

The Filson

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



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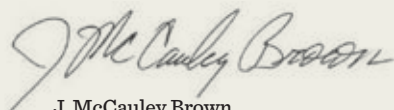
FROM THE PRESIDENT

History is a gateway to the understanding of all human activity and of the interactions among them. Why is this important? How can we gain the most from our historical knowledge? The first answer is simple; understanding the past can inform and educate us by providing context and perspectives that allow us to make thoughtful decisions about the future. But maximizing our knowledge is more complex.

Historical knowledge is no more than carefully and critically constructed collective memory that defines our identity and experiences. It is that knowledge and awareness of history that offers insights as to the best available guide for action addressing situations from individual needs on a broad and public level. But as issues broaden, the complexity grows because the agreement on historical experience becomes more difficult due to the different perspective of individual groups. Further, memory is not something fixed and forever. As time passes, remembered personal experiences take on new meanings. Collective memory is quite the same. Historians are always at work reinterpreting the past, asking new questions, searching new sources and finding new meanings in old documents in order to bring the perspective of new knowledge and experience to bear on the task of understanding the past.

The Filson's collection is built with primary source material covering many different aspects of society from Colonial times to the 21st Century. Over 50% of our collection is from the 20th century and is very relevant to our lives today. Through these collections and our research programs, The Filson allows us the opportunity to see the parallels of history to the events of today. They allow us to look for answers to today's problems in the experiences of the past. While The Filson is a membership and privately supported organization, we welcome everyone who would like to use our collections and attend our programs.

I would like to thank the Board and the staff for the tremendous work they are doing in creating increased opportunities for membership engagement. Further, I want to thank all our members for their continuing support which allows The Filson to fulfill its mission to *collect, preserve and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture.*



J. McCauley Brown
President

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Louisville is a city of immigrants. I was reminded of this recently during our Spring Filson Institute entitled "A Nation of Immigrants", which was held at The Filson in May, featured scholars from around the nation.

Our diverse neighborhoods are one of the strengths of Louisville. Despite the prevailing pattern of suburban expansion eastward since World War II, which continues today, many of our earliest suburbs grew west, into the flat land between the present-day central business district and the Ohio River. Before there was an Old Louisville, there was an older "Western Louisville," a relevant topic in our community today. Each new "addition" to the city, such as Elliott's, created during the late 1860s according to plats in our collection, became another neighborhood. Today, Elliott's addition is a part of the Russell neighborhood and remembered by a small park called Elliott's.

The immigrants and neighborhoods have their stories. Martha Vaughn, a free person of color, was one of Louisville's nineteenth century rural immigrants. She brought her infant son Joseph Cotter to Louisville from rural Nelson County in 1861, soon after the Civil War began. They moved to "Little Africa" (in present-day West Louisville) in the early 1870s. Cotter became an educator and poet, reflecting the vital role that education plays in our lives. Cotter's published history of "Little Africa", written a half century after its establishment as a shanty town, reflects his emotional attachment to that neighborhood long after his mother moved him away from downtown. As an adult, Cotter settled in middle class Russell on Magazine Street, where he lived at the same address for more than fifty years.

Samuel Plato was also a rural immigrant. He began his life in Alabama and came to Louisville as a part of a Great Migration of blacks from the Deep South. He sought a better life for himself through education and economic advancement. Plato attended Simmons College and became a very successful African American architect and contractor during the first half of the twentieth century. The churches and homes he designed still grace our streets and neighborhoods.

These stories and many others are documented by our collections at The Filson. I invite you to stop by and learn about the rich history of Louisville and the contributions that immigrants have made to our society both today and in our history.



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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filson@filsonhistorical.org

OUR MISSION:

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

Recent Acquisitions



The Filson constantly seeks to fill gaps in its art collection. Be it a portrait, landscape, or still life, we strive to document the people (including the artists) and places of Kentucky, Southern Indiana, and the Ohio Valley. As many artists that already are represented in our collection, there are many whose work we do not have. A significant addition to the collection recently was made by the acquisition of a number of works not previously represented; several of them shown here. Most date from the early 20th century. Our thanks are extended to Warren and Julie Payne for their help in this acquisition and the donation of several of the works.

