October 2014 Programs

Call The Filson at (502) 635-5083 - Reservations are requested to assure seating for all programs. All programs are free for Filson Members and $10 for non-members unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, October 1
12:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members

Kentucky's Cookbook Heritage: Two Hundred Years of Southern Cuisine and Culture
John van Willigen

Food is a significant part of our daily lives and can be one of the most telling records of a time and place. Our meals—from what we eat, to how we prepare it, to how we consume it—illuminate our culture and history. As a result, cookbooks present a unique opportunity to analyze changing foodways and can yield surprising discoveries about society's tastes and priorities.

In Kentucky Cookbook Heritage, John van Willigen explores the state's history through its changing food culture. Beginning with Loretta Byrds The Kentucky Housewife (originally published in 1839), Van Willigen also shares the story of the original Aunt Jemima—the advertising persona of Nancy Green, born in Montgomery County, Kentucky—who was one of many African American voices in Kentucky's culinary history.

John van Willigen is professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Kentucky and the author of many books, including Food and Everyday Life on Kentucky Family Farms, 1920-1950.

Wednesday, October 8
6:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society
Free for Filson members, $10 for non-members

Wildcat Memories: Inside Stories from Kentucky Basketball Greats
Doug Brunk

Since the tenure of Coach Adolph Rupp, the University of Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball team has been a virtual powerhouse, repeatedly dominating the Southeastern Conference and garnering eight national titles. Wildcat Memories illuminates the intimate connection between the UK basketball program and the commonwealth. Author Doug Brunk brings together some of the program's greatest coaches, players, and personalities to reflect on Kentuckians who provided inspiration, guidance, and moral support during their tenure as Wildcats. Featuring personal essays and behind-the-scenes stories from Kentucky legends Wallace "Wah Wah" Jones, Dan Issel, Joe B. Hall, Kyle Macy, and Tubby Smith, as well as newcomers Patrick Patterson, Darius Miller, and John Wall, this heartfelt collection shares an inside look at what makes UK basketball extraordinary.

Doug Brunk is an award-winning journalist who has written hundreds of articles for trade and consumer publications.

Thursday, October 16
6:00 p.m. • The Library at Oxmoor Farm
Free for members, $10 for non-members

Madam Belle: Sex, Money, and Influence in a Southern Brothel
Maryjane Wall

Belle Brezing made a major career move when she stepped off the streets of Lexington, Kentucky, and into Jennie Hill's bordello at the same time. At nineteen, Brezing was already infamous as a youth steeped in death, sex, drugs, and scandal. But it was in Miss Hill's "respectable" establishment that she began to acquire the skills, manners, and business contacts that allowed her to ascend to power and influence as an internationally known madam. In this revealing book, Maryjane Wall offers a tantalizing true story of vice and power in the Gilded Age South, as told through the life and times of the notorious Miss Belle. After years on the streets and working for Hill, Belle Brezing borrowed enough money to set up her own establishment. Soon, her houses were known internationally, and powerful patrons from the industrial cities of the Northeast courted her in the lavish parlors of her gift-and-mirror mansion.

Maryjane Wall is the author of How Kentucky Became Southern: A Tale of Outlaws, Home Stories, Gamblers, and Brothels. She holds a doctorate and is an instructor in the Department of History at the University of Kentucky.

October 14-18
Exhibit hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • The Filson Historical Society
Lectures will be held in The Daisy Room, 2nd Floor Gat-House West

"Steamboating on the Western Waters" Exhibit and Lectures: Celebrating the 100th birthday of The Belle of Louisville

With the arrival of steamboats in 1811, the Ohio Valley Region was gradually transformed. The "Western Waters" as they were then called, included the Ohio and Mississippi River waters and consisted of 16,000 miles of river ways. People, freight, ideas, and news traveled faster and our region was linked to national networks of commerce, communication, migration, and popular culture. This exhibit features steamboat related items drawn from The Filson's collection, one that continues to grow thanks to donations and acquisitions.

"Steamboating on the Western Waters" will open on October 14 at 12:00 p.m. with comments by co-curator Mark Wetenger. This exhibit will be open at The Filson Historical Society from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays from October 13 through December. Guided gallery tours will be available during the festival from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. These tours are free and open to the public. The Filson will also be offering the following lectures during The Centennial Festival of Riverboats.

Wednesday, October 15, 3:00 p.m. • "The Great River Catastrophe: The Collision of the Steamboats America and United States on the Ohio River in 1868," Mark Wetenger

Steamboats introduced a powerful new technology to the region, changed river travel, and turned small landings into bustling towns. But steamboat disasters—boiler explosions, collisions, fires—and fires—were not uncommon. This program examines the collision of the America and the United States in 1868 and what the disaster tells us about life and death along the Ohio River during the steamboat era.

Friday, October 17, 3:00 p.m. • "Bourbon Whiskeys: The Spirit of the Ohio River Steamboats," Mike Veatch

The Ohio River played an important part in the development and delivery of bourbon. When steamboats came to the river, they changed this role in a multitude of ways, increasing not only the speed that bourbon made it to market, but also the number of markets and the way the bourbon was sold. This program will examine in depth the role that steamboats played in the bourbon industry as well as why the major role that independent operators on board the boats played in spreading the word about bourbon whiskey.

Tuesday, October 21
12:00 p.m. • New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, 180 W. Spring Street, New Albany • Free • Sponsored by the Ogle Foundation, Inc.

Historic Amateur Films of Indiana and Kentucky
Heather Stone and Aaron Rosenblum

In the past five years, The Filson, with the backing of the National Film Preservation Foundation as well as private donors and the general public, has preserved and made available several collections of historic amateur motion picture film. Among the collections are several scenes filmed in Indiana in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The Filson is proud to present a highlight reel of footage taken in and around Southern and Central Indiana, as well as in Louisville and Kentucky, accompanied by a lecture on local film history and the Filson's collections presented by two members of our Collectors staff.

Heather Stone is an Associate Curator of Collections. She received her MLS from Indiana University Bloomington. Aaron Rosenblum is an Associate Curator of Collections at the Filson. He received a MLS degree, with a specialization in archival studies, from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

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

Kentucky Confederates: Secession, Civil War, and the Jackson Purchase
Beverly Craig

During the Civil War, the majority of Kentuckians supported the Union, but one part of the state presented a striking exception. The Jackson Purchase—bounded by the Mississippi River to the west, the Ohio River to the north, and the Tennessee River to the east—fought hard for separation and secession, and produced eight times more Confederates than Union soldiers. Supporting state's rights and slavery, these eight counties in the westernmost part of the commonwealth were so pro-Confederate that the Purchase was dubbed "the South Carolina of Kentucky."

Beverly Craig, professor of history at West Kentucky Community and Technical College in Paducah, is the author of several books, including Hidden History of Western Kentucky: He Lives in Mayfield, Kentucky.