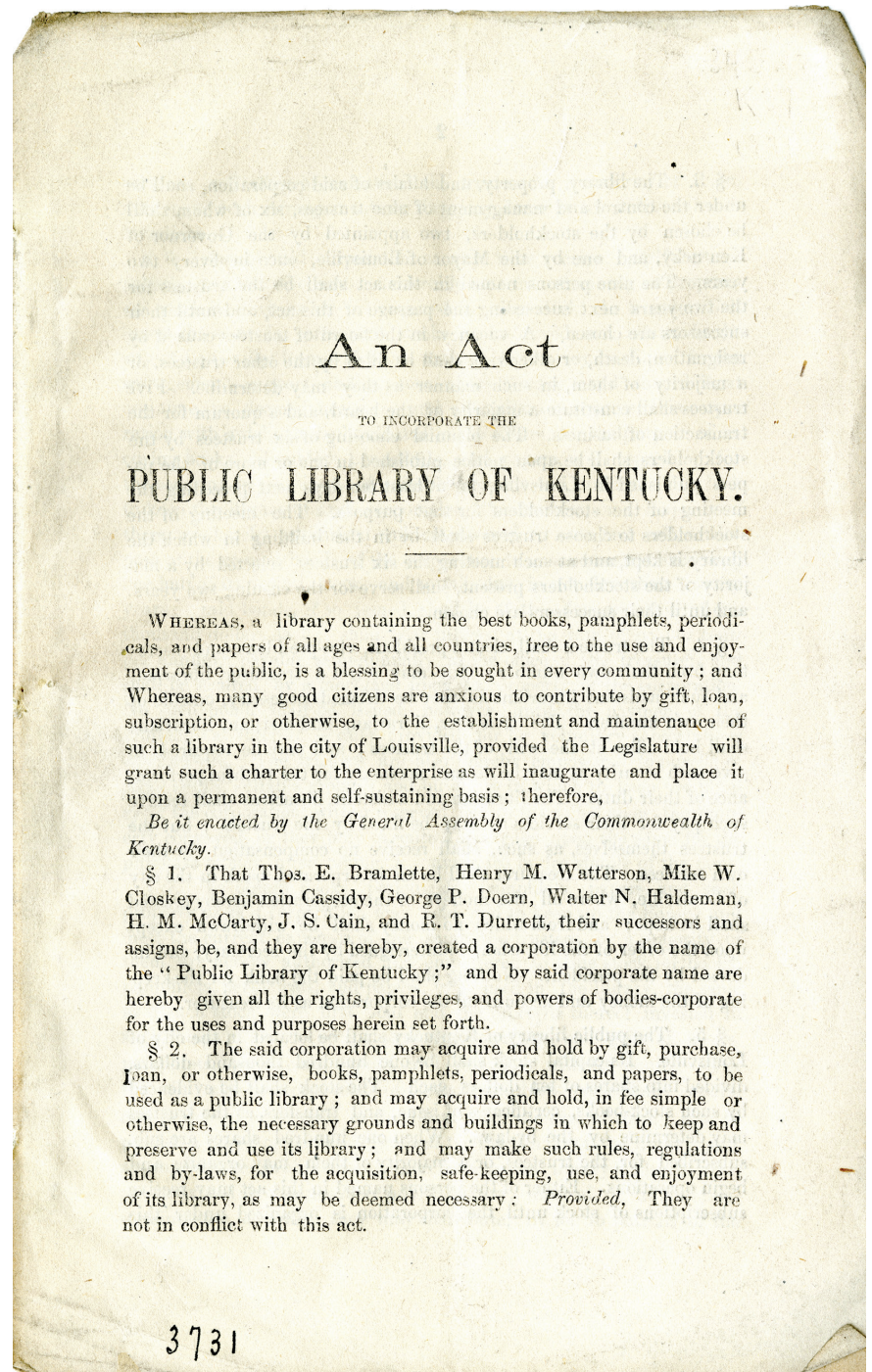
The Warren house on the southeast corner of 4th and Walnut (now Muhammad Ali) in Louisville, ca. 1905. Gift of Allen Schubert.

