

The Filson

A Publication of The Filson Historical Society, Kentucky's Oldest and Largest Independent Historical Society



*Recent
Acquisitions*
1

*Browsing in
our Archives*
2

*A. Scott
Berg*
5

*Bourbon
Academy*
6

*Campus
Expansion*
8

*Tom
Marshall*
10

*Rose
Kennedy*
14

*Online
Initiatives*
15

*Filsonians
List*
16

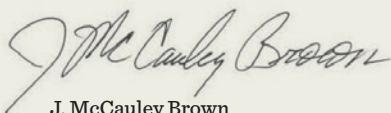
FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Filson Historical Society itself has a long and prominent history dating back to 1884 when Col. Reuben T. Durrett and other prominent Louisvillians started the organization, with a goal to collect, preserve and tell the stories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley Region. As an important Louisville institution, The Filson enables each of us the opportunity to enrich our lives through the 1.8 million manuscript items in the collection and over 50,000 volumes we currently possess in the library. But that is not all, in addition, we have accumulated an impressive collection of Ohio Valley portraits and over ten thousand museum artifacts.

These collections offer our community a common foundation from which a framework of knowledge and understanding can be built. The Filson has become an important source of history that connects our past experiences to the present so we have the needed context in which we can make better decisions for tomorrow.

History is a gateway to the understanding of all human activity and of the interactions among them. If properly developed, the study of our past can open important opportunities to analyze and develop appreciation for all areas of human activity and of the interactions among them. Further, through the study of history, we gain more than just the information which is the focus of our attention, but an individual can gain analytical and interpretive skills that will support them in many different endeavors of life.

The study of history offers many advantages to society. Through The Filson we have the opportunity to not only gain the benefits history offers, but to support the study of history and share those benefits with the whole community. In closing I would like to thank the Board and the staff for the tremendous work they are doing in creating increased opportunities for membership engagement. Further, I want to thank all our members for their continuing support which allows The Filson to fulfill its mission.



J. McCauley Brown
President

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As members of The Filson, I wanted to make sure you are aware of several new initiatives that add value to your membership. There are now offerings that are available only to members via our website www.filsonhistorical.org.

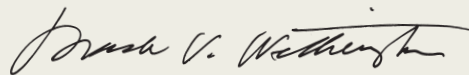
For example, as a member, you can view Podcasts of our more recent lectures from the comfort of your home. If you missed one of our lectures on KET, members can now enjoy the lecture on the website. If you live outside the Louisville Metro Area and are unable to attend one of our 100 programs each year, the Podcast is a great way to learn more about many of the exciting and significant stories in our history.

If you are a member, you will be able to read the full articles of almost eighty five years of our scholarly publications, *The Filson Club History Quarterly* and *Ohio Valley History* and another decade of our members' magazine *The Filson*, rather than just the table of contents.

You can help us go green by opting out of hard-copies of our publications and viewing them online. Please contact Sarah Strapp at sstrapp@filsonhistorical.org if this is something you are interested in doing.

Non-members must now pay \$5 to attend our lectures, while members attend these free. Furthermore there are some events that are open only to members, such as the Fall House Tour, the Christmas reading at Oxmoor, and our members-only receptions that feature the "Treasures of The Filson" and the stories they tell.

We sincerely appreciate the support of our many members of long standing. As a member, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have joined generations of previous members who have supported this remarkable institution during 129 years of service to our region. Your support helps make our collections relevant and meaningful to our lives today.



Mark V. Wetherington, Ph.D.
Director

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The Filson

is published quarterly by
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Louisville, KY 40208
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OUR MISSION:

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

Recent Acquisitions



New acquisitions have continued to come in over the summer. Manuscripts, photographs, prints, paintings, and other material of historical interest and importance have all been added to The Filson's collection. Two recent acquisitions represent both calm and chaos. Noted Kentucky painter Robert Burns Wilson's serene scene of a man driving his team and wagon through a winter landscape contrasts with the chaos captured by New Albany photographers C. Heimberger & Son in a series of stereo card views of the destruction wreaked by the March 1890 tornado that ripped through Louisville.

1. Scenes of destruction in Louisville caused by the March 27, 1890, tornado taken by C. Heimberger & Son. Gift of David Barksdale.
2. Robert Burns Wilson landscape. Watercolor and gouache on paper. Historical Acquisition Fund.

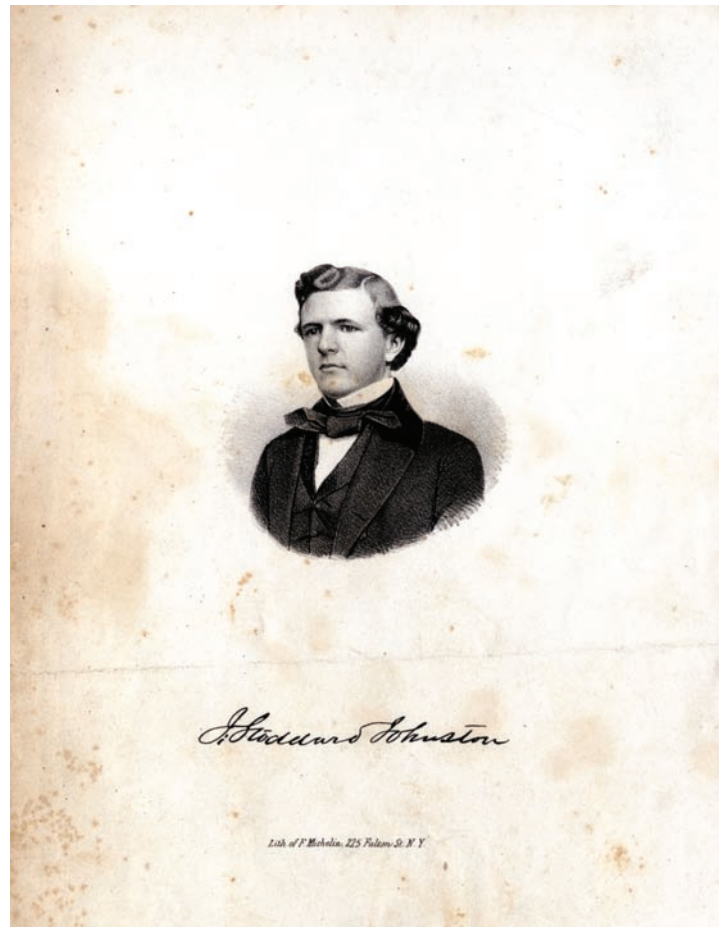


Browsing in Our Archives

A Bulldog in the Bluegrass - J. Stoddard Johnston's 1853 Yale Class Book

BY JENNIE COLE | ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In 2011, the Special Collections Department received J. Stoddard Johnston's 1853 Class Book from Yale College as a transfer from The Filson's Library; it came to the Library as a gift from Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston in 1929. This Class Book provides an interesting glimpse into Johnston's life and surroundings at Yale through images of faculty and classmates alongside their handwritten notes, as well as images of Yale's campus.



