JANUARY 2015 PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
6:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members

Louisville Jug Music: From Earl McDonald to the National Jubilee
Michael L. Jones
Foraged on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers during the nineteenth century, jug band music was the early soundtrack for a new nation. Louisville was at the heart of it all. German and Irish immigrants, former slaves en route to Chicago and farmers moving into the city created a fertile ground for this new sound. Artists like Earl McDonald and his Original Louisville Jug Band made the city legendary, passing on melodies that still influence bands like the Juggernaut Jug Band. Tune in to Louisville jug band music history with local writer Michael Jones and discover a tradition that has left a long-lasting impression on America’s musical culture.

Michael L. Jones is an award-winning journalist who resides in Louisville. He also sits on the board of directors of the National Jug Band Jubilee, a nationally-renowned festival that celebrates a form of pre-World War II folk music that was created in Louisville.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
12:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Free for members, $10 for nonmembers

The Letters of Thomas Merton and Victor and Carolyn Hammer: Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
Paul Evans Holbrook, Jr.
Poet, social justice advocate, and theologian Thomas Merton (1915-1968) is arguably the most influential American Catholic author of the twentieth century. In his short lifetime, he penned over seventy books and maintained a brisk correspondence with colleagues around the globe. However, many Merton scholars and fans remain unaware of the significant body of letters that were exchanged between the Trappist monk and Victor and Carolyn Hammer. The friendship and collaborations between Merton and the Hammers reveal their shared interest in the combination of art, literature, and spirituality.

Paul Evans Holbrook Jr. has taught philosophy and comparative religion at the University of Kentucky and ethics at Midway College. He was an apprentice to Carolyn Hammer and serves as bibliographer to the Hammer estate.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15
6:00 p.m. • Evan Williams Bourbon Experience
528 W. Main St., Louisville • $100

Thirsty Thursday - The Night Before the Long Dry Spell Known as Prohibition
Mike Veach
Before it was the ubiquitous term for a night of heavy drinking, Thirsty Thursday had an entirely different meaning. Thursday, January 15, 1920, the last day to legally purchase alcohol before Prohibition went into effect. Join The Filson Historical Society as we celebrate the last day of legal alcohol sales with a tasting of “Old G.D. Bourbon,” a product that was crafted in the 19th century, along with Evan Williams and Heaven Hill Bourbon. Evan Williams Bourbon Experience will share the history of the temperance movement that created the long dry spell commonly known as Prohibition. In addition to the history, participants are invited on a self-guided tour of the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
6:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members

When Tobacco Was King: Families, Farm Labor, and Federal Policy in the Piedmont
Evan P. Bennett
Tobacco has left an indelible mark on the American South, shaping the land and culture throughout the twentieth century. In the last few decades, advances in technology and shifts in labor and farming policy have altered the way of life for tobacco farmers. Family farms have been replaced by large-scale operations dependent on hired labor, much of it from other shores. However, the mechanical harvester and the guestworker did not put an end to tobacco culture but rather sent it in new directions and also allowed the change that has always been part of the farmer’s life. In When Tobacco Was King, Evan Bennett examines the agriculture of the South’s original staple crop.

Evan P. Bennett is Assistant Professor of History at Florida Atlantic University. He is a coeditor of Beyond Forty Acres and a Male African American Landowning Family since Reconstruction.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
5:30 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm
$50

Bourbon Salon at Oxmoor Farm
Mike Veach
In the book But Always Fine Bourbon, Sally Van Winkle Campbell states, “Stitzel-Weller’s history is rich with stories of all that was gained: a company and a family populated with characters and possessing a set of values that are 100 proof — full strength and undiluted.” We invite you to hear Julian Van Winkle, Sally Van Winkle Campbell, and Edwin Foroot discuss their memories of the legendary Stitzel-Weller distillery. The Van Winkles grew up playing at the distillery while their family still owned a share of it. Listen to their stories about the distillery, their father J.P. Van Winkle, Jr., and their grandfather “Pappy” Van Winkle. Edwin Foot had been the Master Distiller at the distillery for many years when it closed in 1991. He has intimate knowledge of how the distillery made its bourbon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
6:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm • Free for Filson members and Male/Alumni, $10 for non-members

Archived Film: The Great Male/Manual Football Rivalry
It was once said that there were three major events in Louisville sports: The Kentucky Derby, opening day for the Kentucky Colonels, and the annual Male/Manual football game. While the Derby is always a huge event, the latter is still true today, with the rivalry between Male High School and duPont Manual High School going strong nearly 122 years after it first began in 1892.

In the past year, The Filson Historical Society has preserved amateur film footage from our collections with support from generous community members. Among the films, preserved is footage of some of the famed Male/Manual games, ca. 1939 and 1946. Please join us as we view this footage with discussion and commentary from members of the duPont Manual and Male High School Alumni Associations. After the film, there will be a panel of alumni representatives from each school to talk about the rivalry as it was and continues to be today.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members

The Man Who Would Not Be Washington
Jonathan Horn
An extensively researched and gracefully written biography, The Man Who Would Not Be Washington follows General Robert E. Lee on his often reluctant but always duty-bound journey through married life, military glory, and misfortune. Far from being the unrepentant rebel one might suppose, Lee, the Confederacy’s most famous general, was divided between his desire to preserve a union he cherished and the duty he felt to follow his state of Virginia into rebellion. The decision Lee made to fight against the Union core his ties to his founder in agonizing and astonishing ways that changed American history and ultimately left Lee on the losing side.