

The Filson

A publication of The Filson Historical Society, a privately-supported historical society
dedicated to preserving the history of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley Region.



Recent Acquisitions	New Hours	Buckner Papers	Filson Fellowships	Gertrude Polk Brown Series	Digital Collections	Filson Rentals	Gift Membership	Staff Profile	Louisville Neighborhoods	Women at Work	Feb. '20 Events	Featured Testimonial	The Filsonians
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several months ago, at the Oxmoor historic home and here at the Filson, descendants of enslaved human beings met with descendants of the family who owned them to review materials common to both sets of descendants, and to have honest and meaningful dialog. It was an important part of what we do. Our staff members took great pride in helping to facilitate the meeting.

More recently, as I was driving to the Filson on the morning of August 20, I picked up the tail end of an interview on NPR with Dr. Kevin Cosby, the minister of St. Stephen's Baptist Church, and the president of Simmons Bible College—Louisville's revitalizing HBCU (Historically Black College and University). He mentioned that at noon that day, St. Stephen's was going to have a service commemorating the 400th anniversary of slavery in the United States. Later that morning, I grabbed Patrick Lewis, our new Scholar in Residence, and we met a prominent local historian at St. Stephen's for the service. It consisted of ninety minutes of music, confession, forgiveness, and shared understanding of the stain of slavery in our country. I'll never forget this service as long as I live.

The Filson has rich collections that pertain directly and tangentially to the history and effects of slavery in Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley region. These materials collectively paint a tragic but compelling history, a history that has taught—and will always teach—the yearning for freedom that all human beings have. It is a uniquely American narrative, one that has risen from misery, has produced bitter fruit, but which also has produced a narrative containing fundamental lessons on the nobility of the human spirit.

We are committed to telling the stories of slavery and its aftermath. The Filson has recently presented two programs commemorating the 400th anniversary of slavery in the United States: Dr. Elizabeth Leonard, (September 17, *Slaves, Slave Holders, and a Kentucky Community's Struggle towards Freedom*) and Dr. George Wright (October 15, *From Slavery to Equality, the 400th Anniversary of Slavery in America*). The Final presentation for 2019 was held on November 15 and featured noted journalist and author Steve Luxenberg, who gave a presentation on his recent book *Separate: The Story of Plessy V. Ferguson, and America's Journey from Slavery to Segregation*. We will continue to address the issue of slavery and its after-effects in 2020 and the years beyond. It is fundamental to our mission.



Richard H.C. Clay, President and CEO

FROM THE CHAIR

A key objective in our strategic plan was a renewed focus on customer service and satisfaction. We conducted a survey of our membership from July 25 through August 8. We had an excellent response. I'm pleased to report that the results were very gratifying. Over 90% rated our customer service as either good or excellent. Almost 95% rated their experience with the Filson as either good or excellent. Almost 96% said that they would recommend a Filson membership to others. We sincerely appreciate the feedback and will continue to work hard to make your membership worthwhile, educational and enjoyable. We continue to be interested in your suggestions and recommendations about how we can improve.

Activity levels and attendance at the Filson the past few months have been setting records. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Over 1,050 members and guests attended the Gertrude Polk Brown lecture given by Rick Atkinson, multiple Pulitzer Prize winning author, who discussed his new book, *The British are Coming 1775–1777*.
- Hundreds of children and young families visited the Filson this summer via the Cultural Pass Program.
- Our exhibits have been well received. These included the Shanty Boat, Enid Yandell, Julius Friedman, and Jewish Hospital Community of Care exhibits. Three new exhibits are already planned for 2020. We appreciate our exhibit sponsors, Treyton Oak Towers and and Commonwealth Bank & Trust Company.
- The Filson hosted the Louisville Crashers concert at Oxmoor Farm on a beautiful Friday evening. Over 450 people attended.

The William M. Wood Foundation has made another \$400,000 grant to our endeavor to permanently endow the care and curation of the Jewish Community Archives, bringing its total commitment to \$800,000. To date, we have raised \$1,578,000 towards the endowment goal of \$2,000,000 and another \$550,000 for operations.

Finally, in this season of Thanksgiving, we are very grateful for the Filson's terrific team of employees and volunteers! Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season.



Carl M. Thomas, Chairman of the Board

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The Filson

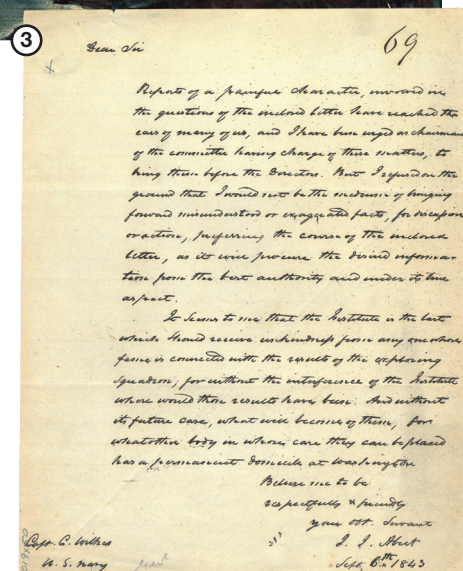
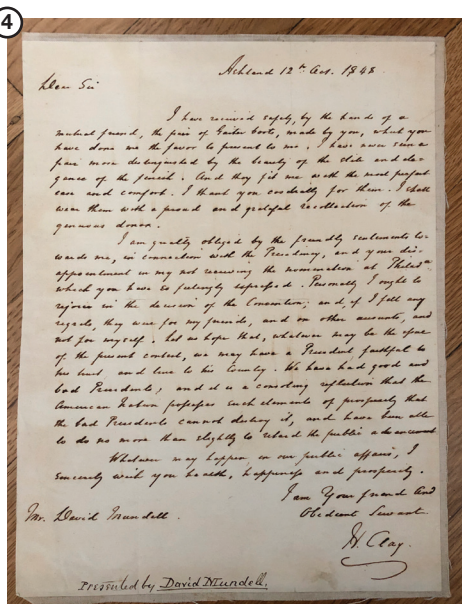
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We welcome your feedback
and story ideas.
Phone: (502) 635-5083
www.filsonhistorical.org
info@filsonhistorical.org

OUR MISSION:

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

Recent Acquisitions

All areas of the Filson's collections have grown thanks to generous donations from our members and friends. Highlights include a unique Carl Brenner 1885 landscape painting of Frey's Hill, depicting the intersection of the current Westport Road and Frey's Hill Road; a 1937 flood scrapbook kept by Helen Harding Halenkamp of her husband George L. Halenkamp's activities as a relief captain during the great flood; an 1848 letter written by Henry Clay; and artwork and letters by James W. Abert, a soldier, explorer, and artist. Thanks to all who help us continue to expand the breadth of our collections.