1. Landscape of Indian Creek, Floyd County, Indiana, by Ferdinand G. Walker, no date. The Filson already had portraits by Walker in the collection but not one of his landscapes.
2. Ohio Falls Dye and Finishing Works, Louisville, Kentucky, by George D. Lee, no date.
3. Landscape by John Lawrence Russell, no date.
4. "The Sand Pile, Maysville, Ky.," by Frederick Wetterer, 1963.
5. Landscape by Thomas Jefferson Willison, no date.



“For the Sake of My Children”

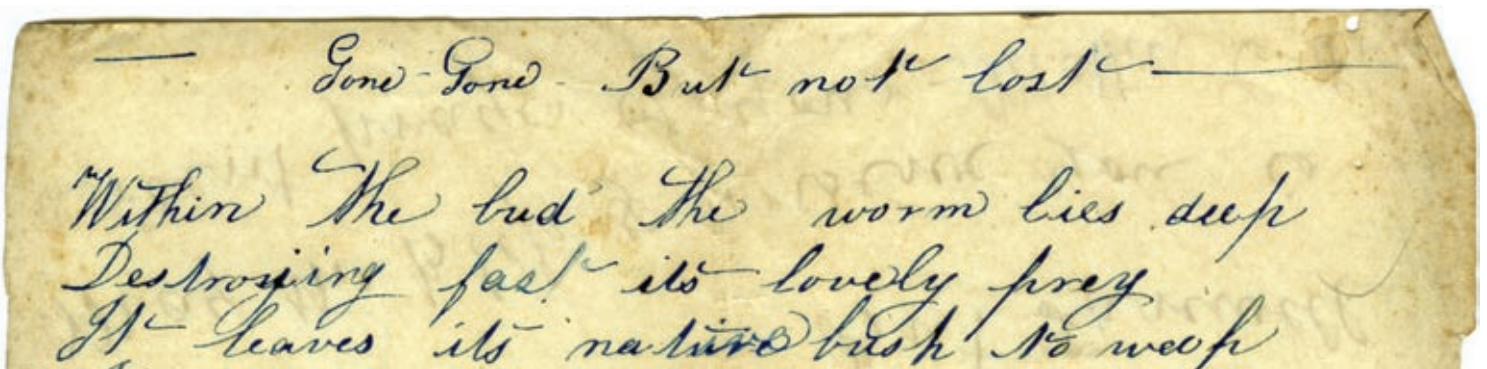
The Woes of Clarissa Evans

BY JAMES M. PRICHARD | MANUSCRIPT CATALOGER

By 1840, sixty-three year old Clarissa A. Evans (1777-1855) of Allen County, Kentucky had seen her husband Thomas (1768-1828) and three of her sons laid to rest. In fact, her three boys had died within months of each other in 1838. A deeply religious woman, she lived with the family of her oldest surviving son, William F. (1805-1865) in Scottsville. She was also supported by the labors of her youngest son, Selby K. (1821-1871).

Nevertheless, her days were often lonely ones. She passed the time smoking her pipe, reading the Bible, and writing melancholy verse. She also wrote frequent letters to another son, Lawrence W. Evans (c1818-?) who had settled in Hernando, Mississippi. These letters form the

...her three boys had died within months of each other in 1838.



heart of the Evans Family Papers, 1838-1863 which are housed in the Special Collections Department of The Filson Historical Society. In her letters to Lawrence, Clarissa frequently mentions the trials of being an aging widow and the need to keep Selby at home for her protection and support. She often mentions her roving son Henry L. (c1812-1857) and frequently expresses her concern for the safety of her two sons far from home. In a letter to Lawrence dated June 26, 1843 she deplors the sale of the old family home and laments, “For the sake of my children I left a good home and none are willing to take me back.”

