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The Filson

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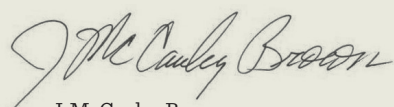
FROM THE PRESIDENT

To collect, preserve and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley Region history and culture. This is the mission of The Filson Historical Society and by documenting and celebrating our unique history The Filson cultivates civic pride, strong communities and good citizens. This mission helps us appreciate our important place in the unfolding story of our country's history and expands national understanding of our region's significance.

Through the 1.8 million items in its collection made up of an impressive assemblage of original manuscripts, photos, maps, rare books and pamphlets, artwork, and other artifacts, The Filson holds the knowledge and experiences of our society. With this knowledge, we hold the responsibility to ensure we do not forget those experiences as we look to the future.

Over the past year The Filson enjoyed tremendous success in telling our stories by offering almost 100 programs to our members and the community at large. Whether discussing noted leaders such as William Marshall Bullitt and Louis D. Brandeis, topics covering the important impact of women in today's society, or important memories of issues that faced the African American community, The Filson continues to offer its members a wide variety of programs addressing many important issues.

As we come to the end of 2011 I would like to thank our many members for their continued support and generosity. Further, I would like to thank the Board, the professional staff and many volunteers for their dedication and hard work that has enabled The Filson to enjoy its success in fulfilling its mission.



J. McCauley Brown
President

FROM THE DIRECTOR

On the cover of this issue of The Filson is one of the latest additions to our outstanding collections, a tintype likeness of Union army sergeant John Baker taken during the Civil War. In fine condition, it was donated to The Filson by William Houghton of Georgetown, Ind. during a recent gallery tour of our new exhibit, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall: The Civil War in the Ohio Valley Region."

Mr. Houghton's generosity reminds us of the many generations of Filson members and supporters who have given and continue to give to this excellent institution. Donations account for well over 90 percent of the treasures added to our collections since 1884. Basically, we collect the "Three Ps": paper (books, manuscripts, pamphlets, maps, newspapers, etc.), pictures (drawings, photographs, prints, portraits), and personal objects (quilts, weapons, etc.).

Although the Civil War is one of our richest collecting areas (the strongest in the commonwealth) and attracts major research attention, this subject area represents only 5 percent of our special collections and 14 percent of our library holdings. Other research areas—law, family history, business history, and women's history—are larger than our Civil War collections. In fact, between 65 and 70 percent of our Special Collections document not the 19th century, but the 20th century.

But now we begin to try to unravel the mystery. Precisely who was John Baker. Family tradition states that he was a captain, but he is clearly a sergeant in the photo. When did he join the Union army, and what were his experiences? We are trying to find out, but maybe you can help us solve the riddle. And thank you again, Mr. Houghton, for a wonderful gift.



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

A tintype of John S. Baker in a union
case dates from the Civil War period.
This treasure was donated to The
Filson by William Houghton of
Georgetown, Ind.

Recent Acquisitions



Bill Smith, right, and curator Jim Holmberg holding the Gabriel Jones Floyd sword. Explorer and War of 1812 veteran William Clark oversees the presentation.

Engraved name of Gabriel J. Floyd on the top band of the scabbard. Floyd was commissioned an ensign in the 17th U. S. Infantry in April 1813. He was promoted to second lieutenant in October 1814 and resigned four years later.



The arrival of the New Year marks the beginning of the bicentennial of the War of 1812. The Filson has excellent holdings regarding this "Second War of American Independence," as it is sometimes known. An academic conference, exhibit, and other programs are planned. Items from The Filson's collection will comprise the exhibit, and one of those items will be a gift recently received from Bill Smith. A retired Southern Indiana attorney, Bill is a member of the famous Floyd family. He's done extensive research on the family and recently completed a biography of Davis Floyd (<http://davisfloyd.info>). Gabriel Jones Floyd was the adopted son of Davis. Both served during the War of 1812. In April 2011,

Bill acquired Gabriel's sword with the intent of preserving it as a Floyd family heirloom and placing it in a museum. The Filson is the fortunate recipient of this gift. The blade is steel with etched military motifs, the handle ivory, and the knuckle bow and pommel silver. The scabbard is leather with silver bands, the top one beautifully engraved "G. J. Floyd." This is a wonderful addition to our collection.

Thank you Bill Smith!

Browsing in Our Archives

Robert Worth Bingham: More Than a Newspaper Man

BY MICHAEL VEACH | ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Filson recently acquired ten cubic feet of additional Robert Worth Bingham papers. These papers date from 1907 to 1933, but the bulk of the collection is from 1920 to 1933. There is some material dealing with the *Courier-Journal*, but the real prize in this collection is the material dealing with other important parts in the life of Robert Worth Bingham.