1. George and Helen Halenkamp 1937 Flood Scrapbook. Gift of Molly Martin, pictured here with her husband Steve Sexauer and Curator of Photographs Heather Potter.
2. Frey's Hill, 1885, by Carl Brenner. Gift of Mary Alice Lawler.
3. James W. Abert watercolor from the Adirondacks and letter of September 6, 1843. Gift of David Rubin.
4. Henry Clay letter to David Mundell, October 12, 1848. Gift of Dr. Robert Haynes.

New Research Hours and Closures at The Filson



NEW READING ROOM HOURS

Starting **Monday, December 2, 2019**, The Filson's Library and Special Collections reading rooms will close at **4:30 p.m.** This will allow staff to provide the proper level of attention to end of the day procedures for patrons, collections, and the campus.

Questions about the new closing time should be directed to **research@filsonhistorical.org**.

JANUARY 2020 SHUT DOWN

The Filson Historical Society will be closed to the public from **Monday, January 6 through Friday, January 17, 2020**. We will reopen during normal business hours on **Tuesday, January 21, 2020**, after the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Filson staff will use this two-week period to as time for planning, organization, prioritization, and teamwork. Unlike other cultural organizations, the Filson's operating hours of 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, are also the standard work hours for the staff, which leaves limited “down” time to focus on behind the scenes (and in front of the scenes) projects. We appreciate your patience as we strive to enhance our abilities to collect, preserve, and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture.

Questions about the January shut down should be directed to **info@filsonhistorical.org**.

Through A Master's Eye

Reflections of Slavery in Kentucky

From the Simon B. Buckner Papers

BY JAMES M. PRICHARD | MANUSCRIPT CATALOGER

Kentucky's Nathaniel Southgate Shaler (1841-1906), who taught Geology at Harvard, was one of the most prominent educators and historians of his day. The former Union Army officer's students included the noted African American activist, W. E. B. DuBois. However, in his posthumously published *Autobiography*, Shaler described slavery as he knew it in the same language found in the writings of the defenders of the Lost Cause.

In reference to his childhood in Newport, Kentucky, Shaler recalled that his grandfather boasted that his family had not bought or sold a slave in over a century - unless it was to keep families together. Shaler added that he never saw a slave whipped during his youth and all members of the household, both black and white, were equally subject to "sudden explosions of the master's temper." While he "exceedingly disliked" slavery, Shaler "did not deem it iniquitous" but rather an "ancient unhappiness" inherited from distant ancestors.¹

Recollections of slavery like Shaler's were typical of how the inhumane institution was framed in both history and memory up to the early 20th century. However, the challenge for scholars is simply this: do such recollections reflect the reality of Kentucky slavery or merely how the author chose to portray the institution? This factor underscores the importance of the manuscript collections available in the Special Collections Department at the Filson Historical Society. In a way, these valuable primary sources capture glimpses of the "peculiar institution" in real time. The letters and records kept by slave owning families which were created for their eyes only, weave slavery into the pattern of daily life in ante-bellum Kentucky.

The Simon Bolivar Buckner Papers contain numerous letters and documents that reveal various aspects of slavery both before and after the Civil War. Buckner, a West Point graduate, Confederate general, and Governor of Kentucky from 1887 to 1891, was the son

of Aylette Hartswell Buckner (1798-1851). The elder Buckner co-owned an iron ore furnace in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky from 1832 to 1842.

In his 1913 history of Muhlenberg County, Otto A. Rothert (1871-1956) devoted an entire chapter to the old "Buckner Furnace" which was located five miles south of Greenville.

A list of furnace hands from the Buckner papers dated 1838 reveals that 11 of the 50 workers were free African Americans; enslaved laborers, though present, were not listed.²

Rothert recorded a tragic event at the furnace that same year that resulted in the first legal execution in the history of Muhlenberg County. According to Rothert, a slave named Isaac attacked Buckner with an axe, felling him with serious head wounds. He fled the scene but was later discovered hiding in the woods and was locked in the Muhlenberg County jail. Isaac was the property of Buckner's business partner, Cadwalader Churchill (1792-1852) whose wife visited him in jail and "helped him with his prayers."

He was tried in the Circuit Court, found guilty and hanged outside Greenville on July 6, 1838.³

Rothert collected local traditions that claimed that Isaac had been driven to violence because the elder Buckner had "treated him shamefully by starving him and refusing to let him wear shoes." However, he concluded that, "this could not possibly be founded on facts for Buckner was a tall and portly man, with the reputation of having a heart as kind as he was large." Rothert found other traditions which stated that Isaac detested life at the furnace and thought that killing Buckner would force Churchill to abandon the enterprise and take him back to the Churchill farm near Elizabethtown.⁴

The business correspondence of Buckner and Churchill reveals a different story. In a letter to Buckner dated January 17, 1838, Churchill reports that he has sent "Josh, Issac, Matt & Edmund" to



the furnace, adding, “they went with great reluctance.” On April 11th Churchill has clearly learned of the violent assault:

I understand Isaac had made some threats against you before he left the country [i.e. fled]. I understand his wife is a vile hussy and [sic] says she would rejoice to see every white person in one pile and a rough dry wood heaped around as would burn them in ashes, and she would rejoice to set fire to the same, and could dance by the light while burning.

I have no doubt but what he will be hung & I think ought you will have some witnesses to prove he was a good mechanic and a valuable hand about the furnace as you know it will be important to get a good price for him.⁵

Churchill’s concern about establishing Isaac’s monetary value stemmed from a Kentucky law which required the State Treasury to reimburse the owner the full value of any legally executed slave.

