

# *The Filson*

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



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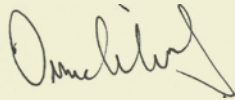
# From the President

The Filson has collected and preserved letters, diaries and other significant documents since our founding 126 years ago. These original manuscripts tell stories and provide insights into the history of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley that printed transcripts alone cannot convey.

A fine example is the purported original “confession” of Jeroboam O. Beauchamp to the stabbing murder in 1825 of Solomon P. Sharp, Kentucky’s former Attorney General. Convicted and sentenced to death, Beauchamp, aided by his wife, Anna Cooke Beauchamp, composed a lengthy, self-serving justification. Beauchamp claimed he was defending the honor of his wife who five years earlier had given birth to an illegitimate, stillborn child, allegedly by Solomon Sharp. As historian Matthew G. Schoenbachler writes in his new book, *Murder and Madness: The Myth of the Kentucky Tragedy*, this sensational crime and Anna’s subsequent suicide enthralled the American public. Beauchamp’s melodramatic confession appeared in print shortly after his execution in 1826, was republished repeatedly, and inspired many authors from Edgar Allan Poe to Robert Penn Warren.

In his recent lecture at The Filson, Professor Schoenbachler pointed out that the published version of Beauchamp’s confession offers only a limited perspective. An examination of the manuscript, which resides at The Filson, has shown that it was heavily edited before publication, likely by the publisher himself. In places, Beauchamp’s words were pasted over and rewritten, possibly to avoid libeling some of Beauchamp’s enemies or to spare them his, and his wife’s, posthumous venom. These manuscript changes suggest another twist to the story and call into question the accuracy and authenticity of Beauchamp’s published confession.

Kentucky and our region are far richer because The Filson collects and makes accessible unique manuscripts like Beauchamp’s confession. Your memberships, financial contributions and donations of original documents help us to continue building our extraordinary archives, and we are grateful.



Orme Wilson, III  
President


# From the Director

Each year The Filson offers dozens of programs that tell the significant stories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley region’s history and culture. These are offered in a wide variety of programming formats, including lectures, exhibits, book discussions, and tours.

Some topics deserve more attention than a single lecture can deliver. For these, The Filson holds public and academic conferences that extend over two to three days. Recently, Appalachia, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, and American Borderlands have been the topics of conferences at our headquarters in Old Louisville. In the fall and spring we have also led field trips to Civil War battlefields in Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky.

We will be exploring topics in the coming months that form core areas of strength in our research collections. On May 13 -15, our Filson Institute Public Conference will examine life in the 18th century Ohio Valley region from the American Indian perspective. From June 17 to 19th, we will depart for Western Kentucky for our Filson Civil War Field Institute. There we will visit Civil War sites at Cairo, Columbus, Paducah, and more. Finally, on October 22 – 23 our Filson Institute “Call for Papers” conference entitled “Secessions: From the American Revolution to the Civil War” presents the latest scholarship from many different speakers. Our topic is extremely timely, given the upcoming Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, which begins in 2011.

I hope that you can join us for all or any of these exciting educational opportunities to learn more about the history and culture of our region.



Mark V. Wetherington, Ph.D.  
Director

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## The Filson

is published quarterly by  
The Filson Historical Society  
1310 South Third Street  
Louisville, KY 40208  
We welcome your feedback  
and story ideas.  
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## OUR MISSION:

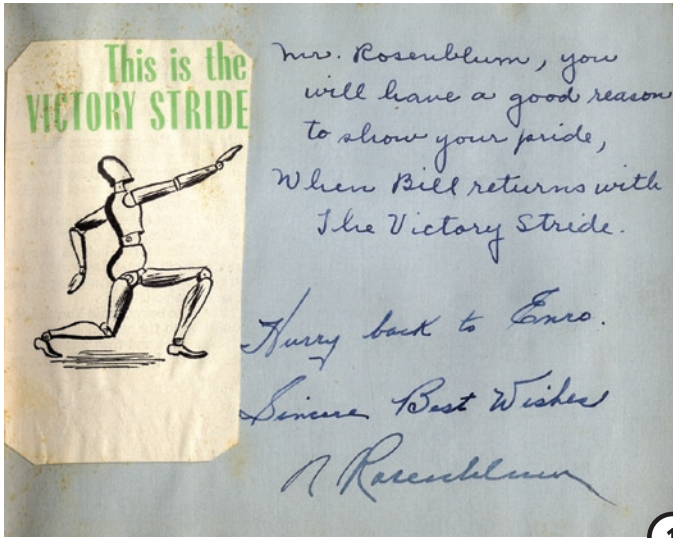
To collect, preserve, and tell the  
significant stories of Kentucky and  
the Ohio Valley history and culture.

## COVER PHOTO:

Louisville Beagle Club, Rogers B.  
C. Morton farm, Oldham County,  
Kentucky, 2 February 1947.



# Recent Acquisitions



1



2



3



4

1. Farewell-good luck autograph book presented to William Jolly from his co-workers at the Enro Shirt Company in Louisville upon his departure for WW II military service, 1942. Given by Debra Ross Miller, Union, Ky.
2. Hauss-Scharre family photos. Given by Lowell Griffin, Louisville, Ky.
3. Presidential campaign memorabilia relating to Eisenhower, Nixon, and Agnew. Given by Emily Durrett, Louisville, Ky.
4. Native American basket. Given by James Taylor, Louisville, Ky.



# Browsing in Our Archives

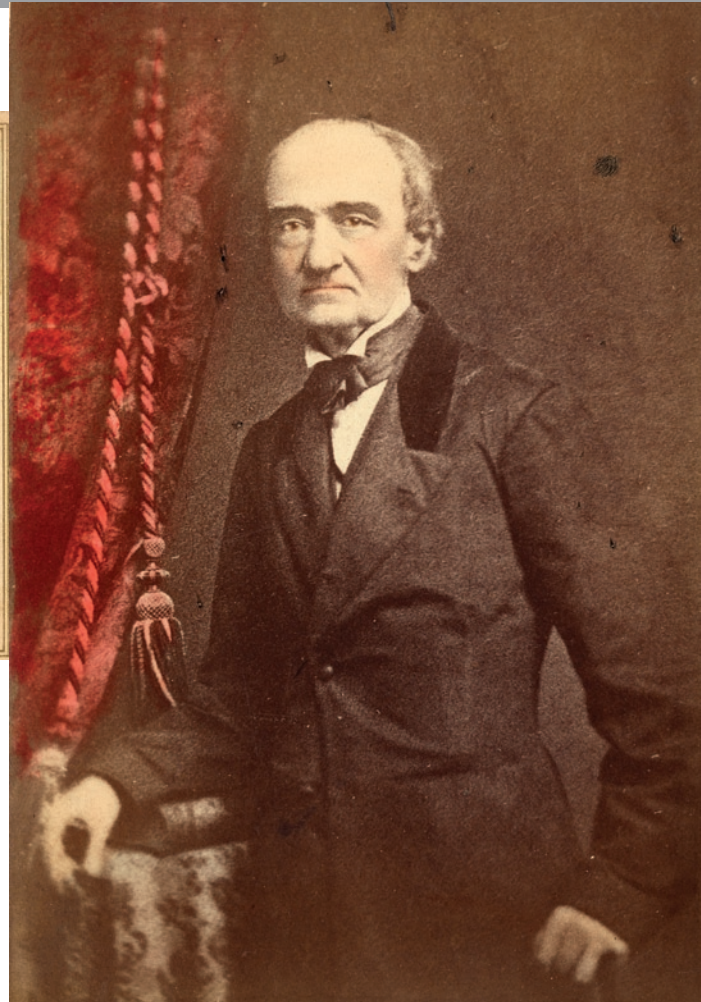
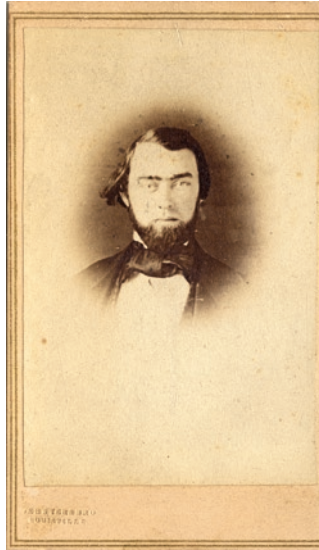
## A Kentuckian in William Walker's Nicaragua