In an undated letter to Lawrence, she thanks him for submitting “one of my melancholy pieces” for publication in a Hernando newspaper. The collection contains three of her undated, unsigned poems one of which is headed, “Composed in the dead hour of the night.” Another entitled “Gone – Gone – But Not Lost” depicts the last moments of a dying child who comforts her parents with the image of her union with Christ in the next world. On the back of this piece she pens a farewell



LITH. & PUB. BY N. CURRIER, *Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1847 by N. Currier in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Southern District of New York.*

152 NASSAU ST. COR. OF SPRING N. Y.

GENERAL Z. TAYLOR

"ROUGH & READY"

THE HERO OF PALO ALTO, RESEGA DE LA PALMA, MONTEREY, AND BUENA VISTA.

to her children in which she, “anticipates the pleasure of meeting you in a world where parting shall be no more.” Her writings reflected the overwhelming presence of mourning and melancholy in Victorian literature that Mark Twain later satirized in the “poetry” of “Miss Emmeline Grangerford” in *Huckleberry Finn*:

She wasn't particular; she could write (poetry) about anything you chose...just so it was sadful.

Yet in her letters, Clarissa Evans often touched on the major social and political events of her times. On November 17, 1838, she urged her son not to become a slave trader: “Lawrence, my Dear Child, it grieves me that you are dealing in Human flesh.” She adds, “For Heaven’s sake - and mine, if you value your own soul’s salvation do not make a practice of it.” These views did not necessarily mean she was opposed to Lawrence being a slave owner. In 1846 she writes, “Lawrence I (have) a request to make of you...I would be glad, if it is in your power, to send me a little Negro boy or girl to wait on me in the balance of my days.”

When her son William ran for the State Senate in 1840, she championed his support of the Temperance Movement. However, as the mother of Whig sons, she denounced the war with Mexico. On May 24, 1846 she informed Lawrence, “We are all in great trouble here about this hatefull (sic) war that is going on.” She continued, “Yesterday we had a great day here Beating up for volunteers – 62 poor fellows turned out, Capt’n R. (Robert F.) Pullum at the head and Behold just at the hour he was elected.” She relates the “horrid” news of Gen. Zachary Taylor’s recent clash with Mexican forces and urges Lawrence and Henry not to enlist.

While there is no record of their service in the Mexican War, one of the Evans brothers, Dr. Henry L. Evans, fell victim to the spirit of Manifest Destiny two years after Clarissa’s death. Settling in California, Dr. Evans joined a small military force recruited by “General” Henry A. Crabbe for the invasion of Sonora, Mexico. Crabbe was typical of a number of American adventurers from that era who sought to carve out their own colonies in Mexico and Central America. The small force of Americans were defeated and Crabbe and most of his men were executed by firing squad. Despite the fact that he became disenchanted with Crabbe’s leadership and left his “army,” Evans was arrested by Mexican authorities and executed as well. The news of his death devastated his Kentucky family.

The Evans Family Papers represent the rich variety of the historic source materials available for research in Special Collections. In this single collection one can find glimpses of ante-bellum family life and the daily life of women during that era. At the same time the Evans’ letters reflect the events and customs of a vanished era. Indeed the many woes of Clarissa Evans now form part of the rich historical tapestry of American history.

*...she urges her sons
not to fight in the
Mexican War.*



[p.2 - Top](#)

C E Evans Family

[p.3](#)

Zachary Taylor

[p.4](#)

Letter from Miss CE_
Evans to Clarissa,
May24, 1846

[p.5](#)

Shepherdsville slave
broadside

My Ever Dear Lawrence

Scottsville, Ky
May 2nd 1946

I will try once more to write to you altho
so very dim are my eyes that ^{it} is with great difficulty
I can distinguish one object from another, but still I
feel anxious to hold converse with you sometimes, as I
cannot have the pleasure of being in your company -
writing and receiving Letters seems to be my only
consolation - we are all in great trouble here about
this hateful war that is going on - what do you
think about it? - yesterday we had a great day here
meeting up for volunteers - 62 poor fellows turned out
Capt. H. Pullum at the head - and behold just
at the hour he was elected - your sister Rebecca
brought forth a young hero - Selby looks quite
^{brought} curious to be a Father - and Beck as strange to
be a mother - they talk of calling the boy Alfred -
- who is the next - Sara - or your Mary. - Let
us hear so soon as tis over - ^{Sarah} Children indeed are precious
treasures when young & prattling about us - But, O! when
they leave us, then comes the heart-rending trials - I feel
it yes deeply feel the piercing wound - to think they live,
but not for me - Sooner (had it pleased God to take them in



GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

BREAKING THROUGH TO THE FUTURE

CAMPAIGN EXCEEDS \$10 MILLION

On May 8, 2014, over two hundred people gathered in The Filson's parking lot to witness an historic event: the Groundbreaking Ceremony for our \$11.75 million Campus Expansion Project! Instead of the customary shoveling of dirt, we literally tore down a brick wall to make room for the future. The ceremony began with remarks by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, followed



by Metro Councilman David James, Filson President Mac Brown, Filson Director Mark Wetherington, and the Project's Cornerstone Campaign Chair Sandy Wilson. Christy Brown then announced that the Project's new 20,000 square foot building would be named **The Owsley Brown II History Center** in honor and memory of her late husband, a long-time leader and strong supporter of The Filson. The ceremony was followed by a reception, complete with a signature drink to toast the event: The Filson Wall-Banger.

It was a momentous day for The Filson and the Cornerstone Campaign for the Project. Pledges rolled in all morning prior to the Groundbreaking Ceremony. By the time the wall was demolished, the Campaign had reached the \$10 million mark! We are now at \$10.2 million. We need \$1.5 million more to reach our \$11.75 million goal.

Our Board of Directors have been generous supporters of the Campaign from the outset. In order to push the Campaign past the \$10 million mark several of them increased their pledges to create a \$200,000 Director's Challenge. The Filson's Board challenges you to match their generosity with new and increased pledges to help push the Campaign across the finish line!

A new and expanded Filson will ensure the preservation of our regional history for generations to come. This is our history. Let's work together to build its future home.



Dr. Mark Wetherington, J. McCauley Brown, Mayor Greg Fischer, and Councilman David James



J. McCauley Brown and Mayor Greg Fischer



Orme Wilson



Brigadier General Ronald Van Stockum, Sr.



Christina Lee Brown



Mayor Fischer shakes hands with Dr. Mark Wetherington



Gill Holland, Mayor Fischer, and Lee Cory



Christina Lee Brown and Angela Leet



Dr. Mark Wetherington



Councilman David James



Dr. Mark Wetherington, J. McCauley Brown, Mayor Greg Fischer, Councilman David James, and Orme Wilson



Dave Armstrong, Herb and Gayle Warren



Ronald Van Stockum, Jr. and Tom Noland



Warren Payne and Larry Muhammad



Laurie Bernsteel and Vivian Ruth Sawyer



Tom Noland and Brigadier General Ronald Van Stockum, Sr.



Sarah Strapp, Tim Kerr, and Laura Cordle

THE FILSON WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR CORNERSTONE CAMPAIGN DONORS:

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Gifts received as of 6/19/2014



PICNIC UNDER THE TREES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

Now in its 26th season, The Commonwealth Brass Band has a history of entertaining diverse audiences in the Kentuckiana region. Under the direction of Principal Conductor J. Jerome Amend (Principal Trumpet, Louisville Orchestra) and Associate Conductor Anita Cocker Hunt (Conductor of both the Cincinnati and Athena Brass Bands), the CBB has performed at such venues as the Great American Brass Band Festival in Danville, The Ashland Brass Band Festival, and contests of the North American Brass Band Association. The 35-piece ensemble's repertoire ranges from traditional British-style brass music by composers such as Holst and Elgar to pops favorites, film scores, and, for the Oxmoor Farm concert, American Broadway classics. The band is an ensemble-in-residence at Indiana University Southeast and is made up of faculty, student, and community musicians.

This event will take place at Oxmoor Farm, 720 Oxmoor Avenue. On-sight parking is available. We welcome you to bring your own picnic, games, and blanket for a festive evening under the trees.