The Life of Josiah Stoddard Johnston

Josiah Stoddard "Stodd" Johnston was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on February 10, 1833. His parents, John Harris and Eliza Ellen Davidson Johnston died when he was a child; Johnston then lived with relatives in Kentucky. His formal education consisted of studies at the Western Military Institute in Georgetown, Kentucky, along with time spent at Yale from 1850 through 1853, when he graduated. He received his law degree from the University of Louisville School of Law in 1854. After obtaining his law degree, Johnston spent six years in Arkansas, where he was a successful cotton planter; he returned to Scott County, Kentucky in 1859. He had a distinguished Civil War career, serving on the staffs of Confederate Generals Braxton Bragg, Simon Bolivar Buckner, and John C. Breckinridge and attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After the Civil War, Johnston returned to Arkansas to practice law until he moved to Frankfort, Kentucky in 1867, where he became editor of the *Kentucky Yeoman* and helped found the Kentucky Press Association. He was influential in Democratic Party politics as chairman and secretary of the party's state committee. Johnston became Kentucky's Adjutant General in 1871 and was Secretary of State during the administration of Governor James B. McCreary from 1875 to 1879. In 1889, Johnston moved to Louisville where he spent



the remainder of his life. He was associate editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, vice-president of The Filson Club, and author of several books, including *The Memorial History of Louisville* (1896) and *The Confederate History of Kentucky* (1898).

Johnston married Eliza Johnson, the daughter of George Johnson, the Confederate governor of Kentucky, on June 13, 1854. They had five children: Mary, Eliza, George, Harris, and Stoddard, Jr. Johnston died on October 4, 1913, and is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

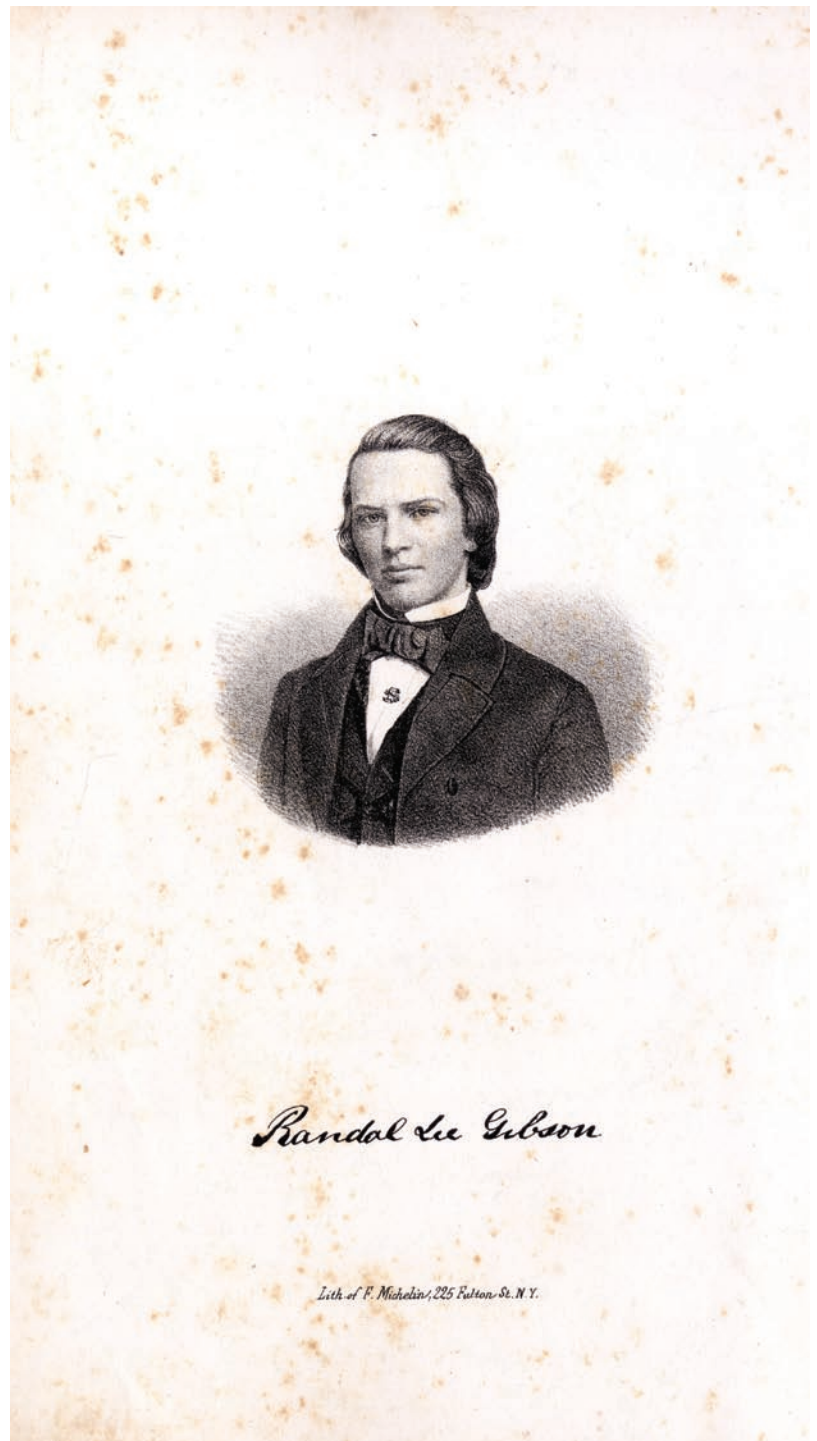
The Filson's Special Collections Department holds a variety of materials on J. Stoddard Johnston outside of his Yale Class Book, including his portrait, photographs and prints, and personal papers. His collection contains military papers and letters from the Civil War era and beyond, Johnston's diaries describing his student career, including being suspended and readmitted to Yale; a Civil War-era diary (1862-1863) which covers the period of General Braxton Bragg's invasion of Kentucky; Johnston's writings on the Civil War and other topics of United States history, genealogical material, and the papers of others, including Meriwether Lewis Clark, Harrison Hancock Johnston, and George Hancock. Johnston is also a correspondent in many other collections held by the Special Collections department, such as the Johnston Family Papers.