BY JACOB F. LEE | ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In the 1850s, many American southerners became fascinated with the possibility of extending the United States into Latin America. Driven by the idea of Manifest Destiny, thousands of mercenaries and adventurers joined private military expeditions to Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and other countries. These “filibusters” sought riches, excitement, and, in some cases, territory where American slavery could be expanded. The most famous of the filibuster leaders were Venezuelan Narciso López and Tennessean William Walker. In 1850 and 1851, López led two ill-fated expeditions to Spanish Cuba. At the end of the second, the Spanish executed him and fifty other captured filibusters. Yet, his career inspired others to follow his lead, including Walker. Walker, a lawyer and newspaper editor, spent most of the 1850s formulating plans to conquer regions of Latin America. In 1853, he led an ill-fated expedition into Mexico. Three years later, he conquered Nicaragua, only to be overthrown in 1857. In 1860, he set his sights on Honduras, where he was captured by the British Navy, turned over to Honduran officials, and executed.

Although filibustering drew most of its support from the Deep South, a number of men from the Upper South, including Kentucky, took part in the expeditions to the Caribbean and Latin America. In particular, Lopez’s expeditions had a sizeable number of Kentuckians. Famously, William L. Crittenden, nephew of Kentucky politician John J. Crittenden, was executed in the aftermath of Lopez’s disastrous 1851 expedition.

The Filson’s collections include a variety of materials related to these filibusters. Marion Cartwright Taylor’s journal, kept while serving under Lopez, is the best known of these items, but other materials are scattered through the collections. Among them are the letters of John H. Marshall in the Marshall Family Papers. Marshall immigrated to Nicaragua in 1856 and soon joined Walker’s government. The letter that follows was written soon after his arrival in Central America and describes the political situation in Nicaragua. His description of the country also indicates why so many southerners were quick to join filibusters. Just like the American West, Central America seemed a land of opportunity. Marshall served under Walker until the fall of 1856, when he boarded a steamer to return to the United States. On November 9, 1856, he died on board and was buried at sea.





Grenada<sup>1</sup>, Aug. 3d 1856

Dear Father<sup>2</sup>,

I suppose you have learned before this time, from Humphrey<sup>3</sup>, of my having emigrated from California to Nicaragua. I have been in this country about three months, the day after my arrival I was appointed in place of Mr. Alden deceased, one of the commissioners to seize the property of the American A & P canal company and accessory travel company<sup>4</sup> and to ascertain the indebtedness of said company to the state and report & c. We completed our labors about two weeks since.

I came to this city about a week ago intending to get some money and an order from the Quartermaster for a ticket on the steamer to New York on a short visit to Kentucky, but upon my arrival at this place which is the seat of government and headquarters of the Army [sic], I found that I had been appointed Auditor general of war (which is about the same as Judge Advocate General in the United States) and also one of three commissioners to take possession of all the property in the state subject of confiscation to hear and adjudicate all claims against said property to sell the same and receive the money & c. offices both highly responsible and both to be attended with a great deal of labor. The amount and value of property confiscated and to be confiscated is immense. Courts martial of all most weekl [sic] occurrence, I did not feel willing or scarcely at liberty to decline these appointments, so I shall have to postpone my visit for the present, I might get off some time during the winter but I should prefer to go in the summertime as I haven so long in a warm climate.

I am delighted with Nicaragua. I prefer it to California. It is the most beautiful country I ever saw & I think it is destined to become one of the wealthiest in the world. I like the climate although I have had two attacks of fever since I came down, the last one slight however, and I think I am now pretty well acclimated. There is some cholera here but it is not considered epidemic. My own health was never better.

Although it is Sunday General Selizar<sup>5</sup> is to be shot on the Plaza this afternoon at five oclock, as a traitor, he was brought in to town this morning on the steamer and by nine oclock was condemned to be shot this evening. I was down by the guard house a few minutes since and saw a procession of priests and others with bells and candles going to administer some sort of sacrament to him and confess him I suppose.

General Walker is President as well as commander in chief of the army and has a great deal of business on his hands and requires to be prompt. Selizar a few months since was a friend of the government was always of the Democratic Party and was a defeated candidate for president at a recent election<sup>6</sup> whereupon he went up to the department of Leon and raised an insurrection and there are now at the City of Leon about three thousand men in arms against the government. The result of which will be if we ever have a fight that there will be six or eight hundred of them killed and at any rate a great deal of valuable property in the department of Leon (which is about the richest in the country) will be confiscated to the state.

I would like to write you fully of the condition of the country, its resources and prospects, but I am scarcely prepared to vie you reliable information, and have been so much engaged since I had been here that I have had but little opportunity to observe and inquire.

Give my love to all at home, the greatest pleasure I look to on earth is to see you all once more.

Your affectionate son  
John H. Marshall

Grenada Aug. 3<sup>d</sup> 1856

Dear Father

I suppose you have learned before this time, from Humphrey, of my having emigrated from California to Nicaragua. I have been in this country about three months, the day after my arrival I was appointed in place of Mr Alden deceased, one of the commissioners to seize the property of the American A & P canal company and accessory transit company and to ascertain the indebtedness of said company to the state and report & c. We completed our labors about two weeks since.

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<sup>1</sup> Granada, Nicaragua.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas A. Marshall (1794-1871), a U.S. Representative from Kentucky and a judge on the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

<sup>3</sup> Humphrey Marshall (b. ca. 1823), John's brother, is not to be confused with his cousin, politician and Confederate general Humphrey Marshall (1812-1872).