Advance Tickets:

\$10 for members
\$15 for non-members

Day of Tickets:

\$15 for members
\$20 for non-members

Children 12 and under:

Free of charge
5:30 p.m. - Gates open
6:00 p.m. - Music begins

Featuring:

The Commonwealth Brass Band

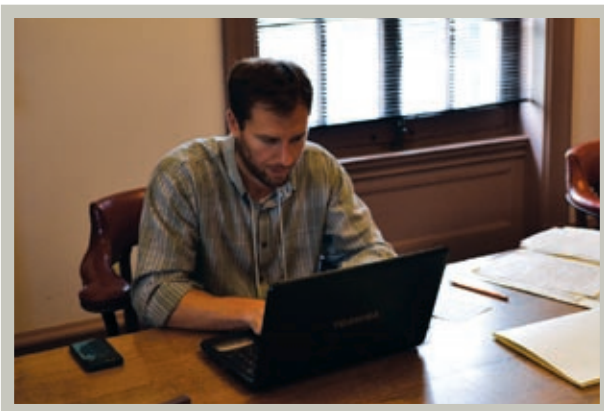
FILSON FELLOWS

The Filson Historical Society is pleased to announce the winners of the fall 2013 and spring 2014 rounds of Filson Fellowships. These fellowships encourage the scholarly use of our nationally significant collections by providing researchers with financial support for travel and lodging. The fellowship candidates were chosen from a strong pool of applicants from around the country and overseas with research interests related to the history and culture of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley.

The Filson has recently hosted the following fellowship participants:



Laura Mammina



Edward Blum

The following candidates have been selected as Breaux Fellows:

Dr. Brian Craig Miller

Associate Professor of History
Emporia State University
“The United Confederate Veterans in History and Memory.”

Dr. Edward Blum

Associate Professor of History
San Diego State University
“Satan and the Civil War: Tales from the Dark Side of Faith in America.”

The following candidates have been selected for a two week Filson Fellowship:

Dr. Brian McKnight

Associate Professor of History
University of Virginia’s College at Wise
“Simon Bolivar Buckner in War and Peace.”

Dr. David Narrett

Professor of History
University of Texas at Arlington
“Separatism and Unionism: The Kentucky, Tennessee, and Vermont Frontiers, 1770-1800.”

The following candidates have been selected for a one-week Filson Fellowship:

Dr. M. Scott Heerman

Patrick Henry Scholar
Johns Hopkins University
“Deep River: Slavery, Empire, and Emancipation in the Upper Mississippi River Valley”

Dr. Taja-Nia Y. Henderson

Associate Professor
Rutgers University School of Law—Newark
“Framing Treason: Disqualification, Reconciliation, and Memory in Reconstruction-Era America”

Mr. Evan Kutzler

PhD candidate, Department of History
University of South Carolina
“The Senses of Degradation in Civil War Prisons”

Mr. Evan Rothera

PhD candidate, Department of History
Penn State University
“Reconstructions in America: The United States,
Mexico, and Argentina, 1861-1880”

Mr. Jay P. Donis

PhD candidate
Lehigh University
“Continuity and Resistance:
The American Frontier”

Major Andrew Forney

PhD candidate, Department of History
Texas Christian University /
History Instructor United States Military Academy,
“The Federalist Empire: The Search for Stability
in the Revolutionary Altantic”

Ms. Melissa J. Gismondi

PhD candidate, Department of History
University of California—Davis, “Rachel Jackson: Image,
Reality, and the Ideal of American Femininity,
1767-1828”

Dr. Michael Hevel

Assistant Professor of Education
University of Arkansas
“A History of College Students and Alcohol,
1800-2000”

Mr. John C. Kennedy

PhD candidate, Department of History
Purdue University
“The Women’s Relief Corps and Union
Civil War Memory, 1883-1965”

Mr. Daniel Papsdorf

PhD candidate, Department of History
Duke University
“The Common Ground: The Mississippi River
Valley and Gulf Coast, 1763-1803”

Mr. Gregory Wigmore

Lecturer, Department of History
Santa Clara University
“The Limits of Empire: Allegiance, Opportunity,
and Imperial Rivalry in the Canadian-American
Borderland”

*The following candidates have been
selected as M.A. Fellows:*

Mr. Jason Herbert

M.A. student, Department of History
Wichita State University
“A Peace between Them’: The Politics
of Indigenous Alliance in the American Southeast,
1793-1812”

