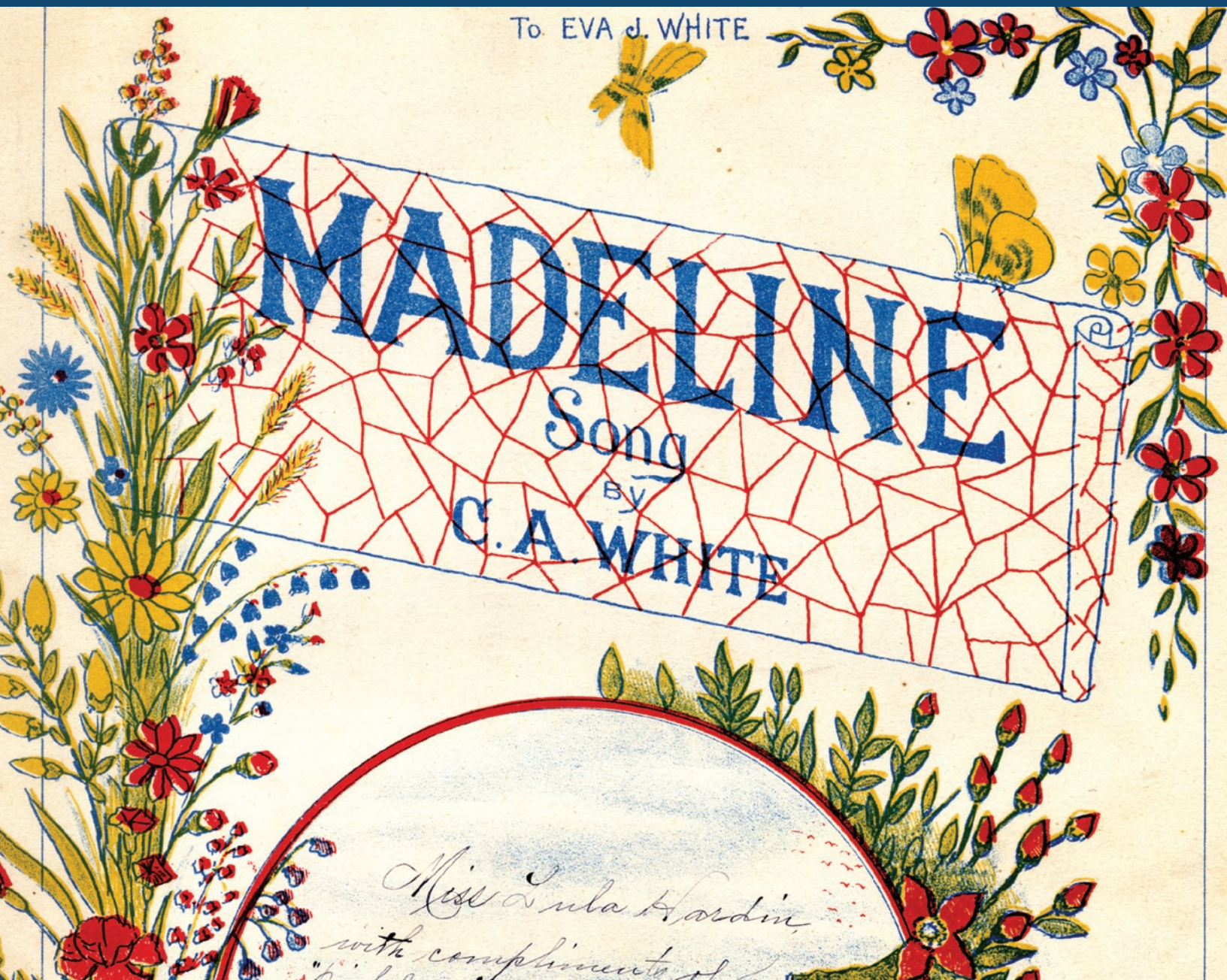


The Filson

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



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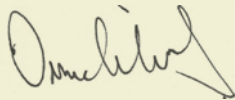
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From the President

The Filson Historical Society's unique collections of original manuscripts, documents, rare books and pamphlets contain countless fascinating stories. Each year, hundreds of researchers visit The Filson to explore our collections and help bring important information to light. These researchers include students, scholars and Filson members as well as award-winning writers and historians. Years before he became president, Theodore Roosevelt visited the Filson's collections to examine early frontier manuscripts for his remarkable four-volume *The Winning of the West*. Over a century later, renowned historians such as David McCullough, Stephen Ambrose, Robert Remini, David Donald, Stephen Aron and John Mack Faragher have used our archives in their research.

Several recent books have connections to The Filson's outstanding collections. Two new biographies of Daniel Boone, Meredith Mason Brown's superb *Frontiersman: Daniel Boone and the Making of America*, and Robert Morgan's lyrical *Boone: A Biography*, cite our archives. Readers intrigued by Andro Linklater's *An Artist in Treason: The Extraordinary Double Life of General James Wilkinson*, will find not only letters from Wilkinson in our stacks but also a fine portrait of the spy Wilkinson by John Wesley Jarvis on the first floor of the Ferguson Mansion. Perhaps most notably, David and Jeanne Heidler, the authors of the acclaimed new biography, *Henry Clay: The Essential American*, describe research at The Filson as "an adventure framed in conviviality," acknowledge our archives, and praise our entire Special Collections team. Through their research and writing, historians and authors like these help The Filson share the significant stories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley, and we welcome their efforts.



Orme Wilson, III
President

From the Director

The Filson Historical Society just celebrated its 125th anniversary year. Our mission to collect, preserve, and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history has not changed much over that long time span. The Filson's pursuit of its mission has continued uninterrupted by depressions, wars, and natural disasters like the 1937 flood, which reached the doorsteps of our old headquarters on Breckinridge Avenue but did not reach our priceless collections, the foundation of our stories.