Politics played an important role in Bingham's life. He served a brief term as Mayor of Louisville and ran for a full term in the office, but failed to get elected. He was also appointed to serve a term on the bench as a judge and was referred to as "Judge Bingham" afterwards. Judge Bingham left public service behind him when he purchased the *Courier-Journal* and *Times* newspapers. He felt he could do more for the people as a neutral, independent newspaper owner than as an elected official. He made it a policy never to endorse a candidate just because of party affiliation, but judged them on their qualifications. Bingham believed that the candidate was the important thing, not the party. He would make this his policy with both newspapers and the candidate supported by the *Courier-Journal* and *Times* was based upon who Bingham thought would work for "good government", not just the political party. Bingham's political views would guide the newspapers and they would endorse candidates of either party based upon Bingham's opinion of their character.

Judge Bingham's political views were not set in stone and they did evolve with the times. He was a prohibitionist who thought the whiskey industry was responsible for the corruption in Kentucky politics. The *Courier-Journal* and *Times* supported the enforcement of the prohibition laws and the collection has some material about the influence and corruption of the Northern Kentucky bootlegging ring. By 1932 Bingham decided that prohibition was not working and needed to be changed. One idea that is found in the papers is that the National Prohibition Amendment would be modified, but not repealed, to allow individual states decide their own liquor laws. He also studied the Canadian system of state run liquor stores as a possible solution to liquor sales.

Bingham was a person of political influence and the collection reflects this with letters from several Presidents as well as Governors, Senators and Representatives from across the country. This includes letters from Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt as he campaigned for president. Bingham was a huge supporter of Roosevelt and when Bingham thought the Associated Press was favoring the Hoover campaign in their news stories, he made a complaint. He was not



He was a prohibitionist who thought the whiskey industry was responsible for the corruption in Kentucky politics...By 1932 Bingham decided that prohibition was not working and needed to be changed.

satisfied with the answer he received from the Associated Press, so he took the issue directly to the membership of the Associated Press in a letter writing campaign. His actions forced the board of directors of the AP to have him attend their October meeting and present his case. These added papers include the transcription of this hearing.

Judge Bingham was not afraid to combine politics and personal interest. He was an outdoorsman who loved to bird hunt and had a kennel of bird dogs at his hunting lodge. He purchased a large amount of land near Albany, Georgia for his own bird sanctuary and hunting lodge. This land combined with land owned by like-minded friends consisted of several thousand acres of property kept in a condition for quail breeding and hunting. Bingham was a member of several clubs that sponsored bird dog competitions and hunts. When the local club started holding a competition near Camp Knox, he used his political connections to try to get the camp named a wildlife refuge with a severe limit on hunting permits issued on the base to increase the amount of habitat for quail breeding. It was hoped that this would increase the number of birds around Camp Knox. Taking this one step further, he tried to get all military bases named as wildlife refuges as a benefit for hunters. There is correspondence on this subject with politicians and generals from every part of the country.

Bingham preferred pointers and setters for forcing birds into flight, but liked cocker spaniels for retrieving the birds after they were shot. He kept kennels of award winning dogs of these breeds and strengthened the blood line by purchasing dogs from the British Isles to add to his kennels. Bingham would take trips to the British Isles starting in August or September and the trips always end with a two week stay in Scotland "shooting" with friends. He treated his dogs well and many of his cocker spaniels ended up as house pets and puppies were given to friends and family.

Judge Bingham also enjoyed spending time on his yacht *Eala*. This boat served as a place of recreation for Bingham and his family, but it also served as a residence at times. During the month of October 1932 and up to the election that November, Bingham could be found on the *Eala* at the New York Yacht Club. In one letter he reflects upon how many homeless men are living on the docks not far from where his boat is docked, yet offering no threat to him and the others living on the luxury yachts in the harbors. Bingham was not so sure he would show such restraint if he was among the homeless.

Another great interest to Judge Bingham was farming cooperatives. He believed the key to making America a better place to live was to improve the lot of the farmer who owned a small farm. He saw what had happened in California with the raisin industry after forming a cooperative group and thought the same plan would work in Kentucky for tobacco farmers. In the early 1920s, Bingham, with



the help of lawyer Aaron Sapiro, created organizations for the burley tobacco farms in the central part of Kentucky and the black patch farmers in the western part of the state. Bingham carried these ideas into other states as he helped set cooperatives for cotton, peanuts, grains and other agricultural products. These experiments worked in the short term, but quickly fell apart after the first few years as farmers dropped out of participation in the cooperatives. This would come back to haunt the farmers as agricultural prices fell in the late 1920s and the government policies failed to offer any relief. Bingham had learned his lesson and as people encouraged him to get behind another cooperative movement, he said he would only do so only on his terms and one of those terms was a minimum ten-year contract for farmers who joined the cooperative. Agricultural reform became one of Judge Bingham's primary concerns and he discussed his ideas with Roosevelt during the 1932 presidential campaign.