<sup>4</sup> The Accessory Transit Company was an American company involved in efforts to build a canal across Nicaragua, and the A & P Canal Company likely had similar interests, although I have not been able to confirm that. The seizure of the property of the Accessory Transit Company, owned by Cornelius Vanderbilt, led directly to Walker's downfall. In response to the confiscation, Vanderbilt successfully pressured the United States to revoke its recognition of Walker's government and funded an army of Costa Rican soldiers and American mercenaries, which allied with the republics surrounding Nicaragua and defeated Walker's forces. In May 1857, Walker fled Nicaragua and surrendered to the United States Navy.

<sup>5</sup> General Mariano Salazar (d. 1856).

<sup>6</sup> The presidential election held on June 29, 1856, was widely considered a farce.

p. 2 - John Marshall

p. 2 - Thomas A. Marshall (1794-1871), a U.S. Representative from Kentucky and a judge on the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

p. 2 - John Wood Dodge - William Walker

p. 3 - Marshall Family Papers

All images from the collections  
of The Filson Historical Society.

# The Infamy of Self-Creation

The Democratic-Republican Societies and Political Communication in the Early American Republic

BY MICHELLE ORIHEL | SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

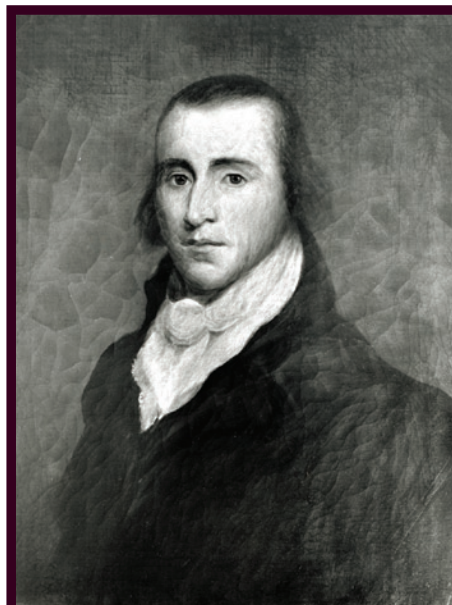
The American Revolution created a nation in which constitutional authority derived from “the people.” After gaining their independence, however, Americans continually argued about the extent of popular authority over republican government. What was the role of the people in a republic? What was the relationship between the people and their elected representatives? Did the people have the right to instruct their representatives outside of elections? If so, how were citizens supposed to communicate with their leaders? During the 1790s, political clubs known as Democratic-Republican societies weighed in on these debates. Nearly forty democratic clubs formed across the country in almost all the states. These clubs seized on newspapers to criticize the foreign and domestic policies of the Washington administration, particularly the cultivation of trading ties with Great Britain at the expense of maintaining the revolutionary alliance with France. Drawing on the transatlantic rhetoric inspired by the American and French Revolutions, the democratic societies advanced a radical conception of popular sovereignty that emphasized the role of political associations and print publication in holding elected representatives accountable to the people. At odds with many elites who sought to confine popular political participation to voting in elections, the democratic societies provoked tremendous controversy. For example, President George Washington condemned them as “self-created societies” responsible for the outbreak of the Whiskey Rebellion on the western Pennsylvania frontier.

Traditionally, historians depict the democratic societies as a national and cohesive opposition centered in Philadelphia. My dissertation re-examines this assumption of a Philadelphia-centered movement by searching for evidence of the communications and reception of the clubs that formed in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and South Carolina. In those three geographically diverse states, democratic associations formed early in the movement and achieved a significant degree of strength. This comparative perspective highlights the diverse contexts of politics and print in which the clubs circulated their ideas, ultimately revealing the fragmented nature of the democratic network. What brought me to The Filson Historical Society, then, were the four democratic

societies that formed in Kentucky. The Filson holds numerous collections that shed light on late-eighteenth century Kentucky politics. In particular, researching the papers of Isaac Shelby, Christopher Greenup, George Rogers Clark, George Nicholas, John Brown, Arthur Campbell, Alexander Scott Bullitt, and Caleb Wallace helped me to recover some of the political contexts in which the Kentucky democratic societies formed and operated.

Although historians typically emphasize the international and national influences on the democratic movement, I stress that regional, state, and local precedents were equally important, especially on the western frontier. In Kentucky, the democratic societies formed only a year after the state achieved independence. The previous decade had been marked by intense political activity. In March 1792, for example, Alexander Scott Bullitt wrote to Col. William Fleming about “how Politically Mad the Whole District of Kentucky has become at the Approach of our Convention,” in reference to the numerous committees and popular meetings taking place all across the state. An important precedent for the democratic movement in Kentucky was the Danville Political Club that met from 1786 to 1790. The records of that club, at The Filson, reveal that it discussed such issues as Kentucky independence, constitution making, and navigation rights to the Mississippi River. Through this process of association and deliberation, some Kentuckians gained valuable experience in governance that prepared the way for the formation of the democratic clubs.

During the 1790s, the Democratic Society of Kentucky formed in Lexington and became the largest and most active of the clubs in the state. Led by the recently transplanted Virginian, John Breckinridge, the Kentucky Society focused its attention on securing navigation rights. Kentuckians believed that the future economic prosperity of the western country depended on obtaining navigation rights to the Mississippi. The neglect of those rights had been a longstanding grievance of westerners. In pursuit of that objective, the society attempted to create a correspondence network among citizens of the western country and lobbied the federal government to negotiate more vigorously with the Spanish government, which refused to relinquish control of the Mississippi.



**THE FILSON HOLDS  
NUMEROUS COLLECTIONS  
THAT SHED LIGHT ON  
LATE-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
KENTUCKY POLITICS.**



FILSON CLUB PUBLICATIONS NUMBER 9.

# THE POLITICAL CLUB

## DANVILLE, KENTUCKY

1786-1790

*BEING AN ACCOUNT OF AN EARLY KENTUCKY  
SOCIETY FROM THE ORIGINAL PAPERS  
RECENTLY FOUND.*

BY THOMAS SPEED,  
*Author of "The Wilderness Road."*

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY:  
JOHN P. MORTON AND COMPANY,  
*Printers to the Filson Club.*  
1894

# NINETY-NINES



MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET  
North Central Section

**DURING THE 1790'S  
THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY  
OF KENTUCKY FORMED  
IN LEXINGTON AND  
BECAME THE LARGEST  
AND MOST ACTIVE  
OF THE CLUBS IN THE STATE.**