This record of continuous service to the Commonwealth and our region is all the more remarkable when we remember that The Filson has grown and flourished as a nonprofit organization whose operating budget is entirely privately supported. When I see our members at our many public programs, I am reminded that the resources The Filson possesses—our collections, our facilities, and our endowment—are all gifts voluntarily donated over many generations by supporters who share our passion for history.

French political thinker and historian Alexis de Tocqueville marveled at the relationship between U. S. citizens and their voluntary associations when he toured America during the 1830s. He wrote that free association to support a worthwhile cause "is the mother of all other forms of knowledge; on its progress depends that of all the others."

Today, a growing body of knowledge concerning the history and culture of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley region is the major result of the collections development, research, and scholarship that continue each day at The Filson. That knowledge is shared through our educational programs and publications, as well as those of others (see the President's letter, above) with much wider audiences throughout the region, nation, and world. This knowledge helps us, and others, define who we are as individuals, communities, and as a region. Thank you for helping The Filson continue its role of collecting, preserving, and passing on from one generation to the next the defining stories of our history.



Mark V. Wetherington, Ph.D.
Director

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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:

This copy of "Madeline" by C. A. White bears an inscription to Lula Hardin from "her pickle-eating friend," W. A. Garrett.

Browsing in Our Archives

SPIES ON THE FRONTIER

BY JAMES J. HOLMBERG | CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

One record in the Bullitt Family Papers — Oxmoor Collection, lists the names of six men serving as spies in the Jefferson County militia in 1792.

Hostilities between pioneers and Native Americans lasted for twenty years on the Kentucky frontier. From the picking off of a lone traveler to set battles involving thousands of participants, the contest for control of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley raged from the stations of the central Bluegrass to the Great Lakes. The Battle of Point Pleasant in October 1774 can be considered the opening chapter of this two decade struggle, the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August of 1794 the closing one. While it was the regiments and war parties that fought the main battles neither could have penetrated enemy country nor campaigned effectively without the vital intelligence supplied by their spies. Often acting alone or in pairs, they were their forces' eyes and ears, scouting ahead and providing important information about the enemy. Only a few names have gone down in history for their exploits. Most have been forgotten. Only by studying the scattered surviving records is it possible to identify more of these brave and adventurous men.

One such record in the Bullitt Family Papers — Oxmoor Collection, lists the names of six men serving as spies in the Jefferson County militia in 1792. It is one of several documents among Alexander Scott Bullitt's papers regarding the men who patrolled the settlements and frontier to warn of Indian activity. The spies' commander was Alexander Scott Bullitt. Bullitt wasn't a spy himself, but as a colonel in the militia; he evaluated the information gathered and helped coordinate militia plans. He is well known in Kentucky history, the six spies themselves aren't, but they connect to

others that did make their mark in history. In addition to providing the names of these spies, important information is provided regarding their ages, marital state, and place of residence. These are important "pieces" of those historical and biographical puzzles the historian perpetually seeks to put together. For example, Robert Floyd was a member of the prominent Floyd family. His brother was Colonel John Floyd, one of Kentucky's foremost leaders until killed by Indians in 1783. Robert himself had participated in many an action since coming to Kentucky in 1779. His sons were early Indiana leader Davis Floyd and Sergeant Charles Floyd of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Knowing his age to be forty-five in August 1792 renders a birth year of circa 1747. An additional Lewis and Clark connection is found with John and Lewis Field. They are members of the Field clan that settled along Pond Creek and included Joseph and Reuben Field who also accompanied Lewis and Clark on their journey. Identifying these three men serving as spies, with the requisite frontier skills that duty required, contributes to understanding the background of the next generation raised on the frontier and the skills they learned in part from that first generation of Kentucky frontiersmen. One can understand why William Clark immediately recruited Charles Floyd and the Field brothers for the journey to the Pacific; giving them the distinction of being the first three enlisted members of the Corps of Discovery. He knew that with their frontier pedigrees, they would help form that all important foundation on which to build the expedition.

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A Muster Roll of the Spies Employed in Jefferson County, State of Kentucky from the 8th May to the 10th August 1792 under the Command of Alexr. S. Bullitt. [10 Aug 1792]

No.	Names	Commencement of time	Expiration of time	Number of Days in Service	Residence & Age	Married or Single
1	Robert Floyd	8 th May 1792	August 10 th 1792	86	Beargrass 45	Married
	Charles Tuley	8 th May 1792	10 th 1792	86	Do 29	Married
	John Field	13 th May 1792	10 th 1792	88	Ponds 23	Single
	Lewis Field	13 th May 1792	10 th 1792	67	Ponds 26	Married
	John Riker	21 st May 1792	10 th 1792	62	Brashear's Creek 27	Married
	Wm. Robins	21 st May 1792	10 th 1792	62	Brashears Creek 24	Single

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This is one of several documents in Alexander Scott Bullitt's papers in the Bullitt Family Papers – Oxmoor Collection regarding the service of spies and scouts and provides important historical and genealogical information.

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Louisville, Ky.

SAFE POLKA



COMPOSED

BY

A. LOCK

ARRANGED

THE (a door) KEY

3 1/2

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NEW ACCESS to an OLD COLLECTION