In the weeks that followed the attack, Churchill apparently learned more details about Buckner’s interactions with the black furnace hands. In a letter from Elizabethtown dated June 23rd, Churchill was compelled to give his business partner “a lecture:”

...you are frequently suffering yourself to get into a passion when there is no cause for it and...you act more like a mad man than a man possessed of reason...when you get mad with a negro the first threat is to shoot him and you will be damned if you don’t shoot him.... When a negro acts Bad instead of threatening him...act on the side of Humanity then your Hands will love you and you can manage them better.⁶

Further correspondence reveals that Churchill and Buckner disagreed on other aspects of slave management. In a letter dated August 20, 1838, Churchill informed Buckner that he was “surprised and hurt” by his last letter. Buckner had apparently commented sarcastically on the bearing of Sally, who Churchill had previously described as a “favorite negro” of his family. Churchill retorted, “If I chose to make my negroes ladies, I am sure no one has any wright [sic] to be offended as I always intend to be a free man and manage those matters to my liking with my own property.”⁷

Further troubles plagued both men in the weeks ahead. Churchill reported to Buckner that his Harrison had been killed at the furnace. This event coupled with the death of four of his horses led Churchill to compare himself to Job. However, he vowed to bear these losses with “Christian fortitude.”⁸

On October 1 Churchill informed Buckner that:

The negro man which runn [sic] off from you is now in jail in Elizabeth Town. He was caught about 6 miles this side of Louisville and brought to...jail. He stole three Horseys and one of the men that he stole Horseys from followed him and caught him...I will send him down as soon as I can.⁹

Severe financial setbacks that resulted from the Panic of 1837 began to plague both partners and increase the tension between them. The ghost of Isaac also sparked friction. In a letter dated October 27, 1839 Churchill addressed Buckner’s charge that his slaves were spreading vicious rumors about the death of the rebellious slave. Word was circulating that Isaac was found to still be alive when

he was cut down from the gallows. It was said that Buckner took an axe, cut off Isaac’s head and placed it on a pole as a warning to the entire slave community. Churchill assured Buckner that his slaves were innocent, he knew the story was false and he denied the tale’s veracity at every opportunity.¹⁰

The correspondence between Buckner and Churchill reveal both the harsh reality of slavery and the resistance they faced from their human property. These letters also reveal the differences in how each man supervised his bondsmen. As a devout Christian, Churchill regarded himself as a humane master. Nevertheless, other letters in the collection reveal his constant worry that his slaves might, like other fugitives in the vicinity, run away to Canada.

And despite Rother’s belief that Aylette Buckner was a kind man, which he may have been with friends and family, he was, in reality, a harsh task master who drove Isaac to a desperate act—an act that cost him his life on the gallows. Shaler’s recollections of his grandfather’s treatment of his slaves may be largely accurate. However, the treatment of enslaved people depended entirely on whether their owners chose to or could *afford* to be as “humane” as Cadwallader Churchill believed he was.



1 *The Autobiography of Nathaniel Southgate Shaler*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909): 36-37;196
2 Simon Bolivar Buckner Papers [Mss. A B9256 192] Filson Historical Society.

3 Otto Rother, *A History of Muhlenberg County*, (Louisville, Ky.: John P. Morton & Co., 1913): 183-184
4 Ibid.
5 Buckner Papers, Folder 92
6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.
10 Ibid.

FELLOWSHIPS

at THE FILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ABOUT OUR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Filson Historical Society is one of Kentucky's largest and oldest independent historical societies, with research collections documenting the history and culture of Kentucky, the Ohio Valley and the Upper South. The Library and Special Collections include rare books, maps, and 1.5 million manuscripts, forming the best research holdings in Kentucky for the Frontier, Antebellum, and Civil War eras in addition to extensive collections for the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A large nineteenth-century portrait collection as well as 50,000 photographs and fine prints provide visual images for all periods. Our online catalog is available at www.filsonhistorical.org.

Fellowships encourage the scholarly use of the Filson's nationally significant collections by providing support for travel and lodging. Fellows are expected to be in continuous residence at the Filson. Application deadlines are twice per year, October 15 and February 15.

The Filson anticipates that fellows will publish the results of their research in *Ohio Valley History*, a peer-reviewed journal published jointly by the Filson, the Cincinnati Museum Center, and the University of Cincinnati.

AREAS OF COLLECTIONS STRENGTH INCLUDE

Trans-Appalachian Frontier
Lewis & Clark Expedition
African American History
Civil War & Memory
Southern Jewish History
Agriculture & Environment

Architecture & Material Culture
Gilded Age and Progressive era
Suffrage and Women's Rights
Transportation History
Urban History

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MASTER'S THESIS FELLOWSHIP

MA candidates. Full support of a single \$500 award is available for a one-week fellowship period to encourage use of our research collections by M.A. students developing and researching thesis topics. Partial support is available for students residing in Kentucky who travel from outside the greater Louisville area.

FILSON FELLOWSHIP

ABD, Ph.D., or holders of an equivalent terminal degree. Full awards are \$500 per week and may be awarded for up to two weeks. Awards must be used within eighteen months of their receipt. Partial support is available for scholars residing in Kentucky who travel from outside the greater Louisville area.

C. BALLARD BREAUX VISITING FELLOWSHIP

Ph.D. or holders of an equivalent terminal degree. Full support for post doctoral scholars living outside of Kentucky is available for a one-month residence. Partial support is available for scholars residing in Kentucky who travel from outside the greater Louisville area. Applicants for Breaux Visiting Fellowships are automatically considered for Filson Fellowships.

Applications for research fellowships at The Filson Historical Society are due on February 15, 2020.

Application instructions are found at filsonhistorical.org. For more information, please contact Dr. Patrick A. Lewis, Scholar in Residence at patricklewis@filsonhistorical.org or 502-653-5083 x270. 7

Prairie Fires

The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder

by Caroline Fraser

Millions of readers of *Little House on the Prairie* believe they know Laura Ingalls—the pioneer girl who survived blizzards and near-starvation on the Great Plains, and the woman who wrote the famous autobiographical books. But the true saga of her life has never been fully told. Now, drawing on unpublished manuscripts, letters, diaries, and land and financial records, Caroline Fraser—the editor of the Library of America edition of the Little House series—masterfully fills in the gaps in Wilder’s biography. Revealing the grown-up story behind the most influential childhood epic of pioneer life, she also chronicles Wilder’s tumultuous relationship with her journalist daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, setting the record straight regarding charges of ghostwriting that have swirled around the books.