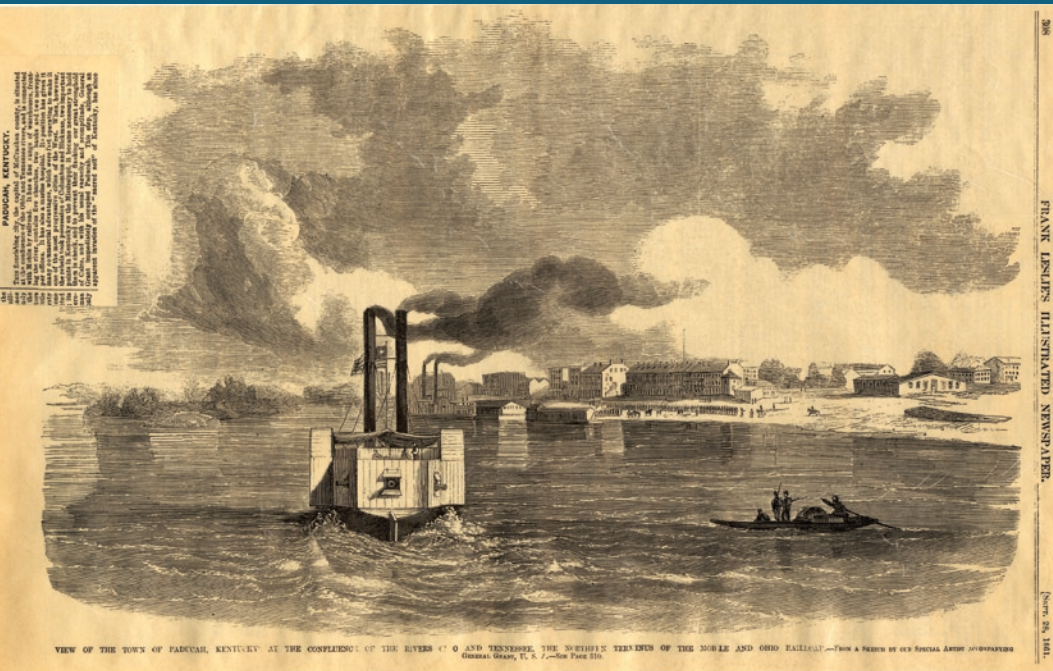
In 1794, Secretary of State Edmund Randolph attempted to reassure Kentucky politicians that the federal government, led by President Washington, was zealously pursuing navigation rights. Commenting on this letter, Kentucky Governor Isaac Shelby told George Nicholas that "I am fully persuaded the remonstrances from [the Democratic Society of] Kentucky has awakened in him [President Washington], much of that zeal, and ought to have done so in the other branches of the government." Shelby apparently believed that the communications of the Kentucky Democratic Society had a positive impact on the executive, but that it failed to force the legislature to act assertively in the interests of Kentuckians. As a result, the Democratic Society continued

to press the federal government on this issue until navigation rights were secured in 1795.

The Filson fellowship enabled me to spend a productive and enriching week doing research at The Filson Historical Society. The Filson's director, Mark Wetherington, director of research, A. Glenn Crothers, head curator Jim Holmberg, and the reading room staff all offered enthusiastic support for this project, with their questions and source suggestions. Over the course of my dissertation research, I have become fascinated by Kentucky politics and history in the early republic, and I very much look forward to a return trip to The Filson.

# The Filson Civil War Field Institute

June 17-19, 2010 / The Beginning of the River Campaigns and the Rise of U.S. Grant



On September 4, 1861 with concerns that Union Troops holding positions on the northern bank of the Ohio River would enter the commonwealth, Confederate General Leonidas Polk broke Kentucky's neutrality and ordered General Gideon Pillow to leave Tennessee and take the river town of Columbus. As news traveled, the largely pro-South citizens of Paducah prepared to welcome the expected arrival of Confederate troops. Much to their chagrin, however, an as-of-yet untested Union General by the name of Ulysses Grant quickly countered the southern army's action by taking Paducah, Kentucky and holding it for the remainder of the war. As Grant moved into town by the river, the last pro-South troops of the Kentucky State Guard were leaving town with guns and supplies. Lloyd Tilghman was among them, a Paducah native and future CS general.

The Filson Historical Society will host another Civil War Field Institute whose mission is to explore the complex history of the Civil War era in Kentucky, The Ohio Valley region and the Upper South through a series of field trips and lectures that allow participants to follow the footsteps of the armies and stand on the grounds where they fought.

This time the Filson Civil War Field Institute will invade the Paducah area. We will learn what life was like living in a Union occupied town with pro South sentiments. We will visit the site where one of the first American vessels specifically built to carry an iron armature was slid into the Ohio River which formed the backbone of the Union brown-water navy. We will stop at Polk's "Gibraltar of the West, a fort that was equipped with 143 cannons including "Lady Polk," a giant experimental cannon named for Polk's wife. We will see a section of the giant chain that stretched across the Mississippi River to thwart river travel, each link measuring 11 inches in length and 6 inches wide. We will visit the battle field that marked the opening of the Union's Western Campaign and was General Ulysses S. Grant's first active engagement in the Civil War.

## COST

Filson members: \$280

Non-members: \$330

*\*Includes all admission fees to museums and parks, Chartered Bus, Two lunches, a reception and one dinner (Thursday evening)*

## REGISTRATION

Space is limited. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 per person is required at time of registration and balance is due to the Filson by May 28, 2010

*Mail your registration form and deposit to The Filson Civil War Field Institute, 1310 S. Third St., Louisville, KY, 40208. Accepted forms of payment: check, Visa or MasterCard.*

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms are \$84 a night

Hampton Inn & Suites

3901 Coleman Crossing Circle

Paducah, KY 42001

Phone: 270-442-0200

Fax: 270-442-0201

To assure your field trip reservation, print attached form and send along with payment to:

The Filson Historical Society  
c/o Scott Scarboro CWFI  
1310 S Third Street  
Louisville, KY 40208

For more information please contact The Filson Historical Society at 502.635.5083. All participants are responsible for their travel arrangements to and from Paducah, KY. During the Fieldtrip we will travel by chartered bus as a group.





GENERAL VIEW OF COLUMBUS, KY. AND ITS FORTIFICATIONS, LOOKING DOWN THE RIVER, SHOWING THE "IRON BLUFFS" CROWNED WITH BATTERIES, THE WATER BATTERIES AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE FEDERAL GUNBOATS, MARCH 4TH, 1862.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, HENRI LOVIE.

Our sketch of Columbus and its fortifications, which was called the Western Gibraltar by the Confederates, became untenable by them after the fall of Fort Henry, Donelson, Bowling Green, and especially Nashville. A glance at our illustration will show its immense strength on the river side, and it must be confessed that General Polk had not been slow to improve its natural advantages. The water batteries entirely commanded the river, and to subvert them would have required all Commodore Foote's gallantry and skill. Our picture represents all the water batteries which are situated about a mile above the City of Columbus. The bluffs, which are also crowned with cannons, are from seventy to eighty feet high.



RECONSTRUCTION BY FINE IN GENERAL GRANT TOWARD COLUMBUS, KY.—GENERAL GRANT'S BATTLEFIELD PARKING ON THE RIVERBANK AT COLUMBUS, KY.

Headquartering in Paducah, KY at the Hampton Inn and Suites, we will make a stop at the old naval ways in Mound City where three of the seven original ironclad warships USS Cincinnati, USS Cairo and USS Louisville were built as well as visit The Mound City National Cemetery where Union General John Basil Turchin, the Russian Thunderbolt is buried.

In Cairo, IL we will visit Ft. Defiance Park at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers at the site where the Union Ft. Defiance was built. According to our tour guide Greg Biggs, "The importance of standing where the two most important rivers of the USA came together is really only fully appreciated when you are standing there. This was the tip of the Union spear and one can look where it was pointing - to the Deep South. Jiggle it to the left a bit and it aimed at the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers... this is where all of the river campaigns begin." Other stops in Cairo: Magnolia Manor - home of Charles Galigher hardtack tycoon for the Union Army and The Cairo Customs House Museum.