Free For All—Eventually

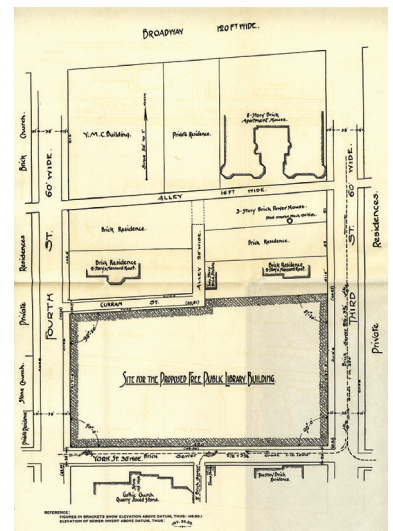
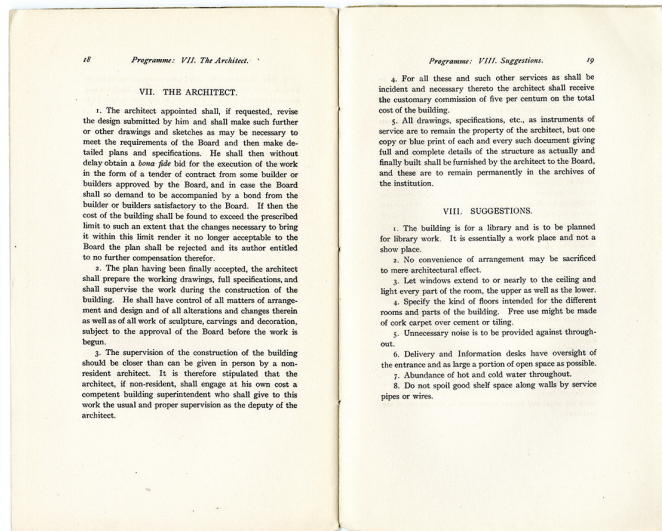
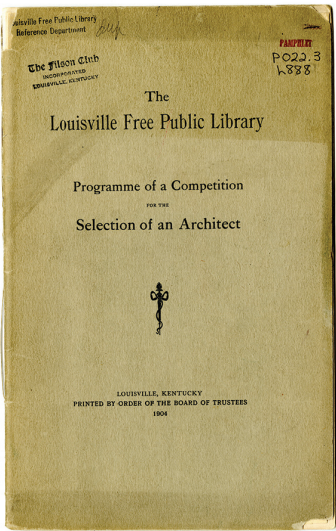
JOHNA L. EBLING | ASSOCIATE CURATOR AND EXHIBITS MANAGER

In preparation for my November presentation at The Crescent Hill Public Library titled “Carnegie Libraries in Louisville” I’ve been scouring The Filson’s collections looking for material on the history of Louisville’s libraries. Resources reveal that Louisville wasn’t the first Kentucky city to have a library, in fact, it didn’t even make the top ten. The first *Free* Public Library of Louisville opened in 1908 when Andrew Carnegie donated \$250,000 for construction of the Downtown Branch. It should be noted however, that the Free Public Library of Louisville was segregated for the first forty years of its existence and “Free” did not mean inclusive for many of Louisville’s citizens. Opening the same year as the Main Branch, the Western Colored Branch served the African American community. The first of only a few Carnegie-funded African American libraries, Western began in 1905 within the home of William M. Andrews and was open to *anyone* regardless of race. Realizing that the history of the Louisville Libraries wasn’t so cut and dry, I decided that to best understand the significance of The Filson’s library-related materials, I had to go back to the very beginning of Louisville’s library planning—back to 1816, the year that four Louisvillians made the first (and there were many) attempt at opening a library in Louisville.

Louisville’s first crack at a library was the Louisville Library Company and it was created under the model of Benjamin Franklin’s plan for the Philadelphia Library (Franklin’s plan was created some eighty years prior, mind



Pamphlet detailing the incorporation of the Public Library of Kentucky. Rare Pamphlet, Filson Library Collection [344.092 K37 1871]



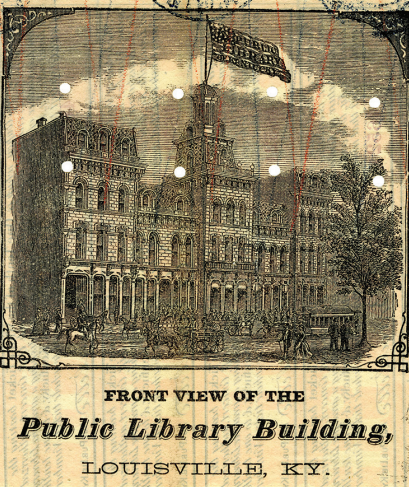
As part of the contract with library benefactor Andrew Carnegie, cities receiving funding for library buildings had to follow specific requirements and standards when constructing Carnegie Libraries. Brochures like this were used as guides for architects interested in competing for the project. Pamphlet, Filson Library Collection [022.3 L888 1904]

LIST OF GIFTS.	
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	100,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	100,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	50,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	50,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	50,000
10 Cash Gifts, \$10,000 each,	100,000
50 Cash Gifts, 2,000 each,	100,000
100 Cash Gifts, 1,000 each,	100,000
500 Cash Gifts, 200 each,	100,000
1,000 Cash Gifts, 100 each,	100,000
5,000 Cash Gifts, 20 each,	100,000
10,000 Cash Gifts, 10 each,	100,000
TOTAL, 11,000 GIFTS, ALL CASH, AMOUNTING TO	\$1,000,000

PRICE OF TICKETS.	
Whole Tickets,	\$50.00
Half,	25.00
Twenty, (or each coupon),	5.00
11 Whole Tickets for,	500.00
254 Tickets for,	1,000.00
113 Whole Tickets for,	5,000.00
27 Whole Tickets for,	10,000.00

PAYMENT OF GIFTS.