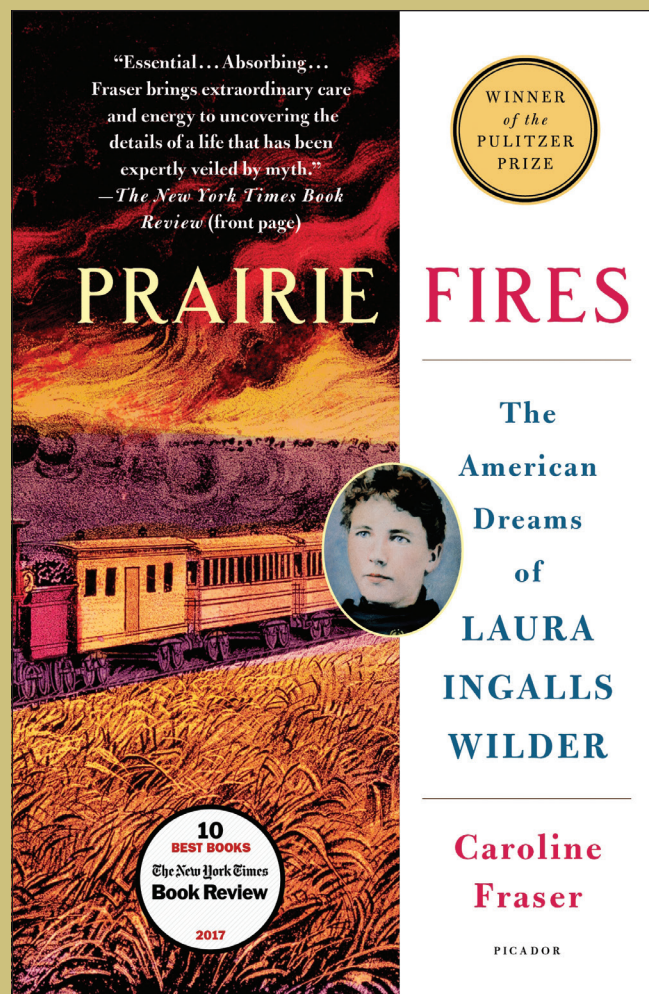
The Little House books, for all the hardships they describe, are paeans to the pioneer spirit, portraying it as triumphant against all odds. But Wilder’s real life was harder and grittier than that, a story of relentless struggle, rootlessness, and poverty. It was only in her sixties, after losing nearly everything in the Great Depression, that she turned to children’s books, recasting her hardscrabble childhood as a celebratory vision of homesteading—and achieving fame and fortune in the process, in one of the most astonishing rags-to-riches episodes in American letters.

Spanning nearly a century of epochal change, from the Indian Wars to the Dust Bowl, Wilder’s dramatic life provides a unique perspective on American history and our national mythology of self-reliance. With fresh insights and new discoveries, *Prairie Fires* reveals the complex woman whose classic stories grip us to this day.

Caroline Fraser is the editor of the Library of America edition of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s Little House books, and the author of *Rewilding the World* and *God’s Perfect Child*. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *London Review of Books*, among other publications. She lives in New Mexico.

Thursday, March 19, 2020 | 6:30–7:30 p.m.
The Temple, Congregation Adath Israel Brith Sholom
5101 US Hwy 42, Louisville, KY 40241

Free for Filson members, \$20 for non-members
Tickets available online at filsonhistorical.org/events
or by phone at (502) 635-5083.



Praise for *Prairie Fires*

The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder

“An absorbing new biography [that] deserves recognition as an essential text.... For anyone who has drifted into thinking of Wilder’s ‘Little House’ books as relics of a distant and irrelevant past, reading *Prairie Fires* will provide a lasting cure.... Meanwhile, ‘Little House’ devotees will appreciate the extraordinary care and energy Fraser devotes to uncovering the details of a life that has been expertly veiled by myth.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“At last, an unsentimental examination of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s real life on the frontier. Caroline Fraser rescues Wilder from frontier myth and gives us the gritty, passionate woman who endured the harshest experiences of homesteading, loved the Great Plains, and was devastated by their ultimate ruin and loss. Elegantly written and impeccably researched, *Prairie Fires* is a major contribution to environmental history and literary biography.”

—**Linda Lear**, author of *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature* and *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature*

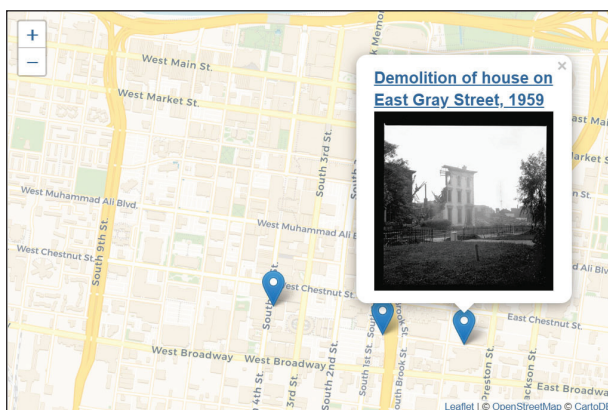
Digital Collections at the Filson

BY DANIELLE SPALENKA | ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF DIGITAL PROJECTS

I am excited to share some recent updates to the digital collections at the Filson. I joined the Filson staff at the end of April as the Associate Curator of Digital Projects, a newly created position to focus on launching a variety of digital projects to make our materials accessible for a wider audience. After assessing our current digital holdings, I've created some policies and guidelines to help shape the direction of digital projects moving forward.