We will interpret the Battle of Belmont, Grant's first contest in the War Between the States at Columbus-Belmont State Park a 156-acre park. It was the site of fortifications built by the Confederates and later occupied by Union forces. Columbus was the Northern-most Confederate base along the Mississippi, protecting Memphis, Vicksburg and other key Southern holdings. As the northern end of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, Columbus was logistically tied to Confederate supply lines. It was equipped with nearly 150 cannons, some of which that shelled the Union troops are on display including the remnants of "Lady Polk". Measuring 10 feet long and weighing 15,000 pounds, the imposing gun bombarded Grant's troops with 128-pound conical projectiles. Repeated firing of the cannon heated and expanded the metal barrel, so two days later when it's last loaded but unfired shot was discharged, the projectile was unable to leave the barrel, causing the cannon to explode into three pieces, which killed 18 Confederate soldiers. A Federal newspaper soon after mocked that: "a person would be likely to consider himself as safe on one end [of the cannon] as the other."

Also on exhibit is a section of the massive chain which is estimated to have been over a mile long and the six-ton anchor that held the great chain that stretched across the Mississippi to Belmont, Missouri blocking the passage of Union gunboats and supply vessels.

At the confluence of the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers, and thus a very strategic point to hold, US Grant brings Union troops to Paducah just days after the Confederates take Columbus. We will tour the town that was largely pro south but occupied by the Union during the course of the war. We will explore the Market House Museum and the Lloyd Tilghman House and then go to the site of Ft. Anderson, where in March, 1864, Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked the town and fort also a trip will be made to the

river wall, which has a mural depicting the attack on Ft. Anderson.

From here our group will head to Smithland, KY another strategic location at the meeting of the Cumberland and Ohio Rivers. It was the second town that Grant took with troops in September, 1861. The group will venture to Ft. Smith, a well preserved star shaped earthen fort that sits on a hill above the town. The fort was named for Gen. Charles F. Smith, who had been Grant's (and Sherman's) instructor at West Point. This Filson Civil War Institute will delve into an area that has been given little attention by Civil War historians although we often hear about the importance of the control of water ways for supplies and troop movements. Border States like Kentucky and Illinois struggled internally with allegiance issues and communities were often divided. This river region that we will be investigating was ripe with divisions not just across the river to the other bank but within the state, among the people. Join us as we learn about this interesting region that played such a major role in the Western Theatre and in our country's history.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Robertson, Sr., is a Paducah native who earned a Masters degree in history at the University of Louisville, a Masters degree in economics from Murray State University, and took doctoral courses in history at the University of Kentucky. He has published numerous essays in economics and history for various journals, including the Filson Club Quarterly and The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society. He has published several books on the history of Paducah, including The Making of American Series, Paducah: Frontier to the Atomic Age, and Images of America: Paducah. The Kentucky Historical Society in 2008 recognized him for "Lifetime Contribution to Kentucky History."

## TOUR GUIDE

Gregory Biggs is a Civil War author, editor, researcher, and tour guide specializing in the western theater of the war. As former associate editor of Blue & Gray Magazine, he has edited and written numerous articles on wide variety of Civil War subjects. He specializes in flags of the Confederacy and his author/co-author of the forthcoming Tattered Banners: Alabama's Civil War Flags as well as I Go To Illustrate Georgia: Civil War Flags of Georgia Troops. He is the President of Friends of Ft. Donelson Campaign and President of the Clarksville Tennessee Civil War Roundtable.



Humans have a long and established history of keeping domesticated dogs, be it for hunting, farming, sport, or simply companionship. These lovable animals have become a part of our lives and of our families and are thus documented in the archival records created by individuals and organizations. The following images were culled from The Filson's manuscript, photograph, and museum collections. An unknown author keenly noted, "If you can look at a dog and not feel vicarious excitement and affection, you must be a cat." I dare you not to adore these precious historical pets!

SARAH-JANE M. POINDEXTER | ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

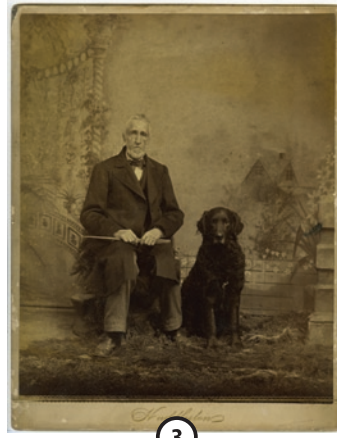
IMAGES OF DOGS IN THE FILSON'S COLLECTIONS



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4

# Dog Days





5



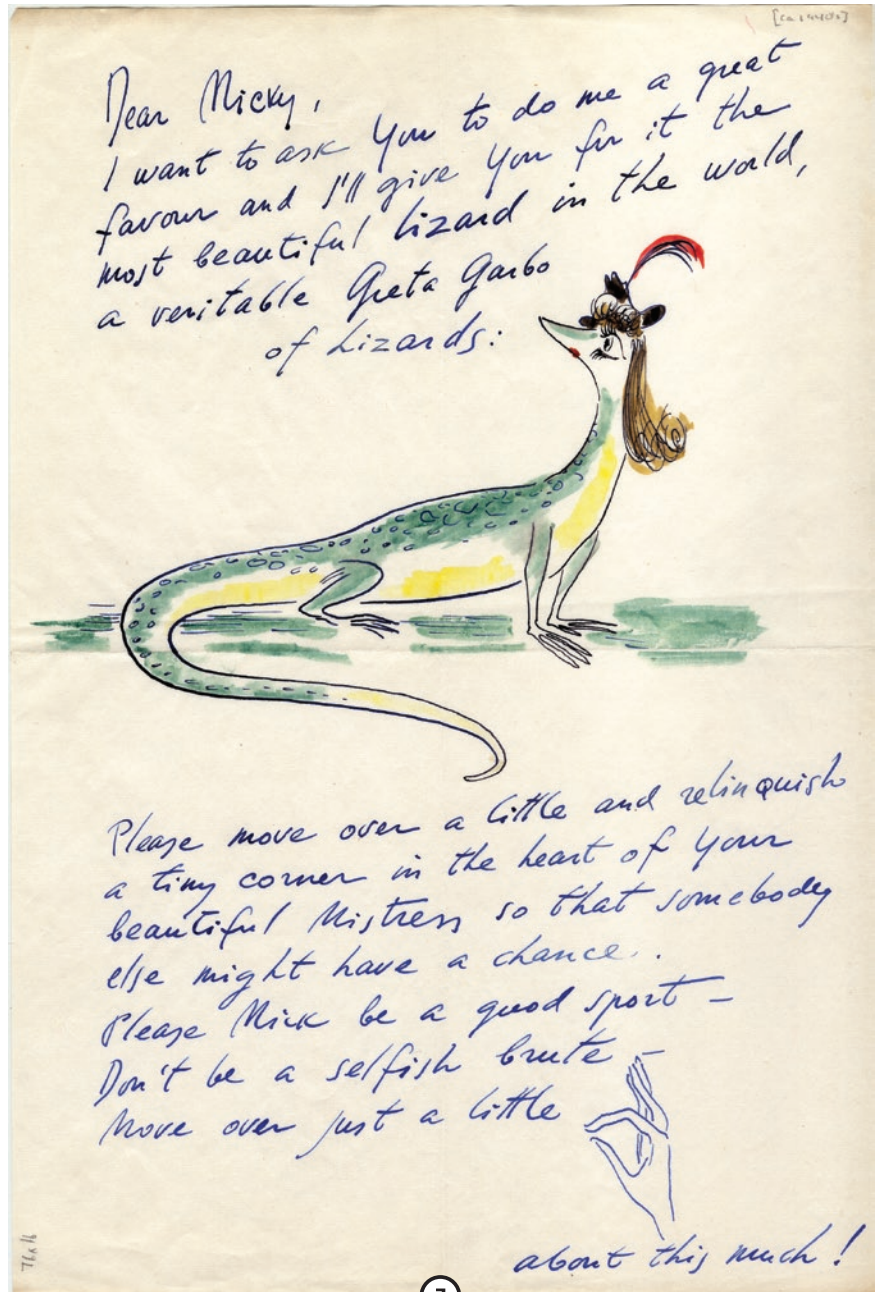
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1) Col. James Masterson (1752-1838) painted by Matthew Jouett (1788-1827), ca. 1820. Masterson was known to always attend church with his gun and dog and “positively refused to be painted unless in the open air, with his hunting costume, and favorite little dog.” A soldier in the American Revolution, Masterson moved to Kentucky from Virginia in 1779 where he continued to serve on the frontier as a minute man and an Indian spy for Captain George.