Judge Bingham also had a great interest in academics. His family



He established programs that encouraged his carriers to do well in school and these programs were often adopted by newspapers in other cities.

ran the Bingham School in North Carolina for generations and he supported the school until it closed in the late 1920s. He served on the board of both Centre College and Berea College. His interest in education included the education of his news carriers and the children of employees. He established programs that encouraged his carriers to do well in school and these programs were often adopted by newspapers in other cities. If an employee had a child in college who needed a loan to complete his degree, Bingham would loan the student the money. His interest included history and he did research into his own family tree both in the United States and Great Britain. He found estates in England and Ireland that were once owned by the Bingham family as well as a church with a stained glass window paid for by one of his ancestors. He would often give his own money to help preserve these finds.

Bingham's interest in history was not just in family history. He often served on boards for historical groups and gave money to build historical monuments. The American Civil War was one of his favorite periods of history. As the son of a Confederate veteran, Bingham gave presentations about his father and Robert E. Lee. At the same time, when a person from Virginia started corresponding with Bingham about Abraham Lincoln, Bingham defends the President with the same zeal he used when discussing Lee. Bingham honored the Confederate veteran, but at the same time opposed the Ku Klux Klan and other such organizations. He condemned lynching and supported the education of African Americans.

If Judge Bingham had a historical passion, then it would have to be for Joan of Arc. He collected prints and other images of Joan of Arc and sites associated with her life. He also collected written material

INTERNATIONAL GUNDOG LEAGUE.

AT THE WORKING TRIALS

held by

THE SPORTING SPANIEL SOCIETY

At West Woodhay, Newbury, Berks.

On the 26th and 27th November, 1935

The First Prize in the Open Stake (Cockers)

Was awarded to

The Hon. R. W. Bingham's dog, Simon of Corran.

J. H. H. H.

Secy.

John R. S. Wright

Judges.

George T. Broad

on the French saint, including articles and books about the life of Joan of Arc and her rise to sainthood, written in English or French. Items in his collection date from the 18th century to the 20th century. Bingham was always looking for new items to add to his collection and was in corresponded with several dealers in Europe about such items.

The ultimate reward for Judge Bingham's political support of Roosevelt was the chance to serve as American Ambassador to St. James Court in London. This appointment allowed Bingham to combine many of his interests in life in one job. Bingham's ancestors were from England and Ireland. He regularly visited Scotland for "shooting." Two of his children lived for a time in England. Failing health kept Bingham from enjoying the reward as much as he would have liked. Bingham's passage to London was delayed because of a hospital stay. Even when he arrived in London he did not enjoy the social life very much, saving his strength for official duties and meetings. His health would improve some and remained as Ambassador until 1937. Besides his normal political duties in London, Ambassador Bingham did find time to indulge in his other interests such as showing

his prize cocker spaniel, Simon of Corran, in a local dog shows.

The Robert Worth Bingham additional papers show that he was more than a newspaper man. He was a man of politics, education and a public servant in many ways. He was also an outdoorsman who loved his dogs and hunting the moors of Scotland or the fields of Georgia with his friends and family.

Page 2 - Judge Bingham distributed this photo during his travels as the American ambassador to St. James Court.

Page 3 - A color print featuring Joan of Arc, dating from the eighteenth century.

Page 4 - One of many photos of the Judge Bingham's yacht, "Eala."

Page 5 - A certificate awarded to Simon of Corran, Bingham's prize cocker spaniel, while he visited England.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE FILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

BY KARA HENNIS
REFERENCE SPECIALIST

The Filson Historical Society Library offers an array of resources available to patrons for genealogical research. It can be helpful to become aware of these resources before paying a visit to the library in order to maximize research time. While library staff members are knowledgeable in terms of the collection, it is extremely beneficial for patrons to have a clear idea of the specific information for which they are searching. It should be noted that genealogical research is rather difficult and takes a significant amount of time and patience. Becoming familiar with the resources listed below can greatly facilitate the research process.

Using the online catalog

The best way to use the library catalog for genealogy research is to search for family history books. These are books that have been donated (usually by the authors themselves) and written about specific families. These books are located in our closed stacks and must be obtained by a library staff member. The library catalog is located online and can be searched using keywords. In order to search for family history books, it is best to type the surname into the subject keyword search (which is the default selection) and follow it with the word "family." If no results are given, removing the word "family" and searching again can yield more results. If a result is given that is of interest, a call slip with the book's specific catalog number, author, and title should be filled out and given to a staff member.