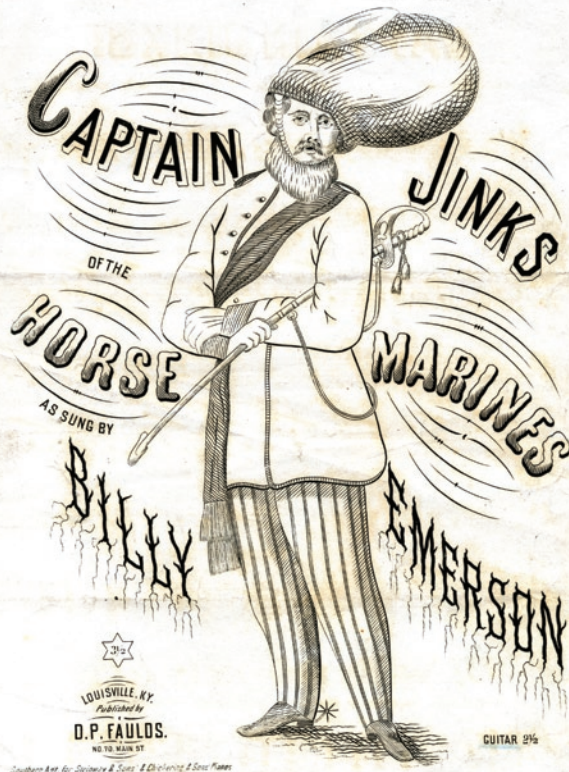
Cataloging The Filson's Sheet Music

by Jacob F. Lee
Associate Curator of Special Collections

The Filson is widely recognized for its collection of nineteenth century manuscripts. Scholars from around the world use the letters, diaries, and assorted records in Special Collections. Lesser known among our holdings, though, is sheet music from the same era, which comprises some 3,800 pieces of music. In part, the lack of awareness about our sheet music holdings was created by a lack of access. The sole finding aid for most of the collection was a spreadsheet, which was only available in-house until a year ago. This summer, we have had the opportunity to improve access to this rich collection. In June, H. F. Boehl Summer Intern Katherine Horner began creating MARC records for The Filson's sheet music collection and putting those records into the online catalog available through The Filson's website. In just a short time, Katherine has already added hundreds of pieces of music to the catalog. We expect increased use of these materials as more researchers learn of this rich collection.

The songs documented in The Filson's sheet music collection reveal much about nineteenth century American society and culture. Although most of the sheet music at The Filson is somehow linked to Kentucky, usually Louisville, the music is anything but parochial. Louisville sheet music vendors often imported music published outside the region, including in New York, Boston, and even some European cities. The array of international music from mazurkas to Italian quadrilles demonstrates an awareness of other parts of the globe. The collection also provides a window into the social life of Kentuckians. Although some pieces are for other instruments, including guitar, most of the sheet music is for piano, reflecting the increased popularity of the piano with the growth of the middle class. Dance instructions accompanying some songs display the social importance of music beyond listening to it be played.

As with all non-religious music, love and romance are the predominant subject material, but the music addresses other concerns as well. Topical songs document political campaigns, sentiments about elected officials, and the impact of the Civil War on soldiers and civilians alike. White ideas about black Americans are presented in the minstrel songs of Stephen Foster and cover



THE COAL BLACK ROSE,

BALTIMORE Published and Sold by GEO. WILLIG JR.

GUITAR

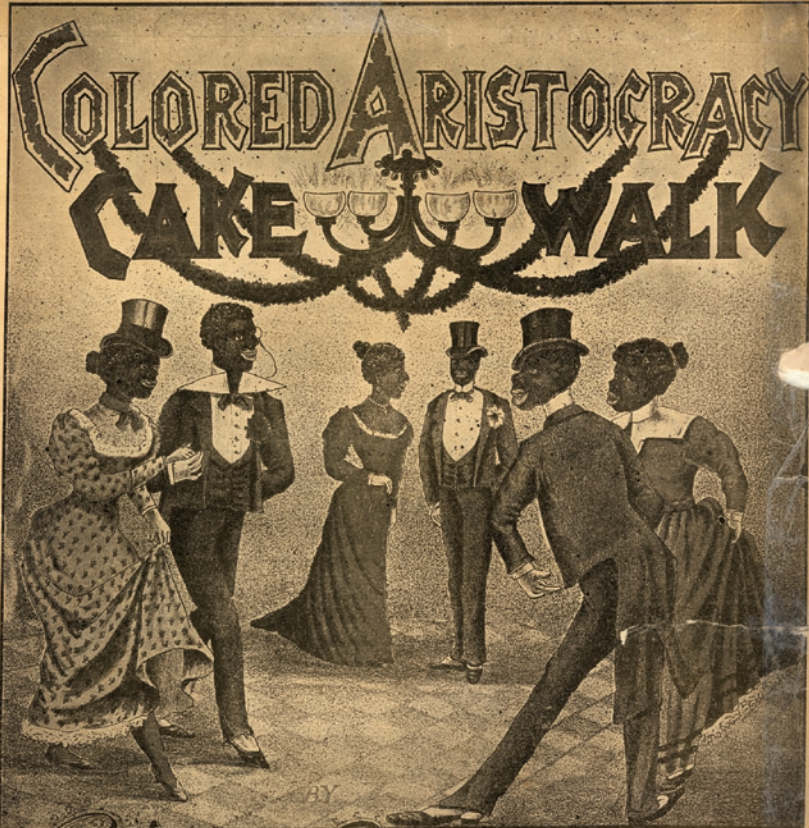
PIANO.

Allegretto

Lubly Rosa' Sambo cum,

don't you hear de Ban-jo tum,tum,tum, Lubly Ro-sa' Sambo cum, don't you hear de Ban-jo

tum,tum,tum, Oh Rose de coal black Rose, I wish I may be cort'ed if I don't lub Rose,



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LOUISVILLE, KY.

"BENNY HAVEN'S O"

McCLELLAN CAMPAIGN

SONG AND CHORUS.

Benny Haven is the name of a man who in other days dispensed buckwheat cakes, with accompaniments, to such cadets of West Point as were daring enough to break through the regulations and visit his establishment. "Benny Haven's O" has become classic ground to the men of West Point. The author of "Cadet-Life at West Point" tells us that gray-haired veterans, "the bravest and wisest from the councils of both war and state," when they revisit West Point, make a "pilgrimage to Benny's sylvan shrine." We believe the old man presides there no more.

The song of "Benny Haven's O," arranged to a very simple air, is to the West Point man what the *Rose des Vents* is to the Swiss, or the pibroch of his clan to the Highlander. It was sung by the officers of the American Army in the "Halls of the Montezuma." Stanzas are continually added by the different classes of graduates. "Benny Haven's O" does not now denote merely the house in which buckwheat cakes were dispensed; it is a poetical expression equivalent to "Avalon," "Atlantis," or "the Happy Isles," indicating a state of things in which all wrongs are righted, and everything is as it should be.