The paying of gifts will begin the 1st day after the drawing and continue for six months thereafter and so on. Tickets entitled to gifts must be presented to Hon. Tho. K. Bramlette, Room No. 4, Public Library Building, Louisville, Ky., where they will be taken up, and paid by Cash Checks upon the Farmers and Traders Bank of Louisville, or by sight drafts upon the 4th National Bank of New York, at the option of the holder. No gift will be paid without delivery of the ticket entitled to it, and all gifts not called for within six months from the drawing will be turned over to the Public Library fund.



MODE OF DRAWING.

There will be upon the stage 17,000 tickets, the numbers of which can be seen by the audience. A committee, consisting of three members selected by the management, having first made an alphabetical list and examination, will place in the large wheel 100,000 tickets, cut by the same die, neatly alike, and having printed numbers upon them from 1 to 100,000, corresponding to the numbers of all the tickets sold. A wheel containing, being first examined, covered, sealed, and sealed up in a cylindrical box, previously alike, as many sheets of paper, on which are printed the 100,000 gifts, of denominations from \$100 to \$10,000, will then place these 1,000 sealed boxes containing the gifts, in the smaller wheel. Both wheels will then be turned until their diameters are thoroughly mixed. A blind box under 10 years of age, will then draw from the larger wheel one of the tickets, and hold it up to the full view of the audience, its number will be called loud enough for all to hear, by the clerk appointed for this purpose; the tag will then be passed to the "ladies of the distinguished citizens, who will say 'the number has been rightly called.' It will be passed to a register, who will file it upon a copper wire prepared for that purpose. The number of the tag then drawn, correct, given and read, will be recorded by five clerks, in separate little books, one for each side of the stage. A blind girl of similar age will then draw from the smaller wheel one of the sealed boxes, which will be opened and the gift taken out, numbered and laid up in the view of the audience. The amount of the gift then drawn will then be read, recorded by the five clerks, and the paper filed by the register with the tag upon the wire. The gift then drawn will belong to the ticket bearing the same number as the tag drawn in, and the wheel. Then this process will continue until 1,000 numbers are called off before it. Then this process will continue until 1,000 numbers are drawn from the large wheel and all the gifts from the small wheel, and the thousand gifts, ranging from \$100 to \$10,000, then drawn, will be paid to the parties who present the ticket having numbers that correspond to that to be entitled to them. The other gifts being \$100 in value are approximations, and will be determined and paid as follows: the numbers of all the tickets sold being considered in a circle, numerically formed, and having the highest number, 60,000, and the lowest, 1, brought together, then whatever number in this circle may be by lot determined to be entitled to the Capital Gift of \$100,000 will be taken as a center, on each side of which the next 5,000 numbers in regular numerical order, will be prepared for the five gifts, then making on the two sides of the Capital Gift the 11,000 nearest numbers, each of which will be entitled to \$500 provided, however, that in making this count of 11,000 numbers nearest to that of the Capital Gift, all intervening numbers which draw higher gifts will be excepted, so as to avoid duplicating gifts. In making this selection one to pay a \$500 gift to any ticket entitled to a larger gift. After the drawing is over, the large wheel containing the tags, will be placed in the hands of a committee chosen by the audience, who can examine for themselves and see whether all the tickets sold were represented by tags with corresponding numbers. With such precautions all must see that the utmost fairness is observed, and that fraud, favoritism, or any knowledge beforehand of what gift any ticket will draw, is absolutely impossible. Those entitled by lot to the gifts, and none others, will get them.

LIBRARIES AND LOTTERIES

A HISTORY OF THE LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Compiled by Workers in the Service Division
of the Work Projects Administration
in the State of Kentucky

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES
ILLUSTRATED

THE HOBSON BOOK PRESS
CYNTHIANA, KENTUCKY
1944

Lottery ticket used to raise funds for the Public Library of Kentucky. Lawsuits were later filed, as neither winners nor the library received promised funds. The Library was housed within the Central Market Building (pictured here) located between Fourth and Fifth Streets. It is now the site of the Kaufman-Straus Co. building, which also housed the library for a short time. Public Library of Kentucky Papers [Mss. C/P]