2) Engraving of Daniel Boone and dog by Johnson, Fry, & Co. Publishers, New York, 1861. The image was created from the original painting by Chappel. From The Filson Historical Society Photographs & Prints Collection.

3) Scott County farmer George W. Viley and “Rob”, ca. 1890. From The Filson Historical Society Photographs & Prints Collection.

4) Miss Juanita Thompson with “Bluff” (certainly not ‘buff’), age 4, 1896. From the Brown-Walker Family photo collection.

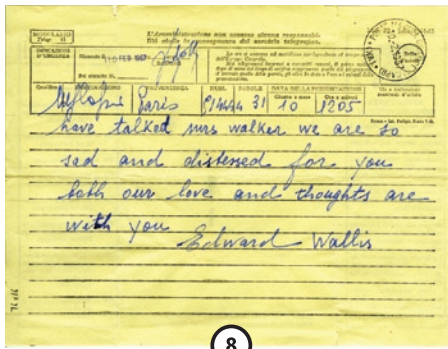


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5) “Won’t you kiss me please/I’ll promise not to give you fleas/And when its dark/I’ll bark and bark/Out among the trees - Scottie” A hand-drawn Christmas card created by W. Harold Frantz for his sister-in-law Mrs. Estelle Hays, 1920. Frantz lived at Sycamore and Clifton Avenue in the Clifton neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky. He was an artist and a draftsman for the Southern Bell and Telegraph Company. From the Franz Christmas card collection in The Filson Library.

6, 7, & 8) The glamorous socialite, Mona Bismarck, was famous for her striking aquamarine eyes, five marriages, and her love for her dogs. Judging from her papers at The Filson she received nearly as many letters of condolence when her dogs died as she did for her husbands’ deaths. Bismarck with her dog “Micky”, ca. 1950s, from the Mona Bismarck photo collection. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor express their deep “sadness” and “distress” by telegram. Another correspondent, artist Constantin Alajalov, sent playful, illustrated letters to Micky. From the Mona Bismarck Papers.





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9) "Peggy", 3 October 1948. The popular mascot for the Louisville Fire Department Quad Company No. 7 at 1330 Bardstown Road was well-known for her many talents and charm, eventually landing her the cover-girl spot in Louisville's Courier-Journal Magazine. From the Roy B. Parson scrapbook collection.

10) "Sergeant Ed" photographed by Roy B. Parson. Sergeant Ed, a firefighting mascot of Illinois origin, visited Louisville in 1920 along with five of his human colleagues. "Visiting firemen from Chicago in front of Jefferson County Jail, July 4th 1920." From the Roy B. Parson scrapbook collection.

11) "Shorty", mascot for the LFD No. 1 Hook & Ladder Company and Engine Company No. 2. The well-known, independent fire hound hustled his own food during his evening rounds to Fourth Street eateries where it was said the chefs expected him and saved him choice morsels. When the beloved dog went missing in 1931, the firemen issued a notice as part of the search effort. The description read, "One white dog with short legs and underslung chassis; has one pink eye and one blue eye; nose and ears which make him look like a pig; wears collar telling name and owner; most likely to be seen around fires." Shorty was recovered but suffered fatal injuries in the line of duty when he fell from a fire engine while answering a false alarm. A page from Roy B. Parson's scrapbook depicts Shorty as well as his funeral which took place on 16 November 1931 in the yard beside fire department headquarters on West Jefferson Street. Note the LFD pall bears and graveside mourners.

12) Portrait of Henry Clay and dog, engraved by H. S. Sadd from a painting by John Wood Dodge, 1843.

13) Unidentified women with dog, ca. 1920s. The Filson Photograph Collection.

14) Dr. Lee Palmer and staff, ca. 1920s, possibly taken in Allock, Kentucky where he practiced medicine. From the Palmer-Joyes family photo collection.





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15) Portrait of Emma Calhoun Nobel Clark by James T. Poindexter, 1853. Miss Clark was the daughter of Colonel John C. Noble, a publisher who was the editor of the Paducah Herald. Her small dog is immortalized in this family portrait indicating the value of the pet to the family.

16 & 17) Louisville Beagle Club, Rogers B. C. Morton farm, Oldham County, Kentucky, 2 February 1947. The Louisville Beagle club was a social and sport organization conducting fox hunts in the Louisville, Kentucky area. From the Fincastle Beagle Club records.

18) Unidentified young women with dog, ca. 1900. From the Scharre family papers.

19 & 20) What are little boys made of? Snips and snails, and puppy dog tails. Glass slides, circa 1903, from the Speed Family Photo Collection capture the childhood innocence of brothers John Speed (1893-1968) and Thomas Speed (1895-1952) along with their canine companion. These images were likely taken at the family's Taylorsville farm in Spencer County, Kentucky by their father James Speed (1867-1945).