Using Ancestry.com

The Filson Historical Society Library offers access to an online subscription service called Ancestry.com. While this service is also available (in the home edition) to individuals, our version (the library edition) includes a much more extensive collection of records. Patrons often find information using the library edition they were unable to find using their home edition. Ancestry.com is best used for reviewing federal census records, although; many other records such as military, marriage and immigration records are also available. Using the keyword search, one is able to type in a name along with any other known information (such as birth date, relatives, etc.) and search for all records that are associated with that name. Library staff members are glad to assist patrons with the search features of ancestry.com on the patron computers available in the library. The library offers complimentary wireless internet access for patrons along with access to printers for a small fee. Patrons are also more than welcome to bring personal laptop computers.

Family Files

Family files are vertical files that consist of research patrons have done on certain families as well as letters and responses that have been written to The Filson throughout the years asking about genealogical research. They also contain copies of all the family Bible records in the library collection. They are organized by surname and anyone may add information that is pertinent to a particular family name to these files. Each patron computer located in the library contains a list of the names the library has in the files. Patrons may search this list and request specific names they would like to view. Family files can be a very helpful genealogical research tool.

Funeral Home Records

The library currently houses funeral records for four major Louisville, Ky. funeral homes: Schildt, McDaniel, Mass, and Pearson. Schildt's records range from the 1890s to the 1950s and are indexed alphabetically.

Books O, P, Q, and R, however; are missing. McDaniel's records range from the early 1900s to 1993. They are indexed alphabetically up until 1953 and by date from 1953-1993. Mass's records range from the 1890s until 1965 are indexed by certificate number alphabetically. Pearson's records range from the 1890s until 1920 and are indexed entirely by date. While records for each of these funeral homes are unique, some common information found within these records includes death date, date of internment, cause of death, age at death, and details of funeral arrangements. Library staff members are happy to help patrons look through the indexes for these records to find an ancestor's funeral record.

County Records

County records for various states are located on the shelves throughout the library. They include unique records from each county. Some examples include marriage records, general county histories, birth and death records, and cemetery records. Most of the county records housed in the library are those of Kentucky, but we also keep records from Virginia, North and South Carolina, Indiana, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. While the time frames of these records vary from county to county, they mostly cover the late 18th century to the mid 19th century. Most researchers find the county records to be a good place to begin in the library collection.

Military Records

The library's military records mostly cover aspects of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. The Revolutionary War records include pension file abstracts and the service record index. The pension file abstracts include information such as the name of the soldier, the pension file number, the enlistment date, the place of battle, and sometimes the name of the soldier's wife and children. The service record index lists information such as the name of the soldier, the rank, the regiment, and the state of colony in which he fought.

The Civil War records contained in the library collection include, Reports of the Kentucky Adjutant General, The Roll of Honor, and the online Civil War Research Database. The Reports of the Kentucky Adjutant General are in book form in two volumes; one for Union soldiers and one for Confederate soldiers. These records list the volunteers who served in Kentucky regiments; their ranks; where and when they mustered in and out of service; and whether they died or were wounded. The Roll of Honor is an 11 volume set of books which contains an index and lists the soldiers who died while serving in the Union Army. There is also the Unpublished Roll of Honor which is a compilation of 1000s of names of Union soldiers who were sent home to recover from disease or injury and died while at home.

The American Civil War Research Database is an online database containing over 4.2 million Civil War records. This is a subscription service that can only be used in the library. The database allows patrons to search for individual soldiers, photos, battles, regiments, and reports. There are also various ways to narrow down searches such as distinguishing state and/or allegiance.

Although there are few, the library's military records can be a valuable resource for genealogical research at The Filson.

Microfilm

Last but certainly not least, the library also houses an extensive microfilm collection containing various records which can be helpful in genealogical research. These records include Kentucky death records, Jefferson County marriage records, naturalization records, Louisville city directories, German church records, and a limited amount of Louisville birth and death records. The most useful records on microfilm tend to be the Kentucky Death records. These official state records began in 1911 and the library has access to those up to 1959. As a result of the state's 50 year privacy rule, records after 1959 as well as all Kentucky birth records (from 1911 to present) must be obtained through the Office of Vital Statistics in Frankfort, Kentucky. Information about how to do this can be obtained at this website <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/vital/>. There also exists a scattered amount of Louisville city births and deaths on microfilm from the 1898-1910 and 1866-1910 respectively. These are few and far between unfortunately because individuals were not required to report deaths to the city during these times.