The story of Louisville Libraries from initial successes and failures in the early 19th century through 1944. Filson Library Collection [Libraries and Lotteries: A History of the Louisville Free Public Library, 027.4976 U58]

you) and was located in the city's courthouse. This arrangement lasted only six years and folded in 1822. It would be another ten years before the city tried again, this time under the name Louisville Lyceum. The Lyceum was described as a small library "commenced by the donations of some gentlemen." In the years to follow, many private library societies would come and go, including the Mechanics' Institute of the City of Louisville,

the Kentucky Historical Society, The Louisville Franklin Lyceum, the Mercantile Library Association, the People's Library, the Louisville Library Association, and the Public Library of Kentucky. In 1876, the Polytechnic Society was founded, and was the precursor to The Louisville Free Public Library. Louisville wasn't the only city to experience such a rocky road to library success. The requirements and standardizations associated

with the administration and construction of Carnegie Libraries is due in part to the fact that this sort of chaotic and ill-funded planning (and eventual library failure) was common throughout the country. As for Carnegie Libraries, Louisville in its prime hosted nine. Today all of those buildings still stand, though only four operate as libraries—Downtown Main Branch, Western, Crescent Hill, and Portland.

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Meet The Filson Historical Society's Board of Directors

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Stuart Goldberg

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Robert E. Kulp, Jr.

Larry Muhammad

Patrick R. Northam

Anne Brewer Ogden

H. Powell Starks

John P. Stern

Morris Weiss, M.D.

Marianne Welch

Orme Wilson III

*Not Pictured



Carl M. Thomas



A. Stewart Lussky



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H. Powell Starks



John P. Stern



Morris Weiss, M.D.



Marianne Welch



Orme Wilson III



This Holiday Season, Give History!

**FILSON GIFT MEMBERSHIPS ARE 10% OFF
DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER!**

A Filson Historical Society membership is the perfect gift for everyone on your list this holiday season! All memberships include:

- Free research in the Filson Library and Special Collections
- Free or reduced admission to all Filson events
- Subscriptions to *The Filson* newsmagazine and the *Ohio Valley History* journal
- Discounts, exhibition previews, and more!

Purchase gift memberships online at filsonhistorical.org/membership and apply the discount code DEC2017 at checkout to receive 10% off your order.

Gift memberships are also available by phone. Please call the Development office at 502-634-7108.

Fellowships and Internships at The Filson

BY JAMIE EVANS | MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Through the years, The Filson Historical Society's Fellowship and Internship program has offered several fellowships, all of which are funded by a variety of sources. Fellowships encourage the scholarly use of our nationally significant collections by providing support for travel and lodging. Internships provide practical experience in collections management and research for graduate students. Fellows as well as interns are expected to be in continuous residence at The Filson.

Fellows are chosen because their research is relevant to The Filson's collections. Each fellow gives a presentation of their research to scholars and the public when appropriate, and they are also encouraged to publish their research in our scholarly journal, *Ohio Valley History*.

While most of our fellows and interns are affiliated with colleges and universities, there have been several who are independent scholars. In 2017, 12 fellows* fulfilled their time at The Filson. Below is a list of the fellows and their topics of study:

- Jamie L. Brummitt, Duke University, "Protestant Relics: Religion, Objects, and the Art of Mourning in the Early American Republic"
- Andrew Fialka, Ph.D Candidate, University of Georgia, "Of Methods and Madness: A Spatial History Approach to the Civil War's Guerrilla Violence"
- Charlene Fletcher Brown, Indiana University Bloomington, "Confined Femininity: Race, Gender, and Incarceration in Kentucky, 1865-1920"
- Jack Furniss, University of Virginia, "States of the Union: the Political Center in the Civil War North"
- Dr. Patrick Lewis, Kentucky Historical Society, "Stratton Hammon: Monuments Man"
- John Martin McMillan, Marshall University, "Impracticable, Inhospitable, and Dismal Country: An Examination of the Environmental Impact on Civil War Military Operations in West Virginia"
- Dr. Rebecca Montgomery, Texas State University, "Building a Base for Progress: Southern Women and African American Education, 1880-1920"
- Dr. Megan Kate Nelson, Freelance writer, *Path of the Dead Man: How the West was Won—and Lost—during the American Civil War*

- Emma Newcombe, Boston University, "A Place Rendered Interesting: Antebellum Print Culture and the Rise of American Middle-Class Tourism"
- Dr. Aaron Purcell, Professor and Director of Special Collections at Virginia Tech, "'With Labor's Ranks': Ethel du Pont and Labor Activism in Louisville, 1930s-1950s"
- Alexis Smith, Indiana University, "Blurred Bondage: Native American and African American Slavery in the Ohio River Valley, 1600–1820"
- Anne Delano Steinert, University of Cincinnati, "'How Did That Ever Get There?': Locating the Covington-Cincinnati Bridge in the Industrializing City"
- Andrew Wiley, University of Calgary, "'A Steady Opposition to Every Evolution of Radicalism': Conservatism, Conservatives, and the Civil War Era"