Mr. Tyler D. Sperrazza

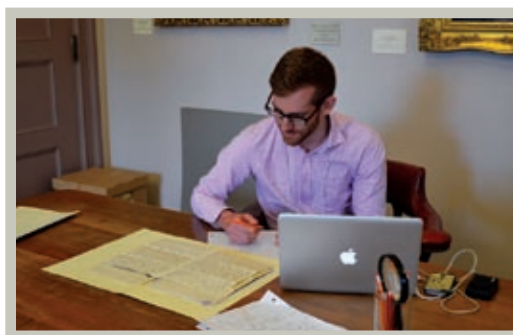
M.A. student, Department of History
Penn State University
“Performing Racism: African Americans Onstage,
1865-1915”

*The following candidate has been selected
as a Boehl Intern:*

Ms. Johna Picco

M.A. student, Library and Information Science
University of Illinois.

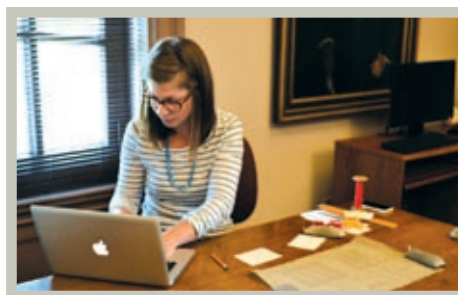
For more information about our fellowship
program, please contact Dr. Mark Wetherington,
Director of The Filson Historical Society via email
at markweth@filsonhistorical.org.



M. Scott Heerman



Darin Tuck



Johna Picco



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

21ST ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR

Distinctive Dwellings

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

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 join us for a reception at the home of Greg and Beth Steinbock.



Distinctive Dwellings

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014
TICKETS \$125 EA.

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

The Filson Historical Society
Attn: Jordan Sangmeister
1310 S. Third St.
Louisville, KY 40208

Please send _____ ticket(s) for The Filson's 21st Annual House Tour

Member Name(s) _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Please mail tickets and tour notes to:

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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

Check _____ Visa _____ MC _____ Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____



Filsonian listing reflects memberships received through March 1.

The Filsonians *April - June 2014*

Support **THE FILSON** *with a* **PLANNED** *gift.*

By including The Filson in your estate plan, you can help insure that it will continue its mission of saving the significant stories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley. Your planned gifts will allow us to remain a powerful, lifelong learning center for generations to come.

To learn more about planned giving options, please contact
P. Richard Anderson, Jr.
at 502-634-7109 or
pra@filsonhistorical.org.

CLARK Membership **(\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

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Thomas T. Noland, Jr.
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SHELBY Membership **(\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

Hon. and Mrs. David L. Armstrong
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Mr. and Mrs. Patrick R. Northam
Brig. Gen. R. R. Van Stockum USMC Ret.

CLAY Membership **(\$500 - \$999)**

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Dr. and Mrs. George Sonnier
R. Ted Steinbock M.D.
Ms. Betty Stokes

AUDUBON Membership **(\$250 - \$499)**

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BOURBON

UPCOMING BOURBON EVENTS IN LOUISVILLE

August 14, 5:30 p.m.

Bourbon Salon at Oxmoor Farm:
Bourbon Families
\$50

This is the final session in our Bourbon Salon series. During this session, Mike and guests Bill Samuels, Fred Noe, and Wes Henderson, will discuss what it was like growing up on a family tied to the bourbon industry. Participants will have the opportunity to taste Maker's 46, Knob Creek, Old Grand Dad Bonded, and Angel's Envy.

October 18, 9:00 a.m.

The Filson Bourbon Academy
\$100 - Filson members
\$125 - Non-members

Supported by the Kentucky Distillers Association and the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Filson Bourbon Academy is a way to enhance your appreciation of Kentucky's favorite spirit and increase your knowledge of Kentucky whiskey products. This eight hour course, led by bourbon historian Mike Veach, is limited to 25 students.

*For more information about these and other upcoming events, call (502) 635-5083
or visit us online at filsonhistorical.org/events.*