We recently launched The Filson's Digital Exhibits page (<https://filsonhistorical.omeka.net/exhibits>). The launch of this site also marks a leap forward for the Filson's digital collections initiatives. The Filson has previously mounted some digital content on our website through small galleries, but we have found that this has not been the most effective way to display our digital materials and reach a wider audience. The Filson is using a popular digital collections platform called Omeka to host our digital exhibits. Omeka is a user-friendly content management system that allows for easy display of digital content and follows best practices to promote discovery of digital content. There are a growing number of exhibits online, including digital versions of current and previous exhibits. Visitors to the online exhibits will be able to view bonus and complimentary materials from the physical exhibits. Our curators can now paint a richer and more complete story to each exhibit without the constraints of a physical space. We will also reach more users who may be unable to visit the physical exhibit in person.

Visitors to the online exhibits can use the platform to search through the digital content through keyword or subject searches. This follows best practices used in the field and applies many of the search functions already used at the Filson. A particularly exciting function of this online platform is the map feature. This feature adds location information to digital content and visually plots it on a map. If the location of the source material is known—say, for example, a building in downtown Louisville—Omeka can tag the image to a map, allowing for a richer connection to history. We used this feature extensively for the Photo Biennial Exhibit this fall, which featured negatives from the Ivey Watkins Cousins Negative Collection at the Filson. Many buildings that Cousins photographed were demolished to make way for the construction of I-65. Visitors to the online exhibit can now use the map to see where demolished buildings once stood, or just see how current buildings looked when Cousins took many of his photos in 1959.

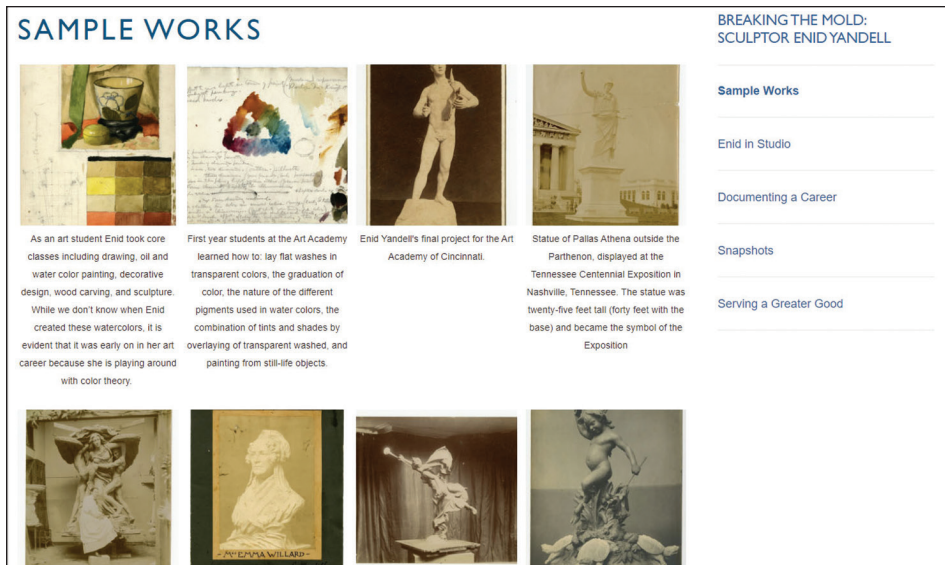


Screenshot from the I.W. Cousins online exhibit, featuring a building that was demolished in 1959. Visitors to the online exhibit can now see on the map where the building once stood.

This collection was digitized and cataloged by volunteers Bill Carner and Carole Crites.

Digital content allows users to view materials more closely than they would in person. Visitors to the online exhibits can zoom-in on the images to see the finer details of an item. The online exhibit "Breaking the Mold: Sculptor Enid Yandell" features many items on display from the physical exhibit that is currently in the Bingham gallery until the end of the year. The online gallery includes digital images of sample works created by Enid Yandell that are part of the Filson Historical Society's Special Collections. One such piece that has been digitized is a sample of watercolors with handwritten notes that demonstrate how Enid studied the nature of different pigments used in watercolors. This piece is featured in the physical exhibit, but the digital copy allows users to really zoom-in to get a much closer view of how she played and practiced with color theory.

The platform also highlights a few smaller collections from the Filson's archives and is helping us navigate the best ways to expand our digital holdings. The Frank Raymond Lane Correspondence Collection (Mss A L265) consists of letters written by Lane from Camp Zachary Taylor, KY to his fiancée, Nellie F. Rahe, during WWI. Lane served as a cook at Camp Taylor and reflects on his duties in one of the camp kitchens. The entire collection consists of three folders, but each piece has been transcribed and digitized. Users can fully search the text of the letters as well as view digital



Screenshot of the Filson's online exhibit featuring a sample of Enid Yandell's work throughout her career.

surrogates of the original letters. Another collection available to researchers is the Mammoth Life and Accident Insurance, Co. (Mss. A B433 15). Mammoth Life was one of the largest Black-owned companies in Kentucky's history. Our dedicated volunteer Chip Arbegust digitized the collection, and our H.F. Boehl Summer Intern from 2019, Olivia Raymond, cataloged the collection and created an online

exhibit to provide additional information about the collection. Our efforts to digitize and catalog out collections would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and interns.

The Filson's physical exhibits rotate on a regular basis, but thanks to this platform visitors will have the chance to revisit previous exhibits in a digital environment. The spring 2019 exhibit in the Nash Gallery "Continuity

of Care: Transforming Jewish Hospital for Modern Louisville, 1945-1980" now has a digital exhibit on this site. The online gallery features materials previously on display as well as additional materials from the collection. Visitors may read through letters, articles, memos, and other materials that were not previously on display when the exhibit was on display in the Nash Gallery. The digital materials come from the Jewish Hospital Records found in the Jewish Family and Vocational Service Records (Mss. BJ J59) in the Filson Historical Society's Special Collections.

We are working to migrate many of our online galleries on our website to Omeka as the search and display functions are much more user friendly. Be sure to get online and check out more collections and exhibits as we add them! Digital Collections and Exhibits can be found on our website <https://filson-historical.org/education/digital-exhibits/> or directly at <https://filsonhistorical.omeka.net/>

I hope you take time to view materials and explore this exciting endeavor from the Filson! Be sure to check back to the site frequently as we continue to add additional materials.



The online exhibits allow visitors to view a piece up close without harming the original, like this color theory of watercolor with handwritten notes created by Enid Yandell.



HOST YOUR NEXT PARTY AT THE FILSON!