The Filson also hosted several interns during the year. Hannah O'Daniel, a 2017 graduate from the University of Louisville, was the H. F. Boehl intern this year. Ms. O'Daniel's graduate research focused on silent historical actors in Kentucky and the United States throughout the nineteenth century. While she was at The Filson, she worked on several projects, including the Good Home Grown Music Papers with Aaron Rosenblum and processing the Louisville Collegiate School Records with Jana Meyer. Kate Breitenstein, an aspiring conservator, has been assisting Maureen Lane with an inventory of The Filson's paintings this summer and fall. The Filson also hosted Wendy Brimhall, a graduate of Brigham Young University, for an outside internship. Wendy worked with Jana Meyer on manuscript processing and cataloged the Confederate Home research collection and the William Breckinridge research collection. She also worked on an accrual to the Porter Harned collection. In addition, she worked with Maureen on a few projects including genealogical research on museum items and creating a Genealogical Research Guide to help people who are just getting started with their genealogy research.

Our fellowship and internship program is an essential part of The Filson's mission to collect, preserve, and tell the significant stories of Ohio Valley history and culture. For more information about the program and the different types of awards that are given, please visit <http://filsonhistorical.org/education/fellowships-internships-2/> or contact Dr. LeeAnn Whites, Director of Research, at lwhites@filsonhistorical.org.

*Fellows as of November 1, 2017

Emma Newcombe

How did you hear about the fellowships and internships program at The Filson?

I heard about the Filson Fellowships through the H-Net (Humanities and Social Sciences Online) listserv. It sounded perfect for me, as I was completing work on Mammoth Cave, and I knew the Filson had a number of materials related to the site. One of my dissertation readers, William D. Moore, was a Filson fellow in the past, and he also recommended I apply.

Which fellowship/internship were you offered?

I was offered a one-week Filson fellowship.

Please tell us about your visit here. Which collections were you most interested in? How were your interactions with the staff?

I wanted to look at materials related to tourism at Mammoth Cave in the nineteenth century, specifically the antebellum era. The Filson has a large collection of travelogues, guidebooks, magazine articles, and lithographs related to Mammoth Cave travel during this period. I also delved into the Filson's postbellum photography from Mammoth Cave. These include Charles Waldack's 1866 stereoviews, as well as photographs by Mandeville Thum, William F. Sesser, and Ben Hains.

The staff was extremely helpful. Every morning, the staff pulled items for me, and even suggested materials I might want to look at. In particular, Heather Potter helped me access the rich photograph archives on Mammoth Cave, many of which I had not known of before arriving. She helped me use the Filson's in-house database of images, which helped me find the items I needed.

Tell me about your presentation to the staff. Did it go as you hoped? Were the staff members present able to point you in the direction of other collections you might not have considered?

The presentation went very well. A number of the staff attended, some of whom had been helping me all week. Everyone was enthusiastic about my project, and people offered me many helpful suggestions about other archives to explore and ways to push my argument forward. LeeAnn Whites gave me a lot of encouragement with this project in particular.

What was your favorite find during your visit?

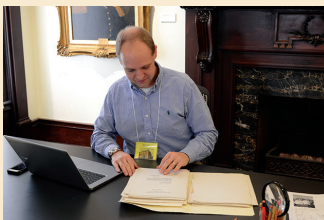
The postbellum photographs - in particular, Charles Waldack's stereoviews of the Cave - were my favorite find. They were well archived by Heather Potter, which allowed me to see a description and image of each photograph before pulling the physical object. These images offer a fascinating glimpse into how postbellum artists viewed the Cave. Moreover, they demonstrate how a new technology provided a novel means of depicting the Cave.

Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

I had a terrific week at the Filson, due in large part to the friendliness and assistance of the staff. Thank you for being such a helpful part of my dissertation research!



Alexis Smith



Dr. Patrick Lewis



Jamie L. Brummitt



Dr. Megan Kate Nelson



Dr. Rebecca Montgomery

Linda Raymond and Bill Ellison

Linda Raymond and Bill Ellison are retired journalists with a strong interest in history. After retiring from long careers at the *Courier-Journal* and the *Louisville Times*, they pursued their interest in history.

Bill: I moved to Louisville in 1968 and joined *The Filson* pretty quickly. I had majored in history as an undergraduate and also got my masters in it. I was always interested in history, but I was working at the *Courier-Journal*.

Linda: This was a very long time ago.

B: But as you know, journalism is the first rough draft of history and I had an emphasis in American history when I got my masters at the University of Alabama for that reason. I've been a member ever since and when we got married in 1984, Linda became a member.

L: You know, I think we got really involved with *The Filson* in a new way when we started doing some history projects. We did a couple of smaller ones to get warmed up for the big one. One was on John Mason Strauss and the other was on Ben Harney, the ragtime guy. Those were published as part of the *Encyclopedia of Louisville*.

B: We retired in 2001 and that's when we started writing together as a hobby. It's a lot of fun and is a different kind of writing from what we did at the newspaper.