What is a Class Book?

A class book is typically a souvenir book of a graduating class, containing photographs, articles, and biographical and statistical information on members of the class. At Yale in the mid-nineteenth century, these books were also known as class albums or autograph albums. Johnston's Yale Class Book for 1853 includes selected images of campus buildings, faculty and administrators, and members (as well as non-graduates) of the class of 1853, along with selected members of the classes of 1852 and 1854. Some of the faculty, and the majority of Johnston's classmates, included an autograph on the page bearing their image and a handwritten note on the adjacent page. The notes were often vague sentiments regarding college days or well-wishes for the future, but occasionally were personal messages from true friends.

From Henry R. Bradley: "Dear 'Stodd,' I hardly know how to write an autograph for you; for I cannot reconcile myself with the idea that we, who have roomed so near each other, and have been so intimate, ay, rather brotherly, are so soon to separate, never, perhaps, to meet again."

Another classmate, Randal Lee Gibson, began his autograph with a quote from the English poet and playwright James Thomson (which is better recognized from Washington Irving's use of it in *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent*).



"... I cannot reconcile myself with the idea that we, who have roomed so near each other, and have been so intimate, ay, rather brotherly, are soon to separate, never, perhaps, to meet again."



“In the service of mankind to be a guardian God below; still to employ the mind’s brave ardor in heroic aims such as may lift us o’er the groveling herd and make us shine forever – that is life.”

“Dear Stod, May the blessings of Heaven rest upon you and may you honorably fulfill (sic) the chief end of man’s existence by leading to the altar in due time the fairest of Eve’s daughters. Hoping that we may meet often hereafter and that our friendship may exist always without a cloud. I beg to remain, Ever your sincere friend, Randal Lee Gibson, La.”

Johnston’s Classmates

While basic information on Yale’s Class of 1853 could be considered public knowledge, the Class Book does provide more context, in several ways. In addition to information in the personalized notes to Johnston, one can learn about different men’s membership in Yale organizations. Johnston was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) fraternity, founded at Yale in 1844. Many of his fellow DKE members wrote their enclosed notes to Johnston on DKE stationery, and a list of the graduates who were DKEs is included in the books. One can garner clues of other “memberships” by viewing the images of the graduates – many men wear a pin signifying their membership in secret societies in their lithographs. In the image of Johnston’s cousin, William Preston Johnston (actually a member of the class of 1852), one can just make out a small skull and crossbones on his shirt

– the signal that he was a member of Yale’s famed Skull and Bones society. Yale’s oldest secret society, “Bones” was founded in 1832 after a dispute between Yale’s two debating societies, the Linolean and Calliopean. Another society illustrated in these pictures is Scroll and Key, founded in 1842 by Elis who was rejected from Skull and Bones.

In addition to all of this information, which would have been present at its creation in 1853, Johnston enhanced the book by making notes about the post-college lives of his classmates. The notes are not in any way exhaustive biographies of each man, but do indicate their futures to varying degrees. He most often notes marriages and deaths; his note regarding the death of classmate Edward Walden in a cholera epidemic in Buffalo is dated 29 October 1856 and he continued to note deaths up through the early 1910s, when his own health began to decline.

Given these continued updates, Johnston showed his interest in his Yale “network” and created a more dynamic document out of what could be considered a static yearbook which only captured one moment in time. While the information he recorded can be found via other methods, such as public records or the Yale Obituary notices, here it is contextualized with the image of the individual and a personalized note that he wrote to Stodd around the time of their graduation; such information is further enhanced when paired with Johnston’s college diaries, which were also annotated by him later in life. Taken together, these documents present a more complete image of the Yale Class of 1853 and Josiah Stoddard Johnston, during their college years and beyond.

J. Stoddard Johnston’s 1853 Yale Class Book and related collections are available for research at The Filson’s Special Collections Department.

Page 2 - Top Left

J. Stoddard Johnston 1853
Yale Class Book Cover

Page 3

Randal Lee Gibson, from
Johnston’s 1853 Yale Class
Book

Page 2 - Right

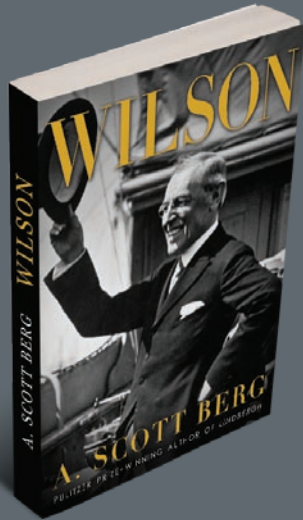
J. Stoddard Johnston, from
his 1853 Yale Class Book

Page 4

William Preston Johnston,
Stodd’s cousin, wearing his
Skull and Bones pin in his 1852
lithograph, included in Stodd’s
1853 Yale Class Book

Page 2 - Bottom

Henry R. Bradley’s lithograph
and letter to Johnston in the
1853 Yale Class Book



WILSON

BY A. SCOTT BERG

Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner A. Scott Berg is the author of four previous biographies, each one a critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller. Each of his subjects has been an iconic American figure, characterized by three essential qualities: the sweeping away of myth and legend to unveil a living, breathing human being behind the image; meticulous scholarship, aided by a remarkable ability to gain access to previously unavailable sources; and an elegant, fluent prose that propels the reader onward. Every one of these attributes is amply present in Berg's new book, **WILSON**.

"*Wilson* is an epic, meticulously documented and immensely readable account of a truly thoughtful and forward-looking president who deserves more from history than he has yet received. This is a marvelous corrective."
—BookPage

"Impressive... Berg portrays Wilson as an utterly new kind of chief executive, in a mold that has yet to be refilled. Readable, authoritative and, most usefully, inspiring." —*Kirkus*

A century after Woodrow Wilson's inauguration as President, Berg draws on the vast Wilson Archives as well as two major new caches of papers, to which he is the first biographer allowed access. These recently discovered documents include the letters of Dr. Cary Grayson, President Wilson's personal physician and most trusted friend; and Jessie Wilson Sayre, the second of Wilson's three daughters. Aided by this material, Berg was able to glean considerable new detail, uncover several unknown events, and cast fresh light on Wilson's entire life. The result is the most intimate and incisive biography ever written of Wilson, long viewed as a cold and aloof intellectual, but revealed by Berg to be a man of intense passion, emotional turbulence, and hidden political skill.