Jefferson County, Kentucky marriage records are also kept on microfilm. These records date back to 1784 and the library has them up until 1913. They are indexed by name (for both bride and groom) in groups of years so it is necessary to know, at least within a three year time span an approximate year of marriage. If the exact date is known, there is no need to use the index as they are all arranged in chronological order. The pertinent information given on a marriage certificate includes the date of marriage, the full names of the bride and groom, and sometimes the names of the parents.

Naturalization records can also be helpful in genealogical research because sometimes it gives an indication of when an ancestor arrived in the United States. These records are indexed by name from the years 1811-1913. The index refers one to various books in which the records are written. The library has letter books C and J, (the other letter books were missing before we obtained them) in their original form but the rest of the records that exist are on microfilm in Louisville police court records. A library staff member can help patrons use the index and determine whether or not the library has the record in which they are interested.

Louisville City Directories from the years 1832-1930 are helpful as well in finding an unknown address of residence and/or place of work. These directories are organized like phone books without the phone numbers, listing the name and address of residence and sometimes occupation.

Finally, the library also houses some German church records on microfilm which list information such as births, marriages, deaths, and baptisms during various periods throughout the 19th century. The churches represented in these records include Bethlehem, Christ Evangelical, and St. John's at Pond Settlement, S. Louisville Reformed at Lynnhurst, St. Matthews, St. Paul's, and St. John's. These records are mostly helpful when the ancestor is known to have attended one of these churches. Each church contains unique information that is typically random and in no way all inclusive.

As always, The Filson Historical Society library staff is more than happy to answer questions about our collection and resources. Organizing the materials to make them most accessible to patrons and facilitate research is our primary goal. We look forward to seeing you soon!

THE FILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S EXPANSION

RENOVATIONS TO THE FERGUSON
MANSION AND CARRIAGE
HOUSE WILL BRING DRAMATIC
IMPROVEMENT TO RESEARCH
AND EXHIBIT FACILITIES

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

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This article is the sixth in a series
on The Filson Historical Society's
Old Louisville Campus Expansion.

*All images courtesy of De Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop,
Expansion Architects*

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In the mid-1980s, The Filson purchased and renovated, and in 1986 occupied, its present home, Old Louisville's historic Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House. Due to our continuing evolution and dynamic growth since that move, The Filson has embarked on a transformative Campus Expansion Project that will modernize and substantially enlarge our facilities, enabling us to continue to accomplish our mission and meet the needs of the communities we serve. In prior articles we have described the Project and some of its significant design features, including its careful integration into the Old Louisville neighborhood, dramatic greening of The Filson's and the neighborhood's environment, and the innovative 20,000 square foot, state-of-the art building that will be constructed on the existing campus.

The Expansion Plan also features substantial renovations of the Ferguson Mansion and Carriage House, creating enlarged, open, and modern research and reading rooms, 5000 square feet of exhibit space, and administrative offices within these two historic structures. The Expansion Plan's renovations to existing structures and its new building will combine to provide a seamless visitor experience, with public exhibits and programs on the ground floors for easy access, and research rooms, additional event space, and administrative offices on upper floors away from guest traffic flow.

Visitors to The Filson's new Campus will enter our facilities through the atrium of the renovated Carriage House, where they can view changing exhibits showcasing items from The Filson's outstanding collections as well as artifacts on long-term display in the Carriage House's new, museum-quality gallery space. The Filson's extensive portraiture, print, and photograph collections will be displayed in the public rooms as well. Guests will next tour the renovated Ferguson Mansion, reaching it through one of the new elevated, enclosed walkways linking and unifying all of the buildings on the Campus.

The renovated Ferguson, an architectural gem in the Beaux Arts style, will feature additional interpretive and exhibit spaces in the mansion's stunning first floor period rooms. Its second floor will contain expanded reading rooms for scholars and others who research in our collections. The reading/research facilities will include modern lighting systems, comfortable furnishings, and state-of-the-art research hardware and software, affording all who use our collections dramatically improved access in a pleasant work environment.

The Filson asks your support for this bold Campus Expansion Plan, which will enhance both the built and natural environments of The Filson and Old Louisville, and serve as a symbol of and catalyst for continued development in The Filson's home neighborhood. Please watch for future articles on the Campus Expansion Project in upcoming editions of *The Filson*, and for full information on the Expansion visit our website:

www.filsonhistorical.org.



THE EXPANDED AND MODERNIZED SECOND FLOOR READING/RESEARCH AREA



VIEW OF THE NEW GUEST ENTRANCE AND GALLERY SPACE IN THE CARRIAGE HOUSE



EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE SKYWALK AND ATRIUM OF THE CARRIAGE HOUSE



Pictured (left to right): KHS executive committee president Sheila Mason Burton with Estill Curtis Pennington.