L: The project that really cemented our appreciation of what you all do is the book that we just finished, which is on Louise Marshall, the founder of the Cabbage Patch. We became interested in her through a book that had to do with church history, and we encountered some of the work she'd done during the depression, really serious,



Join us on March 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. for a lecture with Bill and Linda on their book, *The Two Lives and One Passion of Louise Marshall, Founder of the Cabbage Patch Settlement*

lifesaving work. That piqued Bills' interest, and when we recovered from the first book, we wanted to do some more work on her. We weren't sure we could find enough on her because she's been virtually ignored by historians. There's a brief piece in the *Louisville Encyclopedia*. As it happened, about the time we got interested in this, the Cabbage Patch was having its 100th anniversary and started transferring its' records here [*The Filson*]. They had been minimally curated, they were eventually 40 cubic feet of records that were transferred here. When they came, they were pretty raw and Jennie [Cole] started going through them, and she was really wonderful, pinpointing things we would be interested in. We eventually went through everything that she did and we spent a lot of hours in the reading room going through that stuff. One day, I

was at the Cabbage Patch glancing over a book case and lo and behold, here's something that said "Louise Marshall's Diary" and it was her diary from when she was a teenager! The Cabbage Patch said, "Sure, you can look at it" and they just handed it to me. I looked at it and thought, "no no no, I'm not going to go romping through this." So I brought it to *The Filson* and Jennie photocopied it and put it on CD's so we could really look at it, and it was incredible. *The Filson's* willingness to work with us on a project like this was just wonderful. It made all the difference in making Ms. Marshall real and telling her story. There were tape fragments and they helped us play them. Jennie flagged a scrapbook at once because she knew it would be important to us. *The Filson* was just a critical part of us being able to do this work.

RECAP:

FROM COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS TO THE IRAQ WAR: PRISONERS OF WAR AND THEIR PLACE IN HISTORY

JAMIE EVANS | MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

In October, The Filson Historical Society's Institute for Advanced Study held a two-day conference, *From Colonial Encounters to the Iraq War: Prisoners of War and Their Place in History*, in the Owsley Brown II History Center. The conference was underwritten by the C. E. & S. Foundation and attended by 55 people with nearly half of the audience falling into the student and non-member category.

The opening keynote for the conference gave an overview of the history of prisoners of war in American Military History and how they were used in military strategy. Conveners Lorien Foote, Associate Professor at Texas A&M University, and Daniel Krebs, Associate Professor at the University of Louisville, talked about how they (POWs) were more than just a number. They played an integral part in the outcomes of battles. The speakers touched on how prisoners of war were used in ancient societies and how they are used today.

This conference covered a variety of topics, including the politics and ideology of captivity in war, the cultural history of captivity, and the search for prisoner of war memories and memoirs. Throughout the two days, attendees learned about the American POW experience and the experiences of POWs in other countries. Several European encounters were covered, and the presenters documented the POW experience well into the 20th century. In the Friday evening keynote, Paul Springer, Air Command and Staff College, spoke about the forgotten casualties in modern warfare, an interesting presentation on the way that the military is becoming roboticized. While this is good for keeping people out of the fight, his take is that soon all fighting will be done by machines,

which speaks to the automation of not only the military, but society as well.

Overall, the conference was a success and The Filson received many compliments from attendees and presenters alike. Many presenters stated that it was a pleasure to speak to such an informed audience and they appreciated the beautiful surroundings. Several of the presenters took the opportunity to do research in The Filson's collections while they were in Louisville. The Filson has earned a reputation for bringing good speakers to Louisville. Conference attendees reported that they thought this was an excellent conference. They said not only was the topic very interesting, but they found the presenters well informed and they learned a great deal.

From Colonial Encounters to the Iraq War: Prisoners of War and Their Place in History is also part of an international conversation about prisoner of war history. In Spring 2018, a conference on this topic will take place at East Stroudsburg University in Switzerland. The conveners have also proposed to pull the articles and papers shared here into an anthology on prisoner of war history.

If you are interested in learning more about the prisoner of war experience or want to catch a session you might have missed, podcasts of the sessions are available on The Filson's website for members (filsonhistorical.org/education/filson-institute-conferences/). The coordinating Power Point presentations will also be available for those who would like to follow along. Additionally, if you are interested in reading any of the papers, please email Jamie Evans, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator (jevans@filsonhistorical.org), and she will provide you with a read-only copy via Dropbox.

The Filson Historical Society has been awarded the **Thomas D. Clark Award of Excellence**

The Thomas D. Clark Award of Excellence is presented to a local historical organization for outstanding achievement throughout 2016. Last year was a year of transformations and new beginnings for The Filson Historical Society. The organization completed a major expansion of its campus, creating 20,000 square feet of new event, archival, exhibit, and community space. The expansion increased the programming capacities, gallery spaces, and long-term archival storage for The Filson, allowing the organization to offer new community engagement opportunities, including family and youth programming and rotating gallery exhibits. The Filson offered 68 public events tied to their mission to collect, preserve, and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley history.