When General McClellan visited West Point about a year ago the cadets gathered around him, and sang "Benny Haven's O," the General joining in the Chorus with as much spirit as he had done in other days. It is said that the cadets made themselves hoarse with shouting "Hurrah for McClellan!" On that occasion the General was surprised with the following stanza, which was sung with peculiar animation:

"Here's a health to George McClellan! God bless the young hero!
He's an honor to his country, and a terror to the foe.
May he long rest on his laurels, and trouble never know,
And live to see a thousand years at Benny Haven's O!"

**WRITTEN BY
NOBLE BUTLER,**



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illustrations of pieces like Gus W. Bernard's "Colored Aristocracy." The sheet music also reveals what some nineteenth century Americans found humorous, with songs like the "Safe Polka," composed by "A. Lock" and arranged by "The (a door) Key," and W. R. McQuown's "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines," an irreverent look at military life.

Of course, the sheet music sometimes also tells us something about its owners. In 1889, W. A. Garnett revealed an ambiguous but flirtatious relationship with Lula Hardin, when he gave her a copy of C. A. White's "Madeline" and inscribed it, "with compliments of her pickle-eating friend." The owner of one copy of A. F. Winnemore's minstrel song, "Stop Dat Knocking at My Door," was both a novice musician and an aspiring lyricist, as indicated by the marks on the sheet music and the additional verses

The Filson's sheet music collection is a valuable resource for understanding social and cultural life in the nineteenth century Ohio Valley, but it can also be visually appealing.

written in pencil on the title page. In other instances, we are able to get a sense of the owner's taste as they bound their sheet music into volumes. Sarah Bryce, who probably lived in the Ohio Valley during the antebellum period, was one such owner. Her bound sheet music collection contains fifty-seven songs, including waltzes, ballads, hornpipes, and marches. Additionally, the sheet music documents the transit of either people or goods, as stamps from music stores indicate that the pieces were purchased in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lexington, Cincinnati, and Columbus, Ohio, among other cities.

The Filson's sheet music collection is a valuable resource for understanding social and cultural life in the nineteenth century Ohio Valley, but it can also be visually appealing.

p. 4 - Safe Polka / A. Lock and The (a door) Key's "Safe Polka" offers a healthy dose of puns.

p. 5 - Captain Jinks / Written for guitar, "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines" (1869), arranged by W. R. McQuown, is a comedic look at military life.

p. 6 - The Coal Black Rose / "The Coal Black Rose" also included in Alice Bryce's sheet music volume is a dialect song. The lyrics combined with the illustrations at the top of the page are representative of minstrel music. Also, the vendors' stamps at the bottom of the page show that the piece of music was sold by one store in Philadelphia, probably to the store that resold it in Lexington, Kentucky.

p. 7 - Colored Aristocracy / The cover illustration of Gus W. Bernard's "Colored Aristocracy" (1899) reveals the racial stereotypes common in late-nineteenth century America.

p. 8 - Benny Haven's O / "Benny Haven's O" (1864) by Noble Butler. A campaign song supporting George B. McClellan's 1864 bid for the presidency.

Hot Stove Weather

BY MARK V. WETHERINGTON | DIRECTOR



(Photo by: Reggie Van Stockum) James J. Holmberg, “The General,” and Mark Wetherington

A THEME OF STEWARDSHIP CHARACTERIZES THE GENERAL’S LIFE—HIS SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY, HIS CARE FOR FAMILY AND FARM, HIS METICULOUS ORGANIZATION OF HIS FAMILY’S PAPERS, AND HIS DEDICATION TO THE FILSON...

EVERY FALL OR WINTER now for a number of years Jim Holmberg, Curator of Special Collections, and I have had the pleasure of traveling to the Shelby County home of Brigadier General R. R. Van Stockum, United States Marine Corps (retired) for an annual visit.

We have made these trips when the weather is cold enough for “the General” to build a warm fire in the wood-burning stove in his living room. The arrival of “hot stove weather,” as we call it, means that it won’t be long before we are invited out to Allen Dale Farm for lunch.

The trip has become an annual tradition. We arrive shortly after eleven in the morning, listen to the fire popping, smell the hardwood, and talk about history and, occasionally, sports. I won’t give away the General’s age, but he is old enough to have lost his father in the Battle of the Somme during World War I. We both had the pleasure of meeting his mother on one of these trips; she lived to be over 100.

Before lunch and fireside chatting, we take care of business. This takes place in the General’s office. Lined with history books, images of people and places from his Marine Corp years, and family portraits and pictures, the office is technologically up-to-date. This is a working office. Each trip we marvel at the new group of family photographs and documents he’s scanned into his database. The

General has regularly written history-related articles for the local newspaper and is now completing a biography of Squire Boone, Daniel’s brother, which will join his well-received biography of a place, *Kentucky and the Bourbons: A History of Allen Dale Farm*.

Over the years we have driven back to The Filson with the sources that made the telling of these stories possible: the General’s own personal papers documenting his career in the USMC, which includes his service in the Pacific Theater during World War II; the research collection used to document *Kentucky and the Bourbons*, and an extraordinary collection of family papers which reach back into the family’s French connections.

These have been donated by the family to The Filson, where they will be preserved and used by generations of researchers to come for a wide variety of stories about Kentucky, the Ohio Valley region, and the wider world.

A theme of stewardship characterizes the General’s life—his service to his country, his care for family and farm, his meticulous organization of his family’s papers, and his dedication to The Filson as both a Board member and interim Director. We are always happy to see our friend again, and now that summer is here, “hot stove weather” is only one season away.

The Filson Institute Public Conference

Secessions: From the American Revolution to Civil War – October 21-23, 2010, Louisville, KY



THE CONFEDERATE RAID INTO KENTUCKY—THE FIGHT AT THE LICKING BRIDGE, CYNTHIANA, BETWEEN THE FEDERAL TROOPS AND THE MORGAN CONFEDERATE GUERRILLAS.