Offering both a modern and Edwardian setting, the Filson has several spaces available for event rentals and can accommodate groups of all sizes. Contact us today to inquire about hosting your 2020 Derby party today!

THE DAN AND FRANCES STREET HALL

Includes access to the atrium, outdoor space, and a catering area.

Capacity: 175 theater style, 120 banquet style with eight people per table, 180 cocktail reception style

CAPERTON HALL

Includes access to the atrium, outdoor/courtyard space, and a catering area.

Capacity: 185 theater style, 140 banquet style with eight people per table, 190 cocktail reception style

THE OWSLEY BROWN II HISTORY CENTER WEST WING

Includes access to both Caperton Hall and Street Hall, the atrium, and the outdoor space.

Capacity: 200 guests if used together

FERGUSON MANSION FIRST FLOOR

Includes access to a catering area.

Capacity: 48 banquet style with eight people per table, 100 cocktail reception style

WOOD CARRIAGE HOUSE FIRST FLOOR

Includes access to the Nash Gallery. This space is only available evenings during the week or on weekends.

Capacity: 125 cocktail reception style

Photo credits from top left: Sarah L. Bruns; bottom right: Gretchen Bell Photography; bottom left: Gretchen Bell Photography.



Give the Gift of History!

FILSON GIFT MEMBERSHIPS ARE 15% OFF BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE YEAR.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

☐ Individual Membership
~~\$70~~ **\$59**

☐ Family Membership
~~\$120~~ **\$102**

Gift Recipient Name _____

Gift Recipient Mailing Address _____

Street Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Gift Recipient Email _____

Would you like the gift membership packet mailed to your address or the recipient(s)?

(Guaranteed mail date by December 20, 2019)

☐ My address _____

☐ Please send directly to the recipient.

Purchaser Information

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

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

☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please mail this form and payment to the Filson Historical Society at 1310 S. 3rd St., Louisville, KY 40208.

Two unidentified children having a tea party in front of Christmas tree, undated. Speed Family Photograph Collection.

Marian Potter

CFO/COO

I joined the Filson in January 2016, during our campus expansion project. I am the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, and my duties cover all central business office duties that support daily operations: finance, technology, property management, and human resources. I have one support person, Ellie Smith, who is our Business Manager.

My professional journey goes back to college (Oberlin College), where my first work-study position was a support position for the director of the Oberlin Chamber of Commerce. I then held other work-study positions that gave me non-profit and management experience, as well as my position as volunteer Treasurer for the \$3 million Oberlin Student Cooperative Association. After college, I was the Executive Director of a statewide non-profit association in Syracuse, NY for 9 years before moving to Louisville with my family. I worked for Louisville Metro Government in the Office of Management and Budget for 6 years, mostly in the budget office as the analyst for all capital projects in Louisville Metro, but I also was the Director of Purchasing for a few years. I was ready to come back to the non-profit scene in 2016, and I was excited to be a leader in a growing institution with such an important mission.

Definitely the people. Even when I started here and staff were suspicious of the changes

I might make to the business processes, I found the atmosphere to be warm and welcoming. We are a team of people who are always looking toward the mission together, not afraid to ask hard questions, ready to dive in and help each other, and work together to solve problems. Also, my colleagues have great senses of humor and mostly humor me when I make a bad pun. And one of my favorite things because often it's when great collaborations and ideas are shared: we do like to gather around a conference table full of delicious homemade food.

There's an incredible amount of behind-the-scenes work that is crucial to our success. Not just the work my team does to support daily operations, but the intricacies of managing and storing collections, setting up programs, promoting our institution to members and the community, creating publications, hosting outside rentals, and more.

I like to quilt, knit, crochet, read, play violin, and play Words With Friends. But I really love adventure! My partner Thom and I just did a 7,000 mile road trip in our camper van where we visited many amazing parks. We hiked about 10 miles a day, explored, visited family, and played lots of cribbage. We are also both ultrarunners, which means we run distances longer than 26.2 miles, primarily on trails rather than roads. I love the 50-mile distance, and plan to be training for



one late next year. Aside from traveling and running, we also boulder (climb without ropes) and bike together. Thom is a Senior Platform Analytics Administrator for University of Wisconsin Health Sciences. We have 6 kids between us: Henry (24) is in his final year of nursing school, Elliot (21) is a senior in college, and Oliver (18) is a freshman in college—and all three boys are at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Sven (12) is a 7th grader at Noe Middle and plays goalie for club soccer, Brynja (11) is a 6th grader at Meyzeek Middle and plays piano, and Eivy (7) is a second grader at St. Matthews and has the wildest, most hilarious imagination.

Notable Louisville Neighborhoods

and the People Who Put Them on the Map

Butchertown

The Filson Historical Society's mission is to collect, preserve, and tell the significant stories of Kentucky and Ohio Valley history and culture. In October 2016, the Filson completed a campus-wide expansion project providing space to acquire new collections that reflect our diverse community. As a result, the Filson is reaching into communities where the Society has not had a strong presence. The Filson is making a conscious institutional shift toward producing a more inclusive historical content committed to telling everyone's history. Connecting with our past helps shape and inform our future. Therefore, a neighborhood series was launched in early 2019 to support this effort.

The Notable Louisville Neighborhoods and the People Who Put Them on the Map is a series designed with community input focusing on two neighborhoods a year. The goal of the series is to connect people with history in a meaningful, relevant way and to highlight the resources available at the Filson. In Spring 2020, the series will focus on Butchertown. Originally Louisville's meatpacking district, butcher shops dominated the area in the 1800s. Today, the neighborhood is home to a number of restaurants, bars, a distillery, and more, along with unique shotgun style houses.

All Notable Louisville Neighborhood seminars will be free and open to the public thanks to the generosity of our sponsors: The Eye Care Institute and Stockyards Bank.

1. History of Butchertown Neighborhood, Tom Owen will present Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Light refreshments and garden walk will begin at 5:00 pm followed by a discussion from 6:00 pm–7:00 pm. Participants will be given a self-guided tour package and encouraged to come back at their leisure to view historical points of interest, eat, and shop while enjoying everything Butchertown has to offer.