A. Scott Berg graduated from Princeton University in 1971 and is the author of four previous bestselling biographies: *Max Perkins: Editor of Genius*; *Goldwyn: A Biography*; *Lindbergh*; and his biographical memoir of Katharine Hepburn, *Kate Remembered*.



November 21, 2013, 6:30 p.m.
Second Presbyterian Church
3701 Old Brownsboro Rd.



Tickets are \$10 for non-members.
Free for members of The Filson Historical Society.

Send ticket requests with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
GPBL Berg Tickets, 1310 S. Third Street,
Louisville, KY 40208.

In July, The Filson Historical Society created a new position of “Bourbon Historian” with the goal of creating events involving Bourbon history and heritage. The plan is to build upon events that have been popular in the past and expand them in the future. The hope is that this will help increase the exposure of The Filson Historical Society in new regions and at the same time raise money to help support these programs and more as we build our bourbon research collections.

Bourbon

HISTORIAN



MIKE VEACH

The Filson Bourbon Academy was started in September of 2009 and has been a very popular event. In 2012, The Filson held a Bourbon Academy at the Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago. This event sold out and the Columbia Yacht Club invited us to return this year on September 24, 2013. In addition to Chicago, the Bourbon Academy will be going to Dayton, Ohio on October 19; Bloomington, Indiana on October 26; St. Louis, Missouri on November 9; and Owensboro, Kentucky on November 23. Louisville is not being left out and the Bourbon Academy will be held at The Filson on November 2.

This program has also received support from the Kentucky Distiller’s Association in the form of sponsorship money, whiskey, and printing design costs for the booklet of sources and tasting notes. The Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau also has given sponsorship money as well as purchasing Glencairn whiskey tasting glasses for the class and they donated the printing cost and design of the certificate awarded to the students.

The Filson Bourbon Academy is a one day, eight- hour program that combines the history and heritage of Bourbon whiskey with tasting of different styles of Bourbon and other American whiskeys. Alternating between sessions of history and sessions of tasting, the student learns about





The Filson Bourbon Academy is a one day, eight-hour program that combines the history and heritage of Bourbon whiskey with tasting of different styles of Bourbon and other American whiskeys.

how bourbon became the product we know today. The tasting sessions include a look at traditional Bourbon and “wheated” Bourbon; Tennessee and Rye whiskeys and why they differ from Bourbon; single barrel and small batch bourbon and why they differ from standard labeled brands. The day ends with a blind tasting where students apply their new found knowledge of tasting. After the blind tasting, certificates of graduation are awarded and those student working in the service industry are eligible for an additional benefit: If they are STAR (Servers Trained in Alcohol Regulations) certified, the KDA will make them official bartenders on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail.

Bourbon tastings continue to be a popular event both with Filson members and the general public. We hope to hold at least two tasting events a year featuring bourbons produced in the last 100 years. Within the last year, patrons have donated bottles of old and rare whiskey to be used in tasting events. Thanks to their generosity, we were able to plan a tasting in honor of “Repeal Day” on December 5, featuring prohibition-era Kentucky Tavern and Weller Original Barrel Proof from 1951. In addition, we will have modern versions of these products to serve alongside their rare counterparts.

In October, the Filson introduced a new type of bourbon event - The Filson Bourbon Challenge. The challenge involved a blind tasting of five bourbons. Contestants were given the names of the five brands at the event, but not in the order presented to them. They were then asked to place them

in the correct order by taste. The person with the most correct won a bottle of Pappy Van Winkle, a product that is extremely rare and hard to find. Julian and Preston Van Winkle and Joy Perrine served as judges of the contest.

To support these new events, The Filson has created a “Filson Bourbon Academy” page on our website. People can visit the page to find information on upcoming Bourbon events and even sign up for them on line. To further increase our exposure on social media, a “Filson Bourbon Academy” Facebook page has been created. This Facebook page had drawn a number of fans from eight countries outside of the United States, which shows the popularity of Kentucky Bourbon on a global scale.

The Filson Bourbon Academy and other Bourbon related events will help The Filson Historical Society to reach people in cities all across the United States. Every city that hosts a Filson Bourbon Academy will expose new people to what The Filson has to offer while raising money for The Filson at the same time.



CAMPUS EXPANSION

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR REGION'S STORIED PAST: THE FILSON'S CAMPUS EXPANSION PROJECT

BY RICK ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, THE FILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In order to better serve our current constituents and many more in the future, The Filson embarked on an exciting Campus Expansion Project toward the end of 2010. With our 100 annual programs, ever-expanding collections, and increasing public and scholarly visits, we have simply run out of space in which to perform our unique mission – collecting, preserving, and sharing the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture. The Expansion will give us the space required to perform our mission for future generations with the excellence the community has come to expect. The Expansion and its transparent, open, welcoming design are tangible expressions of our dedication to performing that mission for all who live, work, or visit here.

NEW ARCHIVAL FACILITY



THE PROJECT

The Filson plans to transform its Old Louisville Campus, our home since 1986, through construction of a new building, renovation of existing facilities, and creation of a public, park-like green space. The Project, designed by Louisville's award-winning De Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop, includes:

- Construction of a 20,000 square foot building featuring new collection storage facilities, a modern digitization and preservation technology center, museum-quality exhibition space, and a multiple-use education and event venue.
- Renovation of the Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House, adding museum-quality exhibition galleries and an advanced research facility affording improved user accessibility.
- Creation of an architecturally landscaped, public, park-like Campus.