The Filson Historical Society Wins 2011 Kentucky History Award

The Kentucky Historical Society honored outstanding achievements in the field of Kentucky history at the 2011 Kentucky History Celebration on Nov. 11 at the Old State Capitol in downtown Frankfort.

Among this year's winners was The Filson Historical Society, recipient of the Class D Publication Award for the *Lessons in Likeness*. This book showcases an array of portrait artists who worked in Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley between 1803 and 1920. It identifies stylistic sources and historical moments that influenced each artist. Written by Estill Curtis Pennington and frequently illustrated by portraits from The Filson Historical Society's collection, *Lessons in Likeness* examines both the cultural chronology of portraiture in the region and profiles artists from the area who have an identifiable body of work.

REVIEWS

"Because Pennington recounts how this more esoteric aspect of art history took place within a historical backdrop of extraordinary political, social, and economic upheaval, he makes something recondite far more accessible and engrossing."

– **Douglas F. Smith**, *Berkeley P.L., CA*

"Well-written, exhaustively researched and copiously illustrated, *Lessons in Likeness* is a captivating book that reveals Kentucky's important role in the history of American portraiture. Although there have been a few earlier attempts to explore this topic, none of them measures up to Pennington's remarkably broad scope and his impressive ability to integrate regional and national narratives into a cohesive whole."

– **Guy Jordan**, *Art Department, Western Kentucky University*

"The lessons offered in the book's "Part One: Cultural Chronology" are more about the history of Kentucky through the eyes of artists than of the art of portraiture itself, but that in no way undermines the value of this well-written, well-illustrated section. It is through those artists' eyes and their subjects, and then their interwoven stories, that Pennington holds our attention upon a relatively small slice of American art history."

– **Maine Antique Digest**, *April 2011*

In Celebration of Black History

Events and Selected Resources Found in The Filson's Collections

BY JAMIE EVANS | MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

As a child of an interracial family, black history is a subject that is both near to my heart and something I have not been able to fully appreciate. In my six months at The Filson, I've gained a deeper appreciation for the history and culture of our area and the wonderful resources that our institution has to offer.

The Filson library features several items that are unique to our collections. We have the surviving records from Greenwood Cemetery, an African American cemetery that was established in 1898, as well as records from Eastern Cemetery, which had segregated lots for free blacks and slaves. Among our newspaper collection, you can find African American papers such as the *Indianapolis Freeman* (1886-1916), which covered events in Kentucky's black communities. Our library staff would be happy to pull these selections for you and point you in the direction of other items relative to your research.

Among our manuscript, microfilm, and photo collections, you can find many interesting items. These include the papers of Dr. Jesse Bell, an African American physician who devoted his career to public health after contracting tuberculosis; the Plato family papers from the family of architect Samuel Plato, who was a celebrated architect; correspondence in the Lusby-Reed family papers; and the Faith Pillow papers. This is a small sampling of the items found in our collections.



These children were possibly winners in the Joseph Cotters' Essay Contest. The photo is unidentified and undated. (From The Filson's print and photo collections)

The Filson has sponsored these African American cultural events in the past year. If you are interested in viewing a recording of any of these events, please contact Scott Scarboro at (502) 635-5083 or sscarboro@filsonhistorical.org.

2011

October 26 – *Cecelia and Fanny: The Remarkable Friendship Between an Escaped Slave and her Former Mistress* by Brad Asher

October 7 – “Pride and Privilege: Steamboating and the African American Experience” with Dr. Victoria L. Harrison (Part of our Fall 2011 Public Conference)

September 20 – *Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History* by J. Blaine Hudson, Mervin Aubespain, and Kenneth Clay

March 29 – “Camp Nelson, Civil War Emancipation Center for Kentucky” with Stephen McBride

February 25 – Blues Night with the Tenth Street Blues Band

February 15 – “Kentucky African Americans and the Civil War” with Alicestyne Turley

In celebration of Black History Month, The Filson will have several events dedicated to the rich history of the African American community. There truly is something for everyone, from music lovers to researchers.

Black History Month Events

Tuesday, February 7

“Remembering Walnut Street” with Kenneth Clay and Mervin Aubespain

Thursday, February 16

“From Slavery to Freedom: Celebrating Emancipation in Louisville” with Pen Bogert

Friday, February 24

“Blues Night” with the Tenth Street Blues Band

United We Stand - Divided We Fall

The Filson commemorates the sesquicentennial of the Civil War

When the Civil War began in 1861, Kentucky and the Ohio Valley were still considered part of the nation's "Western Country." Historically, the Ohio River and its tributaries had united the region more than dividing it by providing hundreds of miles of navigable waterways that channeled people, products, and ideas across the landscape.