CONFERENCE CONVENERS:

Manisha Sinha, *University of Massachusetts-Amherst*,
Departments of Afro-American Studies and History

Kevin Barksdale, *Marshall University*, Department of History

The Filson Institute for the Advanced Study of the Ohio Valley and the Upper South will conduct a two-day academic conference to examine calls for secession or disunion in the United States from the Revolutionary era to the Civil War. The conference, which will convene at The Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky, marks the 150th anniversary of South Carolina's secession.

The conference seeks to explore the moments in U.S. history between 1783 and 1865 when Americans threatened or acted

upon a perceived "right" to secede from or nullify the laws of national or state authorities. Nearly 150 years ago, in December 1860, South Carolina declared its independence and seceded from the Union, helping to plunge the nation into civil war. Secessionists believed they defended and upheld political values and traditions established during the Revolutionary era. Some declared that the Declaration of Independence established a precedent for principled rebellion in opposition to "tyranny," while states' rights advocates defended secession as a constitutional right. But southern secessionists were not the first to appeal to the Revolutionary tradition of disunion and rebellion, or to the Constitution. Between the Revolution and the Civil War many groups and political leaders, discontented with conditions in the nation, invoked the right to leave the union or nullify federal laws.

THURSDAY, OCT. 21

6:30 PM – KEYNOTE ADDRESS

James Loewen, “Lies My Teacher Told Me About Secession”

FRIDAY, OCT. 22

8:30 – 9:00 AM – COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

9:00 – 9:15 AM – INTRODUCTIONS

9:15 – 10:00 AM – KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Manisha Sinha (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

PANEL 1

10:15 – 11:30 AM – SECESSION IN EARLY KENTUCKY

- **James E. Lewis** (Kalamazoo College)
“The Western States Would be the Last to Withdraw From the Union’: The Burr Conspiracy and Western Secession”
- **Michelle Orihel** (Syracuse University)
“A Neglect Bordering on Contempt’: The Democratic Society of Kentucky and the Threat of Disunion in 1790’s America”
- **Thomas Baker** (SUNY Potsdam)
“What John Wood and the Western World Reveal About the So-Called Burr Conspiracy”

Comment: **Andrew Cayton** (Bowling Green University)

11:45 AM – 12: 45 PM – LUNCH

PANEL 2

1:00 – 2:30 PM – SECESSION IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC

- **Jeffrey Morrison** (Georgia State University)
“Madison and Jefferson’s Compact Theories of the Constitution Underlying the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions”
- **Jon Kukla** (Independent Scholar)
“The First New England Secession, 1785-1786”
- **Kristopher Ray** (Austin Peay State University)
“Leadership and Sovereignty in the Revolutionary American Southwest: The State of Franklin as Case Study”

Comment: **Kevin Barksdale** (Marshall University)

PANEL 3

2:45 – 4:15 PM – RELIGION AND SECESSION

- **Kevin Doyle** (Brandeis University)
“The Explosiveness of Secession: The Gunpowder Plot, the Hartford Convention, and the Nullification Crisis in Early America”
- **Matthew Tyler Foulds** (Ohio State University)
“Enemies of the State: Political and Religious Secession in Western Virginia, 1844-1865”
- **Laura Rominger Porter** (University of Notre Dame)
“The Political Meaning of Religious Rebellion in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1844-1861”

Comment: **Mitchell Snay** (Denison University)

6:00 – 9:00 PM – DINNER AND RECEPTION AT THE FILSON

DON'T MISS IT.

REGISTER WITH THE FILSON TODAY.

SATURDAY, OCT. 23

8:30 – 8:45 AM – COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

8:45 – 10:15 AM – SECESSION IN THE OHIO VALLEY

- **Christopher M. Osborne** (University of Notre Dame)
“All in the Family: Rituals and Rhetorics of Discontent and the Question of Union in the Ohio Valley, 1781 – 1820”
- **Matthew Salafia** (North Dakota State University)
“Radical Antislavery in a Conservative Borderland: The Failure of Secession Along the Ohio River, 1840 – 1860”
- **Connie Park Rice** (West Virginia University)
“Virginia v. Garner and Beyond: An Examination of Dissent and Disunion in a Border Community”

Comment: **L. Diane Barnes** (Youngstown State University)

PANEL 4

PANEL 5

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM – ABOLITION AND SECESSION

- **A.J. Aiseirithe** (Papers of Abraham Lincoln)
“Union First: Garrisonian Disunionists in the Civil War Era”
- **H. Robert Baker** (Georgia State University)
“Ambivalent Abolitionists and Calls for Secession in the Pre-Civil War North”
- **Dolores Pfeiffer-Scherer** (Temple University)
“At the Doorstep: Slavery and Fugitive Slaves in Antebellum New Jersey”

Comment: **Stacey Robertson** (Bradley University)


12:00 – 12:45 PM – LUNCH

PANEL 6

12:45 – 2:15 PM – POLITICS OF SECESSION

- **Frank Towers** (University of Calgary)
“Political Violence and Its Consequences for Southern Secession, 1851 – 1861”
- **Michael Landis** (George Washington University)
“Deceptive Democracy: Northern Democrats and the Illusion of Principle”
- **Paul Quigley** (University of Edinburgh)
“Union Savers: White Southern Opposition to Secession, 1860 – 1861”

Comments: **John Quist** (Shippensburg University)



CONFEDERATE LIEUTENANT

GENERAL RICHARD S. EWELL ~ POW

JAMES J. HOLMBERG ~ CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Included in The Filson's excellent Civil War collection is a group of letters written by Confederate Lt. Gen. Richard Stoddert Ewell while a prisoner of war. Part of the Brown-Ewell Family Papers, the letters document in part his experience as a prisoner of war – after the war had essentially ended. Ewell (1817-1872) came from a prominent Virginia family, graduated from West Point in 1840, and served most of the next two decades on the frontier. His classmates and friends included the famous future generals – for the North and South – Simon Bolivar Buckner, Phil Kearny, William T. Sherman, George H. Thomas, and Ulysses S. Grant.