THE PROJECT'S IMPACT

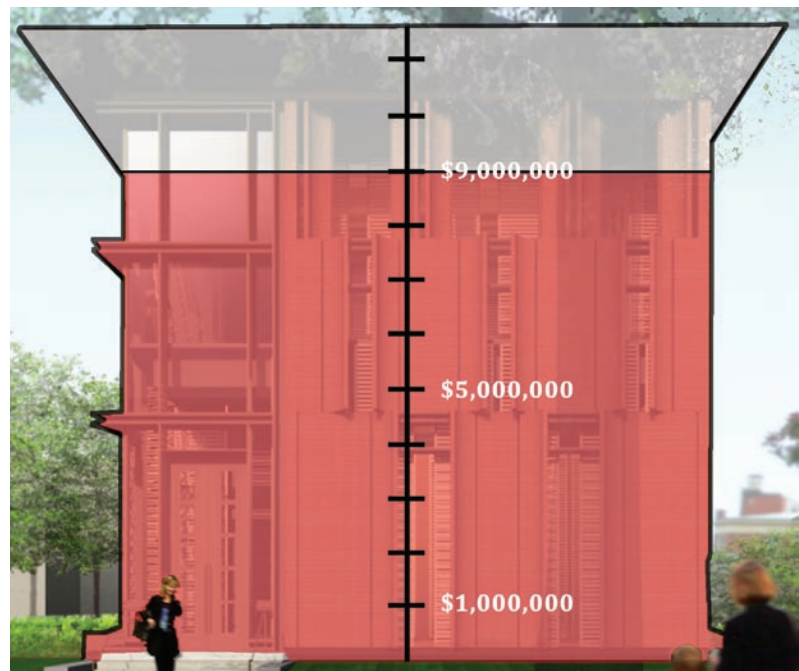
The Expansion will:

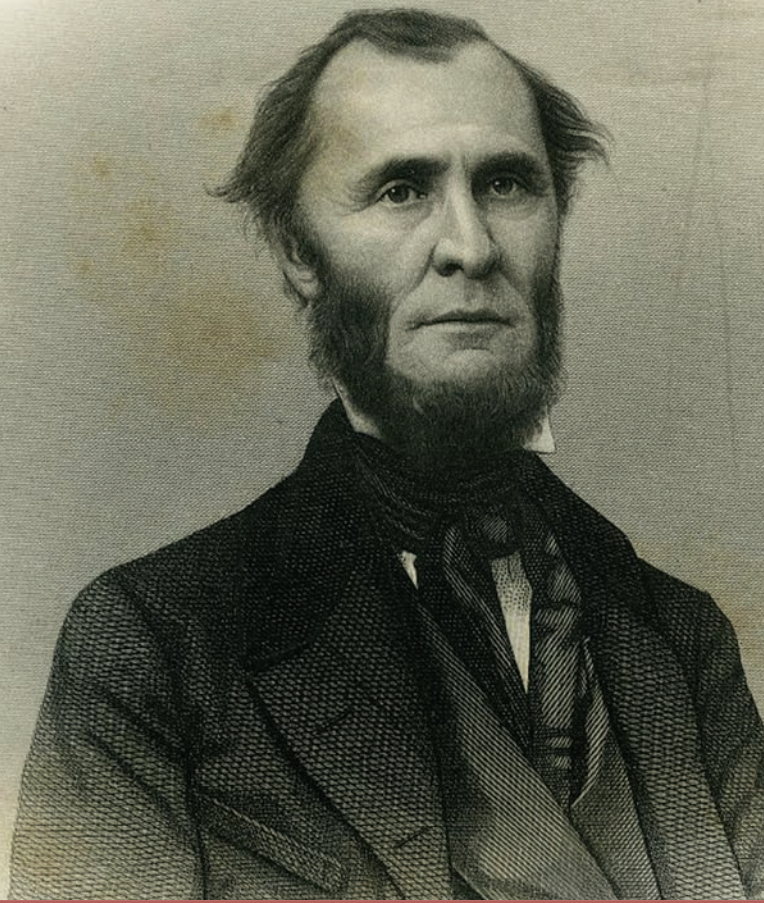
- Increase our collection storage capacity by 140% or 8,000 square feet, providing modern storage to protect our unique and expanding collections.
- Enhance the quality and reach of our acclaimed programming by providing modern multi-use event facilities, with audience capacity five times greater than our current space and equipped with modern audio-visual capabilities, suitable for recording and televising events.
- Make our collections far more accessible to users through expanded and technologically advanced research facilities, including a new digitization and conservation lab.
- Expand the quality and scope of our exhibits in new and renovated museum-quality gallery spaces.
- Demonstrate The Filson's commitment to our historic Old Louisville urban neighborhood, serving as a symbol of, and catalyst for, its continued revitalization.
- Create another important cultural and event destination for our city and region.

PROGRESS OF THE CORNERSTONE CAMPAIGN FOR THE PROJECT

In early 2011, The Filson launched the Cornerstone Campaign to raise the approximately \$11.5 million needed to build our new building and renovate the Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House. Pledges by generous individuals, foundations, and businesses from around our region now total almost **\$9 million**. Pledges include \$2.3 million by local and national foundations, and very substantial leadership level commitments by many individuals and businesses. We thank all of our Campaign pledgors for their community leadership, support, and generosity.

If you have questions about the Project, or would like to make a Campaign pledge, please telephone 502-634-7109 or e-mail pra@filsonhistorical.org. More information about the Expansion is available at filsonhistorical.org. Please watch for a Campaign progress report in each *Filson Magazine*.





Thomas Marshall, from the inside cover of W. L. Barre, *The Speeches and Writings of Thomas F. Marshall* (1858).

“Poor Tom Marshall”

THOMAS F. MARSHALL OF KENTUCKY

In the autumn of 1864, Tom Marshall lay dying in a small, plain cottage near Versailles. “Well, well this is the end,” he uttered to those gathered around him:

Tom Marshall is dying; dying without a suit of clothes to be buried; dying upon a borrowed bed, covered with a borrowed sheet, in a house built by charity. Well, well...it is meet and proper.

He admitted that his life had ended in failure and asked to be buried beneath a lone tree in the pasture he could see from his window. His final wish was granted though the grave remained un-marked until the close of the 19th century.