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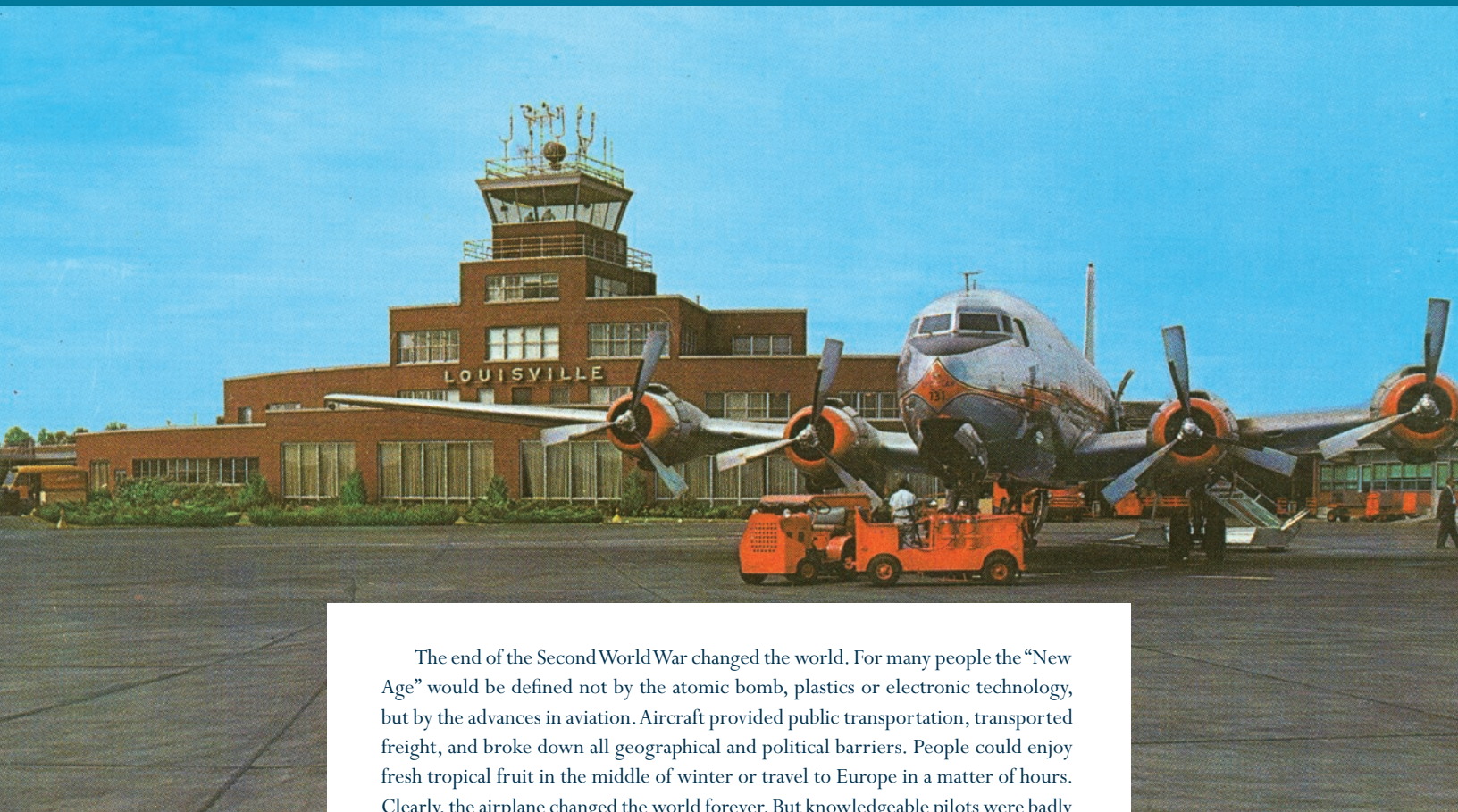
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“If you can look at a dog and not feel vicarious excitement and affection, you must be a cat.”



# MAYRELL JOHNSON AND AVIATION EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY

MICHAEL R. VEACH | ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Standiford Field Municipal Airport

The end of the Second World War changed the world. For many people the “New Age” would be defined not by the atomic bomb, plastics or electronic technology, but by the advances in aviation. Aircraft provided public transportation, transported freight, and broke down all geographical and political barriers. People could enjoy fresh tropical fruit in the middle of winter or travel to Europe in a matter of hours. Clearly, the airplane changed the world forever. But knowledgeable pilots were badly needed to operate the planes. In order to prepare the country for this new age, public educational institutions needed to prepare the next generation.

Anna Mayrell Johnson was a Navy pilot during the war, and a member of the Ninety-Nines, an organization of female pilots. This group was formed in 1929 by 99 female pilots for reciprocal encouragement and support, as well as aviation advancement. Amelia Earhart was one of the charter members, and the organization’s first president. After World War II, Johnson became a faculty member at Murray State Teachers College. Her background and new position at Murray State made her a prime candidate for the State Committee on Aviation, formed in 1947 to study aviation education in Kentucky.



Anna Mayrell Johnson



Johnson's friend and fellow committee member, Lulu Greenwood "Cokie" Cocanougher, was also a member of the Ninety-Nines and went on to be the Governor of the North Central Section of the Ninety-Nines from 1949 until her accidental death in 1951. Cocanougher was inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame in 2009. To name a few other committee members, the list included Dr. J.J. Oppenheimer of the University of Louisville, Dr. Ralph Cherry of the University of Kentucky, and Dr. H. Davis, principal of Lafayette High School in Lexington. The committee had representatives of both sexes from all levels of education in Kentucky.

There had been some aviation education on college campuses during the war, but cut-backs of military funds reduced class availability. A plan was therefore needed to preserve these programs in some form.

Johnson became involved in late 1946 as correspondence was sent out to people who might serve on a statewide committee. William J. Elliot, an early correspondent, taught at Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. In his letter he describes an experimental course he was teaching at the school and the need to expand such teaching to other schools.

*Bowman Field Municipal Airport*



as there was a need to adjust the present classes to meet the needs of the "Air Age." A prime example of this was geography. It was traditionally taught that to get to Japan a person traveled west from California, but in the "Air Age," the best way to reach Tokyo from most American cities was over the North Pole.

It was clear that geography would need to be taught differently. There needed to be more emphasis on mathematics and foreign language skills. The next generation would need a different set of skills in the world of the Air Age. The committee also concluded that more teachers were needed who had experienced flight. An even better option would be teachers who knew how to fly.

Johnson spent the next two months organizing the June Aviation Institute at Murray State. The meeting was held on June 11, 1947. It started at 10:00 with the film "Ceilings Unlimited," followed by an introduction from Murray State University's President, Dr. Ralph Woods. Two programs, "Aviation and Its Impacts on General Education" and "The Air Age Education Program in Kentucky" were held before lunch. After lunch the meeting moved to the

*Standiford Field Municipal Airport*



**MAYRELL JOHNSON SERVED HER COUNTRY IN THE AIR DURING WORLD WAR II; WAS A LEADER IN KENTUCKY AVIATION EDUCATION; WAS A ROLE MODEL FOR FUTURE AVIATRIXES; AND IS DESERVING OF INDUCTION INTO THE KENTUCKY AVIATION HALL OF FAME.**

To better understand what was being done, this committee looked at the few other programs available in other states.

The first meeting of the State Committee on Aviation occurred in February, 1947. The meeting quickly developed a ten-point outline for discussion. They then laid out two broad areas of need for aviation education: 1) Engineering – Vocational – Scientific and 2) Economical – Social – Political. There were then sub-committees formed from this committee to look at each education level and its needs.