With secession and the formation of the Confederacy, Ewell decided his loyalty lay with his home state of Virginia; thus the South. Ewell's military experience was quickly acknowledged with commissions and rapid promotion. By the fall of 1861 he was a major general in the Confederate States Army. Ewell saw frequent action, including Stonewall Jackson's famous Valley Campaign, where he served as an able lieutenant to Jackson. He also recognized war for the brutal, bloody business it was. Writing his niece Lizzie Ewell, on July 20, 1862, he observed that it was "all very well to wish young heroes to be in the fight, but for my part I would be satisfied never to see another field. What pleasure can there be in seeing thousands of dead and dying in every horrible agony. . . . I wish this war could be brought to a close, but except by the hands of Providence I can see no way of its coming to an end."

On August 28, 1862, during the Second Battle of Bull Run, Ewell himself became a casualty. His right knee was shattered by a ball and his leg had to be amputated above the destroyed joint. It was almost a year until Ewell was able to return to active duty but when he did it was as a lieutenant general and corps commander, replacing the recently deceased Stonewall Jackson. Historians have stated that he was not the same effective, aggressive commander he'd been before the loss of his leg. His leadership at Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania was criticized; and his health was delicate. Robert E. Lee decided to assign Ewell command of Richmond, effectively retiring him from the field. In April 1865 following Richmond's evacuation, Ewell was captured by Union forces in the closing days of the war while trying to join Lee. He was sent north to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor as a prisoner of war. It was his home for the next three months until he was paroled.

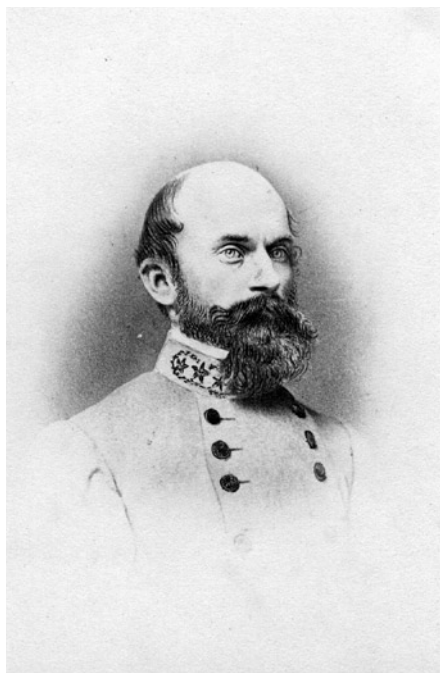
Ewell's letters while a POW provide an excellent account of life at Fort Warren for a high ranking Confederate officer. Most of the letters were written to his wife Lizinka Campbell Brown Ewell. Lizinka was a cousin whom Ewell married in 1863 while recovering from his wound. She was the daughter of George Washington Campbell, a prominent Tennessee politician, diplomat, judge, and briefly secretary of the treasury under James Madison. Her first husband had been James Percy Brown, son of the noted Kentucky physician and scientist Samuel Brown.



Fort Warren B. H.
May 28th 1865

Mr. L. C. Ewell
In to L.

I am yours of 25th 4th of return
of mail. Of course that men Russell is an infor-
ter as there was no such person on my staff - thought
to have been called on for his orders -
- I am afraid your health will suffer in 18 hours if
you remain there during the warm weather - I have
known Gen^l Grant for many years our relations have
always been pleasant & I think he would be greatly dis-
- General Sherman was a classmate of West Point - he
was also on friendly terms while there - though I have
not met him since - the papers speak of his being
assigned to the Dept of Miss. Would you think it
advisable for me to write to Sherman to state your
care a art that you may either be released from arrest
or ~~informed~~ what the charges against you are & be al-
lowed an opportunity to meet them - There is no time
lost in referring to you as Gen^l Sherman will be
- so the papers say - several days in N. Y. & his H. Q. B.
are not yet determined on - Nashville is spoken of as
among other places - some of your friends know
how better than I do & it is probable you may have
already taken steps in this direction -
Please remember me to Col. Grant & family - Yours
R. S. Ewell



R. S. Ewell

Fort Warren B. H.
May 5th 1865

My dear Lizinka,
Apr 28th of April 8th 28th
- May 2nd I have received - The two car-
are with a wife sent me to day some very nice
tea (enough for two months) & two bowls - I have
asked ~~to~~ to get me some clothes & a few things
- all I will want for some time - there is no
occasion here for many things - I shall to think
of the valuable particularly papers that were
lost with my baggage & that cannot be replaced
- The war however is like a horrid dream & I rec-
little use in recalling that part of the last
few years history - I am quite a pleasure to
- to day from Carroll's brother - He expressed very
kindly to the acquaintance between his father &
self & his friendship for me - offering to assist
in any way I may need - I don't want anything
that can be done for me here except to get out
in this part of the fort & that seems hopeful
- I hope he is better off than he would be in
the Old Capitol or at Johnson's Island. At the



Ewell's letters to Lizinka and other family members relate life at Fort Warren and his opinions regarding the end of the war and future of the South.

Ewell wanted to put the war behind him and look to the future. "The war . . . is like a horrid dream & I see little use in recalling that part of the last few years history," he wrote Lizinka on May 5. "It seems to me Govt. makes a great mistake in favoring those men in the South who have been governed by the apparent chance of success but in earnest on neither side. I would prefer to look for future faithful citizens among those who have shown good faith even if against the U. S. Govt. than among such undecided characters." A week later, Ewell explained that he and the other prisoners had not been offered the oath of allegiance but that if he was he would prefer to take it once paroled, "away from apparent compulsion among ones own people. I would not support in future a man who whatever might have been his course during secession, provided of course it had been honest, who should not be a thoroughly patriotic citizen of the country. I am sick of half way men. . . I believe it is in the power of the Govt. to make the South as truly patriotic & devoted to the Union as [any] portion of the country." Such views, Ewell confessed, were not very popular among his fellow prisoners, but the general clearly

wanted to put the past behind him and look to the future. "I for my part am heartily anxious to become a law abiding member of the community, if allowed," Ewell wrote on June 8, "& would be the best one to be found either to put down guerillas or stop the mouths of demagogue talkers of sedition."