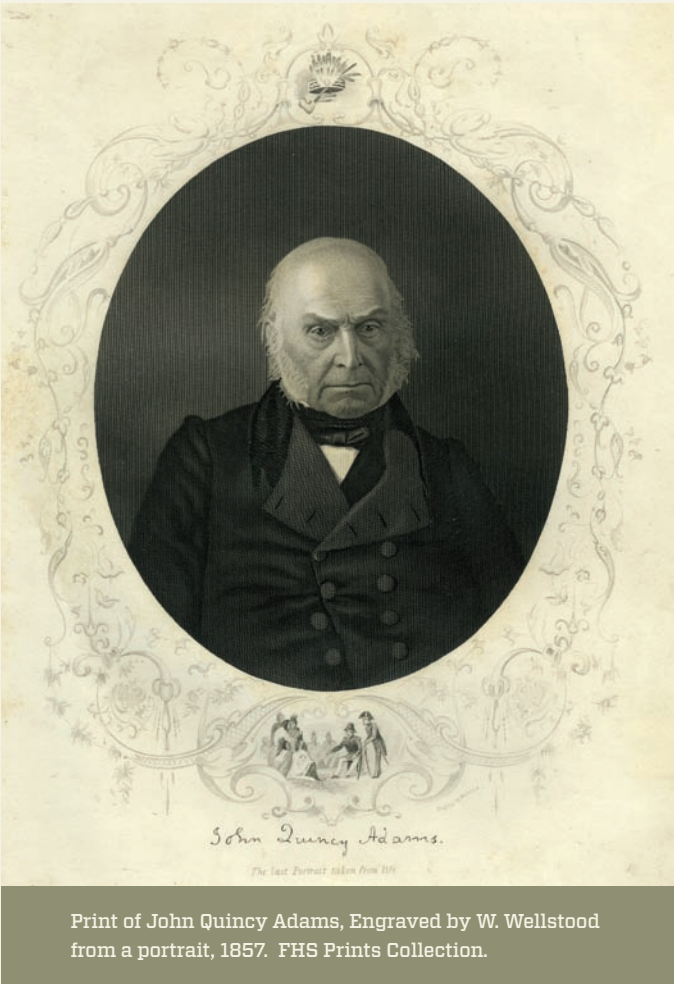
Ironically his memory would endure for many Kentuckians well into the 20th century. For Thomas F.

Marshall was widely recognized as one of the greatest if not the greatest orator Kentucky ever produced. His razor sharp, legendary quips were frequently published in national newspapers long after his death. A skilled lawyer, notorious duelist, soldier and journalist, Marshall made his mark in the antebellum era. Yet his life-long struggle with alcohol destroyed his promising political career and left him a broken man at the outbreak of the Civil War.

The son of Dr. Louis Marshall and Agatha Smith, Thomas Francis Marshall was born in Frankfort, Kentucky on June 7, 1801. A remarkable man in his own right, Louis Marshall was the youngest brother of Chief Justice John Marshall. Educated in Europe he participated in the assault on the Bastille that sparked the French Revolution and barely escaped execution during the Terror. He inherited his father’s estate near

Versailles, Kentucky and established Buck Pond Academy where many noted Kentuckians of the antebellum era were educated. Long before Tom reached manhood, his father was recognized as one of Kentucky's leading educators and physicians.

Educated by his parents at home, Thomas completed his studies under the tutelage of his brilliant uncles in Virginia. His real education began however when



Print of John Quincy Adams, Engraved by W. Wellstood from a portrait, 1857. FHS Prints Collection.

he witnessed the debates at Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829-1830. There he heard the orations of giants, including Madison, Monroe, John Randolph and his uncle, Chief Justice Marshall. He also visited Washington where he witnessed the legendary debate between Daniel Webster and Robert Hayne in the Senate. It was an event the young Kentuckian never forgot and from that moment forward he made Webster his model in the art of oratory.

Although he began to practice law upon his return to Kentucky, Marshall soon pursued a political career. After a

term as Woodford County representative in the Kentucky General Assembly, Marshall moved to Louisville in 1833 and represented that city in the same body in 1835-1836. In late 1834, Marshall fought his first duel – a bloodless affair near Louisville. Shortly afterwards he challenged John Rowan, Jr. In the duel that followed, Marshall fell gravely wounded in the thigh. The Filson holds an 1835 letter written by Aminta Beynroth of Louisville who described the anguish Marshall's devoted mother felt when she learned of the incident.

After he was defeated in his bid for Congress in 1836, Marshall returned to Versailles and was elected to another term as Woodford County representative in Frankfort. Whether in the court room or State House, Marshall quickly gained a formidable reputation as an orator. In an era before the internet, television and radio, Americans swarmed to political gatherings to hear their party leaders in person. "Eloquence" wrote President John Quincy Adams, "is power," and in 1841 Marshall was elected to Congress on the Whig ticket.

Marshall joined those Southern members who clashed with former president, now representative, Adams over their efforts to block anti-slavery petitions in Congress. The Kentuckian dared to challenge Adams and was soundly defeated in their war of words. Further notoriety arose after he wounded James Watson Webb, a prominent New York editor, in a duel in 1842. However the hard drinking Kentuckian earned considerable praise when he took the pledge and became a leading spokesman in the Temperance movement that same year.

Throughout his tenure in Congress Marshall chafed under the iron rule of Henry Clay, the venerable leader of the Whig Party. When his term ended, Marshall returned to Kentucky and publicly announced his break with the Whig chieftain. In a political rally in Lexington, Clay threw down the gauntlet but Marshall refused to speak against him. Once again he had been humbled by one of the old Lions in the political arena.

In 1845 Marshall, now a Democratic candidate, was defeated in his bid for another congressional term. That same year he played a pivotal role in the suppression of Cassius M. Clay's anti-slavery newspaper, *The True American*, in Lexington. The incident made both men

Letter dated the 31st from Marietta, it not
being mailed until the 7th Inst. and
I am truly sorry to find that he had
such an unpleasant Journey, & do sincere-
ly hope that you may find it truly pleasant
and delightful on your return home -
The weather since you left has been
generally cold, and the Ice came for
some time in quantities down the
River, so much so that the Mail
Boat did not come in for two days
But the prospect seems now more

Charles Beynroth Letter, January 14, 1835. Charles Exteen Beynroth Papers.

mortal enemies. Ironically, with the outbreak of the Mexican War, both Marshall and Clay found themselves commanding companies in the 1st Kentucky Cavalry. Captain Marshall faced death more than once during the war - but not from the enemy. Before the regiment left Kentucky, Marshall was nearly slain in a clash with some of his own men. He afterwards fought a bloodless duel with one fellow officer and was arrested after a near-violent altercation with Cassius Clay.

Marshall's conduct in Mexico can be partly explained by his return to excessive drinking. Ordered to the rear after a quarrel with his cousin and regimental commander, Humphrey Marshall, he was not present at the Battle of Buena Vista on Feb. 27, 1847. Following his discharge Marshall returned to Kentucky, resumed the practice of law and became actively involved in the debates surrounding the 1849 Kentucky Constitutional

Convention. The Filson collection contains original issues of The Old Guard, the political newspaper he established in Frankfort. He returned to the Whig fold shortly before Henry Clay's death and was elected to another term as Woodford County representative in 1851. His failure to gain the Whig nomination for Congress in his district in 1855 led him to move briefly to Chicago the following year. However he returned to Kentucky and embarked on a series of public lectures that took him across the country.