Settlement patterns within the region gave it a strong southern flavor. Lower-tier counties in southern Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois were thickly settled by southerners (or "Butternuts") from Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee, who brought their own cultural markers—architecture, crops, food ways, music, slavery, and religion—north of the Ohio.

Slavery was the central cause of the Civil War, but global forces—the Atlantic slave trade, the mass migration of European people, Enlightenment and liberal ideals, popular culture, technological innovations, and global markets—shaped Civil War America.

The east-to-west migration of these forces transformed the Ohio Valley. Before 1820 there were slaves on both sides of the Ohio River, especially in southern Illinois and Indiana. By 1860 Kentuckians owned 236,000 enslaved African Americans, although slavery had disappeared north of the river.



Lt. Alfred Pottle



Wm. Preston

The mass migration of German and Irish Catholic immigrants into the valley introduced revolutionary ideals and democratic principles. By 1860 African Americans, German, and Irish immigrants accounted for approximately 20 percent of Louisville's population, and in Jeffersonville, Indiana, the foreign-born accounted for about 17 percent of the total.

Thus, seeds of dissent existed beneath the region's rural, Protestant, and southern

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mourn our dead? What roles does popular culture play in shaping the past? How do different people create their memories of war? Did the consequences of the Civil War reorient our regional compass from East and West to North and South? The Civil War raises these questions and more and thus continues to demand our attention.

These are just some questions to keep in mind as you tour “United We Stand – Divided We Fall.” People then and now make choices. Which choices would you have made then, and now under similar circumstances?



PHOTO CAPTIONS

Alfred Pirtle CDV and General William Preston in CSA uniform A Tale of Two Louisvillians

Louisvillians, like many other Kentuckians, were divided in their loyalties during the Civil War. Represented here are two such men, William Preston and Alfred Pirtle. Both men were born and raised in Louisville, had family here in town, and when the war began, chose different sides. Preston, who was the U. S. minister (ambassador) to Spain at the beginning of the war, returned home, and joined the Confederacy, in whose service he rose to the rank of major general. At the end of the war he was serving as the minister to Mexico. After the war he eventually returned to Kentucky and settled in Lexington where he died in 1887. He is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. He was the father-in-law of two of The Filson's founders, John Mason Brown and George Montgomery Davie. Although a Kentuckian, Alfred Pirtle received a commission as a lieutenant in the 10th Ohio Infantry Regiment and served in a variety of capacities until being discharged due to poor health. Pirtle had a successful business career and was also a historian. He was an early member of The Filson (his brother James S. Pirtle was one of its founders) and served as its third president. He died in 1923 and is also buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

Page 13 Group Photo

The photograph is dated April 29, 1864. Most if not all of the individuals listed are members of John Hunt Morgan's Raiders. Individuals are identified as Capt. Hamby, Capt. H. Clay Meriwether, Maj. Thomas B. Webber, Capt. R.D. Logan, Maj. Lamar (?) Fontaine, Lt. A. Berry, Lt. Thomas W. Bullitt, Maj. William Grigsby Bullitt, Capt. Ralph Sheldon, Capt. Samuel B. Taylor, Capt. E.W. McLean (?) and Capt. J. S. Chapman, taken at Fort Delaware, April 29th, 1864.

"Dinah" (this page, top)

Corporal Robert Winn, 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, USA, artist. Pen and ink with colored pencil on paper (enlarged facsimile of original in Filson collection). 1864.

Union soldier Robert Winn of Hawesville, Kentucky, frequently made drawings of birds, buildings, and people in the margins of letters he sent home as the U.S. army fought its way to Atlanta.

Posed sitting in a knob-eared chair and wearing a dress with a white collar, Dinah, a black woman, was described by Winn as his unit's "washerwoman." She wears a ring on her left hand. Wartime women frequently found employment washing clothes at camps and hospitals in large iron kettles like the one at left.

William Hegan (this page, lower left)

William Hegan holding colors of 22nd Ky. Infantry after the surrender of Vicksburg. William Hegan is buried in Cave Hill on Hegan lot.

"Drummer Boy" (this page, lower right)

Photograph of Frank D. Millet when he served as a "drummer boy" in the Civil War (004PC11.1).



BRINGING *THE* PAST INTO *THE* PRESENT

THE FILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS SOLICITING
INFORMATION ON OLD LOUISVILLE HOMES

Through the years, people have come to The Filson looking for historical information on their homes, whether out of general interest or for direction in renovation. Things such as a renovation history, the number of former owners, and general information about the home have generated many questions, and we have been listening.