With a staff of 19 full- and part-time members and 12 volunteers, The Filson continues to make history relevant and accessible to Louisvillians through lecture series, rotating exhibits, and collection care and processing.

For their facility expansion, new programming, and continued dedication as a cultural anchor in the community, a trusted academic resource, and a center for lifelong learning, the 2017 Thomas D. Clark Award of Excellence was presented to The Filson Historical Society. Julie Scoskie, Vice President, Jennie Cole, Manager of Collections Access, and Laura Wiley, Director of Membership and Development, accepted the award on behalf of The Filson.



From left: Jennie Cole, Manager of Collections Access; Constance Alexander, President of the Kentucky Historical Society; Julie Scoskie, Vice President; and Laura Wiley, Director of Membership and Development.

Call for Volunteers

Volunteer Opportunities at The Filson

The Filson Historical Society is building its volunteer base for 2018!

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 using SimpleTix, our online event registration platform
- Directing patrons and visitors within the building/campus according to their needs
- Office-related tasks such as folding/stuffing envelopes for mailing

Volunteers should be comfortable using a computer and Windows 7. Our volunteers regularly use internet based programs such as DonorPerfect, our membership database, and SimpleTix, our event registration platform, as well as Microsoft Office.

If you are interested in serving as a front desk volunteer, please contact Julie Scoskie, by phone at (502) 635-9289 or by email at julie@filsonhistorical.org.

Please look for more volunteer opportunities becoming available in the coming months!

The Great War through the Lens of Jack Speed

BY JANA MEYER | ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

John “Jack” Speed was a 23-year-old agriculture student at Purdue University when President Woodrow Wilson pressed Congress for a declaration of war against the German Empire. Immersed in his studies as well as his social life as a member of both a theater group and Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Speed was nevertheless aware of the impending call to arms. In a letter home to Louisville he declared that he would hate for the country to sidestep war and lose national honor, despite the lives that would be lost in the conflict. On April 6, 1917, Congress made the momentous decision to lead the country into World War I and Speed gave his unreserved support.

He and other students at Purdue were advised to complete their coursework before enlisting in the officer’s reserve corps, agricultural, or engineering work. Purdue’s conservative approach was criticized by more belligerent voices, but Speed stood by university administrators. In his view, true patriotism was distinguished by its calm, rational, and quietly courageous nature—not the hysteria of the “war mad” eastern colleges or of those participating in jingoistic meetings. He told his father, “I believe that the louder a man howls about patriotism, the less patriotic he is.... He is the first one to show the yellow flag.”¹

Setting aside a promising summer job opportunity, Speed entered the Officer’s Training Corps at Fort Harrison, Indiana. At the camp, he learned artillery work—an assignment he much preferred to his stint the previous summer in infantry service along the Mexican border. In the military Speed found

himself in the company of like-minded men. In a letter to his mother he wrote, “You can’t imagine how pretty it is to see about two thousand men going through exercises. The men all worked together almost like a machine.” He described his fellow enlistees as an “honorable” group; he had no sympathy for the “yellow-bellied” who avoided service or critics of the government. At the end of the summer he received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant.

On September 7, 1917, Speed boarded the *S.S. Manchuria*, en route across the Atlantic to the Western Front. More training followed, this time in the fields of France. In his limited leisure time Speed explored the streets of Paris—the girls used “too much powder and paint”—and toured the foreign countryside on horseback and by bicycle. To his father he wrote detailed descriptions of French agricultural practices, particularly fascinated by the organization of farmsteads and methods of fertilization: “The [manure] pile must have been all of a hundred and fifty feet long, thirty feet wide, and twelve or fifteen high.... There were carts backed up loading it to carry it to the small farms.”

In spring 1918, Speed’s regiment, the 150th Field Artillery, joined the 5th and 6th French armies on the front lines. At the



A self-portrait of John “Jack” Speed, a direct descendant of the Speed family of Farmington plantation. His great-grandfather, James Speed, served as Attorney General to Abraham Lincoln. Speed labeled this picture “Somewhere, Dec. 31, 1917.” Speed Photo Collection, The Filson Historical Society.



Soldiers training for artillery service in World War I at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Lawrence, Indiana. Speed attended the Officer's Training Corps at Fort Harrison during the summer of 1917. Speed Photo Collection, The Filson Historical Society.

front Speed experienced both the tedium and turmoil of war. Long stretches of quiet days were interspersed with the racket of poison gas alarms, the hum of airplanes overhead, and the reverberations of artillery shells. For Speed, it was the shells that warned him of his presence in a warzone: "When you hear them at first, they have a buzzing or whining sound... If it comes very close to you it has a rushing sound like an express train."