Johnson was elected chair of the subcommittee on teacher education. This committee met in March, 1947 in Bowling Green. This committee analyzed all levels of public education and how aviation education could best be implemented in Kentucky. In a report to her University President, Dr. Ralph Woods, Johnson stated that the committee proposed a four credit hour course that would include Civil Air Regulations, General Service to Aircraft, Meteorology, Navigation, and Radio and Communications. This would be complemented by 35 to 45 hours of flight instruction.

The committee at Bowling Green also decided to hold another meeting at Murray State in June, open to all educators. This would be an "Aviation Institute" with seminars on aviation education, including flight time. The committee decided that there was not so much a need for a new curriculum,

airport where Kentucky Lake Flying Service provided rides for the attendees. Johnson also provided for a representative of Link Aviation, Inc. to be available for consultation with teachers and administrators on June 10, 11, and 12. This representative, Mr. Stanley Kozarski, as well as Mr. Horace Gilbert of the Civil Aviation Authority, also held workshops and demonstrations during those three days.

The Aviation Institute was well attended and considered a success. Educators from across the state returned home and applied some of what they learned to their schools. Correspondence from Link Aviation, Inc. shows that Link was holding similar programs in other states. In this instance, Kentucky was one of the leaders in the advancement of aviation education.

Mayrell Johnson continued to be involved in aviation and the Ninety-Nines. She remained a professor at Murray State University until retirement, and her papers from this post-war period were donated to The Filson Historical Society in 1998 and are now part of Special Collections.

Mayrell Johnson served her country in the air during World War II; was a leader in Kentucky aviation education; was a role model for future aviatrixes; and is deserving of induction into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. The Filson is honored to preserve this small collection of this female aviation leader.

# Thank you.

As we approach the fifteenth anniversary of The Filson Historical Society's "Distinctive Dwellings" tour, it is with great pleasure and appreciation that we wish to recognize the enormous



contribution that Judge John David Myles has made to this special event since it started in 1995. Each year, John David visits and researches the featured houses and provides the tour's participants with a set of lucid and lively notes telling the houses' stories and offering observations on their interiors and exteriors. Everyone who reads John David's annual House Tour Notes comes away with the same impression. His writing reflects an extraordinary enthusiasm for the subject, as well as an expert's command of design detail and architectural history.

John David has built his expertise in architectural history over years of serious study and practical, hands-on work. In his undergraduate days at Centre College, he not only pursued his fascination with art and architecture through the classroom, but also risked life and limb exploring the ruins of old houses. For the past 30 years, while practicing as an attorney and currently a Family Court Judge for Anderson, Shelby and Spencer counties,

**THIS YEAR'S  
HOUSE TOUR  
SUNDAY,  
SEPT. 26, 2010**

John David has dedicated much of his spare time to his passion for architecture and design. Joined by his wonderful wife, Mary Helen, and groups of devoted friends, he has taken regular journeys of architectural inquiry, from colonial houses in Virginia, to Palladian villas in Italy, to historic estates in Scotland. Backed by his keen aesthetic sense, he has delved into design and has renovated old houses, most recently his and Mary Helen's beautiful home in Simpsonville. Perhaps most significantly, John David has always been willing to share his knowledge and love of our architectural heritage and we, the members of The Filson, have benefited tremendously.

It is with the greatest respect and deepest gratitude that we honor Judge John David Myles and his generous gifts and service to The Filson. - *Orme Wilson III, President*



# Filson Institute Public Conference

## Facing the Rising Sun: The American Indian Perspective in the Ohio Valley During the Late 18th century

At The Filson Historical Society's Public Conference, the experience of the American Indian in the late 18th century Ohio Valley area will be examined. Leading scholars in the field will offer contemporary viewpoints on varying facets of American Indian life in the Ohio Valley area, including economic, spiritual, and military aspects.

American Indians played a crucial role in the establishment of the Ohio Valley. The programs in The Filson Institute 2010 Public Conference will dispel the myths surrounding America's first inhabitants and illuminate their motivations and goals.



### THURSDAY, MAY 13

#### Field Trip led by Jim Holmberg, Curator of Special Collections

We plan to visit several existing spring houses, historical stations and related monuments in the Beargrass Creek and Louisville Metro area.

Kentucky witnessed twenty years of warfare between pioneers and American Indians. The pioneers wanted this land west of the Appalachians, and the American Indians fought to keep it. From the mid-1770's when surveying crews and the earliest settlers entered Kentucky, to the mid-1790's when the Indians were forced to concede defeat, this Eden of the West was contested ground. Jefferson County was no exception. Scattered across the county were pioneer forts and stations, as well as isolated farms. Indian attack was an ever present threat. Some of these names and places are still remembered today. Col. John Floyd, Capt. Abraham Lincoln (President Lincoln's grandfather), Floyd's Station, William Christian, Floyd's Defeat, and the Chenoweth Massacre come to mind. Fortunately, remnants of some of these scenes of early stations and battles are visible or can be visited today.

The Filson's Curator of Special Collections Jim Holmberg will be your guide as we travel to sites such as the Christian log cabin (believed to be the oldest structure in the county), the Floyd-Breckinridge Cemetery/site of Floyd's Station, Soldier's Retreat (seat of Col. Richard C. Anderson), Long Run Cemetery near the site of Capt. Abraham Lincoln's farm where he was killed by Indians in 1786, and Floyd's Defeat by a combined Indian-British force in 1781. We'll walk the same ground as these pioneers and native peoples and hear in some of their own words what life was like when the two adversaries fought for control of the Dark and Bloody Ground.

Floyd's Station, 1779 on Beargrass Creek, Jefferson Co., KY, March 22, 1922.  
*All images from the collections of The Filson Historical Society.*



### FRIDAY, MAY 14

#### Lectures Presented by Members of Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission Cultural and Spiritual Life of the American Indian

- Helen Danser, Chair, Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission (Cherokee, Member of the Piqua and Shawnee Tribes)
- Kenneth B. Tankersley, Department of Anthropology, University of Cincinnati (Cherokee-Shawnee)

### SATURDAY, MAY 15

#### Day of Lectures with:

- Robert Harper – Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI  
“Strategies for Sovereignty”
- Ellen Eslinger - Department of History, DePaul University, Chicago, IL  
“Kentucky Settlers in Border Warfare: Protagonists or Victims?”
- David A. Nichols – Department of History, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN  
“Making a Living in the Valley of Death: Native American Subsistence and Commerce in the Revolutionary Ohio Valley”
- James O'Donnell - Department of History, Marietta College, Marietta, OH  
“Listening for the Noise of War: Life West of the Ohio River, 1775-1795”

# The Filsonians

Nov. 2009 – Feb. 2010

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 to 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 Judy Miller at 502-635-5083.

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(\$2,500 - \$4,499)

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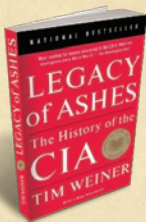
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 BY WHAT WE GET;  
 WE MAKE A LIFE  
 BY WHAT WE GIVE.”**

**- WINSTON CHURCHILL**



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**Friday, May 7 - 6:30 p.m.**  
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