The Filson is asking residents of Old Louisville for any historical information on their homes. We would then add a file for the home and include any information you may have on the home. We are looking for photos, former owners, renovation details and any other information on these beautiful and historic residences and businesses.

The files will be categorized by street name and then by address. The Filson will lead by creating a file on the Ferguson Mansion. It is our hope that our friends and neighbors in Old Louisville will work with us as we create this valuable historical reference. These files will be a wealth of information for future generations and will ensure that the legacy of our neighborhood lives on.

The Filsonians

August-November 2011

Filsonian listing reflects membership renewals received through November 30, 2011.

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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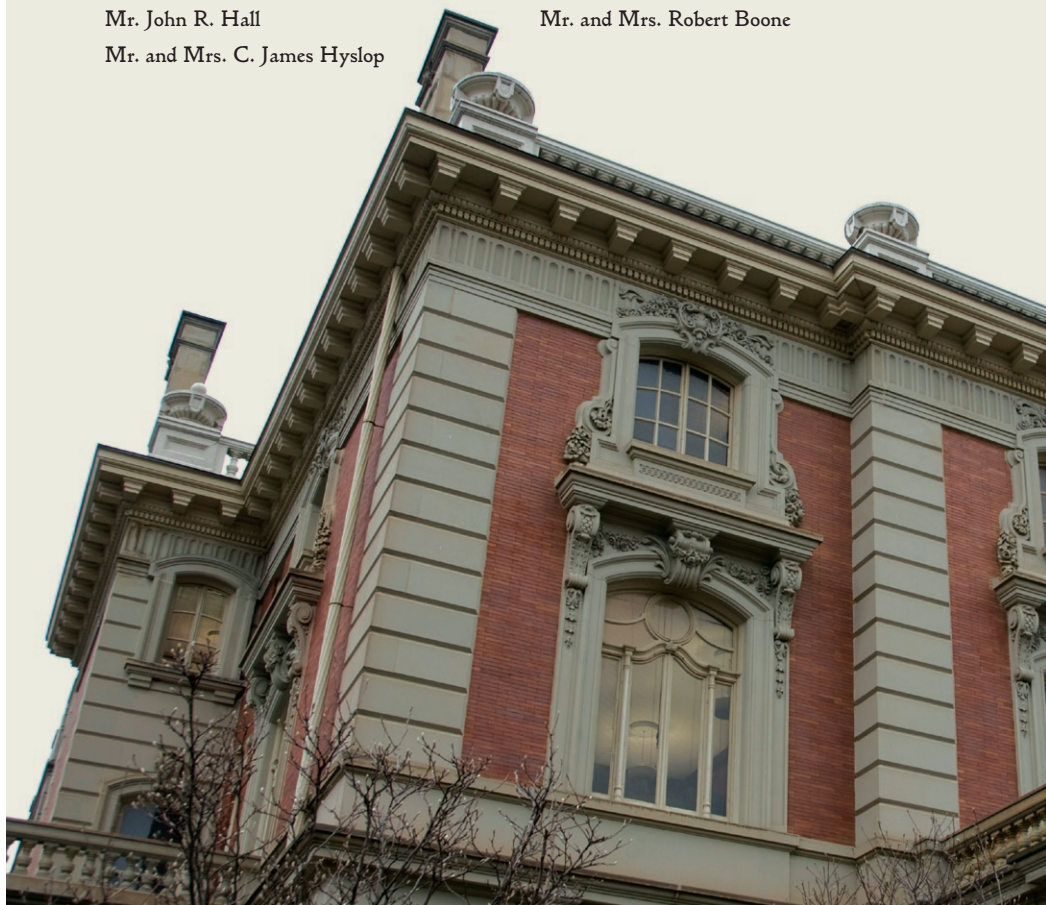
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*“We make a living by what we get;
We make a life by what we give.”*

– Winston Churchill

*The Filson
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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BOURBON

Come enhance your appreciation of bourbon and increase your knowledge of Kentucky whiskey products at The Filson Bourbon Academy. This educational seminar is supported by the Kentucky Distillers Association and the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

This eight-hour course will take place on Saturday, March 3 at The Filson Historical Society.



The class will be led by The Filson's bourbon historian, Mike Veach, an inductee into the Bourbon Hall of Fame.

The Academy is limited to 25 students, with a cost of \$100 for the day-long session and box lunch. Please call The Filson to make your reservation at (502) 635-5083 or visit us online at filsonhistorical.org. Please reserve your spot by February 28.

THE FILSON BOURBON ACADEMY

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 / 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.