War transformed Jack Speed in ways that many young men of his generation did not experience. Most Americans who served in the military during WWI did not experience battle, being instead assigned to support roles. Only 40% were assigned combatant roles, with even many of these men arriving too late to the front. Speed's younger brother Thomas was among the many who trained for combat but never experienced it. In contrast,



Speed sailed for Europe aboard the S.S. *Manchuria* in September 1917. He was among the first 40,000 U.S. troops to arrive in France. Speed Photo Collection, The Filson Historical Society.

Endnotes

1 All letters quoted in this article between Speed family members are from the Speed family papers (Mss. A S742f), The Filson Historical Society.

Jack was among the first 40,000 Americans sent abroad. His prior service with the Indiana National Guard made him a fitting candidate; he arrived in France in September 1917, a mere five months after the U.S. declared war. His regiment saw action at some of the most lethal battles in which American soldiers fought: Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and especially, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. His frequent letters home described his experiences at the front.

The war's dehumanizing effect on Speed was evident in his correspondence. He referred to the Germans in impersonal terms, labeling them the "Boche" or "Fritz." He enjoyed watching German airplanes crash after hearing that they had bombed French hospitals and towns. Moreover, he and his fellow soldiers felt a distinct lack of sympathy for German casualties of war. In one of his most disquieting passages, Speed wrote with pleasure about the failure of a German offensive and the vast numbers killed in a "glorious harvest for the machine gunners."

The Filson is fortunate that Speed was not only a regular correspondent, but also a prolific amateur photographer. At the time of the war's onset, technological improvements resulted in cameras that were more portable and accessible to the general public than ever before. During his training and time abroad, Speed snapped numerous photos, most likely with a Vest Pocket Kodak, also known as "the soldier's camera." The Speed family photograph collection at the Filson contains several hundred images from his WWI service, bringing to life the people and places in his letters. In Speed's photographs we see French pastoral scenes juxtaposed with the armaments of modern warfare. Next spring Filson members and the general public are invited to view an exhibit featuring a few of these images. *Through a Soldier's Lens: Jack Speed's WWI Photography* will open at the Filson on April 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.



While stationed in Fontainebleau for additional artillery training, Speed and other officers explored the French countryside by bicycle. Speed Photo Collection, The Filson Historical Society.



Speed (on left) in a communication trench. At the front Speed was the 3rd Battalion's telephone officer, leading a team of men to lay and repair cable lines. Speed Photo Collection, The Filson Historical Society.

Dr. Mark Wetherington

Senior Research Consultant, Filson Historical Society

Dr. Mark Wetherington received his B.A. and Master's degrees in history at Georgia Southern and earned a Ph.D. in history in 1985 from the University of Tennessee. Since 1983, he has been actively involved in the management of historical societies in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Kentucky. He served as director of the East Tennessee Historical Society from 1986–1989 and the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston from 1989–1993.

Mark joined the staff of The Filson Historical Society in 1993 as Director of the institution. At the time, The Filson did not have a presence beyond the membership who read our publications or visited to use our genealogical resources. Throughout his 22-year tenure as Director, he oversaw many changes and additions to the institution and its collections. In the first ten years alone, the organization saw a shift in direction from a strictly membership-based organization to a regional historical society. Under his leadership, The Filson expanded its public programs, research offerings, and scholarly research.

In 2015, Mark retired as the Director of The Filson and moved to the role of Senior Research Consultant. His favorite collections at The Filson include anything having to do with the Ohio River, river life, and its people. There are so many collections that include papers, photographs, and maps that allow researchers to gain an incredible amount of knowledge from Louisville's urban history. Mark was very happy when The Filson acquired the Schenck-Danner collection, which includes records of the steamboats Ulysses P. Schenck operated on the Ohio River in the mid-to-late 1800s. The collection is currently being processed by Associate Curator Jana Meyer and portions of it are available for research. Additionally, items such as traveler's accounts give a lot of insight into the lives that the people of the river led during this time in history.

Outside of The Filson, Mark has spent over thirty years researching and writing about the history of South Georgia. His first book, *The New South Comes To Wiregrass Georgia, 1860–1910*, won the American Historical Association's Herbert Feis book award in 1995. His second book, *Plain Folk's Fight: The Civil War And Reconstruction In Piney Woods Georgia*, was published in 2005. He has also served as an adjunct history professor at the University of Tennessee and the University of Louisville.



Currently, Mark has circled back to the research he did as a graduate student, moving more toward rural history and rural families. He is interested in the changing rural landscape, focusing on the environmental history, deforestation and what that did to people's lives and to the affected communities between 1870 and 1900. He said, "I still find it very interesting how people's lives changed over half a century and how they adapted to no longer having the resources of the forest to help them have a decent life. The same thing happened in shanty boat Louisville, with people living in that neighborhood for a hundred years."

The Filsonians

August–October 2017



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) 634-7108 or email Laura Kerr Wiley at laura@filsonhistorical.org.

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