2. People and Places of Butchertown Neighborhood, April 28, 2020 at the Filson Historical Society. The presentation will include people and places in the past and present who have put Butchertown on the map. Gordon Brown will share how the Home of the Innocents found a new home at the former Bourbon Stock Yards and the economic and development influences the Home of the Innocents created as the first large scale financial investment in the east Market Street area. David Wicks will

discuss the importance of Beargrass Creek whose South Fork runs through Butchertown and originally ran through downtown but was rerouted in the 1850s. Father Sanchez will discuss how St. Joseph Catholic Church supports and has evolved to meet the changing needs in the neighborhood. Light refreshments will be served at 5:00 pm allowing participants a chance to network. The presentation will be from 6:00 pm–7:00 pm.

3. Opportunities and the Future of Butchertown Neighborhood, May 14, 2020, at Copper and Kings. Andy Blieden a local Business Owner, Michael Mountjoy with the Louisville City FC, and Joe Heron with Copper and Kings will focus on the exciting recent and future developments. Drinks and light refreshments will be served at 5:00 pm allowing participants a chance to network. The presentation will be from 6:00 pm–7:00 pm.

**TO REGISTER FOR THESE EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT
FILSONHISTORICAL.ORG/EVENTS/ OR CALL (502) 635-5083.**

Upcoming Exhibit:

Women at Work

Venturing Into the Public Sphere

In the 19th century, societal changes transformed life for some American women. Freed from many domestic tasks by industrialization, women's engagement extended from home and family into the larger community. They organized as workers and in clubs, pursuing new roles as artists, educators, social reformers, and business owners.

Women believed in their power and duty to better their communities. They tackled a diverse array of issues, including public health and sanitation measures, industrial conditions of workers, and legal rights for women and children. Concerned about the quality of education, they worked to reform the schools. As entrepreneurs, they embarked on successful business ventures and petitioned for increased control of their interests. In the arts, they carved space for themselves in fields traditionally reserved for men, sometimes with little formal training. They also became conscious of their shared identity as women, convening women's rights conventions and organizing mass movements, including the decades-long struggle for suffrage.

It is too easy, however, to assume the essential sisterhood of all women and to create a single historical narrative grounded in the experiences of middle-class women. Women are a large and diverse group, often divided by class and race. Women's historical experiences vary, and they have differing attitudes and allegiance to their feminine identity. As their roles in society shifted, women experienced and responded to change in distinct ways. Drawing on the stories of women documented in the Filson's collection, this exhibit explores the diversity of women's experiences in the public sphere in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Snapdragons and jonquils in a copper pitcher, painted by Louisville artist Patty Thum. Filson Museum Collection [1963.7]



Dinnie Thompson, a member of the Sisters of Mysterious Ten, in Lodge costume. Filson Photograph Collection, Individuals.



▲ Louisville Collegiate School students hard at work on the open-air study porch, circa 1920. Louisville Collegiate Photograph Collection [018PC8]

◀ Dress made by Louisville modiste Madame Glover and worn by Elizabeth Nelson Helm in 1903. Filson Museum Collection [1978.2.3]

Bingham Gallery
March 13–December 31, 2020

Curated by Jennie Cole, Maureen Lane,
 Jana Meyer, and Emily Benken

February 2020 Events

Tuesday, February 4, 6:00–7:00 p.m. | The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St.

Dine and Dialogue

Searching for Black Confederates *The Civil War's Most Persistent Myth*

Kevin M. Levin

More than 150 years after the end of the Civil War, scores of websites, articles, and organizations repeat claims that anywhere between 500 and 100,000 free and enslaved African Americans fought willingly as soldiers in the Confederate army. But as Kevin M. Levin argues in this carefully researched book, such claims would have shocked anyone who served in the army during the war itself. Levin explains that imprecise contemporary accounts, poorly understood primary-source material, and other misrepresentations helped

fuel the rise of the black Confederate myth. Moreover, Levin shows that belief in the existence of black Confederate soldiers largely originated in the 1970s, a period that witnessed both a significant shift in how Americans remembered the Civil War and a rising backlash against African Americans' gains in civil rights and other realms.

Kevin M. Levin is a historian and educator based in Boston. He is the author of *Remembering the Battle of the Crater: War as Murder* and the award-winning blog *Civil War Memory* (cwmemory.com).

Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 p.m. | The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St.

Dear Delia *The Civil War Letters of Captain Henry F. Young, Seventh Wisconsin Infantry*

John David Smith

Dear Delia chronicles the story of Henry F. Young, an officer in the famed Iron Brigade, as told through 155 letters home. His insights, often poignant and powerful, enable readers to witness the Civil War as he did. Young covers innumerable details of military service—from the camaraderie, pettiness, and thievery he witnessed among the troops, to the brutality of internecine war.

John David Smith is the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina–Charlotte. He has published twenty-nine books, many on the topic of the Civil War, and has edited collections of letters, diaries, and other primary works on the war, race relations, and southern history.

Tuesday, February 18, 6:00 p.m. | The Filson Historical Society, 1310 S. 3rd St.

Film Screening

Black in Blue

On September 30, 1967, University of Kentucky football player Nate Northington became the first black scholarship athlete to play sports in the Southeastern Conference—the college sports league that was the symbol and substance of white supremacy in the South. But as Nate entered the game against Ole Miss, his achievement was the last thing on his mind. That morning, Nate learned that his teammate, roommate, and fellow civil rights pioneer, Greg Page, had died—died in a manner so tragic, that it would hang like a dark cloud over Nate's achievement.

Three weeks later, a despondent Nate left the team and the university. But two other black players who had been recruited

to UK, Wilbur Hackett and Houston Hogg, would pick up the baton of change, facing racism on campus at Kentucky and, especially, on trips to games in the deep south. Ultimately, their courage and the bonds of team loyalty between the black and white players would ensure the success of integration at UK and all across the south.

Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker and UK grad Paul Wagner, executive produced by former UK quarterback Paul Karem with a gospel music score by Kentucky's own Linkin' Bridge.

Sweet Taste of Liberty *A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America*

W. Caleb McDaniel

The unforgettable saga of one enslaved woman's fight for justice—and reparations

Born into slavery, Henrietta Wood was taken to Cincinnati and legally freed in 1848. In 1853, a Kentucky deputy sheriff named Zebulon Ward colluded with Wood's employer, abducted her, and sold her back into bondage. She remained enslaved throughout the Civil War, giving birth to a son in Mississippi and never forgetting who had put her in this position.