As for activities to pass the time, Ewell observed that the simplest things could be embraced with a combination of enthusiasm, diligence, and patience. A game of chess, reading books, keeping up with the news and correspondence, taking a walk along the fort's ramparts, and even trying to teach a bird to sing all helped pass the tedious days. Great attention was paid to their culinary efforts, taking turns and practicing their talents – such as they might be. The preparation of the simplest of fare could arouse great effort and interest among the imprisoned diners.

In July Ewell was released. Lizinka had herself been arrested, and successfully pled her case to fellow Tennessean, President Andrew Johnson. After wrapping up affairs in Virginia, the Ewells settled on Lizinka's estate, Spring Hill, near Columbia, Tennessee. There the former Confederate lieutenant general happily settled into the life of gentleman farmer. In January of 1872 both he and Lizinka fell ill and died within days of each other.

(Clockwise)

Ewell to Lizinka, May 28, 1865, discussing enlisting the help of his old West Point classmate William T. Sherman regarding Lizinka's arrest and detention in St. Louis. Note the censor's notation at the top of the letter verifying that it has been examined and passed.

Autographed photograph of Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell.

Letter from Ewell to his wife Lizinka, May 5, 1865, discussing the end of the war, the future, and life as a prisoner of war.

Envelope from one of Lizinka Ewell's letters to her husband while he was imprisoned at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

All images from the collections of The Filson Historical Society.



My Trip to The Filson

BY JAMES P. COUSINS | FILSON FELLOW
PH.D. CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
POLICY STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

The intellectual history of antebellum Kentucky is often believed synonymous with the history of Transylvania University, the state's first institution of higher learning. Scholars have argued that the educational aspirations of school, town, and state intertwined, and in the decades following statehood Transylvania's successes and failures reflected prevailing social ideals. The school's early difficulties to attract students or develop programs in medicine and law reflected larger social impulses; grand educational designs suffered because of low public interest. Kentuckians of this era focused on the realities of frontier life and could not dream of anything beyond rudimentary educations. Only after the arrival of famed President Horace Holley in 1818 did Transylvania, and along with it the city of Lexington and state of Kentucky, emerge from Presbyterian control and find an intellectual "golden age." Holley's organizational brilliance and uncanny ability to predict and then capitalize on student demand exposed sectarian bigotry and allowed the school to stand as a beacon of intellectual hope in the western wilds.

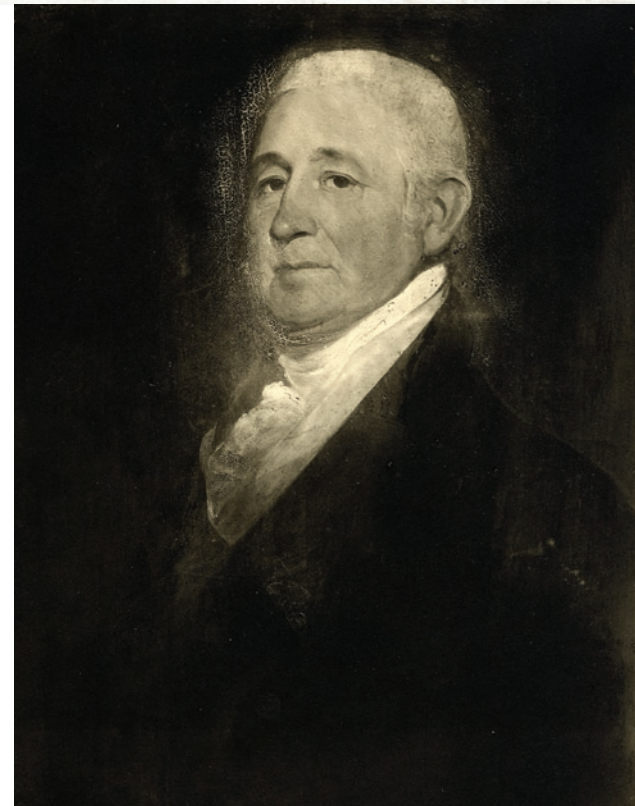
My work would not have been possible had I not been given the opportunity to work with the collections and the staff of The Filson Historical Society.

But certain facts force us to reconsider Holley's transformational abilities. In the years immediately preceding Holley's instillation, Kentucky's legislature voted to expel Transylvania's board of trustees and install a new body drawn from among state leaders. Transylvania then became the center of a statewide system of education; the legislature placed colleges in Danville, Bowling Green, Glasgow, and Hopkinsville under the direct supervision of Transylvania's president. In support of these new responsibilities, the legislature awarded Transylvania the tax revenue from the Bank of Lexington and a large portion of a newly created "literary fund." The Transylvania Holley came upon was thus quite unlike anything that existed before, its tone and tenor based in state support and the ambitions of its original charter could now find permanent expression because of financial stability.

My doctoral dissertation, "Children of the Western World: the Illusion of Religious Control and the Making of Higher Education in Kentucky, 1780-1818" examines the rise of Transylvania in the context of social and political change. The University's rise to prominence in the 1820s did not, I argue, owe to the educational vision of one man but reflected the personal convictions of a segment of Kentucky's men of state. The collections and resources of The Filson Historical



SECOND MAIN BUILDING OF TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY. ERECTED 1818, BURNED 1829.



p.12 - Transylvania University, Second Main Building

p.12 - Senator John Brown

p.13 - Horace Holley, President of Transylvania University

All images from the collections of The Filson Historical Society.