Marshall's lectures were popular but often ended in controversy. While many in the audience were amused by his alcohol fueled, sometimes ribald, deliveries others were shocked and walked out in droves. Tales of his misadventures were legion including one appearance in Buffalo, New York in early 1860. As he began his remarks, one audience member began to repeatedly

“...Marshall faced death more than once during the war - but not from the enemy. Before the regiment left Kentucky, Marshall was nearly slain in a clash with some of his own men. He afterwards fought a bloodless duel with one fellow officer and was arrested after a near-violent altercation with Cassius Clay.”

“A blaze of light without a focus, Tom Marshall was unquestionably one of the most brilliant failures in Kentucky history.”

shout, “Louder!” Marshall finally paused, looked toward the program chairman and declared that he was firmly convinced that when Gabriel sounded trumpet on the Judgment Day, some “damn fool from Buffalo would still shout, Louder! Louder!” The quip brought down the house and silenced his heckler.

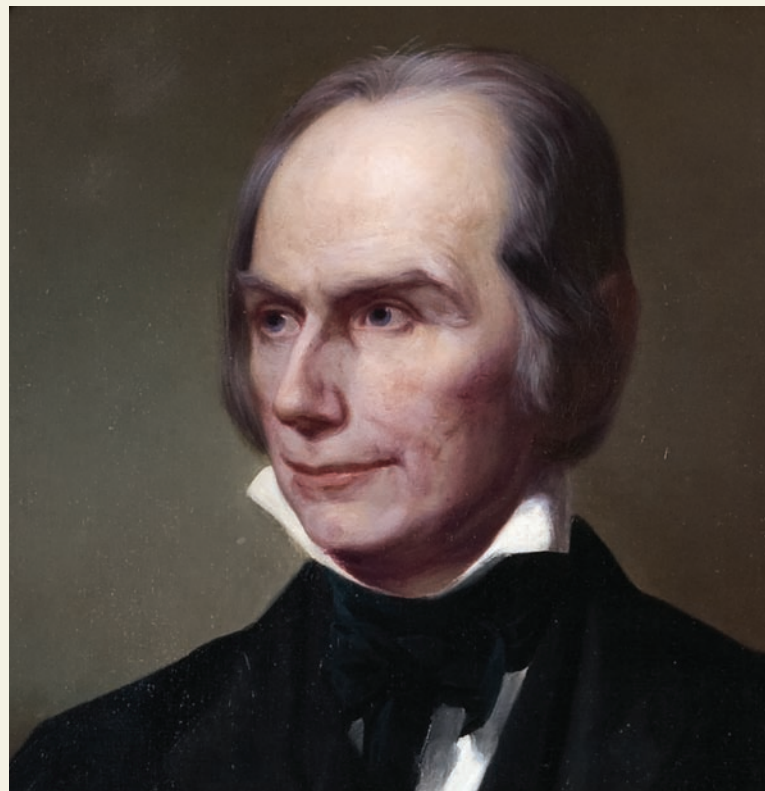
While typical of many anecdotes that appeared in newspapers for years to come, such incidents masked the tragedy of a man struggling with his own demons. Ironically, former Congressman Joshua R. Giddings of Ohio, who witnessed the Adams-Marshall clash in 1842, delivered an address in Buffalo just after Marshall’s departure. He told the audience that they had merely seen the shadow of the Kentuckian’s former greatness and concluded his remarks with the expression, “Poor Tom Marshall!”

Marshall returned to Kentucky broken in both health and fortune. In 1854 he had married Elizabeth Yost of Versailles who came from a respectable but humble background. While not welcome at the family estate, Marshall was permitted to stay in a small cottage constructed by his father near Buck Pond. The marriage produced no children although Marshall sired a daughter by a slave mistress many years before. This secret child, Laura Marshall, became the mother of Julia Britton Hooks, a prominent member of Memphis’ African-American community and the grandmother of 20th century Civil Rights leader, Benjamin L. Hooks.

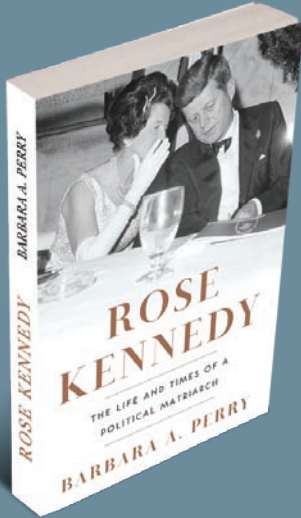
With the outbreak of the Civil War, Marshall, who was still invited to speak at political gatherings, openly championed the Confederate cause. He was arrested by Federal authorities and confined at Camp Chase, Ohio in 1862. In 1864 he was again arrested and held briefly in the Lexington, Kentucky military prison. Diagnosed with congestive heart failure, he gave a farewell address in Versailles shortly before his death on September 22, 1864. In 1908 his remains were reinterred in the Marshall Family Lot in the State Cemetery in Frankfort. A blaze of light without a focus, Tom Marshall was unquestionably one of the most brilliant failures in Kentucky history.



Print of Cassius M. Clay. Engraved by B. Way from a Daguerreotype by Plumbe, published by N. Currier, 1846. FHS Prints Collection.



Portrait of Henry Clay by John Neagle (1796-1865) painted in Washington, D.C. ; Oil on canvas, circa 1840. FHS Museum Collection.



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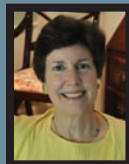
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Barbara A. Perry is a Senior Fellow in presidential oral history at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center in Charlottesville. She is author of *Jacqueline Kennedy: First Lady of the New Frontier*.



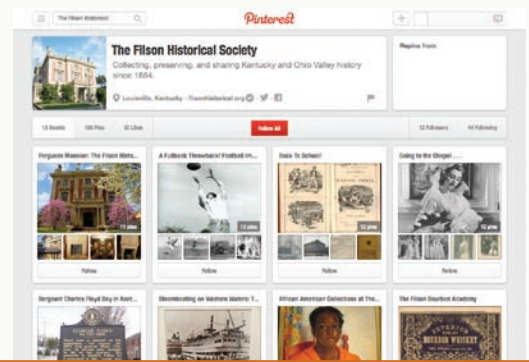
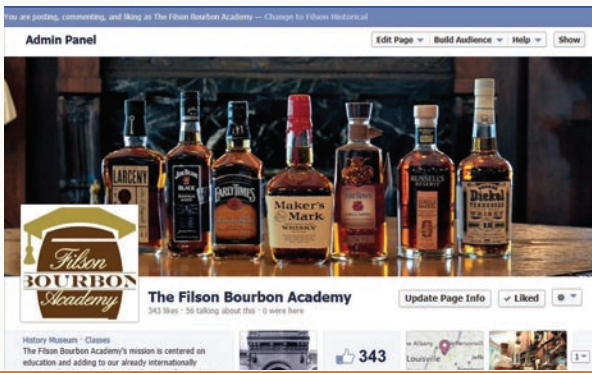
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Online initiatives *at* The Filson

BY DEE DEWITT

Throughout 2013, The Filson has focused on increasing our online presence and improving the overall experience, particularly for members and researchers.