By 1869, Wood had obtained her freedom for a second time and returned to Cincinnati, where she sued Ward for damages in

1870. Astonishingly, after eight years of litigation, Wood won her case: in 1878, a Federal jury awarded her \$2,500. The decision stuck on appeal. More important than the amount, though the largest ever awarded by an American court in restitution for slavery, was the fact that any money was awarded at all. By the time the case was decided, Ward had become a wealthy businessman and a pioneer of convict leasing in the South. Wood's son later became a prominent Chicago lawyer, and she went on to live until 1912.

W. Caleb McDaniel is Associate Professor of History at Rice University

Featured Testimonial

Chip and Katherine Arbegust



Chip: I've always had a love for history and I've always had a love for the Filson. I've always thought, "Oh, the Filson is pretty cool, I'd love to spend some time there." That's the truth. When my parents died, I inherited my great-grandfather's papers. He was the superintendent of the L&N Railroad. I thought that Jim Holmberg might possibly find them interesting, but I didn't know for sure. Now, I had met Jim when he wrote the book *Dear Brother*, and he gave a talk on it at Carmichael's Bookstore. I got him to inscribe it to my son, who was 8 or 9 at the time, and so he done a nice inscription to me and my son. So I took the book with me, and we met in the mansion at the Ferguson dining room table, and I laid out all the papers. Surprisingly, he said, "Oh yeah, we have quite an L&N collection and we'd like to have these." I said, "Great! You know, I just retired and if you have any need for a volunteer, I'd sure like to do that. Oh, and by the way, I have a love for history. I attended a lecture by this guy who wrote about William Clark's letters back home to his brother. Look, here's the book, signed by the author, and here's the inscription he made 15-20 years

ago." I was really hamming it up. He asked me if I could scan, and I said, "Sure, I should be able to do that." And that's how I got started.

Katherine: Basically, I did it because after I retired, I was looking for something to do one day a week. Since Chip was already here and he loves the history of the area so much, I thought it would be fun to come down and just work with people and see them on a regular basis. My interest is more in ancient history, but I have an appreciation and love for my own state. I enjoyed working on the family files more than anything while I was here.

Chip: When asked about my favorite collections to work with, I'll have to think about that for a minute. I've scanned a lot of really nice photo collections during my time here. As Jim Holmberg likes to talk about it, the fellow who pretty much saved the Filson after the original men that formed the organization in the 1880s were getting old, Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston, worked for the US Geological Survey and took all kinds of photographs of the Appalachian Mountains, and it's called the Mountain Collection. I got to scan a lot of that into the database, and that

formed the basis of the posters that you see in the atrium in front of the lecture halls.

I really find the photographs interesting, because they are time capsules. There's a collection of 110 photographs that the US Army made when they condemned the land in Camp Taylor to make Camp Zachary Taylor. They took down the old farms and burned them to clear the land, and you had really interesting pictures of the farmland that were done professionally and done very well. All those buildings are gone now, including Mulberry Hill where the Clark Family lived. They knocked all of that down and burned it. Those are real time capsules to see those.

Right now, I'm working with Maureen Lane and Paul on the firearms to catalog those specifically. That's a lot of fun.

Katherine: One thing I like is working the weddings and the events. I love being able to do a little bit of photography for them. Especially the first wedding that the Filson hosted, watching to make sure things went as they should, was really a lot of fun for me.

Filsonian listing reflects membership gifts received August 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019

The Filsonians

August 2019–October 2019



The Thruston Legacy Circle is an honorary society established in 2015 to recognize those who have followed the example of R. C. Ballard Thruston by including the Filson in their estate plans. Since our founding in 1884, the Filson has been privately supported and planned giving is an ideal way to continue that tradition of private support.

If you have made a planned gift to the Filson and have not so advised us, we thank you and ask that you let us know so we can welcome you to the TLC. If you have not made a planned gift but would like more information about doing so, please call our Development Department at (502) 634-7108 or email Brenna Cundiff at brenna@filsonhistorical.org.

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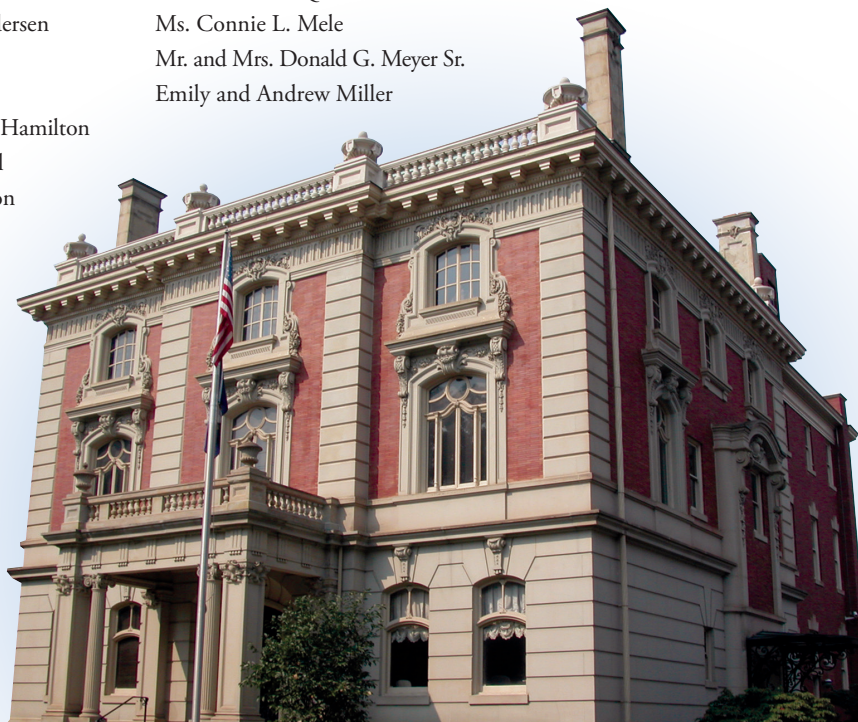
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