Society allowed me to flesh out the rationale behind the move toward Transylvania's state-backed incorporation. Within The Filson's holdings are found the acts and minutes of the Kentucky legislature, works that provided a jumping off point to examine the progression of state sponsorship and the primary movers behind these actions.

Legislative minutes gave a list of state officials committed to intellectual progress. I discerned their individual motives by investigating The Filson's rich collection of personal and family papers. The Todd, Brown, Clay, Thomas, and Pope Family Papers all contain correspondence between the state leaders and their sons. Transylvania's inadequacies convinced some state leaders to enroll their children in the far-off colleges of the east. Letters between fathers and sons speak not only to a high level of fatherly attention, but also to the significance state leaders placed on education as a whole. And because these men helped shape the state's decision to incorporate Transylvania, their thoughts on the process and importance of education exemplify prevailing opinion.

Justice Thomas Todd's frequent letters to his son Charles reveal that he was a prudent and interested father, anything but "parsimonious in my expenditures on the education of my children." But education was also a matter of state pride. Thus, Thomas exhorted Charles to "show the proud Virginian that a child of the forest in the wilds of Kentucky can vie with him in mental acquirements, that nature is as fond and endows, her sons of the West, as liberally, as those of the East." Senator John Brown's letters to his son Orlando exhibit the same attention. Senator Brown directed his son to devote himself to his studies, to mind his instructors, and most importantly to devote himself to the study of oratory. Other fathers offered more prescriptive pedagogical advice. Justice John Thompson's correspondence to his son William went so far as to outline a course of self-directed study, intended for occasions when he was not in the classroom. Thompson advised William to begin his studies as early in the day as possible for "the Mind after having been rested during the Night, possesses more Vigour [sic] and is capable of greater Exertion, than after being fatigued by the Occurrences of the Day."

The intellectual sympathies evinced in these works coincided with a new state-building directive by Kentucky Governor Gabriel Slaughter. His 1816 address found education at the centerpiece of a plan to build Kentucky's social infrastructure. Transylvania figured large in this new identity and became both the figurative and literal center of Kentucky's literary reputation. Men personally committed to higher education in both word and deed helped Slaughter fulfill his ambitions for the state. When Horace Holley assumed the presidency of Transylvania in 1818, he had strong public support and legislative aid. His performance in these duties, while laudable, paled in comparison to the reformatory efforts of local leaders and state officials.

My work would not have been possible had I not been given the opportunity to work with the collections and the staff of The Filson Historical Society. Curator James Holmberg provided more than routine assistance. His knowledge of the collections, finding aids, and other resources available at The Filson was invaluable. I am also deeply indebted to the insight and advice offered by The Filson's Director of Research, Dr. A. Glenn Crothers. Dr. Crothers possesses a historiographic awareness that is both broad and deep. His collegiality and accessibility allowed for productive discussions of my project and his insight greatly assisted its ultimate direction.



17th Annual House Tour

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Filson members and their guests are invited to The Filson's Annual House Tour, celebrating the distinctive beauty of Louisville homes. At the end of the tour, please enjoy cocktails with us at Oxmoor Farm. The Garden was recently redesigned to honor the original garden design of Marian Coffin, one of the first and most accomplished female landscape architects in the United States.

2010 House Tour Hosts

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KENTUCKY
SELECT
PROPERTIES

HOUSE TOUR SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 2010

To make reservations, please call or email Scott Scarboro at sscarboro@filsonhistorical.org, (502) 635-5083, or clip this registration form and return it to:

Attn: Scott Scarboro
The Filson Historical Society
1310 S. Third St.
Louisville, KY 40208

Please send ____ ticket(s) for The Filson's Seventeenth Annual House Tour

Member Name(s) _____

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Please mail tickets and tour notes to:

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Method of Payment (Please make all checks payable to The Filson Historical Society):

Check ____ Visa ____ MC ____ Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

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The Filsonians

March - June 2010

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

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

- WINSTON CHURCHILL

Winner of The Filson Historical Society's High School Essay Contest Announced



The Filson Historical Society recently held an essay contest open to all high school students in the Louisville Metro area and southern Indiana. The contest guidelines asked that the students write on how the history of Kentucky and Southern Indiana relates to the history of the United States.

At the Gertrude Polk Brown Lecture on May 7, featuring Pulitzer Prize winner Timothy Weiner, The Filson announced the winner of this contest, Charlotte Delautre. Ms. Delautre has finished her final year at St. Francis High School and will attend Vassar College in the fall. Her essay is entitled "An Angel on Horseback: Mary Breckinridge." In Ms. Delautre's essay, she explores the dimensions of Mary Breckinridge's life and the influence Breckinridge had on professional health care in Kentucky.

Ms. Delautre describes Mary Breckinridge's journey this way: "In 1920, Mary made her public service debut when she joined the American Committee for Devastated France in the aftermath of World War I. In war-torn France, she served as director of child hygiene and educated villagers about public health. While overseas she met numerous French and British midwives and learned that they held a higher status than regular nurses because they had more challenging training.

Mary's experience with European midwives and French health care organization shaped her first efforts at reform in the United States."

Later, in Kentucky, "Mary set up nursing outposts, modeling their locations and management on the district organization she had seen in France. Each nursing center was owned by the service but run by nurses who carried out the field work on a decentralized basis. In addition, Mary appointed leading citizens to the branch committees that ran the outposts, guaranteeing the local community's continued interest in the service. Mary and her nurses traveled on horseback to the homes of expectant mothers and ill children, accompanied by couriers who aided the midwives in whatever way they could. The clinics Mary opened offered nursing training, and held health education and child-rearing seminars. Mary and the Frontier Nursing Service provided care to ten thousand people in a seven hundred square mile area. . . . Of the 22,477 births Mary and her nurses assisted, they only lost eleven mothers."

The Filson would like to express appreciation to two members of our Board, Barbara Ormsby and Louise Gardner, for their commitment and dedication to this new educational effort.

Essay Contest Winner Charlotte Delautre (on right) with her parents John and Anne, at the Gertrude Polk Brown Lecture, May 2010.