For example, if you have provided The Filson with your email address, we have set up member-only access to five pages on our website (www.FilsonHistorical.org). These member-only pages include audio Podcasts of each lecture given at The Filson from May 2013 to the present. Our Podcasts are updated nearly every week, making it easy for members to hear exciting lectures even if their schedule does not allow them to attend in person. We have also added a member-only Telecasts page with shows produced by The Filson and aired on public television, as well as high resolution online access to all of our publications including the *Ohio Valley History*, *The Filson History Quarterly*, and *The Filson* newsmagazine.

For researchers, one of the exciting additions is the ability to more easily search 76 years of *The Filson History Quarterly* with a new keyword search engine. In addition, the Special Collections Department recently added Scope and Content summaries for over 150 of our most researched and/or most popular collections. Researchers can search over 100,000 pages of materials by keyword, family or company names. Looking ahead, The Filson is planning to digitize our entire Special Collections 70,000 item card catalogue. Once completed, researchers from students to scholars to hobbyists will be able to use our website to search our entire collection. Watch for more news on our Virtual Card Catalogue launch this winter.

The Filson also recognizes that more and more people are looking for valuable online access, so we have created an eMembership category. For only \$45 per year, this provides access digitally to all publications, lectures, etc., as well as all of our online tools and research. If you know of individuals who may be interested in all The Filson offers but are unable to personally attend events or live out of town, the eMembership is a great solution!

While a significant effort has been directed at The Filson's website, we have also expanded our social media presence. For example, The Filson launched a new Facebook page entitled The Filson Bourbon Academy dedicated to our new national Bourbon Academy program (see page 7 of *The Filson*). Please check us out on Facebook and be sure to "like" us! In addition, The Filson has launched both a Pinterest and Twitter page. The Pinterest page is rich in photos and images sorted by type and collection, while we envision using Twitter to provide quick updates regarding what is happening in and around The Filson. All of these pages can be accessed from our main website's home page.

If you are unsure whether we have your email address, we urge you to contact our development office (email Laura Cordle at LCordle@FilsonHistorical.org or Sarah Strapp at SStrapp@filsonhistorical.org, or call 502-635-5083 and ask for our development office). With each day, email is becoming a rich resource for sharing information about events at The Filson, new programs, new online benefits for members, and more. Please help us help you by making sure The Filson has your up-to-date contact information!



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The Filsonians

June - August 2013

How can you give a gift that will provide the greatest benefit to you and The Filson Historical Society? Through Planned Giving.

By informing us of your intent to include The Filson Historical Society in your estate, you are helping to ensure The Filson's ability to meet our mission of saving and sharing the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture. Your commitment allows us to remain a strong and vital educational resource for our community both today and tomorrow.

Planned gifts create opportunities for both you and The Filson Historical Society. Choosing the right type of commitment for you and your needs is just as important as making the gift. It could be something as simple as naming The Filson as a beneficiary to a more complex trust arrangement. In addition to the tangible benefits of planned giving, you will have the joy of knowing that your commitment helps The Filson continue to be a steward of the past and ensures our future as a resource for Kentucky and the Ohio Valley. To learn more about planned giving options, please contact Rick Anderson at 502-635-5083.

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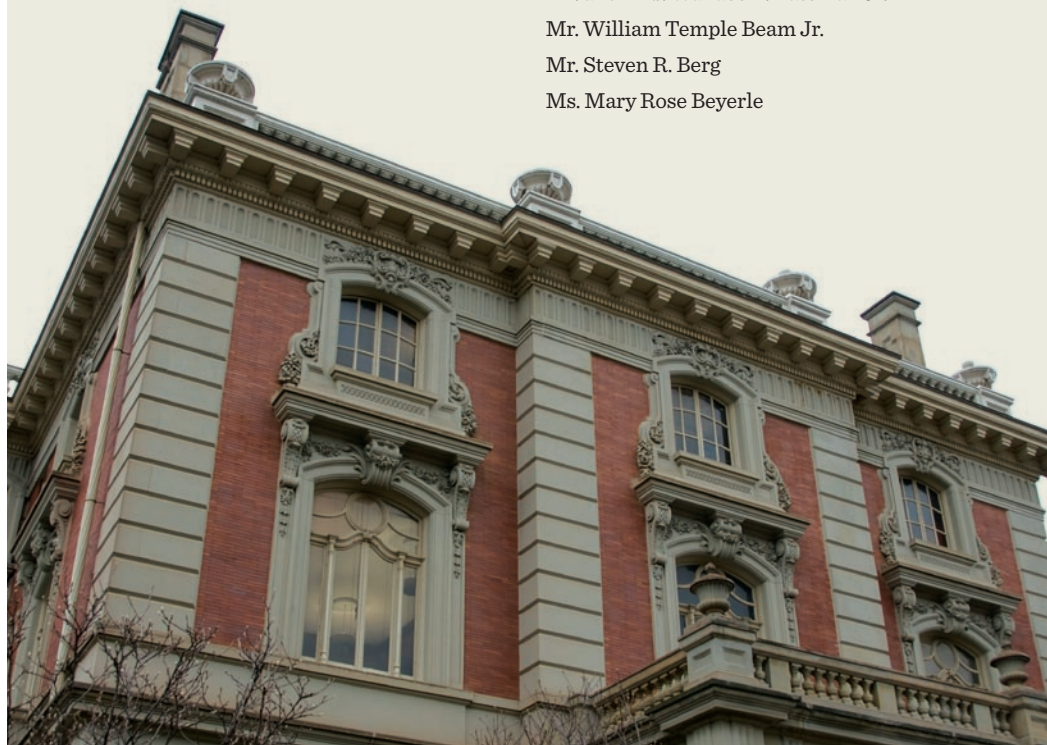
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Thank you!